CRD Summer Picnic

The Spring Mountain Community Club has graciously agreed for the 2012 Community Clubs' Summer Picnic to be held Monday, July 16, 6:30 pm, at the Spring Mountain Community Center in Fairview. As has been the case in the past, the chicken and paper ware will be provided by the County Council for this event. Individual clubs are encouraged to bring their favorite vegetables, other meats, salads, desserts, breads and drinks to share.

It would help tremendously if the president of each club would call Deanna Jordan at the Buncombe County Center of NC Cooperative Extension, 255-5522, by 5:00 pm on Thursday, July 12, to indicate how many people from your club will be attending.

Directions to the Spring Mountain Community Center are as follows:
Take Hwy. I-240 East; take Exit 9 onto Hwy US-74E. Travel through the Reynolds Community and over the mountain (approximately 4.3 miles). Turn left onto Old Fort Road. There is a stone yard at this corner. Travel 3.4 miles to 807 Old Fort Road. The club is on the right,

New Buncombe County Community and Rural Development Mini-Grant Program

We are making a big change in the traditional community club program in Buncombe County this year. A new grant program will replace the county-level judging and awards program we have traditionally done. This new program will use the money the County gives us for Community Development programs to provide small ($250-$500) grants to community clubs to use on projects or activities their club wants to complete. The county Community Development Council, which is made up of members from each club, will decide on the awarding of grants. I hope each club will take this opportunity to submit a proposal.

For clubs that still wish to participate in the traditional community judging competitions, the WNC Communities organization is still going forward with their WNC Honors Awards. Call 828-252-4783 for applications.
Basic Home Maintenance Tips

As we begin to think about spring repairs in and around our homes, there may be some areas that have been neglected in the past. This is the time to address those specific areas to prevent larger maintenance problems in the future.

Clothes Dryer
Dryer lint is highly combustible and can cause a fire if left unchecked for too long. Excess lint also reduces the dryer's efficiency, so it will save you money to keep your dryer as lint-free as possible.

Clean the lint trap after each load of laundry. If your dryer has a venting hose that is vertical, check the vent connection for lint buildup. At least twice a year, move the dryer slightly forward and disconnect the vent from the back of the dryer. Clean out the lint from the hose and fitting; then reconnect the vent.

Troubleshooting Basement Moisture Problems
In order to know what is causing a basement moisture problem, you have to determine where the moisture is coming from. An inexpensive, yet effective way to find your problem is to: Cut a few 12"X12" squares of aluminum foil or thick plastic, and tape them on the concrete block walls and floor. Wait several hours and then check for condensation on the foil or plastic. If the room side of the foil or plastic is wet, moisture is in the air, a problem you can often solve by removing sources of excess moisture or using a dehumidifier.

If there is moisture between the concrete block and the foil or plastic, the moisture is coming in through the wall or floor from the soil. If this is the case you will need to look for the source outside. Begin by avoiding over watering of plants and shrubs near your foundation. Check that all gutter downspouts are directed away from the house for a minimum of six feet and the foundation grading is sloped away from the house. If you have been adding mulch every year around your house foundation, check to make sure it has not gotten above the waterproofing on the foundation walls.

Roof With Dark Stains
Fiberglass shingles commonly develop a dark, mildew like stain. The stains are caused from Gloecapsa Magma Algae that feeds off the limestone in fiberglass shingles. Although the algae won't harm roofing materials, many homeowners prefer to remove or prevent it for aesthetic reasons. Either copper or zinc are effective deterrents. Using long, 7" wide copper or zinc strips underneath the last full course of shingles at the top of the roof, will do the trick. You should be able to slide the copper up under the shingles approximately five inches or so. This will leave approximately two inches exposed to the weather. When it rains, the rainwater will carry small amounts of metal residue down the roof preventing algae growth and stains. If you are installing new fiberglass shingles, look for shingles that contain copper coated granules.

Fast Fix for Leaky Toilets
If your toilet periodically runs for no obvious reason, the problem could be a small leak where the tank ball or flapper fits into the flush valve (the opening in the toilet tank, into the toilet bowl). Mineral deposits and sediment can collect on the flush valve and prevent the ball or flapper from forming a watertight seal. Before you buy replacement parts, try the following: raise the ball or flapper out of the way and scour the brass flush valve with fine steel wool. If your toilet has a plastic flush valve, use a plastic scouring pad. Scrub the ball or flapper clean also. This should fix your problem.

Dates for CRD Activities

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Tornado 101

Although North Carolina has fewer tornadoes than some Midwestern states, we still face an average of 12 to 15 tornadoes a year. On March 28, 1984, tornadoes took the lives of 42 North Carolinians and injured 801. On November 28, 1988, a single deadly tornado killed four and injured 154, leaving 982 homeless. This storm stayed on the ground for 83 miles on a path from Raleigh to Northampton County! Other tornadoes, although less severe, have wreaked havoc on North Carolina residents.

Tornadoes are violent windstorms characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. These naturally-occurring phenomena can form as spin-offs of a hurricane or accompany a thunderstorm. While many tornadoes never touch ground or do not affect populated areas, those that do can cause significant property damage in a short time.

How to Spot a Tornado - Tornadoes are most common between March and June in North Carolina, although they may occur anytime of the year. Hurricanes may also spawn tornadoes.

Learn to recognize weather signs. Tornado weather is usually hot, humid, and oppressive, with southerly winds. An hour or two before the storm, the clouds may have a greenish-black color, and may seem to bulge down instead of up. Rapidly moving lower clouds may be shot with lace-like lightning.

Know what a tornado looks and sounds like. The funnel of a tornado looks like a spinning, twisting rope at its bottom, and fans out into a rotating funnel-shaped cloud extending down from the base of a thundercloud. It is usually gray or black. A nearby tornado usually sounds like the roar of a jet plane or a freight train.

Tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast. They may form in a series of two or more, with a large primary tornado and one or more secondary or lesser storms. Heavy rain and hail may add to the damage of the tornado itself. Some tornado funnels never touch ground. Some touch down, rise again, and touch down in another place.

Where to Go During a Tornado - Knowing what to do during a tornado may mean the difference between life and death. If you hear a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately. Stay away from windows.

- **In office buildings** - Go to an interior hallway on a lower floor, preferably in the basement, or designated shelter area.
- **In factories** - Go to the section of the plant offering the greatest protection. Someone should be responsible for disconnecting fuel lines and electric circuits. Keep a lookout posted.
- **In homes** - Get to the lowest level of your home in an interior room as far away from exterior walls and windows as possible. If you have no basement, choose an inside wall away from windows and sit flat against it. Central halls, bathrooms, and closets are good choices. Get under heavy furniture, if possible, to protect yourself from flying glass and debris. Then, stay away from windows. Keep tuned to a battery-powered radio for latest weather information.
- **In mobile homes** - Go to the nearest community shelter or other sturdy building. Mobile homes are especially dangerous during high winds and may be overturned. If you cannot get to a shelter or sturdy building, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert, and cover your head with your hands.
- **In schools** - Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor. Avoid gymnasiums and buildings with large, free-span roofs.
- **In shopping centers** - Go to a designated shelter area, or lie flat outside in a ditch or a low protected ground. Do not stay in your car. A tornado can pick it up and toss it.
- **In a car** - If you are in the open country, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert, but not where you could be trapped by floodwaters.
Tornado Watch and Warning - What They Mean

Tornado Watch
A tornado watch indicates that weather conditions may cause tornadoes to develop in your area. A watch does not mean that a tornado has been sighted. The watch may last up to 8 hours. You should be prepared for a possible tornado. You don’t need to move to a shelter, but keep a radio or TV on and be alert for threatening weather conditions.

Tornado Warning
Local weather bureau offices issue a tornado warning when a tornado funnel has actually been sighted or indicated by radar. The warning covers a short period of time and specific small areas. The warning will indicate where the tornado was detected and the area through which it is expected to move. If you are in the expected path of the storm, take shelter immediately.

Tornado Survival Rules

Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning:

- A tornado watch means that tornado conditions exist in an area.
- A tornado warning means that a tornado has actually been sighted and you should take shelter.

Do not go outside to look for the tornado. Go to a below-ground location, if possible. If not, stay on the lowest level of your house. A storm cellar, root cellar, center laundry room, bathroom with no exterior walls, or to a center hallway in your house are possible choices. Stay away from windows. Do not run out into the street or turn into the path of the tornado. Protect yourself against the “sandblasting” effect of flying glass and bits of sharp metal. Cover yourself with an old rug and crouch under heavy furniture.

Listen to instructions on a battery-powered radio. Beware of possible dangers:

- Flying objects
- Falling trees
- Breaking windows
- Collapsing buildings

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Master Gardener Activities

Hotline is Open
The Extension Master Gardener Hotline is open for the season. Volunteers are available to answer your gardening questions on the phone, or you may bring problem samples into the office for diagnosis.

Call 828-255-5522
or visit 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 4:30
Friday: 8:30 - 12:30

Plant Clinics
Master Gardener volunteers are also available to answer questions at the Saturday Plant Clinics, two Saturdays each month until October. You will find them set up at the WNC Farmers’ Market, in the breezeway between the retail buildings, 11:00 - 2:00.

Gardening in the Mountains
The Master Gardeners’ popular Gardening in the Mountains programs have begun and will run through October. The lectures will be held the third Wednesday each month from 10:00 to 11:00 am at the Buncombe County Center of NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville. The programs are free, and no preregistration is required.

The May 16 program will be Planting for Pollinators: Infinite Possibilities.
Food Preservation Classes

PREREГISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES
Call 828-255-5522 to Register

Let’s Start with Jams

Tuesday, May 22, 2012, 9:00 - 11:00 am
NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

With an abundance of berries in season, now is the time to preserve some of those local strawberries and other berries as jam. Come to this hands-on class and learn how to make berry jam. We will cover making jams with and without added pectin. We will also discuss ways to make sugar free, freezer and other refrigerated jams. You will be able to take home a sample of what we make. Cost $10

It’s Pickling Time

Thursday, July 12, 2012, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

Come learn how to make a simple dill pickle and preserve those little pickling cucumbers for the long fall and winter months. This class will also discuss how to make relishes and other pickled products. Cost $10

Putting Tomatoes By

Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 5:00- 8:00 pm
Lakeview Center, Black Mountain

AND

Thursday, August 16, 2012, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

One of the best foods for learning how to can is tomatoes. In this hands-on class we cover canning tomatoes with a water bath canner and a pressure canner. Because we cover both methods of canning, this class allows you to experience both techniques. We will also discuss freezing and dehydrating tomatoes as other options for preserving them for future use. Cost $10

Canning Beans Safely

Thursday, July 26, 2012, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

One of the most popular foods to can is beans, but it can also be one of the riskiest to eat if not canned safely. Come, can beans together with us and learn the latest recommendations for canning your beans to use later in those wintertime casseroles. This class will cover using weighted and gauge pressure canners as well as discuss the importance of adjusting pounds of pressure for canning at higher altitudes. Cost $10

Did you know that you can get this newsletter via email? If you are interested, please contact us either by phone at 828-255-5522 or email at deanna_jordan@ncsu.edu.
Growing and preserving your own vegetables is a rewarding family project. As the season progresses, it may be a good time to learn some new skills or brush up on the newest information. Participants will have the choice of taking home either printed reference materials or the same materials on a CD.

The morning session will cover the summer and fall gardens. Master Gardener volunteers will share tips on maintaining the vegetables you are growing now—fertilizing, weed management, watering and harvesting. We will cover some of the common disease and insect problems, then talk about planning and growing a fall garden. In the afternoon session you will learn about methods of preserving your harvest with Cathy Hohenstein, Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences. This program will include an introduction to canning high- and low-acid foods, freezing, and drying and storage.

Each session is $10 ($20 for whole day). Payment must accompany registration. For more information call 828-255-5522.

WE HAVE RAIN BARRELS!

NC Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, has rain barrels available for sale. The 80-gallon barrels come complete with fittings and installation instructions. Barrels may be purchased for $110 + tax at the Extension Center at 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville. For more information call 828-255-5522.