



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter

May/June 2015 Volume VIII Issue 3

“THE OPTOMISTIC GARDENER”

Maryann Horgan, President BCMGVA

“Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s Party!’” Robin Williams

I don’t know why we love gardening? There are so many perils along the way – insects, diseases, flood and drought. But I have learned that Southern Master Gardeners are intrepid. If a hurricane wipes out 20 of your roses, you will go right out and buy 30. We rise up early and wash down two Alevs to venture out into the garden to do battle: Cottony Cushion Scale, Ambrosia Beetles, deer, rabbits, moles and fire ants. The weeds have grown seemingly overnight as ‘high as an elephant’s eye’. And yet it is with a childlike wonder that we stand back at the end of the day and admire the climbing Clematis blossoms, the intricacies of the Bearded Iris that just unfurled and the riot of color of our newly potted annuals. So satisfying.....



Bring that wonderful sense of wonder to our Botanical Garden! (apologies to Dr. Suess)

“Red pot, blue pot, purple pot, Box.
Roses, daisies, perennials are hot!”

A huge thank you to all the Master Gardeners who are volunteering in the Botanical Garden to make Phase One of the Botanical Garden Committee’s master design spring alive!

Red pot: Bonnie Borthan & Anne Coleman
Blue pot: Sonia Smith & Jeanne Pavero
Purple pot: Ann Gallman
Box: Charen & Dan Fink

Amanda Kiel & Joanne Norman have completely transformed the boardwalk section/berm into a sunny perennial garden that will be bursting with color all year long. Not one penny has been spent. All of the plants are from the Propagation Class or “pass- alongs” donated by Master Gardeners! Photos of what is blooming in the garden will be on our website every week.

Ellie Bierman and volunteers have resurrected a neglected section of the Botanical Garden to become a proper rose garden. Different varieties and colors of roses will be added as funds are available. Talk to Ellie if you can help tend the garden or help her find desired items such as a bench, fence or arbor.

Marianne Bell, Alice Hiatt and Maryann Horgan are working under the Live Oak to create a “Southern Living” garden. It will be tranquil and shady and transport you back to the old south with quintessential plants such as Gardenia and Hydrangea.

We all need nine hours in the Botanical Garden, so please sign up and see Michelle about where your talents could best be used when you come in to help.

“The Earth laughs in flowers!” - My old tee shirt

Maryann

Meeting Minutes

For the complete minutes of the membership meetings, go <http://www.bcmastergardenerva.org/> under the **About Us** tab

Scheduled Speakers

May 28 – Tryon Palace, Freda Pyron, Gardens and Greenhouse Manager

June 25 – CES staff

July 23 – **NO Meeting**

August 27 – Webinar – Pruning – Barbara Fair

September 24 – Webinar – Bugs/pests – Matt Bertone, Entomologist for Plant Disease & Insect Clinic

October 22 – To be Determined

November 19 – Poinsettias, Susan Brown, New Hanover Extension Agent.

Certified Master Gardeners

Check the NCSU Website for opportunities to fulfill your 40 hours are required to remain qualified.

[Click here](#)

Red Bud & Saucer Magnolia in bloom in our Botanical Garden



Best seen in person

Regular meetings on 4th Thursday each month at 9:00 am

Sam Marshall

Extension Horticulture Agent

**Horticulture Program Updates**

March and April were busy months for the Horticulture Team. Together we met our goal of 20 hours of Advanced Master Gardener Volunteer Trainings in the areas of turfgrass and vegetable gardening. The Botanical Garden also is shaping up! There are more volunteers donating time in the garden now than ever before and it shows! Current projects include a rose garden in front of Building F, an ability garden in the front of the office, and a complete overhaul of the palm area near the boardwalk. With the help of Master Gardener Volunteers, we are on track to re-establish our botanical garden as a Certified Plantsman's Garden, the first of its kind in Brunswick County. We already have received recognition from county managers who have told us on several different occasions that the botanical garden looks the best it ever has. Thank you for all that you have done, and for all that you continue to do.

We exceeded our goal of 15 consumer horticulture contact hours, offering over 20 hours of trainings, lectures, and workshops throughout Brunswick, New Hanover, and Onslow Counties.

The 6th graders from South Brunswick Middle School came and went, and what a whirlwind it was! The "Hands on Horticulture" Program filled our botanical garden with eager 6th graders who were taught lessons in Everyday Foods, Propagation, Seed Bombs, and much more. The teachers who attended the event also received continuing education credits, which is something that will continue from now on, as we intend to begin writing curriculum for 3rd and 6th graders so that this can be a permanent addition to our educational outreach efforts in Brunswick County. I have to say a sincere word of thank you to the volunteers and staff who helped make it such a wonderful and smooth event:

Sharlene Ackley
 Donna Coulson
 Lynn Eriquez
 Dan Fink
 Charen Fink
 Vicki Fuhrman
 Beryl Hall
 Alice Hiatt
 Maryann Horgan
 Amanda Kiel
 Patti Schleg
 Michelle Spencer
 Judy Thuer

"House Calls" training will begin at the end of April, and continue through the end of May. After this time, we plan on implementing a soft roll out of this program with the intention of doing a full release sometime in the fall. By 2016 who knows what kind of madness we'll be into! Here's to wishing you all a productive and happy spring season.

— *Sam*

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Brown Bag Lunch in the Botanical Garden

Ergonomic Movements for the Gardener

Miraculously the sun burned through dark clouds and a gentle breeze cooled off the participants of the first "Brown Bag Lunch in the Botanical Garden" on March 27. Sandy Krasnow demonstrated how to safely weed, dig, unload bags of manure from your trunk and push a wheelbarrow.

Everyone practiced stretching exercises using yoga poses that would strengthen and protect our backs, shoulders and hips.

Sandy is a certified yoga instructor and a Master Gardener. She gives private restorative yoga classes at her own studio, Lake House Fitness in BSL (547-7766) and teaches classes in STJ and Southport.



Tuesday May 12 noon Demonstration and Workshop in How To Make Armatures from Branches

Robin Weir, owner of *Wild By Nature*, will demonstrate how to make armatures to use in floral displays or decorating in your home or garden. If you would like to try your hand at this craft, bring in curly willow or grapevine or something you found in the woods or purchased at a craft store. It is best to soak the branches overnight so they will be more pliable. Robin will provide the wire. (Wild By Nature – 411 N. Howe Street, Southport- 363-5032-

wildbynaturellc@aol.com)

NCEMGVA Report

- submitted by Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

NCEMGVA Board of Directors Meeting
April 22, 2015, Wilson County, NC

The 2015 NCEMGVA State Master Gardener Conference will be held September 21- 22, 2015, Embassy Suites , Cary, NC The Committee is working to keep the registration fee the same as it has been for past conferences. Vendors are needed if you know of anyone who would be interested contact me. Paul James will be the Monday night dinner speaker. The dinner will be open to non Master Gardeners tickets will be available for the dinner only, Check NCEMGVA web site www.ncmastergardeners.org <<http://www.ncmastergardeners.org>> for more information as it becomes available.

Director of Extension (NCSU), Joe Zublena will be retiring in July. There will be a national search to replace him.

Lisa Sandersom is the new State Master Gardener Coordinator.

She will be assuming the position on May 11th.

NCSU Garden will hold a web fair May 18, 19 and 20th at 10 am. Interested log on.

The new Master Gardener Manual and Handbook is still being worked on. There has not been a decision from NCSU as of yet on the new name for extension.

The Master Gardener Endowment Fund has received another \$570.00 from the sale of the Master Gardener license plates.

The following are available thru the NCEMGVA: Competitive Grants, Symposia Grants and Landscape Design. Information can be found the NCEMGVA web site.

Caring for Roses

submitted by Maryann Horgan

At the March 26th meeting, David Pike encouraged us to enhance the lives of others through the outstanding care of God's finest creation, the rose. There are five yearly chores that must be done to produce beautiful, healthy roses:

1. Use dormant spray in January (lime sulfur) - will burn up black spot spores; use a second application if you had a severe fungal problem last year. It's not too late to use a dormant spray but apply to the ground and mulch, not to the new tender leaves that are emerging.
2. Pruning – only use 'bypass' clippers and wear long gloves! As you prune, envision an empty ice cream cone so that when you are finished, you will have an open center. Increased air flow will help to prevent disease and insect infestations.
3. Fertilizing – roses are heavy feeders so use one cup of fertilizer (10x10x10) in March, May and July and add more if you experience heavy rains. Use lots of cow manure and top off roses in the fall and cover manure with mulch. DO NOT USE POULTRY MANURE – it burns the plants, even when it is aged.
4. Water – one inch per week (5 gallons) but more if soil is sandy or rose is in a pot.
5. Safe application of pesticides/ fungicides. You should use a contact and a systemic fungicide every 7-10 days in the summer. Spray from the bottom of the plant and move up into the center. Use Merit or Temp for mites, thrips, aphids and Japanese Beetles. Witherspoon is successfully using biological control practices. They have introduced Predator mites to eat Spider Mites; Lace Wing adults and eggs to eat aphids; Milky spore helps to control beetles.



**When you get to the end of your rope,
tie a knot and hang on. --Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

**Hobcaw Barony Georgetown, SC
MG Tour - Wednesday, May 27th**

submitted by Ellen Pecina

Hobcaw Barony is an ecological and conservation center as well as a research center for Clemson University that encompasses over 16,000 acres. It was the winter residence of Bernard Baruch who was financier on Wall Street back in the 1920s. He also advised four presidents including Winston Churchill and letters that he wrote can be seen inside his home which is part of the tour. Mr. Baruch's daughter, Belle, purchased all of the barony over a period of several years and at her death a foundation was created to use the land for the "purposes of teaching and/or research in forestry, marine biology, and the care and propagation of wildlife, flora and fauna in connection with colleges and/or universities in the state of South Carolina."

Our tour will start promptly at 10AM and last for 2 hours. Please arrive no later than 930AM so you can get registered and ready for tour at 10AM. After the tour we can have lunch (bag lunch) at the Discovery Center on the premises. You may purchase soda from their machine or bring what you like to drink. The fee for the Tour is \$20.00.

This two hour bus tour requires little walking and includes highlights of Hobcaw Barony's 16,000 acres of history and ecology. A privately owned research reserve, the property represents every environment and century in the lowcountry. Naval stores, indigo, and rice production ended by 1905 when the land was purchased by Bernard Baruch. A native South Carolinian and Wall Street financier, he and other millionaires hunted ducks, deer and wild turkeys on this winter retreat. The bus stops for a tour inside his 1930 home that played host to politicians, generals and newspapermen as well as Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt.

In addition to Hobcaw House, tours include a drive by Bellefield Plantation and stables, the home of Belle Baruch who owned the property by 1956, and a drive through Friendfield Village, the last 19th century slave village on the Waccamaw Neck. We share information on coastal ecosystems, native wildlife and endangered species.

For more information: <http://www.hobcawbarony.org/>
Please contact Ellen Pecina at 908 247-5284.

Yaupon Holly tea

- submitted by Pat Sams

"I've been trying Yaupon Holly tea for two months now. I was trying to replace coffee each morning. I'd been using Yerba Mate for about three years (especially chai flavor) but expensive. Learned about Yaupon Holly tea last Fall and was delighted there was a "local" beverage I could start my day with and no after effects or afternoon slump. Tried it once and didn't like it. So I decided to give it another try after talking to a friend who's son has a tea shop in Raleigh. Brewed the correct way and adding a little local honey has made it my "morning cup". Even got used to rolling those leaves each morning. Give it a try. Pat S
<http://kiscrapbook.knotsislandonline.com/yaupontea.html>

BSL Community Center celebrates Earth Day

submitted by Judy Thuer

Boiling Spring Lakes Community Center celebrated Earth Day 2015 by propagating a "Kalanchoe" cutting with the Senior and After school programs.

Interesting facts were given about different Earth Day celebrations over the years including 2014 where people were encouraged to take a "selfie" and send to NASA to be incorporated into a "global" earth image.



Everyone enjoyed learning how to propagate "house plants" and enjoyed being able to take one home to watch it grow!



6th Graders Visit

South Brunswick Middle School sent their 6th graders for a visit of our botanical garden. From the photo here you can



get an idea of how well the program was received. For additional photos and information, go to the BCMGVA website <http://www.bcmastergardenerva.org/>

MG of the Month

At March's meeting Sam Marshall recognized Dominique Loewenstein for her continuing efforts at the Hickman Crossing satellite office. (No photo available).



Butterfly house in the sunny perennial garden

photo by Amanda Kiel

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Useful links for online access:

<http://www.bcmastergardenerva.org/>

<http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/>

<http://www.ncmastergardeners.org>

<http://pendergardener.blogspot.com/>