

Beautification Of Landscape Is Being Urged

By MARGARET J. WOODS
Home Economics
Extension Agent

Governor Jim Martin has proclaimed April as Clean Up North Carolina Month. In addition, Martin has designated April 17-23 as Keep America Beautiful in North Carolina Week.

Mrs. Dottie Martin, the Governor's wife, is helping, too. She has written to the chairmen of the boards of county commissioners, and to mayors and chambers of commerce executives statewide requesting that they support clean-up activities and encourage volunteer groups to pick up litter.

The Warren County Agricultural Extension Service is encouraging clubs and organizations affiliated with the extension service to assist in picking up roadside debris in their communities and around their homes.

As in past campaigns, the Department of Transportation (DOT), reinforced with inmates from the Department of Correction, has selected a week to focus on picking up litter from the state roads. This spring, the week of April 17-23 has been chosen.

Throughout the month of April, volunteer organizations that assist in picking up roadside debris may obtain large trash bags by contacting the DOT coordinator, Glenwood Rose, at 257-3938, or the Agricultural Extension Service at 257-3640.



Another sure sign of spring is this snapping turtle, unamused after being disturbed while foraging after awakening from his winter siesta. The dinner-

plate-sized animal was found recently between Warrenton and Norlina.

(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

This Battle Being Waged On Bikes

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Why should you care about supporting leukemia research?

Literature prepared by the Leukemia Society of America gives the following reasons:

—except for accidents, leukemia kills more children aged two to 15 than any other cause;

—leukemia kills more adults, especially those over age 60, than children;

—leukemia or other related conditions will be contracted by 70,000 Americans this year—about 41,000 of whom will die.

According to the organization, there is no way to prevent the disease, but it can be treated with chemotherapy to induce remission, blood or platelet transfusions, antibiotics and bone marrow transplants. With these treatments, almost 90 percent of young victims and over 50 percent of adults with the acute form of the disease typically go into remission—and remain that way for more than five years.

"Although we can't do much ourselves to battle this malignant disease, we can do something to assist those who are working to find new treatments," Dr. James Holt said. "We can spend some time this Saturday morning riding in the Warren County Bike-A-Thon or we can spend some cash instead," he challenged.

Funds are raised through direct contributions or per-mile pledges made in support of local riders.

Holt, Warren Health Plan physician and chairman for the Warren County Bike-A-Thon for the Leukemia Society of America, recalled the success of the event held last year. "Although only 13 riders participated in the 10-mile ride, through their efforts a sum of \$630 was raised," he said.

Mrs. Betsy Gardner, also actively involved with the Bike-A-Thon, recalled the biker who collected the largest amount of donations last year. "Emmy Lou Coleman was awarded a savings bond by First Citizens Bank for her work," she said.

Bikers participating in the event this year can receive premiums, among them caps, calculators, gym bags and T-shirts, that vary according to the total of per-mile pledges they collect. They are also eligible to compete in a statewide drawing for a 10-speed bicycle.

"All contributions to the Leukemia Society of America are tax-deductible," Holt said, "but,

the most important thing to remember is that doing something this Saturday morning, whether that something is riding one's bike or making a contribution, is what really counts."

This year's Warren County Bike-A-Thon participants will depart Saturday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. from the Warrenton Baptist Church on Main Street. They will follow a 10-mile course that will take them up North Main Street to the Warren County Schools' bus garage, where they will turn left bound for the Norlina Public Library. "That part of the route is five miles in length," Holt said. "Once we backtrack to Warrenton Baptist Church, we will have completed a 10-mile course."

To register, to pledge or to otherwise show support for the Leukemia Society of America, call Dr. James Holt (257-3318, working hours; 257-1106, evenings) or Mrs. Betsy Gardner (257-3318, business hours; 257-4307).



Ridgeway Fire Chief Reuben Holtzman surveys a house burned during a training exercise held last weekend. The structure was donated by Ben Hargrove. Other units participating in the exercise were the Soul City, Norlina and Drewry fire departments.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Agriculturally Speaking

By RUSSELL C. KING
County Extension Director



If you have been outdoors during the past few weeks, you realize that Warren County has developed a problem with "worms." Most of these "worms" are forest tent caterpillars.

Adult moths of the forest tent caterpillar are pale brown with two dark brown diagonal lines on the forewing. Eggs are laid in masses around twigs and are covered with a dark, hard secretion. Forest tent caterpillars are somewhat hairy and have a dark, mottled stripe down the back, with a series of keyhole-shaped white dots and pale blue lines on the sides. The cocoon is about 25mm long and is spun of white or yellowish silk.

The forest tent caterpillar is found throughout the United States and Canada. Larvae prefer tupelo gum, black gum, sweet gum and various species of oaks. Outbreaks may cover thousands of square miles and may last several years. Tree mortality is not great, but stunting (lack of incremental growth) and dieback following defoliation are noticeable. Although not harmful to man, many persons find the caterpillars to be repulsive as they crawl about seeking places to spin cocoons.

Only one generation of forest tent caterpillars develops each year. In spring as the buds swell, the caterpillars leave the eggs and begin to feed on the expanding buds and new leaves, often completely defoliating trees. Forest tent caterpillars do not spin tents as do eastern tent caterpillars. They do weave a silk mat on the branches and trunk and they lay down silk strands along which they crawl. At first the caterpillars feed in small groups, but after hatching, the caterpillars crawl about to spin their cocoons on fences, tree bark, buildings or debris. In early summer, adult moths molt from the pupal stage and emerge from the cocoons to mate and lay eggs. The eggs are laid around a twig and covered with a foamy secretion which soon hardens into a tough, varnish-like substance. The caterpillars develop inside the eggs, but they do not hatch until the following spring. They spend the summer, fall, winter and very early spring inside the egg mass.

CONTROL—The following pesticides are suitable for use to control forest tent caterpillars on ornamental plants. Be sure to follow the directions for safe and effective use. (The use of trade names does not constitute endorsement of one product to the exclusion of similarly labeled products.) Acephate (Orthene); Bacillus thuringiensis—several formulations; bendiocarb (Dycarb, Ficam, Turcam); carbaryl (Sevin); chlorpyrifos (Dursban), diazinon; fluralinate (Mavrik); malathion; methoxychlor (Marlate); phosmet (Imidan).

For further information on the forest tent caterpillar, please contact me at the Warren County Agricultural Extension Service.

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Contact: Steve Young

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