

The Seed Pod



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

Founded 1940



Brent Russell

February 2019

Upcoming Events

Feb 5 Monthly Meetings

First Baptist Church
10:00 am Board Meeting
11:30 am Lunch Meeting

Seed Pod of the Month
(see p. 3)



Rose Hips

From the President

Welcome to February...as I write this it is 4 degrees! Good thing that February is the month of love with Valentine's Day celebrations to warm hearts.

Thank you again to all who attended our Holiday Luncheon in January. It is rewarding to see our members come together and enjoy good fellowship and applaud past and future volunteers who make this club so special.

This month, our lunch gathering on February 5th will feature Peter Loewer, one of the best known gardeners in Western North Carolina. Peter always offers insight and knowledge on a number of topics, so be sure to plan to attend.

Claude Williams is planning a wonderful year of interesting and engaging lunch programs, so please be sure to mark your calendar to attend the monthly lunches, plant work and sale days or other opportunities to gather and share the love of gardening.

No better time than a cold winter day to plan your participation throughout the year as your club needs your knowledge and friendship. Also, please plan to invite a friend to a lunch or activity sometime this year so we might grow our membership, a major focus for 2019. As they say, the more the merrier!

February is the time to begin thinking of all things Spring. Many activities are underway to plan and support our Spring Plant sale. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to help this most important project.

RED is the color of love, especially in February. I like the thinking of Dr. H. Marc Cathey, President Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society who believes that GREEN is the color of hope! Green is on the way and think spring.

Member Perennials for 2019 Plant Sale

For many years, members have sporadically contributed perennial plants from their garden for the Club's plant sales. In 2017, we made a more concerted effort to obtain plants for the Club. Glenn Bass, a former Club member, opened his extensive garden to us to divide perennials. From what we gathered from Glenn and others we potted up a good variety of about 125 plants that were sold at our plant sales last year, bringing in approximately \$800.

This year we would like to extend last year's efforts and ask members to donate perennial plants to the Club. Besides helping the Club raise money for scholarships, it would be a good opportunity to thin out perennial beds and recycle these plants for a worthy purpose.

We are also considering using some of these plants to start perennial beds at the Horticulture Center. This would be a source for future plants and an opportunity to engage with fellow members while working on these beds.

Typically, we would look for plants in 1 gallon and 4inch pots, but larger size pots would also be acceptable. The Club would provide pots and soil as may be needed. To give you an idea of when plants would be needed the first of the sales will be in late April/ beginning of May.

For best results, plant labels would be needed for each pot. So when you come up with your plants to donate, please send me a list with the plant name and a brief description (height, flower color, if applicable, sun/shade, wet/dry soil, etc) and an approximate quantity you think you will have. This information will be used to make labels and possibly pictures of the plant.

More information will be coming.

Thanks for your help.

Nelson Sobel
nsobel11@gmail.com



Black-eyed Susans
& Coneflowers



Perennials in Butchart Garden

Seed Pod of the Month

We love roses for their beautiful and varied flowers, but the rose hip seed pod also has many attributes. The hips are eaten as a food supplement containing vitamin C. At this time of year, the hip color is welcome to add a bit of winter cheer, and as Brent mentioned, red is particularly pertinent in February. There are many thoughts on when to prune roses (check the internet), so why not enjoy the color of the rose hips and defer pruning a while?

If you are an experimental gardener, you can also find information on propagating roses from seed on the internet. These hips are from a named variety "Top of the World," which is an orange, miniature-bloomed climber that has continuous blooms during the growing season. Its seeds would likely produce something notably different than the parent, but it would be a fun experiment.

MGCA Board News

The next Club board meeting will be held Tuesday February 5, 2019 at 10:00 am, prior to the regular February member's meeting.

The first Board Meeting of the year traditionally includes new board members as well as those leaving the board. This will help acquaint the new folks with any knowledge they will need in their new jobs. And, of course, the continuing board members will also attend. Club members are always welcome to attend board meetings.

Annual Awards Banquet

At the Annual Awards Banquet held on January 8, the 2019 Club officers and directors were installed, and numerous members were recognized for their efforts supporting the Club's goals.

The meeting was kicked off with a sign naming our workplace the Faber-Hardesty Horticulture Center, honoring Ted Faber (retiring Horticulture Director) and Gerry Hardesty (longtime member, director, and guiding force).

Among the more notable awards recipients were Bob Thatcher, Ivey Silver Cup; Dick Rothenberg, Walter Peacock Fellowship Award; and Warren Sproul, Bill Krause Gardening Award.

Margaret Earle-Thiele and Anne Green thanked us for the Gerry Hardesty and Milford Shaver scholarships at Mayland and Blue Ridge Community Colleges, and scholarship awardee Laura Moore told us the importance of receiving this aid.

Dave Farnsworth swore in the continuing and new officers and directors with a bit of humor. Gary Anderson passed the president's gavel to Brent Russell, and Brent in return presented Gary with a Past President's pin. And Brent wrapped up the meeting with comments on how he plans to encourage our efforts in the coming year.



Ted Faber



Bob Thatcher



Dick Rothenberg (on R) Warren Sproul



Margaret Earle-Thiele



Ann Green



Laura Moore



Brent and Gary



Your Officers and Directors



Brent Russell

Lunch Reservations

We will continue to contact members on a monthly basis for meal reservations for our meetings. You will be contacted by one of the following callers on the basis of on which page in the Club Directory you appear:

- Pages 1-2 Leo Bjorlie
- 3-4 Dick Rothenberg
- 5-6 Ned Guardenier
- 7-8 Walt Leginski
- 9-10 Tom Mills
- 11-12 Frank Poetsch
- 13-14 Denny Frasche
- 15-16 Greg Woods
- 17 Gerry Hardesty

Callers may contact you up to a week before the meetings. Typically the reservation coordinator (George Hunker) needs to have names and reservation numbers by the Thursday or Friday preceding the meeting.

Remember, the Club is committed to pay the First Baptist Church for the greater number of lunches reserved or lunches actually served. If you are uncertain if you can attend, do not reserve a meal. Nancy (at the church) usually allows for extra meals, so you can show up and hopefully get a lunch without a reservation.

If you wish a vegetarian meal, please make sure your caller knows that.

2019 Club Directory

The new 2019 membership directory will again be available for distribution at the February 5 meeting. About half the members received their copy at the January festivities. If you don't have your copy yet, this meeting will be a good time to pick yours up. Be sure to take a look at your information in the directory. If you spot a need for updating or correction in the future, tell Walt Leginski, Membership Director.

Horticulture Center Activities

At press time, our Horticulture Director is enjoying Florida sunshine, thus this is a guess at what the schedule for late winter activities will be at the Hort. Center.

Typically our first planting day occurs on one of the last Fridays in February. We will have a number of other planting days through March and into early April. These sessions usually begin at 9 or 10 am and last no more than two hours. It's a good time to reacquaint with other members working next to your elbow, and tell stories and experiences as we plant plugs the size of our last joint of our pinkie.

You will receive email notices of actual dates and times. These are among the most important activities of the club that enable our scholarship programs to flourish.

February Members Meeting

Our February luncheon meeting will be held on February 5 at 11:30 am at the First Baptist Church. The speaker will be Peter Loewer, and his talk is entitled "Water!!!"

Peter is a Life Member of the Club and noted gardening author and lecturer, and is also notable as an artist. His past presentations to the Club have been lively and included numerous excellent slides, and it is to be expected that this talk will be similar. Peter has not given further description on his talk beyond the title, but rather has challenged us to think what it might include. Given the importance of water to plants and indeed all life, the sky's, the ground's, and the ocean's the limit! Peter's website is www.thewildgardener.com.

We will assemble for fellowship at 11:30 am, eat lunch at noon, and have the program following lunch. Club members will be contacted regarding luncheon reservations. Cost of the meal will be \$11. Contact Gerry Hardesty at gerry327@charter.net if you have not been contacted.