

August 2015

Seed Pod

The Official Newsletter of the
Men's Garden Club of Asheville
mensgardenclubasheville.org

President's Corner

Ken Roth



As we head into August we can all look forward to two important events. The first will happen on Wednesday the fifth. Our annual picnic is set with a change in venue. Look for all the details coming from Gerry Hardesty via email as well as the article below.

The second event will be the culmination of three years of planning and work to bring back the grounds of the Smith-McDowell House to how it looked in 1900 when the 2 sons of Frederick Law Olmsted were commissioned to redesign the landscape. Save the date on August 20th. A post card is on the way and if you are planning on attending you must make a reservation by August 5th. This is necessary for the caterer in planning the amount of food and beverages.

Plan to come around 4 pm and you'll be able to tour the Barton exhibit and the grounds prior to the ceremony and reception beginning at 5 pm.

The picture below is a robin nesting at my front door.



I am looking forward to seeing everyone and enjoying this our 75th year

"There is nothing I like better at the end of a hot summer's day than taking a short walk around the garden. You can

smell the heat coming up from the earth to meet the cooler night air."

Peter Mayle

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mens-Garden-Club-of-Asheville/147346425328933>

The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held on July 13, 2015



Anyone who would like to read the minutes of this past board meeting should contact the Secretary, Ray Carter, at MGCminutes@mail.com

Any member who wishes to attend the board meetings is welcome.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, August 10, 2015

Member News

Gerry Hardesty

In order to keep **The Men's Garden Club of Asheville** an

active and vibrant organization, we need to regularly bring in new



members. You can help with this by telling your friends and neighbors how great MGCA is and not deprive them of the opportunity to be a part of it. So, dust off that application form and go talk to them.

If you would like to invite a friend to join the club and don't have an application form, please direct him to the website **mensgardenclubofasheville.org** and tell him to click on the "join" tab at the top right.

The following three men have joined the club this past month:

Kurt Wooten email - woocan@me.com Sponsor- Nate Dow

Gary Culbertson email - ftroconiscrombie@gmail.com Ray Carter Sponsor

Francisco Troconis email- ftroconiscrombie@gmail.com Ray Carter Sponsor

Please take the opportunity of the picnic to find these men and welcome them to the club. Their pictures will appear in next month's Seed Pod.

Contact Gerry if you have **questions about joining the Club.** 299-3315 or gerry327@charter.net

Members' Gardens



on left
is Dick



Powell's deck garden
on right is Nelson Sobel's window basket

Please send pictures of your garden to both
Louis Gire and Ralph Lambert

**Can you name the flowers below? The first one gets a
greenhouse plant.**



Last



month's flowers were

Blackie sweet potato on the left and
"Rising Sun" redbud on the right

If you have a flower you would like to nominate for the mystery flower of
the month, please contact Ralph Lambert
at r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com

Garden tips for July

Non-Native Invasives to Avoid

Autumn Olive -- Bush Honeysuckles --

Chinese/European/Border/California Privets

Hen's Eyes, Coral Ardisia -- Japanese/Glossy Privet -- Japanese Barberry

Japanese Knotweed -- Japanese Meadowsweet -- Leatherleaf Mahonia

Nonnative Roses -- Sacred Bamboo, Nandina -- Silverthorn, Thorny Olive

Shrubby Nonnative Lespedezas -- Tropical Soda Apple -- Winged Burning Bush

The above list comes from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture forest service publication:

A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests

Special article for August

Watering the Garden

The primary rule of summer watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and to allow the soil dry on the surface between waterings. Deep watering will allow the plant's roots to grow deeper, where they are less likely to dry out, as well as having the added benefit of anchoring the plant into the ground better. Light, surface watering actually wastes water, because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant, and the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil.

The best way to tell if your plants are receiving enough water is to dig down a few inches. The soil should be moist at least 3 or 4 inches deep

to insure that the water is reaching the root zone of the plants.

As the weather dries out, your container plants may need daily watering, especially if the pots are exposed to sunlight. Apply water until it runs out the drainage holes.

Try to do your watering during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off before the sun hits them. Evening watering is sometimes acceptable if the temperatures are warm enough to insure that foliage dries before the temperature drops at night. (Wet foliage makes plants more susceptible to fungus and disease.)

This article has been adapted from "TheGardenHelper.com"

Announcements, Volunteer Opportunities and Meetings:

At the Horticultural Center

Ted Faber



We are preparing plants for the fall plant sale and for members' ongoing purchases. Activities at the greenhouse are ongoing and require members' help. It takes a village to raise a plant. Remaining workdays are: **August 7** and **October 2**.

We have fun from 9am to 11am and get some work done as well.

Please join us!!!

All the efforts and sales at the greenhouse go to support our scholarships and community projects. The days provide an opportunity to get to know members better, discuss gardening concerns and experiences. **You'll be glad that you came!**

Contact Ted Faber at 707-4887 or tedfaber@charter.net with any questions.



These pictures are of the Beaver Lake beautification site maintained by the club.

Articles and pictures for the Seed Pod

Every month we ask for more articles from members on topics of interest to them that might provide insight for other members. We also would welcome articles written by spouses/partners/significant others. So please ask the most important person in your life if she/he would like to contribute an article.

Contact **Ralph Lambert** r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com for items to be put in the **Seed Pod**.

Door Prizes and Special Projects

Len Pardue



We'll have a selection of club caps and shirts for sale at the picnic. Caps are \$12; shirts range from \$15 to \$25. Bring a check book and check out the inventory. And let Len Pardue know if you'd like an XXL polo shirt -- one size larger than we've been offering. You can email him at eljeep129@gmail.com We've got a request for an extra-extra-large but want to know if there are others who'd like one. The price is still pending -- probably about \$25.

We extend a hearty thank-you to our door-prize sponsors last month for their generous support. They were Ace Hardware and Wild Birds Unlimited, both in the south Asheville area on Hendersonville Road. Each donated gift cards. We appreciate their support of the MGCA's activities.

Since August is the month for the club's picnic, we'll dispense with door prizes. Tune in in September for the next drawing for door prizes. We extend a hearty thank-you to our door-prize sponsors last month. They were Ace Hardware and Wild Birds Unlimited, both in the south Asheville area on Hendersonville Road. Each donated gift cards. We appreciate their support of the MGCA's activities.

Remember, you must be present to win...

Contact **Len Pardue** eljeep129@gmail.com (285-2521) to volunteer for the **Special Projects Committee**

The Club's Facebook Page is continually being updated. Notify Louis Gire if you have something of interest you think should be on Facebook or **Pinterest**:

<https://www.pinterest.com/ashevillegarden/facebook>

The site contains gardening-related pictures with a small amount of information. If members have "before and after" pictures of their gardens, Louis would like to see them to potentially use on the site (no identification will be given). Ralph would also like them for the Seed Pod.



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75th Anniversary project at the Smith McDowell House

We are on the "Home Stretch" for the project, but still many things to do prior to the dedication scheduled for Aug.

20. Wednesday, July 15 was a productive day, thanks to the crew assembled. It's amazing how much a workforce of 10-12 men can accomplish in 2-3 hours time. Thanks to all that pitched in and made it a successful morning.



There is still some on-going work at the house. If you were not available last Wednesday, you have another opportunity Saturday, July 25, 9:00--12:00. We need a crew of 10-15 for weeding, planting and mulching. Don't be bashful; you all are qualified. Bring shovels, mulch forks (if you have them) gloves and wheel barrows (if you can haul it).

But, most of all, bring yourself. We need you! For questions and to volunteer for **work on the garden** of the historic Smith McDowell house restoration, our Club's 75th anniversary project, **please contact: Bob Thatcher** btman15@att.net (828-667-9563) or **Gerry Hardesty** 299-3315 or gerry327@charter.net

The re-dedication ceremony for the house commemorating not only the Olmstead gardens, but also celebrating our Club's **75th anniversary**, will be from **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 20**. Save the date! The ceremony will include short speeches from representatives from the Smith McDowell House, MGCA, The American Chestnut Society and possibly from the Glass Foundation.

Following the guidelines from A-B Tech, there will be light snacks served with wine, beer and other beverages.

Please RSVP to the Smith McDowell House as per the instructions on your post card! If you do not reserve through the S-M House, you will not be admitted!!!

Monthly Meeting

The Club usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month except for the August picnic and the December awards banquet and special events. This month is the August picnic. Please mark your calendars in advance and be sure to respond to the calling committee for your reservation!

The August Picnic will be held on Wednesday, **August 5, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We will gather at 5:30.**

This year, for the first time, the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse, which is on the lake with a beautiful view, will be the venue. If the weather

cooperates, we will set up some outdoor tables as well. You will have received a separate email giving you directions to the clubhouse.

The calling committee will call you for reservations as usual.

You can bring your own alcoholic beverages (wine and beer only), but no alcoholic beverages will be sold at the picnic.

The catering will be done by The Artisan Cafe and Coffee House in ENKA, and the cost will be **\$15 per person** for the following menu:

Beef Brisket, Sliced BBQ Chicken Breast
Potato Salad, Broccoli Salad, Corn Bread
Banana Pudding, Peach Cobbler
Iced Teas and Water

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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