

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2010



FEBRUARY—The groundhog has seen his shadow. Since we have actually had a winter this year, are we surprised? Not to worry however. All of the moisture is bound to be a plus for spring growth. Still perusing catalogues? Consider summer bulbs.

ROWAN COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9 2010



Shelia Armstrong, Master Gardener Class of 2009, will speak on the Campaign for Clean Air. Shelia is the Air Quality Outreach Coordinator at Center for the Environment at Catawba College. The Center's Campaign for Clean Air is designed to educate citizens in our region and to empower them to take action to address the air quality issues we face. It focuses on air pollution's impact on our citizens' health and our community's economy, highlighting things like alternative fuels and modes of transportation, bike paths, sidewalks, preservation of green space and energy conservation. . The American Lung Association recently ranked Rowan County as the 13th worst county in the US for ground-level ozone pollution. Shelia will help us understand why this area is ranked so low.

The air quality in North Carolina has an impact on our gardening as well as our health and economy. Shelia will talk about the things individuals and groups like ours can do to improve air quality and our quality of life.

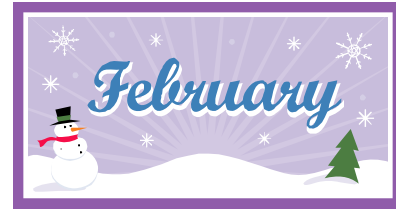
Refreshments will be provided by Joanne Johnson and Virginia Kluttz.

February 11, 2010
Educational Trip on Building a Water Feature



Darrin Paschal of Farm House Gardeners, Statesville has agreed to help us understand what it takes to build and maintain a water feature. We will leave the Extension Office at 9:30AM on Thursday February 11th to drive to Statesville. This program will probably last about an hour. Darrin invites you to browse thru the gift shop and dream about what to plant when the snow melts. <http://www.farmhousegardeners.com/>

From the President:



Well here we are at end of January 2010 and based on what I see outside my window, snow, snow and more snow, it is very difficult to even think about plants and soil or even grass. This is North Carolina and we are not supposed to have this type of weather especially on the weekend. In any event we need to grin and bear it and take life as it is and proceed forward. We cannot do much about the cards that we are dealt so let's play with what we have. This is exactly what we need to do in the forth coming year. If you attended the annual Rowan County Master Gardener's planning event several weeks ago, hopefully you picked up that we have plenty of challenges ahead in 2010. With all of the state cut backs, this is forcing Darrell to greatly limited in his involvement with the Master Gardener program this year. Our program coordinator is officially retired and while still very much involved in our programs, she should and cannot be **expected** to still maintain the same level of involvement in all of our activities. Based on the number of Master Gardeners that have been recertified for 2010 it appears that approximately 30% of our total from 2009 will not be returning. All of this means that we will have fewer people to work with. If we expect this excellent Master Gardener program to continue to excel in Rowan County it is necessary for everyone to step forward and pick up the slack, especially in leadership roles. Often this only means making a few phone calls to coordinate an event. Hopefully this does not come across as a doom and gloom message. Let's view it as opportunities. These are very unique times for all of us and the overall effect of this recession is even being felt in the garden. The snow and cold weather will pass and I am sure that 2010 will once again be another hugely successful year for our Association.

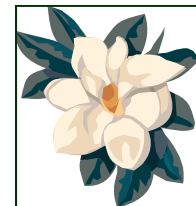
Bob

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Gardens

2010 Thursday Lecture Series

All Lectures are held in the Senior Enrichment Center, Kernersville Library
(in the basement, 130 Mountain St., Kernersville.)

<http://www.pauljcienerbotanicalgarden.org/pages/lecture-series>



Cam Too Camellia Nursery February 25

Last year Matt Hunter, Vice-President of the American Camellia Society, spoke to us about growing camellias and showed us the wide range of colors and varieties available. He encouraged us to visit Cam Too Camellia Nursery. On Monday February 25 at 9:00 AM we will leave the Extension Office to visit Cam Too. Cam Too was established as a camellia nursery in 1982, as an outgrowth of a long term camellia hobby. They are committed to the advance of camellia cultivation; to produce top quality garden varieties; to increase the temperature zone ranges of camellias; to increase the blooming season and increased bud-set and, therefore producing a more floriferous plant; and increasing disease resistance among the species. Cam Too is located north of Greensboro on thirty acres of land off of Highway NC 150. The current inventory of approximately 250,000 plants includes:

- 145 Camellia japonica varieties
- 50 Camellia Sasanqua varieties
- 40 Zone 6 Camellia Hybrids
- 10 Camellia species

Although much breeding work has been done on camellias in recent years, few different types have been added to the standard commercial fare; in fact, there have only been very limited additions to the varieties offered in the last fifty years. Cam Too's goal is to offer a range of varieties which are disease resistant and adapted to a range of climates from the southern edge to the northern edge of the "Camellia Belt".

<http://www.camtoocamellia.com/default.htm>

Plant Delights Nursery March 5

Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh is always a great get-away. The Winter Open House on Friday March 5 features flowering Hellebores, including some hybrids developed at Plant Delights. Other winter plants like arums, cyclamens, euphorbias and Edgeworthia will be featured. Plant Delights gardens in their winter attire lets you examine the bones of the garden.

We will leave the Extension Office at 8:30AM on Friday March 5 to make this special trip.

- www.plantdelights.com/
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Volunteers will be needed to drive. Sign up at the meeting.

Winter Clean Up-

#1. Ornamental Grass Plot—Extension Office—

Friday February 19 10:00 AM

Rain/ Snow date: Friday February 26 10:00 AM.

Please bring your pruners, loppers, chain saws (only Preston) and be ready to cut back all existing grasses. There may be “pass-a-longs” to pot up for our plant sale.



#2. Xeriscape Garden—Rowan Public Library—

A workday will be scheduled when weather permits to begin the redesign of this garden. The site will be cleaned up and at this time, plans are being made to repot the existing plant material for future use.

#3. West End Garden—

The Community Workforce (otherwise known as the “lady inmates”) have been put on notice for the West End garden clean up. As soon as their schedule permits, those dates will be made known.

Volunteers will be needed for all activities.

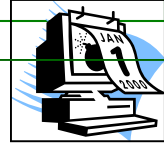
It's not too soon to be thinking about the **Plant Sale and Swap.**

May 1st will be here before you know it. While you are working in your gardens these fine warm winter days, keep in mind dividing perennials is a good thing. The swap and sale would greatly benefit from these divisions. With the NC State Master Conference the week before the sale (April 25-28) and many of our Master Gardeners staying the entire week, other members will be pressed into service doing the preparations the week and day before. As our major fund raiser, we'll need everyone's support to pull this off.



NC State Master Gardener Conference—April 25-28, 2010—New Bern NC

Great tours, interesting and different workshops. Sign up soon.



FEBRUARY 2010

- 9 1:00PM MG Association meeting—Extension office-MG Sheila Armstrong-Clean Air Campaign**
- 11 9:30 AM—Statesville-Farmhouse Gardeners –carpool day trip—Water Features**
- 19 10:00 AM—Greenhouse –Ornamental Grass Plot –clean up**
- 23 10:00AM –Chamber of Commerce—BOD**
- 24 4-H Plant Sale deadline to order**
- 25 9:00 AM—Greensboro– Cam Too Camellia Nursery –carpool day trip**
- 26 10:00 AM– Rain date—Greenhouse– Ornamental grass Plot –clean up**

MARCH 2010

- 5 8:30 AM –Raleigh –Plant Delights—Winter Open House– carpool day trip**
- 9 1:00PM MG Association meeting—Bob Killam –President NCMGVA**
- 20 Salisbury Symphony’s Garden Symposium– Extension Office**
- 30 10:00AM -BOD Chamber of Commerce**

APRIL 2010

- 8 9:00 AM UNCC VanLandingham Glen Walk-pending**
- 9 13 1:00PM MG Association meeting—Catawba Center for the Environment- Native plants in the landscape surrounding the facility**
- 12 Earth Day 2010 on the Greenway**
- 13 Rain date for Earth Day 2010**
- 16 UNCC Plant Sale**
- 17 8:00AM-5:00 PM Cabarrus County MG Spring Herb & Plant Festival-Piedmont Farmers’ Market Concord, NC**
- 20 10:00 AM—BOD Chamber of Commerce (to be confirmed)**
- 22 Wing Haven Spring Plant Sale**
- 23 GH-prep for plant sale and swap**
- 25-28 NC State MG Conference—New Bern NC**

Radio every Thursday

West End—anticipating clean up as soon as weather breaks

Millbridge-waiting for completion of sidewalks

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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