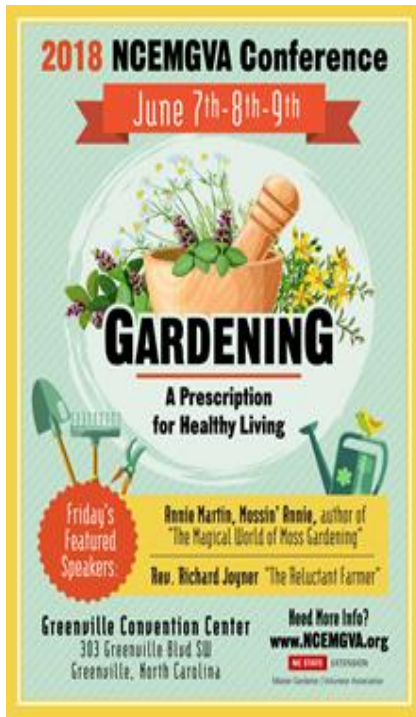




NORTH CAROLINA EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Helping North Carolina Grow

NCEMGVA President's Message



Much activity is under way in planning the 2018 NCEMGVA Conference. With great assistance from Pitt and neighboring counties, plus master gardener volunteers literally from the mountains to the sea, details are being finalized. There is a special folder on our website so all can see the latest and greatest!

As previously announced, the location is the Greenville Convention Center, Greenville, NC with acres of free parking and the dates are June 7-9, 2018. Later in this newsletter, you can see the official flyer and the schedule. The cost will be \$135 for NCEMGVA members, \$150 for other master gardeners and \$175 for the public including meals and breaks. There will be a Friday only option, \$100, which includes two breaks and lunch. There will be options for lunch and featured speaker only or dinner and featured speaker only, but those prices have yet to be determined.

The Holiday Inn, which is located within the Greenville Convention Center complex, is our host hotel and is offering a special rate of \$109 per night. Rooms can be booked online at www.higreenvillenc.com and key in the group code NCM or call (252) 355-8300. Our Friday featured speakers will be Mossin' Annie (Annie Martin), the author of "The Magical World of Moss Gardening" at lunch and Rev. Richard Joyner, "The Reluctant Farmer", who has established gardens in underserved neighborhoods. Speakers for our concurrent sessions are in the process of being finalized and will soon be posted on the website. Registration will open after the first of the year. We are working hard to make the "Gardening: A Prescription for Healthy Living" Conference a must attend event!

The assistance of each master gardener is needed. First, as associations prepare their budgets, would you please add NCEMGVA as a line item? We would appreciate individual EMGVs contributions, as well. We are looking for additional ways to increase our funds. It takes these funds to serve our members and to finance a quality Conference. We will be presenting at least 6 awards and grants. Individuals and associations can aid by sending a contribution. Any and all amounts are appreciated; each one adds up!

Another way to participate is for each county to prepare a basket of goodies that represents your home county. With a minimum value of \$25, just pick a theme, gather items and bring to the Conference! The baskets were outstanding at the 2015 Conference. Will your county have the biggest and best in 2018? Details will soon be on the website.

The next way to contribute is to begin saving gardening magazines and books for the Pass Along Books and Magazines area. Again, details will be on the website. Lastly, the eagerly awaited silent auction! Plants, garden accessories, and who knows what treasures will be available, but only if items are donated. So many opportunities to make this a great event for all! Check the website.

Another way to participate is to volunteer! All sales areas and hospitality rooms will need help. Keep an eye on the website.

Save the June 8th - 9th dates, ring in the New Year by registering and get ready for food, fellowship and fun, fun, fun!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas. We all have so much for which to be grateful. May each of you celebrate the upcoming holiday season with friends and family.

Chat again next year! --Edna

Inside this Issue

President's Message	1
Awards and Grants Page	2
Conference Schedule	3
Southeast District	4
Northeast District	10
North Central District	13
South Central District	18
West District	22
Editor's note	25

AWARDS! AWARDS! AWARDS!

2018 is an NCEMGVA Conference Year! Your professional Association values and recognizes outstanding people and exceptional work. The 2018 Scholarship, Award, and Grant recipients will be honored each day of the Conference in Greenville, June 7th-9th. [Apply to Win!](#)

New this Year! The NCEMGVA is sponsoring an opportunity for a newly certified EMGV in financial need to receive some funding to attend the 2018 NCEMGVA Conference in Greenville. Do you know a valuable EMGV who can benefit from the assistance? Nominate them for the new **Legacy Conference Scholarship!**



Do you want to honor the EMGV who has been with your group 5 years or more and who your group just can't do without? The person you think personifies the word "Outstanding"? Nominate that EMGV for the **NCEMGVA Outstanding EMGV Award!**

Is your group proud of your County Agent, County Director or other Extension personnel? Do you rely on their leadership and support? Nominate them for the **NC State Extension Achievement Award** to make your pride known!

Does your county have a great idea for a one-day or partial-day event to educate EMGVs and would like some funding to make it happen? Perhaps even collaborate with another county? Apply for a **NCEMGVA Educational Matching Grant!** (Formerly: Symposia Matching Grant)

Does your county have a specific type of garden they want to establish or expand but needs some financial help to get started? Or, perhaps your county wants to carry out an educational project for Junior Master Gardeners or for an after school program? Apply for a **NCEMGVA Project Grant** (formerly: Competitive Grant) to make those plans a reality!

Does your county want to showcase a demonstration or educational garden that has been completed, is under construction, or is in the late design stage of planning? Entering the **NCEMGVA Madeline Collier Landscape Garden Design Competition** could win your group a cash prize!



He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter.... In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a look of a more exalted simplicity. ~John Burroughs

2018 NCEMGVA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Gardening: A Prescription for Healthy Living

- Day 1** 9 am -noon - Set-up
7-Jun Tours on the way to Greenville
Thursday 1-5 pm Registration
 6-8 pm Reception
BRING THE GARDEN INSIDE - come to the Thursday night reception in your special gardening or garden-related outfit. Personalize with your favorite gardening hat, garden-themed jewelry, shirt, apron, socks, shoes and/or other garden wear while you enjoy hors d'oeuvre and surprise entertainment. There will also be a special raffle only for those attending.
- Day 2** 9:00 am Welcome
8-Jun 9:30 - 10:45 am - Session 1 - Workshops & Lectures
Friday 10:45 - 11:15 am- Break 1
 11:15 - 12:30 pm - Session 2 - Workshops & Lectures
 12:30 - 2:00 pm - Lunch and Featured Speaker
 2:00 - 3:00 pm - NCEMGVA Business Meeting
 3:00 - 3:30 pm - Break 2
 3:30 -4:45 pm - Session 3 - Workshops & Lectures
 5:30 - 6:30 - Happy Hour and Musical Entertainment
 6:30 - 9:00 pm – Dinner and Featured speaker
- Day 3** 9:00 - 9:30 am – Announcements
9-Jun 9:30 - 10:45 am - CES
Saturday 10:45-11:15 am - Break 3
 11:15 - 12:30 pm - Session 4 - Workshops & Lectures
 12:30 - 2:00 pm -Lunch and Final Surprises

SE District Report, 2017 Issue:

Submitted by Griffin David Lockett

Below are the articles from: Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Greene, Robeson, and Wilson counties.



Brunswick County-Submitted by Anne D. Coleman

The Rose Garden Evolution

Many say the Botanical Garden at the Brunswick Government Complex is our county's best kept secret. Now EMGV are working to change that by enhancing the gardens and drawing visitors from around the Southeast.



The Rose Garden
Photograph courtesy of Anne Coleman

One of the garden's areas that has enjoyed an impressive transformation is The Rose Garden. In November of 2016 a new focal point fountain was installed in the middle of an old drained pool. This five-foot fountain is surrounded by Whirling Butterflies Gaura, welcomes visitors to the Rose Garden with its gentle water sounds and invites everyone to explore further. A paver walkway leads in two directions bringing over 50 rose varieties in sight. An arbor covered in both white and yellow Lady Banksia as well as Clematis is posted at one of the garden's three entrances. Two potted Secret's Out tree roses greet visitors at a second entrance raising the enticing fragrance higher for optimum enjoyment.

Most recently, perennials that attract beneficial insects and repel damaging pests and diseases have been included in the garden. An experimental planting method for lavender that included oyster shells from the Brunswick



County Oyster Festival placed in the bottom of the planting hole has proved successful. A pungent "Alfalfa Tea" was cooked and applied throughout the garden as a natural fertilizer. When winter comes the Rose Garden provides an excellent location for EMGV to conduct rose pruning workshops. This demonstration garden works hard all year long to show the many varieties of roses that thrive in a Zone 8, hot and humid environment.

Another garden area that has garnered more and more interest is the Rain Garden located in a natural swale and drainage spot along the road at the back of the Botanical Garden. This was a class project for the 2015 Brunswick County EMGV students who researched appropriate plantings for specific levels of water detention that would also perform well in the inland coastal climate. Mallow, crinum lilies, and ruellia are just some of the many plants working in the Rain Garden to help slow and purify water runoff next to this busy road. Here developers and homeowners alike can experience the benefits of installing a rain garden.

For information on scheduling a group tour of the entire garden please contact Maryann Horgan at gerbil333@aol.com.

Photographs courtesy of Anne Coleman



Carteret County - Submitted by Marie Roberts

Carteret County had March go out with rain and April come in with wind just about every day. We have had some beautiful days and so far, things look promising for our 2017 gardens.

Plant Sale at the Beaufort Historic Site

Our Annual Plant Sale happened April 21 and 22. Our volunteers took in plants, neatened them up, if necessary, and priced them. At that point, SALES began. Volunteers welcomed shoppers, answered questions, rang them up at the cash register, sold them gardening gloves and even took their plants to their car for them if needed. Proceeds from this sale goes toward two scholarships for young horticulturist to ultimately educate people on growing flowers, vegetables, trees, etc. The sale is a fun project and certainly goes toward a good cause. Janie Taylor has chaired this event for the last several years and is on top of everything as we prepare.

Propagation at the Beaufort Historic Site

Every November, plants left in the Propagation area are covered with leaves as a buffer against winter weather. They have now been uncovered, cleaned up and are candidates to be sold at the Historic Site's Plant Table. These plants are priced and sold by the Site as part of their yearly budget. Propagation is taking in bulbs, plant with roots and cuttings. These are donated by EMGVs and other interested parties who are aware of what we do and are thinning out their gardens.



Core Sound Waterfowl Museum

This garden met in February and again last week. Our group weeded, pruned, spread compost, turned the compost bins, pruned azaleas and camellias and did an all-around cleanup in preparation for Earth Day. Our group, will provide educational information regarding our projects there. Other groups will also be at Earth Day covering additional topics.

Beaufort Historic Site

This group held a workday April 5th to plant siev beans, update shell markers and weed the vegetable and perennial beds. They have also asked for material to build 2-3 new trellis. One for the vegetable garden and two for climbing vines in the perennial bed. These trellises are not new to these gardens and a EMGV will come forward with the appropriate materials such as: strong branches and clean grapevine. This is a lovely garden visited by hundreds of school children each year.

The Aquarium Garden

The Team Captain at this garden recently called for a workday to prune back stems from winter and weeding. This group also recently held a native plant walk in the area. Discussion was on native plants. They walked the trail that is accessed only through the Aquarium. The forest is a beautiful example of maritime forest in NC as it winds over ancient dunes through live oaks.

Just like yours, our busy time has begun!



No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. Thomas Jefferson

Craven County - Submitted by Nancy Dell'Aria

Celebrating 25 Years of Service to the CCEMGV



Jean Smith in her home garden-CCEMGV. Photograph courtesy of Susan Broderick

On September 21st, 2017, the Craven County EMGV Association celebrated the twenty-five years of dedicated service of volunteer, Jean Smith.

Jean and her husband, James, moved to New Bern about 30 years ago from Marcellus, New York. An avid gardener in New York, she learned from her mother and grandmother a love of coaxing beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees from humble seeds, bulbs, roots and slender shoots. As many of us who have relocated from other regions, Jean soon discovered that gardening here in New Bern is "a whole different ball game." Luckily, they moved into a home next to Dr. Tom Glasgow, the Director of CC Cooperative Extension and was encouraged by him to become an EMGV. She completed her EMGV training in 1992.

As a passionate gardener, Jean was part of the group of EMGVs who over the years labored long hours to turn the grounds surrounding the CC Cooperative Extension into a lovely array of demonstration gardens that may be considered worthy of arboretum designation.

There is a small gem of a garden at the entrance to New Bern's Farmers Market originated and maintained by EMGVs and Jean has worked in it through four or five incarnations. She has planted trees in the City of Bridgeton, has been a judge for horticultural exhibits at the CC Fair and has provided horticultural educational program support.

An accomplished musician and teacher, Jean's other community activities include singing with the Garber United Methodist Church Choir which visits assisted living centers and Centenary United Methodist Church Cantata Choir. She is a member of the D.A.R. and a past President of Colonial Capitol Humane Society.

We are proud of Jean and grateful for her many years of service and wish her many more.

Well done, Jean, and thank you from all the CC Master Gardener Volunteers.

Greene County-Submitted by Roy Thagard, Jr.

Community Garden Highlights Hart Street Block Party

A late summer block party in the Snow Hill-Hart Street community was highlighted by the successes of the local community garden. Many former and current residents stopped by to notice the changes and improvements the garden has seen during the last four years. As many as 30 people gathered under tents with local foods and infused water to share memories of their neighborhood. The Alley, as Hart Street is reputed, was once a place where teenagers knew to be a place to find trouble. Important life lessons were learned by those men and women who are stronger today because they faced those troubled times and overcame them. Today, it seems those troubled times have been replaced with tranquility and maturity. They look at the physical garden and are reminded of their own personal growth in their own lives.



Sitting back listening to these stories made me proud. I am proud of the accomplishments of our community garden over the year. We have distributed just over 700 pounds of produce from the garden to local Interfaith food distribution and senior center community. We have employed an assistant garden manager who has helped sustain pest management and labor needs of the garden. The garden has seen an increase in bed rentals over the year, and there are plans in place to purchase a small greenhouse to be used for seed germination. But more than these physical accomplishments, I am proud to see our community come together to work for a common goal. I am proud of the presence this community garden can be as a symbol of growth for the community.

Community Garden Reflection
Photograph Courtesy of Roy Thagard, Jr.

Robeson County – Submitted by Gayle Bigelow

Robeson County EMGV continued their Pollinators in Agriculture theme with education, hands on demonstrations, and seed giveaways. We also reactivated our Facebook page so “friend us,” “like us,” comment and share. We would love to hear from fellow EMGV! We are Robeson County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers on Facebook.

Lumber River Day 2017 - Lumber River State Park



Our booth for Lumber River Day, July 22, at Lumber River State Park included free, ice-cold, locally grown watermelon, pollinator information with free pollinator seed packets and potted plant demonstrations, which were raffled to participants. Altogether, it was a lovely day with lots of community participation and interest. One of EMGV Gretchen Baumann’s annual potted plant creations was raffled. On July 26, the RCEMGV set up an educational booth for Pollinator Day at the Robeson County Farmer’s Market in Downtown Lumberton for children and adults. Information on pollinators and free seed packets of annuals were given to all who stopped by the booth. RCEMGV packed up their booth, seeds and talents and set up at the inaugural Honey Festival in Whiteville on September 9, where the community warmly received them.

EMGV Gretchen Baumann with one of her annual potted plant creations
Photograph courtesy of Gayle Bigelow, RCEMGV



71st Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair

Highlights of our booth at the fair included an interactive exhibit of insects in the garden, examples of healthy indoor plants and a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin Contest. The EMGV were there every night of the Fair from opening night, September 28 until closing night, October 8 answering questions and interacting with gardeners and future gardeners of all ages. Fairs are fun, and this year proved to be, quoting a young fairgoer, "The fun-est!" Free sunflower seeds, like magic beans, proved irresistible. We gave away more than 500 packets of annual flowering plant seeds eliciting countless garden stories while meeting some of the region's most interesting people and sharing our concerns and hopes for all pollinators. Proving that our fair is truly a regional affair the winner of the prize for correctly guessing the weight of the pumpkin was from Columbus County. Weighing in at 64 pounds, it was not the biggest pumpkin at the fair, but it was the biggest we could buy!

The 64-pound pumpkin!
 Photograph courtesy of Gayle Bigelow, RCEMGV

I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen. --Anne Lamott

Wilson County – Submitted in January by *Carroll Gaissert*

Halloween Treats

For the first time this year, the Wilson EMGVs held a Halloween event, called Halloween Treats, in the Botanical Gardens. The response was overwhelming! Several hundred people came for trick or treating, a pumpkin carving contest, Halloween crafts and a costume parade. Dancers, actors, musicians and artists from a variety of local arts organizations performed throughout the gardens. The event wrapped up with a very spooky tale told by the Wilson County Public Library's children's librarian. A wonderful time was had by all – kids, parents, grandparents and EMGVs!

Wilson Winter Lights



The third annual Wilson Winter Lights was a huge success. Not only did it set a fundraising record, it is quickly becoming a local tradition, especially among families with small children. Even the EMGVs enjoyed telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas! More pictures of the event can be seen on the Wilson Botanical Gardens Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Wilson-County-NC-Extension-Master-Gardener-Volunteers-199391126774045/>

A few of the thousands of lights decorating the Wilson Botanical Gardens for Wilson Winter Lights

Wonderful Wilson Winter Lights at Wilson Botanical Gardens!



EMGV Jane Allman tells Santa (aka Bill Aberle, EMGV) what she wants for Christmas!
 (Wilson County)

Upcoming Plant Sale

Plans are well under way for our second largest fundraiser of the year – the annual plant sale. It will take place on April 8th this year. The new misting system in the greenhouse is a great asset in helping the greenhouse plants get off to a great start. EMGVs are beginning to dig and divide plants in their own gardens as well as in the Wilson Botanical Garden, in preparation for the sale.

Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.

~Hugh Macmillan



Northeast District - Anne Pierce, District Reporter



Dare County submitted by Chris Stadther Summer School in the Arboretum



The Summer School series had its last session in September. Propagation by dividing plants and cuttings was discussed and demonstrated. Participants could get dirty and take home plants to care for. Over 100 participants attended the four Summer School classes. Next summer they want more. That is a great compliment.

Coastal Landscape Workshop at The Elizabethan Gardens



This October workshop, a collaboration between the Elizabethan Gardens' staff and NC Cooperative Extension of Dare County, provided information on coastal habitats, landscape design and appropriate plants for Outer Banks homes.

Propagation workshop in Arboretum Shannon Brooks,
County Extension Director & Jeff Wuilliez, Elizabethan Gardens Manager

Gearing up for Christmas- Centerpiece Fund Raiser.

It's already time for Christmas. Most of the stores have their Christmas decorations on display. The Dare County Master Gardeners are preparing the ornaments and bows that help to create the centerpieces that are a fundraiser for the Dare Master Gardener Volunteer Association. They will be created on December 13 and go on sale that weekend. Merry Christmas!



Thinking ahead – Coastal Gardening Festival 2018

The first meeting for the 2018 Coastal Gardening Festival was very productive. "Never Enough Thyme" is the theme for next year, highlighting growing and using herbs in our everyday life. The Coastal Gardening Festival is scheduled for May 19 at the Thomas A. Baum Senior Center in Kill Devil Hills. For more information call Shannon Brooks at 252-473-4290 or email sebrooks@ncsu.edu.

Happy Holidays from Dare Extension Volunteer Master Gardeners!

Nash County submitted by Anne Pierce

On September 23, 2017 the Nash County Master Gardeners Volunteer Association hosted its third annual Day in the Arboretum at the Nash County Arboretum located on the grounds of the Nash County Agriculture Center in Nashville. Free and open to the public this years' event entitled "Art in the Gardens" featured 19 plein air artists, musicians and craftsmen as well as various gardening demonstrations and attracted over 300 visitors. Artists worked in a variety of mediums including quilting, painting, music, crafts and of course the art of gardening. The purpose of this yearly event is to promote and celebrate our Arboretum and the role it plays as a local venue for horticultural education, relaxation, recreation and beauty. We welcome you to take a stroll through our gardens the next time you are in our "neck of the woods".



Pickin' at the cabin



Maggie Barkley EMGV

Container Art



Art in the Garden

Wreath Workshop

In early December Nash County EMGVs will be combing the surrounding areas collecting a vast assortment of live, fresh greenery for our very popular annual wreath making workshop. We are offering 3 classes this year and fully expect to see some fabulous and festive creations by our regular and new attendees. It is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season, come and join us on Dec 3rd and 4th.

Farmers Market

As the 2017 season comes to a close at the Nash County Farmers Market, we would like to thank all the Nash EMGVs who participated in our regular Ask a Master Gardener information booth and the Arboretum team who was focused on advertising our garden jewel at the county extension building.

Pitt County submitted by Mary Jo Larkin

Trip to Soil Lab NCDA&CS Agronomic Division

On October 13th a vanload of Pitt County EMGVs headed to Raleigh for a three hour tour of where our soil testing is done. First, we donned blue suits if we did not wear long pants and closed toed shoes. The soil testing is a remarkable and gigantic process done in four different rooms using scientists and robots. The samples are meticulously handled as they go through all the different tests. The Nematode Lab had been set up with microscope viewing for us, quite helpful. The Waste Testing Lab was quite shocking in the kinds of materials that are tested to be used for fertilizers, everything from money to animal carcass. We recommend this trip to EMGVs. You can learn a lot!

Plants to Pot for Winter Interest

In October our arboretum container curators offered the community a chance to look at winter stalwart plants for thriller, spillers and fillers to pot up for the winter months. Twenty one people came to learn about plants such as creeping jenny and snapdragons that would survive in planters in the cold season. Frost proof pots, potting mix soil and good drainage are all important factors.

Wreath Workshop

Last year's workshop was so well attended, we are doing two in one day this year. Participants will have our garden's greenery to use to design and make their own wreaths. The workshops will be on December 7th from 10-12 and 1-3 at the Pitt County Extension Office.

Brie Arthur

On Saturday January 27, 2018 we will host Brie Arthur for a fundraiser at Pitt County Extension Center Auditorium to speak on "The Foodscape Revolution: Ecology and Sustainable Management". Doors open at 9 AM, advance sale tickets are \$20, at the door \$30. She has been a correspondent on PBS, "Growing a Greener World", and is the author of The Foodscape Revolution. She will speak from 10-12.

Hope Lodge

EMGVs have been invited to help solve a problem at the American Cancer Society's McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge. Years ago a fountain was designed at the front of the building which has a broken pump now and is no longer maintained by the giver. We were asked to transform this watery pool somehow. This winter we will experiment with plants that might stay alive submerged. The trial will be evaluated in the spring for a more permanent look.

Wake County submitted by Catherine Burton

Wake EMGs at North Carolina State Fair



A BIG THANKS to all the Wake County Master Gardeners who volunteered at the Fair. 110 volunteer spots were filled by those who gave their time to work the booth, greenhouse, and waterwise garden. Over 6,000 contacts were logged! The Wake County EMGV Composting Committee set up an educational display so people could learn how easy it is to compost and vermicompost: two compost bins, a demonstration worm bin, finished compost, a notebook of composting resources, and extension fact sheets on how to compost and vermicompost. More than 1,000 people stopped to examine the bins, talk with EMGVs about composting and vermicomposting, and take home fact sheets.

New Materials at the Southern Ideal Home Show

Thanks to Wake County EMG expert graphic designer, Joyce Clark, we introduced a new display on lawns at our Ask an EMG booth at the Southern Ideal Home Show in the Jim Graham building in September. These new posters clearly caught the attention of visitors to the show. We recorded 1245 resident contacts at this three day event!



This new display featured four very attractive and educational poster boards addressing frequently asked questions:

- What grass is best for my yard?
- When should you plant cool season grasses?
- When should cool season grasses be fertilized?
- Why should you have your soil tested? (over 200 soil test kits were distributed!)

A graphics display of the 30 most common Broadleaf Weeds, crafted by Joyce, was also prominently displayed. The individual graphics displays on pest control (moles, voles, deer, rabbit and fire ants) also continued to draw people to our booth as they address many of the most common questions and concerns we hear from residents.

Additionally, all of our poster boards now have QR codes, prepared by Chris Rieser, which link directly to either a recommended publication or website.

The spring Southern Ideal Home show at the Fairgrounds is scheduled for April 5-8, 2018, so put this date on your calendars. This show is a lot of fun and a great opportunity to spread the word about our EMG program



Wake County Junior Master Gardeners

We're excited to see the Wake County Junior Master Gardeners return to the JC Raulston Arboretum. The program runs September through May for ages 4-teens. JC Raulston has generously allowed us to use their facility for our four classes that meet on the third Thursday each month at 6 PM. Kids are able to learn about gardening, sustainability, wildlife and so many fabulous topics. Also, check out this article in Sir Walter magazine about the program. <http://www.waltermagazine.com/our-town/game-plan-junior-master-gardeners/> Learn more about about the Wake JMG at <http://wakeimg.org>

JC Raulston Arboretum Lectures now on Youtube

Arboretum Lectures by Wake County EMGs on you tube also! Cindy Chappell did one on Winter Blooming Plants and Sally Newman has one called Made - beautifully in the shade. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRQi_EkeFffu5vZpF50ufAxN-ruttclvg

Nature has many scenes to exhibit, and constantly draws a curtain over this part or that. She is constantly repainting the landscape and all surfaces, dressing up some scene for our entertainment. Lately we had a leafy wilderness; now bare twigs begin to prevail, and soon she will surprise us with a mantle of snow. Some green she thinks so good for our eyes that, like blue, she never banishes it entirely from our eyes, but has created evergreens. ~Henry David Thoreau



North Central District – Christina Larson, District Reporter



Davidson County – Sue Smith, Reporter

Fall is busy for DCEMGVA. **The Public Outreach council** completed the year with several activities at two Farmers' Markets. This was followed by the Davidson County Fair. A booth was set up at the entrance of the exhibit hall displaying scarecrows dressed in 1930s vintage clothing. The display included a grandma, grandpa, mom, dad, little boy and baby. In addition, one volunteer made a straw dog and straw pig while another added a felted crow. Directions for making scarecrows were available. This same tableau was used to create a welcoming entrance at the Lexington Barbecue festival more recently. Visitors to the festival used the scene as a photo opportunity and a time to learn more about the Master Gardener volunteer program.



County Fair Scarecrows Display

The Public Service council completed a project at the Thomasville library at which they re-landscaped the surrounding yard. Ground was reworked, and new plants planted. This project followed a landscaping of a memory garden at one of the local facilities for the elderly in Lexington.

The Demonstration Council has stayed busy all summer keeping the gardens around the extension office weed-free and beautiful. Butterfly weeds have been in full bloom to welcome the monarchs at the Monarch Way Station. Recently there was a dedication of benches that had been bought and placed in the garden, so passers-by and visitors could come in to sit and enjoy the surroundings. Various city and county officials attended the dedication. Later members of the council attended a county commissioners' meeting at which they were recognized for their work and for the work of the MG volunteers in general.



Butterfly emerging

Continuing Education council enjoyed visiting the gardens of fellow volunteers during the summer and **hope** to visit other fall and winter gardens. Agent Kira Chaloupka set up a field trip to Bartlett Tree Research arboretum in September. She has presented several continuing education programs for volunteers and the public this summer. MG volunteers will learn more about getting perennials ready for winter at the next monthly meeting. Members are invited to go to Tom's Creek Nursery to make holiday wreaths at the end of November. Then we'll take a break until spring.



EMGVs visiting Frankie Sisk's Garden

The committee for the Annual Gardeners' Conference has been busy for several months planning the conference for February of 2018. Speakers have been selected and registration will open in December. Anyone interested should register early. More information will be on the calendar, the Extension website and Davidson County EMGVA Facebook. In addition, information will be included soon in the group's monthly newsletter.

Forsyth County submitted by Teresa Lowry

Tanglewood Arboretum

The November Adult Education lecture on “Spring Blooming Bulbs” featured Adrienne Roethling, Garden Curator for Paul J. Ciener Botanical Gardens in Kernersville. Her presentation focused on extending the bulb season by incorporating early, mid, and late varieties to the garden; as well as a discussion on planting bulbs to create color, size, and texture. The 2018 program begins January 17th with Tyler O’Mara, Extension Horticulture Technician, discussing “Borders, Screens, and Hedges”.



Arboretum Adult Education lecture with Adrienne Roethling

A public community workday was held November 8th which allowed community volunteers to work side-by-side with an experienced EMGV to determine if the Master Gardener program was one in which they may be interested in joining. It was a great fall day that provided education, fun, and relationships building.

Plans for 2018 have begun on the Arboretum Youth Education program. Third graders will be visiting the Arboretum on March 20, 22, 23, 26 and 27 to learn about growing plants. Meetings for this program, along with meetings on Spring Plant Sale will be taking place during the winter months when it is too cold to work outside. The **Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for April 20-22, 2018**. Mark your calendars, as this is a sale you do not want to miss.



2017 Arboretum Youth Education Program

Forsyth County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association

Our 2017 year ended in November with an informative meeting and lively discussion on “The Joys of Plant Propagation”. Master Gardener Volunteers, Sheilah Lombardo, Harriet McCarthy, Carol Devries, and Patsy Cuthrell, presented the various ways of plant propagation and held the panel discussion for members. General Meetings for the Association will resume in February, 2018. Our last Field Trip for the year enthralled us with a breathtaking tour of a private Camellia garden in Kernersville. Fourteen Master Gardeners attended this event and were introduced to many varieties of Camellias and learned many growing techniques from an experienced gardener. Will Ferrell, our host, has also presented at our Arboretum Adult Education Lectures.



Ferrell Camellia Garden Field Trin

Triad Home and Garden Show

Forsyth County Master Gardener volunteers will be manning a booth at the Triad Home and Garden Show being held in Winston-Salem February 23-25, 2018. If you are getting ready for spring and plan to attend this event be sure to stop-by and say hello.

Master Gardener Program Update

Forsyth County welcomes the 18 new interns who graduated November 17th during the Extension Master Gardener Appreciation luncheon.

Guilford County - Allison Heisel, Reporter

Children were abuzz with excitement as a pollinator-themed scavenger hunt led them throughout the Guilford County Demonstration Garden during our annual Bee Kind to Bees Day in August. Attendees young and old clamored over supplies to make their very own bee hotel, and volunteers used Cheetos dust to demonstrate how bees transfer pollen from plant to plant. Members of the Guilford County Beekeeping Association brought live bees for a fascinating beekeeping demonstration, and home-grown, North Carolinian honey was available for sample and for sale. All in all, the day was truly the bee’s knees

Bee Day was followed by an aptly themed “Pollination Celebration!” Gala and Seminar. This September highlight featured 3 keynote speakers: Jessica Walliser, renowned horticulturist, freelance writer, radio host, and author of bestseller Good Bug, Bad Bug: Who’s Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically; Mike Dunn, caterpillar enthusiast, nature photographer, and natural science educator at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill; and Angel Hjarding, Director of Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat Programs for

the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, and creator of the Butterfly Highway. We are grateful to all who attended and made it such a fruitful day.



In October, the class of 2017 Master Gardener Interns completed their final presentations, showcasing the work they did planning and tending to a three-season vegetable garden, planting an orchard, constructing a crevice garden, and so much more. All the interns eagerly await graduation next week where they will abandon their paper name tags in favor of official, engraved emblems of their Master Gardening accomplishments. As this year’s program winds down, we are looking forward to welcoming the 2018 class of interns to the horticultural family come January.

Orange County – Susan Lamb reporter

For several years, Orange County MGs Ellen Johnson and Anne Sadler have been advising the dedicated group of volunteer gardeners at the Seymour Center, a senior center, in Chapel Hill. We attend their meetings, answer some gardening questions, and offer suggestions about plant selection and care. And we have helped to plan a shade garden of Hellebores and ferns under the building overhang.

Until this spring the garden has been one of annuals, perennials and ornamental shrubs. Now with the addition of two large raised beds, built and filled with soil by the Orange County Parks Division staff, the gardeners have added vegetables to the mix. Cucumbers, okra and some more exotic Asian vegetables have been part of the harvest this fall.

Currently a renovation of the flower gardens by the entry walkways is under way. Come by and see what these very active seniors are doing.



Seymour Gardeners – Orange County

Durham County - Kathryn Hamilton reporter

Tomato Experiments Summer Focus of Durham County’s Briggs Avenue Community Garden

The Briggs Avenue Community Garden was host to a plethora of tomatoes this summer! More than 30 different varieties of tomatoes developed by tomato researcher, author, and gardening enthusiast, NC Tomato Man Craig LeHoullier were planted at Briggs and available to all. Throughout the summer, EMGV intern Brandon Minnich-Walton observed and recorded her findings on growth habits and reported them to Mr. LeHoullier.

The growing season culminated in style with a tomato tasting and a presentation from Craig, at the Durham County Extension Office, about his research in the fields of tomato growing and straw bale gardening. The tasting included observations about flavor, texture, appearance, and intensity. Here are the findings.

In the category of tart, old fashioned, tasting tomatoes “Sleeping Lady” and “Pink Berkeley Tie-dye” Were the hands-down winners. “Sleeping Lady” is one of the dwarf tomatoes Craig developed for those desiring an heirloom taste without the sprawling growth habit of traditional heirloom plants. “Pink Berkeley Tie-dye” was an heirloom from her own garden, that Brandon “fell in love with on first bite.” However, it is a plant that needs plenty of room and trellising – no cage will hold this one back!

Craig's experimental dwarf cherry tomato, "Teensy F3 choc 5803," is quite a small plant for a cherry, (about 6') with a beautiful golden/brown/green color. It had a more tart, old-fashioned taste and beat out the well-loved "Sungold." It has the bonus of tolerating bacterial leaf spot very well.

In the sweet or balanced category "Sean's Yellow Dwarf" and "Sandy F2" were the favorites – everyone seemed to agree on their pleasant, balanced flavor. Neither plant seemed bothered by bacterial leaf spot, wilt, heat, insects, etc. and just kept producing. Both are also dwarf plants which require less space in the garden and will be a crowd pleaser for those who prefer a balanced or sweet tomato.

"Carbon" had everyone talking, mostly trying to decide if it was a "love it" or "leave it" tomato. It is a huge tomato on a giant plant. It overtook everything in its path; the fruit was plentiful and so heavy in many cases it had to be supported. It has an unusual, smoky/earthy taste. It is a lovely tomato, pretty as a picture and the perfect sandwich slicer.

And a final observation from Brandon: "Blue and black tomatoes were everywhere this year. I planted some and tasted several others. In my opinion their color is their best attribute. I found them to be balanced in flavor but lacking in intensity. They did have tremendous visual appeal and were show-stopping gorgeous in a salad. On a platter of mixed tomato slices they were always the first to disappear. I suspect the eye-candy element was irresistible to many people. Next year I believe I will just eat a "Sleeping Lady" or "Pink Berkeley Tie-dye" with my eyes closed and a smile on my face!"

Vance/Warren County submitted in September by Eileen Novak

Lots going on in our corner of NC. The Gardeners of Kerr Lake took a field trip in May to Hundley's greenhouse in Warren County to see how flowers are grown for inclusion in the bouquets provided by local florists. Oh, the smell of the greenhouse full of blooming stock was indescribable. Mr. Hundley himself gave each MG a bouquet of snapdragons as a memento of the visit.

In June, we had a talk given to us by Kevin Clemmer of NCDOT all about the work that goes into the highway beautification. It surely makes me appreciate those fields of cosmos and poppies even more!

In July, one of our EMGVs gave a demonstration of making succulent wreaths. It looked easy, and will be a lovely focal point when it fills in.

July was the time our 4-H camp took place as we taught 13 youngsters from the two counties about soil, plants and food.



Their favorite part was going out with our Extension Agent Paul McKenzie to dig up a soil core. Good going, Paul, glad you could entertain them while teaching!

Our Summer '17 4-H group shows off the flowers they made. *Photo Courtesy of E. M. Novak*

Our EMGVs also sit at the farmers markets in both Vance and Warren counties to answer questions and to stimulate interest in our Master Gardener classes. And that last certainly worked. Our newest class of 2017 began in July and we have 14 participants! They will finish up in in October and provide much needed willing hands for all of our ongoing projects!



EMGV Linda Dean giving information to interested visitors at the Warren County Farmer's Market. *Photo Courtesy of B. J. Wright.*



Vance/Warren Extension Agent Paul McKenzie preparing to do a soil core to show our newest trainees. *Photo Courtesy of B. J. Wright.*

*To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.*

William Blake

South Central District,

<Vacant position> District Reporter



Gaston County - Submitted by Barbara Linster

August, September and October **programs** were open to the public and well attended. In August Erin Hall, Coordinator for the Central Carolinas Master Naturalist (CCMN) program, explained what is entailed in becoming a CCMN. Our own Denise Furr, active Gaston County MG volunteer, also a CCMN, spoke about her volunteer work at the Schiele Museum where she is actively doing research and curating a large collection of mollusk specimens. Tiz Johnston, local garden landscape designer, presented “Garden Design Ideas & Inspiration that Wow and Work” in September. Not only did Tiz cover the rules for design with examples, but also emailed us her presentation! A treasured resource for sure. Our October speaker, Frank Hyman, presented “Not Tonight Deer” and spoke about deer-resistant gardening.

Additionally, we had three local education opportunities. In September MG Vickie Rauch’s garden was toured to view and learn how she handled the challenge of landscaping a steep slope. A good number of us also visited Bartlett Tree Arboretum in Charlotte, watched a presentation and were given a grounds tour by the curator, Craig Paige. In October MG Teri Clark opened her crazy for conifer garden and conducted an optional leaf-making class. Our final trip for the year was also in October when we toured the High Point University Botanical Gardens. Jon Roethling, Garden Curator, spent three hours with us. The campus was on break so he even took us into some of the architecturally interesting buildings.

During these months, many **outreach** events and opportunities occurred. Master Gardener Day at Creative Opportunities projects were a watermelon slice craft and mini pot-head people planters. A number of MG volunteers dressed in period clothes for Cotton Ginning Days and the Heritage Garden (Pics 1 & 2). The Keep Gastonia Beautiful black gold and mulch sale also provided volunteer hours for a number of MG volunteers. Yard of the Week and the Farmer’s Markets were winding down, but in spite of our ever-lingering heat, our **Learning Garden**, with the ever-patient guidance of MG Gene Martin, continued to wow (pic 3). Connect with us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfGastonCounty.



Pic 1
Heritage Garden, Cotton Ginning Days 2017:
MG David Thornburg with his son and grandson. Three generations of gardeners.



Pic 2
Heritage Garden, Cotton Ginning Days 2017:
MGVs Camille Jones, Tim Pearson, Carolann Shannon and Judith Jaeger in period clothes.



Pic 3 – Learning Garden

Moore County Submitted by Sharon Lowery

Pollinator Garden Adventure



On October 14, Master Gardeners helped support the Greenway Wildlife Habitat Committee by providing an afternoon of fun and learning in this garden along the Pinehurst Greenway Trail. Everyone had fun participating in a scavenger hunt for plants and pollinators and learning about native plants to support pollinators. Weymouth Woods ranger Nancy Williamson was there to lead some of the activities. There were displays of pollinating insects, a craft table for making plant stakes, face painting of plants and pollinating insects and refreshing hibiscus tea for all. Happy guests each went home with a native plant to support pollinators in their own backyards.



Volunteering at Community Gardens – It's What We Do



One of the gardens Moore MGV's support is the First Health Hospice Gardens in West End. These extensive gardens on the hospice campus provide families, patients and staff some peace, comfort during a most challenging time. Here, some of our volunteers take time out to say, "Cheese!"

Working with Kids

In August, volunteers helped Pinehurst Elementary School prepare raised beds as part of an ongoing, after school program. The school's Garden Club is sponsored by the PTA for grades K-5. The kids participate in all aspects of gardening- from planning and planting to harvesting and tasting the foods they grow. Last month, the children learned about soil, composting, and cover crops from a MC Master Gardener Volunteer. They planted fall crops of lettuce, kale, broccoli and spinach and weeded the pollinator flower gardens.



Lincoln County – Submitted by Marcia Scheideman

Lincoln County EMGV Respond to Call to Action

Charles Jonas Public Library in Lincolnton reached out to Master Gardeners in a time of need. Large trees and shrubs as well as dense hedges had created hiding places for uninvited overnight guests. Master Gardeners responded in force pruning shrubs, cutting out dead branches and eliminating overgrowth. It was an opportunity for Extension staff and EMGV to work with the county on a mutually beneficial project. Lincoln County leadership expressed their gratitude to Tom Dyson, Lincoln County Extension Director and all participating EMGVs.



November Lincoln County EMGV Meeting and Community Service Outreach



Master Gardeners will be creating "Folded Paper Sphere Ornaments" which were popular in Victorian times and specifically during the Civil War period when supplies were scarce.

They consist of folding varying widths of paper strips accordion style and taping the ends of each strip to itself to form a circular pleated shape. The circles are then stacked and glued together so that they form a ball or sphere. These ornaments will be sold at the Mundy House in Lincoln County. Mundy House is a historic landmark in Lincoln County that was built between in the mid 1800's by Revolutionary War descendant Jeremiah Mundy and remained in the Mundy Family until the 1990's. EMGVs in Lincoln County maintain a community garden in collaboration with the East Lincoln Garden Club and in keeping with the historic period of the home.



Cabarrus County - Submitted by Mitchell Hagler

The Cabarrus County association does not meet in July but our August speaker was Bob Blackwelder, long-time beekeeper and a member of the NC State Beekeepers Association. This is the 100th anniversary of the NCSBA and was celebrated at a conference in Winston-Salem. Bob explained the reasons for the decline in the bee population: loss of natural landscapes, loss of hardwood forests, and new pests including mites that plague bees.

President Wendy Tate has been encouraging our members to prepare short presentations to give to our association in preparation for developing longer presentations that can be used in a Speaker's Bureau. In September, two members presented—one on growing garlic including the types of garlic that can be successfully grown in our zone and one on growing spinach including planting date, where to buy seeds, pests, soil, etc.

In October we took a road trip to Lucky Leaf Farm. Owner Kate Brun provided us with a history of her Microgreen operation which started out in a sunroom of her home and now is a 5+ acre site with a 2800 sq. ft. double layered hoop style greenhouse. The single person operation has many features found in big commercial operations: overhead watering, evaporator cooling air handlers, water based radiant heated grow tables, sanitation and GAP certification. Kate grows about twelve varieties of microgreens for area chefs. Microgreens take one week to grow a crop, which is fresh for about ten days. Produce is delivered two times per week to the chefs and to Earth Fare, and additionally she sells to individuals who are using microgreens for health issues. In addition, she holds seminars and training activities. She provides educational opportunities to 4-H kids and Girl Scouts to interact with nature and spark curiosity.

Member Steve Mosier presented the November program on cankerworms. He explained his trial and error methods to combat a massive invasion of cankerworms several years ago. Steve explained how he bands his 50+ trees and which products work best.

Extension Agent Lauren Duncan Hill unveiled the newly created NC State Extension logo which will be used on all materials going forward. She also reported that she will again this year work on the Rhubarb Project at the Piedmont Research Station; Barbee Farm is going to grow this crop in Cabarrus County.

Our members participated in the county fair and in Ag Business Days by staffing a booth at the fair and by hosting all county 6th graders during the Ag Business Days. Each child planted a pansy to take home and learned about plant production.

At our annual Christmas dinner we will present the Master Gardener of the Year Award as well as join with Toys for Tots by again bringing toys for that organization.

Winter is a time of promise because there is so little to do — or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.

~Stanley Crawford

**West District report,
<Vacant Position>, District Editor**



Polk County - Submitted by Jackie Weedon

The Foothills Association of Master Gardeners met for its quarterly educational session on November 6, 2017. Jean Woods, president of the North Carolina Native Plant Society, gave a great talk on "The Color Palette of Native Plants."

FAMG members and their guests met for their fall potluck in October at member Lucy Robert's lovely home. We enjoyed friendship, good food, and gorgeous weather.

Our Polk County Cooperative Extension Director and Master Gardener Coordinator, Scott Welborn, announced an exciting new project for us. The Senior Center is adjacent to the Extension offices and we will be taking over their vegetable garden as a research and educational project. The food we grow will go to the Senior Center's kitchen. The kickoff meeting is later this month.

Burke County – submitted by Donna Teasley

As summer got underway in Burke County, the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association was kept busy trying to stay ahead of weeds in the perennial garden at the Extension office and in the community garden, also located there. Rain is great but it sure makes for a lot of work! The group also decided to expand its scholarship program to include the 2 FFA programs in the county. For many years they have also presented a scholarship to a student in the horticulture program at Western Piedmont Community College.

The group also volunteered to help with various summer youth programs such as 4-H Summer Fun, Exploring Joara summer camp and the Burke County Library summer youth program. Various gardening topics and activities were presented to area youth.

In August the Exploring Joara Foundation held a celebration of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Spanish settlement in Burke County and EMGVA participated by giving tours through the native gardens which includes the Three Sister Garden and the Medicinal Herb Garden. The EMGVA built and maintains these gardens as well as giving educational talks to local school groups throughout the year.



The Drexel Community Fair is a big event in Burke County and Extension Master Gardener volunteers always play a key role in processing vegetable and flower entries in the exhibit hall as well as the judging of the exhibits. The Veggie Varmint contest is also a big event at the fair as EMGVs assist youth in the creation of their own "Veggie Varmints" made from locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The "Varmints" are then judged and displayed in the exhibit hall for the week of the fair.



The fall found the EMGVA celebrating the harvest with their annual social at Silver Fork Winery in Burke County. The food was great and the views were spectacular as the group enjoyed each other's company for a well-deserved rest after a long and busy summer.

Cleveland County – submitted in January by Dottie Leatherwood



Extension Master Gardener Volunteers have enjoyed several educational opportunities, awaiting the arrival of spring. Growing and propagating African Violets was taught by EMGV member John Carroll who worked for 15 years with a local African violet business. John gave tips that can be used by anyone attempting to grow this tropical plant. Some of his advice follows.

Light:

African Violets need light equal to 900 candle lumens (approximately the amount of light given off by a 60 watt bulb). A good rule of thumb is to place the plant in a window facing north in the summer and south in the winter.

Water:

Water from the bottom only. Use warm or room temperature water only. African violets do not like to be watered from the top and do not like wet feet. Leaves are very susceptible to any cold water contact. The best pots to use are the one marked for African violets. If using an African violet pot, or a pot within a pot, water approximately weekly if all the water has been used by the plant.

Fertilize:

Use food for African violets at the rate suggested on the container. Fertilize each time you water.



Cleveland County Master Gardener Volunteer Bob Teague presented an excellent program on Ephemerals, "here today, gone tomorrow". All enjoyed his photos of plants he currently grows and the identified locations where ephemerals can be seen throughout the region.



EMGV Dotty Leatherwood, Debbie Burke and Horticulture Agent Julie Flowers provided students at Union Elementary School a presentation on Composting. More than 300 children rotated through 5 different stations created as a partnership with Extension Service and Soil and Water Conservation. They particularly enjoyed choosing what to compost and watching the worms wiggle in the newly created compost.

EMGV began planning for their participation in the Kings Mountain Earth Day, program ideas for the Shelby Farmers Market. Pat Parr presented an overview of our very first Gardening Symposium, planned for February 10, 2018. Pat recommended the title be "Cabin Fever" and made several suggestions on expert presenters from the region. Location and fees were discussed.

David Moss presented an updated fact sheet with criteria to be used in the Annual Plant Sale. The sale continues to grow in popularity in Cleveland County and will be **on May 13, 2017 at the Extension Office.**

"It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season."

— Kate Morton, *The Forgotten Garden*

Editor's Note:

This special edition of the NCEMGVA Newsletter is being published to let all Master Gardeners see what other clubs are doing, whether a member of the state organization or not. If you are thinking of attending the conference, you might notice that it's worth the \$10 a year NCEMGVA dues to join. And joining the state organization helps you reach farther, if there is a need for advice, assistance, or support that other State members could provide. Please think about it. *–Eileen Novak, Editor*



*Of winter's lifeless world each tree
Now seems a perfect part;
Yet each one holds summer's secret
Deep down within its heart.*

~Charles G. Stater