



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter January, 2011

Upcoming Events...

Jan 29th, 61st Tidewater Camellia Club Show
Feb. 8 - May 24 The Master Gardener Class
Feb. 9 Pruning Seminar - Bolivia
Feb ? Pruning Seminar – Magnolia Greens
Feb ? Pruning Seminar Calabash
Feb 16 Water-wise Landscape Mgmt
Feb. 16 - March 23 Day in the Yard Class-
Bolivia
March 9 - April 20 The BCC Classes
March 16 – April 18 Day in the Yard Class-
Calabash
May 8-11, 2011 State NCMGVA meeting held
in Raleigh, NC

Upcoming Speakers

Jan 27, Drew Thorndyke- Water
Collection (Rainx) and Water Gardens-
Cape Fear Water Gardens
Feb 24, Matt Martin needed to
reschedule, more info to come.
March 24, Gary Hollar - Palms -Gary's
Palms
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 - Tell Grace what you want
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

November 17 , Tim Alderton, New Plant
Introductions

The President's Gavel

*Well the Holidays are over, I'm
putting away Christmas
decorations, getting up early to
work off the extra pounds at the gym, and
starting to get back into the routine. Sorry
I'm late with the newsletter, I'll blame it
on a turkey hangover!*

*It's time to tell your neighbor/friends
about our new classes. Master gardener
classes begin Feb 4th and our new MG
light class called "Day in the Yard" are
also scheduled to begin in Feb..*

Joe Loughlin



61st ANNUAL TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB SHOW

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2011

ARAB SHRINE CLUB

4510 South College Road
Wilmington, NC

12:30 P. M. to 5:00 P. M

Free Admission!

WILMINGTON ART ASSOCIATION
EXHIBIT

CAMELLIAS ON SALE 10 A. M.—5 P. M.

www.tidewatercamelliaclub.org

(910) 509-1792



Will we see you at the regular meeting on the 27th at 9:00 am?

Mr. Tom says:

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

Happy New Year! The New Year has begun and promises to be very busy. I spent the first day in the office updating the calendar. Check the upcoming events on the previous page.

The preparation for the spring plant sale includes nurturing the nearly 4000 plants we have potted in the greenhouse and beginning in February we will start planting vegetable seeds to generate plants for the spring sale.

Info Line activity has begun to pick up and don't forget that we are in the process of constructing the stone wall for the English Garden. The state of North Carolina has accepted our request and reclassified us as a Registered Nursery. Registered Nurseries are permitted to propagate plants for sale within North Carolina. The IRS has received and is reviewing our application for exemption from Federal Income Taxes. We should know the outcome of the review sometime during the first quarter of 2011. Current applications for the "Day in the Yard" class total 19 in Bolivia and 6 in Calabash. We have 11 applications for the Master Gardener class. The Radio and Newspaper announcements for these classes were released in the first week of this month and will generate more applications. Enjoy January. I am anxious to work with all of you on these new projects.

Susan Brown: Extension Horticulture Agent

The holidays are behind us and now we can focus on getting things in gear for 2011! I have workdays planned for the following days:

Jan. 12th- 14th 10am-2pm; Friday, Jan. 21st 10am-2pm; Jan. 26th 10am-2pm; Jan. 28th 10am-2pm; Feb. 3rd and 4th 10am-2pm Work off some of that holiday cheer by lending a hand out in our extension gardens. Construction of the wall has been slow going with the onset of this cold weather and the holidays it has been almost impossible to get anything done. I have planned several workdays for those who are interested in helping out. I certainly do not expect you to stay the entire time. I appreciate any help I can get. Please bring gloves, and something to kneel on and a great attitude 😊

At the January membership meeting I will be presenting Al Hight, former Extension Director, with a gift (bonsai tool set and holder) from the Master Gardeners. I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and as always happy gardening!

**Master Gardeners Board
Elected Officers:****President**

Joe Loughlin

jloughlin@ec.rr.com

910-269-4038

Vice president

Dominique Loewenstein

domilo@2khiway.net

910-579-0161

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Hank Rapp

hankrapp@atmc.net

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910-253-4245

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Webmaster

John Baronowski

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910 454-9601

Joe's Kitchen**Tiramisu**

I am fond of almost anything Italian, and my favorite dessert is Tiramisu.



My mother brought home from the senior center two packages of lady Fingers and set me out to try to create my own recipe for this luscious dessert. I have a hard time finding or affording Mascarpone cheese so I substituted cream cheese.

2 pkg of lady Fingers
 1 1/2 of very strong coffee
 4 eggs, corn starch, & cream of tartar
 2 1/2 cups of sugar
 2 cups of whole milk
 1/2 cup of brandy
 8 oz tub of whipped cream cheese
 1/4 cup of chocolate sauce
 1 small pkg of cool whip
 Powdered Cocoa

Separate eggs and beat the whites till frothy with a 1/4 teaspoon of cream of tartar, beat while adding 8 tbs of sugar till soft peaks form & set aside. Combine 2 cups of sugar, egg yolks, milk, 1 tbs of corn starch and stir over medium heat till it thickens. Remove from heat and stir in brandy. Fold Meringue into this mixture. Combine cheese, 1/2 sugar & chocolate sauce. Moisten lady fingers with coffee. In a 9x9x2.5 inch pan begin layering, half the lady fingers, cheese, egg mixture and then repeat the process with the other half. Spread the cool whip over the top and liberally sprinkle with cocoa till top is brown. Refrigerate at least 6 hrs. I made my a full day before serving and it was perfect. I did not write down the quantities as I made this, so I am guessing a little. You may need to play with it a little. The Egg mixture was pretty soupy when I poured it in, but setup nicely over night.



It's time to think about paying next year's dues. Make checks payable to: Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA) \$5.00 per Individual and get them to Hank Rapp (and please fill out & return the form on the last page of this newsletter)
hankrapp@atmc.net 910-253-4071
 PO Box 10642
 Southport, NC 28461

Last year's "Info Line" problems in November



In January 2010 there were 28 inquiries to the Infoline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

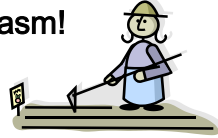
General: 5 1 requested soil sample kits & interpretation and general questions
Lawns: 6 Disease problems with centipede and Zoysia grasses.
Shrubs: 4 Holly had 3 calls and the other concerned Camellia.
Trees: 3 Questions concerned Pecan tree, Bradford Pear and Crepe Myrtle.
Pests: 4 Callers wanted information on getting rid of scale, roaches and Spanish Moss.
Vegetables: 3 The calls were for general information on growing vegetable gardens and potatoes.
Flowers: 3 Confederate Rose, Roses and amaryllis were the plants that had questions.

Grace Wrigley working in the Library:

Grace tells me that 41 books from our library are missing, including two that were most useful ; Aquatic & Wetland Plants of South Carolina & Gardening with Native Plants of the South. She is also pulling some books that are no longer needed. She has started a box under the computer that you may look thru and buy for a small donation of your choice.

Garden Workdays

Look for emails. Jan. 12th- 14th 10am-2pm; Friday, Jan. 21st 10am-2pm; Jan. 26th 10am-2pm; Jan. 28th 10am-2pm; Feb. 3rd and 4th 10am-2pm **Bring your enthusiasm!**



Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Attracting Wildlife

Brunswick County has a very diverse and unique ecosystem. Rapid development, particularly in coastal areas, is continuing to destroy wildlife habitats. Did you know that you can create a safe haven for these misplaced critters?

Animals move from one place to another just like people. They prefer a safe route between woodlands, wetlands, or other wild areas.

Using a variety of plants in your garden design will attract many different species of animals from birds and butterflies to snakes and squirrels. Your home landscape will become a refuge for critters needing shade, rest, food, and water. Here are some tips to encourage wildlife into your yard.

Provide food by selecting plants with seeds, fruit, foliage, or flowers that butterflies, birds, and other wildlife like to eat. Berries, fleshy fruits, nuts, and acorns are all treats for many animals. Supply water to attract wildlife. Running water in the form of a natural feature, such as a pond or creek, or a fountain or birdbath will also encourage wildlife. Empty and clean your birdbath every few days. Do not clean it with soap or bleach. Scrub the birdbath with a brush or scouring sponge to get rid of the smut. Change the water regularly to prevent mosquito breeding and bacterial contamination.



Leave snags, which are trunks of dead trees, in places where they do not create a hazard. Many birds use snags for perching, nesting, and feeding. Placing bird houses at least 5 feet up a tree will also bring our feathered friends into your yard. Remember to protect wildlife from your pets. If you have an outdoor cat, make sure you are not providing him with an opportunity to harass or kill wildlife. Reduce your use of insecticides. Each time you apply an insecticide to your landscape, you reduce insect populations, which provides an important food source for birds. Some chemicals can also poison birds or other animals that feed on affected insects. Natural areas contain more plant species providing more potential food sources and habitat for wildlife. Reduce the mowed areas, such as corners of the yard. Plant a variety of plants in different sizes and heights to provide more cover and feeding opportunities for diverse species of wildlife. To attract specific types of animals or insects to your yard, think about their needs. To attract birds to your garden design planted areas that include a tree canopy, smaller understory trees and shrubs, grasses, and flowers. Allow grasses and flowers to go to seed on occasion this will draw birds.

To attract butterflies use a combination of larval (caterpillar) and nectar plants to bring in a variety of butterflies. Nectar plants provide food for adult butterflies, while larval plants are food sources for the caterpillar stage. If you want to attract butterflies to your yard, expect a certain amount of damage on specific plants from hungry caterpillars.

To attract bats install a bat house. An individual bat can eat thousands of insects in



a night. They also serve as important pollinator for many flowering plants.

Charlotte Glen

Extension Horticulture Agent

Pender County Cooperative Extension

Caring for Storm Damaged Trees

Luckily our recent winter storm did not dump enough snow or ice in our area to cause major damage to trees and shrubs. But this is not always the case. Winter storms do strike SE NC every so often and can cause major damage to trees and shrubs. Even more common is damage caused by tropical systems or intense thunderstorms. When storms occur, broken limbs and branches are one of the most frequent forms of damage. While a few broken branches will not cause serious harm to a tree for the present time, how you care for a tree with a broken branch will have a huge impact on its long term health and ability to withstand future storms.

Trees and Wounds

Trees are not like people. When we get a cut, our bodies are able to heal the injury completely. When trees are injured, by storms or by pruning, they can only seal off the injury to contain the damaged wood, but not all injuries can be completely sealed off. When injuries are not completely sealed they provide openings where insects, disease, and decay can enter and eventually kill the tree or cause weak spots that will fail in future storms.

When branches break they must be removed in order for the tree to recover. How the branch is removed, especially where the cut

is made, will determine if the tree can completely seal off the injury and prevent decay from entering. Trees are best able to seal wounds that occur where branches join together or where a branch joins with the main trunk at an area known as the branch collar.

How to Remove a Branch

When removing a broken branch, it is usually best to remove as little wood as possible. But you do not want to just cut the branch off immediately below the point where it broke. Instead, follow the branch back into the tree, to a point where it joins a larger branch or the main trunk. If you are going to remove the branch where it joins a larger branch, make a clean cut using hand pruners or loppers at the point where the two branches join.



To remove a branch where it joins the main trunk, first take a close look at the area where the two join. You will notice that the area at the base of the branch where it joins the trunk is swollen or enlarged. This area is known as the branch collar. It is very important to avoid cutting into this area when removing a branch.

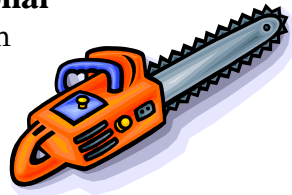
Correct cuts are made just above the branch collar, and never flush with the tree trunk. Flush cuts will never seal completely and are a major cause of decay. You also do not want to cut too far away from the branch collar. This will leave a stub, which also will not be able to seal off properly.

Larger or heavy branches need to be removed carefully to prevent the bark on the lower side of the branch from tearing from the main trunk. An undercut should be made on the lower side of the branch several inches out from the branch collar. A second cut is made on the topside of the branch a few inches beyond the undercut to remove the bulk of the branch. Then a final cut is made

back at the branch collar to remove the remaining stub. There is no need to paint pruning cuts with paint or wound dressings. These types of treatments provide no benefit and can actually be harmful in some cases. *A properly removed branch preserves the branch collar area but does not leave a long stub.*

When to Hire a Professional

Anytime removing a branch requires a ladder or a chainsaw, or if several branches need to be removed, you should strongly consider hiring a professional arborist to do the job, for the safety of yourself and your property and to protect the long term health of the tree. Pruning large trees and assessing tree health requires specialized skills and knowledge. If you are concerned about the health and strength of trees on your property contact a certified arborist to assess the situation. Certified arborists are highly qualified tree professionals who have passed the certified arborist exam offered through the International Society of Arboriculture. A list of certified arborists practicing in North Carolina can be found on their website, www.isa-arbor.com.



— Anne Edwards

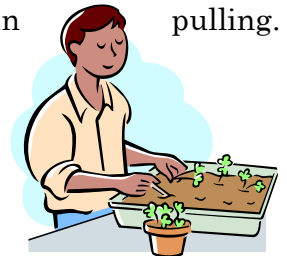
Starting transplants

Want to grow hard-to-find varieties or need several plants of one type? Be economical, and start your own transplants. Transplants can be started easily from seed in a cold frame, greenhouse or indoors. The most important requirement is adequate light. Seedlings need 12 to 16 hours of light a day. Forty-watt fluorescent fixtures with one cool-white and one warm-white tube, placed 2 to 4 inches above seedlings, make an adequate setup.

Most transplants are started 4 to 6 weeks before their planting-out date. Refer to the seed packet for information about planting depth. Count back from the date you wish to set out the plants. That's when to start your transplants. Transplants can be grown in any type of container as long as it has bottom drainage and contains sterile seed-starting soil. In each container, plant two to three seeds at the proper depth and water as needed to keep soil moist. Sowing seeds in biodegradable pots means there are no plastic pots to store or throw away. To prevent root restriction from a biodegradable pot after planting out, some folks tear the pot away before setting out the transplant. The "pot" can be left in the garden or put in the compost pile to decompose.

After seeds are planted, cover containers with a plastic dome or bag to increase humidity for germination. Remove the covering after the first leaves emerge. When seedlings have two sets of leaves, thin to one plant per container. To prevent root damage, thin by cutting rather than pulling.

Begin fertilizing with a liquid starter fertilizer. After about 6 weeks your transplants should be well-rooted and ready to transition outdoors. A



week before planting out, harden off plants by gradually exposing them to direct sunlight. Start in an outdoor shady spot, and increase sun exposure each day. When the transplants are hardened off, it is time to plant them in your garden.

— Karen Blaedow

2010 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

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

P.O. Box 109

Bolivia, NC 28422

Office: 910-253-2610

www.bcmastergardener.org

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

www.ncmastergardeners.org

Postage stamp

First Class Mail