



Monthly Newsletter

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President's Message—Eugenia Best

Well, September is finally here, but as I write this message it still feels like July or August. What a summer we've had! I'm sure that all of us are ready for fall and some much needed rain.

Brenda Messer is recuperating at home from brain surgery. She had the surgery in July and is doing O.K. The tumor removed was a fatty tumor. We wish Brenda a speedy recovery and hope to see her soon at Master Gardener meetings.

The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at the September meeting. Members of the nominating committee are: Sylvia Fogle, Teri Clark, Jan Jackson, Brenda Steketee, and Brenda Jakubecy.

The September 20th program is Japanese Maples presented by David Blankenberg of Pine Lake Nursery & Landscaping.

I will see you on the 20th at 10:00am at Lutheran Chapel Church.

Volunteer Opportunities at a glance

- Sept 15 @ 10-noon Habitat for Humanity Workshop in Gastonia (this is a date change), contact Mark Blevins 704.922.2124
- Master Gardener Hotline Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-4pm. Sign up, we're getting slammed with easy questions!
- Fall Community Garden Sites: Cherryville and all over Gastonia. Contact Julie Flowers to help on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays 704.922.2104
- Sept 25, 8am-noon Learning Garden workday. Be there.

Trips: Hickory & Charleston — Barb Linster

Our **September** trip to **Hickory** is Thursday the 27th. The cost is \$25.00 and there are 15 seats open to members and guests. One of our stops is featured in a recent issue of *Our State Magazine*. Please see Mary Beam if you are interested in signing up for this great trip.

Our overnight trip to **Charleston** is **October 19-21** for the Charleston Horticultural Society Garden Festival. Please see Barb Linster or Nancy Shannon if you are still interested in going; we have reserved a couple of extra rooms just in case. All outstanding monies for this trip are due at the September meeting. The costs are as follows:

Single	\$463
Double	\$300 total (\$150 due if \$150 paid before)
Triple	\$243 total (\$123 due if \$120 paid before)
Quad	\$217 total (\$109 due if \$108 paid before)

This cost covers the bus, driver, hotel, luggage handling, breakfasts and manager's reception. Checks are to be made payable to Educatoours.

The additional cost of \$104.75/ea is payable to the Master Gardener Group of Gaston County to cover the driver's gratuity, entrance fees, honorariums and box lunches. Barb Linster will be at the meeting early (9:30 ish) for those that wish to turn in their checks prior to the meeting. Sign up with Barb Linster for the October 29-31st Charleston trip.



Extension Update - Mark Blevins 704.922.2124



Please help with the community garden fall program—contact Julie 922.2104

Habitat for Humanity leaders are looking for Master Gardeners to help new homeowners master their lawns and landscapes. On Saturday, September 15th, I am teaching fall gardening to a neighborhood in Gastonia. Please come help me get good gardening information to these new homeowners. Mentoring a homeowner is a great way to get volunteer hours in the evenings or on the weekends. Call me for more information.

September is the time to rescue your Fescue. Aerate, overseed, fertilize and lime in September—the earlier the bet-

ter if we get some rain. Then fertilize on Thanksgiving and Valentines Day according to the soil test you have done within the last two years. If you haven't done a soil test recently, refer to your manual for general recommendations.

Todd Lasseigne, of the Paul J Ciener Botanical Garden in Kernersville, is speaking to the American Rhododendron Society's Piedmont chapter on September 22nd at 2:30 pm at Golden Leaf Nursery (2608 Doster Road, Monroe, NC 28112). Admission is free, and refreshments will be provided by Golden Leaf.

Master Gardener Profile of Bee Costner—Jean Skibo

Gardeners delight in transplants that take root, thrive, and prosper in new settings. And so it is with Master Gardener, Bee Costner, a transplant to North Carolina from her native New Mexico. Bee grew up in New Mexico with an artesian well and fertile soil. Her family grew 99% of their foodstuffs including fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, and herbs. She loved the fresh citrus, pineapple, and avocado from California.

Bee's earliest memories of gardening were being with her grandmother in her vegetable garden. She was perhaps three years old when her grandmother was harvesting and told Bee to help her pull up a turnip.

Grandmother brushed off the soil with her apron, and Bee took a big bite. She has always enjoyed turnips and this memory moment.

In those days everyone grew their

own vegetables and herbs to store away for the winter. Every garden was "organic" and the foods were healthier. The family garden was all important for canning and drying for storage. Her father was the vegetable expert and was in the garden every evening after dinner, Bee by his side. She remembers eating juicy tomatoes and cucumbers straight from the vine as she watched her Dad work his garden. Her mother's specialties were flowers and herbs. She knew the botanical names of the flowers and the medicinal and culinary uses of the herbs.

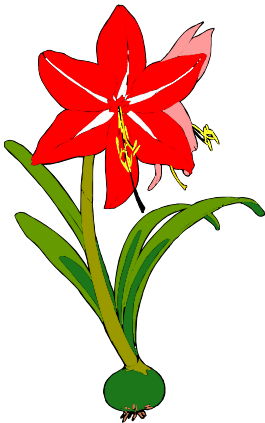
Bee and her brothers are all gardeners influenced by their upbringing. She has a brother in New Mexico who is a Master Gardener, well known for his knowledge of trees and shrubs. He, in fact, challenged Bee to become active in the M.G. program. She is thankful she did.

Print subscribers get an electronic version in color by e-mailing Mark your request.



It's not too late to plan and plant a fall garden. Refer to your Master Gardener manual for some good ideas and a planting schedule.

Brent and Becky's Bulbs Program—Special Insert October 17th and 18th, 2007



We are very excited about the upcoming October programs to be presented by one of the country's foremost bulb experts, Brent Heath, third generation bulb grower, and co-owner of Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

Brent will present the program at our regular meeting on Thursday October 18, 2007, which will be held in the Great Hall at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. **Be sure to wear your name tag to avoid being charged admission to the garden.** The topic will be **Heirloom Bulbs for Restoration Gardens.** He will cover bulbs ranging from 50 to 500 years old and will include slides taken in real gardens. Many of the images are from gardens such as Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon and a wealth of other period gardens.

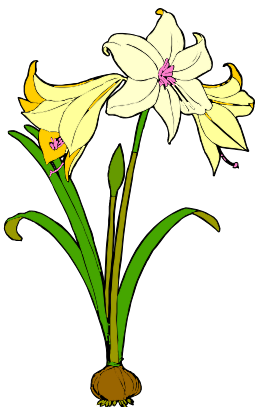
Brent will also be presenting a program on **Living Flower Arrangements with Layers of Bulbs.** The presentation will focus on creating living flower arrangements and the bulb cultivars best suited for container culture. He will discuss innovative methods of creating a variety of forced bulb container plantings to beautify your home. This program will be offered on Wednesday, October 17 at 1:00 pm and repeated on Thursday October 18, at 1:00 pm. This program is being offered free to the public with garden admission. There will be no admission charge for Gaston County Master Gardeners. **You do need to register at dsbg.org under the education tab to reserve a seat. Again, be sure to wear your name tag.**

Bulb Container Workshop: Living Flower Arrangements

Don't miss the opportunity to work directly with Brent in a hands on workshop that puts the information from the lecture to use! Participants will learn through Brent's expert demonstration and create their own combination planting to take home and enjoy as their own "Living Flower Arrangement". This program will be offered on Wednesday, October 17 at 2:30 pm and repeated on Thursday October 18, at 2:30 pm. **There is a materials fee of \$30.00 for our group.** For other participants there is a total \$45.00 charge for DSBG members and \$50.00 for non DSBG members. (Non Master Gardner members need to register directly with DSBG.) These will be small groups and space is limited so you are encouraged to register early!

If you are planning to attend all the programs on Thursday, you may wish to bring a bag lunch to enjoy in the garden. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Contact Kathy Spencer at khspencer@carolina.rr.com or at 704-865-8702 after 6 pm if you have any questions.



Registration for Bulb Container Workshop: Living Flower Arrangements

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please select the workshop you wish to attend:

_____ Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 2:30 pm

Or

_____ Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 2:30 pm*

Make checks payable to Master Gardener Group of Gaston County

Cost is \$30.00 for Gaston County Master Gardeners, others need to register directly with DSBG at dsbg.org.

You are encouraged to register as soon as possible and space is limited. You may register at the September 20th meeting or mail your registration before then to:

Suzanne Griffin
110 Oakland Street
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

*If you plan to attend the Thursday program and workshop following our regular meeting, you may wish to bring a bag lunch to enjoy in the garden. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Garden Profile: Dove Tree—Charles Lampley III

Davidia involucrata is the “I gotta, wanna, must have one” tree when seen in full bloom but it requires much patience to await the bloom which usually requires 10 yrs growth to develop.

This China native grows into a lovely pyramidal shape at 20-40 ft and has 3-6 inch vivid green leaves best displayed against a dark background of evergreen trees and should be planted alone as a central specimen with no other competing flowering trees.

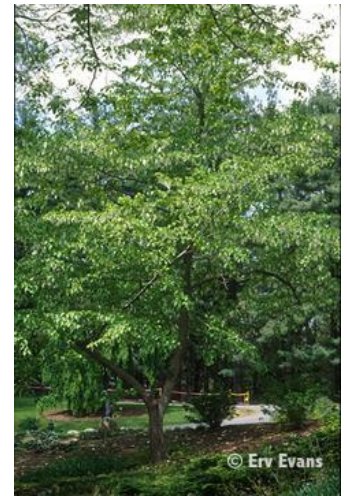
The blooms are spectacular creamy-white, double bracts of unequal size 7x4 inches and 3x4 inches, resembling doves resting in a tree, thus the moniker “Dove Tree.” These blooms are raised on 3 inch panicles and have crimson red anthers between the bracts.

Planted as a bagged and burlaped tree in partial shade or full sun it tolerates the Carolina climate in our usual amended soil.

The fall color is unremarkable, but fruits are golf ball-sized and brown with red speckling, lasting deep into the winter. These fruits have a single, hard, ridged nut containing 3 seeds. Propagation is by layering or chemically treated leaf cuttings.

I visited Duke University Gardens 4 yrs ago when their 10 ft tree first bloomed creating much staff excitement.

Get you one if you want a startling beauty of a tree and have patience to await that beauty.



The Dove Tree is a beautiful, large specimen tree.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2007 MASTER GARDENER GROUP OF GASTON COUNTY

Lutheran Chapel Church, Gastonia NC

The meeting was called to order by President Eugenia Best at 10 AM. She announced that Nellie Kaufman was receiving chemo treatments and our members should be thinking of her.

Martha Robinson introduced Mark Blevins, Doug Ruhren and Mark Guice for a panel discussion followed by a question and answer period.

A break was taken from 11:05 – 11:15.

Business:

Vice President – Betsy Steketee – no report.

Secretary – a correction was made to the July minutes. The correct dates for the October trip to Charleston, SC, are Oct. 19-21. The minutes were approved after a motion made by Ben Taylor.

Treasurer – Suzanne Griffin – absent, no report.

Program Committee – Kathy Spencer announced that the September 20 program would be about Japanese Maples, presented by David Blankenberg. She also announced plans for October 17 & 18 with programs and workshops presented by Brent Heath from Brent & Becky’s Bulbs.

September 20th Meeting: Japanese Maples by David Blankenburg of Pine Lake Nursery and Landscaping



*“Where flowers bloom so does hope.”
Lady Bird Johnson*

(Continued on page 6)

Master Gardener Group of Gaston County

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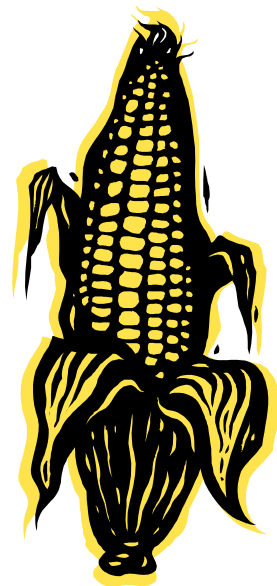
View the Newsletter online:

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

"Helping Gardeners Put Knowledge to Work"

Officers:

President..... Eugenia Best
Vice-President..... Betsy Stekettee
Secretary Carol Jean Winecoff
Treasurer Suzanne Griffin
Past President Sylvia Fogle
Members at Large..... Suzanne Deal
Audrey Fascella
Sandy Turp



Visit your local Farmers Market for fresh vegetables all season long.

Upcoming Events

- **Lunch 'n Learn—Healthy Eating with Autumn Fruits and Vegetables** September 19th noon-1pm at the Lucile Tatum Center (959 Osceola St, Gastonia). Register by calling 704.865.3291, a \$5 fee includes lunch. Presented by Linda Minges, RD LDN, Extension FCS Agent for Gaston County and featured weekly in the Gaston Gazette.
- **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Fall Family Festival** September 29th and 30th. Fun for the whole family, including Dirt Desserts, a Willow Maze, roaming characters, a Botanical Zoo, and hayrides. More info: www.dsbgo.org
- **North Carolina Master Gardener State Conference 2007** October 7-10, Raleigh, NC. Great statewide event featuring stimulating seminars, dynamic speakers, book signings, door prizes, banquets and exhibitors. More info: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/conference.html>

Minutes, cont'd from page 3

Trip Committee – Vicki Rauch gave more details about the August trip and Mary Beam discussed the September trip. Barbara Linster provided additional information about the trip to Charleston, SC October 19-21. Sign-ups for the September and October trips will be taken after the meeting.

Learning Garden – no report.

Outreach Committee – Sharon Bean asked members to give more time to the following projects: Community Gardens (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays), the telephone Hot Line (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 PM), Habitat for Humanity, and the Fall Yard of the Week program during the four weeks following Labor Day.

Extension Report – Mark Blevins thanked the

group for letting him be proud of us. He reported that the Speakers Bureau is getting prepared and the fountain in the Learning Garden is working. He stated that there are 50 people in our group who have not recorded any volunteer hours this year. He encouraged us to please report our hours.

President Best announced that the Nominating Committee would present their slate of officers at the September meeting. Martha Robinson awarded three large rain gauges as door prizes.

Ben Taylor moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 PM. The motion passed.

-Carol Jean Winecoff, Secretary