

Wake County JMG - 4H Newsletter



Next Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2010 (7:00-8:30pm)

Happy April Everyone!

April is such a beautiful time of the year! I'm sure that you have all been encouraged to meander outdoors to enjoy the sunshine, and to enjoy all the marvelous signs of nature - birds building nests, trees and shrubs with the emergence of leaves and flowers, and all of the dormant bulbs producing their showy flowers. Hopefully, this is also reminding all of our JMG 4-H'ers to begin implementing their garden plans.

The big event for us all to focus on this month is our annual JMG 4-H Plant Sale at the State Fairgrounds. As a reminder the sale dates are:

- April 16 -17 (Friday and Saturday) from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- April 18, Sunday from noon - 5 p.m. In the event that we sell out on Saturday, those scheduled to work Sunday will be notified prior to going to the Fairgrounds.
- All plants will be unloaded on Thursday morning, April 15 and will do setup jobs in the afternoon so everything is ready for customers Friday.
- Please remember to wear your JMG shirts and be sure to put on a big smile!

Several have already signed up and I really appreciate that. For those still needing to sign up, please go to http://www.wakejmg.org/contact_us.htm and click on Volunteer. Please note the description and photos of the camellias.

Sincerely,

Carol Norden

Sunflower Club News (Ages 6-8)



We reviewed a flower's parts and functions: *pistil (stigma, style, ovary, and ovules)*, *stamen (pollen, anther, filament)*, *petals*, and *sepals* as a lead-up to our activity after reading the book, Plantzilla, about a boy who takes care of a very interesting classroom plant over his summer vacation. (All of the Sunflowers enjoyed this story immensely, so please check it out at your local library for rereading!)

Next, we had a really fun activity: making MONSTER FLOWERS using umbrellas as framework, so you can imagine how large the flowers were!

We finished reading the story, Westlandia, about a boy who created his own civilization, using the plants he grew to provide him with his food, shelter, clothing, and games. This is another great book for you to check out of the library.

Homework Assignment for April 8, 2010

- (1) Sign up for the Plant Sale at the State Fairgrounds (held April 16, 17, & 18).
- (2) Get a sealable plastic bag and dig up some soil to fill your bag. Empty and spread it out and draw pictures and label them on a separate piece of paper as to what you find in your soil. Remember to put your name on your paper. Bring it back for our next meeting. **DO NOT BRING IN YOUR SOIL SAMPLE.**

Soil is composed of many materials, just like ingredients in your favorite cookie. The main ingredient in soil is **ROCK** that has been broken into tiny particles over time. The next soil ingredient is decomposing animals and plants such as leaves, grass clippings, and dead insects. These are broken down by microorganisms. Microorganisms are creatures that live in the soil but are too small to see without a microscope. Finally, water and nutrients make the soil recipe complete.

See if you can find these in your soil sample:

sand	helps the soil to drain
clay	helps the soil hold water and nutrients
rocks	turn into sand, silt and clay after a long time
twigs	when they turn to organic matter they add nutrients and help soils drain
bits of plants	when they turn to organic matter they add nutrients and help soils drain
earthworms	help make organic matter and make tunnels that help roots get water and air
live insects	some insects help plants and some hurt them
dead insects	when they turn to organic matter they add nutrients and help soils drain
trash	some trash, such as paper and food scraps, turns to organic matter
water	when soil is damp roots take water to the rest of the plant

See you at our next meeting, April 8!

Mrs. Z, Jan, and April

Dandelion Paws News (Ages 3-5)



Last month the Dandelion Paws enjoyed some stories about gardening. Discussion followed about some steps to follow in starting a garden. Students also learned about seeds and bulbs.

Small garden planters had been constructed ahead of time from orange juice cartons with a window opening on one side and a plastic window attached under. The purpose of this was to provide an opportunity for students to be able to view what happens when seeds are planted in the ground. Under normal conditions we can only guess since we cannot view the roots unless they are pulled from the soil. Students planted radish seeds and garlic bulbs in the juice cartons. They will water sparingly and told to tilt the backside slightly so the roots will grow against the opening for better viewing. Parents, please check so the carton is placed at a tilt towards the open flap. We also planted 'pregnant onions' in little cups.

Feel free to bring back the cartons or any results, including pictures, as show & tell over the next few months.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Mimrah Hossain, Judi Harper, Peter Zierz, Leaders



Wildlife Club News (Ages 8-11)

We talked about the importance of bees to vegetables, and planted seeds of two bee-friendly plants. Your homework assignment for April is to take good care of the Tithonia (Mexican sunflower) and lavender hyssop seeds you planted. Please draw a picture of what your seeds look like and bring it with you to the meeting.

We may spend the early part of the meeting in the garden, depending on the weather. You should wear shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Bianca Howard, Jason Botts and Priscilla Haddad, leaders

Wildflowers/Weedbusters Club News (Ages 12 & up)

Our March meeting was rather laid back. We began by sharing the results of last month's tomato grafting. While most of us lost our plants (to be expected on our first try), Tony and Nayeem had success. Their plants are alive and well after a whole month!

We spent the rest of the evening eating cookies, drinking juice, and thinking about Liz and Larry. As you know, Liz is home with her new baby, Cora Jane, and Larry is home recuperating with his new knee, recuperating. The students made gifts for them, but since they have not been delivered, we won't spill the beans – because if Liz or Larry are reading this it would ruin the surprise!

In closing, let me remind everyone about the plant sale at the fairgrounds. The dates are April 16, 17, 18 and everyone is expected to play a part. This is an important fundraiser for the junior master gardener program and the public wants to see the kids who benefit from it – you! Put it on your calendar and be prepared to sign up for a time slot at our next meeting on April 8th. Remember, many hands make light the work!

See you then!

Cheryl Koch, Leader

Upcoming Events

4-H Presentations

4-H Activity Day will be held April 24, Saturday at beginning at 1 p.m. at the Wake Co. Extension Office. All members ages 5 - 18 are strongly encouraged to participate. The top two county winners in each category will advance to district competition June 23 in Person County. Please review all 4-H Presentation Information and register to participate at County Activity Day no later than April 1, 2010. Complete information can be found at

<http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/family/4hyouth/presentations.htm>.

Please get started promptly and let your club leader or Carol Norden <cnorden@bellsouth.net> know that you are registering by the deadline date April 1, and what topic you plan to do.

JMG Plant Sale Sign-ups

We really appreciate the quick response from several who have signed up to help with our JMG Plant Sale. If you haven't already signed up, please go to http://www.wakejmg.org/contact_us.htm and click on Volunteer. All members are expected to participate in this event. Please arrive 15 minutes before you are scheduled to work, and wear your JMG t-shirts. It is advisable to use sunscreen or wear a hat if it's sunny or windy. We will operate Friday (4/16) and Saturday (4/17) from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday (4/18) from noon until we sell out or close at 5 p.m. Our plants will arrive on Thursday morning, April 15, so anyone available between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. can assist with unloading and other duties. It will be important for Thursday helpers to make sure that Carol has your contact information in case there are any changes in our time plan so she can notify you.

Wake County JMG Flower and Vegetable Garden Contest

We want to remind anyone interested in competing in our local Flower and Vegetable Garden Contest this year to get your registration form in soon. If you plan to participate and haven't registered to date, please do so immediately by going to <http://www.wakejmg.org/index.htm> and print the registration form and read the information under 'Breaking News'. Anyone turning in their completed registration form at our April JMG meeting will receive a packet of seeds.

2010 North Carolina 4-H Photography Contest Opportunity!

Here's an opportunity for 4-H'ers ages 9-12 and 13-19 with an interest in photography to participate in the North Carolina 4-H Photography Contest. Visit <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/4-HPhoto/index.html> for complete rules and entry forms. The deadline is Tuesday, June 8, 2010, so I'd encourage interested 4-H'ers to begin practicing to have everything in order by the due date. For anyone interested in seeing winning entries from past years go to <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/4-HPhoto/index.html>.

Upcoming Events continued...

Plant Identification Interest

Several responded with interest in participating in plant identification classes mentioned in last month's newsletter. The plan is to schedule an initial walk through the JC Raulston Arboretum sometime in early May. To fit most schedules it will be on a weekend TBA. In the meantime we would like for you to visit the NJHA web site www.njha.org/, look at the horticulture contest, and peruse the four specimen lists. Older students are encouraged to look at and even read some of the chapters in the manual. If you have specimens of plants in your yard that are on the contest, you are encouraged to (with permission) begin to press some specimens for later study. Telephone books are great flower presses so in case you have an old one or if we get 2010 editions save the old for your own flower press.

If we have some 'eager beavers' really eager to get started before we have our Arboretum walk, e-mail Carol Norden <cnorden@bellsouth.net> and she'll be happy to correspond with some activities to give you a head start on Plant ID.

Other Reminders:

Remember to wear your JMG T-Shirts

Be ready for class at 7:00 pm.

Don't forget your homework! If you have not completed 4-H registration forms, please do so now.

Turn in your Garden Contest Registration Forms at the meeting and receive a free packet of seeds!

Sign up to do a 4-H Presentation or Demonstration.

Sign up to help with the Plant Sale - go to http://www.wakejmg.org/contact_us.htm and click on Volunteer. Take a look at the specific camellias details and photos on this site.

Remember our Severe Weather Policy: If Wake Co. Schools are cancelled; JMG 4-H will not meet.