

Wildflower Boost Travel Pleasures

BY C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
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The roadsides in North Carolina are spectacular this spring. Wildflowers of all sizes and colors make traveling an adventure.

I do a great deal of driving in my line of work and will often stop by the side of the road to identify a wildflower or grass. On a recent trip across the state, I spotted large splashes of red Corn Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Ox-Eye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) and California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) on the roadsides.

Judging from the letters and questions I have been receiving, quite a few other folks have also been noting the beautiful roadside plantings.

Contrary to popular opinion, wildflowers must be carefully cultivated.

Most wildflowers are not really so wild. Wildflowers require proper soil preparation, fertilization and cultivation. Some wildflower seed are expensive and will have poor germination or seedling vigor. Most gardeners who try wildflowers will usually give up in frustration after a few attempts at establishment.

Harold Ritter is the staff horticulturalist at the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He has committed a significant portion of his time to finding out which wildflowers grow best on North Carolina roadsides. He has done his job well. I have traveled in no other southeastern state with such beautiful displays of roadside wildflowers.



WILLIAMS

THE PLANT DOCTOR

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Roadside Environmental Unit has recently reprinted its well-documented informational booklet with beautiful color plates of wildflowers used on North Carolina roadsides. This booklet details wildflower cultural practices, fertilization and biology in an easy-to-read format. The book is organized by flower color so you can quickly use the color pictures to locate a wildflower.

If you would like to have one of these booklets, they can be obtained free from N.C. DOT by requesting, *Wildflowers on North Carolina Roadsides*. Send your request to Harold Ritter, NCDOT-Roadside Environmental Unit, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

All of the turfgrasses used on North Carolina lawns, golf courses and roadsides have been introduced from other parts of the world.

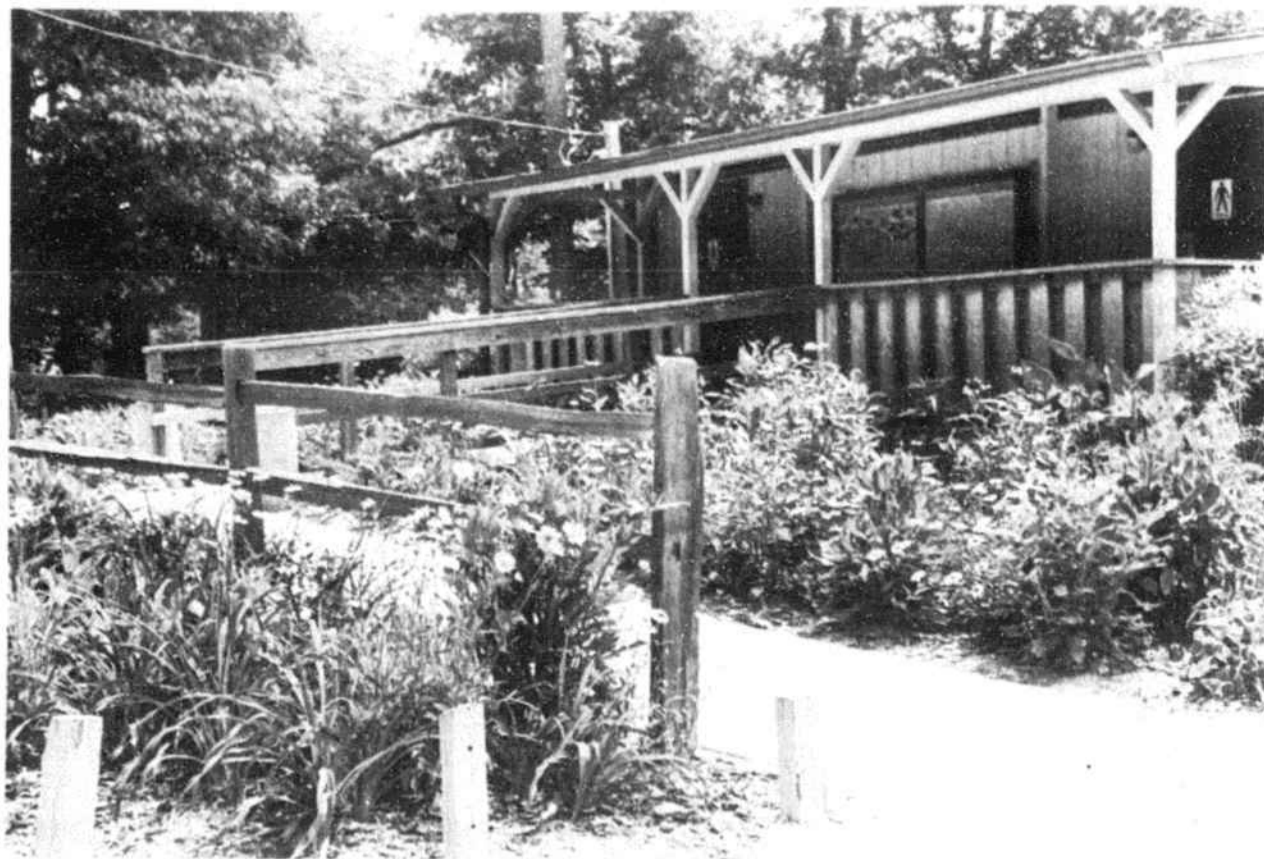
Research on native grass species selection, establishment and maintenance in eastern North Carolina is sparse.

Some of the native grasses will make beautiful prairie-like open spaces that are wonderful for wildlife.

However, problems with cultivation, maintenance and species succession abound and intentional establishment of native eastern grasslands is unusual at best.

I hope to evaluate native grass species this summer for wildlife or vegetation efforts. I will keep you informed on the progress.

(Send your gardening questions to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.)



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

WILDFLOWERS like Ox-Eye daisies, coreopsis and nodding catchfly blend with more domesticated species to add eye-pleasing color to the state rest area on U.S. 17 at Bolivia. Wildflower beds planted by the N.C. DOT Roadside Environmental Unit in the Winnabow and Leland areas of Brunswick County are a hit with motorists.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Yard Takes Honors

Billie Yount (far right) likes putting about her yard at 45 Live Oak Drive, Sea Trails. An extra bonus for her efforts: the May Yard of the Month award from the Sunset Sands Garden Club. Presenting the award above are Mildred Bernard and Marie Summerlin. Since retiring here from Greensboro 2 1/2 years ago Ms. Yount has transformed a landscape of pine trees and sand into a garden sampler that includes lantana, dusty miller, annual and creeping phlox, Gerber daisies, mums, candytuft, hostas, sedum, cocoa palms and varied shrubs.

Brunswick Adult Day Care Secures Site In Shallotte

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Adult Day Care Inc. will open a Shallotte site this summer, approximately one year after its first facility opened in Southport, board members announced last Friday.

Applications are being accepted in advance of the targeted opening

date of July 1.

However, the actual opening date will be determined mainly by how quickly the site can be readied for and inspected by both county and state agencies for licensure, said Dave Gibson, acting chairperson.

An ad hoc group from Camp United Methodist Church has committed to doing the work necessary to make the site accessible to the handicapped.

The center will be housed in a building at 106 Al Street that is being leased from Mr. and Mrs. Alton Milliken of Shallotte.

"There were several places we looked at and for whatever reason, didn't go through," said Jean Marshall, program director. "Just as it was in Southport, it has been a struggle to find just the right place in a centralized location."

However, she said board members are very pleased with the site, which is located on a quiet, dead-end street with easy access to and from Main Street in Shallotte.

Initially the program will be able to serve up to eight persons each day, said Ms. Marshall, but that doesn't mean only eight people can apply for service.

The center provides day care on

an as-needed basis for adults age 60 or older who are mobile or semi-mobile. Adults who have completed applications and are registered as clients can call ahead to spend an occasional day at the center to provide a time of relief for their regular care providers, or they may participate daily, freeing family members for employment opportunities. The center may provide an alternative to nursing home placement in some situations.

Day care center clients participate in a variety of activities, but Ms. Marshall said that community service has been the key to the success of the Southport site.

"They make tray favors for the local hospital and work with schools, churches and other organizations that need similar items on occasion," she said. "They look forward to that. They come in asking, 'What are we going to do? Who are we going to help today?'"

Information on the center and on how to apply or to refer a client is available from Ms. Marshall by writing Brunswick Adult Day Care, P.O. Box 310, Supply, N.C. 28462.

Interested persons may also call Percy Bray, 579-3447, or Jean Marshall, 457-0400.

Adult Day Care Plans Yard Sale

Appliances, books, toys, furniture and home and office supplies are among the items being accepted for the second annual yard sale to benefit Brunswick Adult Day Care, Inc.

Everything except clothing is being collected for the June 1 yard sale at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport.

Proceeds from the sale will help meet operating expenses at the Southport center and start-up costs of a new center to be located in Shallotte.

For more information on the sale, or to donate items, call Ruth Law at 457-4945 or Drusilla Smitile at 278-9738.

Pig Pickin' Benefits Infant

A pig pickin' this weekend will benefit a local infant scheduled for open heart surgery next month at Duke Medical Center in Durham.

Proceeds will be used to pay medical bills of Casey Maree Allen, the three-month-old daughter of Candy Allen of Shallotte and the granddaughter of Cathy Winfree of Shallotte.

Dinner will be served Saturday, May 25, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at

Ocean Aire Restaurant on U.S. 17 near Grissetown. Plates will be sold for \$3.25, with pork available for \$4.50 per pound.

Mrs. Winfree said Casey has been in and out of the hospital since she was born Jan. 30. She has two holes in her heart and only one valve at the top of her heart instead of two.

The child suffered a stroke about 1 1/2 months ago shortly after undergoing a cardiac catheterization, a procedure designed to find out what was wrong with her heart.

Mrs. Winfree said the family moved to Brunswick County from Shelby last summer. Donations are being accepted at the main branch of United Carolina Bank in Shallotte in the child's name.



CASEY ALLEN

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