

April 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

April is arriving and the weather has been extra warm. Gardening activity is rapidly increasing. I do not know where you might be with your gardens, but I am moving ahead with the vegetables. Sweet peas, onions, carrots, radishes, and beets are planted and coming up. Other vegetables are sticking their heads through the soil under my starter lights. It's still cool enough that the warming pad makes a big difference. In our mostly natural landscape, I spotted bloodroot flowers yesterday. I'll enclose a photo taken on March 18, just as a teaser.



In Club notables, we have had a couple of workdays at the horticulture center with several more scheduled in the near future (March 25, April 1 and April 8 are very important). Please make it a part of your Friday morning activities to join the crew. We have a good time and we get a lot done. All of this activity is in anticipation of the big plant sale at the Botanical Garden on April 29 and 30. This is the largest fundraising event of the year for the Club. Plan to be a part of the crew that carries out the sale. A lot of different efforts are needed from transporting plants, to setting everything up, to selling and taking things down. Good weather will bring out a big crowd and a successful day.

I also want to address a couple of issues that the Club faces in the coming months. We have several Board members who are resigning and for whom we need some replacements. If you are interested in **publishing the Seed Pod** each month, Ralph

Lambert has asked that he be replaced as soon as May. We also need assistance in **leading the Beautification efforts** of the Club to replace Dick Rothenberg. In addition, Denny Frasché has long provided leadership **working with specific beautification sites**. Please let me know if you can assist with these specific areas and serve on the Board of Directors.

Randy Marrs, the Director for Plant Sales has had to leave that position. Ken Roth, Nelson Sobel and Ted Faber are working to make sure things are ready for the Plant Sale. I know that they will appreciate all the help that Club members can provide them.

Thanks to all of the Club members who responded to the membership survey. We had 58 responses from the 86 members to whom the survey was sent for a 67% response rate. Those who responded have provided some valuable input on Club activities and events and set a tone for the Club's future. The April 11 Board of Directors meeting will provide an extended time for the Board to discuss the responses and to look to the Club's future. We have a lot to consider. We look forward to reporting more to you in future Seed Pod issues as well as at our monthly meetings.

See you all on April 5 as we gather for our monthly meeting.

James

www.mensgardenclubofasheville.org

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



The Last Board of Directors Meeting was held March 7, 2016

Anyone who would like to read the minutes of board meetings should contact Secretary Ray Carter at

MGCminutes@mail.com

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

The next Board meeting is April 11, 2016,

at The Botanical Gardens of Asheville

Member News

Gerry Hardesty

If the last two weeks' weather does not tempt your friends and neighbors to think of gardening, nothing will. Unless you make the effort to talk with them

about the pleasures of gardening and the best way learn more about it—join the Men's Garden Club of Asheville. I have plenty of applications and am planning a new up-to-date brochure for you to use in encouraging your friends.



A Follow up to last month's reference to Corporate Sponsorship: MGCA should be more active in involving the corporate/commercial community in our horticulture scholarship program. I'm sure that many of us have relationships with organizations that would be interested in being involved in our scholarship program. You will be hearing more about this in the future. In the meantime, pass any information along to Gerry Hardesty at gerry327@charter.net.

Special Article:

WANTED: TWO + VEGETABLE GARDENERS to volunteer

WHEN: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for 2 to 4 hours. Includes free lunch.

CROP: Cabbage, kale, cauliflower, lettuce, herbs. Transition later to warm season veggies.

NEED: General garden work & maintenance----planting, weeding, watering, clean-up, etc.

WHERE: The garden (a few hundred square feet) is in back of the Haywood Street Congregation Church. It's located at the NW corner of the intersection of Patton Av. and Clingman St.

BONUS: You'll be working with professional horticulturist, author, and lecturer **Steven Fromine** and his wife, Sasha. Steve is at the garden **each Wednesday** and will provide volunteers with orientation to the garden plus coordination and communication.

The Haywood Street Congregation (HSC) began in 2009 for the explicit purpose of



welcoming everyone: homeless, unemployed, those with mental illness, disabilities, or addictions regardless of class, color, creed, gender identity, or sexual orientation. HSC offers a free meal on Wednesdays and Sundays, a clothing closet, a respite center, a worship service on Sundays, and several other activities.

For more information, contact Dave Farnsworth at 654-0218.

Tips and Techniques from various gardening sources

*Extract from an article posted on March 21, 2016 by
Buncombe County Master Gardeners*



The list of pollinator-friendly plants for WNC is very long. Many are sun-loving, but some thrive in partial and even full shade. By adhering to the overarching principle of 'right plant, right place' and to the basic principles described in the previous blog post you can count on thriving plants that attract plenty of pollinators all year long. Here are just a few suggestions. Fall is the most critical time of the year for bees, a time when nature offers little (beekeepers call it a 'dearth') yet pollinator needs are great. Bumble bees are raising queen, and the new queens, sole survivors of their nests, are looking for food and safe hibernation spots. Honeybees are often desperate for food to keep the colony alive during the winter. A large expanse of goldenrod (*Solidago*) and aster (*Sympyotrichum*) will be teeming with life from late summer until late October.

Abelia, hosting a swallowtail above, is an example of a non-native which performs beautifully, often in bloom for six months or more. The dwarf varieties, such as 'Rose Creek', form a compact shrub 2-3 feet wide which bees, especially bumble bees, love.

While native plants are always the best option since they co-evolved with the native pollinators, some non-natives are very welcome in the landscape, particularly almost all the culinary and medicinal herbs. Lavender, rosemary, thyme and mint, garlic and onions, and sage (*Salvia*) are all well loved by pollinators and easily grown without either fertilizers or pesticides. Some, especially the thymes and mints, can do double duty as living ground covers.

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.



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

Last month's flowers were Jalena witchhazel on the left and Edgeworthia on the right from Randy Harter's garden.

Announcements, Volunteer Opportunities and Meetings:

At the Horticultural Center

Ted Faber

Greenhouse Winter/Spring Work Schedule 2016

The activities at the greenhouse have already begun as many of you know. We will plant over 12,000 annuals and perennials for our spring plant sales



with the largest planting on March 25. The workday schedule for work up until time to water the plants is below. We begin work at 10 AM and work for two to four hours depending on both the number of plants and number of workers who show up, so **bring someone** to shorten the hours.

Work Days:

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. These activities give all members an opportunity to get to know each other better as well as to share in a group effort which helps the club.

Ted, Ned and Gerry

Our greenhouse efforts result in 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. Ted can answer any questions.

picture courtesy of James Wade

Members' Gardens



Master Gardener's garden on left and Jack Jones' 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



For the past three years, we have participated in the spring clean-up at Smith McDowell House which is scheduled this year for Saturday, April 2. We have also been involved in the outside work as part of our 75th Anniversary Project. This will be the first "clean up" since the project was completed. Also, for your information, the landscaping here will be one of our beautification sites for

the future. We need to keep it looking good.

Workers are provided with all indoor cleaning materials but you are asked to bring your own gloves for outdoor work. Some tools are available, but please bring rakes and weeding tools if you wish--please label any personal items. Coffee, drinking water, and lunch will be provided!

Please give your name to Elaine Blake at 253-9231 for a lunch count. Be sure to tell her you are with MGCA. In the past we have finished the outside work shortly after lunch. Let's have a good turnout this year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Thatcher and Gerry Hardesty

See details on the Web Site included in the general emailP: civilwar.org/park-day

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.

If you can't work, you may help by donating supplies. 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.

Contact **Elaine Blake** at:
wnchavolunteers@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 sirbeardslytrunion10@gmail.com

Beautification Sites and site managers:

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

Azalea Park/Soccer Fields (Denny Fraché, 828-645-2714, lfrasche@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

Dick Powell

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! Remember, **it is not permitted to bring outside food** into the dining room at the First Baptist Church.

*Speaker and Topic for **April:***

Chris Smith from Sow True Seeds will talk about seed saving and growing Okra. Okra is a

relatively new crop to grow in the Mountains and is an interesting vegetable.

Dick Powell

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

The **cost is \$11.00** for both 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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