

Garden Column for the Salisbury Post  
Darrell Blackwelder  
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Members of the Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer Association put down their trowels and gathered this week for their annual Christmas Social. The social was a time to relax but also recognizes those that had contributed much to the organization and the community. The association comprises Master Gardener Volunteers that have completed the initial course and continues to remain active and contribute by volunteering to educational efforts to North Carolina Cooperative Extension Horticulture program.

Carolyn Alexander, president of the Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer Association, lead this year's volunteers. She was recognized for her leadership and presented the *Silver Can Award*. In every volunteer organization there are those that are willing to donate extra time and effort for both the organization and the community. Master Gardener Volunteers recognized for their efforts are awarded the *Silver Can Award*. *Silver Can Award* winners are selected from previous award winners. Other recipients of the 2007 *Silver Can Award* are: Bob Bruce for his outstand work with various Master Gardener Volunteer projects at the West End Garden and Richard Wagner for his continued efforts with greenhouse maintenance and upkeep during a difficult summer.

Also receiving accolades for exceptional contributions to 2007 Master Gardener Volunteer projects were: Melody Hartsell, Dawn Holshouser, Evan Randall and Ellie Cruse. Incoming officers of the Master Gardener Volunteer organization for 2008 are: Bob Bruce-vice president, Martha Mincey-secretary, Dawn Holshouser treasurer and Yvonne Randall Historian.

Mrs. Carole Massey was also recognized for her contributions as the Rowan County Master Gardener Coordinator. The part-time position, funded by the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, often becomes over-time job during the busy season. Rowan County is one of the few counties in the

state fortunate enough to have private support for this position and dedicated volunteers such as Mrs. Carole Massey.

Cooperative Extension is now accepting applications for the 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Program. If you want to learn more about gardening and have the desire to volunteer then you may want to consider being a Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer. Applications for the Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer Spring program are due in the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m., January 14th, 2008. An application and other information about the program can be downloaded from the Master Gardener Volunteer site at [www.rowanmastergardener.com](http://www.rowanmastergardener.com); click on: "BECOME A MASTER GARDENER". Those that want more information about the program should attend a question and answer session on January 11th, 2008, 1:30 p.m. to discuss the program.

Darrell Blackwelder is an agricultural agent in charge of horticulture with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in Rowan County. For archived garden columns or other information, visit the Rowan County Master Gardener web site at [www.rowanmastergardener.com](http://www.rowanmastergardener.com) , e-mail [Darrell\\_Blackwelder@ncsu.edu](mailto:Darrell_Blackwelder@ncsu.edu)