

Think Twice About Wood You Select

Cleveland County homeowners who are thinking about building a fence or deck are urged to think twice about the type of wood they select.

"Choose the right wood and use it properly, and you can enjoy your deck for 25 years or more. Make the wrong choice and you'll be repairing or replacing it in a year or two," said Nancy Abasiekong, Cleveland County Home Economics Extension Agent.

The Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Staff has information on selecting wood for decks, fence posts, piers and other outdoor use.

"We'll be happy to provide this information to anyone who can use it," Nancy Abasiekong said. "Simply give us a call at 482-4365 or come by our office at 130 South Post Road, Shelby.

Basically, homeowners have three choices when selecting wood for outdoor use Nancy Abasiekong said. They can use pressure-treated Southern pine, the heartwood of naturally decay-resistant trees, or untreated wood.

Of these alternatives pressure-treated Southern pine is the best choice for most homeowners. It cost about half as much as decay-resistant, clear, redwood heartwood, and will often last much longer. Some other naturally decay-resistant species are black locust, cedar and cypress.

The Extension Service does not recommend untreated Southern pine for outdoor use because its life span is only one to two years in the ground. In addition, it is generally not practical for the homeowner to treat his own wood since the preservatives must be forced deep inside the wood and this is most easily done under pressure.

The Cleveland County Extension Office has information on many aspects of wood use in North Carolina. They are disseminating this information as part of a campaign called "Your Wood Can Last for Centuries."

The campaign was launched with the aid of the Forest Service after surveys showed North Carolinians were needlessly spending about \$50 million per year repairing and replacing wood. This is wood that is being improperly used, resulting in decay and insect damage.

Reduce Moisture Inside Home

Cleveland County homeowners do not have to put up with dripping windows and other forms of condensation from now until spring.

Nancy Abasiekong, Cleveland County Home Economics Extension Agent, says most homeowners have several means for attacking the condensation problem.

"Condensation occurs, of course, when warm moist air strikes a cool surface," Abasiekong explained. "This problem is usually worse in late fall and early winter, and it is often first noticed on window panes."

Condensation can collect almost any place in a house, and it can lead to wood decay. This is why the Agricultural Extension Service is trying to call attention to condensation as a part of their "Wood Can Last for Centuries" program.

One quick way to prevent condensation on window panes is to install storm windows. This will provide an insulated air pocket between the warm inside air and the cold outside air.

Another approach is to reduce the moisture inside the house with ventilators, dehumidifiers or your heating system. It is especially important to try to get rid of moisture that accumulates from cooking, bathing and laundering. Covering the ground in the crawl space also helps to reduce moisture in many homes.

There are other approaches that many homeowners can take to prevent condensation and to protect the wood in their house. For more information on the subject, contact Nancy Abasiekong by calling 482-4365.

Heffernan To Appear At Gaston

DALLAS — Tom Heffernan, poet and Artist in Residence at Davidson County Community College in Lexington will give a poetry reading in the student lounge of the Gaston College Myers Center on Tuesday, January 13 at 11 a.m.

Heffernan's reading and workshop will be of particular interest to the student audience. In the evening he will give a reading for the general public in the Gaston County Public Library Auditorium in Gastonia for the general public. This performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for the performances.

Heffernan was born in Hyannis, Massachusetts and brought up in Boston. He holds degrees

from Boston College and the University of Manchester in England, and also attended the Università per Stanieri in Perugia, Italy.

He has lectured at Oxford University, Skidmore and Dartmouth college and was a faculty member at the universities of Manchester and Birstol in England and at the University of Hartford and North Carolina State in the U.S. For four years he was poet in residence for the Poetry in the Schools program administered by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. Since 1977, he has worked as a Visiting Artist in poetry, at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte and at Guilford

Technical Institute in Jamestown, before coming to Davidson County Community College.

Widely recognized as a writer, Heffernan has received numerous regional and national awards for poetry, fiction, playwriting and essay, receiving a St. Andrews Award, two Dillard and two Crucible awards, and the 1978 Gordon Barber Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, among many prizes for poetry. In 1977, he received a literary fellowship from the Southern Arts Federation to write poetry and fiction. One of his plays received an award in a competition in Boston and was produced there successfully. He has

received a national award from the Atlantic Monthly for essay.

He is the author of five books of poems, two of them published, one on the way, and the other two in circulation. He published regularly in such magazines as Southern Poetry Review, Ais Eiri, Stone Mountain, St. Andrews Review, International Poetry Review, The Midwest Quarterly and others. He was guest editor for the recent Celtic Issue of International Poetry Review. His poems have been included in various anthologies.

He is listed in A Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers, International Who's Who in Poetry, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, The

Dictionary of International Biography, Authors and Writers Who's Who, Men of Achievement, Personalities of the South, Personalities of America and several other similar references.

Tom views poetry as a natural gift everyone has to a greater or lesser extent. There's at least a little poetry in everyone, he feels, and this is often expressed in daily speech. Poetry is not far from everyday life, and being bound up with language, which everyone has, is part of everyone's ordinary and extraordinary experience. The joys and sorrows, the humdrum and the exciting, are all natural aspects of the poetry in our lives, and so are the places where we live.

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FRANKS
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