



New Little Miss Crowned

Chalmers Champion (center), daughter of Jerry and Cynthia Champion of Shallotte, was crowned Little Miss Brunswick County 1991 Saturday night at Shallotte Middle School. The eight-year-old Union Primary School student performed a jazz acrobatic dance to "Pop Till You Drop". Also pictured above (from left) are Fallon Walker, third runner-up; Megan Farmer, first runner-up; Heather Williamson, 1990 Little Miss; Love Williamson, second runner-up; and Ashley Nicole Cox, fourth runner-up. Ten girls competed for the title.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Reception To Honor Nine Local Artists

The Brunswick County Arts Council will hold a reception for area artists Thursday, Dec. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Blue Dolphin Gallery on Long Beach Road.

Works for nine area artists will be on display, including paintings and drawings by Ann E. Chadwick and Virginia Ryan Lauzon of Shallotte. Other artists included in the show are Southport area and Oak Island natives Pam Rockwell, Helga Beacham, Erin Cronin-Webb, Jean Jones, P.D. Midgett III, Eric Pfeiffer and Ortrud Tyler.

Ms. Rockwell is a former resident of Southport who is now an artist in residence at Penland in western North Carolina. Her silver jewelry will be on display.

The purpose is to bring the artists together and to tell what the Arts Council can do for them and what they can do for the Art Council," said Stephanie Tewey, Brunswick County Arts Council president.

The public is invited. Christmas music will be provided. "We need to let the people know what the Arts Council does," Ms. Tewey said.

The Holiday Art Show is one of several events during the year aimed at helping the Council become more visible in the community. The art show will run through January at the Blue Dolphin Gallery on N.C. 133, Long Beach Road.

Living Tree Adds Magic To Season

BY C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Area Extension Turfgrass Agent

Dear Plant Doctor: I am considering the purchase of a balled and burlapped Christmas tree. What kind of tree is the best for landscaping and has the best chance of survival?

Answer: A living or fresh-cut Christmas tree contributes to the magic of the holiday season. Picking out a Christmas tree is a family affair and should be done based on sentiment, smell and appearance.

However, this purchase should be made with thought and planning.

Many people have the mistaken notion that Christmas tree farming is a quick way to get rich. In fact, most Christmas trees take five years to eight years to reach market maturity. During that growing time, trees must be shaped, fertilized, pruned and treated for various pests. In addition trees grown for balled and burlapped sale must be root pruned.

Many of you will invest \$25 to \$50 or more in a fresh cut tree. Why not pay a few dollars more for a balled and burlapped Christmas tree that you can enjoy in your landscape for years to come?

THE PLANT DOCTOR

I have seen Fraser fir, Balsam fir, White pine, Scotch pine, spruce and the cedars available from tree vendors, garden centers and nurseries.

The firs make beautiful Christmas trees but are not well adapted to the sandy, dry conditions so prevalent in the Cape Fear region. The balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) or Fraser fir (*A. fraseri*) prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil and cooler temperatures. North Carolina State University is doing a great deal of research with tree growers to develop new cultivars and more efficient production. But for home planting, stay away from the firs.

The Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) or Colorado spruce (*P. pungens*) are occasionally sold balled and burlapped. The Norway spruce does poorly in this area. The Colorado

spruce is much more adaptable to our hot, dry summers. The cylindrical shape and dark blue-green color will quickly become the main focal point in your landscape.

Choose the planting site with great care; this tree will grow to 50 feet or higher and have a 25-foot basal spread.

Two pine species are commonly sold for balled and burlapped Christmas trees: the eastern White pine (*Pinus strobus*) and the Scotch pine (*P. sylvestris*). The white pine makes a beautiful evergreen tree and is one of the easiest to transplant successfully. The root system is shallow and spreading, which makes this tree somewhat prone to storm damage. I lost a 10-year-old specimen, thanks to Hurricane Hugo.

The Scotch pine is the most popular pine for Christmas tree use. It will transplant easily and does fairly well in our area.

The most beautiful balled and burlapped Christmas tree I have ever seen was a Deodar cedar (*Cedrus deidara*). For landscaping purposes, this is the best specimen type evergreen with a growth rate of about

two feet per year.

Younger trees are the most beautiful, with pyramidal shape and dark green color. Older trees have pendulous branches which tend to give the tree a wide, spreading form.

Deodar cedars are relatively pest and disease free. I know of many local specimens that are 60 feet or more in height.

The eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is not really a cedar at all, but rather a juniper. This tree is adaptable to most soil types and climatic zones. When I was growing up, the eastern red cedar was the only Christmas tree that was considered.

They are mean trees with prickly needles, limber branches and multiple trunks, but the smell of red cedar in the house is the essence of Christmas.

Easily transplanted as a balled and burlapped specimen, the eastern red cedar should not be planted near apple trees since this species acts as an alternate host for Apple-Cedar rust.

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



WILLIAMS

Hospital Authority Meeting Is Tonight

The Brunswick County Hospital Authority meets today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. in the board room at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Among items on the agenda are consideration of land acquisition by the N.C. Department of Transportation for right of way for improvements to U.S. 17 and a presentation from representatives of Lockwood Pines.

Several new board members may be sworn in.

The meeting is open to the public.

2nd Annual

Share The Spirit

Monday, Dec. 17

with Dr. Skip Davis & Staff at

Chiropractic Center of Shallotte/Ocean Isle

Due to our patients' overwhelming response, we will once again donate our services for one day in return for donations to the hungry. On December 17, only non-perishable foods will be accepted as payment for services.

Food donations will be given to the
Salvation Army Christmas Distribution Center

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