Happy New Year!!

To all of you, thanks for a wonderful 2008! I am looking forward to a great 2009 as your Commercial Horticulture Agent! I would like to give you a staffing update. Kenneth Reeves, Buncombe County Extension Director retired December 1, 2008. Since December 1, I have been serving as Interim Director until the position is filled. We hope to have that position filled by March 1, 2009. So far, it's been a really good experience for me. My secretary, Gail Saye also retired and we hope to have this position filled by mid-January. Our Small Farms Agent position is also vacant at this time and we are working on filling this position as well. Before long we'll have a full staff again and we are hoping to have an "Open House" to invite you and our County Commissioners in to meet the staff. Hope you can come! Remember to feel free to call me with any questions or comments you may have. If you would like me to address specific green industry issues or needs in the newsletter or in educational programs just send me an email, call or write. I wish you a very healthy, joyful and prosperous 2009!

Below is a sneak– peek at just a few of the programs and activities you can’t miss!!

Calling all nursery men and women, landscapers and plants people alike!!!! Attending the 2009 Green & Growin’ Show is a must!! Held at the Greensboro Coliseum January 13-15. Three days of educational seminars and two days of trade show. February 11 and 12 there will be a free program on Landscape Irrigation and Rain Water Harvesting at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center (MHREC). For nursery managers and their employees, a regional Nursery Management Workshop will be at the MHREC, February 25. Attendees will learn to identify and manage diseases and weeds effectively, monitor nutrition and maintain irrigation efficiency. The popular regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop will be held on Thursday, February 26. Learn about pruning, sustainable landscaping, managing pesticide drift and more! The WNC Turfgrass Conference will be at MHREC on March 9. Another learning experience not to miss is the 15th Annual Organic Growers School held March 21-22 at Blue Ridge Community College. I’ll be there checking out the sustainable landscaping track and cooking track! For tree care professionals, a Carolina Canopy Workshop will be held at the NC Arboretum on April 14. The Certified Plant Professional Short Course (June 12-July 23) 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! Wow! I can’t wait! Have a great year!!
Calendar of Events

Winter 2008-09
North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. The arboretum has wonderful educational programs throughout the year. Check them out!! Visit their website at www.ncarboretum.org.

Winter 2008-09
Asheville Botanical Gardens, 151 W.T. Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC. Check out the educational programs the Asheville Botanical Gardens have to offer. Visit their website at www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org.

Winter 2008-09
The Bullington Center, 33 Upper Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. Check out the educational programs offered this year. Visit their website at www.bullingtoncenter.org.

January 13-15, 2009
Green & Growin’ Trade Show & Educational Seminars, 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 more info visit the NC Nursery & Landscape Association, www.ncan.com.

January 26-29, 2009

February 11
Landscape Irrigation, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. 9am-4pm. This FREE (with lunch) workshop is co-hosted by John Deere Landscapes. Rainbird and Hunter irrigation systems will be taught. To register or for more information contact Cliff Ruth. (828) 697-4891.

February 12
Rain Water Harvesting/Conservation Workshop, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC NC. 9am-4pm. This FREE (with lunch) workshop is co-hosted by John Deere Landscapes. Previous pavers and the practice of installing them. Cisterns and attaching them to irrigation devices will be taught. To register or for more information contact Cliff Ruth, (828) 697-4891.

February 25
Nursery Management Workshop, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 8:30am-4:30pm. Registration is $20 per person. Go to the following site for the program brochure: http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/11/2009nurserymanagement.pdf.

February 26
Landscape Maintenance Workshop, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. The program will be from 9am-4pm. The cost is $20 per person. Pesticide credits will be available. Sustainable landscaping, preventing pesticide drift, hands-on landscape pruning are just a few of the things you will learn! To register or for more information contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522.

March 9
WNC Turfgrass Tour & Conference, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. There will be a golf session & lawn care and athletic field session. A registration form will be in the February edition of the newsletter. Pesticide credits will be available. For more info contact the Buncombe County Extension Office, (828) 255-5522.
Calendar of Events continued:

March 21-22, 2009
16th Annual Organic Growers School, Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, NC. Join us for over 70 classes and hands-on workshops each day, a trade show, seed & plant exchange, silent auction, and children’s program. More hands-on workshops than ever before! Topics include gardening, farming, livestock, homesteading, herbs, food preservation, alternative energy, cooking, soils, landscaping, forestry, pest management, and much more. Online registration opens in January. For more info visit: www.organicgrowersschool.org.

April 14
Carolina Canopy Workshop, NC Arboretum, 9am-1pm. Tree care professionals are encouraged to attend. This workshop is a joint collaboration between NC Arboretum, NC Cooperative Extension, NC Urban Forest Council and Quality Forward. ISA and NC Pesticide credits will be available. More info coming soon!

Basic Home Maintenance Course

The Buncombe County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension is offering a five-series Basic Home Maintenance Course beginning February 11. The two-hour class will be held from 11:00am-2:00pm on February 11,13,18,20 and 25. February 27 will be the snowdate if necessary. 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 pests, etc. The course will be held at the Extension Center, 94 Coxe Ave. The fee of $20 includes all materials. To register, call the Buncombe County Center at 255-5522.

2009 Commercial & Private Pesticide Applicators & 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 P.M. unless otherwise noted. Exams are also held the second day of each school.

January 29: Boone NC
February 8: Marshall, NC (4pm)
February 11: Charlotte, NC
March 10: Asheville, NC
April 16: Hickory, NC
May 6: Fletcher, NC (May 5th School)

** Training material may be obtained from NCSU, Department of Horticulture Science, Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695, Telephone (919) 515-3113. Or go to: www.ncagr.com/foodrug/pesticide and download the manual order form, fill it out and mail it in.
Pesticide Recertification Classes

***** Please visit North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Section for a list of recertification opportunities throughout N.C.
http://www.ncagr.com/SPCAP/pesticides/index.htm

Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V)

1/22/2009—Bilingual Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, category V (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. Please call the Buncombe County Extension Office, (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

3/17/2009—Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, category V (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

9/1/2009—Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, category V (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

2/25/2009—Managing Weeds and Diseases in the Nursery, categories LNDX (2 credits). Class will be held from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. Please call the Buncombe County Extension Office at (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

2/26/2009—Landscape Maintenance Workshop, categories LNDX (2 credits). Class will be held from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. Please call the Buncombe County Extension Office at (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

3/24/2009—Pesticide Specialty Training, categories ABGHIKLMNOTDX (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

6/9/2009—Pesticide Specialty Training, categories ABGHIKLMNOTDX (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

9/1/2009—Pesticide Specialty Training, categories ABGHIKLMNOTDX (2 credits). Class will be held from 6:00-8:00pm at the Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

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 Joyce.Plemmons@buncombecounty.org
Making Cents of Green Industry Economics

I thought you may be interested in this internet BLOG called “Making Cents”. Why “Making Cents”? Because as margins get tighter and tighter in the Green Industry due to market conditions becoming increasingly competitive, a few cents per pot/plant can make a world of difference! Stay tuned to this site for up-to-the-minute information regarding economic factors affecting your business and strategic responses to enhance profitability!

About the author: Dr Charles Hall, current chair holder of the Ellison Chair in International Floriculture at Texas A&M University.

Visit this web address for access to the BLOG. You can sign up to receive postings by email.
hellisonchair.blogspot.com

Tough Times Financial Management

More American’s feel added stress and anxiety about their financial future as talk of rising consumer debt, falling housing prices, rising costs of living, and declining retail sales bring up worries about the nation’s economic health.

Money is often on the minds of most Americans. In fact, according to the American Psychological Association’s 2007 Stress in America survey, money and work are two of the top sources of stress for almost 75 percent of Americans. Add to the mix headlines declaring a looming economic recession, and many begin to fear how they can handle any further financial crunch.

Learning positive money management techniques can help you and your family adapt to tough economic times. A series of fact sheets are available on eXtension which address money management techniques for turbulent economic times.


If you do not have internet access, contact us and we can mail you the fact sheets!

Attention: Research Stations at Risk!

Here is your opportunity to let our administrators know how important local agricultural research is to you and what kind of research needs to be done. As instructed by the State Legislature, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are currently working together to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for managing our research stations. Their primary objectives are to enhance efficiency, improve effectiveness and modernize our facilities for agricultural research. Your input is being sought in the strategic planning process. The following regional meeting has been scheduled to receive public comments.

Check out our three WNC research stations at:
http://www.ncagr.gov/research/locations.htm

January 14, 2009
1:00pm-4:00pm
Mountain Research Station, 265 Test Farm Road, Waynesville, NC (828) 456-3943
Additional information may be found at the following website:
http://www.ncagr.com/research/strategicplan.htm

Working together, we can help ensure that agriculture continues to have a strong future in North Carolina.
Thank you to the 2008 Grower Spotlights

Israel and Son’s Nursery and Garden Center (828) 254-2671


Reems Creek Nursery, (828) 645-3937, www.reemscreek.com

Jack Young Greenhouses, (828) 667-5555

Country Fields Greenhouse and Gardens, (828) 296-8839

Eagle Feather Farm, (828) 649-3536, www.ncgoldenseal.com

David Lee, (828) 713-6534

Give these nurseries a call and support our local growers!! If you are interested in being featured in the Grower Spotlight give Amanda Stone a call at the Buncombe County Extension Office (828) 255-5522.