

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2010



ROWAN COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 12, 2010 2010 Retreat



For the past few years, the Association has started the new year with a planning retreat. We still have a need to plan, but want to do things a little different this year. So, bring your best ideas and suggestions and come join everyone for a January picnic on Tuesday January 12 at 12 o'clock noon. The Association will provide deli-sandwich trays and beverages. If you would like to bring a snack or desert, please do. We will eat, meet and brainstorm for a few hours, and hopefully watch a year in review of 2009 Master Gardener activities and events. There may be more surprises.



From the President:



Hello Master Gardeners and here is wishing each of you a happy New Years. Can you believe that another year has come and gone? It does not seem possible that twelve months could pass that quickly. In any event here we are with a brand new year, with twelve months full of new and challenging opportunities.

As Master Gardeners our minds tend to focus on mother earth and what grows or what we do not want to grow. This is the perfect time of the year to start the mental phase of our passion for gardening. It is time to mull over what grew well last year and what did not. Why did some plants perform so well while others were a lost cause? Should I use the same gardening methods in 2010 or is it time to try a new approach this year? Are there new or different locations on my property where I might have better results? Is there something wrong with my soil or is there a location issue? These are just some of the questions that apply to performance so take the time and analyze what happened last year.

This is also the time of the year to begin thinking about the new and exciting plants that could be added to the garden this year. In the coming weeks, the seed catalogs will be arriving in our mailboxes and then the fun begins. Before this onslaught, January is a great time to decide if more fruits and vegetables should be planted and if so what varieties? On the other hand should more of that garden space be converted to flowers or shrubs? Keep in mind that all Master Gardeners have that same trait, they acquire plants. Yes, it is a fact that we will have a plant sale this year and you will probably be bringing home some new plants and wondering where will they be planted? If not from the plant sale, how about the plants that will somehow end up in your possession after one of the many side trips that the Association will make in 2010? And of course how about those plants that you propagated last fall? Where will all of these be planted? Now is the time to give these 2010 additions to your garden some thought.

Yes this is the perfect time of year to do our mental gardening. In a few weeks we will meet as an Association and begin laying out the direction and details for another year of gardening activities. This will be an opportunity for each of you to offer your thoughts and input into what we do as an Association in 2010. So as you begin thinking about your home gardening also begin developing some ideas for our 2010 MG planning retreat.



Bob

A new year a new beginning.

The mailboxes are filling up, the computer inboxes are stuffed, and what's a gardener to do when the ground is frozen? Start reading, of course! Seed and plant catalogues are abundant; on-line offers are there as well. Read and scheme: different varieties, unusual colors, small, larger, disease resistant, improved! If you do your homework now, you will be better prepared when the garden centers are once again stocked with the tried and true and same-old, same-old. Just knowing that there is more out there will make the search more enjoyable and ever more satisfying when that "special" variety is found (usually in the most unsuspecting place). Peruse and ponder. Spring is coming.



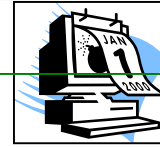
Master Gardener Association dues and Recertifications

2010

Each year, Extension Master Gardeners must reapply with their agents to maintain their status as certified Master Gardeners. The Memorandum of Agreement states that with their signature the Volunteer certifies that he or she will fulfill 25 hours of volunteer service (as specified by the agent) for extension. Upon signing this agreement, the Volunteer can then decide whether or not they would like to be a member of the Master Gardener Association. The Rowan County MG Association has an annual fee of \$10.00 (membership dues) payable in January to the Treasurer. Membership in the Association offers monthly meetings, socials, daytrips, fun days and always opportunities for horticultural education. Plan on recertification and renewing or joining the Association. Don't miss out on what may be the best year yet!



Thanks to all who have submitted their 2009 hours reports. There are still a few outstanding, and those numbers would really help our statistics. If you signed a recertification last year, remember that 25 hours is the minimum. Most Volunteers do many, many more. And something is better than no report at all.



JANUARY 2010

- 4 10:00 AM—Hall House Undecorate**
- 4 10:00 AM—Festival of Trees –Undecorate tree #1—Rowan Public Library & tree # 2 –Crowell & Porter 120 N. Jackson St.**
- 12 12:00 noon—Extension Office -picnic luncheon and mini-retreat**
- *****Review of 2009 *******
- 26 10:00 AM—BOD Chamber of Commerce**

FEBRUARY 2010

- 9 1:00PM MG Association meeting—Extension office**
- 23 10:00AM –Chamber of Commerce—BOD**

MARCH 2010

- 9 1:00PM MG Association meeting**
- 30 10:00AM -BOD Chamber of Commerce**

APRIL 2010

- 9 13 1:00PM MG Association meeting**
- 25-28 NC State MG Conference—New Bern NC**
- 27 10:00 AM—BOD Chamber of Commerce**

Radio every Thursday

West End—off for the winter

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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Congratulations to our new Silver Cans:



Sally Bradley, Sue Davis and Jim Stricker

**Congratulations and thank you to the 2010
Rowan County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association Officers:**

**President—Bob Bruce
Vice-President—Sue Davis
Secretary—Lana Miller
Treasurer— Dawn Holshouser
Historian— Katherine Jones**

If you have any changes in your E-mail address or telephone number, please advise.