



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Last Chance!!!

A Message From Our President:

Did you realize that we are all "advisors"? Well, a significant function of the MGV board is to serve as an advisory body to David regarding the "Domestic Horticulture Program." Clearly, Master Gardener Volunteers are a major part of this program and in a position to offer insights based on our daily experiences. Recently we discussed the need for assistance from County inmate "trustees," mainly in heavy maintenance and improvement work around the "campus." David will be working with Martha Warner and county officials to secure this assistance in coming months.

This is just one example of the advisory conversations we have with David at each Board meeting. If you have any thoughts or suggestions that you wish to be part of this conversation please feel free to contact any board member, by phone, email, snail mail, at a monthly meeting, or any time you are volunteering on "campus."

Cheers!
Dan

Dr. Blazich's wife, April, who was here during our propagation seminar, invited the Master Gardeners to come visit with her on Oct. 13, the day before the State Fair opens. April is the Superintendent of the Horticulture Exhibit area at the fair. She has gone out of her way to provide us with a really good trip. Included in the trip will be a stop at Plants Delight, owned by Tony Avent, for a private tour of his gardens as well as a chance to purchase unusual plants. For those of you who are not familiar with Tony, he is well-known in the propagation area and has plants from all over the world. The exact timing of the events is still to be worked out. We will spend a lot of time at the fair the day before it opens. There is no charge for the first day to get into the Fair. Further information will follow as plans develop. David contacted a friend and Charlie has made arrangements for a very good room rate including breakfast.

You will be responsible for your food, State Fair ticket on opening day, and if we have enough folks who want to attend, all of us will split the cost of renting another van.

We will depart on the morning of Oct. 13th, time to be determined, and return on Oct. 14th. Charlie must have your response no later than Thursday, Sept 1st. A \$50.00 down payment is required. This will be applied towards your room and additional van as needed and also toward your Fair ticket. Any left over will be returned to you.

**Remember, if you plan to attend,
Charlie must have your deposit
NO LATER THAN Sept. 1st.**

The world is a rose; smell it and pass it to your friends.

-A Persian Proverb

News from Charlie -

Life on the Farm – will be scheduled during the last two weeks of October; dates are still being set. This is a fun activity. If you haven't volunteered to help out before, let Charlie know if you can do it this time.

A Plant Clinic at Southport WalMart is scheduled for Saturday, September 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a seminar on fall gardening activities from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Indigo Farms will celebrate **Heritage Day** on Saturday, October 1. We will staff a booth, conduct a plant clinic and do presentations (topics to be determined).

Don't forget **the Fall Plant Sale** on Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th.

We have ordered 5 kinds of ornamental grasses for future plant sales. On August 29, 10 trays of 32 sprigs each will be shipped and should arrive that day or the next. They will need to be potted and tended so they will be ready for sale in the spring.

Did you know that Winding River's golf course is an **Audubon Certified Sanctuary Golf Course**? They have a full-time grounds keeper, Matt, who has had to meet some pretty stringent requirements in order to gain and maintain that certification. One of those requirements is working with local civic groups in their efforts to preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and protect natural resources. Matt has been transplanting many varieties of grasses at the course, and we may have the opportunity to work with him, trade some specimens and perhaps have him speak at one of our General Meetings.

What can you do with all those leaves that are going to fall this fall? How about composting? Compost is nature's favorite fertilizer that you can make year round simply by recycling grass clippings, leaves, and non-diseased garden refuse in compost bins or structures. September marks the time of year when leaf fall increases, thus the need to recycle the fallen debris

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Listen to Al Hight's "The Coastal Gardener" radio program
on Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on 106.3 FM and 103.9 FM



In September 2004, there were 90 calls to the Hotline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 29. Questions about soil samples, their reports and fertilizer application were predominant. In addition, there were 7 general questions that could be handled with the MG files.

Lawns: 24. The majority of the calls concerned problems with centipede and weeds in the lawn.

Trees: 10. The calls were about problems on numerous varieties of trees – crape myrtle, dogwood, redbud and fruit trees.

Shrubs: 11. Calls concerned gardenias and hydrangeas.

Pests: 19. The pests were numerous and varied. Ants had the most inquiries.

Vegetables: 2.

Flowers: 5. Various flowers - nothing specific.

When you work on the Hotline, write down as much information as possible about the problems and their solutions on the Hotline forms. The back of the form has some questions to help you clarify the caller's

problem.

Reminder from Charlie: **DO NOT** diagnose disease or pests over the phone! You need a specimen to make a proper diagnosis. All turf problems should go to Charlie, David, Al or Matt, in that order, other problems to Dave or Charlie.

What's Happening With The Talking Tree Trail?

Recently, two Boy Scouts working toward their Eagle Scout badges contributed time and effort to our Talking Tree Trail. Here's a brief description of some of the work that has been done, as excerpted from a project write up submitted by the scout who planned and constructed the classroom area.

"The Talking Tree Nature Trail is presently in a 'construction state.' Inmates have been clearing for the nature trail, which is at the side of the Complex. In the future certain trees will each have a panel which describes the trees for you when you push the button – this gives The Talking Tree Nature Trail its name. A quarter of the way through the trail is a bridge on the left hand side off to the side of the trail. Across the bridge is a thicket of bushes and a few trees. The undergrowth is extremely dense and most of it is about shoulder height. "

For his project, a tree and all the underbrush were cleared, and he and his scout volunteers designed, measured, cut and assembled the benches and table for the classroom. Then they completed the removal of the undergrowth and put the table and benches into the ground. Finally, they cleaned the bridge and arranged for a pipe to be installed to prevent standing water from blocking the bridge to the classroom area.

In addition to these efforts, Charlie reports that all the wording for the recordings has been completed and he expects to have all the equipment by the end of September to be mounted on the trees.

Look for a Grand Opening announcement sometime in the Fall!

It is at the edge of a petal that love waits.

- William Carlos Williams

...Remember This New Fee Schedule When You Work the Hot Line...

We received notification from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that the North Carolina Board of Agriculture has raised fees to partially offset the cost for certain agronomic and veterinary laboratory tests (nematode assays, plant tissue analyses, waste analyses, solution analyses, and tests for heavy metal content in soils; **routine soil tests will continue to be free**). *The fees paid by North Carolina residents for most agronomic tests is a nominal increase of \$1, but more substantial fees will be charged for special tests and for the processing of out-of-state samples. This is the first increase in agronomic fees in 16 years.*

A revised fee schedule is posted in the Master Gardener office and revised information sheets will also be printed.

Soil Samples: Free	Plant Tissue Analysis: \$5
Waste Analysis: \$5	Feed Analysis: \$10
Nematode Analysis: \$3	Forage Analysis: \$10
Plant Disease & Insect Clinic Plant Samples: \$10 (no increase)	

Gardening Tips for September from David Barkley

Everyone wants to know the best time to move plants or to plant them...the best time is the Fall Season. You still have time to put in a fall garden for some of your cool season crops this month.

AUTUMN COLOR IDEAS:

Be on the look out for Chrysanthemums to purchase to add color to your landscape. Mums and pansies will brighten up the landscape as many of the annuals start to fade for the season. Mums have a short flowering period while pansies will last through the winter into next early summer. Take cuttings of the annuals you wish to have starts from next spring. Root the cuttings in water or in a prepared bed that will be protected from frost. Keep indoors until you can plant them safely outside next spring.

To add more color to your outdoor landscape try planting Ginkgo trees for their brilliant fall yellow color. Among other good choices, Red Maples, Sugar Maples, Japanese Maples, Sourwood, and Redbuds will add nicely to your fall foliage color scheme. As autumn merges into winter you will want to accent the landscape with berry color from such plants as pyracantha, nandina, viburnum, beautyberry, and many of the holly group. And who can forget the spectacular burning bush euonymus in its glory with a blazing red color? Contrast all these fine examples with the steady greens and blue greens of the conifers and your landscape should really stand out as a fine garden for you and your friends to enjoy.

Buy bulbs now to get the best and largest bulbs, with less bruising and handling injuries, and keep them until the appropriate time to plant. Coastal bulb plantings are best in late November and December.

Garden Bullets Worth Dispersing:

- Do not fertilize your shrubs and trees at this time.
- Also do not fertilize your perennials - let them go dormant.
- Keep plants watered according to their needs...September can be extremely dry or wet depending on the tropical storms that make landfall in North Carolina.
- Remember to put out the pre-emergence weed control products to control the winter annual weeds.
- You may overseed warm season grasses with ryegrass now except for centipedegrass lawns.
- Test your soil to determine how much lime and fertilizer you need.
- Light pruning only for most shrubs and trees. Always remove dead and diseased tissue promptly. You do not want to stimulate new growth for most ornamentals by excessive pruning or fertilizing at this time. Let the plants go dormant naturally.

More Speaker Updates

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman and David Barkley have scheduled speakers for the rest of the year and are working hard on the 2006 speaker roster. They have found some excellent speakers who will address topics that should be interesting to all of us.

August's speaker, Steve Bambara, an Extension Specialist for Entomology and also on the NCSU faculty in the Entomology Department, stumped the experts (us!) with a hands-on clinic. Well, maybe not all of us. He and David collected samples from the garden and we visited each of 14 stations, identifying both the host plant and the insects/pests at each station. It was a fast-paced and fun exercise and we all learned a lot.

September: Erv Evans, State Coordinator for Master Gardeners, NCSU, will talk to us regarding the legal aspects of Master Gardener activities and responsibilities. He wrote many of the chapters in the Master Gardener manual.

October: Chuck Friedrich, a registered landscape architect and member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the ASTM Green Roof Task Subcommittee, will talk to us about rooftop gardens, or "Green Roofs."

November: Dr. Wanda Sykes is the Southeast District Extension Director. She will talk about the 13-county district that includes Brunswick County, its structure and operations and how it fits in with NCSU.

If you have any suggestions for speakers who can extend our knowledge of gardening, or if you have ideas for topics for the General Meetings, let Shirley or Dave know.

State Meeting Dates

You should have received an invitation to the **2005 Conference in Goldsboro on Oct. 28 and 29**. Everyone is encouraged to participate and meet some of your gardening friends from other parts of the state. Shirley will be selling *Gardening by the Month* at the meeting – if you go, could you help her out for an hour or two?

Splish Splash... She's done it again! Mary-Lou Giacomelli took another dive off the boat, this time doing a little more than just getting wet. In her words "I fell off the boat – again – and cracked a rib or two." From Bob: "We were departing Marsh Harbour Monday; Mary-Lou slipped while releasing dock lines, hit the boat railing on her way to the water. She cracked or broke a rib according to the nurse. It could have been worse; thank God she didn't hit her head on the way down. She could have dented the boat." Check out their fun website: <http://www.Mary-LouandBobGiacomelliWeb.us/>

Member News:

- **Hilton Holcomb** is doing well after his knee surgery.
- Let's continue to keep **Nancy Lehto** in our thoughts.
- We're really going to miss **Allan Fitzgibbon** when he moves to Southern California some time in mid-October!

In the Garden with Bryce Lane

...premiered on August 20 on UNC-TV. This season, Bryce will showcase some of the state's most beautiful gardens, many created and maintained by NC Cooperative Extension staff and Master Gardeners. The Aug. 20 episode featured the Pitt County Arboretum, the MG program in Craven County and Tryon Palace. Later in the season, the North Carolina Arboretum, Rowan County Master Gardeners, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Richmond Hill Inn and Wing Haven will be featured. Notice will be given on the exact dates these shows will air. This season's shows will also include a weekly *Extension's Successful Gardener* tip. *In the Garden* will air each Saturday at noon and repeat Thursdays at 1:30 on UNC-TV.

I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.
-Claude Monet

Meetings!

General meetings - 9 AM

September 22, October 27, November 17

Board meetings - 9 AM

September 13, October 18, November 8

Minutes of previous meetings can be seen at:
<http://bcmastergardener.org/documents.html>

David Barkley is on the radio
WAAB 980 AM – 10-11 a.m.
On the last Friday of the month.

**On Oct. 30, we will do the ticket sales at
the Cape Fear Fair, with funds raised
going to support 4H horticultural
programs.
Let David know if you can help with this.**

If you have an item for the newsletter, be sure to submit it to both Becky Dus
(rcd@nfcexperts.com) and Lisa Miner (lisaminer@mac.com)

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