

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2009



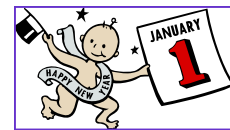
JANUARY—Be careful what you wish for. Long awaited rains have brought drought forgotten mud. These unseasonable warm afternoons justify wandering around the yard and garden beds. Restraint is needed for cleaning up seed heads and brush tangles. Which may be needed for our two weeks of winter, if and when.

Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

1:00PM—Ag Center

The first meeting of the New Year will be one of housekeeping : a chance to pay 2009 dues (\$10.00) and update information for the



MG Directory. Our program will be a virtual tour of one of the finest gardens in the world., Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. “Exquisite flowers, majestic trees, dazzling fountains, extravagant conservatory, starlit theatre, thunderous organ—all describe the magic of Longwood Gardens, a horticultural showstopper where the gardening arts are encased in classic forms and enhanced by modern technology.” Carole Massey will be the tour guide.

Refreshments by Joanne Johnson and Virginia Klutz

A sheet will be passed for volunteers to sign to provide refreshment for future meetings.

Fern Sex Part III: Sonja Skelton is having exceptional luck with her fern spores. She has an overabundance of teensy-tiny fern plants that need a new home. If any Volunteers are interested in nurturing some of these babies for their own enjoyment, please bring some peat pots and containers and take some home.

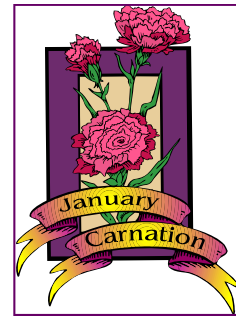


If you have any questions regarding materials, contact Sonja.

skskelton@carolina.rr.com

Program Ideas: VP Sue Davis, Program Chair, asks that Volunteers be thinking of suggestions for in-house and off-site programs for 2009.

From the President, January 2009



Hello Master Gardeners and welcome to the new and challenging year that awaits us. Based on what has transpired during the past six months we certainly have many unknowns and uncertainties waiting for us as Master Gardeners. These include revised or redirected Extension programs, the possibility of reduced or loss of funding and available resources due to the current financial and economic crisis and finally the impact created by the loss of the MG Coordinator position. One thing is certain though, our good Lord will still provide the warmth of the sun, an occasional shower and a strong devoted core of Rowan Master Gardeners to produce and nurture beautiful plants and flowers throughout our county.

An additional hurdle for the program this year is that your new association President arrives with an engineering/sales & marketing background rather than one in gardening or horticulture. This might be a first for our association but do not be alarmed. The association did a superb job to cover itself by selecting Sue Davis as Vice President. Sue with her vast knowledge and experience will surely serve as a strong rope to keep me on course throughout 2009. Bottom line, we are both looking forward to the challenges ahead, the opportunities that await our association and that first chance to play in the dirt.

Happy New Year Master Gardeners. I look forward to seeing all of you in January as we kick-off a new and fabulous year.

Bob



President Emeritus Carolyn Alexander has a request. She is planning a bottle tree as a specimen to be used for several of our displays this year and has a need for small colored glass bottles. An example would be the cobalt blue of the old Maalox bottles. She also has a need for red, full sized wine bottles for another project. The more unusual the shape and color, the better.



PROJECT UPDATES: The Dr. Josephus Hall House Christmas 2008



Dried hydrangeas and yarrow accent the magnolia in the Hall House cut glass punch bowl. The table is set with Dr. Josephus Hall's Chinese import porcelain, crystal and silver

The sideboard arrangement also carries the magnolia motif with glass balls in crystal decanters, accented with nuts and fresh cranberries. Greenery nestled with scented tea lights add to the festive mood.



This is the third year for the Dwarf Alberta spruce to grace the Hall House. All miniature ornaments are hand made and have a Victorian flavor. Lace overlays the round table, again accented with magnolia and gold ribbons.



The mantle is draped with a pecan garland, complimented with dangling feather fans. The bronze feather wreath centered on the antique mirror is flanked by peacock feather sprays. The magnolia with glass balls, nuts, berries and gold accents complete the vignette.



The ribbon table, with a metal partridge in a pear tree, was a new addition this year. It made for a lovely serving space, with a lace over gold table covering.

The traditional gift table, with its' presentation of festive gold and white wrappings with shimmering bows, fills the corner with an appropriately attired Father Christmas.



Our return as decorators was very well received by the Historical Salisbury Foundation. Thanks to all who participated. If you haven't toured the house at Christmas, make a note to do so next season.

2009 Master Gardener Retreat



Every January, the Association meets to plan events and projects for the coming year. All Volunteers are invited to attend and contribute to the long range planning. This year 's retreat will take place on Tuesday January 27th (in lieu of our regular monthly Board of Directors meeting) at 10:00AM at the Villa Franca Estate on Brown Road, China Grove, NC. Please RSVP either at the January meeting or by E-mail to caroleamas@aol.com. Luncheon will be furnished by the Association and will be prepared by our hostess, Class of 2008 Master Gardener Ginger Black, who along with her husband Dennis Black, are the owners of Villa Franca.

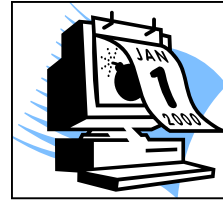
For directions go to: www.villafrancaestate.com

Thank You

A very sincere "thank you" to all of my fellow Volunteers and to Mr. Blackwelder for the wonderful Mark Brincefield caricature (is it me or what?!), the gift certificate to Ivan 's (my favorite!), the generous gift to the Rowan Public Library (for three books!!!) and the plaques for both Mr. Massey and myself (has it been 10 years?-it seems like only yesterday. And thanks for acknowledging that I could not have done it without his support and assistance.). I have enjoyed every minute and have appreciated the opportunity not only to learn, but to share the gained knowledge with all who would ask. The grant funded by the Robertson Foundation gave the Rowan Master Gardeners an opportunity to excel in many ways. I know we will continue with the leadership and enthusiasm of our officers, project chairs., and dedicated Volunteers. Garden on!!



CALENDAR 2009



JANUARY 2009

- 2 -Undecorate Hall House 9:00AM
- 5 Undecorate Festival Tree—Wachovia Main St. 9:30AM
- 9 Informational meeting for MG 2009 Class
- 13 1:00PM Association meeting—Ag Center - (2009 dues \$10.00)
- 21 1:00PM First MG class—Ag Center
- 27 10:00AM-2:00PM—Annual Retreat and BOD meeting—Villa Franca Estate-RSVP for luncheon caroleamas@aol.com

FEBRUARY 2009

- 10 1:00PM Association meeting—Ag Center
- 24 10:00AM—BOD—Chamber of Commerce

MARCH 2009

- 10 1:00PM Association meeting
- 31 10:00AM—BOD—Chamber of Commerce

Horticultural Happenings:

Green & Growin' Show- January 13-17 –Greensboro Coliseum
Trade show Friday and Saturday Jan 16 9AM-5PM & 17 9AM-3PM \$15.00 entry fee
Hellebore Days 2009—February 14– March 21 9AM-5PM Mon-Sat
Gethsemane Garden & Nursery—Greensboro, NC
www.gethgardens.com

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

darrell_blackwelder@ncsu.edu

