

January 2016

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# Seed Pod

*The Official Newsletter of the*  
**Men's Garden Club of Asheville**  
*[mensgardenclubofasheville.org](http://mensgardenclubofasheville.org)*

## President's Corner

*James Wade*



Greetings Men's Garden Club of Asheville Members! The new year begins with the creation of our membership role and the printing and distribution of our membership directory. The wonderfully executed activities of 2015 are past and 2016 brings renewed promise of fellowship, education and service.

That is what we are about - the core of our organization. As our name implies we are not just another service organization, we are organized around gardening. Gardening often serves as a metaphor for other things; like life and death, seasons and reasons.

Gardening brings us closer to the basics of life; soil, water and sun.

Some approach gardens the same way each year. Others change each year. Individuals striving in our gardens and in our lives. At the most basic level, nothing is ever the same in the garden as it was last year. Frost, rain, drought, insects, and disease combine with other things in nature to force us adjust; Often against our will.

Last year was a year to look back and see that the past was good. This year is a year to look forward and see that the future will be good, if we make it so.

Some members have a limited view of what the Club offers them and what they can do for the Club. We need to cultivate and nurture our Club as we would our gardens. Members need to know what is going on and how to be involved. Mentor/sponsors need to encourage newer forks to be involved.

The much valued experience of longer term members needs to be combined with the enthusiasm of newer members. The Club needs experience, new ideas and enthusiasm for the best of outcomes and a sustainable Club.

The Officers and Board encourage all members to nurture one another fulfilling our mutual objective - serving one another and our community through our love of gardening. Let's all get to work.

[www.mensgardenclubofasheville.org](http://www.mensgardenclubofasheville.org)

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

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### **The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held on December 7, 2015**

Anyone who would like to read the minutes of board meetings should contact the Secretary, Ray Carter, at [MGCminutes@mail.com](mailto:MGCminutes@mail.com)

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

*The next Board meeting is January 11, 2016, at The Botanical Gardens of Asheville*

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### **Member News**

*Gerry Hardesty*



Thanks to all for the timely response in the gathering of correct information for the MGCA 2016 Directory.

Thanks also for paying your dues for next year. All the pertinent data have been assembled, along with pictures for all the new members and for a few long-standing members providing recent photos. It's now in the hands of the printer and expected to be ready for distribution at the January 5 luncheon meeting. Plan to be there and get your personal copy.

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### **Poinsettias**

*by Glen Palmer*



Getting a poinsettia to bloom on schedule can be a little tricky. But for those who enjoy a challenge it can be done.

After the colored bracts fall, you can keep it like any house plant, in good light and warm temperatures. Some people find it easier to put the plant in a cool place out of direct sun and let it go semi-dormant. In this case you would water only when it gets

completely dry.

Next spring, after the last frost, pot it up to a larger container using fresh potting soil and cut back all of the stems, leaving the plants only a few inches tall. Put the plant outside where it will get at least a half-day of good sun and begin feeding with a balanced fertilizer according to the label. Pinch back the stems several times during the summer to make a bushier plant, which will have more flowers.

The real trick to getting a poinsettia to bloom will come next fall. Poinsettias need “long nights” to trigger them to bloom. One way or another you’ll need to provide about 14 hours of total darkness each night for about six weeks starting in mid-September. You can do this by placing it in a room with good sunlight, but which will have no lights turned on at night. Or if you can remember to do it every day, you can cover it with a box at 5:00 or 6:00 every night and uncover it in the morning. Make sure the plant has good sunlight during the day. Let it get a little dry between waterings.

Once the bracts begin to show a little color, probably in late October or early November, you can bring the poinsettia back to civilization to enjoy again.

Some other facts about poinsettias: they were named after Joel Poinsett, the American Ambassador to Mexico who carried plants home to South Carolina about 1830. While they’re often classified as toxic, a person or animal would have to eat a lot of poinsettia to become ill.

Written by Glenn Palmer for the Buncombe County Master Gardeners website and originally published in the *Asheville Citizen Times*.

The Buncombe County Master Gardeners website, <http://www.buncombemastergardener.org>, is a frequent source for Seed Pod articles.

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## Name This Flower



Be the first one to name both these flowers and get a free flower from the greenhouse.



Send answers to [r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com](mailto:r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com)

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## Announcements, Volunteer Opportunities and Meetings:

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### At the Horticultural Center

*Ted Faber*



Activities at the horticultural center are ongoing and require members' help. **It takes a village to raise a plant.**



We have fun from 9am to

11am and get some work done as well. **Please join us!!!** Start a conversation, meet members you haven't met before, get to know members better and discuss gardening concerns and experiences.





The picture at the top left of the horticultural center is courtesy of James Wade and the rest are from the last workday with members



putting up the hoop house cover, courtesy of Ray Carter.

All the efforts and sales at the greenhouse go to support our scholarships and community projects. These days provide an opportunity to share in a group effort. To volunteer at the Horticultural Center, contact Ted Faber at 707-4887 or [tedfaber@charter.net](mailto:tedfaber@charter.net) with any questions.

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### Members' Gardens



Ed Smith and Don Ziermann garden gate before and after



Please send pictures of your garden to Ralph at [r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com](mailto:r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### *Articles and pictures for the Seed Pod*

**If you have a special interest in some subject in gardening, we need an article from you!**

We also would welcome articles written by spouses/partners/significant others/organizations with which you are affiliated. So please ask the most important people in your life if she/he would like to contribute an article.

Contact **Ralph Lambert** [r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com](mailto:r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com) for items for the **Seed Pod**.

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### *Door Prizes and Special Projects*

*Cecil Beumer*

At the November meeting of MGC-A, door prize winners received packets of seeds donated by Sow True Seed of Asheville. The business is located at 146 Church Street just south of downtown Asheville and on the web at <http://sowtrueseeds.com/> . The club thanks all the door-prize donors in recent months and encourages club members to check them out. They include the Screen Door, Reems Creek Valley Nursery, Jesse Israel and Sons Garden Center, B B Barns Garden Center, Wild Birds Unlimited, Ace Hardware South Asheville, Carolina Native Nursery in Burnsville, Thyme in the Garden, and Rose's Garden Shop.



Caps, sweatshirts and polo shirts emblazoned with the club's name and/or logo would make terrific holiday gifts. Prices range from \$12 to \$25 for polo shirts with club logos. Contact Len Pardue or Cecil Beumer for additional information.

### **Bigger sizes needed?**

Anybody want an XXL shirt? Please **email Cecil Beumer** [cecilbeumer@aol.com](mailto:cecilbeumer@aol.com) with your request. He will inquire about our options. The shirts are short-sleeved and color is forest green. We have offered a choice between shirts with the club name printed on the shirt (\$20) or with the club logo instead (\$25).

### **To order Club paraphernalia or volunteer for the Special Projects Committee .**

Contact **Cecil Beumer** [cecilbeumer@aol.com](mailto:cecilbeumer@aol.com)

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### **Facebook and Pinterest:**

*Louis Gire*

The Club's Facebook Page is continually being updated. Please notify Louis Gire (636-0982 or [girelouis@gmail.com](mailto:girelouis@gmail.com)) if you have something of interest you think should be on our

### **Facebook** page 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 made. Please send copies to Ralph for the Seed Pod.



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

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### **Beautification sites**

*Dick Rothenberg*



There is a need for continual maintenance of the work so many of you have done or contributed to at the Smith McDowell House among other sites.

For work at our beautification sites, please contact our Director for Beautification Sites, Dick Rothenberg: 680-9820 or RSR4702Fountains@Yahoo.com

### **Beautification Sites:**

**Asheville Community Theater** (Walt Leginski, 828-505-1097, wleginski@yahoo.com)

**Azalea Park/Soccer Fields** (Denny Frache, 828-645-2714, lfrache@aol.com)

**Beaver Lake** (Nelson Sobel, 828-255-0473 gnsobes@charter.net)

**Reuter Center** (Joe Barrett, 828-242-2099 joe-barrett@hotmail.com)

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### **Monthly Meetings**

**The Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month except for the August picnic and the December awards/ installation banquet and special events. Please mark your calendars in advance and be sure to respond with your reservation!**

*Speaker and Topic:* They meeting on January 5, 2016, will be a quick review of the club history report presented by Milford Shaver at the December meeting followed by a presentation of awards for 2015 by Ted Faber, the awards committee chairman.

**Regular monthly luncheons are held at the *First Baptist Church* in Asheville.**

The cost is \$11.00 for members and guests.

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.

**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". Please tell Ed Smith if you have made a reservation but cannot be at the lunch.

In addition to members and their guests, the general public is invited to the talk after lunch.

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## CORPORATE MEMBERS

### [B.B. Barns Landscape Co.](#)

3653 Sweeten Creek Rd.  
Arden, NC 28704  
Landscape - Hunter Stubbs  
828-384-9190  
stubbsbb886@bellsouth.net  
www.bbbarns.com



### [Biltmore Farms, Inc.](#)

Development – George Cecil  
1 Town Square, Asheville, NC 28803  
828-274-2000



### [1889 White Gate Inn](#)

173 East Chestnut Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Dr. Ralph Coffey  
828-253-2553  
www.whitegate.net  
ralphcoffey48@gmail.com



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