

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2009



APRIL—We cannot fuss about the showers. No so sure about the pollen and the abundance of weeds. The Easter bushes have been putting on a show. Fragrant blooms will surprise you, as will the hidden charms of the wildflowers. April is Garden Month. Get out and enjoy!

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING
TUESDAY April 14, 2009
1:00PM Ag Center

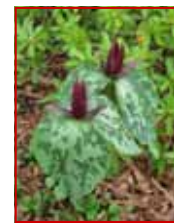


Jimmy Speas will speak to RMGVA on Harvesting, Drying and Preparing Dried Gourds for natural and decorative birdhouses, feeders and other useful things. He will demonstrate as he speaks. Jimmy is from Winston-Salem. He and his wife Denise are active in the NC Gourd Society and the Triad Patch Gourd Club. Jimmy will bring some of his work for sale.

Refreshments by Sally Bradley and Edna Burger

West End Community Park & Garden

Let's do the good news first. The Community Development Block Grant for 2009-2010 has been awarded to the Association again this year for continuing efforts in the West End Park. With funding, our tests, trials and educational opportunities can be all that they need to be. Dawn Holshouser and Jim Stricker (husband & wife if you didn't know) have given us a starting point by picking up and delivering a load of donated Permatil from Carolina Stalite and a load of garden mix to be added to all of the existing beds. Now for the bad news. With the washout of the past three Fridays, the weeds have taken over the entire garden. It is going to take a super effort to get things under control and back to a presentable state. With the help of Super Roundup, we'll do a bit at a time, until the garden is presentable again. After a tour this week, the Board has decided to call extra workdays beginning Thursday April 9 and Friday April 10. Please come out and help get our major project area under control. And take a tour of the bloomers while you are there.



From the President:



April is here and I guess that you could say that March departed like a lamb. Anyway that you look at it, it was much more peaceful than its snowy entrance five weeks ago. The good news is there are finally signs of life in the world outside our front door as the lawns are at cutting length, tiny leaves are forming on the trees, perennials are shooting up through the red Carolina clay and the allergies are beginning to act-up because of the tree pollens in the air. Yes it is time to exit the house, complete the clean-up that you started in March and begin spring planting. Just keep in mind that April 15th is not only the tax filing date, it is also considered the frost free date for our area. If you are trying to get a head start on a garden, listen the weatherman and maybe even cover those tender plants at night.

This is also the time of the year where our Master Gardener activities really begin to shift into high gear. The West End Garden on Brenner Ave has been screaming for our help for several weeks now but the untimely rain and soggy conditions have made it difficult to work in the garden. Once we have a dry Friday morning, plan on joining us on Brenner Ave around 9:00am. May is the time of year for our annual plant sale but much work needs to be completed in April in preparation for this major fund raiser. At 9:00am on April 7th there will be a potting-up party at the Extension Center Greenhouse facility and all are welcome. The Farmer's Market will be opening this month and Darrell has plans for us to be a frequent participant this year. Hopefully each of us will have an opportunity to work and also shop at our downtown, open air market. Our VP, Sue Davis has been beating the bushes for speakers for the association meetings and day trips for all of our "frequent MG travelers". There are far too many to mention in this newsletter so keep a watchful eye on your email as Carole will keep you advised of the various opportunities. Speaking of trips, if you are planning on joining us for the June trip to Longwood Gardens, time has nearly run out to make a commitment.

Happy gardening,

Bob



Longwood and Chanticleer Gardens—June 26-28, 2009



The March deadline has come and gone. To date, we have 14 members with paid deposits. Our costs were based on 35 on the bus. We have opened the trip to the Class of 2009 and the Davidson County Master Gardeners. We will discuss it further at the April meeting. This was to be a members only trip, inviting the public as a last resort. If you haven't signed up, please do!

May 2, 2009 Plant Sale and Swap - 8:30AM-noon



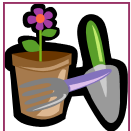
Jean Lamb and Sue Davis will be co-chairing the Plant Swap this year.

The following are Jean's helpful hints:

As you work in your garden this spring, remember to set aside some special plants for the plant swap and sale on May 2nd. Pot up your favorites now in a 1 gallon or smaller container and they will have a good root system for the swap and sale. The swap needs your nice well mannered perennials like columbine, Solomon's seal, special daylilies, chrysanthemums, etc. Remember only 5 plants per person with only 2 of any one variety. Master gardeners need to support the swap with their good quality plants to maintain a swap that everyone wants to be a part of. And it's fun!

The sale will take your houseplants but NO houseplants for the swap. Any ground covers that can be invasive should be limited to the sale. NO invasive ground covers at the swap. There are still people who want creeping jenny or liriope but they should buy them at the sale! The sale would be the place to donate quantities of plants that you are dividing but the quantity would overwhelm the swap. Any donations to the sale or swap should be labeled with the name and care needed for the plant. We will provide you with the labels to be completed prior to the swap and sale.

Remember this is a great moneymaker and it's fun, but we need to bring quality plants that we would be happy to take home!



Potting up 2009—Tuesday April 7—9:00AM-noon

Dawn Holshouser and Carole Massey will be heading up the Plant Sale.

All of the propagation plants remaining in the greenhouse need to be potted up for the Plant Sale. We will have the first session for potting up Tuesday, April 7 beginning at 9:00AM. Bring your gloves and help us pot up all of the babies that we have nurtured through the winter. Everything needs to be moved up and prepared to be moved out into the gardens of those who come to purchase at our major fundraiser. We also need to address the care of the plants under the lathe house, removing the weeds, checking and replacing the labels, and topping off the soil that has vanished from some of the containers. There is a need for clean, one gallon **black** or **dark green** containers.



Salisbury-Rowan Farmer's Market will open the 2009 season Saturday April 18th from 7AM-Noon. Please note the change of closing time for both Wednesday and Saturday. Plan on coming early for the best selection. Most of the vendors will be back for another season, plus there will be newcomers. This market is one of the few in the state to offer not only Food Stamps, but WIC vouchers as well as Senior vouchers to residents. This year we will have a booth or table set up for surveys as well as Horticultural information several times a month. Sue Davis and Katherine Jones will be reporting on "what's growing and available at the market" for the Salisbury Post. New class members Sheila Armstrong and Sherry Walker will be working on a display board and brochure for the market. The market is a great place for socializing in addition to fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers. Make time to come and enjoy a "thing of the past that has a future in Salisbury."

Day Trips: Carpool from the Ag Center –sign up at the April meeting
Thursday April 23—Wing Haven Gardens & Bird Sanctuary, Charlotte

April 23 The Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary Tour and Plant Sale. Leave the Ag Center at 9:30. Wing Haven says about their plant sale..."A Wing Haven Plant sale is really for the birds! Our Nursery Shop is bursting at the seams with unique plants, tools, and gifts for the garden for your garden and home. We have an incredible selection of plants—unusual shrubs, antique roses, herbs, perennials, native plants, groundcovers, bulbs, and more. Plus our volunteers can give you plenty of advice on how to make them flourish. All proceeds benefit Wing Haven, a Charlotte treasure since 1927." Wing Haven is located at 248 Ridgewood Ave, Charlotte, NC 28209. For more information www.winghavengardens.com or call (704) 331-0664.

Thursday April 30

We will take a long awaited trip to the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Gardens in Kernersville. Leave the Ag Center at 9:30. We will have a meeting with the director Dr. Todd Lasseigne and tour the gardens. Since 2005, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden has worked with many designers on various plans for all facets of the Garden -- from the visitor and education center to the garden spaces to the hardscape elements such as sidewalks and brick walls. This page will showcase these plans to highlight the work that we have accomplished over the years, laying the groundwork through extensive planning for this future public garden. The primary plan that has been under development for several years (dating in its infancy all the way to 2000) is the PJCBG master plan. This document is one that guides the overall development of the 7-acre garden site such that specific features (e.g., visitor and education center, Pattern Garden, etc.) can be developed within an overall design framework. The master plan was designed primarily by landscape architects Robert Hayter and Perry Harrison, Jr. of The Hayter Firm (Pinehurst, North Carolina). Significant input was also provided by garden designer Chip Callaway of Callaway and Associates (Greensboro, North Carolina). The master plan is an ongoing document that will continue to change as designs for specific spaces and structures are developed. After our tour of the Botanical Gardens, we will have lunch and stop by the Farmers Market just down the road.

DAN NICHOLAS PARK—APRIL 25—'SIMPLE LIVING'

HELP DEMONSTRATE BACK TO GREEN WITH A DISPLAY BOOTH AT DAN NICHOLAS PARK. VERMACULTURE, RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOSTING WILL BE FEATURED. SEE DARRELL IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SET UP AND MAN THE BOOTH.



PLANTS, PESTS and PATHOGENS

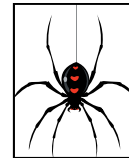
To those of you who have previously attended "Plant & Disease" Clinics, you will be pleased to know that we no longer have to travel for this continuing education.



With the new Elluminate computer/ Internet/ NCSU specialists interaction, we can invite the public to the Ag Center and learn from the best. Hopefully the Ag Center will be available for the following dates:



Tuesday : May 12, June 9, July 14 and August 11
10am-12pm

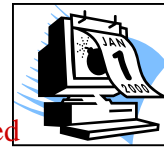


2009 Time Sheets—

Just a reminder: If you have not completed your 1st Quarter time sheets, please do so. I keep the worksheet on my desktop. I copy the sheet, name and date it, save it and then add to it every time I do a Master Gardener activity. That way, I keep up with my hours and I'm done (and have a total) at the end of the month! You know if you have any questions, ask either Bob or Sue and they will be eager to assist. I know you all have something to report! Thanks!

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 **Canceled**
- 5 2-4PM Hurley Park Spring Festival
- 7 9AM-noon Greenhouse—Potting Up
- 8 Jones Nursery—Hosta sale Advance, NC
- 9 9AM-noon– WE garden—special called workday
- 10 9-11:30AM– WE
- 13 Extension office closed—County furlough
- 14 1:00PM—Association meeting—Ag Center—Jimmy Spears –Triad Gourd Society
- 16 8:30AM-WSTP Radio
- 17 9-11:30AM– WE
- 18 **7AM-12PM** -Opening Day– Salisbury-Rowan Farmer’s Market
- 21 –7:30AM—breakfast meeting-Extension’s Report to the People
- 23 9AM-Wing Haven—car pool—Wing Haven Plant Sale
- 24 11:30AM– WE
- 24 Final date to order Rain Barrels
- 25—Dan Nichols -”Simple Living”
- 28 10:00AM-BOD-Chamber of Commerce
- 30 9AM— Paul Ciener Arboretum & Piedmont Triad Farmers Market –car pool



MAY 2009

- 1 9-11:30 WE
- 1 1:00PM– set up for Plant Sale & Swap
- 2 MG Plant Sale & Swap**
- 4-8 Lady Inmates WE & Ag Center
- 7 8:30AM—WSTP radio
- 12 10AM_12PM—Ag Center—Elluminate—*Plants, Pests and Pathogens*
- 12 1:00PM Association meeting– Bill Oakley-Ornamental Grasses
- 14 –9AM-Bartlett Tree Arboretum and Research Facility Charlotte– car pool
- 22 Extension office closed—County furlough
- 26 10:00AM-BOD-Chamber of Commerce

Radio every Thursday beginning in May
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.

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