



Library Honors Volunteers

West Brunswick Branch Library volunteers (front, from left) Marilyn Searby, Blanche Bechtle and Ethel "Edie" V. Hoff and (back) Margaret Dennis and Carol Good received plaques of appreciation last week from Felecia Hardy, branch manager. A sixth volunteer, Betty Holbach, is not pictured. Together volunteers contributed 495 hours of service to the library during 1992 and have already given 176 hours this year.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Four Chosen For Governor's School

Four Brunswick County High School students have been chosen to attend Governor's School, a summer residential program for gifted and talented students conducted by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said Lorene Williams, director of the exceptional children's program for the Brunswick County Schools.

Sessions are held June 27 through Aug. 7 on two college campuses. Governor's School West is held at Salem College in Winston-Salem and Governor's School East is held at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg.

Two students from Brunswick County have been assigned to each campus.

South Brunswick High School students Justin Rohde of Long Beach and Lee Ann Eagle of Southport will study math and social science respectively at Salem College.

At Governor's School East, Si Yung Lee of North Brunswick High School in Leland will study art and Danny Holyfield of Southport, a student at South Brunswick High, will study natural science.

In addition to studies in their area of concentration, all Governor's School students have the opportunity to participate in classes, seminars and extracurricular activities designed to encourage development of higher-level thinking skills, creativity and leadership.

Two South High Students In All-State Honors Band

Two South Brunswick High School students have been selected by audition for the North Carolina Bandmasters Association All-State Honors Band.

Cybele Wisniewski and Kelly Hardee will participate in the honors band clinic April 30 and May 1-2 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Wisniewski, an exchange student from Tahiti and a senior, was chosen as fourth chair in flute in the 11th- and 12th-grade band. Hardee, a ninth grade student from Winnabow, was selected as sixth chair in trombone in 9th- and 10th-grade band.

Following two days of rehearsal

men from across the state will present a concert at 2 p.m. on the UNC-G campus that will be open to the public.

"It's a terrific band," said Steve Skillman, cultural arts coordinator for the Brunswick County Schools.

The two instrumentalists were among a larger group of Brunswick County students that tried out for the band. To be considered students had to have placed among the top performers in the district honors band auditions.

Auditions were held for three all-state bands this year: middle school, grades 9 and 10, and grades 11 and

Latest Field Data Aids In Selecting Bedding Plants

I am always overwhelmed by the number of bedding plant varieties available in the garden centers. Knowing which variety is best is nearly impossible without years of experience or help from N.C. State University Bedding Plant Field Trials.

I often get questions about bedding plant selection. I always recommend the serious gardener visit the N.C. State Bedding Plant Trial Gardens on the grounds of the N.C. State Arboretum in Raleigh. Each year D.A. Bailey, Ph.D., field tests hundreds of new and old varieties of bedding plants for plant performance, plant size and shape, floriferousness (flowering ability), and freedom from insect or disease problems. The results of these trials are a superb guide for the selection of the best new bedding plant varieties.

The conditions of eastern North Carolina are harsh for many bedding plant species. A successful bedding plant garden must cope with disease, insect and environmental conditions that are usually less than optimum. Another factor that is a major influence on bedding plant performance is the weather. Some species excel in wet weather while others perform best during dry weather. Sometimes poor bedding plant performance will occur despite the best variety selection and garden preparation.

Bailey publishes the results of his research in the N.C. State University Bedding Plant Trial Garden Report. Although the report is quite lengthy, he selects several dozen varieties he terms as "N.C. Leaders of the Pack," which are chosen on the basis of "consistent, dependable full-season performance as a source of color and beauty in the landscape."

Here are some of my favorites from past and present NCSU Bedding Plant Trial Garden Reports.

■Globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*) is a tough hot weather, sun loving, dependable flowering, low growing (9- to 24-inch) annual. Last year "Buddy Purple" and "Lavender

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Lady" were best.

■Blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) is a great annual plant for hot, sandy, full-sun locations. "Red Plume" proved to be a consistent performer throughout the entire summer. "Yellow Sun" was probably second best.

■Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) is an early bloomer that will often grow to three feet in moist, well-drained soil. Although not tested in 1992, "Nicki Deep Rose" proved to be amazingly free of pests and a long season bloomer in previous years.

■Mexican Heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*) is a beautiful bedding plant that offers glossy green foliage and beautiful flowers. Many home gardeners have become fans of this relatively disease-free growing plant. Mexican Heather is still new to the nursery trade so you will have to call around to get this one.

■The weedy cousin of Rose Moss (*Portulaca grandiflora*) grows well in many of the lawns of coastal plain gardeners. This 6- to 8-inch tall, full-sun loving, spreading, fleshy

flowering plant is a great for hot, dry garden sites. The varieties in the "Sundial" series (Bodger Seeds Ltd.) were adequate performers in the 1992 trials.

■Madagascar Periwinkle or annual Vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*) continues to be one of the most versatile bedding plants in the Carolinas. This heat-tolerant plant can tolerate partial shade or full-sun in hot, dry conditions. For full-sun performance "Grape Cooler" (pink), "Pretty in Rose" (rose), "Pretty in White" (white) or "Peppermint Cooler" (red with white) were the trial leaders.

For shaded locations "Dawn Carpet" (pink), "Hot Streak Rose" (rose), "Pretty in White" or "Peppermint Cooler" were best. "Pretty in White" and "Peppermint Cooler" were outstanding in sun or shade locations in 1991 field trials.

Begonia (*Begonia semperflorens-cultorum*), geranium (*Pelargonium hortorum*), impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*), petunia (*Petunia hybrida*), verbena (*Verbena hybrida*) each have tens of dozen different varieties that were tested. The leading varieties of the 1992 field trials were as follows:

Begonia: Bicolor—"Olympia Starlet," "Oasis Bicolor," Mix—"Rio Mix," "Varsity Mix," Pink—"All Round Greenleaved Pink," "All Round Darkleaved Pink," Red—"Olympia Red," "Scarlanda," Rose—"All Round Greenleaved Rose," "All Round Darkleaved Rose," Salmon—"Olympia Salmon Scarlet," "Vision Salmon," Scarlet—

"Espresso Scarlet," "Oasis Scarlet," White—"All Round Greenleaved White," "Ambassador White."

Geraniums from cuttings: Pink—"Grace," "Pink Champagne," Red—"Kim," "Tango," Rose—"Beauty of Eastbourne," Salmon—"Salmon Satisfaction," White—"American White."

Geraniums from seed: Red—"Pinto Bicolor," Rose—"Rose Orbit," "Pinto Rose."

Impatiens: Blue/Violet—"Impulse Lilac," "Dazzler Sky Blue," Mix—"Impulse Orange," "Accent Apricot," Pink—"Accent Pink," "Dazzler Punch," Red—"Accent Red," "Tempo Burgundy," "Tempo Red," Rose—"Accent Carmine," "Showstopper Picotee," Salmon—"Impact Coral," Scarlet—"Accent Scarlet," White—"Impulse White."

Petunia: Blue—"Celebrity Lilac," "PrimeTime Blue," Mix—"Celebrity Pink Morn," "PrimeTime Light Pine Veined," Red—"Celebrity Burgundy Improved," "Celebrity Red Morn," Rose—"Merlin Rose," "PrimeTime Rose," Salmon—"Polo Salmon," "Celebrity Summer Ice."

Most North Carolina Cooperative Extension Offices have the report of the 1992 NCSU Bedding Plant Trials that can be reviewed for the asking. Plan to take time this summer to visit the NCSU Arboretum and see the best bedding plants for 1993.

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

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