

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2009



OCTOBER- Harvest moon. Corn shucks. Pumpkins. Farm wagons. Black cats. Falling leaves. Bonfires. New crop pintos. Chrysanthemums and pansies. Frost date October 15.

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2009
1:00PM Extension Office



Rowan County had an excellent presence at the recent 2009 NC Master Gardener Volunteer Conference. Come and hear all about the workshops, keynote speakers and goodies. You may want to attend the next conference already scheduled for April of 2010.

Refreshments by Melody Hartsell, Ed Joyner and Martha Mincey

West End Community Park & Garden



It was a beautiful Tuesday in the garden. Plenty of vegetables and beautiful flowers. Grapes on the vines, gourds in abundance. Hopes were high for County fair entries. And then one volunteer happened by and noticed a couple of men back in the grape vines. When approached, they agreed to cease eating the fruit and were then engaged in a pleasant conversation. Information was divulged about the Park being a demonstration garden, one with examples of how gardening could be accomplished with raised beds, with the immediate goals being entries for the fair. Something to show for a summer's worth of effort. And then came Thursday. The photo of the gourds tell the story. Unripe apple gourds, dipper gourds, birdhouse gourds, all picked green, some broken, all damaged, left either on the ground or on the picnic tables to rot. Not a grape to be found on the vines. All of the squash, okra, tomatoes, eggplant: gone. There were peppers and tomitos, marigolds and celosia. One blue ribbon bird house gourd that was missed. Very disheartening to say the least. Thanks to Jean Lamb, Sonja Skelton and Carolyn Alexander who tried to assemble a quality fair entry from what was left and who achieved a very respectable showing. Maybe next year. Still clean up to be done. The garden needs to rest.

From the President:



Hopefully the lawns have been aerated, seeded and fertilized and the vegetable gardens are in the process of growing a winter crop or have been cleared and put to bed until spring. It is almost time to take a break from our gardening passions but there are always a few more good things to do in preparation for the cooler months ahead. Here are a few thoughts that may benefit the wildlife that visit your property this winter:

1. Clean out the birds feeders and fill them with fresh seed.
2. If possible eliminate tree branches that provide a direct path for squirrels to the bird feeders. If not set out squirrel feed stations to try to keep them occupied.
3. Don't deadhead fall flowers as birds enjoy feeding on the seeds of coneflowers, tall marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers.
4. Provide a water source near low hanging branches.
5. Avoid the use of insecticides which can be harmful to birds that eat berries or seeds.
6. Create brush piles with large limbs on the bottom and layers of limbs and brush. Dense thickets of hollies or brambles offer birds cover from weather and predators.
7. Let stand dead trees that do not threaten your home. Dead wood is critical to the ecosystem and dead trees attract woodpeckers.
8. Use your mower to mulch leaves. The leaves will attract insects and provide food for foraging birds. Place the mulched leaves directly in your garden and turn it over in the spring.

Bob



Fall Bulb Sale -

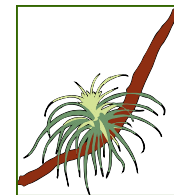


The order has been placed and should be shipped soon. A packing party will be scheduled prior to the pick up date of October 30th.

Thanks to all who participated in the sale, order taking, organizing the lecture and selection. Bulbs are *the thing* this fall. Every magazine, all gardening websites, gardening shows, even the MG conference. We are cutting edge! There may be a surplus of some varieties. Check during packing and pick up. The Association will be having a planting workshop for the public. We plan on planting the Agricultural Center's front garden. A date will be determined.

Millbridge Elementary Kick-off for Reading— Friday September 11

Thanks to all who came and devoted the day to the children at Millbridge. Challenges are always met with degrees of humor and patience. The butterfly garden is beginning to take shape with the tilling of the garden area. Plants are being secured and planting will begin soon.



Air plants:
Plants that do not live in soil. Who knew?



Better enjoy the Farmer's Market while you can. The good times are coming to an end. The last Saturday for fresh produce, home baked goods, flowers, potted plants, fresh meat, seasonal goods and so much more will be October 30th. This has been a remarkable year for the vendors and buyers alike. More social, better communication and wonderful promotion by Master Gardeners Sue Davis and Katherine Jones. Quite a coup for the Market to have not only Food Stamps, but WIC and Senior vouchers. Congratulations not only to the vendors, but the market manager Harry Agner, Salisbury-Rowan Farmer's Market President David Correll and his board for a job well done this season. We're all looking forward to next year!

Plant Propagation—Potting Up for Workshops I & II— Thursday October 15 9AM—noon

We will also be offering for sale plants from our propagation collection. We would rather not over winter any more than we have to. Volunteers needed!



Trips

October 20 - Tom's Creek Landscape & Nursery

On Tuesday October 20 at 9AM we will leave the Extension Office (Ag Center) to travel to Toms Creek Farm and Nursery. It is situated in the green rolling hills of the Uwharrie Mountain range in a crossroads community known as Farmer. Its name is derived from the clear, pristine stream called Toms Creek that carves its way through rough terrain on its way to unite with the Uwharrie River.

During our day in the country, we will take the Arboretum Walk, which lasts about 1 and 1/2 hours. There are shelters for rehydration and a snack or even a picnic. We can take a hay ride or just enjoy the grounds. The staff at Toms Creek is working on a plan for our day. Sign up to car pool at the October meeting.

Thanks to Sue Davis for planning and organizing all of our day trips!

Fall Fun Days, Bulb Pick Up and Plant Sale

October 30—Hypertufa Containers

Learn how to make the best lightweight containers for your succulents and other water wise plants. Also suitable for bird-baths and unique garden art. Sign up at meeting. Additional information available.

Due to increase in cost of materials, the fee to participate is now \$10.00. Participation is limited.

Volunteers will be needed to work the bulb pick up and plant sale. We'll start at 9AM and end around 4PM.

Grace Ridge 4-H Club - October 27th—4:00PM

Volunteers needed to conduct a garden art workshop for 15 4-Her's ages 6-16. Master Gardeners are supplying all materials. We will be creating the garden mosaic stones. Sign up and meet briefly after the Association meeting in October.



OCTOBER 2009

5-7 NCMGVA Conference-Mooresville NC

9 & 10—UNCC plant sale

13 1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center- MG Conference Wrap up

15 9AM-noon Propagation Potting up—Workshops I & II—Fall Plant Sale

20 Day trip to Tom's Creek Nursery - car-pool from Ext. Office

27 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce

27 4:00PM—Grace Ridge 4-H program Garden Art

30 Fall Fun Days -Covered shelter—Hypertufa Plant Sale & Bulb Pick up



NOVEMBER 2009

10 1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center- Jimmy Speas—Holidays and Herbs

24 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce

DECEMBER 2009

8—Christmas Social—set up and social at 5:30PM Dinner at 6:00PM

John Calvin Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 1620 Brenner Avenue

Workshops for both the Festival of Trees and the Christmas decorations for the Hall House will be announced as soon as participation is confirmed.

Radio every Thursday

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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