

Seed Pod

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

President's Corner

Ken Roth



As I write this article I am still reflecting on the highlight day, August 20th, of this our 75th year.

The dedication of Olmsted Revisited, our three-year project to restore the grounds of the

Historic Smith-McDowell house was celebrated in grand style. Because of the threat of rain the speakers were inside and then onto a garden reception with refreshments. The weather was perfect for strolling around, seeing the new gravel drive and walkways plus the new signage for our plants. And yes: there is still some more work to be accomplished.

Celebrating the occasion were guests from AB-Tech, members from the WNCHA, The American Chestnut Foundation and members from our club. The mayor's office presented our club with a proclamation making August 20th as Men's Garden Club of Asheville 75th Anniversary Day. The proclamation is shown on this issue of the Seed Pod.

And now we get ready for our next big event the fall sale at the BGA on September 12th.

The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.

Michael Pollan

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

The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held on August 10, 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, September 7, 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.

Thanks to Ray Carter, we have four new members over the past two months and **Nate Dow** sponsored one.

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 mensgardclubofasheville.org and tell him to click on the "join" tab at the top right.

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

Samuel Brady email: sjbrady25@gmail.com - sponsored by Ray Carter

Thomas Pitts, email: Thomas@Thomaspitts.com - also sponsored by Ray Carter

Please take the opportunity of this month's luncheon 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



Please
send



pictures of your garden to both **Louis Gire** and **Ralph Lambert**

on left is Kurt Wooten's "before" garden walk
on right is his "after picture"

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



Last month's flowers
were
oregano "Kent Beauty"
on the left and



thermopsis "Chiensis" 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

Special article for September

Phytophthora fungus prevention and treatment

Phytophthora fungus is a highly infectious fungus that lives in the ground (often called root rot). Here are some ways to avoid repeat infections:

A. In areas where root-rot susceptible plants have died, replant with plants that are not susceptible to root rot.

B. Within cultivars of various types of plants, some cultivars are highly susceptible (very likely to be killed by the fungus) and others are resistant. The rhododendron hybrids considered more resistant: Caroline, Martha Isaacson, Professor Hugo de Vries and Red Head.

Resistant azalea cultivars include Rhododendron poukhanese, Formosa, Fakir and Corrine Murrah. Camellia sasanqua is resistant to root rot while C. japonica is highly susceptible. Keep in mind that resistant hybrids are not immune. When planted in poorly drained soils where the fungus is present these plants may also become diseased.

C. The spread of Phytophthora into or among plants also can be reduced through the use of mefenoxam (Subdue MAXX) or fosetyl-AI (Aliette), but these very expensive (\$600+ per gallon for Subdue Maxx) and must be applied once every 2 to 4 months.

D. Chemicals may not kill the fungus in infected plants. For individual plants in the landscape, approximately 10 sq. ft. of soil around the plant should be treated. For large shrubs, 20-30 sq. ft. of soil should be treated.

For long-term control of root rot, the following control measures should be utilized in this order:

1. Avoid very poorly drained areas; plant in raised beds.
2. Use highly resistant or resistant cultivars.
3. Use chemical control.

Announcements, Volunteer Opportunities and Meetings:

The Club's Beautification Sites:

- 1) ACT / Asheville Community Theatre, 325 E Walnut Street -

picture at right

Site managers: Walt Leginski 828-505-1097 - wleginski@yahoo.com and Chuck Rosenblum 828-274-4431 charlesrosenblum@msn.com



2) Azalea Park / Soccer Fields, Azalea

Road, Asheville's soccer field complex in Azalea Park

Site manager: Denny Frache, 828-645-2714 h, 828-551-3434 c, lfrasche@aol.com



3) Beaver Lake - picture at left

Site Managers: Nelson Sobel, 828-255-0473 h, 828-231-0376 c, gnsobes@charter.net and Lewis Lamb, 828-255-8044, lewislamb1@gmail.com

4) Reuter Center

Site Managers: Joe Barrett, 828-242-2099, Joe-barrette@hotmail.com
Leo Bjorlie, 828-550-5697, bjorlieleo@yahoo.com

5) Mission Rathbun House

Site Manager: Milton Simpson, 828-271-6420 h, 305-913-8588 w, miltonsimpson@forwarde.com

6) Smith McDowell House Project

Site Manager: Bob Thatcher, 828-667-9563, btman15@att.net

This project is a new site. The MGCA responsibilities are to be determined in the future and will be shared among the MGCA, the Smith McDowell Staff and AB Tech. Bob will need a lot of help, so please contact him if you can work at all.

At the Horticultural Center

Ted Faber



We are doing the last minute preparations of the plants to ready them for the **Sept. 12 plant sale** and propagating plants for next year's use.

We will have mums, asters, pansies and daisies for sale to members before the sale, once we determine the price.

We will notify members when this is. As always, we will need lots of help hauling plants to The Botanical Gardens on **Friday afternoon Sept 11**, so please try to keep the date open to help.

Activities at the greenhouse are ongoing and require members' help. It takes a village to raise a plant. The remaining general workday is **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.

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 still have a selection of club caps and shirts for sale. 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 in July 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.

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.



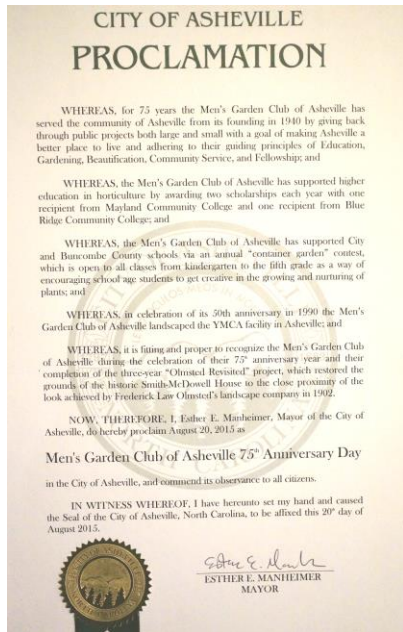
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75th Anniversary project at the Smith McDowell House



The re-dedication of the restored Olmstead gardens and the culmination of our 75th anniversary project took place at the Smith-McDowell House on August 20. Here are some pictures of that historic event including those club members attending.

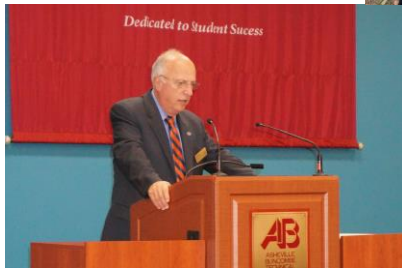




For



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 Club usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month except for the August picnic and the December awards banquet and special events. Please mark your calendars in advance and be sure

to respond with your reservation!

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, **September 1** at the First Baptist Church of Asheville. We gather for conversation and meeting those members whom you've not met before at 11:30. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Speaker: **Alison Arnold**

Topic: **Do You Know Your Invasive Plants?**

Attendees will be given the opportunity to test their knowledge and ability to identification invasive plants common to western NC.



Alison Arnold has more than 30 years of public horticulture experience in western North Carolina and is employed with the NC Cooperative Extension Service as Agriculture Extension Agent in Consumer Horticulture. She is responsible for education outreach to Buncombe County residents as well as training and coordination of the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program. Alison held this same position back in the early nineties before working 16 years at the North Carolina Arboretum in various positions, including gardener, volunteer coordinator and Director of Horticulture.

Alison has always enjoyed providing information and hands-on instruction in the care and management of the cultivated and natural landscape and garden.

RSVP: Only for lunch at \$11 per person to Dick Powell at wdpowelldds@yahoo.com or 828-252-2121

The luncheon is held at First Baptist Church in Asheville.
The cost is \$11.00 for members and guests.

Announcements will be made during lunch so that the speaker can begin promptly.

A word about reservations: If you make a reservation for lunch, the Club pays for it. Thus, it costs the Club \$11 for every "no show".

The general public is invited in addition to members and their guests.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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