



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter

June, 2011

Upcoming Events...

June 16th Recognition Banquet at noon
Come to the banquet

July 1st Arrival of our New Director

Oct 12, 2011 - International Master Gardener
Conference in Charleston, WV

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

Dec 15th Christmas Party

**Check the Calendar on the Website for all
current events.**

Upcoming Speakers

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

July 28, Sandy Wood, Landscaper -
Sustainable Landscaping

August 25 Lucy Bradley Small Space
Gardening

September 22 painted buntings and how
to attract them

October 27 Canning fall harvest

November 17 , Tim Alderton, New Plant
Introductions

The 2011 North Carolina Master Gardener Conference

held in Raleigh from May 8-11 was both fun
and inspiring. It was a delight to meet
Master Gardeners from around the state.
We learned how other associations are run
and what projects they are undertaking.
This year the Haywood County Master
Gardeners won the Madeline Collier

Landscape Garden Competition for the
Junaluska Elementary School Garden they
created with the children. The second entry,
a rain garden at the Merchants Millpond
Visitor center, was also very lovely. Rosalind
Creasy, our keynote speaker, inspired us to
include both ornamentals and edibles in our
gardens. This year we could participate in
various tours or in hands-on workshops. We
opted for the tour of NC State faculty
gardens. What a treat! One garden
consisted of shrubs, trees, and perennials all
tucked into a tiny piece of land. The second
garden was a beautifully designed vegetable
garden in the middle of a busy part of the
city. Lastly we learned how to plant gardens
for sustainable living. Permaculture was
what it was called and sharing with
community was a major component of this
lifestyle. Chickens (yes, real ones) were a
part of this life plan. One of the most
impressive attributes of all these gardens
was the water wise techniques all employed.
Equally impressive was the absence of turf in
all three gardens. The speakers we were
privileged to hear inspired us with their
passion for their topics and the wealth of
information they shared with us. Finally, we
were proud to be present when Shirley
Waggoner-Eisenmann and Carol Wilson were
honored for having the most years of service
in the state organization. All in all, the
conference proved to be beneficial to us as
master gardeners and was great fun to
attend. We are looking forward to the 2012
conference to be held in Ashville and hope
more of you will join us there.

Ellie Bierman and Linda Lemieux

Will we see you at the regular meeting on the 23th at 9:00 am?

Mr. Tom says:

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

I know I sound like a broken record and I want to thank everyone who has worked the front desk and info line! We are again in need of help since Bette still has not returned. We currently have Wed June 15th -Fri 17th open as well as the 20,22 the 27-30. If anyone is available to help out we would love it. Please call the office at 253-2610 to sign up for a slot. It will count toward your volunteer hours.

**Susan Brown:** Extension Horticulture Agent

Hello fellow gardeners, Summer has arrived at least it sure feels like it! The garden is shaping up nicely. We just finished a pesticide recycling day offered here at the extension office and had the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce come by for a tour! We have been participating in the Southport and Leland Farmers Markets and hope to be present at the Shallotte market as well. The "info line" has been very busy, especially in the mornings. Thank you for all of you that have helped as well as those that have signed up to help.



Learn how to preserve fresh fruits and vegetables on June 17th from 1-3pm at the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office. The cost is \$20 and includes a book of 185 recipes with detailed instructions. Pre-register by calling us by June 8th. The recognition banquet is just around the corner and I hope everyone can attend. I know I am looking forward to it. Brunswick County will be welcoming our new County Extension Director on July 1st! We are planning on having a party for his arrival to allow everyone the opportunity to meet him. His name is Mark Blevins and he is currently the Horticulture Agent in Gaston County. The staff will meet next week to arrange the date and I will pass the information on as soon as it is scheduled. We are very excited to finally have a permanent director here in Brunswick County. I think he will be a huge asset to the Master Gardener Program and hope you will all attend the welcoming party.

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

Treasurer

Hank Rapp

hankrapp@atmc.net

910-253-4071

Volunteer Chairs:**Recording Secretary**

Linda Lemieux

lindalemieux1@gmail.com

910-253-4245

Corresponding Secretary

Pat Hagerty

gene-pat@earthlink.net

910-253-3099

Library

Grace Wrigley

gwrigley@atmc.net

910-846-3341

MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

Tom Woods

tom_woods@ncsu.edu

9103681695

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

shirley312@webtv.net

910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Joe Loughlin

jloughlin@ec.rr.com**Restitution & Greenhouse**

Ash Tyler

atyl@ec.rr.com

910-278-6101

Gardens

Fred Mina

fmina@theminas.net

910-278-6205

Banquets/Parties

Becky Dus

bdus@ec.rr.com

910-253-8937

Membership

Dominique Loewenstein

domilo@2khiway.net

910-579-0161

History

Barbara McCoy

mccoy@atmc.net

910-575-7679

Webmaster

Joe's Kitchen

Shopska Salad

Traditional Bulgarian salad

I worked in Bulgaria for a month and lived with a farm family in a small village. These fresh ingredients were available in the summer and we ate the salad often.

Ingredients

- 4 ripe tomatoes
- 2 long cucumbers
- 1 onion
- 1 red or green pepper
- 1/3 bunch of parsley
- 2 tablespoons (olive) oil
- 3 tablespoons of red wine vinegar
- 1 cup (1/2 lb) Bulgarian cheese (or feta cheese)

Preparation

Chop all tomatoes (I recommend leaving the pieces bigger), cucumbers and the pepper and put in a bowl.

Add the finely chopped onions and parsley. Sprinkle with the oil and vinegar and mix it all together. Grate the feta on top.

About Shopska Salad:
Shopska salad is a traditional

Bulgarian cold salad made from tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, raw or roasted peppers and sirene (Bulgarian cheese, feta cheese, white brine cheese). Shopska salad is a very distinctive Bulgarian dish. It is named after a group of very frugal people called shopi who live in the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia.



The President's Gavel

My trip to Ireland was full of beautiful vistas. Some like Powerscourt in the Wicklow Mts. and Kylemore Abbey in Connemara had formal gardens, but the whole country is a cool wet morning garden. Green grass popping with wild flowers, rock walls



dripping more flowers and sheltering the yellow heather blooms. Pubs are dressed with hanging containers of multicolor annuals. Even the

most desolate rock covered land had orchids peaking from their crevasses. White thatched cottages with mossy roofs & red roses cascading from entry ways lined the narrow roads. In the creek valleys where a few trees grew, rhododendrons were in full bloom. Their sprinkler system comes on several times a day and the whole country is a flower cooler.

I drank a few pints, listened to Irish music, and talked to the people. I never knew what an affinity the Irish had for America. Everyone was so glad to talk with us and welcome us to their country.

Joe Loughlin

Recognition Luncheon

The Brunswick County Center of the
North Carolina



Cooperative Extension
Service

Cordially Invites You and
Your Guest to Attend the
Extension Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

Annual Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, June 16, 2011 At 12:30 PM
Cooperative Extension Service,
Brunswick County Government Complex
Bolivia - Building N
Please call (910) 253-2610
Beverages will be provided.
Please bring a covered dish (enough for
8) Based on your last name
A-F Small Sandwiches G-K Desserts L-
P Salads Q-Z Appetizers

Need a Job Filled!

Tom would like to have a person in the "lead spot" for the plant sales. Duties would include organizing the sale: documentation of plants purchased and sold, check lists, organization of plants on the pad, publicizing the sale, etc. Next year we will put more spots on the website for the plant sale and allow people to work more than a half day.



Garden Workdays

Look for emails.

Bring your enthusiasm!

Last year's "Info

Line" problems in June 2010

In June 2010 there were 81 inquiries to the Infoline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 9. Of the 9 calls 3 requested Soil Sample information and

information from the reports. The remainders requested general garden information and plant I.D.

Lawns: 18. The majority of calls concerned problems with Centipede grass 8.

The remainders were general questions about weeds and disease in lawns and problems with Bermuda grass.

Shrubs: 3. Questions concerned the care of azaleas and yellowing of plants.

Trees: 20. There were 20 calls on tree problems. Leland cypress and Oaks had the most calls but there were also questions about Mimosa trees, Wax Myrtle, Dogwoods, Palms, fruit trees and Pines.

Pests: 5. Callers wanted information on getting rid of various pests such as ticks, moles, Japanese Beetles, and caterpillars.

Vegetables: 15. There were many problems in the garden last year. Tomatoes had the most problems (10) but squash, collards and peppers also had problems. Folks also wanted information on growing and caring for blueberries.

Flowers: 11. Roses had the most problems with yellowing leaves and wilt.



Chrysanthemums, hibiscus, hydrangea, and lantana also had the same symptoms.

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).

May your thoughts be as glad as
the shamrocks
May your heart be as light as a
song
May each day bring you bright
Happy hours that stay with you all
the year long.
~Irish Blessing



Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Oak Leaf Blister

This spring, Brunswick County's Cooperative Extension office has received numerous samples of oak leaves infected with oak leaf blister, a fungal leaf spot in the *Taphrina* genus. The disease is common on all oak species. Microscopic spores are produced in leaf spots during mid spring. These spores are carried by wind and splashing rain drops to bud scales and twigs, where they remain in resting stage until the following spring. At this time, rain washes the spores onto young leaves, where infection takes place. After two to four weeks, depending on weather conditions, the blisters will develop. The disease is favored by cool and moist conditions during early stages of leaf development. Abnormal growth of the leaf with bulges, depressions, cupping and twisting are all symptoms of this disease. The bulges are usually light green,



eventually turning brown as the leaves age. Several blisters may merge which involve much or all of a leaf to curl and can also cause premature defoliation. Spores produced on these spots will lodge in bud scales and again, remain dormant until the following spring.

The disease may cause concern to homeowners because it can make the leaves (and the tree in general) look unsightly. Heavily infected leaves may fall off prematurely during the summer. If well established trees defoliate before midsummer, they will sometimes leaf out later in the season. When defoliation occurs in late summer, leaf loss will have little impact on the trees health. If heavy defoliation occurs year after year the tree may become weak over time but this is rare.

Chemical controls are not normally justified, except in the case of very valuable specimen trees or in nursery situations, if economical. Application of fungicides after bud break WILL NOT be effective, as infection of leaves by the fungus would have already occurred. There will be no effect on the development of symptoms. Homeowners are urged not to treat large landscape trees, as there are no fungicides registered for domestic use, and the adverse effects associated with this disease are quite minimal.

Removal of leaves from under and around the tree will help reduce the potential for future disease, but will not completely eliminate it. Be sure to burn or bag this debris and remove it from the property. The spores can be present on fallen leaves. As with most diseases, keeping the trees well watered and adequately fertilized, and

pruning out dead or dying branches will help reduce the impact of this disease.

Charlotte Glen

Extension Horticulture Agent

Pender County Cooperative Extension

Stopping Blossom End Rot

Are the bottom ends of your tomatoes or squash turning black or leathery, or failing to develop properly? This problem, known as blossom end rot, is most common on tomatoes and squash, though it may also occur on peppers, eggplants, melons, cucumbers and zucchini. Blossom end rot is not a disease and does not spread from one plant to another. Instead, it is classified as a physiological disorder and is caused by a lack of calcium in the developing fruit. There are several factors that can lead to calcium deficiency in vegetable plants, all of which must be managed to prevent blossom end rot from developing at anytime during the harvest season.



Causes of Blossom End Rot

Plants absorb the nutrients they need to grow from the soil. Some soils are naturally low in calcium and vegetables grown in these soils will often develop blossom end

rot. In southeast NC low soil calcium is not a common cause of blossom end rot.

Instead, **blossom end rot is most often caused by dry weather, several days of hot temperatures**, long periods of wet soil conditions, or low soil pH. In acidic soils, where the pH is below 5.5, some nutrients are locked up chemically so plants cannot absorb them even if they are present in plentiful amounts. Calcium is one of the nutrients that become less available to plants under acidic conditions. To find out if your soil is acidic or low in calcium, submit a sample for free testing to the Cooperative Extension office. The pH of acidic soils can be raised by adding lime, but this should only be done if soil test results indicate it is needed. Many soils in our area are high in pH and adding more lime to these soils will increase nutrient deficiency problems.

Another common cause of blossom end rot is over fertilization with high nitrogen fertilizers such as soda. Nitrogen promotes rapid, dark green, leafy growth. Plants that are growing very quickly often cannot move enough calcium into fruits to support proper development, leading to blossom end rot. In addition, any conditions that cause root damage can lead to poor nutrient absorption and blossom end rot. The most common causes of root damage in vegetable gardens are wet soils following heavy rainfall and hoeing too close to a plant's root system.

Preventing Blossom End Rot

To prevent blossom end rot have your soil tested to make sure calcium and other nutrient levels are adequate and your pH is in the correct range of 6.0 to 6.5. If your pH is low, sprinkling lime on plants or on top of the soil will not help, since lime must be

mixed into the soil to raise pH. To affect pH, lime should be tilled into the soil 6" to 8" deep at least three months before planting. The same is true for gypsum, sometimes referred to as land plaster, a substance that supplies calcium without raising soil pH.

In addition to making sure your soil can supply calcium, it is equally important to maintain even growth of your vegetable plants through careful fertilization and watering. **To prevent blossom end rot, keep plants evenly moist by watering during dry weather and mulching around plants.**

Vegetables require between an inch and an inch and a half of water each week from rainfall or irrigation to grow well. When rainfall is lacking, water plants once or twice a week. Soaker hoses are wonderful for watering vegetables and other plants because they apply water directly to the ground, instead of wetting plant leaves, which can make disease problems worse. Also, **avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers**, such as those in which the first number on the bag is higher than the rest of the numbers. Instead base fertilizer applications on your soil test results and use slow release fertilizers such as pelleted, time release products or organic fertilizers.



2011 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

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

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