

## LOCAL NEWS

# Join the Sampson County Friends of Horticulture



Did your lawn or garden remain the same, decline, or improve in 2017? Would you like your landscape to be more attractive, or your garden to be more productive in 2018? If so, you may want to join the Sampson County Friends of Horticulture, a growing program offered by the Sampson County Cooperative Extension Service.

Over 100 people joined the Sampson County Friends of Horticulture in 2017, seeking ways to improve their landscape, lawns, and gardens. During the fruit tree management class, members learned how to select the proper site and variety of fruit tree to plant in our area. They learned how to plant the trees and maintain them with a pest strategy to help them grow large, delicious fruit while keeping pests at bay.

During the lawn management class, members learned how to control weeds and pests in their lawns. They also learned how to take soil samples and fertilize according to the lawns needs. In April, the Friends of Horticulture learned how to control and manage fire ants in their yards. They learned what control methods were most effective and how to apply them. Other classes covered topics such as pecan trees, raised bed gardening, soils, bees, and ridding your

yard of those pesky moles and voles.

Most of the participants in the Friends of Horticulture said that these classes helped them improve their lawns and landscapes. They said that the information was very detailed and informative, and they enjoyed the demonstrations and hands-on parts of the learning experience.

The 2018 Friends of Horticulture schedule is as follows:

Feb. 15 – Grapes and grapevine pruning  
 March 15 – Pre-emergent lawn treatment for weeds  
 April 19 – Vegetable gardening  
 May 17 – Japanese Beetles  
 June 21 – Plant propagation  
 July 19 – Herbs  
 August 16 – Pecan weevils and webworms  
 September 20 – Strawberries for the home garden  
 October 18 - Houseplants

If any or all of these topics have peaked your interest, you should consider joining the Sampson County Friends of Horticulture. We meet at the Sampson County Livestock Arena, 93 Agriculture Place, Clinton NC at 6pm. Classes usually run between 1 – 1.5 hours. The cost is \$20 for a one year membership. Checks should be made out to "The County of Sampson" and mailed to the Sampson Extension Center, 55 Agriculture Place, Clinton NC 28328. Please have checks in by Jan. 15, 2018.

If you have further questions, contact the Sampson Extension Center at (910) 592-7161.

\*\*Editor's Note: Brad Hardison is an Agricultural Extension Agent specializing in horticulture. Contact Brad by calling the Sampson County Extension Center at (910) 592-7161 or by emailing [brad\\_hardison@ncsu.edu](mailto:brad_hardison@ncsu.edu).



Brad Hardison

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 2018

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