

NC Cooperative Extension



October 2010 — begins with plant pick up of crepe myrtles and ends with Fall Fun Days. In between Master Gardeners are busy with our projects and with putting our own gardens to bed for the year. Remember to protect tender new plants that you need to over-winter.

Rowan County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association Monthly Meeting

Tuesday October 12 Piedmont Research Station 1PM
(Carpooling from the Extension Office at 12:30PM)

Our host is Joe Hampton, Research Operations Manager. He will speak about the projects that are going on at the Research Station and give us tours of the various projects the Research Station has in process and is responsible for. Refreshments by Shelia Armstrong



Master Gardeners
at
the Fair



EDNA



DAWN

Congratulations and Thanks to all who helped with the Fair...

Darrell Blackwelder sent this note: "A special belated thank you to all that worked at the 2010 Rowan County Fair including the MG booth and assisting Brad with the livestock shows. The fair went extremely well this year, except for the excessively high temperatures. Once again, I thought the MG booth stood out as one of the best in the fair. I appreciate your willingness to come out on a Sunday both to setup and take down the booth."

In addition to supporting the Extension Office with their responsibilities to the Fair, a large number of our members participated in the Fair Competitions. Carolyn Alexander, Edna Burger, Karen Busby, Sue Davis, Dawn Holshouser, Virginia Kluttz, Jean Lamb, Jim Stricker and Ann Zaffino all had entries and many won ribbons. Many of those who entered were first time entrants and pleased with the experience.

Millbridge students who helped with the garden project entered gourds, peppers, peanuts and sweet potatoes. Both gourds won ribbons. There was at least one entry from the Cloverbuds Camp.

President's Message

The leaves are falling, the 90 degree days have finally departed and it is now time for us to switch into our fall season mode. But prior to making that transition let's sit back and absorb what just occurred over the past few weeks. Of course there was the big Labor Day celebration, kids and grand-kids are back in school but several big Master Gardener activities just concluded. We had our annual community "potting-up" party, a very successful Camellia and Crepe Myrtle sale and the 2010 Rowan County Agricultural and Industrial Fair.

As a result of our two propagation classes this past summer our greenhouse is once again packed full with exciting new plants that our Master gardeners propagated. An equal number of plants are also out in the community, as their owners attempt to help them survive the fall and winter months and ready them for spring planting. This was a great job for all of those that were involved in this effort. We now have a new selection of plants that will be available for sale in 2011. Please keep in mind that there is still a good selection of established plants that are **always** available for sale.

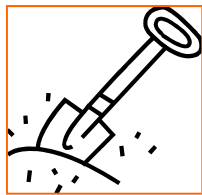
Something new and different for us this year was that we had two plant sales occurring at the same time. The proceeds from these events will surely help further the support of our youth and community programs. While the Crepe Myrtles were sold as ordered there still are a few Camellias remaining. A limited quantity of William Lanier Hunt, Lady Laura and Taylor's Perfection remain at the greenhouse and are for sale.

And then there was the fair. After a whole lot of planning, worrying and scrambling around it came off without a hitch. Our Association performed like champs in all phases of the fair. There were those that worked for the fair during the set-up phase, those that prepared our booth display prior to set-up, those who helped set-up and tear down, and those who donated to our fair display, those who provided entries for judging and those who supported Extension in their fair activities. It is impossible to thank everyone who contributed and was involved but your effort no matter how large or small was greatly appreciated.

Bob

Ground Breaking at the Extension Office Gardens

Shelia Armstrong and Sherry Walker accepted the task of developing a plan to create demonstration gardens at the Rowan County Extension Office. They presented their plans at the September meeting



and announced the first work day to begin this exciting project. Prior to the October 5 ground breaking, the county has killed grass and removed some of the shrubbery which Master Gardeners will be replacing during the multi-year project.

The first work day will remove and relocate Liriope from the area around the front door. Other tasks will be done as time permits on the 5th. Shelia and Sherry have spent a great deal of time thinking and drawing the plans for the new gardens. Each area will have a team of Master Gardeners to develop and sustain the special gardens. The goal is to have gardens that are educational and visually pleasing. Grass plots will be moved close to the road and will be designed to attract attention. Raised beds will have visual interest year round. This long term project is very exciting. Work parties and projects updates will be scheduled throughout the year. Watch your newsletter for more news and pictures.

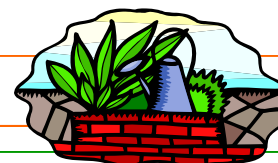
President's Updates — Bob's Thumbnail Review of What is Happening

- A work party cleared up much of the weed growth around the raised beds at West End several weeks ago and the area has been sprayed. Darrell is working on some outside help to close down the garden for the year so we are essentially finished at West End for 2010. Thanks to all that helped throughout the year.
- While not as obvious as some of the other activities that our Master Gardeners perform, the group that has devoted numerous hours to the Millbridge School Project need to be commended for their efforts. This has turned out to be a first class project, thanks to all of you. Job well done.
- A work party will be needed within the next month to clean up around the greenhouse area and prepare it for the cooler months. There will be a notice when the exact date is determined.
- Sherry and Shelia have been doing a remarkable job on the Extension Office Garden Project. The first phase of the renovation will take place on October 5th and everyone that is available is encouraged to come out and dig in.
- A nominating committee has been formed to select new officers for 2011. If approached by Sherry Walker, Katherine Jones or Sally Bradley please support this committee in this sometimes very difficult task.
- Your 3rd Quarter time sheets are due. Please get them in electronically or physically to Carole Massey ASAP.

Something to think about

November 3, Linda Thorne of Seagrove Orchids is hosting a presentation on how to grow orchids successfully at the Sandhills Community College Gardens. For more information call Tricia Mabe 910-695-3882 .

Fall Fun Days — from Carolyn Alexander



Fall Fun Day will be October 29 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Extension Office picnic shelter. We are fortunate to have Madge Eggena, owner of Mills Garden Herb Farm with us as instructor. Carole Massey and Carolyn Alexander attended one of her Hypertufa workshops at her farm in September and had a wonderful time. They came away with delightful containers, a stepping stone and fairy houses. They will bring some of these items for show and tell at our October meeting. Madge says, "Hypertufa pots are so easy to make and I love the way they look in the garden. They really look good and as they age, they look even better! My garden faeries love the little houses I have made for them out of this medium." Madge's website is www.millsgardenherbfarm.com.

The fee for the workshop will be \$20. This will cover cost of materials and a light snack. The workshop size is limited so sign up by calling the Extension Office at 704-216-8967 as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

Master Gardener Calendar

October

12 1PM Monthly Meeting Piedmont Research Station hosted by Joe Hampton

26 10AM Board Meeting — Gateway Building

29 9AM to Noon Fall Fun Days Madge Eggena will teach new Hypertufa Methods and Ideas
Advanced Reservations needed. Cost is \$20.00



November

8 1PM Monthly Meeting Carole Massey Speaks about Spiders

30 10AM Board Meeting Gateway Building

Happy Thanksgiving



December

2 and 3 Decorate Hall House and ARC Christmas Tree

14 6PM Holiday Social John Calvin Presbyterian Church. The Alston's will perform

Happy Holidays



RADIO Every Thursday 1490 WSTP



Winter Farmers Market begins October 23

Opens at 10AM

Closes at Noon

Until Christmas

