

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2009



SEPTEMBER-Butterflies, bats, bugs. Autumn is just around the corner. Fall gardening has begun: turnip greens are popping up, pumpkins and winter squash are showing color, planning for planting of trees and shrubs is escalating. Houseplants that have summered on decks and porches need to be prepared to come back in. Uninvited guests can multiply, infest and be a nuisance all winter.

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING

TUESDAY September 8 2009
1:00PM Ag Center



Prepare for the Fair! Fall means County Fairs and Rowan County has one of the best! Master Gardeners assist with several Departments and are going to give us helpful hints on preparing entries for their areas. They will also share other activities that occur during Fair week, that might entice you to come and see “A Harvest of Discovery.”

Refreshments by Dawn Holshouser and Jim Stricker

West End Community Park & Garden



Installing supports for the gourds: Vance Meeks, Pat Stillute, Bob Bruce, Martha Mincey, Kay Ball, Preston Askew and Ed Joyner.



Sonja Skelton works on tying up the meandering gourd vines.



Bob Bruce, Vance Meeks, Jim Morris, Richard Hattoway and Jim Stricker have played in the muck for weeks. New timers=better irrigation!

Hard to believe we've been at the West End all summer long. Those Wednesday and Friday workdays, more like social gatherings, have resulted in one of the best years the Brenner garden has ever seen. We have lots to be proud of: the raised beds, demonstrations of summer vegetable gardens, turf plots, a reclaiming of the bog and butterfly gardens, keeping up with the constant weeding and composting, showcasing the best Enabled garden structures and display borders and flower beds. And there is more in the following months.: a bounty of produce to be entered in the County Fair and hopefully, a variety of gourds to be dried and used in various projects next year. There's more maintenance and planning and planting to be done this season. See you either Wednesday or Friday at the garden.

From the President:



School is back in session, Labor Day has arrived and the days are definitely getting shorter. These seasonal changes are a sure sign that our focus as Master Gardeners needs to take a new direction. Now it is time to change our emphasis to cleaning up after a spectacular spring and summer of green lawns, exquisite floral displays and an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables and prepare for next year. There are lawns that need to be aerated and fertilized, perennials that need to be divided, garden plots should be cleared off and planted with a cover crop and September is a perfect time to start a compost pile if you have not already done so. While this can be a very physical time of the year, all of this hard work will surely pay dividends in the spring.

Speaking of hard work and completing all of these late summer tasks, there needs to be a time to rest and enjoy the fruits of our labor. If you are not the expert gardener, such as me, why not just take some time off and head off to one of the agricultural fairs and enjoy what other gardeners were able to accomplish. We are very fortunate here in Rowan County to have our own county fair. While there are 100 counties in North Carolina, there are only approximately 48 county and regional fairs in our state. Our fair runs from September 21st – 26th and can be found on the internet at www.rowancountyfair.net. If you do not mind traveling a little, head out to Raleigh for the North Carolina State Fair which runs from October 15th -25th. This is one of the oldest fairs and first opened its gates in 1853. The NC State Fair is also available on the web at www.ncstatefair.org.

Bob



Fall Bulb Lecture and Sale -
Tuesday September 8, 2009 7:00PM
Rowan Public Library—Hurley Room



Ms. Jean Gillooly will present a special program on “The Best of Bulbs.” Her power point presentation will showcase little known, naturalizing, deer and rodent resistant, season after season bulbs. A committee of Volunteers has pored over catalogues and discussed personal favorites, and based on Ms. Gillooly’s recommendations, has selected the “Best of the Best” to offer for a one time sale. A sales brochure and order sheet will be available to all members with the hope that a bulb awareness and beautification project might result. This program can be presented to other interested groups as time allows. Orders will be taken through September 29. They will be shipped in October. At that time, a bulb bagging party will be planned to prepare the individual orders for pick-up. A tentative pick-up date is October 15. An education bulb planting workshop will also be planned and scheduled at a later date. Please support this one time effort.



The Farmers Market is going strong! The cooking demonstrations have been a huge success! Much of the continuing success is due to the efforts of Sue Davis and Katherine Jones in their weekly reporting of what is available at the Market. Their coverage in Wednesday’s Salisbury Post just entices with the descriptions, the profiles on plants and people and their home tested recipes. The fun will end on October 17, so, make the most of the fresh produce, baked goods, specialty items (everyone has a place for a hooked rug), bouquets of garden fresh flowers, free-range meat and eggs and more. 7AM-12noon. Wednesday & Saturday

Congratulations to Rodney Goodman who won the Top Tomato Contest with a whopper (size not variety) weighing 2.66 pounds.



Millbridge Elementary Kick-off for Reading—Friday September 11



The Master Gardeners will again be manning a station for the annual program at Millbridge. Agriculture and reading are the main topics. This event runs all day, with the children rotating through stations, each with an education and entertaining message. Volunteers will be needed who can lead a discussion on plant growth to Kindergarteners as well as Fifth graders. We use a visual graphics system with flash cards and have the children interact. Fun facts and other points of interest are helpful. Save the date if you are interested. One “training” session will be held prior.

Rowan County Fair -

September 20-26

Each year the Association pulls together a display booth for the exhibits hall. This year our theme will be “Garden Art” which will enable us to display all of the individual pretties we all have in our gardens. Things like special containers, planted with specimen plants (they need to be healthy and insect free), any water feature that fits the space (must be pretty portable), any vertical interest, tall trees or large bushy plants that are showy and unusual. We will have our mandatory educational feature and handouts as well. Several of you have signed up to assist. We will have a brief meeting after the Association meeting on



September 8 to get a preliminary idea of what everybody has and what we might need to find. The booth will be set up Sunday September 20 and taken down Sunday September 27. As Fair entries are also due on Sunday, we 'll work with scheduling a time that suits the majority.

Plant Propagation—Potting Up for Workshops I & II—

Thursday October 15 9AM-noon



It has been a tough year in the greenhouse for our propagation plants. Some trays look wonderful, some look pitiful. And it is not always the novice who has had problems. We 'll be potting up the successes and sending them home. If you have any clean, black one gallon containers, we 're taking donations.

Day Trips

September 30—Grass Creek—Ornamental Grasses

Owner David Oakley spoke to our group earlier this year.

October 20 - Tom ' s Creek Landscape & Nursery

[http://www.tomscreeknursery.com/Toms_Creek_Nursery_%](http://www.tomscreeknursery.com/Toms_Creek_Nursery_%26_Landscaping/Home.html)

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Car pool from the Ag Center—sign up at September meeting



Fall Fun Days

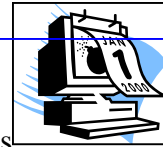
October 30—Hypertufa and Garden



Art

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. (we ' ve held at \$5.00 for years.) Participation is limited.

For those who would like to decorate mosaic pavers, sign up for that also. Cost will be limited to shared materials.



SEPTEMBER 2009

- 8 1:00PM—1:00 PM Association meeting-Ag Center-Prepare for the Fair
- 8 7:00 PM—Rowan Public Library Hurley Room—Jean Gillooly—Fall Bulbs
- 11 8:15AM-3:00PM—Millbridge Reading Kick off
- 20-26 Rowan County Fair
- 20 afternoon—set up Fair booth
- 27 afternoon—take down Fair booth
- 29 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce
- 30 AM—Day trip to Bill Oakley’s Grass Creek—Rt. 150—car-pool

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
- 27 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce
- 27 4:00PM—Grace Ridge 4-H program Garden Art
- 30 Fall Fun Days –Covered shelter—Hypertufa and Garden Art

NOVEMBER 2009

- 10 1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center– Jimmy Speas—Holidays and Herbs
- 24 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce

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 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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