



# Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter May, 2009

## Upcoming Events...

- May 7-9** Plant Sale
- May 12<sup>th</sup> & June 9<sup>th</sup>** NCS Plant Clinic
- May 13<sup>th</sup>** Trip to J C Raulston & Plants Delight
- May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Coastal Gardening Seminar
- May 17<sup>th</sup>** Plant Clinic from 12-4:00 for Oak Island Parks & Rec. garden show
- Early summer seminars**  
5/20 – Leland library, 5/21 – Southport library, 5/22 – Hickman Crossroads library, and 5/23 – Wal-Mart in Southport.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Plant ID Review with Dr. Fantz
- May 26<sup>th</sup>** Daylily Farm Trip
- May 28<sup>th</sup>** Regular Meeting
- June 6<sup>th</sup>** Annual Water Garden Tour
- June 16<sup>th</sup>** Recognition Luncheon

## Upcoming Speakers

- April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Kent Kolbe NC DOT Landscape
- May 28<sup>th</sup>** Anne Pendred - tips on taking perfect pictures. If weather permits, we'll be going out to the gardens to get some hands-on training. Bring your cameras!
- June 25<sup>th</sup>** David Barkley and/or Al Hight
- July 23<sup>rd</sup>** We have a new speaker for the July MG meeting. His name is Matthew Bookman and he'll be talking about snakes, "Befriend, not Behead". He'll also be bringing live specimens. This will be an informative and entertaining presentation!

*May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light, May good luck pursue you each morning and night. ~Irish Blessing*

"Just Add Water!" Annual Water Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6th pondless waterfalls, a 165 ft stream, ponds & more. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$25 per car and can be purchased at the New Hanover County Arboretum, The Stone Garden or Five Oaks Nursery.

## Garden Workdays

May 13th, June 1st & 20th

Bring your enthusiasm!



## Plant Clinics will now be

at the extension office starting at 10 am. Be there by 9:45 May 12, June 9th, & July 14th

## On the Road Again

We are going with 2 vans and as many cars that want to follow to the JC Raulston Arboretum and Tony Avant's Plants Delight. May 13th Leaving at 7 and returning at 7. This should be a great trip Also May 26th to the Daylily Farm

## TILS garden almost ready!

32- 4X8, 1- 4X24, and 1- 4X40 raised beds have been built and are being filled with garden soil. Soon we need to start with developing plans and classes for the inmates. We are hoping to have a good summer garden.

## Ecosystems Exploits

Mg volunteers taught 115 Virginia Williamson Elementary 5th graders about the eco systems in Brunswick County on Earth Day, April 22. Here is a chance to change the future!

**Will we see you at the May Meeting on the 28<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am ?**




### Charlie says:

Don't forget to sign up for the plant sale. The last major activity for several months. Let's make this another great sale. May 7, 8, & 9

I also hope you using the North Carolina Pest News that we have started to send you via email. That info can really help you at the hot line office.

### The President's Desk

I would like to welcome a transfer MG  from South Carolina. Her name is Marianne Cerniglia if you see her make her welcome. We are sorry to loose the following members: Moving out of the area is Hilton Holcomb and Peggy Meinzer. Joe Gagliano recently passed away. Our condolences to his family.

Thanks to all of those who worked or helped prepare for our April plant sale. It was our biggest ever. Thanks to the new class for becoming involved by volunteering. Our next plant sale will be in May do not forget to help prepare for and sign up to work the sale.

Help is always needed on the Hot Line and other various activates. Charlie will have a list of what is available to volunteer for. This is a good way to keep current and learn about new things that are happening in the Master Gardening Program.

Have you paid your dues for 2009? If not there is a form on the web site and in the newsletter you can use for payment.

**State Association Rep, Carol Wilson** - reasons for joining the state association are: 1.) to receive information from the state; 2.) the grant program for landscape design; 3.) newsletter competition; and 4.) to receive a \$20.00 discount on the state conference. See her if interested in joining.

**David Barkley** has a radio show the last Wednesday of the month on WAAV 980 AM radio from 7:10 to 7:30 a.m. Call in and ask him a question that starts him to stutter ;)

### Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

#### President

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)

910-754-4148

#### Vice president

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910-253-0722

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## Joe's Kitchen

One of the things I discovered on my Italy trip last fall was a green that I had never used. **Arugula or Rocket** is a very flavorful addition to a green salad. I ordered seeds when I got home and planted some for this spring. I sowed the seeds in Mid February, but to my surprise the plants began to bolt almost as soon as they were big enough to produce a few nice leaves. I harvest what will probably be the third and last picking last night. The stems are now too tough, but what few leaves I found were good. Do any of you have experience with this crop? I could use some help. I plan to start another crop in mid October and plant some more every 10 or so days till the weather gets too cold. I happily found they sold bags of the stuff at Lowes until I got home and found that it had very little flavor. Let's all try and grow some and compare notes!



## MG Container Planting Contest

- Individuals or teams up to 3 can enter.
- One container per entry.
- Each container should have five plant varieties, including plants many gardeners would not think to plant in pots. Entries should include one annual, one perennial, one vegetable, one herb and one "wild card" plant. There may be no fewer than five distinct plants, although multiples of any one variety can be used if desired. Flowering plants are not required.
- When your planted container looks its best, take three (3) photos and submit them to Bette Rose at the Extension office. Include your name(s), phone number(s) and a list of the plants you have used. You may submit your entry and photos via email to [bette\\_rose@ncsu.edu](mailto:bette_rose@ncsu.edu) or deliver the photos and entry information to Bette; she will "code" your entry, judging will be blind.
- Containers will be judged on the beauty and condition of the plants and container, plant choice/variety, and creativity.
- Entries must be submitted no later than June 15 for judging. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Recognition Luncheon on June 23. First place entry will receive a \$50 gift certificate; second place, \$25 and third place, \$10.
- please contact with questions; Becky Dus ([bdus@ec.rr.com](mailto:bdus@ec.rr.com); 253-8937) or Dominique Lowenstein ([domilo@2khiway.net](mailto:domilo@2khiway.net); 579-0161).

**Thanks to Kent Koble of NC DOT!** My wild flowers are starting to emerge, how about yours?

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children. ~Native  
American Proverb

**2009 Madeline Collier Landscape Garden**

Design Competition October 4-7, 2009

*We hope to have a winning entry in at this years state convention for our botanical garden. See Charlie if you would like to help make that happen.*

**Coastal Gardening Seminar:** May 15, 2009

Details pending. Guest Speaker Mark Weathington, Assistant Director and Curator of Collections for JC Raulston Arboretum; call to put name on list for registration.

Location – Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, Bolivia NC

**Plant Identification Review with Dr. Paul**

Fantz; May 22, 2009 9am to 6pm

there is a charge for this review session; register by calling the Brunswick County Coop. Extension Office at 910-253-2610.

**Interactive Distance Learning Plant Clinic**

May 12 and June 9 10am – 12noon

Interactive Distance Learning Plant Clinic Update for Master Gardeners Locations: Brunswick County Coop. Extension Office

**David Barkley**

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

**May Gardening Tips****Azaleas Need Help**

Now is a good time to judge how your azaleas and for that matter any other of your landscape plants performed this spring. The particular plant is probably in good condition if the blooms were beautiful and the foliage dense. Keep doing what you're doing and use the "if it's not broken..." philosophy. Azaleas in our area may have



been damaged by the Easter morning cold. If they were damaged by the cold or otherwise not up to par, then consider the following:

Azaleas need good soil drainage for the root system. Be sure the roots are not in saturated soils for long periods of time.

Transplant, if necessary, into a raised or mounded system. Don't delay.

If you have newly planted or transplanted azaleas, be sure to keep them watered during dry periods. Even old, mature bushes will appreciate a break from dry weather. Newly planted shrubs in raised beds will probably need watering 2-3 times a week during the summer. Consider a soaker hose for water efficiency.

Build a soil or mulch water retention ring around the plants. This will allow irrigation water to soak the rootzone area, especially if they are planted high. Remember to rake away the raised mound of soil making the ring after the plant has become established.

A soil high in organic matter supplemented with organic mulch is more important to good azalea growth than fertilizer. To maintain available iron, soils should be in the pH range of 4.5-6.0. Use lime if the pH is below 3.0. Gypsum is a good source of calcium, which is necessary for good growth, and will not affect the pH. A slow release fertilizer program is recommended for summer growing needs. Now is a good time to apply.

Azaleas require little, if any pruning. The best time to prune is after flowering and before bud initiation in mid-summer. Now is a good time to shape, or even rejuvenated

especially after some of the cold damage they received.

Inspect for the following disease problems; Petal Blight, Leaf Gall, Leaf Rust, Mildew, Phomopsis Die-back, Phytophthora Root Rot. Also, inspect for the following insect problems; Caterpillars, Lace bug, Leaf Miner, Mites, Scales, Stem borers, Weevils and Whitefly.

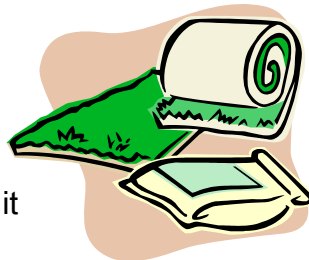
Most azaleas are easily propagated from cuttings taken after the new growth is 4-6" in length. This is usually in early to mid summer.

Keep azalea beds mulched with 4-6 inches of compost or other organic matter. Don't use materials that crust over (sawdust). Weed control is necessary throughout the year. If you use contact herbicides, be certain to shield the azalea foliage as you spray.

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### "Full steam ahead" for Turfgrass

Now is the time to get started on the warm season grass activities (e.g. Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, and St. Augustine)! Seed, sprig, plug or plant rolls of sod now and throughout the summer in the Cape Fear region of North Carolina. Fertilize, water, mow low and let it grow. Centipede is the exception to the typical lime and fertilizer suggestions since centipedegrass prefers acid soils and fertilizing just once in early June. You can aerify and dethatch warm seasoned grasses if needed to overcome compaction and thatch problems. One other overlooked task is to identify grass types in



your lawn and what weeds you have and implement an eradication program before the weeds take over.

### CONTROLLING POISON IVY

Poison ivy grows fairly quickly and propagates itself by underground rhizomes and seeds. The seeds are quickly spread by birds and other animals that eat the small fruits. For light infestations, digging and hand pulling of small plants is effective. Spot spraying the foliage with a non-selective herbicide containing glyphosate (Round-Up, Kleen-Up) or a poison ivy killer may be necessary. When working around poison ivy, always wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and protective gloves (disposal plastic gloves are ideal). Heavy growths of poison ivy should never be removed by hand because of the obvious hazard. Control with chemicals is most effective during active growth especially in early mid summer. The chemicals are most efficiently absorbed and translocated through the plant at these times.

**Cool season vegetables** will be finishing up and double cropping this garden space will increase your garden productivity. It is time now to plant warm season vegetables (melons, peppers, squash, cucumbers, snap beans, and okra).

Now is also a good time to plant annuals and summer bulbs such as caladiums, cannas, dahlias and gladiolus.



# 2009 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail checks to: **Gloria 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](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com))

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[www.bcmastergardener.org](http://www.bcmastergardener.org)

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

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