

March 2016

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Seed Pod

The Official Newsletter of the Men's Garden Club of Asheville

mensgardenclubofasheville.org

President's Corner

James Wade



As March approaches, the weather is warming. Spring can not be far behind. This is always an exciting time of the year for gardeners.

Caution is still in order as short bursts of winter weather can come on any approaching cold front. Our hopes build and then are dashed. For most of our area, the average last frost date is about May 10 ...

almost 2 1/2 months away. Of course, there is lots of gardening to be done before Mother's Day in early May. Preparation is the key for successful gardens. But we all get anxious for the radiant spring flower and the return of birds and insects to our gardens. For most gardeners, spring is the most anticipated time of the year.

For the Men's Garden Club, spring also brings renewed activity. Horticulture Center operations that have been somewhat dormant for a few months will jump into action. Preparation for our first plant sale at the Botanical Garden of Asheville on April 29 and 30 have to be completed and the School Container Gardens project must be judged and the students rewarded. Other activities will also need attention. I am thankful for the volunteer leadership for these and other events. However, leadership needs support. Please volunteer when requests are made.

Preparation is also looking ahead. This spring the Board of Directors of the Club will participate in a retreat to examine the mission and commitments of the Club and to plan for future successes. **Club members will be asked to provide input** to this effort through a survey questionnaire. When you receive notification of the survey, **please respond as soon as you can** as the information gathering phase will feed into the BOD retreat to be

held in early spring.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

James

www.mensgardenclubofasheville.org

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



The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held on February 16, 2016

(postponed due to inclement weather)

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 March 7, 2016, at The Botanical Gardens of Asheville

Member News

Gerry Hardesty

Our campaign to Increase our Corporate Membership is continuing.

Dues (\$100) from corporate members are specifically used for our Scholarship program. Please contact any commercial business that you think might consider becoming a corporate member and pass the name on to Gerry Hardesty at gerry327@charter.net. Be sure to click on the corporate sponsor links here in the Seed Pod and give them some business when possible.



Tips and Techniques

from various gardening sources

Wondering when to prune rhododendrons?

May 14, 2015, from *Harvest Blog* in *Landscapes & Gardens*

The best time to prune azaleas rhododendrons is immediately after have finished blooming. These shrubs make blooms that flower in spring on the prior year's wood. So, you have to be careful when pruning since buds for next spring will be made this summer, and you don't want to prune those off. If you wait until late summer, or even later as some have done, you won't get the flowers you're looking for next year.



For rhododendrons with large leaves, prune right above their "growth joints" - the place where the plant is starting to send out new shoots. Dormant buds are just beneath that point, so take care not to cut them off. Small-leaved rhododendrons and azaleas can be pruned anywhere along their stems.

Cutting back a rhododendron heavily can stop the plant from flowering for a year or two. You can prune pretty heavily if needed to get better shape for your bushes; just know that they may not flower for a year or more.

What should you prune away? Check the inside limbs for any that are dead or look weak. Any limbs on the ground or crossing over other limbs should be pruned away, too. You'll be giving your bush better air circulation and a less hospitable environment for insects and disease.

Deciduous azaleas (those which lose their leaves in the winter) differ from other rhododendrons in that they can actually be sheared into a hedge. They will branch out

anywhere you cut them on their stems. Evergreen azaleas can be sheared after they flower.

Although this article did not come from there, the Buncombe County Master Gardeners website:

<http://www.buncombemastergardener.org> is a frequent source for Seed Pod articles.

Name This Flower



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



Last month's flowers were liatris on the left and asclepias (milkweed) on the right

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! The activities at the greenhouse have already begun! We will plant over 12,000 annuals and perennials for our spring plant sales. The workday schedule needed to accomplish this is below.

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 since 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 bring plant sales which 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



Mack Day's
garden on left
and member
garden on right



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/they 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...

<http://mensgardenclubofasheville.org>

Facebook and Pinterest:

Louis Gire

The Club's Facebook Page is continually being updated. Please notify Louis Gire (636-0982 or 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>

Beautification sites

Dick Rothenberg



MGC-A is in maintenance mode for 2016. If you see that some weeding needs doing, please lend a hand. We still need to replace a couple of clematis, but mostly we will be weeding, pruning and mulching.

Both the Spring and Fall clean-up days, organized by Elaine Blake, volunteer coordinator for the SM house, will be announced later.

Civil War Park Day, Saturday, April 2, 2016, 10 am-3 pm

This annual event is sponsored by the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to preservation of Civil War sites. We use this occasion to clean the house and grounds. Elaine will need many volunteers to work indoors cleaning floors, washing windows, and dusting off artifacts. Outdoor clean-up is mostly raking and weeding. On previous occasions we have also used volunteers to help us haul trash, make minor repairs, and reorganize storage areas. We provide workers with all indoor cleaning materials and ask you to bring your own gloves for outdoor work. We have some tools, but please bring rakes and weeding tools if you wish. Make sure you label any personal items. S-M House will provide coffee, drinking water, and lunch!

If you can't work, you may help by donating supplies. We need the aforementioned cleaning materials, coffee, bottled water and lunch! We will be delighted to credit all businesses which donate food and supplies in our publicity.

Please contact Bob Thatcher at:

btman15@att.net

or 828-667-9563.

Or contact Elaine Blake at:

wrchavolunteers@gmail.com

or 828-253-9237

For work at all our beautification sites, please contact our

Director for Beautification Sites, Dick Rothenberg:

680-9820 or RSR4702Fountains@Yahoo.com

Beautification Sites and site managers:

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)

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 for **March:***

The March 1 program on landscape design, plant selection, and proper lawn care will be presented by Jeff Young of French Broad Lawn and Landscape. He has a degree from Clemson in Horticulture and has spoken to groups on the subject before.

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 other members 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.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Arden, NC 28704
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stubbsbb886@bellsouth.net
www.bbbarns.com



[Biltmore Farms, Inc.](#)

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



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