



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter October, 2011

Upcoming Events...

Oct 12, 2011 - International Master Gardener

Conference in Charleston, WV

Dec 15th Christmas Party

May 1-4, 2012 Registration is now open for the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, in the beautiful river city of Natchez, Mississippi

Check the Calendar on the Website for all current events.

Upcoming Speakers

October 27 Preserve Food Safely at Home Cheryle Jones Syracuse

November 17 , Tim Alderton, New Plant Introductions

We have lost a table cover with the MG logo on it. If you know where it's living, please tell us!

We say Goodbye to Richard Boland

A few weeks ago the Master Gardener Association lost a good friend and a past Association President. For those newer members who did not know Richard, I want to tell you a few things in his memory.



Richard was truly a "Good Person". He was kind and gentle and I don't believe I ever heard a harsh word from him. He was always in a good mood even when he knew that he did not have long to live. He of course performed his duties as our President in the same manner as he lived his life. The real shame is that he had an incurable disease during his last few years and was unable to volunteer with the Master Gardeners.

Having worked with Richard for several years, I really will continue to miss him. In my 78 years, I can't think of anyone else that I enjoyed more or anyone else that I admired more. He set an example for all of us to follow. Rest well, you have earned it.
Charlie Spenser

A travel committee has formed. If

you would like to help or you have ideas, give Charlie Spenser a shout. Then be looking for some great travel opportunities in the coming months. I heard something about a trip to Wilson, but it's not on the calendar, so call Tom or Susan to get the latest news.



Garden Workdays

October 26th so if you feel like weeding, bring your tools and join the fun. We will start at 9:00 am and will work till 11:00 am.

Bring your enthusiasm!



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

Mr. Tom says:

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

**THIS and THAT**

The Fall Plant sale is over and we managed to make some money. Total sales were nearly \$6000 from which we made approximately \$1500. We still have a good selection of plants on the pad for you or your neighbors and friends to chose from. Bring your wallet when you come to the October meeting and take a look; there may be a plant out there that you cannot live without.

We are currently preparing the site for winter. That includes ordering some bare root trees and shrubs for the spring plant sale. We have already ordered the plugs for the spring plant sales; they will be delivered in February.

I planted a fall vegetable garden; broccoli, cauliflower, beets, radishes and squash. I have created an aphid family gathering spot. You can thank me if your yard is aphid free; they all came to my house. Wantem back?

Many of you are working on your volunteer hours; keep up the effort. If you need suggestions on possible work give me a call. See you at the October membership meeting.

Tom Woods

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns. ~George Eliot

There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been! ~Percy Bysshe Shelley

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

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Susan Brown: Extension Horticulture Agent

Hello fellow gardeners, Fall has finally arrived, at least it sure feels like it. I am enjoying the work in my garden and planting new plants from the plant sale.



Speaking of the plant sale, it went really well. Thank all of you for your hard work preparing for the sale. It would not have been a success without the help.

We will have another botanical garden workday on October 26th so if you feel like weeding, bring your tools and join the fun. We will start at 9:00 am and will work till 11:00 am. I was finally able to get signs out in the botanical gardens and am now working on the second go round. Some day we will have all the plants identified.

There will be one more Life On The Farm event on Friday, October 14th for Belville Elementary. They missed the opportunity to participate due to the weather.

A trip has been planned to go to the Wilson, N.C. Rose Garden and nearby Botanical Gardens, the latter featuring hundreds of acres of plants successful in this region. Admission to both is free. This trip has been moved to October 19th. Please let Bette know if you will be able to attend.

Enjoy the weather and as always happy gardening.

The President's Gavel

Last month I ask for someone to take over the newsletter. Hank Rapp has volunteered, so next month look for a new editor. I ask that you support Hank by sending him information to put in the newsletters on timely basis (by the 5th of each month). This issue is being put together very late. Some of that is on me for not reminding people to send their material and keeping after them, but actually you all should put it on your calendar and get out our news. I have enjoyed working with the board and look forward to getting back to doing things like the info line, the hort. gardens, and doing some teaching. See you at the meeting.



Joe Loughlin

Joe's Kitchen**Egg Ole with Red Pepper Cream Sauce**

My last visit to Ohio was filled with meals shared with good friends. Here is one I particularly got excited about. Next time you want an egg casserole with some panache, try this one.

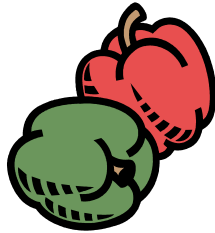


Egg Ole

1/2 cup flour
 1tsp each of baking powder & salt 10 eggs,
 1 lb. shredded Monterrey Jack cheese
 2 cups creamed, small curd cottage cheese
 1 stick butter melted
 Small can of green chilies, drained &
 chopped

Red Pepper Cream Sauce

1 large Red Bell Pepper,
 chopped
 1/4 cup of thinly sliced green onions
 1/2 stick of butter
 1/4 cup + 1 Tbs of flour & 1 3/4 cup milk
 1 Tbs fresh lemon juice
 1/4 tps each of salt & white pepper
 2 Tbs of chopped fresh chive
 Preheat oven to 350. Mix dry ingredients.
 Beat eggs till light & pale yellow. Add
 dry ingredient, MJ cheese, Cottage Cheese,
 & butter. Beat until blended. Stir in
 chilies. Pour into 9X13 baking dish or 10
 - 4 1/2 " ramekins. Bake 35 minutes till
 brown or ramekins till center is firm.
 Place serving plates in warm oven. For
 sauce, sauté peppers & onions in butter for
 2 minutes. Stir in Flour & cook 3
 minutes while stirring. Remove from
 heat and whisk in milk & lemon juice .
 Cook until thickened. Stir in salt &
 pepper and puree in a blender. Puddle
 sauce on serving plate. Cut eggs into
 squares or invert ramekin & place over
 sauce. Garnish with jalapeno & red pepper



slices, a sprig of thyme, & chives. (sauce
 may be made ahead & reheated)

Last year's "Info Line" problems

in October 2010

There were only 11 inquires to the
 infoline. The breakdown was as
 follows:

General: 3. 2 requested soil sample
 kits and interpretation
 of analysis. 1 requested Newcomer
 Packs.

Lawns: 4. The majority of calls concerned
 problems with weeds and disease in the
 lawn. 1 requested info on centipede.

Trees: 0

Shrubs: 0

Pests: 1. The caller wanted information on
 getting rid of bees.

Vegetables: 1 The caller wanted general
 gardening information about growing
 grapes.

Flowers: 4. The calls were for general
 information on how to grow roses,
 hydrangeas, and angel trumpet plants.

Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Japanese Maples

Japanese Maples make
 quite a statement in the
 landscape. There are
 hundreds of named
 cultivars available. You
 can find them in just
 about any color from deep red foliage to
 bright green, creamy white, yellow, pink or
 orange. Almost any variety will have
 spectacular fall color along with an
 amazing architectural branching structure.
 Many varieties have colorful leaves
 throughout the season. Another benefit to





these maples is that they can tolerate some shade, not deep shade but dappled light.

A Japanese maple may be the high point of a garden's design, but be sure to choose and site the plant with an eye to its needs. Do not plant the maple too close to a house or walkway, where it will require pruning or where people may trample on its root zone. It is better to buy a cultivar that will not outgrow its space than fight to keep a large plant in control.

Japanese maples are at their best in USDA plant zone 6 through 8, a few are hardy as far North as Zone 4b. For best performance Japanese maples should be planted in early spring or before mid-autumn, but not in summer. Planting in early fall gives the tree time to put down new roots so that in spring, when the sap begins to rise, the tree can put energy into developing top growth. Water deeply at least once a week until the ground freezes. Japanese maples require consistent moisture, but an established tree is not likely to need fertilizing. They tolerate a wide range of soil pH, though slightly acidic is ideal. The one nonnegotiable requirement is good drainage. If perennials or ground covers will be planted underneath the tree, plant them at the same time as the tree in the soil beyond the root ball. That way, after the tree has reached out with its fibrous roots, the roots won't be disturbed by digging.

Many of the smaller varieties can be grown in containers.



Maples in containers need well-drained potting mix, frequent watering, and regular repotting. Roots in pots are vulnerable to cold, so even in temperate climates, it's wise to insulate the pot before planting and wrap it well every winter or move it into a cool, sheltered place such as an unheated garage or crawl space.

I will share with you some of my favorite varieties. *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' is one of the more common trees widely available and favored by landscapers. It has an upright form reaching up to 20' in height and spread. This tree is winter hardy and heat tolerant. Bloodgood has deep purple leaves which turn crimson in the fall. It can be used as a specimen, accent plant, shrub border, grouping or even a bonsai.

Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku' is another upright tree that grows to 20' in height and width. This variety has brilliant coral fall and winter color against coral red bark. Leaves are red tinged in spring and green in the summer. This variety is not quite as heat tolerant as the Bloodgood.

Lastly, *Acer palmatum* 'Crimson Queen' a cascading variety growing to only 10' with finely cut purple leaves, turning red in the fall.

'Fall Vegetable Gardening Tips

Harvest Time!

Many crops planted in late summer will soon be ready for harvest. Broccoli should be harvested when the buds are still tightly closed – if yellow flowers have started to open you have waited too late. Leave broccoli plants in place after harvesting the initial head. Side shoots will develop and will be ready to pick within a couple of weeks. Cauliflower and cabbage may be ready to harvest soon as well. Once the main head has been picked, cauliflower and

cabbage plants can be removed from the garden since they do not re-sprout. To extend the harvest season of kale, spinach, and swiss chard simply harvest a few leaves from each plant each time you need some. Root crops like carrots, beets, and turnips should be mature soon. Harvest them as you need them. Most of these crops are fine left in the ground and harvested as needed through winter, though a layer of mulch will help protect them from hard freezes.

Not Too Late to Plant Some Crops

While it is past the ideal time to plant many cool season crops, there are still a few particularly hardy vegetables you can put in the ground now. Spinach and mustard greens can be sown directly into the soil from seed through October. These leafy greens are often sown in a patch one to two feet wide rather than in a single row. Kale and cabbage plants can still be purchased and transplanted for harvest later this winter. Now is also the ideal time to start garlic and onions for harvest next summer. Garlic is grown from cloves available from garden centers or mail order suppliers. Soft neck garlic varieties perform best in our area and are excellent for braiding. Elephant garlic also does well here and has a milder flavor than other garlic varieties. Onions can be set out from sets now or started from seed sown directly into the garden. Be sure to purchase short day varieties such as 'Granex' or 'Texas Supersweet'.



Extend Planting and Harvest with Row Covers

Many crops can be planted now if provided protection from heavy frost by floating row covers. Row covers are specially made light

weight fabrics laid directly onto crops or stretched over support structures such as PVC hoops. Light weight row covers generally provide protection down to 28 degrees and let up to 80% of sunlight through, while heavier weight materials can protect crops down to 24 degrees but only allow 50% of sunlight through. Light weight row covers are often left on crops throughout winter while heavier weight covers are just put on at night or during extended cold spells. Vegetables that can be sown from seed or transplanted now if protected by row covers during winter include lettuce, carrots, beets, spinach, broccoli, radish, green onions, kohlrabi, and turnips.



Control Pests and Protect the Soil

It is still not too late to sow seeds of cover crops in bare areas. Clover varieties can be seeded in the garden through late October, while grains and grasses such as wheat, ryegrass, or oats can be sown as late as mid November.

As fall progresses be sure to keep an eye out for our two most common fall garden pests, caterpillars and aphids. Caterpillars eat holes in the leaves of many fall crops and can be controlled with organic pesticides such as B.t. and Spinosad. Aphids are very much smaller insects that often feed in masses and are sometimes referred to as plant lice. They may be green, brown or gray and are often found on the backside of leaves. Aphids feed on plant juices and may cause leaves to become crinkled and distorted. Plants should be checked frequently for aphids and treated as soon as noticed. Organic controls for aphids include insecticidal soap and Neem oil.

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)

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