

January 2016

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Seed Pod

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

President's Corner

James Wade



As I sit looking out my window in mid-January and type, the sun is breaking through the late afternoon clouds on another rainy day. Maybe we got another inch of precipitation. It fell pretty hard at times and the runoff was substantial. This follows near record rainfall for the past three and a half months. Moisture coupled with warmer than average temperatures has brought out some plants early. Perhaps this bodes of an early spring and an adventurous year in the garden.

By now, I hope, you have begun to think about the spring and to plan changes and additions to your garden. It's never too early.

I also hope that you have begun to plan how you will participate in the Men's Garden Club during this year. The Club has a lot of activities which you can enjoy and provide great community services: horticulture center, plant sales, school container gardens, and site beautification (among others). The club is much more than our monthly luncheons and educational programs.

Looking forward to a warm and exciting spring is one joy of gardening in the winter. Enjoy!

<http://mensgardenclubasheville.us2.list->

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The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held on January 11, 2016

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

Any member is welcome to attend the board meetings.

The next Board meeting is February 8, 2016, at The Botanical Gardens of Asheville

Member News

Gerry Hardesty



We started this new year with 86 members, twelve of whom were new members in 2015. We lost seven members due to relocation, health, etc. The gardening season starts in a couple of months and is the ideal time to talk to your friends and neighbors. Tell them how much we learn from each other and our guest speakers. Offer to sponsor them as members.

Speaking of “Sponsors”, most of you have sponsored current members. I just want to remind you that a sponsor's duties involve more than recruiting a new members. It also includes encouraging your member to participate in Club activities and ensuring they meet other members: “We're having a WORK Day at the Greenhouse on Friday—I'll pick you up” sort of encouragement. In short, make them feel welcome and involved. That's what a sponsor does, whether it's with a new member or one with us for five or fifteen years. You are a sponsor for life.

This year we will be conducting a campaign to Increase our Corporate Membership. Dues (\$100) from corporate members are specifically used for our Scholarship program. If you know a commercial business that you think might consider becoming a Corporate Member

pass it on to Gerry Hardesty (gerry327@charter.net). And, be sure to click on the corporate sponsor links and give them some business when possible.

Scholarships



At the January meeting, Ms. Margaret Earley-Thiele, Executive Director of the Mayland Community College Foundation, thanked the Club for its support and introduced the Gerry Hardesty Scholarship award recipient, Amber Henderson. Ms. Henderson



spoke movingly of her gratitude for the Club's support.



Ms. Ann Green, Director of Blue Ridge Community College funding and Carolyn Evans, lead instructor in horticulture, viniculture, brewing and distilling, also thanked the Club for its support. Ms. Evans introduced the recipient of the Milford Shaver Scholarship award, Shaula Morris, who was persuasive in her expression of gratitude to the Club.

pictures courtesy of Ray Carter

A Project to Replace Recreational Pruning

by Glen Palmer

Posted on January 7, 2016 by Buncombe County Master Gardeners

Now that cold weather has eliminated recreational pruning for 2016, here's an outdoor landscape challenge for you, one that also involves your trees and shrubs: Survey your property to see how those plants add to or reduce the security of your home. Then make plans to rectify the situation. A few alterations to your landscaping can be enough to put off potential offenders.



Start by standing back and imagining you are a professional burglar. To avoid getting caught, intruders look for property they can get into and out of quickly. Their ideal target is a house

surrounded by large hedges and shrubs, hampering visibility from the street and neighbor's houses. Too often we use boundary plantings that serve as walls for privacy – evergreen walls!

Shrubs close to a house or along walkways should be not more than four feet tall and set back. Trees that could be climbed and allow access to open second story windows are tempting. Trellises might be used as ladders too. And those trees might be limiting coverage from your exterior lighting more than you want.

You might plan to place spiny (thorny) plants along fences, under windows and to block pathways being used as shortcuts. Such plants will discourage even the most nimble intruder. Protecting with spiny plants is as effective as the use of barbed wire and a lot more attractive.

This could become a community project, bringing neighbors together on nice, non-football, weekends. And that would bring up other safety questions.

The Buncombe County Master Gardeners website:

<http://mensgardenclubasheville.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6038b7749461c4ba2c0aeecd8&id=f2e0325452&e=72c222e955>, is a frequent source for Seed Pod articles.

Name This Flower



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



Last month's flowers were cranesbill geranium 'Roseanne'

and artemesia "Clowis Castle"

Send answers to Ralph at: r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com

Announcements, Volunteer Opportunities and Meetings:

At the Horticultural Center

Ted Faber



Greenhouse Winter/Spring Work Schedule 2016

Hibernation is over! It's time to get back to the exciting activities at the greenhouse. We will plant over 12,000 annual/perennial plants for our spring plant sales. Following is the workday schedule needed to do this. Work will begin at 10 AM and probably take two to four hours depending on the number of plants and workers

Work Days

Friday February 26, 2016 Small planting and clean up (532 plants)

Friday March 11, 2016 Small planting (1530 plants)

Friday March 25, 2016 Large planting (5000 plants)

Friday April 1, 2016 Very large planting (3880 plants)

Friday April 8, 2016 Small planting (400 plants)

Please join us when you can as these activities give all members an opportunity to get to know each other better and to share in a group effort.

Ted, Ned and Gerry

All the efforts at the greenhouse support our scholarships and community projects.

To volunteer at the Horticultural Center, contact Ted Faber at 707-4887

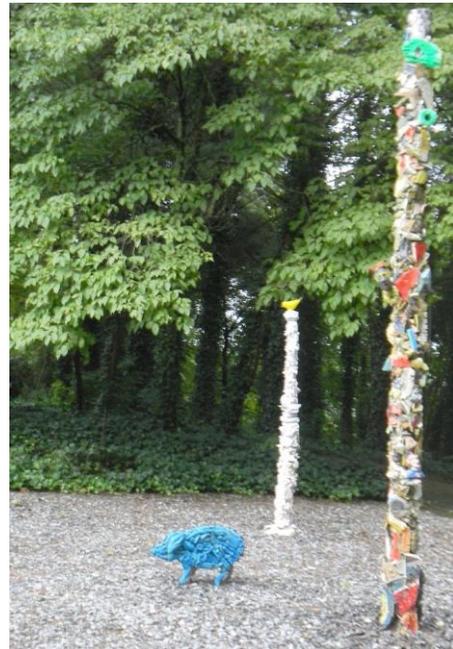
or tedfaber@charter.net with any questions.

picture courtesy of James Wade

Members' Gardens



Peter Fitzpatric's
ceramic
garden art



Please send pictures of your garden to Ralph: r.c.lambert1955@gmail.com

Articles and pictures for the Seed Pod

If you have a special interest in some subject in gardening, we need an article from you! Please send pictures, too!!!

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 for items for the **Seed Pod**.

Door Prizes and Special Projects

Cecil Beumer

The club thanks all the door-prize donors in recent months and encourages club members to check them out. They include Sow True Seeds, 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.

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

Contact **Cecil Beumer** cecilbeumer@aol.com

On The Web

Ray Carter

Up to date with lots of pictures, the Men's Garden Club of Asheville webpage is your destination to discover the many things going on at the club and who is participating. Keep abreast of volunteer opportunities, club activities, and, if you haven't already, read about our history and watch the 75th anniversary power point presentation. Here are only some of the contents:

- 2016 Calendar of Events
- Member News
- Member's gardens in photos
- Club Officers and Directors
- Plant Sale dates and plants
- Scholarship winners

Click the link below and have fun...

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CORPORATE MEMBERS



[Biltmore Farms, Inc.](#)

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