

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2009



NOVEMBER: Garden centers still have pansies and ornamental cabbages and kale. Clean up the garden, compost what you can. Shred leaves, use as mulch or add to compost. No burning allowed!

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2009
1:00PM Extension Office



Jimmy Speas, the Gourd Birdhouse Maker, has a wealth of knowledge about herbs and how to use them in holiday cooking. Jimmy will present ideas on which herbs to grow for culinary use, how to preserve them and he will also share recipes with us. We will also be electing our 2010 officers.

Refreshments by Carolyn Glasgow and Sue Davis

West End Community Park and Garden



Fall in the garden is usually a time of reflection. In a demonstration and educational garden, it would seem proper to ponder whether goals were met: did we learn anything in the process of creating a public garden and did those we were trying to reach benefit. It has been a challenging year. The Master Gardener



Volunteers extended every effort to achieve a garden worthy of Extension. Mother Nature decided to bless us with an abundance of rain and very few days of sweltering temperatures. The positives and negatives may have balanced each other out, however the undeniable and very obvious vandalism and either unknowing or uncaring gleaners have dampened our enthusiasm. We'll put the gardens to bed and let them and us rest for the winter. Spring will come and so will the desire to work in the soil. We like to see the fruits of our labors. We cannot deny that's why we do what we do. It will be fine.



Attention all Silver Cans!

Annual luncheon meeting Wednesday November 4, 2009 at 11:30am at Poncho Villas.

Candidates for the 2009 Silver Can recognition will be presented.

From the President:



First of all I want to thank each of the Master Gardeners who worked so hard on the bulb sale and the “Fall Fun Days” Hypertufa events. Based on what I saw with several of the resulting container creations, we have some very talented and creative folks in our mist. Both of these were very successful endeavors and must be attributed to many hours of planning and work by a group of devoted Master Gardeners. Thanks guys, another job well done.

Probably you just completed all of that outside clean-up and gardening work and once again noticed those areas where nothing seems to grow except for weeds. Here is a thought to mull over the winter. Possibly the reason that these areas are void of plants is because there is just too much Carolina clay. The options are to completely enhance the soil with compost and/or store bought materials or just grow plants that thrive in clay. There are numerous plants that will thrive in our Rowan County clay. Some of the flowers include black-eyed susan, bluestar, aster, baptisia, coreopsis, purple cone-flower, sea holly, false sunflower, daylily, coral bells, hosta, blazing star, bee balm, yarrow, sedum, ironwood, and yucca. There are also several ornamental grasses that love clay soil; switchgrass, fountaingrass and little bluestem. Remember it is not too early to start planning for next spring.

Now that most of the outdoors gardening is finally put to bed, it is time to begin thinking about several yearend indoor events. In early December there is the Festival of Trees, our Christmas Social and possibly another opportunity to decorate a room at the Hall House. There will be workshops to prepare the ornaments, a day at the Trolley Barn to decorate the trees, committees to set-up and decorate and of course volunteers needed for clean-up. All of these are fun events and I hope to see many of you there. As a minimum I hope that you all can make the Social on December 8th. Guaranteed there will be great food, first class entertainment, plenty of laughs and good fellowship.

Bob



Remember our troops this Veterans Day. Honor our Veterans. Take a drive thru Salisbury’s two National Cemeteries and think about the sacrifice that these men and women made for this country. Our country.

God Bless America. The home of the free because of the brave.

Fall Bulb Sale -

Again, thanks to everyone who had a part in the bulb sale. The Bag the Bulbs workday went well. Everything has gone quite smoothly. All we need to do now is get them in the ground!



Millbridge Elementary Butterfly Garden

Construction has kept the planting of the butterfly garden plants in a holding pattern. Master Gardener Volunteers will be called upon to assist with the placing and planting. An all day effort will be made as soon as the final sidewalk has been laid. It sounds like a planting party is being planned, refreshments and all! Will advise as to a date.



It has been a great year for the Salisbury-Rowan Farmer's Market. Increased number of vendors, more demonstrations, exceptional newspaper coverage (thanks to Sue Davis and Katherine Jones), positive feedback from the market survey and the only Farmer's Market in the state to offer WIC vouchers, Food Stamps and Senior vouchers. Manager Harry Agner does an exceptional job as does their advisor, Darrell Blackwelder. The market reopens in April.

Plant Propagation—Potting Up

Thursday November 5 10:00am-noon



We have several more trays of material to be potted up. The greenhouse and shed need to be winterized. We can still use some flat trays and clean containers, black or green only please. There are a few houseplants in the greenhouse that need a home for the winter. If you can foster some, or would like to give some a home, please come by and see what's available. If not, they go to the compost bin.

Grace Ridge 4-H Garden Art



Thanks to Carol Comer, Karen Busby, Carolyn Alexander and Sue Gordon.
Quite creative don ' t you think?

FALL FUN DAYS—HYPERTUFA—October 30, 2009



The mixing crew Bob Bruce and Jim Stricker (and the man who wasn't there-wink-wink).



Martha Mincey helps first timer Carol Comer .



Sally Bradley says "Oh no. Not me!"



Martha created the "Monster".



Sherry Walker and Dawn Holshouser are happy. All but one customer picked up their bulbs.



New to the process, Sandy Hall watches pro Edna Burger mold a container.



Katherine Jones worked the plant sale..

All wrapped up and curing. Same time next year if you missed this one!



Festival of Trees Workdays Planned

November 18 at 10AM those interested in reviewing, separating and testing the lights and ornaments for the two Master Gardener Trees for the Festival of Trees will meet in room “A”. The tree themes are “Birds Abound” and “Gardeners Delights”. On the 18th, we will make a list of what is needed, examine ornaments for repair needs and begin working on repair and enhancements.



On November 24 at 10AM we will have a work day creating new ornaments to fill in both trees. Sally Bradley has donated a bag of small gourds, imported from Kansas, which will be cleaned and made ready for creating either bird house ornaments or ornaments with a gardening motif. There will be projects for all creativity levels.

Plan to come and spend as much time as you can. We’ll break for lunch around 12:30 and return about 1:30 if you can just give us your afternoon.

Vice President Sue Davis will be chairing this project. Sign up at the November meeting.

Festival of Trees Decorating

Decorating the trees in the Trolley Barn will begin at 10AM on December 3 for both trees. We will meet to begin loading up at 9 at the Extension Office. We’ll need light stringers, ornament hangers, elves and picture takers. Please put this on your calendar.

Farm City Day—Friday November 20, 2009 Piedmont Research Station

Farm City Day is a cooperative effort between the local Kiwanis club and Extension.

It was started in 1955 to highlight the dependency of farm people and city dwellers on each other for essential products and services necessary for modern living. The Farm City program was designed to encourage the exchange of ideas and development of shared activities creating a feeling of mutual understanding and good will.

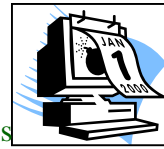


This year’s program will be held at the Piedmont Research Station on Sherrill’s Ford Road. Lunch will be furnished, however you must call and register. Call Melva Menius 704-216-8970 for additional information and to register.

6th Annual 4-H Wreath Fundraiser—This year, Rowan County 4-H is selling Fraser fir and boxwood wreaths. Wreaths are standard door size and are made by a small family owned and operated Christmas Tree Farm in Alleghany County. A fresh wreath that is cared for properly will be a joy to its owners for a month or more. It is not only beautiful, but its fragrance is amazing! Place orders by November 20th. Pick up December 1 8:30am-4:00PM at the Extension Office. Wreaths are \$20.00 each. Call 704-216-8970 to order.

NOVEMBER 2009

- 4 11:30AM—Silver Can Luncheon—Poncho Villa Mexican Restaurant
5 10:00AM Greenhouse—Potting up and Winterizing
10 1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center- Jimmy Speas—Holidays and Herbs
11-22 Southern Christmas Show—Charlotte
18 10:00AM—Extension office—Festival of Trees prep—Section “A”
20 12noon Piedmont Research Station—Farm City Day—register to attend
20 Final day to place orders for 4-H wreaths-either Frasier fir or boxwood \$20.00 each
24 10:00AM—Workday for decorations Festival of Trees—Section “A”
24 BOD 10:00AM—Conference room Extension office *note change of location*



26 Thanksgiving Day—Let’s All Give Thanks

DECEMBER 2009

- 1 8:30am-4PM—pick up 4-H wreaths Extension Office
8—Christmas Social—set up and social at 5:30PM Dinner at 6:00PM
John Calvin Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 1620 Brenner
Avenue
25 Merry Christmas!



Workshops for the Christmas decorations for the Hall House will be announced as soon as participation is confirmed.

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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