

# NORTH CAROLINA EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

H E L P I N G   N O R T H   C A R O L I N A   G R O W



2015 Spring Edition

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## Coming Events

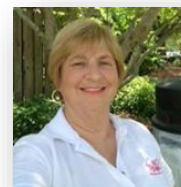
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[gardeningcarolina@gmail.com](mailto:gardeningcarolina@gmail.com)

Editor: Mary Conroy

## President's Message

Spring is in the air! It was a pretty and warm day today with the sun shining brightly assuring me that spring is coming. With spring comes a rebirth.....of trees, flowers and, yes, those hated weeds, but there is also a rebirth of our spirits and a renewal of energy. We can all start to think about what we would like to change or add/remove in our gardens, and our lives in general.



### There is a rebirth in the Master Garden Program!

There is an addition. I am very happy to tell you that a State Master Gardener Coordinator position has been approved and hopefully this person will be on board by the end of March. Dr. Lucy Bradley will still be involved with the MG program but this new person, working under her direction, will see to the day to day operation of the program. I believe the very fact that this position was approved says more than words and illustrates just how vital the MG program (which is you) is to NCSSES.

### The NC Master Gardener Handbook has also been updated!

This is the MG bible! All you ever wanted to know about your involvement with the Master Gardener Program, all the do's and don'ts, what is expected and what is not, the why's and wherefore's and everything you need to know is in the book. The handbook is undergoing the final editing as you are reading this and will be to the publishers soon. I hope each and every one of you take the time to read this handbook. I am sure by now that most of you know there will be a new Master Gardener Manual. Some of you have even had the privilege of helping to prepare the update. Not only will the Manual be updated with more current information and topics but it will also be put on line. Everyone will have access to it's the contents not just the MG students. It may also be printed in the future but how to fund this printing is being researched at present. It is much more feasible to print in large quantities but with that comes a much larger upfront cost, and the money is just not available at the present time. With cutbacks and shortage of funds an imaginative solution will have to be found.

### Rebirth for the NCCES Name!

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is going to have a rebirth, in the form of a name change. The new name will be North Carolina State Extension Service which will identify itself in a closer union to NCSU. Other changes, adjustments, and new beginnings are on the way with NCSSES also, one of which is a new brand or logo. At present nothing definite has been chosen to represent NCSSES and I spoke with Dr. Zublena about this affecting our logo and/or our license plate and at the present time it is not thought that it will.

### There is rebirth in NCEMGVA as well. This year the Association will be hosting the conference!

The Officers, Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be working hard to plan and execute an educational opportunity for all to enjoy. With so many of the afore said changes, adjustments and new beginnings there will be a great emphasis on the Master Gardener program in particular and in general. This is also an election year. If you, or someone you know, would like to participate on the Board of Directors as an officer, please contact Brenda Bernhardt, Nominating Chairman, at [bbernhardt1@hotmail.com](mailto:bbernhardt1@hotmail.com) and give her their name, office desired and how she can reach then for acceptance of nomination. If you are interested in working as a committee member on any of our committees, please let me know by sending your name and County to [barbie@ec.rr.com](mailto:barbie@ec.rr.com). Available committees at present are Landscape Design, Competitive Grants/Symposium Grants and MG Volunteer and Agent Awards. If your County does not have representation on the NCEMGVA Board why not rectify that today! Let your voice be heard and your vote counted by sending a Delegate and Alternate Delegate.

## CONFERENCE

Details will be on the NCEMGV website soon.

## (continued) Presidents Report

It is so important that ALL counties have a voice in decisions reached that may affect you. So many people have said they would love to be a Delegate but since meetings are across the state they just couldn't afford the expense to attend. My response is this, perhaps the county organization/association could reimburse a Delegate with receipts for expenses. We have been trying very hard to have our meetings so that Delegates won't have to travel far for at least one out of the four meetings during the year. Last year our meetings were in Onslow County, Forsyth County, Wake and Wayne. This year we started in Rowan County and our next meeting will be in Wilson Co. I would love to see the meeting rooms filled to capacity with Delegates. You have all heard that we were approved by IRS to receive other county organizations/associations under our 501c3 umbrella as it was announced in the last issue of our newsletter and the response has been great. We welcome each and every county to "hop on board". The necessary papers which must be filled out in entirety are posted on our website for your perusal if your county thinks it may be interested. The address is [ncmgva.camp8.org](http://ncmgva.camp8.org) or simply type NCEMGVA in your browser.

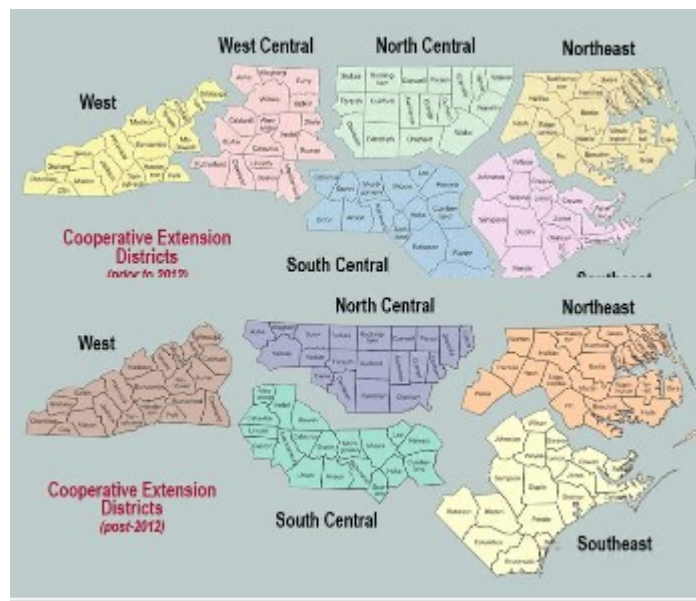
I have been remiss in not introducing our new Web Master and interim Newsletter Editor, Mary Conroy from Forsyth County. Mary has been very busy not only learning the program but giving the website and the newsletter a face lift. She has become invaluable to me being able to handle all that she does. If you haven't been on our website in a while, take a look (address is as above). It is very user friendly, and is full of information. Perhaps you noticed that I used the word "interim" Newsletter Editor when introducing Mary. That is because she would like to be able to dedicate her time to the website which is the first channel of communication between NCEMGVA and yourself. We are still searching for a permanent Editor. I know that with all the talent within the Master Gardeners there is someone willing to step forward and take the role of Editor. I know Mary will give you all the guidance she can as will Bob Kellam, our past Editor.

### Six into Five: NCEMGVA Adopts Revised Extension Districts Bob Kellam-Reporting Wake County

Beginning with this issue, our District Reports will mirror the changes to the state's Cooperative Extension Districts that were implemented by NCCES in 2012. The major change eliminates the West Central District, moving that District's counties into the adjacent Districts (West, North Central, and South Central). To balance the new arrangement, a few counties in the North Central (Wake, Franklin, and Warren) and South Central (Bladen, Columbus, and Robeson) are shifted eastward into the Northeast and Southeast Districts, respectively.

NCEMGVA delayed adopting the NCCES' changes primarily due to our newsletter staff organization. Our longtime District Reporter in the West Central District, Debbie Moore Clark, had done an outstanding job of routinely recruiting and editing the submissions from the highest proportion of the counties in her District and, quite frankly, we didn't want to lose her. With her resignation at the end of 2014, however, the Board agreed that the time had come to re-align our Districts.

This issue also marks the first issue from our new Acting Editor Mary Conroy from Forsyth County. Mary has been working with the current District Reporters to incorporate the District changes into their reporting, as well as seeking a Reporter to fill the vacancy in the Northeast District. If you would be interested in this position, or in reporting for your county, you can contact Mary Conroy [gardeningcarolina@gmail.com](mailto:gardeningcarolina@gmail.com).



## NCEMGVA Budget for 2015

Explanatory Note: The financial success of the May 2014 statewide conference in Winston-Salem (many thanks to the host counties), has enabled us to increase this year's budget in several areas. Given that NCEMGVA will be the principal host of this year's conference, the Board has voted to convert the annual \$4,000 loan made to host counties for advance conference expenses into a subsidy to make the conference registration fees more affordable. The funds available for Competitive and Symposium grants have been doubled for this year and the award amounts for the Landscape Design Competition increased by two-thirds. The reimbursement for counties hosting the quarterly Board meetings has also been raised by \$500 to accommodate the increased participation of county delegates and alternates.

Carroll Gaissert, Treasurer

<p>* <b>Executive Committee:</b>  President's Discretionary Fund \$1,500.00  Corresponding Secretary \$50.00  Recording Secretary \$50.00  Quarterly Board Meetings \$1,200.00</p>	<p>* <b>2015 Conference Committee:</b>  Conference Registration Fee Subsidy: \$4,000.00  Hospitality Suite: \$500.00  Event Insurance: \$500.00  Notepads and Pens for Tote bags: \$400.00</p>
<p>* <b>Budget and Finance:</b>  Treasurer's Supplies \$100.00  Annual Audit \$200.00</p>	<p>* <b>Grants Committee:</b>  Competitive Matching Grants: \$2,000.00  Symposium Matching Grants: \$1,000.00</p>
<p>* <b>Membership Committee:</b>  Printing and Postage \$200.00  PayPal (online transaction fees) \$236.00</p>	<p>* <b>Landscape Design Competition:</b>  Large Program Awards \$1,000.00  Small Program Awards \$1,000.00</p>
<p>* <b>Awards Committee:</b>  Volunteer and Extension Staff Awards \$300.00</p>	<p>* <b>Donations to EMG Operating Fund: \$600.00</b></p>
<p>* <b>Communications:</b>  Wild Apricot (website hosting) \$1,080.00  Newsletter \$1,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Operating Budget for 2015: \$17,016.00</b>  <b>Operating Reserve: \$22,035.37</b></p>
<p>* <b>Fundraising Committee: \$100.00</b></p>	

## Extension Master Gardener License Plate Now Available Online

By Janie Taylor, Chair, License Plate Committee

In addition to applying for our plate at your local DMV office, you can now order the plate online. The link to the main page at DMV is: <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/online/>. Click on Personalized & Specialized Plates and scroll down to North Carolina Master Gardener. You can also go directly to the Master Gardener plate with this link below.

<https://edmv.ncdot.gov/VehicleRegistration/SpecialPlate/Detail?PlateID=175#term=North%20Caro>



A hard copy of the application as a pdf file can also be downloaded from the page if you prefer to mail in your order. Please use the DMV version of the application rather than the NCEMGVA application we developed several years ago for the license plate campaign. Also remember to return your old plate to DMV. Most of the offices have drop boxes you can use. In other news, DMV has forwarded to the Master Gardener Endowment at NCSU a check for \$3,130.00, our share of the fees for the 313 plates that have been issued so far. Deposits will be made quarterly as new plates are issued and renewals completed. Through the regular donations to our Endowment, the License Plate will continue play an important role in the long-term sustainability of the statewide EMG program. Our thanks to everyone who has helped make this a reality. If you have any problems, questions, or concerns, or haven't received a plate you ordered, please contact me: 252-726-7826 or [janiesuetaylor@icloud.com](mailto:janiesuetaylor@icloud.com).

# NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Davidson County-Submitted by Sue Smith



Christina Larson District Reporter

Davidson county EMG volunteers have been busy for the last several months planning the 4th Annual Gardeners' Conference which is held each year in Lexington. Topics were selected, speakers were chosen, and publicity began. What an overwhelming response came in! The conference is designed to include attendance of Master Gardeners but the general public as well, both locally and in nearby counties. With two weeks to go before registration was set to close, we were already full to capacity. What a great problem to have! Thanks to NCEMGVA for helping make it possible through the grant we received in 2014. Now we must hunt for ways to expand our attendance space.

**Wire People  
Statues in the  
Garden Tour**



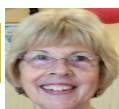
Our Public Service council has worked this winter on a garden at the local Senior Center. It was completed, and seniors are now looking forward to a time when the plants grow and bloom. While it was not a formal EMGVA project, several master gardeners were involved in helping to plan and establish a memorial garden at one of the local churches in honor of a beloved MG member who had passed away. More work will be done in the spring.

## 11th Annual Garden Tour

The next major project for our master gardeners will be the 11th Annual Garden Tour on Saturday June 6th from 10 am –4pm and Sunday June 7th from 1pm to 5 pm. The tour will be in Thomasville this year and will feature 5 private gardens. The cost is \$10 and you can attend both days if you choose. Tickets will be sold at the Davidson County Extension office 301 E. Center Street, Lexington; at the Backyard Retreat, 106 S. Main Street, Lexington; or purchased from Master Gardeners. Tickets can also be purchased on the days of the tour at each garden. Maps will be provided and Tour signs will mark the directions clearly once you exit Hwy. Bus. 85 at Hwy. 109 or Hwy. 68. For additional information call 336-956-0400 or 336-250-3014. Please click on the link for more information on this event.

<http://ncmgva.camp8.org/page-510014>

Durham County-Submitted by Barbara Goodman



## Pavilion assembled

Possibly the crowning achievement for the Durham County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers for 2014 was the completion of the timber frame pavilion over a brick patio at the **Briggs Avenue Community Garden**. This effort was the culmination of years of hard work in planning, fundraising and navigation of permit processes by our county agent Michelle Wallace and many of our Durham County volunteers. The assembly of the pavilion took 420 volunteer hours, finishing during icy cold rain in mid-December. The final major fundraising effort, a **Durham Open Space and Trails matching grant** for \$30,720, and a \$10,000 **Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Improvement Grant** received for the project, appears to have been very well spent.



## New MGV Class

In January, Durham County welcomed its **2015 training class** of thirty-one participants, selected from a very large applicant pool. A group of seasoned volunteers will serve as mentors for the new class with a nearly one-to-one ratio of mentors to trainees. A major goal for this year's training is to be as "paperless" as possible, through extensive use of the EMGV Intranet.

## Radio Show in full Swing

The radio program, [Getting Dirty with Durham County Extension Master Gardeners](http://gettingdirtyradioshow.org), is still in full swing on Carrboro's WCOM, 103.5 FM. The show is now available as a podcast, available through iTunes. Topics covered by the all-volunteer staff Lise Jenkins, Harold Johnson and Charles Murphy are wide-ranging, as exemplified by the title of a recent broadcast—"January: Community Garden, Power Tools, Soil Ecology, Backyard Habitats." Thanks for listening and go out and get dirty in your garden today! <http://gettingdirtyradioshow.org>

## Spring Plant Sale

A Spring Plant Sale is on the agenda for March 28, 2015. The Durham EMGVs are hard at work propagating, dividing and starting plants from seed for this annual event. The sale will be held as part of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens spring plant sale, where our Master Gardeners will also have a booth to answer questions for those attending. The proceeds from EMGV sales will be applied to the ongoing efforts at Briggs Avenue Community Garden, where volunteers are working to install a vineyard with grapes and figs, to benefit plot owners. For more information about the Duke Gardens Spring Plant Sale see

<https://gardens.duke.edu/events/spring-plant-sale>

For additional information about Durham EMGV activities, check out our blog at

<https://durhammastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

# NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Guilford County-Submitted by Patricia Lunn Adsit

### Guilford County Gets in High Gear in the New Year



#### Guilford County Center



**"First we learn, then we teach."** That is the philosophy presented on the Guilford County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer application. Putting the words into action, we welcomed a new class of **21** trainees into the Guilford County EMGV program in January. To get them started on their journey, each is assigned a mentor who agrees to provide support and assistance throughout the first year by helping the new class member become familiar with and comfortable in the EMGV program. **Mentors** have several opportunities during the year to get to know their interns better in a relaxed social setting. One of these occurred in early January at the **Mentor-Intern Breakfast**, which kicked off the new class. Later in the Spring, Mentors will hold a luncheon to celebrate the completion of classes for the Interns. All of these activities serve to improve the program through building relationships.

There are other opportunities for Guilford EMGVs to learn first and then to teach. Two workshops in February prepared EMGVs and others (teachers, parents) interested in acting as **School Garden Mentors** in Guilford County. Topics included developing a foundation of good planning, going into a school garden, as well as building a garden team to ensure sustainability, and reaching out to the community as a stakeholder in school gardens.

Using our onsite Demonstration Garden as a classroom allows us to learn while we teach others about gardens in fun, interactive ways. For instance, we will have a class on March 26 called **Laying Brick Walkways**, providing hands-on instruction by an industry expert in using brick pavers to create garden walkways. Open to the public, the 9:00 a.m. class will be followed by a workday for EMGVs to put their new skills into action.

The hands-on activities don't stop there! In April, we will offer our ever-popular **Hypertufa** workshop. Hands-on instruction in making hypertufas (planters that resemble rustic stone) will begin at 10:00 on 4/16. For more information about any of the workshops mentioned, call 336-641-2400 (main reception desk). And remember, you are always welcome to visit our Demonstration Garden, located on the Extension Center's property at 3309 Burlington Rd, Greensboro, NC. A perfect day for this might be **Family Gardening Day**, April 25, starting at 9:30 a.m. There will be games, garden tours, and gardening information for the whole family. Come learn about native plants, shade gardening, vegetable gardening, how to create a cutting garden, and planting a garden to attract pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.). While you are there, see if you can spot the **Plant of the Month**, such as the one you will find here:

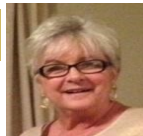
[http://www.ncsugarden.com/resources/guilford/docs/april\\_2014\\_harry\\_lauder\\_walking\\_stick.pdf](http://www.ncsugarden.com/resources/guilford/docs/april_2014_harry_lauder_walking_stick.pdf)

Visit our webpage here: <http://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/categories/lawn-garden/>

Looking for us on Facebook? The county page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NC-Cooperative-Extension-Guilford-County-Center/154893754546546>

## Forsyth County-submitted by Teresa Lowry

### First Meeting of the New Year



In January, the Master Gardeners of Forsyth County had their first meeting as a formalized association with the goal of extending support through the Cooperative Extension Center of Forsyth County and providing educational opportunities for the public and for its volunteers. Their association will be known as the **Forsyth County Master Gardener Volunteer Association** and will operate with an elected board and four council leaders. The councils include: (1) Continuing Education, (2) Demo Garden, (3) Fund Raising, and (4) Public Outreach. This board will preside over monthly meetings and take action on behalf of and with the approval of the Association membership. Formal budget approval for the remaining fiscal year is scheduled in February and the election of new officers will be held in May.

### Bethabara Park

The **Historic Bethabara Park** team of Master Gardeners was honored with an appreciation luncheon hosted by Victoria Fulton, Director of Bethabara Park. The Historic Bethabara Park Medicinal Garden is the oldest well-documented medical herb garden in the United States and was originally created by Dr. Hans Kalberlahn in 1756. Approximately 15 Master Gardeners and Mark Tucker, Director of Forsyth County Cooperative Extension, were present. The luncheon concluded with a presentation by Harriet McCarthy, curator of the Historic Bethabara Park Medicinal Garden, about the challenges and accomplishments that have taken place since the summer of 2013 when Jim Nottke was approached to create a butterfly garden for the park. McCarthy was brought into the project for her expertise and involvement with establishing Monarch Waystations.

(next page)





## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

(continued) What Nottke and McCarthy found on their initial tour of Historic Bethabara Park was an important medicinal herb garden that had been abandoned for two years and was overgrown with rampant weeds and a cover crop of barley that was 6 feet high. At that time, the medicinal garden also lacked any volunteers to redevelop or care for the garden. However, there was good news along with the disarray— a 1761 detailed map of the garden and an extensive list of original plants giving new volunteers precise instructions to follow in their efforts at restoration. After recruiting volunteers for both gardens and completing renovations that took a year and included adding a much needed drainage system, today's restored medicinal garden consists of almost all the original 64 medicinal plants. Many of the original medicinal plants were used as treatments for digestive disorders, blood disorders, parasites, worms and lice, while others were used as insect repellents, antiseptics, fungicides, pain killers and treatments for a wide variety of ailments including Plague. The beautiful Butterfly Garden, which includes the Monarch Waystation, sits just outside the medicinal garden and consists of mostly native plants. It changes and delights its visitors monthly, produces a good quantity of Monarch butterflies and is the focus of a lively children's program during the summer. The quest going forward is to maintain both these gardens and continue to add to their significance by sharing the knowledge we gain while caring for this historic treasure.



**Planting the historic York rose at Bethabara Park**

**The Arboretum and Gardens at Tanglewood Park** began extensive renovation projects last summer that will continue through 2015. Work continues on the renovation of the Fragrance Garden; everything has been removed and replanted with Yaupon Hollies creating an English garden pattern that will be enhanced each season with colorful seasonal flowers. The spring pansies are currently sleeping and waiting on Mother Nature to nudge them awake and brighten the smiles on their beautiful faces. The hundreds of spring bulbs that were removed from this garden have found a new home at the main entrance to the gardens. *Yaupon Hollies and Pansies create the Spring Pattern!*

A new white garden has been added to the gardens and awaits spring and summer to display its beauty. The Hydrangea garden has been relocated near the main entrance. It includes new retaining walls that began last summer and were completed in December, forming the framework for the beauty the hydrangeas will display in summer.

Public **Adult Education Classes** are held each month at the Arboretum office. Classes scheduled for the first quarter of the year begin at 11:00 am and include the following: (Jan. 14) Shade Gardening, (Feb. 18) Monarch Waystations, and (Mar. 18) Pruning. Register by emailing [Coop-ext-registration@forsyth.cc](mailto:Coop-ext-registration@forsyth.cc) or call 336.703.2850.

And last but definitely not least, the **Arboretum Plant Sale**. Everything from annuals, perennials, and native plants will be available. *Mark your calendar* for Saturday, April 18 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm for this fantastic sale. If you cannot make that date, the sale continues from 10 am until 2:00 pm on April 20, 21, and 22 with Gardening Seminars at 11 am: The seminars scheduled are: April 20—Container Gardening, April 21—Herbs and Cooking with Herbs, and April 22—Plant Pollinators and Pollinator Gardens. Registration for the seminars is required. Register by email at [Coop-ext-registration@forsyth.cc](mailto:Coop-ext-registration@forsyth.cc) or call 336.703.2850.

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**The Continuing Education Council**, co-chaired by Carol Hart and Jeannie Leggett, conducted an internet survey of its volunteer/members to determine interest and selection of speakers for 2015. The survey revealed a huge 52% interest in Native Plants which has resulted in an April CEU class being offered for our volunteers. The class will be conducted by Sheilah Lombardo, our resident expert in the field of native plants.

### Randolph County-Submitted by jacquie Reininger



Randolph County, right where I want to be! The Master Gardener crew here is blossoming almost as fast as the daffodils this year! Numerous shifts in leadership, organization and enthusiasm are helping this group make a change in their mostly Asheboro based community. Lead by extension director Benjamin Grandon and 2015 president, jacquie reininger, their thrust this year is to collaborate with the community. In association with the Partnership for Children, we're bringing advice and man-hours to Asheboro and Archdale child care gardens.

We are planning our Annual Plant Sale (April 11th) where besides sharing our gardens with the general public, we'll be holding various presentations to educate our neighbors. A demonstration garden has been harvested and shared with kids and the elderly, and plans for an even larger laboratory, where we can learn more sustainable practices, are being tested this Spring! More projects with Eagle Scouts and high school orchards let us pass along our collective wisdom and talents to the next generation of MG's. Yes...MG's ROCK! We've just ordered some promotional items to give to our Farmer Market shoppers, and personal items we can wear with pride...strutting our stuff...cuz we're growing... Check out our group's Facebook page which is open to the public to join~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/> Visit us soon, you'll be inspired to get down in the dirt by the great articles and photos we are posting! Happy Spring!



# NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Stokes County-Submitted by Katherine Gambill



**Vermicomposting class**

In November 2014, Stokes County Master Gardener Alice Kiger taught a class in vermicomposting to a group of local folks. Alice and MGs Edith Stewart, Ann Hayes, and Lisa Visek prepared the worm bins and all the components for the project, so that each participant could assemble their bin and load in their worms, taking home a working composting project.

### Mitchell's Greenhouse Poinsettias

December brought some of our number to Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse in King for their annual Poinsettia Open House. Mitchell's offers over 8,000 poinsettias in 76 varieties, including new unnamed ones. MGs participated in the voting for favorite varieties in 4 categories.

### Stokes County's Business Expo

MG Alice Kiger, Extension Agent Randy Fulk, MGs Katherine Gambill, Judy Nunn, Karen Stewart, and Jane Bodenhamer

In the **New Year**, SEMGVA participated in Stokes County's Business Expo. Business and non-profits all across the county convene to network, share ideas and information, and enjoy good music and food reflecting a theme. This year's theme was "Puttin' on the Ritz". You can see that we did! Find us on facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stokes-County-Cooperative-Extension/174024182647174>



**Mitchell's Greenhouse Poinsettias**

## Currituck County-Submitted by Lesley Miner

# NORTHEAST DISTRICT

### Master Gardener of the Year

The Currituck Master Gardeners would like to congratulate Kerie O'Toole, 2014 Currituck Master Gardener of the year. Kerie is head gardener at the Currituck Community Gardens and serves on several MG committees. In the 2 years since she became a volunteer, she has contributed over 450 hours of service to Extension.

**Kerie O Toole**



### Daffodil Show in March



Our upcoming season will include a daffodil show in March and a flower and garden show in April. The Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society will hold its' 2015 show on March 28th the Currituck Extension building. The show chairman, officers and the majority of volunteers that make this "harbinger of spring" show a success each year are Master Gardeners. Each spring we look forward to seeing our auditorium filled with daffodils, floral designs and photographs of these lovely blooms.

### Daylilies in the Display Garden

The Coastal NC Daylily Society is another organization sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension in Currituck County. The daylily bed maintained by the society will be replanted this spring and markers will allow visitors to take a self-guided tour, detailing plant specifics and general daylily information. The goal is to become a registered American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) display garden. Over a dozen NC hybridizers will be donating plants for the bed, which will hold about 60 cultivars. The Currituck Master Gardeners look forward to spring with true gardeners' anticipation and wish you all a happy and productive spring!

[More information](#)

### Flower and Garden Show

Seeds and plugs will soon be planted in the greenhouse in preparation for our annual Home, Flower and Garden Show. The theme for this year's show is "Pollinator Appreciation". This show is our "premier" event and is always well attended. In addition to the sale of our homegrown vegetable plants, annuals and perennials, we will offer demonstrations and exhibits relating to our chosen theme. Over 45 different plant and garden vendors will offer goods and services. The show dates are April 17th and 18th at the Currituck Extension building in Barco.

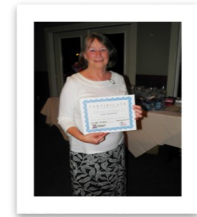
# N O R T H E A S T   D I S T R I C T

## Dare County – Submitted by Chris Stadther

### Appreciation Dinner

Lois Chatham 4000 hours

The annual *Dare Extension Master Gardener Appreciation dinner* was enjoyed by all those who attended. Master Gardeners were honored and thanked for their service over the years. Lois Chatham was honored for over 4,000 lifetime hours of volunteer service. A new Board of Directors was elected with great enthusiasm.



### Speakers Bureau

Many of the Master Gardener committees are ramping up their activities for 2015. The Dare Master Gardener Speakers Bureau has 12 planned presentations for the Library Garden series at East Albemarle Regional Libraries on the Outer Banks. The committee planning the Coastal Gardening Festival for May 16th has decided on the theme "DIY-Dig into your Garden". Everyone is excited and enthused about the wonderful ideas that are being developed. For more information concerning the Coastal Gardening Festival, call Dare County Cooperative Extension at (252) 473-4290. or go to

<https://www.facebook.com/cesdarecounty>

### Centerpiece Fundraiser

After all the excitement of the Appreciation Dinner, it was back to work. The Master Gardeners were busily gathering greens and creating ornaments for the annual *Centerpiece fundraiser* in December. Over 100 centerpieces were made by the creative hands of 24 Master Gardeners in one day. All the profits from the sales help finance maintenance and improvements for the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden and other outreach programs.



## Pitt County-Submitted by Pam Mastin

### Peter J. Hatch Event - Pitt County Arboretum

On Saturday, January 31, Pitt County Master Gardeners and an enthusiastic public welcomed Peter J Hatch, the retired director of the famed gardens of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, to the Arboretum. Peter spoke to a sold out crowd about Jefferson's legendary 1000 foot vegetable garden at Monticello in the beautiful mountains near Charlottesville, Virginia. As Director of gardens and grounds at Monticello from 1977 to 2012, Peter J. Hatch has been responsible for the maintenance, interpretation, and conservation of its 2,400-acre landscape. He has written several previous books on Jefferson's gardens and is an advisor for First Lady Michelle Obama's White House kitchen garden. He gave us an in depth view of the history of the garden as well as its day to day workings in modern

times. The photographs in his presentation complemented his program beautifully and allowed us to "be" at Monticello as he spoke. Peter brought Thomas Jefferson to life for us with his knowledge of him as a "hands on" gardener planting seeds, keeping meticulous records and corresponding with far away gardeners to obtain seeds of new vegetables for his own garden. Jefferson even participated in an annual local contest for who could have the first English peas in the Spring of each year. 170 varieties of fruits and 330 kinds of vegetables were grown at Monticello and he was a true believer in what we call today's farm to table movement. Peter made available his newest of four books on Monticello's garden. "A Rich Spot of the Earth" Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello. Peter made available his newest of four books on Monticello's garden, "A Rich Spot of Earth" Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello.

## Wake County-Submitted by Cathy Burton

Wake County periodically recognizes members with years of service and lifetime hours. In December of 2014, Wake County, there were some significant honors achieved for lifetime hours, including:

500 Hours: Jason Botts, Carla Carpenter, Cris Clemmons, Sherrill Johnson and Pat Madariaga

1000 Hours: Jere Stevens

1500 Hours: John Scott

2000 Hours: Hugh Nourse

4000 Hours: Bob Kellam

Bob Kellam 4000 hours

Additionally, the group recognized the following for years of service status:

5 Years: Bill Bevan, Jason Botts, Cathy Burton, Dennis Drehmel, Carri Galvanek, Connie Hallman, Margaret Jones, Cheryl Koch, Bobby Lutfy, Kristin Monahan, Sally Newman, Neena Nowell, Bart Streb, Virginia Sczfranski, Bill Worrell, Betsy Ziegler, Mary Zimmerman

10 Years: Joyce Clark, Carolyn Corn, Marilyn Goldman, Gay Kayye, Bob Kellam, Hugh Nourse, Brian Purvis, Louise Romanow, Faye Shirley, Jere Stevens, Susan Wyatt

25 Years: Priscilla Haddad and Carol Norden

30 Years: Emeritus, Tom Bumgarner

Here are a few pictures of significant hours contributed with Anglela Hertzberg, the Wake County membership coordinator.



John Scott 1500 Hours

Hough Nourse: 2,000





# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Cabarrus County – Submitted by Mitch Hagler



### Plants for the Winter Garden Presentation

The Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Association started the New Year with a program by Dr. Larry Mellichamp, Director Emeritus, UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens who presented a slide program on plants for the winter garden. He also gave us a preview of the new native plants garden at the university. The garden is being designed to show the public how to use Southeastern native plants to solve typical homeowner landscape problems. Some of the easiest plants for homeowners include: *Yaupon Holly* “*Carolina Ruby*” coupled with its male pollinator “*Schillings*,” *Florida Anise*, *Spotted Bee Balm*, *Mountain Mint*, *Cuthbert’s Onion*, *Coreopsis* “*Nana*,” *Scarlet Calamint*, and *Allegheny Spurge*.



**New officers include: president, Scott Maxwell; vice-president for programs, James Polk; vice-president for field trips, Gerry Harris; secretary, Ginny Collier; treasurer, Mary Quay.**

### Volunteering for the Southern Spring Show

Members have volunteered to help at the Southern Spring Show, the Home and Landscape Show, the Senior Wellness Day, and our major fundraiser the **Herb and Garden Festival** April 18 at the Farmer’s Market in Concord.



### Scholarship Established

The Association has also established a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior who has been accepted into a horticulture-related degree program at a college or university. It will be awarded for the first time this year. \$4500 has been budgeted for the Association’s grant program to schools, community groups, and individuals. The grants help with specific projects community groups, and individuals. The grants help with specific projects that further the purpose of the Association and have botanical, horticultural, environmental, historic, and/or educational value for our community.

## Catawba County-Submitted by Linda Barnett

The **Catawba Valley Master Gardener Association [CVMGA]** continued fall programming with its October 9, 2014 meeting, which was held at Riverbend Park, Conover, NC. An educational **presentation by Ranger Lori Owenby** included topics such as the local wildlife, flora and fauna, local native plants, trees, birds and animals that live in Riverbend Park. The park borders the Catawba River and the program also included a short walking tour that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

On November 11, 2014, CVMGA members gathered to pick up trash along a busy main thoroughfare that the association adopted as part of the state “Adopt-a-Highway” program. Safety vests, gloves and trash bags were provided for participants. A state road sign designates this section of busy Highway 127 in Hickory has been adopted by the CVMGA. CVMGA members participated in the **Regional Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training** class on November 12, 2014. The training was held at the Gaston County Extension Office building and was well attended by EMGs from surrounding counties.

The November 13 CVMGA meeting featured an excellent program by **Richard Hollar from Hollar Tree Service**, the only tree trimming company in the Hickory area that uses certified arborists. Hollar described the many services provided by his company and shared the experiences he’s gained during 43 years of working with trees. He then introduced Chris Samuels, a Board Certified Master Arborist. Samuels was quite knowledgeable about the importance of keeping trees alive and healthy. As he shared very valuable information, it became evident Samuels appreciates the environmental impact of well-maintained trees in the landscape. CVMGA members all appeared to enjoy this informative program.

The final 2014 CVMGA meeting was held on December 11, 2014 at the historic Lyerly House in Hickory. The Annual Cookie Exchange, the traditional agenda for the December meeting, was a wonderful event again this year. Members enjoyed the festive gathering, which included social time, a delicious breakfast, and then sharing of Christmas goodies and recipes. At the conclusion of the morning, members wished each other a happy holiday and looked forward to gathering again in January. LB

# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Cumberland County-Submitted by Kandis Lindsay



### Kenny Bailey Swears in 2015 Officers

**President - Cheryl Garrett**  
**Vice President - Bob Fox**  
**Secretary - Kandis Lindsay**  
**Treasurer - Debby Nasekos**  
**Assistant Treasurer - Barbara Harold**  
**Members at Large - Cheryl Lones & Amy Stid-**



Theresa Williams, one of our Extension Agents, drove a van load of EMGVs to Greensboro on January 8 to the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association (NCNLA) Trade Show. They toured booth after booth from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM and never saw it all.

Helga Cardenas, Robin Jones and Sandy Ritter made a direct trek to Johnson Nursery's huge booth to meet Derek Gardener, the sales rep who has helped us with our plant sales. It was great to put a face with a voice. After hugs all around, we checked out the wonderful new plants available for our Mother's Day sale. They probably did not have to water them because we drooled all over them! Can't wait to see the truck roll in May 8 for the May 9 sale. Mark your 2015 calendars for those dates. We learned so much from the plant experts of all types and made many contacts for the future. The trees, shrubs, perennials, house plants, etc. were unbelievable.

Some of the favorites were Magnolia Brackens Brown Beauty trees with small leaves and brown on the backside of the leaves and Tow Ticklers (TM), little plants to fill in, spill over and walk on. They also loved looking and drooling over the "big boy toys", landscaping equipment. Another interesting tid-bit was the wholesale offer from a gentleman who would charge us considerably more than double what we currently pay for our gloves!



Cumberland County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association won the "Better Carolina Award" for our community work. Our Association provides \$2000 in horticulture scholarships yearly, has donated over \$15,000 to the Cape Fear Botanical Garden, presents educational programs during the Carolina Home Show and also the County Fair. We also provide and maintain a demonstration garden at the Cooperative Extension building, work with the Second Harvest project, provide gardening advice to the public through maintaining a phone hot-line. Last, but not least, we work with schools, libraries and club programs as well as continuing education to our own membership.

Our program has the highest number of volunteer work hours per capita in the State community. We were so proud to receive this award.



Holding the award is Cheryl Garrett, President. Back row, left - Debby Nasekos, Barbara Harold, Cheryl Lones, Bob Fox, Kenny Bailey, Mary Cleveland, Amy Stidham, Pat Hurley and Lisa Childers

The Cape Fear Botanical garden will host The Camellia Festival and will be held March 7 and 8, 2015. Garden hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Festival is free to Garden members, and to all other visitors paying Garden admission. Our Master Gardeners will have 3 tables setup for education and selling Master Gardener merchandise. There will be a children's booth where they will plant a camellia seed to take home and this will be great fun and they will learn about all the camellias that fill the garden. There will be many vendors as well so lots of fun is happening.

## S O U T H   C E N T R A L   D I S T R I C T

### Gaston County-Submitted by Barbara Linster

The last quarter of the year provided the Gaston County EMG Volunteer Group two final opportunities to receive educational hours. Our October program, presented by freelance garden writer Marian St. Clair on *Gardening in Tune with Nature* was open to the public. Living nearby in South Carolina, Marian's presentation was not only interesting, but also provided ideas that we can apply to our own gardens.

Our November speaker was author Pam Beck, who gave an insightful presentation on *Backyard Food Gardening*. Pam's presentation included not only backyard/home ideas, but also examples of varied successful practices in public and community gardens. We feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to experience these programs and realize that all efforts toward our annual plant sale (profits fund our programs) were so worthwhile.

### Heritage Village

The Heritage Village, located in the county park in Dallas, NC, is a village representative of what you would have found in our county during the 1890s. Missing a garden, which would have been present at that time, and the County having available grant funding, the Gaston County EMG Volunteer Group was approached to create a Heritage Garden. This garden would be a joint project of the Historic Preservation Committee, County Parks & Recreation, and Creative Opportunities (CO), planned and overseen by our EMG Group. CO is an adult day activity program for challenged adults 21



years and over. Gardening is a much loved activity of many CO participants and is supported by team leader EMG volunteer Camille Jones. Our Executive Board approved the project and the garden was planned by 9 EMG volunteers, under the direction of team leaders Suzanne and Gerald Deal. A fall garden was planted with period heirloom plants including cabbage, collards, beets, cucumbers, winter squash, turnips, sage, mind horseradish, dill, onions and garlic. Heritage Village was open to the public during the park's annual Cotton Ginning Days the second weekend in October. CO participants continue to water and maintain the garden under the direction of EMG Volunteers Harvest is enjoyed by Creative Opportunities and seniors at the County Senior Center, also located in the park. We look forward to the spring garden will bring!

October was a busy month. Eight EMG volunteers signed up to help support Kings Mountain's Fur, Fangs and Feathers Festival at Crowder Mountain Park. Many EMG volunteers, along with other community volunteers, participated in the annual Keep Gastonia Beautiful Make a Difference Day activity. Pansies were planted in planters and beds. The City of Gastonia preps the beds and planters; community volunteers come together to plant the pansies. This is always fun and volunteers can enjoy the fruits of their labor well into spring.



In addition to our speakers, the final two meetings of the year were filled with activity. A slate of officers was presented to membership for 2015. After Marian St. Clair's October presentation, membership was able to view varied craft items on display for viewing and/or purchase. There is so much talent amongst us that this was requested by membership. Available was pottery, photography, yard art and more! This may become a new annual tradition. Our November meeting ended with our traditional feast luncheon and introduction of new officers for 2015. We congratulate Dana Harper, President; Anne Mackey, Vice president; Jamie Keller, Secretary; Peggy Murphy, Treasurer; Martha Robinson, Past President and At-Large Members Mike Branch, Frances Crockett and Ron Holland. We all look forward to supporting our new leadership and volunteering in our community. BL

# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Iredell County – Submitted by Alice Beasley

### Continued Education in Iredell County

Much education and a lot of work have been going on in Iredell County! Iredell EMG volunteers have had outstanding opportunities for the membership to continue their education. Member Tim Smith presented the October program on *"Permaculture Food Forests."* Tim and other EMG volunteers are in demand by groups in our county through our Speakers Bureau. The November program was presented by Kevin Campbell of Campbell Family Nurseries on *"Native Plants."* This nursery offers a good selection of native plants as well as other services.

Members attended the **Western District Conference** on October 9, 2014 in Asheville. As always, it was a well-organized, informative and enjoyable day for our members. Attendees enjoyed the lead speaker, Bryce Lane, and their selected sessions.

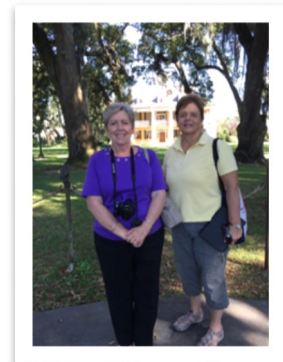


Western Region Conference in Asheville .

### Travel to Baton Rouge LA

Later in the month, October 21-24, two members traveled to Baton Rouge, LA for the Southern Region Conference. Alice Beasley and Brenda Bernhardt enjoyed the sessions with outstanding speakers as well as a variety of excursions that were offered. Meeting people from 13 different states and sharing experiences was also a highlight for these members.

The Demo Garden, under the outstanding leadership of Richard Karn, has now been put to bed for the winter after very productive spring, summer and fall crop seasons. A lot of work by members makes this garden available to the public; also, members are available while working in the garden to answer questions from the public. Looking ahead to our third Garden Fair to be held on April 28, 2015, members potted many perennials from the garden to be sold along with member plants. Plans are well underway with Tim Smith leading committee chairs in planning a great public day with speakers, vendors, EMG-grown plants, food, and information booths. 2014 came to a close with our Annual Christmas Luncheon at our December meeting. Officers were installed and office staff joined us as a thank you for all their help to our organization. AB



Alice Beasley & Brenda Bernhardt

## Mecklenburg-Submitted by Debbie Moore Clark



Our participation offering an "Ask a Master Gardener" table at the Wing Haven Gardens & Bird Sanctuary Plant Sale this past spring precipitated an invitation back for the fall sale on October 16-18, 2014. Our information table was located in a prime spot within the nursery where our EMGs talked to and answered garden- and plant-related questions with patrons over the three days of the fall sale. Nan Bracey and Sue Riley spearheaded this community effort.

On Sunday, October 19, 2014, EMG Margaret Jenkins opened her home and garden to any from the group who wished to attend a retreat. The Four-hour event was scheduled to encourage dialogue, sharing of ideas and planning for the future. 27 EMG's turned out for the retreat, which was designed to facilitate forward thinking.

Mecklenburg's monthly meetings continued to be well attended through the fourth quarter by both intern and veteran EMGs. The October 15 program on "The Catawba River" was presented by Riverkeeper Sam Perkins. At the meeting which followed, annual committee sign-ups for the coming year were promoted. The Fall Plant Swap ended the October meeting, a bi-annual event enjoyed by all who participated.

Following the production of the October/November issue of the newsletter, 20-year veteran EMG **Debbie Moore Clark** stepped down from her role as editor, a position she has held and loved for 17 years. She thanked the group for the exceptional opportunity and the measure of trust afforded her in her work as editor. She, along with EMGs **Sylvia Hindman**, **Margaret Jenkins**, **Susan Poel**, **Tonya Banbury** and **Bill Sloan**, was recognized as a *Volunteer-of-the-Year* at the November meeting. The work of Extension Agent Kristin Davis was applauded. Additionally, County Extension Director H. Nelson McCaskill recognized outgoing President **Cathe Hawley** and Past President **Margaret Jenkins** for their exceptional dedication and contributions during 2014. As is our custom, we held no meeting in December. DMC



# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Rowan County – Submitted by Sue Davis

Late fall is always a busy time for Rowan County Master Gardener Volunteer Association [RCMGVA]. Each of the Pocket Gardens at the Rowan County Extension Office was given its final weeding and deadheading and a little seed-saving went on as well. Winterizing the greenhouse is one of our major challenges. Plants propagated for the Plant Sale in May 2015 were potted up into larger containers, sorted and moved to the floor of the greenhouse where they will rest during the winter while the irrigation system is turned off. Every one of these steps was a learning experience and a celebration of our love of plants and each other. This work was accomplished in a series of mid-morning and early afternoon work sessions. In early December, the curators for each of the Pocket Gardens determined that new mulch and gravel for the paths was needed. On a very brisk, but sunny December 10th, the beds were truly put down for their long winter's nap.

Our education team has been busy this year working with a 4H Group at Sacred Heart Catholic School. Randy Cox and the 4Hers have been working on the education garden on the campus of Sacred Heart. Terri Myers has been working with a group of possible Junior Master Gardeners at Rockwell Elementary School, and Norma Golden, Karen Galloway, Jean McCoy, Doris Wilson and Extension Agent Danelle Cutting have been working with grades 1 through 5 at Millbridge Elementary School. The entire RCMGVA worked after one of the Association meetings to create seed paper, from which students at Millbridge will make Christmas ornaments. Because of the interest and work in the schools, many members volunteered to take the Junior Master Gardener Training during November this fall.

## Introduction of New Officers

The final event for 2014 was the Social and Awards Dinner when new officers were introduced. Outgoing President Carol Comer introduced Treasurer Teri Meyers, Secretary Karen Galloway, President Edna Burger and Vice President Christine Hilton.

**Karen Galloway, Doris Wilson, Christine Hilton and Jean McCoy**



The Silver Can awards were given to Edna Burger and Bethany Sinnot, both of whom contributed a great amount of time to the make the programs of the Association successful this year. Bethany Sinnot headed the Fair Booth team, which encouraged a great amount of interest in pollinators around the county.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Karen Galloway, Doris Wilson, Christine Hilton and Jean McCoy for their work on Association projects and extensive contributions to the Millbridge Elementary School projects, in particular. SD



**Edna Burger and Bethany Sinnot**



## Coming Events

- \* **March 7 and 8 Cape Fear Botanical garden will host The Camellia Festival**
- \* **March 28 Durham Spring Plant Sale @Sarah P. Duke Gardens.**
- \* **April 10 & 11 New Bern Home and Garden Tour.**
- \* **April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, Union County Heritage Festival.**
- \* **April 17 and 18 Carteret Plant Sale is set for Friday and Saturday, at the Beaufort**
- \* **April 18 Herb and Garden Festival at the Farmer's Market in Concord. Historic Site.**
- \* **April 18 Wilson County Spring Symposium & Plant Sale.**
- \* **April 18, 20, 21, and 22 Tanglewood Arboretum Plant Sale.**
- \* **May 8-9 Pass Along Plant Sale, Greensboro.**
- \* **October 22 Western Region Symposium will be held on Thursday, in Asheville.**



**Welcome Co-District Reporters: Southeast District**

**Margery Pearl and Brenda Clayton, both from Johnston County.**

Please visit our website for more detailed information regarding times and cost of events.

<http://ncmgva.camp8.org/page-510014>

# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Union County – Submitted by Barb Apelian**



## Looking Back 2014

With the holidays behind us, we took a look back to take stock of what was accomplished in 2014. Our "GrowLine" was quite active with 261 calls and email inquiries. Working with our local food hub, Farm Fresh Ventures CSA, to pack and distribute shares, we were able to earn \$1242 to support our volunteer activities. In addition to the \$\$ we were able to distribute 42 boxes to area hunger agencies. A share is meant to keep a family of 4 in fresh produce for a week. This was in addition to our donations through our "Plant-a-Row" program, Teaching and Greenhouse gardens and food drives held at every MG event.

## So now to look ahead...

We've been keeping warm planning our schedule for 2015's many events. The demand is high for "After School" and school gardening programs for local elementary schools.

## Tree Sale

Our Annual Tree sale is almost upon us and is set for Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. Can you think of a better gift for your valentine?



## Heritage Festival

Tina Sagartz and her team are once again managing our big spring event: **Union County Heritage Festival**. Formerly celebrated as Earth Day, this year we are collaborating with the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Farm Show. The 2 day Festival, April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, will be a free, family-friendly celebration focusing on sustaining a healthy lifestyle and environment, featuring local farmers and foods with lots of fun activities for kids, exhibits and presentations from local chefs, health professionals both traditional and alternative methods. Participants are encouraged to bring food donations for which they will receive raffle tickets for a wide range of prizes donated by local merchants. A 5K trail run will kick off the Festival weekend.

## Spring Plant Sale (A Nature Wonderland)

Our spring plant sale will be held for these two days too, which means our MG's are busy sowing seeds and potting up other beauties, already sprouting in our gardens.

Our weeklong 4-H camp (A Nature Wonderland) has been set as June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sonia McElveen is once again spearheading our volunteers planning learning activities, arts and crafts and rounding up chaperones. Since both of these events are multiple days, we will need a large number of volunteers to ensure our success.

And since weeds are never out of season in our garden, Brenda Merrefield and her merry crew have been keeping the weeds under control, no matter what the weather, and are treated with these lovely signs of spring...

Visit Union County Website:

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

Have you noticed the gradual increase in daylight hours already? It won't be long now until all of our gardens will be bursting with new growth and we are ever grateful to Mother Nature.



*Plant sale proceeds go a long way towards funding our scholarships and awards.*



**Hellebores**



**Winter Daphne**

# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Margery Pearl and Brenda Clayton District Reporters

## Bladen County-Submitted by Joan Taylor

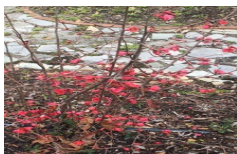
### Improvements to Our Greenhouse

The Master Gardeners Volunteers have been



busy working on improvements in the Extension Office greenhouse. To facilitate easier watering, a new irrigation line with overhead misting nozzles about 33' long are being installed. The line will have an automated solenoid and be a part of a new control center. Another improvement involved a full replacement of the greenhouse cooling pad filters and a new motor for the cooling pad system. Future plans include overhead watering zones. These improvements will enhance the Master Gardener Volunteers ability to grow seedlings in the space. In addition to growing plants, the greenhouse also currently serves as a place to provide educational programs and demonstrations.

*Flowering Quince is one of the few fruits that bloom in the winter.*



Supporting the county youth has been a priority of the Master Gardener Volunteers. Several years ago a scholarship was established to assist a local youth with financial need to obtain an educational goal. Previous recipients include local students who had been accepted to the North Carolina State University's Agricultural Program. This year the scholarship will be used to provide a local youth with the opportunity to attend a 4-H camp, program or convention. The 4-H youth program provides many camps and other opportunities that benefit the youth in our area. For more information:

visit <http://bladen.ces.ncsu.edu/categories/4-h-youth-development/page/2/>.

### Looking to the Future

The Master Gardener Volunteers are excited about the future. Plans are being made for spring plant sales and community projects. In February 2015, a pinning ceremony will be completed for participants of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training. These participants started their training in November 2013 and have now completed their training and internship. More news regarding the pinning ceremony will be in a future newsletter. For more information, visit <http://bladen.ces.ncsu.edu>.

## Brunswick County-Submitted by Mary T. Dixon



### EMGV's Train to Teach Neighbors How to Grow Their Own Food

One of the most exciting advanced training programs in Brunswick County is an intensive year-long class to teach Master Gardeners how to grow some of their own food. In turn, these MG's will teach their friends and neighbors the same skills, making presentations to garden clubs, community associations, churches, and other community groups.

Participating EMGV's will learn to plan and grow a small home orchard, read and interpret a soil report, encourage beneficial insects, prepare food harvested in season, recommend cover crops, identify some edible flowers, build a compost pile, and execute Simple Season Extension techniques. EMGV's will prepare a 10-minute presentation on a home gardening topic, using research-based information. This intensive year-long program shows a lot of promise for sharing science-based farm and garden research information, and solutions, to the average consumer and home owner.



"We need to begin preparing for food shortages," says Michelle Spencer, class instructor. "We will learn about trends in ecological techniques in gardening." EMGV's will start seeds, nurture seedlings, transplant them, and harvest their bountiful fruit. Companion planting, which plants grow well together, and succession planting, when and what to start where another plant grew previously, will be taught. Brunswick County is fortunate to have a sub-tropical climate because of the moderating effect of the ocean on our climate. We can grow foods here that cannot be grown in other parts of the state. Did you know we can grow some citrus varieties here? Although most apples have cold requirements and grow best in mountainous areas, some varieties will tolerate our warmer, coastal climate. Who doesn't want to know more about soil reports? Those reports can be confusing and complicated, although the scientists who design them say they are simple and easy to read! One of the greatest challenges of this initiative may be to overcome the restrictions of local homeowner associations, especially in gated communities. Some communities have specific areas that may be rented for gardens. Others want to tell homeowners where in the yard to plant tomatoes.

## Carteret County-Submitted by Marie Roberts

Carteret County has taken this dormant time of the year to engage in organizational business and make plans for our 2015 demonstration gardens. At our Volunteer's Business Meeting on January 8th, the following topics were discussed. Our County Operations Support Specialist, Cindy Day, will be leaving her position June 30th at which time the post will be eliminated state wide. We will be sorry to see Cindy go. She has provided much needed support to our volunteers.

### Business Meeting



Plans for our **2015 Speaker's Meeting** were finalized for Thursday, February 5th, 10am, at the Carteret Community College Civic Center. Our Speaker is Craven County Extension Center Director, Tom Glasgow, who will speak on landscaping issues presented by weather changes. Plants that are more tolerant to drought, heat, wind and salt than our traditional favorites, invasive plants, and ravenous insects will also be part of Tom's talk.

# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

continued)

## 2015 Scholarships

Awarded in June, our Scholarship Committee will soon advertise for applicants for two scholarships of \$1,000.00 each.

## Annual Christmas Party

The Annual Holiday Party was held Thursday, December 11th at Ruby Tuesday's. Gift bags collected for the elderly will be delivered by Meals on Wheels. Due to strong leadership, our group of EMGVs continue to meet today's challenges and, at the same time, plan for a better tomorrow. We appreciate your interest in Carteret County and look forward to bringing you up-to-date in May.

All questions regarding our activities can be made to our President Susan Suggs at: 252 728 7967 or [cpdsuggs@embarqmail.com](mailto:cpdsuggs@embarqmail.com).

## Craven-County-Submitted by Judi Lloyd



## Our second gardening symposium, *Gardening on the Coastal Plain*.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Extension Master Gardeners from many counties across the state (and Virginia), local garden club members, as well as backyard gardeners to have a fun-filled day of learning and sharing gardening experiences. Over 200 people were in attendance. Five notable speakers were on tap, which included our keynote speaker, Tony Avent, owner of Plant Delights Nursery, known across the state and beyond, who presented "Unusual Plants for the Coastal Plains". In addition, we had Dr. Barbara Fair, Dr. Diana Rashash, Dr. Tom Glasgow and Robert Graveman, owner of Pinecone Perennials Nursery. Their topics ranged from understanding the ecosystems in our gardens, sustainable strategies for our landscapes, vegetable gardening in ENC and trees and shrubs for ENC. There were also exceptional door prizes, garden-motivated silent auction items, a display and exhibition hall and delicious refreshments.

## Historic Homes and Gardens Tour

2015 is shaping up to be another busy year with our extended volunteer membership. Spring cleanup is underway in the Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardens with several new projects planned there. April brings another 2-day New Bern Spring **Historic Homes and Gardens Tour** where a large contingent of our membership will act as garden docents.

## The Fall Annual Bulb Sale

fundraising event was very successful, with the net proceeds providing funds for the 2015 Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardens budget. The nine weeks presence during the sale at the New Bern Farmers Market provided many opportunities to assist the public with their gardening questions (in addition to the regular Second Saturday Farmers Market Master Gardener Information Booth).

## Our Public Day Plant Sale

Our Public Day Plant Sale is set for Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18 at the Beaufort Historic Site. Scheduled for three days in 2014, the third day was cancelled due to sold out plants! Due to our hardworking volunteers, this project has developed quite a reputation.

## Carteret County Home and Garden Show

The 2015 Home and Garden Show is will be held March 7 and 8 at the Carteret Community College Civic Center. An EMGV Booth is always included. The show has proven to be another excellent community outreach program. Stacks of cards containing gardening questions are collected. Personal contact is made with the interested gardener at the EMGV office, providing them with the correct answer.

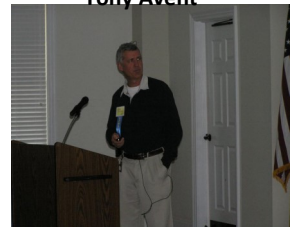
## Nominating Committee

Voted on and installed at our June Meeting, this committee will be preparing a slate of officers for our March Meeting.

## Demonstration Gardens

Plans for seeds and plantings are taking form in this dormant period of the gardens. Spring cleanup will begin in February or March, as weather permits. Our leaders have been known to get back to work way too early, as anticipation for spring sets in!

Tony Avent



## The 2014 MG Training Class

graduated 41 interns, of which 33 have remained with the program. The majority have already completed their 40 required first year volunteer hours. Many work regularly in the Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardens, as well as in the Farmers' Market garden, the annual Bulb Sale, the Spring Historic Homes and Gardens Tour, New Bern Senior Citizen Center programs, Third Saturday Horticultural Workshops, Third Monday Cooperative Extension Garden Tours and the weekly Master Gardener Help Desk.





## SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

## Greene-Submitted by Roy Thagard



In 2012, Greene County trained its first two EMGVs, David Jones and Gene Riddle. What a start these two have made in paving the way for future community gardeners opportunities!

Snow Hill, NC, is a rural community tucked in Eastern NC between Greenville, Wilson, Goldsboro, and Kinston. Often overlooked, this community's economy is mostly supported by local agriculture. Yet, even in rural Greene County, agriculture is often overlooked.

These EMGVs immediately saw a need of the community to educate local homeowners about the many benefits of home gardens. In order to provide a place for education and production, a corner lot was donated by the Town of Snow Hill for construction of raised-bed garden plots. Today, over 40 different raised beds, each 64 square feet, are available for local gardeners to rent and use yearly. These garden renters pay a yearly fee of \$10, and receive access to donated seed, fertilizer, and pest management control. There are also timely topics given throughout the year to gardeners, including soil sampling and soil fertility, pruning fruit trees and perennials, companion planting, plant spacing and when to plant specific vegetables, herb gardening, fall gardening, and integrated pest management principles.

Gardeners are **also invited to become EMGVs and receive additional training in these topics and more.** Any time I'm faced with a task and wonder if I can make a difference, I remind myself of these two EMGVs in Greene County. I see the difference they have made in the community. When given the chance to talk about the accomplishments of the community garden, you will see each of them light up as they share specific stories from an individual who's grown to love what the garden provides for their family. These EMGVs have proven that just two people can truly make a difference.



## Johnston County-Submitted by Tina Stricklen



On any given day at the Clayton Community Center, at 715 Amelia Church Road in Clayton, you may find students attending a pottery class, Yoga session, or walking the elevated indoor track. Now, a community garden has been added to the myriad of activities that Johnston County residents can enjoy! Larry Bailey, Director of Parks and Recreation, has been busy procuring grant money to help fund the garden supplies and equipment needed for this project. Equally important are the folks who spend countless hours volunteering to help make it a success. One such person is EMGV Roy Lewis. He's been in the Johnston County EMGV program for only two years, but has really made an impact. His tireless work earned him the title of 2014 EMGV of the Year. Having logged over 400 hours, many of these for the community garden, he is a bottomless well of garden knowledge. His background in the nursery industry and farming come in handy when he's out in the garden. Often, you will find him leading educational classes.

During my interview, Roy explained that the goal of the community garden is to create a teaching tool. Through demonstrations, seminars, and hands-on activities, he hopes to show folks how to garden successfully. Classes are offered in the spring, summer and fall from the Extension Service. Shawn Banks, our Horticultural Extension Agent, helps lead the Gardening from A to Z class.



Topics include site selection and planning, soil preparation and amendments, harvesting, composting, thinning and watering, square foot gardening, fertility, weed control strategies, insects, diseases and season extenders.

Roy used the old adage "Rome wasn't built in a day" to explain how things are coming together at the garden. Upcoming plans include creating and installing Mason Bee boxes. The Johnston County Beekeepers Association will also be adding a few honeybee hives to increase pollinators in the garden. He will be planting blueberry bushes in February and has plans to add 3 or 4 apple and peach trees. They will eventually be used to demonstrate pruning techniques. A pollinator garden is also planned.



Through a grant from Nourishing North Carolina, a Blue Cross and Blue Shield initiative, and the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Association, the town of Clayton was awarded \$4,500. This money helped pay for a 14' by 14' greenhouse, which will eventually have complete misting and heating systems. A huge asset to the garden, the greenhouse will soon be full of a wide variety of

seedlings that Roy hopes to make available to the garden community. Beginning with seeds reduces cost and gives gardeners a chance to grow more varieties.

Several school gardens in the county, all EMGV projects, will benefit from the starter plants, as well.

Roy has had to resort to masonry reinforced wire and bird netting to keep wildlife predation to a minimum and keep yields high. With the increase of the garden size to 70' by 80', the 2015 goal is to harvest at least 5,000 pounds of food. 95% of the produce raised is donated to the Clayton Area Ministries to help the needy. A collective gardening experience that strengthens the community. Good work, EMGVs!

# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

(continued)

## Coastal Gardening Symposium

Nine Johnston Co. EMGVs attended the Coastal Gardening Symposium hosted by Craven County Master Gardeners in New Bern on January 22. There were 200 in the audience to hear the five excellent speakers, including our well known Plants Delight neighbor, Tony Avent. Subjects included ecosystems, water sustainable strategies, unusual plants, as well as growing five fabulous trees and shrubs and vegetables in Eastern NC. The speakers, Craven County EMGVs' hospitality, wonderful food, interesting silent auction event, and numerous door prizes made this a special day. And, of course, we enjoyed the time of good fellowship during the trip to and from New Bern!

## The Gardener's Dirt Newsletter

We invite you to read the latest issue of our EMGV-produced monthly Johnston County Newsletter, The Gardener's Dirt, at <http://johnston.ces.ncsu.edu/gfebruary2015/>.

## Lenoir County-Submitted by Judy Harris

### If Plants Could Talk

As an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer I am sure you have planted a seed, but have you planted thousands of seeds in just a few short weeks? The Lenoir County EMGVs are getting ready to do just that. Our major fundraisers are our annual plant sales. The sales are held at the Cooperative Extension Office located at 1791 NC Hwy 11/ 55 and at Lenoir County's Farmers Market located at 100 North Heritage Street, Kinston, NC 28501.

The first sale will begin at 8am at the Farmers Market on Friday, April 10. We will have our most popular varieties of flowers and vegetables available until 12 noon. However, our gigantic sale will begin at 7am on Saturday, April 18 at the Cooperative Extension Office where the greenhouse is located. Most items are priced at \$1 and nothing exceeds \$5. Some containers contain 3 plants while others have only 1. The EMGVs start early February sowing seeds and continuing on the 10+ weeks journey of nurturing and caring for them as they develop into healthy plants. An enormous amount of planning, work and attention goes into this project to assure our customers take home a healthy plant that will bring beauty or produce food for their enjoyment.

If our plants could talk, they might tell you about the fun times in the greenhouse during the many hours EMGVs have been working together, sharing their lives, and even possibly sharing secrets! On the other hand, since the plants cannot talk, we will be available to answer questions and assist you with your selections on each of these sale dates.

Have a question now? You may contact the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension office for help at 252-527-7191. I hope I have planted the seed for you to come join us on either or both of our sale dates!

## Onslow County-Submitted by Marge Waslicki

Onslow County Master Gardeners held their annual Christmas Social in early December with a wonderful pot luck meal, gift exchange and presentation of our annual awards. In spring we graduated a class of twenty-three interns who then went on to volunteer in the Plant Clinic, Discovery Gardens, Growing Minds Project, Farmers Market, Holiday Market and various committees in the MG organization. Of the twenty three graduates, seventeen worked the required forty hours to earn their official name tags. Five of the seventeen, Sylvia Norris, Tina McQuillen, Bob Owen and Linwood Fordham earned a coffee mug for working 100 hours, and one hearty soul, Bob Owen received a pin for 250 hours of service. Also receiving pins for 250 hours of service were Teri Welch, Jane Fugate, and Christina Lewis. Amy Borsay, Gary Gerard and George Waslicki earned pins for 500 hours of service and Rebecca Ingram, John Burns and Eleanor Wood were recognized for 1000 hours of service. Well done and congratulations to everyone for over 5000 hours of combined service to the Onslow County community!

Our Volunteer of the Year was Tom Nickoll who has been a volunteer for many years. Tom seems to travel under the radar. Without fanfare he shows up at a project, helping, smiling, encouraging, supporting, serving and performing many jobs from President of the EMGVA to hauling dirt and raking compost in the Discovery Gardens. He tries to make sure the Volunteers are aware of the many opportunities to work their required minimum hours every year and has volunteered over 600 hours this year. Congratulations Tom!

Another dedicated group of Volunteers recognized this year was the Wednesday morning work crew at the Discovery Gardens led by Tom Nicoll and included Gary Gerard, Paul Leslie, Billy Spencer, Jay Schrader and Tom Parker. No matter what needed to be done—cutting trees, clearing brush, planting, tilling, pruning and weeding—this crew made sure it was taken care of. Many others also worked at the Discovery Gardens but these men formed the core of the group. Many thanks to all who gave their time and effort with the Discovery Gardens.

## Discovery Gardens of Onslow

The vegetable garden has been laid out and tilled. Now the raised beds are being built with one of the bed frames becoming a teaching tool for classes. Our "Building a Raised Bed" class was so popular that a waiting list was created with the possibility of a second class later the same day. Weekly workdays for the gardens are again on the schedule with spring cleanup and new plantings on the horizon.

Classes on "Starting Plants from Seeds" and "Raising Backyard Chickens" will be held in February and March at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Center at 100 Recreation Lane, Jacksonville, NC, 28546. For further information on the classes call Onslow County Extension at 910-455-5873.

# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

## Pender County-Submitted by Margaret Gannon

### SCHOOL OUTREACH

Tell me, I'll forget.  
Show me, I may remember.  
But involve me, and I'll understand.  
~Chinese Proverb

Pender Extension Master Gardeners lead presentations that actively involve Pender County school children in guided, hands-on 45-60 minute horticultural learning experiences in their own classrooms or outdoors on campus. Teachers and parents are eagerly invited to participate in the activities.

Here are some of the many exciting things the students are learning and doing:

In Cape Fear Elementary School, January is Composting and Worms, one of the most memorable lessons and always a hit with live critters squirming about in the worm bin! In February, the third graders will have raised beds to plant potatoes, thanks to the grant written by the PE teacher and lots of volunteers who built the beds and prepared the soil for a school garden. The school science fair was in December, and a third grader was the Grand Prize winner. We like to think we can take a tiny bit of pride in her accomplishment. Her project was "Which Soil Holds More Water, Sand, Clay, or Loam?"

In January, the third grade students at Topsail Elementary School will continue to examine plants and taste roots (carrots), stems (celery), flowers (broccoli), and leaves (spinach). In February, the students will learn the "Mashed Potato Rap" as they get ready to plant potatoes in raised beds. The beds were built several years ago by master gardeners.

At Malpass Corners, students have examined different types of soil and experimented with a mud shake activity. The next class included information about composting with a chance to look closely at worms and a mini compost bin in each classroom. In January, they are learning about seeds. We also look forward to planting potatoes in February.

At Penderlea, in November we introduced a new crop of eager learners to the wonders of soil. We built a mud shake, studied the properties of soil, and made an edible soil model. It was Parents' Day, so we had many extra participants to enjoy the lesson. In December, we continued learning about soil by teaching the students how they could make their own compost. A real highlight of this lesson was examining live, wiggly worms at work!

South Topsail Elementary School students are continuing in January with a lesson on plants. In February they will be planting potatoes. The March lesson will be on flowers and the April lesson will be on seeds.

## Wayne County-Submitted by Brenda Carter

### Awards

Can you believe it's 2015 and Wayne County has gotten off to a great start! We celebrated our 2014 accomplishments with a banquet on January 15, 2015. We shared a great meal prepared by the members. We're not only good gardeners but we have some great cooks, too! Special guests who support us throughout the year were recognized and joined in the festivities. Jessica Strickland, Horticulture Agent, took us on a trip around the world with her travels, a fun time. Next we celebrated our achievements with presentation of awards by Kevin Johnson, Director and Jessica Strickland, Hort. Agent.



### New MG Graduates

We have accomplished so many things this year. Eight new graduates have given us 16 more hands to help with our labors so we will be able to reach more people. We are so proud of their achievements. They jumped on board and have really done an excellent job. Congratulations to our new MGs. Thanks for all your hard work and what you add to our group.

### New Officers

Next was installation of new officers. Thanks to the officers who did a great job last year and we look forward to our new officers for 2015. In the picture are: Ken Dunn - Treasurer, Brenda Carter - Recording Secretary, Brenda Wilkens - Vice President.



# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

(continued)

## Gardens

We also were able to answer more questions than ever at our Fair demonstration gardens. We have both vegetable and flower gardens at the fair. It is so much fun to meet and greet the visitors who take the time to visit our gardens. We also got a brand new MG Booth that we are so proud of.

We have taken on a new garden called the Senior House Gardens. Brenda Wilkens has been doing this garden on her own, but we decided we should jump aboard and help.

We are still maintaining the Butterfly Garden at Stoney Creek Park. It is a beautiful garden in the shape of a butterfly, filled with beautiful perennials and biennials. It is located in the children's part of the park, has bluebird houses and attracts many butterflies and bees. Mothers tell us this is their favorite part of the park.

Then we have our Vet Memorial Garden. Connie and Larry Kammler are in charge of this beautiful place where we honor our military. We have a bed at the front of the garden and we replace the plants twice a year, spring and fall.

We have an old building in downtown Goldsboro and the gardens around our old building have gone through many changes over the years. We are in the process of renovating some of the areas. We hope to show visitors different plants and their care. It's a never ending job!

We are all still a little apprehensive about the restructure of the Extension but so far many good changes have been made. Change is good, all part of growing and making ourselves better.

## Symposium

Some of our members went to the recent Symposium in New Bern. It was a great event and was filled to capacity. There were excellent speakers. Everything was well planned and we felt really welcome.

## New 2015 MG Class

Jessica has started another class with 8 more new students. We love helping these new students learn about gardening. Gardeners are a special breed of people that I am so proud to be a part of. We are stewards of the earth and we are so glad to learn how to take care of it and share this information with our community.

## Wilson County-Submitted by Sandy Goetz

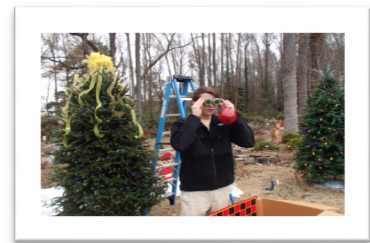


### Wilson Winter Lights Fund Raiser

In June, 2014, the Wilson County EMGs started with an imaginary vision of a Christmas winter wonderland at the Wilson Botanical Gardens. With many hours of planning, ideas from Pinterest, the thoughts of other EMGs, and not forgetting the dollar amount involved, this event became contagious with excitement!

The vision became a "Do you remember...White's Lights?" Most of the community remembered White's Lights. It was a private residence where you paid a fee to drive through. There were huge 10' candy canes, 5' ski figures, and many Christmas lights. The proceeds went to sponsor different schools and nonprofits. Unfortunately Mr. White passed on, but his vision to help the community has been passed down to the Wilson Botanical Gardens and other special community sites.

The White family donated many of the heavy iron frames to the Wilson Botanical Gardens and our "dream visions" started to become real! We were aware from the beginning of the work required, but pushing full speed ahead, committees were formed. Cyndi Lauderdale was the "brain child" of the idea and Candy Murray, an Extension Agent of Family and Consumer Science & Education, was her close assistant in the creation of the Igloo Wonderland! EMG Jane Connor was the chairperson over all committees and she kept a close eye on all aspects of the plan. Ronnie Barnes, a 4-H volunteer, was the mastermind behind the electric menagerie. The 4-H Flywheel Electric Club was in charge of the dancing lights! It took many EMGs, high school and college student volunteers, as well as sponsors. A very special community elf built a life-size sleigh just because it was on our wish list! Many, many thanks to all who helped support this fundraiser. It was a win-win for the community and the Wilson Botanical Gardens.





# SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

(continued)

The Wilson Winter Lights were attended by approximately 1,500 people and brought in about \$19,000! With the profit of \$15,158 and the help of a \$10,000 grant, Cyndi Lauderdale is now in the process of deciding on a landscape designer for our new STEM Garden at the Wilson Botanical Gardens! Teamwork can do wonders!

## New EMG Class for 2015

Our new EMG class started January 8 with 12 trainees. We wish them happy planting and thanks for helping our EMGVs grow into a bigger and better program!

## Spring Plant Sale

Connie Kriewaldt, our "greenhouse mother monitor", is already planting seeds and organizing team monitors to help carry out the details for our April 18 Plant Sale.

## Gardening Symposium

On January 22nd, Jane Allman, Peg Brooks and Linda May attended the Gardening Symposium in New Bern sponsored by the Craven County EMGs. They enjoyed the five great speakers who spoke on a variety of gardening subjects, and bidding on silent auction items brought luck to one happy gal. Praise to the EMGs on the delicious food and all their hard work to produce an excellent event.

## Children's Secret Garden Update/License Plates

The newest development in the Children's Secret Garden is an irrigation system, installation beginning January 15! Yeah! Thanks to all who helped on the license plate project since I will now have more time to ride around town promoting the EMGV program by showing off my new license plate "SAND" instead of spending hours and hours watering! Ha! Thanks for all your hard work and determination on this endeavor!

One last brag I overlooked in the last newsletter. The Kenly News and Pine Level Newspaper printed an article in August stating that the Wilson Children's Secret Garden shouldn't be kept a secret. On August 11, 2014, the News & Observer listed Wilson County's Children's Secret Garden at the Wilson Botanical Gardens as #77 of #100 "Best-Kept Secrets of NC"!

## If you are interested in becoming a District Leader for our Northeast District: Helping Reporters from these counties.

(Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northhampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Wake, Warren, Washington)

## Or South Central District: Needs a District Leader

(Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cumberland, Gaston, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanley, Union)

Contact Mary Conroy, Newsletter Editor.

[gardeningcarolina@gmail.com](mailto:gardeningcarolina@gmail.com)



**April 18, 2015 Coming Event!**

**Wilson County Spring Symposium & Plant Sale**

**10am-12:00pm**

**1806 SW Goldsboro Street,  
Wilson, NC**

**252-237-0113**

# WEST DISTRICT

## Burke County– Submitted by Ed Morse



Betty Lockwood District Reporter

Burke County Master Gardener Volunteer Association held its first meeting of the 2015 year on January 26. Dr. Jim Richardson, President for 2015, presided. A program on the NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Foundation **endowment program** was presented by Loretta Shelton, Western NC Regional Director of Development. Burke CES **Small Fruit Plant Sale** that is facilitated by the Association began on January 2 and will continue through March 6. The Association's new **membership directory** that includes the year's meeting schedule and programs will be published in February.

### Apply for 501 (c)3

The Association approved applying for a 501(c)3 status under the NCEMGVA. Anyone interested in additional information on items in this report can contact Ed Morse at [dremorse@netscape.net](mailto:dremorse@netscape.net). Visit Burke County Website: <http://burke.ces.ncsu.edu/categories/lawn-garden/>

Burke County Master Gardeners had a busy month of October, highlighted by a community event on October 8, 2014, featuring a presentation by Bryce Lane entitled "40 Years of Horticulture: Observations, Inspirations and Invitations." Nearly 200 tickets were sold for the event, which was held at Western Piedmont Community College. Bryce was welcomed to Burke on the evening of October 7<sup>th</sup> at an EMG social and dinner held at a member's home on Lake James.

Members of the Association met with a local Eagle Scout candidate in October to plan for the construction of four additional raised beds at the Joara historical site in Morganton. The Association continues to play an active role in the gardening education mission of the Exploring [Joara Educational Foundation](#).

The Grounds Committee held workdays in October to improve the beautification of the landscape at the Burke Extension offices.

Finally, October was capped off with the monthly Association meeting, featuring a program on "Landscape Planning." The November meeting was highlighted by the election of officers for 2015 and a wreath-making workshop. December's meeting was a feast of covered-dish goodies where the membership and spouses, numbering around seventy gathered to celebrate the season. Representatives from the Marine Corps Reserve local chapter were on hand to receive toys from the Association for the Burke County Toys-for-Tots program. *EM*



## Cleveland County-Submitted by Cindy Cabaniss

### Work at the County Fair

October saw our Extension Master Gardener Volunteers finishing up the Cleveland County Fair booth and packing up our display wheel and booth areas. (We have already begun planning for next year's Cleveland County Fair.) Several members also attended the Symposium in Asheville during October.

October 14, 2014 was a fun-filled day for a group of us. EMG Jim Toole arranged a field trip to the NC Zoo in Asheville where we were able to see behind the scenes—greenhouses, aviary, compost operation, and many more very interesting aspects of life at the zoo. Fun was had by all!

### Making Hypertufa/Judy Starnes

Our November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was enhanced with a great program presented by EMG Judy Starnes, who demonstrated making a hypertufa pot; she also showed several other pieces she had made. We have such talented people in our group! David Moss, new graduate from the MGV class assisted Judy, and as a reward for helping, he got to take home with him the pot they made together. New graduates from the fall Class were welcomed to the meeting. Cleveland County is blessed to have 11 new EMG Volunteers.



New MGV Class

On November 13, a group attended the Regional MGV Advanced Training in Dallas, hosted by Gaston County. New graduates from the fall Master Gardening Volunteer Class were welcomed at the meeting. Cleveland County is blessed to have 11 new EMG Volunteers.

### Symposium in Asheville



Advanced Training in Dallas

Year-end meeting on December 3 began with an informal Latin program conducted by our own EMG volunteer Emily Yelton. She had great handouts for us for future use and we ended our program with an informal cookie exchange-absolutely yummy! We can't wait to see what 2015 holds for Cleveland County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. CC

## WEST DISTRICT

### Henderson-Submitted by Betty Lockwood



With cooler temperatures and most of our gardens "put to bed" for their winter's nap, Henderson County EMGV's have spent much of their time these past few months celebrating the past year's achievements and planning for the future.

At the end of October, we held an **all-day strategic planning session** to get as much input as possible into what we want to do in the future and how we can best go about this. The event was very well attended. We were happy to welcome Rob Hawk, County Extension Director for Jackson and Swain Counties, as our facilitator. Rob did a superb job keeping us on track, and at the end of the day we had assembled well organized ideas and information that we are continuing to work with. One of the great things to come out of this day was the emergence of several of our new EMGV's as group leaders, with diverse skills. In particular, we look forward to advances in continuing education and technology.

In early November we gathered for our **annual intern graduation and awards banquet**. This is always one of the highlights of the year, and is an opportunity to see how nicely we all clean up and dress up for more formal occasions! Following dinner we were entertained by Extension Agent Craig Mauney, telling hilarious tales of his experiences with Extension – not to mention nameless Master Gardeners! Sixteen new EMGV's received their official name tags and certificates and service pins were awarded. EMGV Joellen Johnson received her 4,000 hour pin from Extension Agent Kerrie Roach. Thirteen people received certificates for completing over 100 hours of volunteer time during the year. Shiny watering cans were given to the winners of our two peer-voted awards. The Shining Seedling award (for a member of the newly graduated class) went to Ellen Bernstein; the Seasoned Sapling award (for a returning EMGV) went to Paula Snyder.

Under the guidance of EMGV Sharon Mendelsohn our **monthly column in the local newspaper** is becoming something that people look forward to. It appears the first Sunday of the month with one or two color photos, seasonal gardening articles and a list of gardening tasks for that month. Recent topics have included "Putting the Garden to Bed", "Houseplants for the Holidays and Beyond" and "A Gardener's Library".

Thanks to some incredible hard work and creativity on behalf of the volunteers, December's **sale at Bullington Gardens** exceeded all expectations. EMGV Joyce Jolly spearheaded an effort that resulted in providing over 150 **wreaths for the graves at the Veterans Cemetery** near Asheville. The "elves" at Bullington were enlisted to make red bows for each of these wreaths. A new year is now here and a **new class** of 12 interns is already hard at work.

### Jackson-Swain-Submitted by Helen Butler

#### Growing Truffles

In October, Christy Bredenkamp, Horticultural Agent for Jackson and Swain Counties, gave a presentation on growing truffles in North Carolina. She shared some history and had a slide show that helped explain the process of growing truffles. And, in November, we visited the root cellar of one of our members, Dennis Corwin-Blackburn. Dennis also shared some of the things he has done on his property to be more self-sufficient.



#### Pot Luck Luncheon and Lecture

The Jackson-Swain Master Gardeners ended 2014 with a Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon hosted by the members in the Cashiers area. Christy Bredenkamp gave us an overview of the history of agriculture in North Carolina, including some wonderful pictures from early farming in our area. During our business meeting, we voted to give \$300 to each of the Future Farmers of America Clubs at Smoky Mountain High School in Jackson County and Swain High School in Swain County and \$200 to each of the 4-H Clubs in both counties. We felt these donations helped us accomplish some of our associations' goals. We are looking forward to a productive and fun 2015.

### Polk County-Submitted by Jackie Weeden



The Foothills Association of Master Gardeners (FAMG), serving Polk County and northern Spartanburg County, SC, met for its quarterly educational session in November. Hunter Stubbs, owner of BB Barns Garden Company, presented "Tough Love in the Perennial Garden," a reprise of the well-received lecture he gave at the October Western Regional Symposium in Asheville. A FAMG-taught gardening program for 3- to 5-year-old preschool students concluded in October. Thirty six students learned about garden critters, seeds, plants, and mulch.

Members met in October for their fall potluck. Lucy Roberts opened her lovely home and gardens for this event. John Vining, the Polk County Cooperative Extension Director and an amazing horticulturalist, retired at the end of October, after 32 years with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. He taught our Master Gardener classes and will be sorely missed.



*\$1.00 of your dues will be automatically donated to the Extension Master Gardener Operating Fund, maintained by Lucy Bradley (NCSU). If you would like to make an additional donation to this fund, NCEMGVA will match the first \$1.00 of your donation. Donation amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_.*