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North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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## features

# THE 2004 CAROLINA COUNTRY GARDENING GUIDE



### 12 THE CAROLINA COUNTRY GARDEN

A four-season guide by our own Hank Smith.

### 18 YOUR GARDENING SECRETS

Inside stories of how you make your gardens grow.

### 22 NEW GARDENING TOOLS

Nine new tools to enhance your gardening pleasure.

### 28 FREE DENTAL CARE

A Winston-Salem foundation has opened two clinics where low-income neighbors can get dental care.

### 32 YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM NORTH CAROLINA IF . . .

Round Two: your observations.

### 41 OFF TO THE RACES

The Stoneybrook Steeplechase is a Sandhills tradition.

### On the Cover

Edward Serwan Jr. helps out at the Plant Delights Nursery in Juniper Level, Wake County. The nursery's goal is "to change the way America gardens by offering the best, the newest, and the strangest, in fun, garden-worthy perennials." Visit [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com) (Photo by Salstrand Studios, Raleigh)

## departments

### FIRST PERSON . . . . . 4

How to find the old Orange Speedway . . .  
Baptizing in the creek . . . A Min-Pin finds its way to Bladen County.

### MORE POWER TO YOU . . . . . 8

A seminar for political candidates . . .  
Thanks from the South River and Merrimon communities of Carteret County.

### MARKETPLACE . . . . . 33-37

A showcase of goods and services.

### JOYNER'S CORNER . . . . . 35

Can you find the value of Warren County?

### CAROLINA COMPASS . . . . . 38

March events and exhibits.

### HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE . . . . . 42

Starting a new lawn, and keeping the weeds out.

### ENERGY CENTS . . . . . 44

Caulk your way to a tighter home.

### CLASSIFIED ADS . . . . . 45

New this month: Personalized children's music.

### CAROLINA KITCHEN . . . . . 46

Potluck Chicken Hot Dish, Special Brussels Sprouts, Coconut Cream Pie.

# Baptizing on the creek



After we had prepared to publish “My view of the Mountain View Church,” by Ellen Brooks of Alleghany County [February 2004], Ms. Brooks came up with some photographs of the baptizing that used to take place there at the “baptizing hole.” The photos show her Uncle Mack, who was pastor at the time, doing the baptizing. It took place on a creek located down a path from the church. Here is how Ms. Brooks described it:

“Baptizing was always held on a Sunday morning. The entire congregation would attend. All family members, friends and neighbors were welcome to attend, regardless of where they went to church. Uncle Mack would have the “baptizing hole” in the creek behind his house all dammed up and ready for the occasion. We would all gather there on the banks of the clear mountain creek...



“Whoever was to be baptized would wear white. If they didn’t own a white dress or pants and shirt, someone in the congregation would lend it. People back then didn’t own an outfit of every color as we do today. Usually they had no extra money to spend on a one-time need. So people shared whatever they had.

“The congregation would sing hymns and the preacher would give a short sermon. A lot of the time, they baptized in pairs: sisters, female friends, married couples. A preacher would stand on each side of the person or persons being put under the water. It was always a beautiful, meaningful ceremony. Then we would all go back to the church for regular services. At the end of the service, the entire church body would give the ‘right hand of fellowship’ to those who had joined the church by baptism. They were now a member of the church with full rights and privileges.”

## Historic Oconeechee Speedway Trail

Readers have asked for contact information to reach the old Orange Speedway, now the Historic Oconeechee Speedway Trail [January 2004 magazine]. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this is the only remaining race track (one-mile oval dirt) from NASCAR’s inaugural year. The hiking trail is three miles long. It’s open daily all year long. The address is 320 Elizabeth Brady Rd., Hillsborough, NC. Phone: (919) 732-6886.

## Love from Lake Gaston

I just wanted to let you guys know how very much we enjoy your magazine. We are a part of the Halifax Electric Membership Corporation.

We have a house on Lake Gaston. We have been getting your magazine for years. Every time I get your magazine out of the mailbox, I look right in the back left side for your Carolina Kitchen recipes. I have to admit this is the first time that I checked out your Web site. I love it as well.

I loved the article about Abe Lincoln this month [February 2004]. It would be interesting to find out just where he was born. The garden portion is always very informative.

We love looking at the events going on around our area, and sometimes not in our area. We went to the beach just last year to check out the N. C. Maritime Museum that was listed. It was great.

Thank you for such a great magazine. It is great to hear how good you are sometimes.

Linda Dale  
Lake Gaston  
Halifax EMC

## Old-timey pecan log

I am looking for the recipe for an old-timey pecan Log. I have searched high and low, but have seen only the modern versions with the fondant-like filling. They just aren’t the same. If anyone can help, I would greatly appreciate it.

Lisa Hicks  
375 Della Wilson Rd.  
Lexington, NC 27295  
E-mail to: eyates@lexcominc.net

**Have dog, will deliver**

On the night of New Year's Day 2004, my little miniature pinscher died. It certainly devastated me and left me heartbroken. In the eight years I had her she was such a joy in my life.



I called my sister, Pam, who lives in Florida, for moral support. Being a dog lover herself, she called every ad that was selling Min-Pins. Everyone she called had already sold their dogs.

So Pam then called her vet, Dr. Chatham, whose assistant, Tammy, gave Pam the name and number of a breeder in Orlando. Pam called the number, and she and the lady talked for awhile. Ms. Thornton listened as my sister explained the loss of my little dog.

Ms. Thornton said she has six mature Min-Pins and wasn't breeding right now because she's planning on moving. Pam asked Ms. Thornton where was she planning on moving to and Ms. Thornton replied, "North Carolina." Pam told her I live in North Carolina.

To Pam's and my surprise, Ms. Thornton said that she would give me one of her dogs and even bring it to me! In the meantime, she could also look for land and a home while she was here.

Seven days after my little dog died, Ms. Thornton, who neither my sister nor I had met, drove 568 miles in one day and brought me a precious little Miniature Pinscher.

With the help from my sister, who wouldn't give up, and a wonderful stranger from afar, I now have a new bundle of joy, who has certainly helped to heal my broken heart. This goes to show that there are still good people out there. So if you get a new neighbor in North Carolina and her name is Ms. Thornton, you will certainly have a good neighbor and friend.

*Sabrina Barr  
Council*

**Slaves and ex-slaves**

I thoroughly enjoyed the article about the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony [February 2004], but there are two items that need comment.

1. "Once Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves freed in January 1863 . . ." This is not true. The Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves in the areas not under Union control. It was strictly a war measure designed to prevent Britain and France from recognizing the Confederacy and hopefully cause a slave rebellion.

2. "Richard Etheridge . . . had seen battle and later joined the famous Buffalo Soldiers." Unfortunately, the Buffalo Soldiers were only as famous as their white counterparts. Both were instrumental in the virtual annihilation of our native people.

*Brock Townsend  
Tarboro*

**Ramblin' Rose**

I have been involved in racing since 1950. I never ran the Orange Speedway. At 75 years old, I still drive a 1938 Ford Coupe in the Old Timers Racing Club.

*Ernest "Rosey"  
George*



*Kernersville  
EnergyUnited*



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**Cabin Correction**

Information about these Gerald Yokely photos in February's magazine ["Carolina Cabins"] was reversed by mistake. The top photo shows a cabin that Greg and Tina Smith built behind their Surry County home in the late 1990s. The bottom one shows the cabin that Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Adkins moved into their backyard in Stokes County in 1990. It had originally been built by Mrs. Adkins' great-grandfather in 1893.



## South River and Merrimon communities thank Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

When Hurricane Isabel hit our small community of South River in Carteret County, many homes were damaged and some destroyed. In a one-mile stretch, 80 homes received damage and approximately 57 had water inside the homes. We were very fortunate and quite surprised that power was restored within 27 hours of the hurricane. We appreciate the efforts of the Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative and the contractors who worked to restore our very important electrical service.

Within a couple of weeks, Craig Conrad, general manager of Carteret-Craven Electric, contacted me. Carteret-Craven Electric wished to donate \$500 to our community, and he wanted to know who should get the check. By this time, the Salvation Army was no longer providing meals, and the generous members of the Merrimon community had taken over and started serving lunch and supper each day. I recommended that the \$500 be given to the Merrimon Methodist Church to help with the expenses of providing these meals.

Mr. Conrad and Mr. Pate met me at the South River-Merrimon Fire and EMS. That morning, the water pump at the fire station had quit, and I was trying to get someone to work on it. Mr. Conrad and Mr. Pate worked on the pump, but it became apparent that parts were needed. South River is 25 miles from the nearest hardware shop.

We presented the check to members of the Merrimon Methodist Church, and Mr. Conrad and Mr. Pate returned to Morehead. Mr. Pate by that time was late for a meeting he needed to attend.

Meanwhile, Craig Conrad purchased the necessary parts for the water pump and returned to the South River-Merrimon Fire and EMS and worked on the pump. He was not dressed for this kind of work (he was wearing a starched, white shirt) but that didn't stop him. He got wet and dirty, but he worked on our water pump without hesitation. This was definitely beyond the call of duty.

We are lucky in Carteret County



B. Tosto

## Late January ice caused power outages

More than 19,500 households and businesses served by electric cooperatives in North Carolina lost power during an ice storm Jan. 25-27. Most severely hit were Pender, Columbus and Bladen counties, served by Four County EMC and Brunswick EMC.

Linemen reported the conditions to be the most severe winter damage in these counties they've seen in recent memory. Crews from other cooperatives went to help. They included Wake EMC, based in Wake Forest; South River EMC, Dunn; Randolph EMC, Asheboro; EnergyUnited, Statesville; Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Morehead City; Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough; and Central EMC, Sanford.

Fallen branches and trees that came in contact with power lines caused most of the outages. In some cases, crews repaired breaches twice, after tree limbs thawed and snapped back onto power lines previously repaired. Icy conditions also made it especially difficult for crews to reach damaged poles and lines.



B. Tosto

**Hurricane Isabel caused extensive flooding in Carteret County's Down East communities. These photos (above and top right) show South River.**

Mr. Conrad and his next door neighbor and friend, Preston Pate, came down one morning to present the check. Pres is the director of the Division of Marine Fisheries and was my supervisor for the last seven years that I worked with Marine Fisheries before retiring. He is a great friend.

to have the electrical service and employees we have with Carteret-Craven. The communities of South River and Merrimon appreciate the efforts of our Carteret-Craven cooperative, and I personally thank Mr. Conrad for his help.

Juanita T. Gaskill  
South River



**Ice coated power lines and trees in the Carvers Creek area of Bladen County, served by Four County EMC.**

## Forecast sees enough electric power but possible delivery problems

Electricity generation is expected to keep pace with growing North American demand over the next few years, but the wholesale transmission system might not, according to a recent forecast.

The North American Electric Reliability Council said in its 2003–2012 reliability assessment that those responsible for delivering bulk power must closely follow reliability standards to keep the system dependable.

Guaranteeing reliable service will also require close coordination of generation and transmission planning and construction, NERC said. Consumers will require an additional 67,000 megawatts (mw) over the next three years, which will be met easily by a projected 89,000 mw of additional generation in the same period, the council said. Current trends in new generation should guarantee adequate power through 2012, absent serious political, regulatory, fuel pricing and construction problems, it added.

The report painted a less rosy picture for transmission—the system of moving bulk power over great distances. Referring to the nationwide transmission grid, the report said, “Some portions of the grid will not be able to transmit the output of all new generating units to their target markets.”

While the grid, overall, is expected to perform with reliability in the near future, portions are nearing their reli-

bility limits as demand drives an increasing flow of power. NERC noted: “Well-known transmission constraints are recurring, while new constraints are appearing as electricity flow patterns change.”

Reliability coordinators, transmission planners and systems operators must regularly communicate and coordinate their actions to preserve grid reliability, it said.

The Aug. 14 Northeast-Midwest blackout was a wake-up call for the industry to guarantee the system’s smooth operation, said Michehl Gent, NERC president and CEO. The U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force interim report said that the failure of some control areas and reliability coordinators to fully comply with NERC standards contributed to the blackout. Moreover, because Congress failed to pass reliability legislation, “it is more important than ever that NERC’s reliability rules are followed by all,” Gent said.

Gent told the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association that he has called for formal, detailed audits of the council’s certified control area operators—responsible for ensuring that electricity loads and generation are balanced on the grid—to determine which are “capable of operating a control area the way we think it should be done.”

Bill Pritchard  
Electric Co-op Today

## A one-day seminar in Greenville and Hickory for declared and prospective political candidates

North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives have scheduled two day-long sessions aimed at helping candidates for public office, or those intending to run for office, learn more about running effective campaigns.

The Touchstone Energy Campaign Academy will help candidates and their staffs and volunteers learn the dynamics of campaigns from instructors with real-world campaign experience.

The Campaign Academy is non-partisan and open to potential candidates and their staff, first-time candidates or experienced candidates. Topics will include:

- *Effective fund-raising*
- *Campaign planning and financing*
- *State campaign finance laws*
- *Campaign communications*
- *The cost of a campaign*
- *Grassroots campaigning*
- *Getting out the vote*

The academies will be held in Greenville and Hickory from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Greenville session will be Tuesday, March 23, at the Hilton Hotel. The Hickory session will be Thursday, March 25, at the Holiday Inn Select. The cost for each is \$30 per person and includes lunch.

The lunch session will feature a roundtable discussion with elected officials.

Since they were founded in the 1930s and 1940s, cooperatives have built strong relationships with local community leaders, including elected officials. The non-partisan Campaign Academy is aimed at helping voters understand election issues and at building effective political campaigns.

Registration deadline is March 16. If you or someone you know is interested, contact your electric cooperative or Andrew Meehan at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives at (800) 645-2431. E-mail: Andrew.Meehan@ncemcs.com

# A Guide To New Gardening Tools

by Laura C. Martin

**A**lthough the idea of slipping bare hands into the soil to begin a garden elicits a lovely image, anyone who has ever gardened knows that it's more romantic than real. Gardening is a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work. Fortunately, there are many products on the market to make it easier. From digging to composting and planting to pruning, there's a tool to ease the workload. Some of the following products are tried-and-true tools with a new twist, others are so unusual and innovative we thought they were worth including.

## Power-Lever Hand Pruners (Fiskar):

Any gardener knows that hand pruners are essential for a wide variety of chores; Fiskar has manufactured one of the best. It cuts branches up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in diameter but minimizes strain and fatigue. The lever mechanism is built into the handles. Blades are hardened steel that last years. \$19.95, lifetime warranty.



## Back Porch Compost Tumbler (Gardener's Supply):

If you like the idea of composting but not the idea of walking across the yard to dump kitchen scraps on an unsightly pile of decomposing material, this is for you—a polyethelene drum on a tubular steel frame. Place the materials inside, turn the drum a few times and, within weeks, your coffee grounds will be rich compost for the garden. It's neat, easy and takes up little space. \$199.99.

## Topsy-Turvy Planter (Gardener's Supply):



If you love to participate in the race to pick the first tomato of the summer, look into this: a grow bag you can hang from a deck or

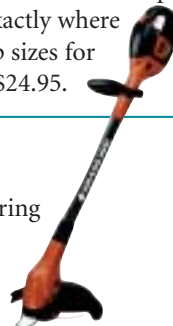
porch. Fill it with potting soil, plant your tomatoes and let it grow! Plants grow from the bottom of the bag upward. Tomatoes will ripen up to a month earlier than when grown the traditional way, and no weeding or staking is necessary. \$19.95.

## Precision English Seeder (Gardener's Supply):

For gardeners who love to plant from seed, this gadget will help put those tiny seeds exactly where you want them, saving seeds and eliminating the need for thinning. Squeeze the bulb to vacuum up seeds, then place them exactly where you want them. Three tip sizes for different kinds of seeds. \$24.95.

## Rechargeable 12-inch Trimmer/Edger (Black & Decker):

This cordless string trimmer automatically advances the cutting line without requiring a



Garden Tool Caddy totes long and short tools.

“bump.” The handles telescope, making a convenient length for anyone to use, and the weight is moderate: only 6.5 pounds. The trimmer is sold with two 18-volt batteries and a charger. \$99.99.

## Gardener's Multi-tool (Smith and Hawken):



It folds up like a pocketknife and is a handy tool for gardeners, holding shears,

two pruning knives, a bottle opener, a corkscrew and a pruning saw. Weighs less than five ounces. Fits neatly into carrying case. \$19.

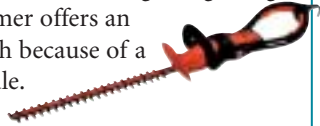
## Garden Tool Caddy (Smith and Hawken):

Keep tools handy and organized in this ergonomically designed caddy with easy-rolling pneumatic tires. Powder-coated steel cart is outfitted with space for long- and short-handled tools. Stash gloves, seeds, and twine in the 27-pouch tool organizer, which can slip off to convert to a tool bag with shoulder strap. Removable five-gallon bucket and trash/compost container transport soil amendments and hold garden waste. Tools not included. \$129.

Laura C. Martin is a gardening writer and illustrator in Georgia.

## Pivoting Hedge Trimmer (Black & Decker):

Called the Pivoting Hedge Hog XR, this trimmer offers an extended reach because of a pivoting handle. Adjustable to



two different positions, this is great for trimming and shaping hedges and bushes. The 24-inch blade cuts up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. Dual-action blades move counter to one another, making for a smoother cut and reducing vibration. \$79.99, two-year warranty.

**Mantis Electric Tiller:** Complete your lawn maintenance and gardening with less time and effort using the lightweight,



easy-to-use Mantis Electric Tiller. Using patented serpentine tines, the tiller tills, cultivates, aerates and digs at various speeds and depths to create showcase

gardens and functional yards. \$299, lifetime warranty.

by Ashton Richie

# How to Deal with Common Lawn Problems

**W**hen it comes to the low-down on lawn care needs for 2004, we have some good news and bad news. Due to above average rainfall in 2003 across much of the U.S., lawns should be in pretty good shape this spring, because grass is healthy when it gets enough food and water. However, wet soil also means a bumper crop of weeds, crabgrass and the potential for damaging insects like grubs.

Overall, having a great looking lawn is not that difficult. Just following a few simple steps during the right time of the year can result in a healthy, plush lawn. And, since lawn care is one of the most simple and inexpensive ways to protect the investment you have in your home, it makes a lot of sense to take care of problems early on and save money down the road. Here are a few quick and easy solutions to guarantee lawn owners are seeing green this spring.

## Crabby about crabgrass

Because of the heavy rains in 2003 in most regions of the U.S., crabgrass flourished and produced a lot of seeds. If lawns had even a few crabgrass plants last year, chances are, there are thousands of tiny crabgrass seeds lying dormant in lawns during the winter months. Come spring, these seeds will grow into new plants, wreaking horticultural havoc. In early spring, apply a turf builder fertilizer that attacks crabgrass. Also, it is important for lawns to be mowed at one of the higher settings. A tall, thick lawn to shade the soil will discourage new weed seeds from growing.

## Weed all about it

Aside from being downright ugly, weeds can cause extensive lawn damage by competing with grass and other plants for water, sunlight and nutrients. And, they don't give up without a fight, so the neighborhood kids can pick dandelions until their fingers are yellow but they will grow right back.

Many weeds have very deep roots that are almost impossible to dig up manually, so it is best to get to them with a product that will kill weeds, roots and all, without harming the "good" grass. In late spring, apply a weed control fertilizer to kill weeds and fill in bare patches for a rich green lawn.

Then follow a regular feeding schedule throughout the year to help create a thick lawn that will not allow any room for new weeds to get started.

## Keep (unwanted pests) off the grass

Last summer conditions were ideal for adult beetles to lay grub eggs in the soil. Grubs eat the roots of grass, causing irregu-

larly shaped patches of wilted, dead or dying grass in spring. And, since grubs are the larvae of Japanese and other beetles, when the adult beetles emerge from the ground in early summer, they can cause damage to other plants in the yard. To break the cycle and prevent grubs from



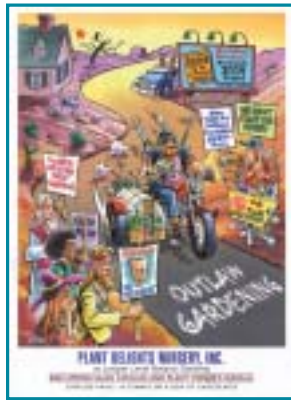
appearing this fall, apply a season-long grub control in early summer. If grub damage is apparent this spring with dead patches of lawn, seeding may be necessary.

The Scotts Company has developed an easy-to-follow Annual Lawn Care Program™ to help homeowners develop a thick, green lawn that is free of weed and insect problems. By simply entering personalized lawn-related information along with a zip code in the program builder database found on [www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com), Scotts can instantly create a custom program to keep lawns healthy and in top physical condition year round—and ensure that seasonal lawn problems will not sneak up on you. And, best of all, there is no need to worry about remembering the program steps, since Scotts will also send personalized e-mail reminders.

Consumer questions and more specific problems can be answered by calling the Scotts Consumer Helpline at 1-800-543-TURF (8873) or logging onto [www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com) or [www.askashton.com](http://www.askashton.com)

*Ashton Ritchie is a lawn counselor with The Scotts Company and has been a lawn expert for more than 30 years. The Scotts Company has been a world leader in do-it-yourself lawn and garden consumer products.*

### Nursery catalog



Plant Delights Nursery at Juniper Level Botanic Gardens offers a fun spring catalog that sparkles with zany copy and distinctive plants. The informative catalog's price, staff says, is 10 stamps or a box of chocolates. The unusual nursery, located south of Raleigh between Panther Branch and Willow Springs, specializes in hostas. It boasts a five-acre display garden, which contains more than 12,000 plants and doubles as a research and development facility. The operation is not a walk-in retail nursery and individual or group

tours of the gardens and nursery must be scheduled in advance. Call (919) 772-4794 or visit [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com)

### Making a better sprout

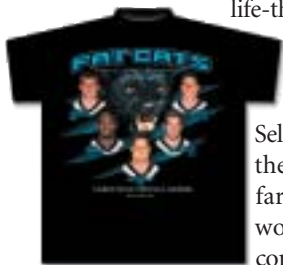
BroccoSprouts are the only product that guarantees a consistent level of sulforaphane GS, a natural compound found in broccoli that supports the body's own antioxidant function, says Brassica Protection Products. Developed by scientists, the broccoli sprouts taste a little like radishes and can be used in a wide variety of dishes. Recipes on the company's Web site include stuffed portabellas, grilled chicken wraps, smoked salmon focaccia wedges, vegetable pizza and paisano rigatoni. Stores in North Carolina that carry BroccoSprouts include Harris-Teeter, Fresh Market, Bi-Lo, Lowes Food Market and Wal-Mart SuperCenter. Sunny Creek Farm in Tryon is the



company's North Carolina grower. To contact Sunny Creek Farm, call (828) 863-2963. To find out more about BroccoSprouts and other health-oriented food products, call (877) 747-1277 or visit [www.brassica.com](http://www.brassica.com)

### Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western N.C. is dedicated to granting the wishes of local children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Covering 51 counties, the organization serves Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and points in between. Selected children get to visit Disney, meet their celebrity heroes, and visit relatives in far-away places. Make-A-Wish finances its work through individual contributions, corporate donations, foundation grants and special fundraisers. In cooperation with the Carolina Panthers, the foundation is offering a Fat Cats T-shirt showing five Panther athletes with the words "Carolina's Special Breed." 100 percent cotton. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the foundation.



\$19.99. Call (877) 677-9474 or visit [www.ncwish.org](http://www.ncwish.org)

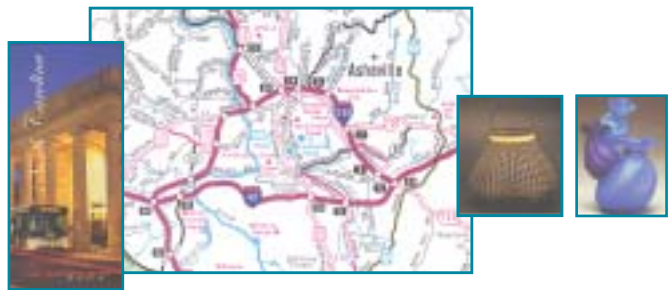
### Forge Mountain Foods



Forge Mountain Foods and Gifts take you back to grandmother's kitchen with syrups, preserves, jams, jellies, relishes and pickles. Other products available include Homebaked Cake In A Jar and Buttery Scottish Shortbread. The Flat Rock-based company sells a variety of gift baskets, such as its "Hotter Than Heck" Basket, which includes Habanero Four Pepper Jelly, Hot Honey & Mustard, Scorned Woman Cheese Straws, Hot Habanero Pepper

Relish and Hot Southern Vegetable Garden Salsa, for \$29.95. Call (828) 692-9470 or visit [www.forgemountain.com](http://www.forgemountain.com)

### 2004 map celebrates crafts



North Carolina's 2004 transportation map highlights the state's heritage of craft traditions and its artisans. Featured are potter Ben Owens III in his studio, a basket by textile artist Billie Ruth Sudduth and work by glass artists John Littleton and Kate Vogel. A new Web site listed on the map, [www.DiscoverCraftNC.org](http://www.DiscoverCraftNC.org), directs visitors to craft-based organizations. In addition to highway information, the map includes details about state attractions, distances from city to city, travel resources, emergency contact numbers, and environmental, safety and public transportation efforts. To get a free copy, call (877) 368-4968 or visit [www.ncdot.org/public/publications](http://www.ncdot.org/public/publications).

### Country music CD

"Redheaded Stepchild" presents 12 country-style songs written by singer-songwriter Ray Presnell. Presnell, who lives in Mocksville, offers up titles such as "Hug and a Slug," "Internet Lovin'," "Rage on the Road," and "Sweepstake Blues." Presnell's songs have made the Top 40 Independent Country Songs Charts. Musician Mitch Snow of Thomasville performs backup vocals and plays all instruments on the CD. \$12.95 includes shipping. Send check or money order to PMC Records, 349 McCullough Road, Mocksville, NC 27028, or e-mail [fret12@2it.net](mailto:fret12@2it.net), or call (336) 751-4860.



## ON THE BOOKSHELF

### “North Carolina Afield”

This guide to nature conservancy projects provides information about 92 scenic areas in North Carolina. Divided into Southern Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont, Southern Coastal Plain and Northern Coastal Plain, overviews for each location include the area’s flora, fauna and habitats, along with contact information. The accompanying “Trip Planner” offers specific suggestions on directions, trailheads and paddling routes. An index and map for each of the four regions precede chapters. Written by former Nature Conservancy staffer Ida Lynch, the book includes state parks, national forests, wildlife refuges and preserves. Published by John F. Blair. Softcover, 178 pages, color photographs. \$14.95. Call (800) 222-9796 or visit [www.blairpub.com](http://www.blairpub.com)



### Fatherhood wisdom

Camp in your own backyard? Ski indoors with your child? Pretend you are on a safari? The recently published book, “Playing in the Rain: Insights and Ideas on Fatherhood” presents clever, engaging ways such as these for fathers to have fun with and relate to their children. Most activities cost little or nothing, including exploring woods, building a table and planting fruit trees. Author and entrepreneur John G. Hastings, who lives in Valle Crucis, presents ideas from his own meaningful experiences with his two children.

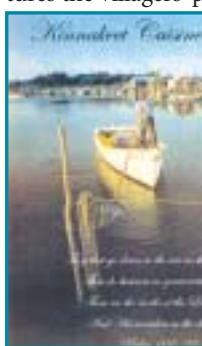
Hardcover, 63 pages, color photographs. Published by Parkway Publishers. \$12.50. Call (800) 821-9155 or visit [www.parkwaypublishers.com](http://www.parkwaypublishers.com)



### “Kinnakeet Cuisine”

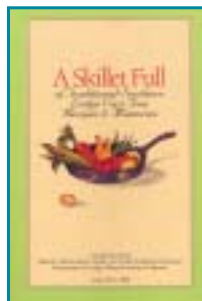
They still have old ways in Kinnakeet village on the Outer Banks, including using heirloom recipes. A new cookbook features the villagers’ prized dishes such as “Two if by Sea Chowder,” oyster cakes, marinated slaw and brown sugar poundcake. Also included is a smattering of Kinnakeet dialect, quotations and a chart for mass-quantity cooking. A portion of the proceeds of the cookbook goes to the restoration of Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station. Written and edited by Jackie Gray and Lois Miller, both of Kinnakeet (also known as Avon). Published by Gateway Publishing Co. Ltd. in North Dakota.

Softcover, wire-bound, 48 pages. \$12.99 including shipping. Send a check or money order to Hoi Toide Publications, P.O. Box 714, Kinnakeet, NC 27915. Call (888) 247-8476 or e-mail [hoitoid@aol.com](mailto:hoitoid@aol.com)



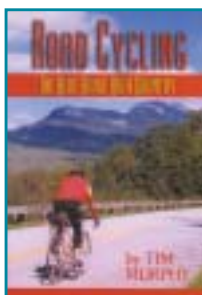
### “A Skillet Full”

Tennessee chocolate gravy? A dessert made of zucchini? A new book offers interesting recipes such as these, along with more traditional down-home fare such as pineapple upside down cake, pan-fried okra, fired green tomatoes and at least two dozen cornbread recipes. Stuffed with classic cast-iron recipes, the book also serves up historical tidbits and family stories passed down through several generations of Tennessee families. Published by Lodge Press of South Pittsburg, Tenn. Softcover, 195 pages. \$23.95. Call (423) 837-7181 or visit [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)



### “Road Cycling”

Tim Murphy’s book runs the gamut of white-knuckle descents to peaceful creek-side rambles though the Blue Ridge high country. Six mountain and foothill counties in northwestern North Carolina are covered, along with portions of southwestern Virginia and northeastern Tennessee. With a total of 26 rides, each description includes directions, information about road characteristics, maps, elevation profiles, service lists and other outdoor options. Softcover, 267 pages. \$14.95. Published by John F. Blair in Winston-Salem. Call (800) 222-9796 or visit [www.blairpub.com](http://www.blairpub.com).



### Farm family memoirs

Father rocks in his chair as he carves wood, a girl plays with a baby doll and the aromatic smell of dewberry pie wafts through a farmhouse. Author Polly Holder takes us back to the 1930s in “A Beloved Farm Family Way Back When,” a tale of family, neighbors and friends set in the rural Sandhills area of North Carolina. Her story of the fictitious Hamilton family is one of “Christian families in Christian love,” facing trials, sorrow and joy. Holder, who lives in Cameron, includes details of FDR’s fireside chats, rural suppers and daily farm chores. Published by 1stBooks Library. Softcover, 157 pages. \$17.50. Call (910) 245-7244 or visit [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com)



### CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE IS ONLINE



Our store showcases items and services made in or for North Carolina. See more of what’s in stock on our Web site at [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com). If you’ve got something for the store, send information and pictures to our storekeeper through the Web site or by e-mail: [carolina.country@ncemcs.com](mailto:carolina.country@ncemcs.com)

# Interactive communication on the Internet: the marketplace of ideas

**H**as this ever happened to you? You're looking for information about a product, Google to its Web site, and e-mail off your question. Then you hear nothing back. This has happened to me too many times.

It's almost better for a company to refrain from having an Internet presence if it's not going to use the Internet for what it is. By using the Net merely as a low-cost billboard, instead of gaining sales, companies lose goodwill.

The Net is all about interactivity, the sharing of information as well as opinions, experiences, and fellowship. It's the fruition of one of the core and noblest of American ideals, the free and open marketplace of ideas.

Much is made of the Internet as a massive library, an international meet market, and gargantuan shopping mall. But the Net is also a far-reaching soapbox. What the telephone did for personal communication, the Internet is doing for public discourse. The Net has been called the best development in participatory democracy since universal suffrage and the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed.

Because the Internet operates without traditional media gatekeepers controlling what is said, freedom of speech is often the snarly sort. The Net can sometimes seem like a monstrous fountain of obscenity, hate and lies, the ultimate refuge for sociopaths releasing years of pent-up frustration.

But as the Internet approaches early adulthood, it increasingly reflects the diverse interests and activities of those people building it — you. There are lots of ways you can participate in the Net's never-ending worldwide conversation.

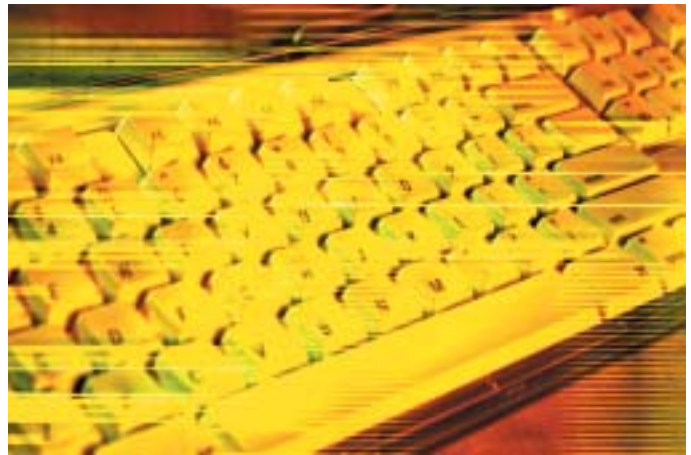
Older technologies include e-mail and Usenet discussion groups. Both now have a Web presence, most prominently at Yahoo Groups (<http://groups.yahoo.com>) and Google Groups (<http://groups.google.com>) respectively.

These groups cover topics ranging from the buttoned-down and business oriented to the anything-goes. E-mail based groups are typically more tightly controlled, and less prone to argumentation, than Usenet-based.

More and more individual Web sites have their own discussion forums as well. Among the most vigorous are those of newspapers and magazines. At media Web sites, space limitations no longer prevent you from getting your letter to the editor published in full, no matter how long or rambling.

Talk City ([www.talkcity.com](http://www.talkcity.com)) is a Web site devoted strictly to talk. You can access bulletin boards, where you post messages for others to see at their convenience, or chat rooms, where you converse with others in "real time."

Some of the most useful online discussions take place at product review sites. Epinions.com ([www.epinions.com](http://www.epinions.com)) is among the best. Reviews must be 100 words or longer and free of objectionable language. You can quickly find reviews



others have written in categories ranging from Beauty to Sporting Goods.

Amazon.com ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) for some time has done an excellent job of letting shoppers review the books, CDs, DVDs, and other products it sells. Likewise, Yahoo Shopping (<http://shopping.yahoo.com>) has done an excellent job of letting shoppers rate its stores.

On the other hand, eBay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) has put up multiple barriers to communication, making it difficult for customers to reach it and to communicate with one another about current auctions and making it easy for scammers to hide their past behavior. Consequently, fraud is a serious problem there, as has been reported by the FBI. eBay has overreacted to the negative aspect of open communication, which is easy to do. If you happen to find yourself or your company on the receiving end of someone else's "free speech," think twice about responding freely in return.

The best response to cyber-smearing is often to ask about the circumstances that led to the person's dissatisfaction and to explore how you might resolve it together, say experts. The very act of trying to establish a cordial dialogue can go a long way toward resolving or at least lessening conflict.

If want to hold forth in a more personal way, you can create a blog — short for Web log. Blogs are online diaries or journals that you open to the world, or whomever happens to come across it. It can be on whatever you're thinking about or have experienced that day, or it can be more narrowly focused on a topic such as politics, popular culture or business affairs.

Among the best sites for creating blogs or reading those others have created is Blogger ([www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)).

There's no shortage of opportunities for putting your own ideas out there. Some companies may not get the Net, but the millions of individuals using it do.

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*Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at [reidgold@netaxs.com](mailto:reidgold@netaxs.com) or <http://www.netaxs.com/~reidgold/column>.*

# March

## EVENTS

MOUNTAINS      PIEDMONT      COAST



### MOUNTAINS

(WEST OF I-77)

**Bluegrass Music**  
Fridays, Old Fort  
(888) 233-6111

**Horse Show**  
March 5-7, Asheville  
(828) 687-1414

**Ballroom Dance**  
March 5-7, Asheville  
(800) 438-5800  
[www.groveparkinn.com](http://www.groveparkinn.com)

**Craft Show**  
March 5-7, Hickory  
(828) 437-5002

**“Oliver” Play**  
March 5-28, Hickory  
(828) 327-3855  
[www.HCT.org](http://www.HCT.org)

**Wetlands Hike**  
March 6, Marion  
(828) 652-5047

**Chili Cookoff**  
March 6, Highlands  
(828) 526-5841  
[www.highlandschamber.org](http://www.highlandschamber.org)

**Woodpecker Lecture**  
March 13, Marion  
(828) 652-5047

**Art Garfunkel Concert**  
March 13, Wilkesboro  
(336) 838-6277

**Moscow Ballet**  
March 14, Asheville  
(828) 299-0820

**“Winnie The Pooh”**  
March 19-21, Clyde  
(828) 456-8983

**Gems & Jewelry Show**  
March 19-21, Hickory  
(828) 328-9107

**Doc Watson/David Holt**  
March 20, Spindale  
(828) 286-9990  
[www.FoundationShows.org](http://www.FoundationShows.org)

**Poetry & Prose**  
March 20, West Jefferson  
(336) 246-2787

**Bruce Wood Dance Co.**  
March 23-24, Asheville  
(828) 251-6500

**“Amadeus” Play**  
March 26-28, Waynesville  
(828) 456-6322

**Maple Festival**  
March 28, Whitetop, Va.  
(276) 388-3480

**Home & Flower Show**  
March 3-5, Raleigh  
(919) 831-6011  
[www.raleighconvention.com](http://www.raleighconvention.com)

**Fayetteville Symphony**  
March 7, Fayetteville  
(910) 433-4690

**Richard Luby Chamber Music**  
March 7, Southern Pines  
(910) 692-6261  
[www.weymouthcenter.org](http://www.weymouthcenter.org)

**Women Civil War Soldiers**  
March 10, Raleigh  
(919) 715-0200  
[www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org)

**“The Foreigner” Play**  
March 12-14, Southern Pines  
(910) 690-9069

**Averasboro Battle Re-enactment**  
March 13-14, Godwin  
(910) 892-5507

**Andrew Jackson Celebration**  
March 13, Waxhaw  
(704) 843-1832  
[www.perigee.net/~mwaxhaw](http://www.perigee.net/~mwaxhaw)

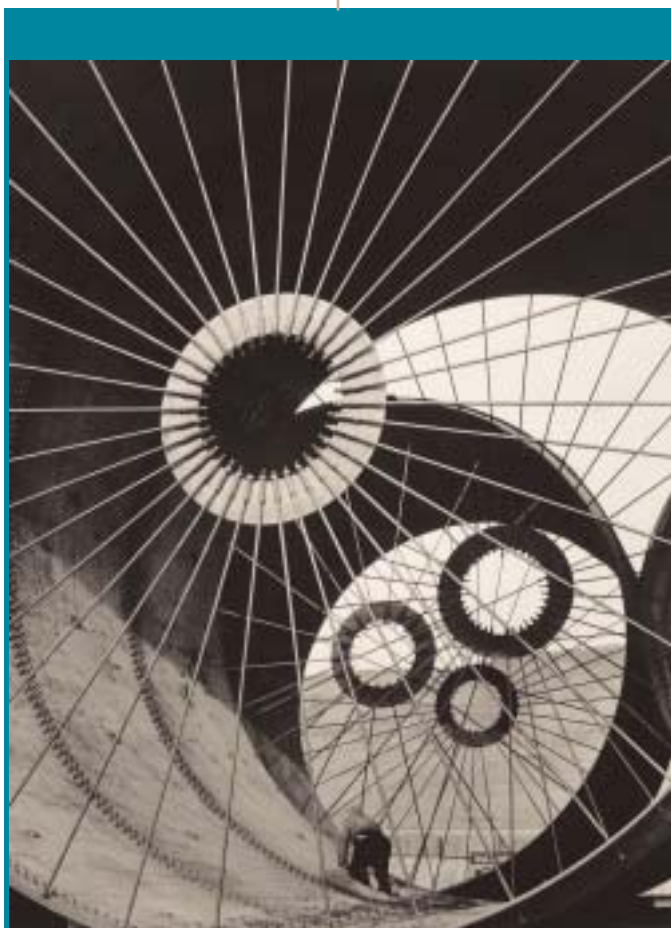
**Contra Dance**  
March 13, Beaufort  
(252) 504-2787  
[www.downeastfolkarts.org](http://www.downeastfolkarts.org)

**History Bowl**  
March 15, Salisbury  
(704) 636-2889  
[www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)

**Biltmore House Ceramics**  
March 16, Charlotte  
(704) 895-9342

**Organ Music Celebration**  
March 19, Old Salem  
(336) 721-7348  
[www.oldsalem.org](http://www.oldsalem.org)

**“To Kill A Mocking Bird”**  
March 19-April 4, Fayetteville  
(910) 323-4234  
[www.cfrt.org](http://www.cfrt.org)



*“Margaret Bourke-White: The Photography of Design” features 160 pictures exploring her emergence as one of the 20th Century’s best-known female photographers. The exhibit is at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte through May 2. Call (704) 337-2009 or visit [www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)*

## MARCH EVENTS

**Tanglewood Herb Fest**  
March 19-21, Clemmons  
(336) 778-6303  
[www.forsythcountymgv.com/arboretum.html](http://www.forsythcountymgv.com/arboretum.html)

**Renewed: Women's Conference**  
March 26-27, Lexington  
(336) 357-2875  
[www.renewedforwomen.com](http://www.renewedforwomen.com)

**Silent Auction**  
March 27, Denton  
(336) 859-5922

**Children's Festival**  
March 27, Statesville  
(704) 838-1410

**Kovack Pottery Fest**  
March 27-29, Seagrove  
(336) 873-8727  
[www.geocities.com/kovackpottery/PastSpringFestivals.html](http://www.geocities.com/kovackpottery/PastSpringFestivals.html)

**Renaissance Faire**  
March 27-28, Raleigh  
(866) 468-7630  
[www.ncrenfaire.com](http://www.ncrenfaire.com)

## Now SHOWING

### MOUNTAINS

**Pottery Show**  
Through March 4, Shelby  
(704) 484-2787  
[www.ccartscouncil.org](http://www.ccartscouncil.org)

**American Music In History**  
Through March 19, Asheville  
Asheville Art Museum  
(828) 253-3227  
[www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)

**Youth Art**  
Through April 17, West  
Jefferson  
(336) 246-2787  
[www.ashecountyarts.org](http://www.ashecountyarts.org)

**Dinosaur Eggs**  
Through May 16, Gastonia  
Schiele Museum  
(704) 866-6909  
[www.schielemuseum.org](http://www.schielemuseum.org)

### PIEDMONT

**"Defying Gravity"**  
Through March 7, Raleigh  
N.C. Museum of Art  
(919) 839-6262  
[www.ncartmuseum.org](http://www.ncartmuseum.org)

**N.C. Artists Competitions**  
March 13-May 9, Fayetteville  
Fayetteville Museum of Art  
(910) 485-5121

**Toy Town Exhibit**  
Through March 28,  
High Point  
High Point Museum  
(336) 885-1859  
[www.highpointmuseum.org](http://www.highpointmuseum.org)

**African-American Inventor**  
Through March 31,  
Winston-Salem  
SciWorks  
(336) 767-6730  
[www.sciworks.org](http://www.sciworks.org)

**Colored Pencil Art**  
Through March 31,  
Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill Museum  
(919) 967-1400  
[www.chapelhillmuseum.org](http://www.chapelhillmuseum.org)

**"Soaring Symbols: Eagles"**  
Through April 4, Charlotte  
Charlotte Museum  
of History  
(704) 568-1774  
[www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)

**Titanic Artifacts**  
Through April 18, Raleigh  
N.C. Museum  
of Natural Sciences  
(919) 733-7450  
[www.naturalsciences.org](http://www.naturalsciences.org)

**Bourke-White Photography**  
Through May 2, Charlotte  
Mint Museum of Art  
(704) 337-2009  
[www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)

**"Brain Teasers 2"**  
Through May 8, Oxford  
Granville County Historical  
Society Museum  
(919) 693-9706

**U.S. In Iraq, Afghanistan**  
Through May 16, Fayetteville  
Airborne & Special  
Operations Museum  
(910) 483-3003  
[www.asomf.org](http://www.asomf.org)

**Mexican Tomb Figures**  
Through May 22,  
Winston-Salem  
Museum of Anthropology  
(336) 758-5282

**"26 Contraptions, A-Z"**  
Through May 31, Durham  
Museum of Life and Science  
(919) 220-5429  
[www.ncmls.org](http://www.ncmls.org)

**World War II Posters**  
Through Sept 1, Charlotte  
Museum of History  
(704) 568-1774  
[www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)

### COAST

**Quilt Show**  
March 1-31, Manteo  
(252) 475-1500  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

**Youth In Arts Exhibit**  
March 14-April 1, Edenton  
(252) 482-8005

**Scrimshaw Exhibit**  
Through April 18, Beaufort  
N.C. Maritime Museum  
(252) 728-7317  
[www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime)

**"Politics In Action"**  
Through Nov 28, Wilmington  
Cape Fear Museum  
(910) 341-4350  
[www.capefarmuseum.com](http://www.capefarmuseum.com)



*Inventive mechanical contraptions, one for each letter of the alphabet, are on display at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham. "Contraptions A to Z," an interactive exhibit, will be presented through May 31. Call (919) 220-5429 or visit [www.ncmls.org](http://www.ncmls.org)*

**"The Amen Corner"**  
March 31-April 2, Fayetteville  
(910) 672-1443  
[www.unccfsu.edu](http://www.unccfsu.edu)

### COAST

#### (EAST OF I-95)

**Tennessee Walker Exhibition**  
March 2, Merritt  
(252) 635-1001

**"Far and Away" Movie**  
March 2, New Bern  
(252) 514-4900  
[www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org)

**Black Film Festival**  
March 4-7, Wilmington  
(910) 350-2681

**Musical Review About Love**  
March 4-6, Elizabeth City  
(252) 338-3382

**Blues Festival**  
March 5-6, Lumberton  
(910) 735-1267  
[www.robersonroadrunners.com](http://www.robersonroadrunners.com)

*continued on p. 40*

## MARCH EVENTS

continued from p. 39

### Children's Festival

March 6, Clinton  
(910) 564-4100  
[www.capefearevents.com](http://www.capefearevents.com)

### Ten Tenors

March 7, Wilmington  
(800) 523-2820  
[www.thalianhall.com](http://www.thalianhall.com)

### Easter Egg Hunt

March 10, Beaufort  
(252) 728-5225  
[www.historicbeaufort.com](http://www.historicbeaufort.com)

### Quilt Lecture

March 11, Manteo  
(252) 475-1506  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

### St. Patrick's Day Festival

March 13, Emerald Isle  
(252) 354-6350

### Dinner & Stage Show

March 13 & 27, Rose Hill  
(800) 774-9634

### St. Patrick's Day Festival

March 13, Farmville  
(252) 753-4670

### Outer Banks Opry

March 13, Manteo  
(252) 475-1506  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

### Native American Archaeology

March 13, Bath  
(252) 923-3971  
[www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/bath/bath.htm](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/bath/bath.htm)

### Organic Gardening

March 18, New Bern  
(252) 514-4900  
[www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org)

### Arabian Horse Show

March 19-21, Williamston  
(252) 792-5111

### LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for May: March 25 | Deadline for June: April 25.

#### It's Easy to Submit Listings on Our Web Site!

Visit [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com) and click on "See NC" to add your event to both the magazine and our Web site.



#### Or Submit Listings by Mail, Fax or E-Mail

Please include title, date(s), location, phone number and/or Web site url. Photos (300 dpi or hard copies) are welcome. Send to: CAROLINA COMPASS, P.O. BOX 27306, RALEIGH, NC 27611  
FAX: 919-878-3970 | E-MAIL: [CAROLINA.COUNTRY@NCEMCS.COM](mailto:CAROLINA.COUNTRY@NCEMCS.COM)

### Fire Ant Festival

March 20, Whiteville  
(910) 642-3171  
[www.discovercolumbus.org](http://www.discovercolumbus.org)

### Bluegrass Festival

March 20, Ocean Isle Beach  
(910) 287-2800  
[www.silvercoastwinery.com](http://www.silvercoastwinery.com)

### Traditional & Swing Music

March 20, Beaufort  
(252) 504-2787  
[www.downtownfolkarts.org](http://www.downtownfolkarts.org)

### Home & Garden Show

March 20-21, New Bern  
(252) 638-8101

### Herb & Garden Fair

March 20, Scotts Hill  
(910) 686-9518  
[www.poplargrove.com](http://www.poplargrove.com)

### Fremont Daffodil Festival

March 27, Fremont  
(919) 242-5724

### Planters Day

March 27-28, White Oak  
(910) 866-5916  
[www.geocities.com/woruritan](http://www.geocities.com/woruritan)

### "Bye Bye Birdie" Musical

March 31, Elizabeth City  
(800) 335-9050

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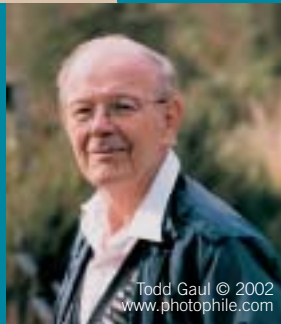
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[www.duplintourism.org](http://www.duplintourism.org)



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www.photophile.com

🌿 GARDENING FOCUS

*Lawn weed control*

It's a must to apply chemicals at the recommended rate in a weed control program. The margin of chance between effectiveness in killing weeds and injury to lawn grasses is not usually great. For example, if you apply half the recommended rate of most herbicides, poor weed control will result. If, on the other hand, you apply two to three times as much as recommended, there will be heavy damage to turf grasses.

There are many ways to apply herbicides. With granular materials, you can use a fertilizer spreader. Spread half the weed killer in one direction and the other half in the other direction, in checkerboard style at right angles to the first application. There will not be as many skips or misses, and it will cover better.

Although most chemical labels contain spreader settings, it pays to carefully calibrate the chemical on a weight basis. Once the applicator has been set for the right amount of material to come out, it's advisable to write down details of the procedure for later use. Liquids are normally mixed with water and applied as a spray.

**L**ate winter and early spring foretell longer days of outdoor gardening duties. New and seasoned gardeners keep keen eyes on the proper placement of plants and evaluate how effective they are in the landscape.

**Starting a new lawn**

No matter what variety of grass you choose, successful growth depends largely on soil preparation before planting. All trash must be removed. This is especially true for newly built homes because builders often leave pieces of excess building materials in the yard.

Level and grade the area to be planted. Fill in low places and slope lawn away from the house. This helps prevent future moisture problems in the house's foundation that can occur after heavy rains. After leveling, add and mix soil conditioners and fertilizers. Conditioners improve soil by increasing moisture and fertilizer holding capacity. They also absorb air and water. Organic materials that can be used as soil conditioners include old sawdust, cotton gin waste, peanut hulls and sewer sludge. Inorganic conditioners include vermiculite, perlite, colloidal phosphates, and pulverized marl. Do not use marl on centipede, carpet and Bahia grasses.

Fertilizer and lime should be added on the basis of a soil test. Your local county extension office is most helpful in advising about the soil test and grass varieties.

**Evening glow with moon vine**

Creamy-white flowers swirl open as the sun sets, just as morning glory blooms awaken with the new day's sunshine. Moon vine (*Calonyction aculeatum*) is a close cousin of the morning glory. The name fits the plant perfectly, for moon vine looks as if someone hung the moon (or several moons) on the big, leafy vine. Flowers perfume the air at night and smell delightful, making it a good choice for outdoor living areas used at night in the summer. Also called moon flower, the plants are available at many garden shops.

Seeds are planted outdoors from the last hard freeze to mid-July. Plants from garden centers begin flowering in late May. The plants prefer full sun and rich soil. If grown from seed, use a file to nick the hard kernels. Then soak seed overnight before planting about one-half



Scotts Company

*A well-tended lawn beautifies your place.*

inch deep. After germination, feed occasionally with a water-soluble fertilizer. Vines usually clamber up a trellis or arbor without help, but need twine or other support on lampposts or columns. Each bloom lasts for just one night, but at least one take its place the following evening. Seedpods can be collected from spent flowers for planting next season, or you can let pods fall to the ground. Their seed will germinate next year.

**Shade in a hurry**

With proper preparation and handling, large trees can be planted to supply needed shade. Good results can be expected from a young tree one to five inches in diameter (measured at chest height.) This size tree will be from ten to thirty feet tall and will add beauty and shade within a couple of years. The first root ball on such a tree will weigh several hundred pounds. It's best to have a reliable nurseryman to plant it.

Trees like to be transplanted before the end of March. In mid-and-upper South, April is satisfactory. Trees require good soil drainage. Poor results usually follow if water stands for a long period after a heavy rain.

Make the planting hole at least two feet deeper and wider than the ball of the tree. It's helpful to add peat moss mixed with soil at planting time. For a one-to-five-inch tree, add a cup of 20 percent phosphate to each bushel of soil in the hole. Phosphate doesn't move down into the hole very fast, but it does stimulate root growth.



For more March gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)

# Caulk your way to a tighter home

**A** house seems to be a strong, rigid structure, but the forces from wind and temperature changes throughout the day and from season to season make it move quite a bit. The caulk around your windows and doors needs to be flexible so it remains attached to the housing materials, and continues to stop air leakage.

If the caulk feels dry and hard, it is probably time to replace it with new caulk. Even though you may not see noticeable cracks and gaps, the caulk is probably not adhering to the window frame or walls. If you dig in it with the tip of a screwdriver, sections of it may fall out.

One simple method to find areas that need to be caulked is to hold the back of your hand near windows and doors on windy days. You will be able to feel serious air leaks. Also, move a lighted stick of incense around all the windows and doors and watch the trail of smoke. Even a small air leak will make the thin smoke trail move.

Windows and doors are the most obvious locations for air leakage into a home, but they are not always the worst culprits. The sill area, where the walls rest on the foundation, is often the area of greatest air leakage. In particular, the top of a

concrete foundation can be quite uneven, leaving many gaps between it and the lumber sill plate.

Check for gaps around the wiring where the main electrical service enters your home. Do the same where the telephone and cable lines come indoors. Holes for plumbing penetrations for outdoor faucets are often much bigger than the diameter of the water pipe.

Check around any penetrations in the ceilings for recessed lights, vent fans, ceiling paddle fans, etc. You will probably have to get up into your attic and move some of the insulation away to check these. While you are up there, also check for gaps where the plumbing vent pipes pass through the attic floor.

When you visit your home center

store caulk aisle, you may be overwhelmed by the vast array of different caulking materials. There are many types of specialty caulking materials for specific applications, but you should be able to get by with several different types.

Also, check out the inexpensive caulking tools. Some of these simple tools, for removing the old caulk and for

*By James Dulley*

applying a smooth layer of new caulk, can make the job much easier. Since the old caulk is hard and brittle, it probably was not silicone so a caulk remover (softener) chemical should make it easier to remove the caulk. These chemical removers are not as effective on silicone.

Two main categories of caulking materials are “kitchen and bath” and others. Kitchen and bath caulk has special additives to fight mildew. These will be effective any place there is a high moisture level, not just on bathtubs and sinks.

For indoors, where temperatures remain constant, any latex caulk will be effective. It will have a life of about 20 years or more. It is also “paintable.” Instead of painting the caulk, kits are available to mix the paint with the latex caulk to tint it for a perfect match. This is an advantage where you want matching caulk between two materials that are not going to be painted, for example, such as natural wood, tile or aluminum.

The most common type of caulk used by homeowners is acrylic latex with silicone added. It costs a dollar or two more per tube than plain acrylic latex, but it lasts about 10 years longer and is more durable. The addition of silicone makes the caulk more flexible and it adheres better to more materials. It is still paintable, and cleans up with soap and water.

Silicone caulk is best used where high flexibility is required, often outdoors. Most silicone is not paintable, so it is available in several colors. It is a bit more difficult to lay a smooth bead with silicone caulk, it has an odor as it cures, and cleanup is more difficult.

For large gaps, expandable urethane foam caulk is a good choice. It also adds some insulation value to the gap. It is available in low-and high-expansion formulas. The low-expansion type is best for most applications.



*Kits allow you to mix paint with latex caulk.*

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Utility Bills Update No. 937— buyer's guide and properties of 10 common types of caulk materials, list of 15 manufacturers of caulk and special tools, and tips on how and where to caulk properly. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE.

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### Coconut Cream Pie

- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups milk
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1½ cups flaked coconut, toasted, divided
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked

In a saucepan, combine sugar, flour and salt. Stir in milk until smooth; cook and stir over medium high heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat; gradually stir about 1 cup of hot mixture into beaten eggs. Return all to saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes more. Remove from the heat; stir in 1 cup coconut, butter and vanilla. Pour into pastry shell; sprinkle with remaining coconut. Chill for several hours before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

### Potluck Chicken Hot Dish

- ½ cup chopped fresh mushrooms
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine, divided
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1¼ cups milk
- ¾ cup mayonnaise\*
- 4 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 3 cups cooked long grain rice
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimientos, drained
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¾ cup coarsely crushed cornflakes

In a large saucepan, sauté mushrooms, onion and garlic in 3 tablespoons butter until tender. Stir in flour until blended. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in mayonnaise. Add the chicken, rice, celery, peas, pimientos, lemon juice, salt and pepper; mix well.

Transfer to an ungreased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Melt remaining butter; toss with cornflake crumbs. Sprinkle over top. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until bubbly.

Yield: 8-10 servings.

\*Editor's Note: Reduced-fat or fat-free mayonnaise may not be substituted for regular mayonnaise.



### Special Brussels Sprouts



- ¼ cup sliced almonds
- 1 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen Brussels sprouts
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 jar (2 ounces) chopped pimientos, drained
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ⅛ teaspoon dried thyme

In a small skillet, sauté almonds in butter until lightly browned; set aside. In a saucepan, cook Brussels sprouts according to package directions, adding the bouillon cube to the water. Meanwhile, in another saucepan, combine the soup, milk, pimientos, pepper and thyme. Cook until heated through. Drain sprouts; top with the cream sauce and stir gently. Sprinkle with almonds.

Yield: 4-6 servings.

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com).