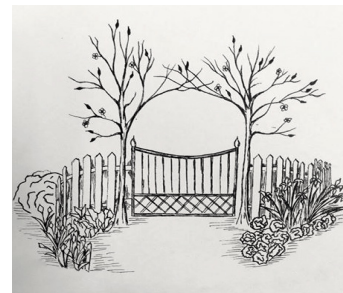


IN THE GARDEN NOW

HELPING GARDENERS PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

October 2016



Discovery Garden Update



Construction workers drive the pilings that will support the Summer House in the Discovery Gardens

Lisa Rayburn

Lisa Rayburn
Extension Agent,
Horticulture

Contact Us:

NCCE-Onslow County
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC
28540

(910) 455-5873
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<http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu>

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

I am very excited to announce that we are moving forward with the next phase of construction in the Discovery Gardens. For those who are not familiar, the Discovery Gardens are a project of the Onslow County Master Gardener Volunteers. Many years ago, they saw the need for a public garden in Onslow County and they have worked hard to make this vision a reality.

At completion, the Discovery Gardens will encompass a 4-acre tract behind the Onslow County Multipurpose Building and adjacent to the Onslow County Farmers Market. The gardens will serve as a place for education, recreation, events and community engagement. The Discovery Gardens will serve as a hands-on classroom for gardening classes and Master Gardener Volunteers educating the public. The gardens will also serve as a location for community members – including seniors and families – to visit, walk, recreate and relax in a safe outdoor environment. The gardens will include over a third of a mile of accessible walking trails and nature boardwalk. The Discovery Gardens will be suitable for weddings, receptions, and reunions as well as public events such as festivals, Art in the Park, and the like.

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

We currently have our entrance circle, low impact storm water management system, nature boardwalk and raised bed vegetable garden installed. This next phase of construction will include the Summer House, irrigation system, senior gaming area, trails and pathways.

Once this phase of construction is complete, we will be busy planting trees and shrubs in the garden. If you like learning and getting your hands dirty, plan on coming out and joining us next spring. Meanwhile, swing on by and check out what's happening!

Tip and Tasks



tips & tricks

- Plant onions and garlic now for harvest next spring.
- Prepare house plants for their move back indoors. Gradually move them to a more shaded location for a week or two. Inspect the plant and rootball for insects and, if necessary, treat prior to bringing the plants back inside.
- Wait until after the first hard frost to cut back herbaceous plants. Leave ornamental grasses standing through the winter months for visual interest and to provide habitat for songbirds and other wildlife.
- Raise your lawn mower height by half an inch. This will allow your grass to root more deeply and store more carbohydrates going in to winter.
- Scout lawns for large patch now. Look for areas of thinning turf surrounded by a yellow or orange halo.

Onslow County NICKELS FOR KNOW-HOW REFERENDUM

The Onslow County Nickels for Know-How Referendum will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Melissa Huffman, Agricultural Extension Agent and Referendum Chairman, said 2 polling places have been established in the County. The polling locations are as follows

1. Onslow County Extension Office, 4024 Richlands Hwy., Jacksonville NC 28540
2. Onslow Feed & Grain, 410 W. Hargett St., Richlands, NC 28574

The referendum is being held to let users and producers of feed or fertilizer decide if they wish to continue the self-assessment program. This program has been in place since 1948, and the law requires that a new referendum be held every six years.

A 2/3 favorable vote will mean that growers are willing to continue to assess themselves to support agricultural research and education. The assessment is fifteen cents per ton on feed and fertilizer produced in North Carolina.

The funds, about \$1.4 million annually, are collected by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and then allocated by the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.'s. The referendum benefits NC State University and agriculture in North Carolina.

For more information on the referendum please call your County Extension Office at: Onslow County Extension (910) 455-5873 or <https://cals.ncsu.edu/nickels-for-know-how/>

Find the Gardening Information on the Radio



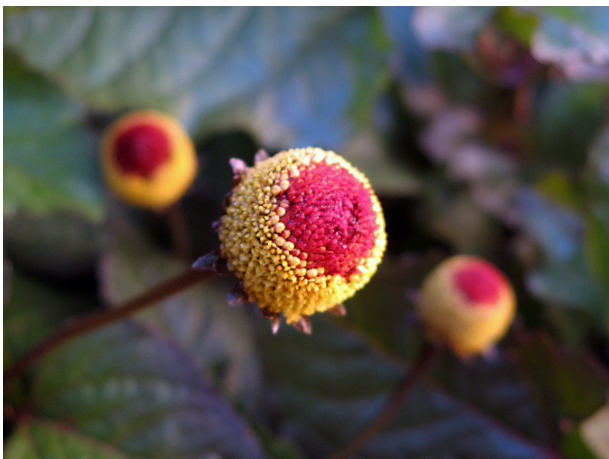
I host the Garden Journal on Public Radio East. The Garden Journal airs Friday at noon on all PRE Stations and Saturday at noon on News and Ideas. In Onslow County, that is 91.5 FM and 89.3 FM on Fridays and 91.5 FM Saturdays. Tune in and join me. Is there a topic that you would like me to address on the show? If so, email me at lisa_rayburn@ncsu.edu and you may hear your answer on the air.

Spooktacular Plants

~Katy Shook, Area Agent

Fall is known for nights full of fright, but don't worry. These plants won't bite! Try incorporating these ghoulish plants into your landscape and provide frightful fun for kids of all ages.

Spider flower, *Cleome hasslerana*, is a low maintenance annual that performs best in sun to partial shade and moist soil. Purple and white blooms are produced summer to frost with 1-inch long petals and extended stamens that curve to give the plant its spiderlike resemblance. Plants reach a height of 3 to 4 feet with a 2-foot width, making them suited for the back of the garden. They also make great cut flowers.



Eyeball plant provokes conversation in the garden.
©Thomas Knox, [creativecommons.org](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/), CC-BY-NC-SA-2.0

Eyeball plant, *Spilanthes oleracea*, is sure to be a conversation starter in the garden. The globular, golden-yellow flowers are centered with a red "eye." A low, spreading growth habit occurs when eyeball is planted in full sun to light shade. Blooms are produced in the spring along the ends of extended stems that are surrounded by olive-colored leaves. This annual is thought to have been used in folk medicine as a toothache remedy, but it is best used today as a groundcover or in containers.

Ghost fern, *Athyrium* sp. 'Ghost,' derives its name from the silvery fronds of foliage that are produced through the entire growing season. The clumping fronds will reach an average height and width of 2 to 3 feet with little maintenance and care. As a woodland plant, however, ghost fern prefers moist soil and part to full shade.



Bloodtwig dogwood displays creamy flowers in late spring and blood-red stems in winter. Jen Wyer, CC-BY-NC-ND-4.0

Bloodtwig dogwood, *Cornus sanguinea*, drips with color throughout the year. Creamy-white flowers are produced in late spring, followed by purple fruit and red fall foliage. The color continues through winter as stems fade from yellow to red. Use in mass plantings for impact. This medium to large shrub prefers sun to part shade and well-drained soil.

Devil's walking stick, *Aralia spinosa*, will provide year-round fright with its stiff, thorny branches that reach an average height of 15 to 20 feet in the landscape. This deciduous tree species will tolerate a wide range of soil conditions and sun exposure, and its leaves will produce yellow to red-orange fall color. In summer the tree is highlighted by clustered, creamy-white flowers that are followed by purple to black fruits. Besides attracting onlookers, the plant also attracts bees, butterflies, and birds.



Bloodtwig dogwood displaying creamy flowers in late spring.
Jen Wyer, CC-BY-NC-ND-4.0

Skullcap, *Scutellaria incana*, is a native perennial that prefers moist soil and sun to light shade. Stalked, purple to blue blooms are produced summer to fall against small leaves covered with silvery hair. The plant will reach an average height of 2 to 4 feet in the garden. You can enjoy teasing garden visitors with its frightful name while they enjoy its delicate blooms.

Onslow County Farmers' Market



Please note that our market is seasonal. The Tuesday and Thursday markets closed the last week of September. They will reopen next season. The Saturday market is still open and will feature a holiday market this year, so it will be open until Dec. 17th. Come out and support your local farmers, vendors and crafters. You will find a selection of local produce, baked goods, wines, wares, jams and jellies, prepared foods and hand crafted items. Come join us on:

- Saturdays from 8:30 to 1:30 at 4024 Richlands Highway

To learn more about the Farmers' Market and upcoming special events, check out their website or follow their Facebook page for more details:

<http://onslowncfarmersmarket.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Onslow-County-Farmers-Market/111126258908994>

Submit Soil Samples No Later Than Nov. 28 to Avoid Peak Season Fees



Stack of soil samples

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Agronomic Division levies a fee on soil samples submitted during its peak season: December through March. Peak season samples are charged a \$4 fee per box. Samples submitted the rest of the year (April through November) are still processed for free.

If you haven't sampled your soil recently, go ahead and sample now. We recommend sampling every 2-3 years in the coastal plain. If you send your sample by way of the Onslow County extension office, make sure it is received at the office by November 28 to ensure that it reaches NCDA prior to their deadline. If you are sending your samples to the NCDA directly, ensure that they arrive no later than November 30.

Wait times are significantly shorter if you submit your samples during the off-season. It usually only takes about two weeks for the lab to process samples during the non-peak season; during peak season, sample turnaround times can stretch to 8 or 9 weeks.

Pesticide Collection Day

Do you have old pesticides in your shed or garage and need to dispose of them safely? If so, you are in luck. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Onslow County Extension, will be offering a FREE Pesticide Collection Day. The collection will be Tuesday, November 8, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Onslow County Extension Office 4024 Richlands Hwy., Jacksonville, NC. The local site manager will be Melissa Huffman, Agricultural Extension Agent for Onslow County.

Nearly all pesticide products will be accepted. Please contact the Extension office for more information before bringing containers larger than 5 gallons or unlabeled pesticides to the collection event. No gas cylinders are accepted at the event; however, information can be provided for proper disposal. Contact Melissa Huffman at the Onslow County Extension Office at (910) 455-5873 for more information. **DON'T MISS THIS FREE OPPORTUNITY!**

UPCOMING CLASSES

Vermicomposting

October 15th, 10 am

Learn how to compost with worms! This technique does not require much space, is easy to do and converts kitchen scraps in to nutrient-rich worm castings for your plants.

Location: Onslow County Extension Office, 4024 Richlands Highway. Call 910.455.5873



HOLIDAY WREATH SALE



Onslow County 4-H, Master Gardeners and Extension & Community Association are pleased to offer 26-inch fragrant wreaths to you in time for the Holidays. These wreaths are made by hand from the boughs of Frazer Fir Christmas Trees grown on the Brookgreen Family Farm in Ashe County. To insure freshness these boughs are pruned from the trees by hand while they are standing in the field. The boughs are trimmed and then attached to a wire ring with clamps. The handmade wreaths are then sprayed with Greenzit. This product seals the needles and evens the natural color variation between trees. Reserve your wreath today as we are accepting pre-orders only. The wreaths will be ready for you to pick up at the Onslow County Extension Center, 4024 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville, at the Onslow Multipurpose Complex. Dates and times of pick-ups will be announced at a later date, should be around the end of November.

No deliveries will be made---everyone must pick-up.
Sales run from **September 20th - November 10th, 2016.**

Give a gift to your community:
Strengthen Onslow County Extension Volunteers!!!

Order Your Wreaths Today!!

For more information, call: 910-455-5873
Lisa Rayburn, Extension Horticulture Agent
Wanda Mills, Extension Agent 4-H or
Peggie Garner, County Extension Director

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Checks Payable to NCCE-Onslow County

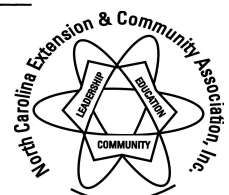
Return the form below with payment by November 10th to:
Onslow County Cooperative Extension Office
4024 Richlands Hwy. Jacksonville, NC 28540

Quantity _____ @ \$22.00 each = Total \$ _____

Purchased by: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Sold by: _____



CONTACT US

If you have questions about lawn, landscape or garden problems, contact your local Cooperative Extension office. In Onslow County call 455-5873, Mon – Fri. 8 am – 5 pm, or visit us online anytime at <http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu>. While you are there, you can post your questions to be answered by email using the “Ask an Expert” widget (in the upper left hand corner).

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