



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter

April, 2011

Upcoming Events...

April 6th Day in the Yard

- Calabash

April 7,8,9th Spring Plant

Sale 8:30-5 Sat till 2:30

May 5th Day in the Yard

- St James

May 8-11, 2011 State

NCMGVA meeting held in

Raleigh, NC

May 12,13,14th Plant Sale

June 16th Recognition Banquet

Sept 12-16th & 19-23rd Life on the Farm

Dec 15th Christmas Party



Upcoming Speakers

April 28 - Steve Mott and Shannon Rippy, Mott Landscaping - Green Roofs

May 26 - Frank and April Blazich - Frank can speak on Propagation, Layering, Grafting or Seed production, April can speak on herbs or exotic vegetables

June 23 Matt Collogan - Butterflies native to NC and how to attract different Species to your back yard- Environmental Educator from Airlie Gardens

July 28, Sandy Wood, Landscaper - Sustainable Landscaping

August 25 Lucy Bradley Small Space Gardening

November 17 , Tim Alderton, New Plant Introductions

The First Spring Plant Sale



Starts this Thursday At 8:30. We thank all of you who have signed up to help. We have lots of plants, great prices, and good weather. Grab your checkbook, your neighbor, your aunt, or however and come on out.

“Day in the Yard” classes are a Big Success!

Every class we have offered is well attended and we are getting good feedback. Thanks for all those teaching classes and making this happen.

The *St. James DIY* course begins on May 5th and concludes on Jun 9th. There are 21 participants signed up for this course. This class will be conducted in the Community Center for St. James from 2pm-4pm.

Magnolia Greens has contacted the extension and they are interested in the DIY course this coming fall.

We have scheduled time at the *extension office* to offer a fall DIY course that would be offered in September. We have no applicants yet but thought it wise to reserve the space.

Garden Workdays

Look for emails.

Bring your enthusiasm!



Will we see you at the regular meeting on the 28th at 9:00 am?

Mr. Tom says:

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

The plant sale is our big event in the month of April 7-9 and again in May 12-14.

We have volunteers and we have plants. What we need now is a lot of customers wanting to buy plants. Talk to your neighbors, friends and church members.

The Info line calls activity is heating up. Please schedule your volunteer time.

Finally, I have received notification from the IRS that we are exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Yea!

**Susan Brown:** Extension Horticulture Agent

Hello fellow gardeners, the weather is finally turning around and we may actually be able to get some work done in the gardens.

We are having a wedding in the Brunswick County Gardens on May 6th which is less than a month away! If you have any spare time please come out and help us spruce up the gardens. We have quite a bit to get done before then. Brad will be in the gardens everyday provided the weather permits. We have grasses to dig up, mulch to be spread, weeds to be pulled, irrigation that needs to be pulled up, and overall general maintenance. The plant sale is gearing up and it looks like the weather is going to cooperate. The current Master Gardener students have started to move ahead with their community project. They have selected Ocean Trail Convalescent Center's "secret garden" as their task. We will be recording the project as it progresses. The irrigation is being donated by Hamilton Landscapes and Young's Lawn Service will be prepping the beds.

It is becoming a mad house at the extension offices. I ask that you all bear with Tom and I as we go through our first spring in our new positions. It is very hard to plan ahead for a year when you really don't know what to plan for... We are trying to keep from pulling our hair out.

Enjoy the weather and as always happy gardening.

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Joe's Kitchen

Great Crab Cakes

Ever wish you could have crab cakes like they serve at a good seafood restaurant. Here is a recipe I've used successfully;

- 1 pound crabmeat, picked free of shells
- 1/2 cup Panko Bread Crumbs
- 3 green onions (green and white parts), finely chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 lemon, juiced, not bottled juice
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- A good dash cayenne pepper
- Flour, for dusting
- 1/2 cup peanut oil
- Favorite dipping sauce, for serving



Directions

In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients, except for the flour and peanut oil. Let it rest for 30 minutes. Shape into patties and dust with flour. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When oil is hot, carefully place crab cakes, in batches, in pan and fry until browned, about 4 to 5 minutes. Carefully flip crab cakes and fry on other side until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Serve warm with preferred sauce.

The President's Gavel

I drove most of the day yesterday and while driving is not my favorite activity, the trip was worth the view. Dogwood, Wisteria, Azaleas, and Jasmine were there at every turn. The clouds parted by afternoon and the blue sky made everything pop. I love spring! Don't forget the plant sale. We really need you and your neighbors to buy up all our great values.



Joe Loughlin

Last year's "Info Line" problems

in April 2010

In March 2010 there were 75 inquiries to the Infoline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 18. Of the 18 calls 2 requested Newcomer Packs. 5 requested Soil Sample boxes and information from the reports. The remainders requested general garden information including pruning of trees and shrubs. There were also 7 calls for weed problems in general not associated with lawns.

Lawns: 20. The calls concerned problems with Centipede grass 4. 3 concerned Zoyzia grass and the remainders were general questions about weeds in lawns and lawns types for this area.

Shrubs: 4 Questions concerned the care of oleanders and camellias.

Trees: 20. There were 20 calls on tree problems. Hollies, palms, and magnolias had the most calls but there were also questions about Birch trees, Crepe Myrtle, Cedar, Mimosa and willow trees. The major problem was fungus and yellowing of leaves.

Pests: 4 Callers wanted information on getting rid of various pests such as carpenter bees and unidentified insects.



Vegetables: 3. The calls were for general gardening info on sweet potatoes and grapes.

Flowers: 6. Roses were the major subject of the calls this month. Callers also wanted information on hydrangeas.

2011 Container Planting

Challenge



Last year's container planting challenge was all about leaves. No flowers were allowed. For our third annual container design contest, let's open the door on flowering plants again. And, let's throw some trees

or shrubs and grasses into the mix to add size, structure and interest to our containers. For this contest, you'll need five plant varieties again:

- One tree or shrub
- One grass
- One perennial
- One annual
- One "wild-card" plant of your choice

You can plant multiples of each variety, but you can have only five distinct plant varieties in your container. Flowering plants are encouraged but not required. When your planted container looks its best, take three (3) photos and submit them to Bette Rose at Cooperative Extension office. Include your name, phone number and a list of the plants you have used in your container. You may submit your entry and photos via email to bette_rose@ncsu.edu or deliver the photos and entry information to Bette. She will "code" your entry so the judging will be blind.

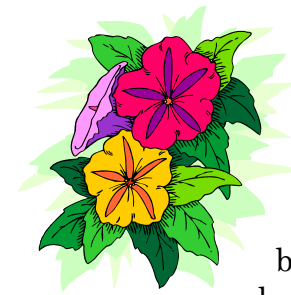
Containers will be judged on the beauty and condition of the plants and container,

plant choice/variety and creativity. The container will be secondary, not a focus of the judging. This contest is for all active Master Gardeners and students in the current Master Gardener class. Entries must be submitted no later than June 15. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Recognition Luncheon in June. Prizes will be \$50 for first place, \$40 for second and \$30 for third. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Dus (bdus@ec.rr.com; 253-8937).

Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension



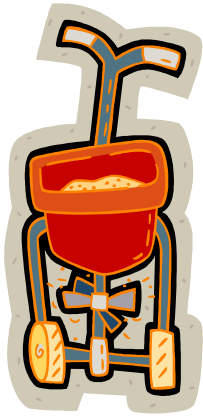
Color for the Garden

The weather keeps playing tricks on us but soon enough it will be time to plant those beloved annuals. So what

is the difference between an annual or perennial? The biggest difference between the two is how long they live, when they bloom and how they develop their root systems. An annual is a plant used specifically for continuous, high impact color and the plant puts all its energy into producing blooms in one season, not roots. Perennials, on the other hand bloom for about two to six weeks and have a more extensive root system than an annual. A true annual will germinate, grow, flower, reproduce, and die in a single season. So why do we plant these annuals when they only live from April to October?

For color all season long! A good annual will have a uniform shape and provide reliable color all season without having to deadhead. An annual should hold up well

in the weather and be pest resistance. Most annual plantings are considered “high water zones” in other words, plan on watering these little beauties every other day or so. They also tend to be heavy feeders so do not forget to fertilize them. You can use a slow release like osmocote which can feed up to 6 months. If you use the liquid feeds make sure you feed them every other week. I personally like to use a slow release and then when July hits I will supplement with a liquid feed like Peters



all purpose plant food or Daniels fertilizer. Make sure you do a soil test so you can prepare the soil to benefit your plant material. Most annuals prefer well-drained soil amended with organic matter. You can find annuals to suit any spot. There is a great selection of

shade and sun loving annuals that will brighten any corner. They also do well in containers.

So what do you do when you see all these blooming beauties but don't know which one will best suit your needs? There are specific annuals that will do very well here and some that aren't worth the time or money spent on them.

For full sun areas, (minimum of 6hrs of direct sun) use Angelonia, an excellent upright accent for a bed or container and it blooms in pink, purple or white all summer long. It also is a nice contrast with Lantana which will also bloom all summer. Other annuals to try for full sun are Scaevola, Calibrachoa, Cuphea, Zinnias, Melampodium, Vinca, Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' and Coleus.

For shadier spots try Torenia, Impatiens, Wax Begonia, Caladium or Persian Shield.

Don't waste your money on buying Lobelia, Alyssum, Felicia, Nemesis, Phlox drummondii, Nierembergia, Brachyscome or Osteospermum. They are not heat tolerant and will do best in cooler climates or in spring or fall.



Remember that annuals will die if exposed to several nights of 32 degrees or less and you still could see damage below 50 degrees. Many tropical annuals are heat lovers therefore, they may be slow to get going in spring but will last till frost.

Susan Brown

Charlotte Glen

Extension Horticulture Agent

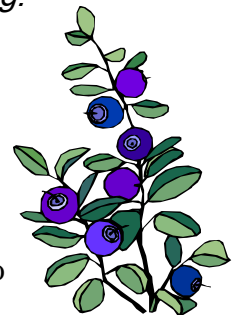
Pender County Cooperative Extension

Growing Fruits and Berries

Rabbiteye blueberries, along with figs and blackberries, are among the easiest fruits to grow in SE NC, while peaches and nectarines are the most challenging.

Buying fruit or berry plants is kind of like adopting a puppy. There are a lot of things you need to know to choose the right one, and once you get it home it takes a bit of training and care to have a productive relationship.

Lots of garden centers have fruit and berry plants for sale currently, but before you rush out and choose the cutest one, take some time to plan for your new plant to ensure the money you spend is not wasted.



What You Can Grow

Many types of fruits and berries can be

realistically grown in home landscapes in southeastern North Carolina. In order from easiest to most challenging to grow, the choices are: (easiest)

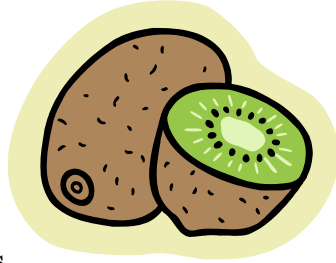
blackberries, figs,
rabbiteye blueberries,

Asian persimmon,
muscadine grapes,

hardy kiwifruit,
pears, plums, apples,

peaches and nectarines

(most challenging). Cherries, bunch grapes, raspberries, and apricots are nearly impossible to keep alive because of our hot summers and erratic springs, and citrus trees are not cold hardy enough to survive the winter outside. Bananas will grow in our area as an ornamental plant, but our winters are too cold to allow fruit production. Loquat, pineapple guava, and pomegranate are commonly grown as ornamentals but will occasionally produce fruit as well.



Make Sure You Have the Right Space

Most fruit trees and berry plants do not take up a tremendous amount of space, but they do need to be planted in the right conditions. All fruits must be grown in well drained soil to do well, and will quickly die if planted in areas where water ponds for any length of time. Sun is also essential. Most fruit plants need at least eight hours of direct sunlight each day, though more is better. In addition, all fruits except blueberries need to grow in soil that is not too acidic – for most a pH around 6.5 is ideal. If your pH is too low, you will need to work lime into the soil before planting. Have your soil pH tested before planting by bringing samples to your local Extension office.

Some fruits and berries require cross pollination, meaning you will have to plant more than one variety to get fruit. These include rabbiteye blueberries, pears, plums, apples, and some muscadine varieties. For kiwifruit, you must plant both a male and female plant, while peaches, Asian persimmon, figs, and blackberries can produce fruit even if only one plant is grown. Before buying fruit plants, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office to find out which varieties are recommended for your area.

Choose Fruits that Fit Your Lifestyle

Some fruits require a lot of care while others require less, though none are maintenance free. When thinking about purchasing fruits and berries it is important to consider how much time you are willing to spend caring for them, if you know how to prune them, and if you are willing to spray pesticides. Correct training and pruning is essential for long term success with fruits. Different types of fruits have different pruning needs, but most need to be pruned at least once a year. Fruit trees generally require more specialized pruning than berry plants. Most fruit trees also require at least a few applications of pesticides each season to get a reliable harvest. Both organic and synthetic products are available for fruit tree pest control, but either way you have to be willing and able to apply the right product at the right time and in the right way. Fruits that can most realistically be produced organically and with less maintenance in our area are rabbiteye blueberries, figs, blackberries, Asian persimmon, pears, hardy kiwifruit, and muscadine grapes.

2011 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

(But we will accept them now!) (Hint! Give us a twenty and forget it for 4 years)

Make checks payable to: Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA)
\$5.00 per Individual (please consider a donation of a little more)

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mail checks to: **Hank Rapp**

PO Box 10642

Southport, NC 28461

NAMETAG; you have earned it, now wear it.

We would all like to know your name.

If you have an item for the newsletter, submit it to Joe Loughlin (jloughlin@ec.rr.com)

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

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www.bcmastergardener.org

<http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/>

www.ncmastergardeners.org

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