



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter September, 2011

Upcoming Events...

Sept 7th Day in the Yard Classes in Bolivia
Sept 8th Beginning of BCC fall garden classes
Sept 12-16th & 19-23rd Life on the Farm
Sept 29th Day in the Yard Classes in St. James
Oct. 6-8th Fall Plant Sale
Oct 12, 2011 - International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, WV
Dec 15th Christmas Party
Check the Calendar on the Website for all current events.

Upcoming Speakers

September 22 Al Hight - Drought Issues we expect to see; and what you can do about them.
October 27 Canning fall harvest
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!

Take the 40 gallon Challenge and save our water!

The *40 Gallon Challenge* is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40



gallons per person, per day. The challenge began in 2011 as a voluntary campaign to increase water conservation.

<http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/>

Don't Forget the Fall Plant Sale

Oct. 6-8th

Whether you are working the sale or just one of our great customers, don't forget to come out and help us reach our financial goals. With the help of Tom, Susan, your board, a lot of great volunteers we should end the year with sufficient reserves to be able to do more next year. Last year's propane bill just about did us in!
The plant sales are one good way to bring public awareness of our programs. Put on a smile, bring your check book & a neighbor, and come see what would look good in your yard. **FALL IS THE VERY BEST TIME TO PLANT!**



A travel committee has formed. If

you would like to help or you have ideas, give Charlie Spencer a shout. Then be looking for some great travel opportunities in the coming months



Will we see you at the regular meeting on the 22nd at 9:00 am?

Mr. Tom says:

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

**TRAINING - TRAINING**

This fall will be an active time for training conducted by the Master Gardeners. We have two 'Day in the Yard' classes scheduled. The "Day in the Yard" class that begins September 29th at St. James is full and the class at Bolivia that begins September 7 has 15 enrolled. We will limit the class at Bolivia to 30 participants.

Schedule for the Brunswick County Community College classes:

September 8 & 15	Landscape Design	Supply Campus
Tom Woods		
September 13	General Gardening	Carolina Shores
Tom Woods		
September 20 & 27	Landscape Design	Leland Campus
Tom Woods		
September 29	General Gardening	Supply Campus
Susan Brown		

October 6 Herbs, Edible Flowers Supply Campus
Need Presenter - Please call me if you are interested in teaching the October 6 Herbs & Edible Flowers class.

THIS and THAT

The Fall Plant sale is coming up. There are still unfilled volunteer openings for the preparation days and the plant purchasing trips. On August 30 several Master Gardeners pruned, fertilized and generally began the cleanup of the Pad. We also spent some time chasing or rather encouraging a rather large copperhead to vacate the premises. We have another workday scheduled for September 8. Please come out and help if you can. There is much work required to get the plants in saleable condition. Remember that the objective of the fall plant sale is to clear the pad so we will limit additional purchases to items we are positive we can sell completely.

Irene damaged the green house. It blew both the sun cover and the clear cover off the greenhouse. The clear cover was damaged on both ends. Both covers have been re-attached, but we will have a problem when we want to remove the sun cover. The sun cover is holding the clear cover on at the back end of the greenhouse. We will be forced to buy another clear cover if we experience another storm like Irene. Finally, the natural gas line will soon be plumbed to the greenhouse and we will convert the heaters after we use the remaining propane.

Brad Kammer is making good progress in the Botanical Garden. He has begun work on the back corner of the garden where the

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

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NEWSLETTER September 2011

Loblolly Pines and the Sugar Maple tree are located. This renovation project will include the addition of a water feature and the addition of a demonstration section of shade tolerant Bermuda grass called Tif-grand (a small section is already in place, take a look, it is a great looking grass.) The Master Gardeners will be asked to help with the financing of this project.

The Farmers markets in Leyland, Shallotte and Southport are winding down and we will stop our participation in September. This is the time of the year when "clubs" begin to look for speakers for their winter meetings. If you would like to participate, let me know. If you belong to a club, let them know that we have some excellent presentations and presenters.

Don't forget to clean out your bird houses and check your azaleas for caterpillars this month.

Susan Brown: [Extension Horticulture Agent](#)

Hello fellow gardeners, it is finally time to roll up our sleeves, break out the tools and get out in the garden. I don't know about you but this was the first summer I was about to throw in the towel as far as gardening is concerned. Now that the cooler temperatures have arrived I am singing a different tune.



*We are gearing up for our **plant sale on October 6,7,and 8th**. I want to thank everyone who helped prune, shape, cut back and fertilize the plants we currently have in stock. We will have another workday on September 8th from 7am-10am to get existing plants "retail ready" for the sale. If you are not an early bird you can come a little later. I will provide training and will be available for questions and guidance on this day.*

*The wall is coming along and will be finished on September 6th. I only have a few more layers to add. The gardens are coming together nicely. I am offering a plant propagation course next year. There will be limited space available for this course. We will be covering what propagation is, the methods involved, what mediums to use, the best fertilizing methods, how to choose plants to grow, what the finishing time will be depending on plant, how much it costs to grow, the changing needs of plants as they grow, temperatures of growth, daylight requirements and much, much more. We will also be growing and **propagating** throughout the course. The class will begin on **February 1st from 10-12 and will be held every Wed. from 10-12 until April 25**. Class will not be held on March 14th. If you are interested please contact Bette. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis and will count as volunteer hours for continuing education. Unfortunately, I have to limit the open slots to 12 individuals. This course will be hands on so limited space is available. Hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day and as always happy gardening.*

The President's Gavel

My time as president is growing short and I am looking forward to getting



*back to being just a member. I have not spent much time on the info line or working in the MG gardens the last year & a half and hope to in the future. We all have areas we like to work in and what is important is that we have lots of folks doing their part and making MGs a valuable part of our community. Another job I would like to pass on sometime soon is the **newsletter**. If someone would like to take over this job, you can count on my help to get you started. I will even continue to do the "Joes Kitchen" article if you would want to continue it. 😊*

Joe Loughlin

Joe's Kitchen

Rosemary Time

I finally found a spot where my rosemary plant seems happy, so I have been using some of this savory herb in a number of different ways.



Herb marinate for beef steak

1 tablespoon of Chopped Rosemary
 1 tablespoon of chopped basil
 1 tablespoon of chopped oregano
 2 tablespoons of flat leaf parsley
 1 teaspoon of red wine vinegar
 4 cloves of garlic
 2 ½ tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Place ingredients in a small blender; combine till herbs are barely visible in the thick liquid. Brush on steaks and refrigerate at least 3 hours. Salt & pepper steak to taste after grilling.

Rosemary Potatoes

Cut about 8 Yukon Gold potatoes (enough to cover well your casserole dish) into mouth size chunks. Mix in 2 Vidalia onion course chopped. Heat a pint of heavy cream with 2 TBls of finely chopped Rosemary, ¾ teaspoon of salt, ½ teaspoon of white pepper. Pour over potato casserole, cut a ¼ stick of butter into pats & scatter across the top. Bake till potatoes bubbly and top is browning.



Rosemary Butter Cookies

1 cup of flour
 ½ cup corn starch
 1 ½ teaspoon of snipped rosemary
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¾ cup softened butter
 1/3 cup powdered sugar
 Few drops of almond extract
 Orange marmalade
 Mix well 1st 4 ingredients. Cream the butter for 30 seconds in a mixing bowl then add sugar & extract and beat till smooth. Add flour mixture and beat till combined. Wrap & Chill mixture 1 hour. Preheat oven to 325°. Make 1 ¼ inch balls place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Using your thumb, indent the cookies and place ½ tsp of marmalade on top. Bake 14 minutes till edges start to brown and cool. Serve with mint juleps on the veranda!

Garden Workdays

Check the Calendar or Volunteer tabs on the website to sign up to help.

Bring your enthusiasm!



Last year's "Info Line" problems

in September 2010

There were 30 inquires to the infoline. The breakdown was as follows:



General: 4. The 4 calls requested garden information and newcomer packs.

Lawns: 8. The majority of calls concerned problems with weeds and disease in the lawn.

Trees:13. Fruit trees posed problems, particularly peach and kiwi. Crepe Myrtle, Palms, and cypress also had problem calls to theInfoline.

Shrubs: 2. Azalea and junipers had problems with dieing leaves.

Pests: 5. Callers wanted information on getting rid of various pests such ants and moles. There was also ID question on an unknown bug.

Vegetables: 5. The calls were for general gardening information and best methods for growing grapes and blueberries.



Flowers: 2. Questions concerned daisies and hydrangea and how to care for them.

Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Rain Water Harvesting

Rain water harvesting is the idea of capturing stormwater runoff, often from rooftops, and storing the water for later use. When we have heavy rains such as with Irene, most of that water is diverted into stormwater drains or ditches and is carried away before it penetrates the ground. Rain barrels or more complex

cisterns can be installed to capture runoff and provide water for plants during drier periods. Increasing development along with the drought has increased the demand on municipal water supplies.



Rain barrels are an inexpensive way to capture water from rooftops. A large drum collects rainwater runoff from your gutters or straight from your roof, and you can then use that rain to water plants and wash your car, all while feeling better about your household's impact on the environment. Most rain barrel volumes run from 55 to 75 gallons and can be purchased from garden centers, home improvement stores and even through your local cooperative extension service. They range in price from \$50 to \$100 dollars depending on the size and type you purchase. To use the barrel, simply adjust your gutter's downspout so that the water will flow into it. If, like many coastal housing, your home lacks a gutter, you still have options. Some users place rain barrels beneath where water naturally flows from the "V" of their roofs. Others install gutters on their garages, to direct water into the rain barrel. To capture more water, multiple rain barrels can be joined together. Rain barrels are also equipped with an overflow hose to allow excess water to drain away once the barrel is full.

Collected water can be used to water plants in the garden, wash vehicles, rinse off sidewalks or porches and fill birdbaths and fountains. It is more beneficial to nourish plants with water straight from the clouds than from the tap. By using rain barrels you reduce the volume of runoff and pollutant load as well as saving money and reducing the demand on water supplies. Harvesting systems do not rely upon municipal water so during times of mandatory water restrictions you are still able to water your garden. Let the rain wash off your roof before collecting the first rain of the season or after an extended dry period. This will reduce

any air pollution that has settled on your roof. Rain barrels should be washed out at least once a year to remove plant debris that settles to the bottom. They should also be disconnected in times of the year when frozen water may occur which may damage parts or pieces.

Cisterns are more complex than rain barrels and are usually designed and installed by professionals. Cisterns can be above ground or underground and are equipped with a pump to feed water to irrigation systems or taps. The size of the cistern will depend on your how much water you wish to store and the size of your roof. Though these systems are much more expensive than rain barrels they may pay for themselves over time by reducing your water bill and will reduce your impact on the environment.

Take the 40 Gallon Challenge

In 2007-2008, North Carolina suffered from the worst drought in record history. The Drought Management Act was signed into law on July 2008. This law allows the governor and local communities to respond when drought conditions worsen and encourages greater planning, conservation and cooperation.

Water conservation is an ever-growing concern and with population growth in addition to drought conditions, increasing water demands have added stress on the water supply. The 40 gallon challenge is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40 gallons per person, per day. This campaign encourages people to adopt new water saving techniques that can be used indoors or out to conserve water. For example, indoors you can run the dishwasher only when it is full, take shorter showers, turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth or fix leaky faucets and toilets. Outdoors you can use rain barrels, sweep driveways instead of hosing them off, water lawn after midnight and before 10 am, repair leaky pipes and sprinkler heads and add mulch to trees and plants.



Reducing water usage at home not only saves this precious resource, it also helps homeowners keep more money in their wallets. Saving a minimum of 40 gallons a day for 30 days adds up to more than 1,000 gallons per month. This is an easy way to document the amount of water saved since most water providers bill in thousand gallon increments. In other words you should see real savings on your water bill if you follow through with the 40 gallon challenge pledge and use the recommended water saving practices.

The pledge card outlines water-saving practices and the daily water savings to expect. It also provides maps and charts to see the pledge activity in your state and county as well as across the United States. It charts the most popular practices being pledged, and the pledge practices that are saving the most water daily, and counties that are pledging the most daily in savings. It is important for North Carolinians to learn to use water more efficiently at work, at home, at school and in their communities. I cannot remember a year when drought was not an issue or concern. We can all make small sacrifices to make a large impact.

As of August 30, 2011 Brunswick County is considered to be in a moderate drought. You can visit www.ncdrought.org to obtain the most recent local drought classification. Please take a moment and make a commitment to conserve water and adopt water saving techniques by participating in the 40 Gallon Challenge. The goal is for Brunswick County to have one of the largest numbers of participants pledging as well as implementing these water saving techniques. If we all work together we can make a difference and protect our natural resources.

www.40GallonChallenge.org

"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry." ~Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

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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