Attention Landscapers! Town Hall Meeting About The Proposed Landscape Contractor Practice Act

This is a notification to all landscapers of an up-coming town hall meeting where the proposed Landscape Contractor Practice Act will be discussed. This event will be in the Bo Thomas Auditorium on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College. The meeting will take place from 6:30 until 8:30 on Thursday evening March 18th. RSVP requested. If possible please car pool with a colleague as parking may be limited. The Bo Thomas Auditorium is in the Sink Building on the Flat Rock Campus. If you need additional directions please call me or visit the College’s website: http://www.blueridge.edu/about_brcc/maps_menu.php
Note: Blue Ridge Community College is a tobacco free campus.

This is an informational meeting sponsored by the Green Industry Council of North Carolina and only facilitated by the Cooperative Extension offices. For an overview of the legislation please visit their website at: http://www.nclandscapecontractorslicense.com NC Cooperative Extension remains an educational organization only and not a regulatory one. Regardless of the outcome of this legislation we will continue to strive to provide the educational programs that will give all green industry professionals an equal opportunity to achieve their professional goals, learn new practices, and/or skill and obtain or retain any required certifications or licenses. For more information contact your Extension Office.

Emergency Loans for Greenhouse Losses

Many growers in Western North Carolina lost greenhouse structures and crops due to the heavy snow load that occurred back in mid-December. Buncombe County had $250k reported losses! The Farm Service Agency received authorization to make emergency loans in Buncombe County for production losses that occurred due to the severe winter storms and flooding December 18 through December 25, 2009. If you are interested in a low interest emergency loan with FSA, contact the loan officer directly. His contact info is:

Gary Guinn, Farm Loan Officer
Farm Service Agency
Hendersonville USDA Service Center
61 Triple Springs Road
Hendersonville, NC  28792
Telephone: 828-693-1406

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in activities mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Amanda Stone at 828-255-5522 during business hours at least 3 days prior to the event to discuss accommodations.
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)


9/2/2010—Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, category V (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.

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

3/25/2010—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.

4/28/2010—Integrated Pest Management, categories GHLNODX (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 at (828) 255-5522 to pre-register. $5 per class.

5/26/2010—Integrated Pest Management, categories GHLNODX (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00—5:00pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register. $5 per class.

6/23/2010—Integrated Pest Management, categories GHLNODX(2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register. $5 per class.

7/14/2010—Integrated Pest Management, categories GHLNODX (2 credits). Class will be held from 3:00-5:00pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register. $5 per class.

8/25/2010—Integrated Pest Management, categories GHLNODX (2 Credits). Class will be held from 3:00—5:00pm at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River, NC. Please call 828-255-5522 to pre-register. $5 per class.

9/2/2010—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.
2010 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.

March 11: Asheville NC
April 5: Statesville, NC
April 21: Hickory, NC
May 5 & 6: Pesticide School and Exam, Mills River
June 9: Asheville, NC

These are just a few of the exams offered!! Please check the website for a full listing: http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/license.htm.

** Training material may be obtained from NCSU, Department of Horticulture Science, Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695, Telephone (919) 515-3113. Or go to: http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/license.htm and download the manual order form, fill it out and mail it in.

Green Industry Integrated Pest Management Workshop Series, Register now!

North Carolina Cooperative Extension will be holding 5 classes this season on Green Industry disease, insect & weed identification and controls. Each class will teach skills needed to identify diseases, insects and weeds in the landscape and nursery. Actual live (or dead) samples of insects, diseases & weeds will be brought to each class for hands-on teaching. Please feel free to bring in your own samples! We will then discuss Integrated Pest Management approaches to controlling these pests. No class will be the same, so come to one or come to all! The classes will be held at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research & Extension Center, Mills River, NC. Class size will be limited to 35 students. Pesticide credits have been approved for all classes—2 credit hours (each class) for categories GHLNDOX. The class dates are as follows:

April 28, 3:00—5:00 pm
May 26, 3:00—5:00 pm
June 23, 3:00—5:00 pm
July 14, 3:00—5:00 pm
August 25, 3:00—5:00 pm

To register, please call Amanda Stone 828-255-5522. There is a $5 registration fee for each class OR $20 for all 5 classes. Please indicate which classes you would like to attend and make checks payable to Buncombe County and mail to Amanda Stone, Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801.
NC Cooperative Extension Service Presents...

Internet Marketing Series for Farmers

Many consumers rely on the Internet to make decisions on what to buy. Are you a farmer who is curious about what the Internet can do for you? Interested in starting a Facebook page, Blog, Microblog or Website but don’t know where to start? Want to find out how adding videos or podcasts can enhance your site?

The “Internet Marketing Series for Farmers” will help you get started!

REGISTRAR EARY!
Each class is limited to 25 participants!

Fee:
$10/class or $35/all four classes

Checks Payable To:
“NCSES”

To register:
Contact Erin Bonito
828.255.5522
or erin_bonito@ncsu.edu

April 12: Facebook and Twitter
Learn how to make your own Page or Tweet

April 19: Blogs
Introduction, Examples and Hands-On Lab

April 26: Websites
Options, Examples and Design Tips

May 3: Videos and Podcasting
Creating and Uploading Hands-On Demo

Location: Earth Fare (West Asheville)
66 Westgate Parkway, Asheville, NC 28806

Time: All Classes are from 10 am—noon

BYOL: Bring Your Own Laptop
If you don’t have a laptop, we will provide one for you

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
Rain Barrel Sale

The 80 gallon barrel measures 37 inches high and 28 inches wide. It is made of 20% recycled high density polypropylene. The heavy concave lid channels water flow into the barrel. The screened entry blocks leaves, debris and insects and the dark green color discourages algae growth. Two overflow ports to move water away from your home, it comes complete with fittings and installation instructions.

80 gallon barrel $ 110
Payment by March 22, 2010
(Make checks payable to: Rain Barrel USA)
Pick up day
Saturday, March 27, 2010
9:00—1:00
WNC Farmers Market

To order your barrel, mail your payment to: NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC  28801. An order form can also be found on the web site at: http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu. A sample barrel can be seen at the Cooperative Extension office at 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville. Payment must be received by March 22, 2010. Barrels must be picked up March 27 between 9:00am and 1:00pm at the WNC Farmers Market.

Grant Opportunities

1. WNC Forest Products Project request for Proposals, Land-of-Sky Regional Council seeks proposals from forest producers to improve the marketing or production methods for their forest-based businesses. Funds are not available for major equipment purchases. Proposals are due by 5:00pm on March 31, 2010. The total budget to fund proposals under this request is $1 million. The maximum amount for any proposal is $100,000. For more info contact (828) 251-6622.

2. The North Carolina Value-Added Cost Share (NCVACS) program, administered by N.C. MarketReady, is now accepting applications for the spring funding cycle, Equipment Cost Share. Applicants can seek to purchase new or used equipment with cost share funding. Equipment cost of $25,000. Grant application is due March 30. For more info go to: http://www.ncmarketready.org or call Brittney Whitmire, 919-830-9557 or brittany_whitmire@ncsu.edu.

3. Value-Added Producer Grant. Grants are to be used to develop business plans and develop strategies for creating marketing opportunities. Grants may also be used for feasibility studies to provide capital to establish alliances or business ventures that allow the producers of the value-added agricultural product to better compete in domestic and international markets. For assistance, please contact Bruce Pleasant, Business Programs Specialist. Mr. Pleasant can be reached at 919-873-2031 or email: bruce.pleasant@nc.usda.gov.

For more information on Small Farm Funding visit the USDA Small Farm Funding Resource Center: http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/small_farm_funding.htm
EVENTS CALENDAR

March 17
Western North Carolina Turfgrass Conference, NC Arboretum. There will be sessions for the Golf Course Managers and Landscape/Athletic Field Managers. Pesticide credits will be available. For more info or to register contact: (919)380-9424 http://www.ncturfgrass.org/pdf/2010westernconference.pdf.

March 31
Irrigation Workshop: Chlorination Systems for Nursery and Vegetable Crop Production. The workshop will be from 9:30am—Noon at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Mills River. Pesticide credits will be available. Topics covered include water quality issues, results from trials in NC, using chlorination, other options for treating irrigation water. There is no cost for the workshop but please pre-register with Erin Bonito (828)255-5522.

Spring—Summer
NC Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, http://www.ncarboretum.org. There are lots of awesome scheduled seminars and workshops.

June 17—22
Certified Plant Professional Short Course (CPP), NC Arboretum. 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 info contact Cliff Ruth, (828) 697-4891 or Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522. Or visit the website: http://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu/content/CertifiedPlantProfessionalShortCourse2010

June 16—18
Southeast Greenhouse Growers Conference & Trade Show. Greenville, SC. This is the largest educational conference and trade show in the South focused on the greenhouse grower and ‘color’ industry. Tours, workshops, educational sessions, new varieties, trade show networking, are all available during the three day event. For more info call the Extension Office at 255-5533 or visit http://www.sgcts.org.

July 27—31
The Cullowhee Conference: Native Plants in the Landscape, Western Carolina Univ., Cullowhee, NC. The purpose of this conference is to increase interest in the knowledge of propagating and preserving native southeastern plant species in the landscape. For more info visit: http://www.wcu.edu/5033.asp.