

Federal Campaign Accepting Applications From Agencies

Through April 30 the Cape Fear Area Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from local charitable organizations that are interested in receiving funds from the fall 1993 campaign.

The campaign is conducted each October in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties and is the only fundraising drive permitted in federal government facilities.

To be eligible, an organization must have an office or facility within commuting distance of the Cape Fear area; must demonstrate that they are tax exempt, private, not for profit organizations; and demonstrate that fundraising and administrative costs are reasonable, and that the organization delivers substantial services and benefits.

Past recipients have included Cape Fear Area United Way, National Black United Federation of Charities, World Service Organizations and Earth Share, as well as many local, unaffiliated health and welfare agencies.

Applications are available from Cape Fear Area United Way, the appointed principal combined fund organization, at 255 N. Front Street, Wilmington, N.C. or by calling 1-919-251-5020. Applicants will be notified by letter of eligibility decisions.

Parks Department Plans Varied Spring Programs

"Kidnastics," flower arranging, bike riding, an egg hunt and a photography contest are among spring events scheduled by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

KIDNASTICS
The "Kidnastic" program at Southport Primary School will begin Monday, April 5. Classes will be held on Mondays, and a monthly participation fee of \$22 will be due at the first class meeting. Parents must accompany children to the first class meeting to register.

There will be no class on April 12 because of Easter vacation.

FLOWER ARRANGING
The Lockwood Folly Community Building will be site of a flower arranging class scheduled for April 13, 20 and 17 from 1-3 p.m. There will be a \$5 class participation fee per person.

Pre-registration is required by calling the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department. A minimum of six participants will be required, and a maximum of 10 will be allowed.

The class will include lecture, demonstration and hands-on participation in flower arranging and bow-making. The instructor will give a list of materials needed at the first class meeting; participants will be

responsible for bringing their own supplies.

EGG HUNT
A spring egg hunt has been scheduled for Sunday, April 4. Participants will meet at the Public Assembly Building at the Brunswick County Government Complex in Bolivia at 2 p.m. and should bring their own baskets. The hunt is open to children under 9 years old.

PHOTO CONTEST
Coastal North Carolina will be the theme of the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department's amateur photography contest, open to anyone in North Carolina. Entry deadline is Friday, May 14. Entries will be on display during June at the Franklin Square Art Gallery in Southport.

BIKE RIDE
A bike ride has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 21. Participants will meet at Waterfront Park in Southport at 5:30 p.m. Parents must accompany children. The ride will be short and slow-paced.

In case of inclement weather, the ride will be rescheduled.
For information or pre-registration for any of the events, call Emma T. McGraw at the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

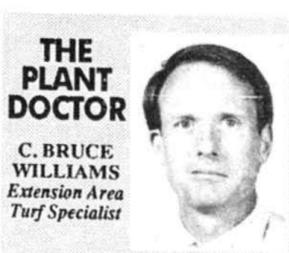
Reel Mowers Give Best Cut, But...

Dear Plant Doctor: I have a multi-grassed lawn consisting of Bermuda, Centipede and Zoysia. You might say I am experimenting with these grasses to prove or disprove what I have found in my research reading.

I have used both a reel-type mower and a rotary mower. The reel mower gave an excellent cut whereas the rotary mower "chewed" the grass. After cutting with the rotary mower, the grass almost always turned a distasteful brown, with some scalping, but the reel mower's cut left a nice "carpet" green.

Herein is my problem. I need a good, durable, affordable reel mower...I priced reel mowers at \$700 or more. These mowers were primarily for professional lawn care or golf courses. I am unable to locate a vendor or dealer who can supply the equipment I need at a reasonable cost (\$200 to \$300). Do you have any information on reel mowers or can you recommend a good vendor who I can contact?

Answer: Your observations are right on the mark. I certainly hope some equipment vendors are reading. This is a problem I hear over and over again. I have been trying to locate a good used commercial reel mower for the New Hanover County



THE PLANT DOCTOR
C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area Turf Specialist

Arboretum for nearly two years without success.
Reel mowers give the best cut to grass. The blades on a reel mower cut grass in much the same way that scissors do. The grass blade is not bruised or damaged as with the tearing-bashing cut of a rotary mower. In addition, the reel mower can cut grass very close. Some golf course superintendents routinely cut golf greens to 1/8ths of an inch using precision reel mowers.

The very best rotary mower can only cut grass from 1/4 inch to 1.0 inch on a perfectly level surface. However, on a normal lawn, scalping will usually accompany a low mowing height because the nature of the rotary mowers blade movement.

Reel mowers are precision machines and for that reason are very expensive. Home lawn model reel

mowers are available at prices starting at \$500 and up. Commercial reel mowers start at \$1,200. I recently saw a very average, no-frills, 6-gang reel mower and tractor combination that cost \$42,000.

Remember that a reel mower also requires routine specialized maintenance for optimum performance. Routine sharpening of the reel and honing of the bed knife are much more expensive than getting a rotary mower blade sharpened.

You have several large commercial turf equipment suppliers in your area. Check with them for a good used commercial mower—you may get lucky and get one in your price range.

Dear Plant Doctor: Enclosed is some information on a problem we are having with our water oak trees. The tree appears to be dying because of this condition. Please advise us on how to cure or eradicate these pests.

Answer: As you have already determined, your trees have a gall-type insect problem caused by the horned oak gall wasp (*Callirhytis corni-era*) or gouty oak gall wasp (*Callirhytis quercuspunctata*). I discussed this problem with Dr. James Baker, the N.C. State University extension entomologist. He says this insect

problem is common across the coastal plains of the Carolinas.

A healthy oak tree will not normally become terminally infested with these insects. Healthy trees will have some galling.

However, trees under severe stress (from construction damage, disease, or other problems) will usually have a much worse infestation and in some instances, the insect can deal the death blow to the tree.

The best solution is to prune out the galls and destroy them. In larger trees, this practice may not be practical. This insect has a very complex and unique life cycle which makes the effective utilization of pesticides nearly impossible.

Send your gardening questions and comments to The Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.

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Under the Holden Beach Bridge

Easter Buffet Celebration
Sunday, April 11, 1993

Jones/Byrd Clubhouse
12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Soups... Carolina Crab Chowder and Onion Soup
Salads... Mixed greens with a make your own salad bar with eight varieties of dressings, spinach salad, roquefort walnut potato salad, cucumber with sour cream and fresh dill dressing, tortellini pasta salad, pasta, crab and caper salad, shrimp salad, chicken salad, mozzarella, tomato and fresh basil, and greek salad with fresh breads... and two selections of pate, assorted relish tray, selection of cheeses and three varieties of butter
Entrees... Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus, Virginia Cured Ham with Raisin Sauce, Chicken Wellington, Seafood Thermidor with shrimp, scallops, lobster and pasta
Vegetables... Potatoes Au Gratin, fried cauliflower, macaroni and cheese, green beans almondine, broccoli casserole, carrots vichy, corn fritters with honey maple sauce, broiled tomatoes and brown sugar
Desserts... Assorted cake, pies, pastries and Easter candy

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