It’s that time of year again!

Now is a good time to collect your soil samples for next year’s gardening. Your local county Cooperative Extension office has the soil boxes and submittal forms, as well as information on how to collect representative samples. In general, collect a separate sample for each distinct use area: lawn, vegetable garden, flower garden, problem area, etc. The NC Department of Agriculture analyzes the samples and sends the results directly to you. There is no fee for this service ... and you get a wealth of information. You can also look up your sample results on-line by going to the NCDA&CS website:

http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/

Under “Access Information” select “Grower” and then type in your last name.

Homebuyer’s Education Course:

The City of Jacksonville Community Development Division offers a “Homebuyer’s Education Course”. This class provides useful information on obtaining a mortgage loan, shopping for a home, home inspections, title insurance, managing credit, homeowner's insurance, and home maintenance.

Onslow's Cooperative Extension office participates in this event with the home maintenance presentation. Information on moisture control, indoor pests, air filters, septic systems and other issues is covered.

The next class will be Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 9 am – 5 pm. If you are interested in the class, contact Patricia Hatch (910-938-5256) to register.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day:

WHEN: Saturday, November 15, 9am-3 pm
WHERE: UNC-W Parking Lot K, near Trask Coliseum and tennis courts, 601 S. College Rd.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste is harmful to our health and our natural resources. Household hazardous waste can pollute our streams, rivers, drinking water, and ground water. These wastes can also interfere with treatment processes at the landfill and the wastewater treatment plants.

The following items will be accepted:
- Pesticides & herbicides in labeled containers
- Paint, solvents, paint thinner, & cleaners
- Mercury & fluorescent tubes
- Fuels, motor oil, & antifreeze
- Household & auto batteries
- Used tires (no rims!)

The following items will not be accepted: ammunition, smoke detectors, TV’s, propane gas cylinders, tires with rims, medications, industrial materials, furniture, and trash.

Coordinated by: New Hanover County Dept. of Environmental Management, the City of Wilmington, New Hanover Cooperative Extension, and UNC-W.

For Additional Information Call 341-4373
Hewletts Creek Community Meeting:  
Sponsored by the New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District

WHEN:  Thursday, November 20 at 7pm
WHERE:  Holly Tree Elementary
WHO:  Hewletts Creek area residents and other interested citizens

AGENDA (Tentative)
7-7:15  Sign-In & Welcome
7:15-7:30  Introduction:
   General Water Quality information, Shellfish harvesting status, population, issues, etc.
   Speaker:  to be determined
7:30-7:45  Phase II and You:
   General information on stormwater regulations (Phase II), what it means to a resident and what you can do to become a solution to stormwater pollution.
   Dave Mayes, Director 
   Jennifer Butler, Outreach Coordinator, City of Wilmington Storm Water Services
7:45-8:15  BREAK:
   At this time, refreshments will be served and the participants will break into discussion groups. Each group will develop a list of common concerns/issues in their watershed and possible solutions.
8:15-8:30  Oyster Restoration:
   The Coastal Federation will share information on the various oyster research taking place in Hewletts Creek as well as several volunteer efforts (oyster shell recycling and oyster bed renourishment).
   Tracy Skrabal, Senior Scientist 
   Ted Wilgis, Coastkeeper, North Carolina Coastal Federation
8:30-8:45  The Hewletts Creek Greenway & Riparian Buffers:
   Information on efforts that are currently underway to preserve undeveloped lands along a crucial stretch of the middle branch of Hewletts Creek. Agencies involved include: New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District, NHC Tidal Creeks Program and City of Wilmington. Information will also be presented on riparian buffers, cost share programs, and native plants.
   Shelly Miller, Community Conservationist 
   Bill Hart, Supervisor, NH Soil & Water and 
   Chris O’Keefe, NHC Planning Department

For additional information, contact:
Shelly Miller, 910-798-6032

Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
Extension Area Specialized Agent
Natural Resources-Environmental Education

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
Onslow County Center
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540