

## NC Cooperative Extension

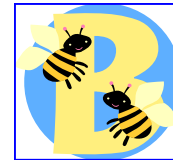
ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2009



**AUGUST** –They don't call them the dog days of summer for nothing. Feel like laying around in the shade all day. How's that garden journal coming? Recording all of the pluses and the not-so's? Think about the fall garden, sowing seeds for vegetables and greens, extending the harvest season. Maybe saving some seeds from favorite varieties.

### ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING TUESDAY

August 11, 2009  
1:00PM Ag Center



Bob Blackwelder, an instructor on bee keeping and bee culture, is the speaker for the August 11 meeting. Among the topics Bob will address is the state of the bee population in the US and specifically Rowan County. Bees are critical to the growing cycle of all plants. Without them our food supply could be greatly reduced. Bob has great passion for the environment which shows when he speaks of bees.

Refreshments by Carolyn Alexander and Sue Davis

### West End Community Park & Garden



Bob Bruce, Sonja Skelton and Martha Mincey having a Friday discussion at the garden.



The front border is becoming more colorful. The indigo is a showstopper.



Vance Meeks and Preston Askew harvesting squash from Shelly Moore's non-tilled test plot.

The twice a week work crews have made all the difference in the gardens appearance. The West End has never looked better, or been more productive. The summer vegetable garden has been quite successful. Both the tilled and no-tilled plots have been producing an adequate amount of produce. The raised beds have done quite well also, with the colorful Swiss chard being a welcome addition to all of the "greenness". The banana peppers are plentiful, the tomato varieties have been well received by the gleaners, and the tomatillos have been utilized in many a salsa recipe. The pollinators have done their jobs, as there are many white cucumbers and yellow squash. In keeping with our test and trial demonstrations, the summer garden will soon be a memory, as the fall garden gets planted. The gourds are coming on, and the ground cover millet is lush. The bog is looking renewed and awaiting also some fall planting. The shade garden is languishing in the summer heat, but notice the blooms on the Limelight hydrangea. And the growth on the Autumn Joy sedums. Beautiful.

## From the President:

Can you believe how quickly our summer is passing? Here it is August already and Darrell is telling us that it is time to begin removing our summer crops and replace them with cool season vegetables or cover crops. It surely has been an unusual growing season thus far with cool evenings and intermittent rain patterns but based on what we are seeing at the Farmers Market and stories in the Salisbury Post, local farmers and home gardeners are dealing quite well with the weather.



Something that I would like to mention this month is the monthly training - *Elluminate* -that is being offered by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension for Horticulture Agents & Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. If you have not been able to participate in these events you are missing a lot of valuable information. As an example, in July there was an excellent presentation on Organic Gardening. Did you know that it could take a grower three years or more to become certified? After listening to this presentation, it became very obvious why organic products carry a premium price tag at the grocery store. To learn more about organic gardening and this July presentation, go to <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/ncorganic>.

The last of the 2009 *Elluminate* training sessions will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-12PM in the Rowan Cooperative Extension auditorium. The agenda for the meeting is available on line at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/garden/PlantClinic/index.html>. This web site also has a listing of the previous programs that were presented over the past three years and in some cases there are handouts of the actual presentation still available. Come join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> for some good training in the morning, run out for a quick lunch at noon and then return to the Extension auditorium for the August Association meeting at 1PM and receive some more training on Bees.

Bob



In September we will have two meetings on September 8. The first will be at 1PM at the Ag Center. The primary topics are the commitments Rowan County Master Gardeners have to the Fair and other upcoming events.

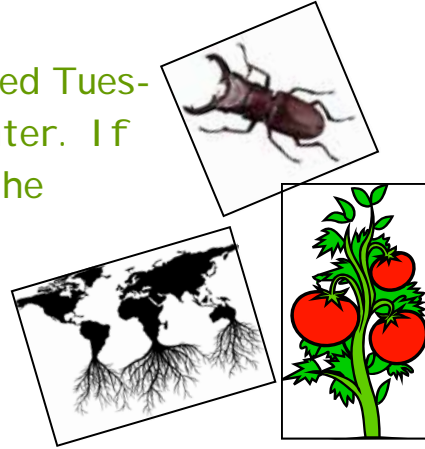
At 7PM in the in the Hurley Room of the Library Jean Gillooly will speak about fall bulbs.

This is a kick off to the bulb sale fund raiser. The meeting is open to the public.



## PLANTS, PESTS and PATHOGENS

The 4th session of Elluminate will be beamed Tuesday August 11th at 10:00AM at the Ag Center. If you want to bring your lunch and stay for the 1:00PM Association meeting, feel free. Check with Darrell if you want to watch from home. He can tell you how to make it happen.



The top tomato in Rowan is still being contested! The heavy weights are coming out every Wednesday and Saturday to be weighed and have their pictures taken for the “official” record. As sponsors, and presenters of the \$100.00 prize money, the contest is a great deal of fun for the Association. It will be interesting to see which variety will top the scale. The contest ends on Saturday August 22 with the winner being named at the Farmer’s Market that morning. The vendors continue to provide quality produce and other goods. More special events are planned.



**Carole Massey and Sonja Skelton presented Ag Center intern Shelly Moore with a copy of the Master Gardener Cookbook “Pass It Along”. Shelly has worked all summer with our agents and their programs towards completing her degree requirements at NCSU. We all appreciated her efforts both in the West End garden and with the 4-H Summer Fun programs. Thanks so much Shelly and congratulations on your recent engagement!**



# 4-H Summer Fun Horticulture July 20-24



Cloverbuds tackled a knotty struggle to create a unique gourd necklace.



Garden in a Jar.



Grower—Patterson Farms and Brice Kepley



Grocery—Harris Teeter



Kitchen—mangos, spaghetti squash and blueberry muffins!  
Thanks Toi!





Xeriscape dish gardens and Water wise gardening



Garden Art  
Thanks Sonja and Carol C!



Naturalist David Jones and Darrell (with the poison ivy) shared Itchy, Biting, Stinging Things both at the office and the West End.



## **AUGUST**

- 11 10AM\_12PM—Ag Center—Elluminate—*Plants, Pests and Pathogens*
- 11 1:00PM—1:00 PM Association meeting-Ag Center  
—All About Bees —Bob Blackwelder
- 22 8AM-10AM Farmers Market Final Big Tomato Weigh In
- 25 10:00AM BOD– Chamber of Commerce  
1:00PM– Greenhouse—potting up lathe house plants
- 26 9:30AM—UNCC—tour of greenhouse and gardens—carpool from Ag Center

## **SEPTEMBER 2009**

- 8 1:00PM—1:00 PM Association meeting-Ag Center-Prepare for the Fair  
7:00 PM—Rowan Public Library Hurley Room—Jean Gillooly—Fall Bulbs
- 20-26 Rowan County Fair
- 29 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce

## **OCTOBER 2009**

### **5-7 NCMGVA Conference-Mooresville NC**

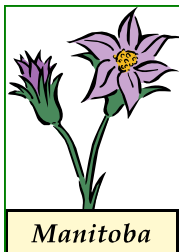
- 13 1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center
- 27 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce
- 30 Fall Fun Days –Covered shelter

**Radio every Thursday beginning in May  
West End Every Wednesday and 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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There will be sign ups for the day trip and fair booth and further information on programs and the Fall Fund Raiser at the August meeting. Hope to see you there!