Happy New Year!!

Thanks for a wonderful year! I can’t believe it’s the end of my freshman year as an Extension Agent. Time flies when you’re having fun! I am looking forward to another wonderful year as your Commercial Horticulture Agent!! Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments. If you would like me to address specific issues or needs in the newsletter or in programs, just send me an email, call or write. I wish you a very healthy, productive and fun 2007!

We have a lot to look forward to this year!!! Below is a sneak-peek at programs and activities you can’t miss!! Remember this is not a conclusive list!

Calling all nursery men and women, landscapers and plants people alike!!! Attending the 2007 Green & Growin’ Show is a must!! It will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum on January 18-20. Three days of educational seminars and two days of trade show. See you there!! A regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop will be held on Thursday, February 22. Learn about pruning, organic pest control and more!

Another learning experience not to miss is the 14th Annual Organic Growers School held March 10 at Blue Ridge Community College. I’ll be there checking out the Sustainable Landscaping Track, Cooking Track and Anthony LeBude’s Plant Propagation Workshop!

Mark your calendars for an awesome Field Trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the National Arboretum! We will leave on Thursday, May 31 and return on Saturday, June 2. Along the way we will make a few more stops at gardens and arboretums. All plant-lovers are welcome to attend! Stay tuned for more information as plans develop. The Certified Plant Professional Short Course (June 19-July 24) and Certified Turfgrass Professional Short Course (date TBA) will be offered this year. Be sure to get signed up if you haven’t taken the class already!

Because the Landscape Design Workshop was such a hit last year, it will be offered on July 27 & 28. Also in the works is a Nursery Short Course to be held Thursday, September 20-21 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center. Complete with research and production updates, new plants, business management, pesticide credits, a field day, nursery tours AND MORE! Wow! I can’t wait! Have a great year!
Pesticide Recertification Classes

**Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V)**

1/30/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

2/2/2007 - Waynesville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

2/26/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

3/6/2007 - Waynesville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

4/17/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

**Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions**

SPECIALTY TRAINING; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

PESTICIDE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

SPECIALTY TRAINING; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

PESTICIDE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

CALIBRATION; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

4/17/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit L N O D X
Winter Weed ID & Control for Farm & Landscape; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

Please call to pre-register.

***Please visit North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Section for a list of recertification opportunities throughout North Carolina: [http://www.agr.state.nc.us/foooddrug/pestcid/index.htm](http://www.agr.state.nc.us/foooddrug/pestcid/index.htm)***
Calendar of Events

January 16-20 (education) 19-20 (trade show)
Green and Growin’ Show. Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, NC.
This show provides a marketplace for plants, equipment, supplies and services used in the production and sale of plants and installation of landscapes. Industry professionals can view the latest in agricultural equipment, landscaping materials, plants, trees, nursery supplies, fertilizers, and pesticides. For additional information or to register visit www.ncan.com.

January 22-25
Turf Industry Conference and Expo. 3415 Wake Forest Road, North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC. 1-919-872-2323. This conference provides excellent educational opportunities for golf course, landscape, lawn care and sports field management! Pesticide credits will also be available. For more information or to register: www.turffiles.ncsu.edu or call the Extension office at (828) 255-5522.

February 3
Creating Fun, Safe and Educational Farm Field Trips. Swannanoa, NC.
Resources and strategies for attracting and working with school groups, tools for implementing field trip activities that are correlated with curriculum and the opportunity for teachers and farmers to build beneficial working relationships. For more info or to register, call (828) 236-1282 or see: www.asapconnections.org

February 10-11
Advanced Bee School. Folk Art Center on Blue Ridge Parkway. School is FREE but pre-registration is required due to space limitations. Please call our office to register 828-255-5522.

February 22
Regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. Educational sessions on landscape pruning, organic pest control, proven disease resistant plants and more! Pesticide credits will be available. $25 registration fee by February 12. Call our office at 828-255-5522 for more info.

February 24
Marketing Opportunities for Farmers Conference. Swannanoa, NC.
A full day of workshop choices to help farmers large and small answer questions “where and how will I sell what I grow?” This year, attendees can choose to attend a half-day farm business planning workshop. For more info or to register, call (828) 236-1282 or see: www.asapconnections.org

March 10-11
14th Annual Organic Growers School. Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock. A day of workshops for beginning gardeners to advanced commercial growers. Stay tuned for more info coming soon!!

May 1-2
Commercial & Private Applicators Pesticide License Exam & School. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. For more information call (828)255-5522 or http://www.ncagr.com/fooddrug/pesticide

May 31-June 2
Washington, D. C. Garden Tour
Complete tour information will be announced at a later date. Check back! Among the stops include National Arboretum, US Botanical Gardens, Museums on the Mall, Lewis Ginter Arboretum. Fee schedule and registration forms to be attached soon! Contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522 for more information.

June 19-July 21
Certified Plant Professional Short Course. NC Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. This class is designed to assist participants in developing their level of knowledge and professionalism in the area of landscape plants and use. For more information contact Cliff Ruth, (828) 697-4891 or Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522.
2007 CPP Short Course

NC Cooperative Extension will present this year's Certified Plant Professional Short Course using the following schedule/curriculum: All classes are between 4:30 and 7:30 pm except the review on July 25 which is from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. All of the classes will be held at The North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC in the Visitors Education Center classroom. The arboretum drive connects to the entrance ramp to the Blue Ridge Parkway from US 191. This entrance is about 2 miles south of I-26 from exit 33.

Instructors include: Anthony LeBude, Cliff Ruth, Amanda Stone, and Ross Young.

Class Curriculum

- June 19 - Introduction, Basic Botany, Plant Physiology, Chapters 1-3
- June 21 - Landscape Design, Landscape Installation, Plants for Particular Sites, Chapters 5-7
- June 25 - Soils and Fertilizer, Pruning, Turfgrass, Chapters 8-10
- June 29 - Pest Management, Managing Plants in the Garden Center, Salesmanship; Chapters 12-14
- July 3 - Optional Class
- July 5 - Ground Covers, Small Shrubs, Vines
- July 10 - Hollies and their associates, Junipers and their associates
- July 12 - Other Shrubs
- July 17 - Trees
- July 19 - Herbaceous Plants
- July 24 - Optional Class
- July 26 - Review ****
- July 27 - CPP exam (tentatively)

See insert for the CPP Short Course Waiver and Program Information with Registration Form.

Plant Problems to Watch for in January


Here are some diseases we observed in the clinic during the month of January. Upon going to the website, hypertext links will lead you to specific information about a certain disease or about diseases in a certain crop.

Turfgrasses

Fescue: Cold injury, Net blotch, Pink snow mold

Woody Ornamentals

General: Cold injury, Secondary leaf spots, Phytophthora root rot

Herbaceous Ornamentals

English Ivy: Anthracnose, Bacterial leaf spot, Phytophthora root rot
Tulip: Bacterial soft rot, Fusarium bulb rot, Rhizoctonia bulb rot
Pansy: Cercospora leaf spot, Cold injury

Interior plants

General: Botrytis blight, Nutritional problems, Pythium diseases
Workshop Scheduled to Address Trees

Survival from Southern Pine Beetle

State and local forestry professionals are inviting people interested in protecting their trees from harmful pests to an upcoming workshop in Haywood County. Of particular note on the agenda is a new cost share program for thinning beetle infested stands.

The N. C. Division of Forest Resources and the N. C. Cooperative Extension Service are conducting the Tree Survival Workshop from 7:00-8:30 pm on January 17. The workshop will be held at the Haywood County Extension Center at 589 Raccoon Road, Waynesville. The workshop is free.

People who attend the workshop will learn about North Carolina’s most destructive forest pest the Southern Pine Beetle. Much time and money has been invested in how to get rid of this pest, which destroys one of the state’s most valuable natural resources. The Southern Pine Beetle has destroyed about $59.5 million worth of timber in the last decade, officials with the N. C. Division of Forest Resources estimate.

For more information, please call Jonathan McCall, a Southern Pine Beetle Forester with the N. C. Division of Forest Resources, at (828) 586-4007. To register, please call the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service at (828) 456-3575.

Basic Home Maintenance Course

The Buncombe County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension is offering a five-series Basic Home Maintenance Course beginning February 6. The two-hour class will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm on February 6, 8, 13, 15, & 20 (snow date February 27) at the Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Some of the topics to be covered are: saving on your heating and cooling bills, basic plumbing repairs, interior and exterior maintenance, landscaping and lawn care, indoor air quality, common household pest, etc. The fee of $15 includes all materials. Space is limited so pre-registration is necessary. To register, call the Buncombe County Center at (828) 255-5522.

2007 Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicators and Dealer Exam Dates

Two pesticide exams are now available in Spanish: the Private Applicator Exam and the Ornamental and Turf Exam. Call NCDA&CS/Pesticide Section, (919) 733-3556, to schedule an appointment and to confirm what licensing category is needed.

ALL EXAMS WILL BEGIN AT 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Exams are also held the second day of each school.

January 16 - Hendersonville, NC

February 5 - Statesville, NC

February 8 - Marshall, NC (4:00 pm)

March 14 - Asheville, NC

April 2 - Statesville, NC

May 2 - Fletcher, NC (May 1 School)

** Training material may be obtained from NCSU, Department of Horticulture Science, Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609, telephone (919) 515-3113 or go to www.ncagr.com/fooddrug/pesticide/ and download the manual order form, fill out and mail.
Grower Spotlight

Biltmore Estate Nursery
702 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 665-3635 (phone)
(828) 665-3637 (fax)

drice@biltmore.com

- Owners: Biltmore Estate
- Sales: Dawn Rice
- Grower: Becky Combs (perennials) & Andy Wilson (woodies)
- Number of employees: 3 full time & 3 seasonal
- Square feet of business: 8 greenhouses; 2 acres
- Grand opening date: 1999
- Product Mix: Hardy perennials (quarts & 1 gallon), tender perennials & annuals, trees, shrubs, natives, grasses and ferns.
- Clientele: Wholesale to landscapers and retail at the Gardener’s Place on the Biltmore Estate
- New & upcoming:
  - Lots of new perennials for 2007!!
  - Growing more 2 gallon-size woody plant material
  - Concentrating more on native plants

- Staff picks:
  - Pieris - Excellent evergreen shrub with rich bronze new growth, white urn-shaped flowers that become 3 to 6” long, prefers moist, acid soils that are well-drained and needs full sun to partial shade.
  - Deciduous Azaleas - Beautiful flowering shrub for any shrub border, mass or foundation planting prefers a moist, acid soil and sun to partial shade.
  - Weigelia - Extremely adaptable deciduous shrub but prefers well-drained soils and full sun, pollution tolerant and has beautiful flowers!
  - Baptisia X ‘Carolina Moonlight’ - Show stopper in the spring garden! Has beautiful yellow flowers and prefers sunny locations.
  - Trillium luteum - Native, yellow-flowering Trillium.
  - Echinacea peruensis Rocky Top hybrids - Perennial with a rainbow of bloom colors!

- Comments:
  - Biltmore Estate Nursery (BEN) offers a huge mix of plant materials! Their Hosta collection is quite impressive with 60 different cultivars available! Perennials native to the woodlands of North America, Heuchera and Tiarella, are also available and would look beautiful in a WNC landscape! And ferns! They carry a lot of ferns! The ’07 availability and price list is now available! Just contact BEN by phone or email and the availability list can be faxed or mailed to you.

Give’ em a call and support your local growers!!!!!
New Classes to be Offered – Looking at New Enterprises from a Whole Farm Perspective

Everyday in Extension someone will ask “What can I do on my farm to make money?” Landowners, specifically farmers, are faced with either making some money on the land that they own or selling out to the highest bidder. To better enable clients to have the information to make an informed decision about what would or would not make money on their particular farm, a team of agents are working to set up a series of workshops. A draft of this program is being set forth to receive feedback from the clients that might be interested in the program or that might be able to lend an experiential hand to the process. Below are the beginnings of the outline for the objectives and goals for the workshops. Please feel free to offer any suggestions that you have to make this better!

This course is designed to take you through a sustainable decision-making process based on a plan for the whole farm. It is termed a "feasibility study" and it will provide much of the information necessary to help you make a decision and set you up to start a business plan.

Purpose

- Provide an educational process for helping rural landowners explore possibilities and make decisions about generating income from the wise use of their land.
- Provide decision tools – questionnaires, reading assignments, decision trees, matrixes, farm plans, research, and SWOT analysis to step participants through a decision process based on an assessment of motivational factors, market opportunities, commodity choices and other land options, and an analysis of bottom-line resources available to meet them.
- Provide current examples of farms stepping through this entire decision matrix
- Provide opportunities to investigate own land/farm issues

General Description

This course combines the concepts of whole farm planning, site planning processes, self assessment tools, and business planning principles. It is arranged in component parts that can be used together in a course sequence group setting, or provided individually for self study.

The Farm Planning Process helps you answer the following questions:
1. What do you want to accomplish? (SELF-ASSESSMENT & GOALS)
2. What do you have to work with? (RESOURCES)
3. What has been done? (ANALYSIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE)
4. What might be done? (ALTERNATIVE PLANS)
5. What will be done? (DECISION)
6. How will it be done? (IMPLEMENTATION)
7. Is it working? (MONITORING)

Results of working through all components of this course are:

- Knowledge and understanding of your personal preferences, capabilities, and weaknesses related to starting and operating a small business;
- The opportunities and constraints provided by your geographic location, land and facilities;
- Knowledge to make both land-based and commodity-dollar based decision for track of land;
- Knowledge and understanding of potential markets for products and services from you;
- A narrowed range of choices of products and services that are the “best fit” for you to optimize your economic potential from your farm to your market;
- The information necessary for you to choose an enterprise that will most likely meet your lifestyle choices and financial goals.
- The background information needed to begin preparation of your business plan.
2007 CPP Short Course Waiver and Program Information

This class is designed to assist participants in developing their level of knowledge and professionalism in the area of landscape plants and use. While past participants tend to score higher on the Certified Plant Professional Exam we do not make any guarantees that you as a student will do so. You will need to make a personal commitment to study the materials provided and attend each class. It should also be noted that individuals with less than one year's experience in the green industry are not eligible to take the CPP exam. While this class is a good review for those individuals, it would be advisable to wait or retake the class near the date you plan to take the exam.

The **2007 CPP Exam** will be held on **July 27** at The NC Arboretum.

It should be noted that there will be a NC Registered Landscape Contractors Exam on **July 27**.

**Registration**

- Company:____________________________________________________________
- Name(s):____________________________________________________________
  ________________________________________________________________
  ________________________________________________________________
- Address: _____________________________________________________________
- City:________________________________________________________________
- State:_________________________________________________________________
- Zip:__________________________________________________________________
- Phone:________________________________________________________________
- E-mail:________________________________________________________________

Please send this portion of form back with the registration fee of $100 made payable to the Henderson County Cooperative Extension Center (ATTN: CPP). This fee covers the cost of the text and participant materials. If you wish to take the class but have previously purchased a text, the cost is only $40. (Please note this on your registration form.) Registration is due by **May 1**. There is a cap on this program of 30 participants. Once we have reached that cap your name will go into a waiting list for next year. Registration for the CPP exam is due to the NCAN office prior to June 25. Call them at 919-816-9119 for more information. ***[http://www.ncan.com/certifications.html](http://www.ncan.com/certifications.html)***

**Mail checks for the classes to:**

Cliff Ruth  
Area Specialized Agent  
NC Cooperative Extension Service  
Henderson County Center  
740 Glover Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Please note: Payment of this fee does not include the CPP exam fee nor register you with NCAN for that exam.  

*YOU MUST SEND THAT REGISTRATION IN SEPERATELY!*
FREE Native Plant Marketing Opportunity!!!

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP)
http://www.nceep.net/business/monitoring/veg/nativeplantprovider.htm
Is your nursery listed here? If you grow native plants it should be!

All native plant providers interested in working with the staff and contractors are invited to post their company’s contact information. To reserve space on the website, please complete the Plant Provider Form, save it as an attachment, and email it to steven.roberts@ncmail.net. They will do their best to post your information within 30 days of submittal date.

EEP provides:
· High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection;
· Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation-infrastructure and economic development; and
· Detailed watershed-planning and project-implementation efforts within North Carolina’s threatened or degraded watersheds.

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by NCSU, NCA&T State University or NC Cooperative Extension or discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance contact an agent of N. C. Cooperative Extension.

AS:gs

Individuals with disabilities who would like to participate in any program mentioned in this newsletter, but who need special assistance to do so, should call the Extension Center at 828-255-5522 at least five days prior to the event.

The Commercial Horticulture News is a newsletter produced by the Buncombe County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform and educate Buncombe County producers about current issues related to commercial horticulture production.

Editor: Amanda Stone, Extension Agent - Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture

Check out Buncombe County Center’s website at...http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu