

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2009



MARCH—Are you tired of it all? Has the winter seemed to go on forever? Rejoice! Daylight savings time is here and spring cannot be far behind. The snowbirds haven't quite left town. The feeders still need filling. The bluebirds are looking for housing and the wrens will set up housekeeping just about anywhere. Watch those open sheds, garages and shops.

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING
TUESDAY March 10, 2009
1:00PM Ag Center

Are you familiar with the term "Sustainable Gardening?" If not, come and let Sue Davis and Martha Mincey explain the concept. If you are, come and see if your methods fit in with the goals of sustainability, or if your practices can be improved.

Refreshments by Lana Miller, Eleanor Sandifer and Tanya Thrift



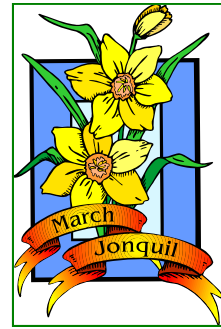
WEST END COMMUNITY PARK



With the presentation of the grant application for the Community Development Block Grant for 2009-10, the commitment for the West End Community Park & Demonstration Gardens is renewed. We have our work cut out for us. The last few years of drought have been a tremendous hardship on the garden. The basic structures of the garden, however, are still there and as they say, the bones are good. With planning and creative use of funding, the garden will continue to be the horticultural showplace that we all know it can be. It will take every Rowan County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer to make a commitment to assist in some way to make this Extension project the best that it can be. The Volunteer Opportunities sign up sheets show where interests lie. Individuals are encouraged to step forward, take ownership of a certain area, act as a team captain and marshal the troops! Well, at least assume responsibility for knowing what weeds to remove, what plants to prune and offer suggestions for the area. Be eager to share your knowledge during one of the Hydration & Information sessions on Friday workdays. A tired and thirsty audience is one willing to listen. Friday March 13 has been selected as First Friday in the West End. Come around 9AM (or a bit later if it is cool) and stay until 11:30AM. There are perennials to be trimmed back, raised beds to be stripped and plans to be made. Come see the vision for 2009. Together, we can make it happen.

From the President:

Well here it is the last day of February and my plan was to spend the day working on the lawn, flower beds and possibly start a few seed for the garden. The weather people are messing much of that up with rain today and they are talking about a special event later in the weekend. Beginning Sunday evening we are suppose to see some snowflakes and by the time it is finished they are talking about six inches or more of that white stuff. How is that possible after they spoiled us with a couple days of temperature in the 60's? Guaranteed everyone made their mandatory trip to the store to stock-up on bread and milk, the schools, libraries and everything else will be shut down for a day or two and the only ones happy about all of the snow will be kids and dogs.



Enough of this negative talk as the snow will surely be gone in a couple of days. On the positive side, we will have received some much needed water to ease the drought and the weeds will be much easier to pull out of the ground. March is an extremely important time for us Master Gardeners. Probably topping the list of things to do is the most visible portion of our property, the lawn. Now is the time to seed, fertilizer and treat for grubs as well as beginning to work on the crabgrass and all of those other weeds that live in our cool season lawns. Roses, evergreens, butterfly bushes all need to be pruned. Flower bed edges should be redefined and re-mulched if needed. With the economy as bad as it is, a vegetable garden probably is a priority this year and March is the time to get started. All cold weather crops can be planted this month and the summer vegetable seeds should be started indoors.

I am sure that everyone has heard that old saying "March is coming in like a lion and out like a lamb". Let's hope that the lamb reference is correct. Probably the best thing about March is that this is the time of the year that we begin to do some real physical work outside. Remember your body probably isn't ready for all of this bending and squatting so loosen up and begin slowly.

Happy gardening,

Bob



FYI– regarding Spring.....



The phenological definition of spring relates to vindicators, the blossoming of a range of plant species, and the activities of animals, or the special smell of soil that has reached the temperature for micro [flora](#) to flourish. The first [swallow](#) to arrive for the flowering of [lilac](#) may be the indicator of spring. It therefore varies according to the [climate](#) and according to the specific [weather](#) of a particular year.



All Aboard!!!
You asked for it, you got it!

**Longwood Gardens
& Chanticleer House & Garden Tour
Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 26, 27 and 28th**

- o Roundtrip motor coach
- o 2 nights hotel accommodations with taxes
- o Hot Breakfast Buffet
- o Admission to Longwood Gardens
- o Chanticleer House & Garden Tour

Not included:

- o Items of a personal nature
- o Gratuities for driver
- o Meals not noted
- o Cancellation Insurance

Price:

(rates are based on per person)

Single: \$465 Double: \$315 Triple: \$260 Quad: \$235

Payment Schedule:

Deposit of \$50 per person is due by March 18, 2009

Balance is due by May 4, 2009

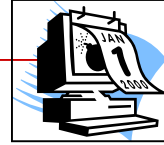
Wayne Mullis Travel Inc.

203 W. Kerr Street/ Salisbury NC28144

Trip is being made available to all Rowan County Master Gardeners first. It will then be opened to Davidson County Master Gardeners and finally, the public. A travel allowance will be made to all Rowan County Master Gardeners who completed and turned in their hours for 2008. That amount will be determined by the number going. All others will pay the full fare. Mail deposits directly to Wayne Mullis Travel.

If you have any questions, please E-mail caroleamas@aol.com

CALENDAR 2009



MARCH 2009

- 1-4 Philadelphia Flower Show –co-op with Davidson County MGs
- 4 1-3PM 2009 MG Class
- 5 8:30AM-WSTP Radio
- 5 7:00PM—S. Rowan Public Library—Beginning Gardening
- 10 1:00PM Association meeting –**Sustainable Gardening** –Sue Davis & Martha Mincey
- 11 1:00PM—Ornamental Grass Plot—Preem and mulch
- 11 1-3PM—2009 MG Class
- 13 9AMish-11:30AM—First Friday at the West End
- 18 1-3PM –2009 MG Class
- 18 \$50.00 deposit due for Longwood Gardens trip
- 19 8:30AM—WSTP Radio
- 20 9-11:30AM– WE
- 25 1-3PM –2009 MG Class
- 27 9-11:30AM– WE
- 31 10:00AM—BOD—Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 2009

- 2 8:30AM—WSTP Radio
- 2 10:00AM– on the Greenway at Overton—set up for Earth Day
- 3 8:30AM-noon—Earth Day on the Greenway-Overton Elementary
- 5 1-4PM Hurley Park Spring Festival
- 9 8:30AM—WSTP Radio
- 10 9-11:30AM– WE
- 14 1:00PM—Association meeting—Ag Center—Jimmy Spears –Triad Gourd Society
- 17 9-11:30AM– WE
- 18 7AM-2PM-Opening Day– Salisbury-Rowan Farmers Market
- 23 9AM-Wing Haven—car pool—Wing Haven Plant Sale
- 24 11:30AM– WE
- 28 10:00AM-BOD-Chamber of Commerce

MAY 2009

- 1 9-11:30 WE
- 1 1:00PM– set up for Plant Sale & Swap
- 4-8 Lady Inmates WE & Ag Center
- 7 8:30AM—WSTP radio
- 12 1:00PM Association meeting– TBA
- 26 10:00AM-BOD-Chamber of Commerce

Radio every Thursday

West End Every Friday-weather permitting

Please note that some of these dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Please check the web page for updates and corrections.

www.rowanmastergardener.com

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**BELLA ITALIA—2009 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
MARCH 1-4**



Scenes from Longwood Gardens