

# The Seed Pod



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

Founded 1940



Brent Russell

## May 2019

### Upcoming Events

May 7 Member Meeting  
Biltmore Garden Tour  
(see p. 5)

May 2-4, May 17-18  
Plant Sales  
(see pp. 2-3)

Seed Pod of the Month  
(see p. 2)



Celandine Poppy

## From the President

Wonderful May! Welcome warm and changing weather coaxing all sorts of plants to spring forth. I like to think of May as the PERMISSION month:

- Yes, we may enjoy all of the events in May that the club is involved with.
- Yes, we may volunteer our time and expertise to the annual Spring Plant Sale May 3 and 4th at the Botanical Gardens.
- Yes, we may take advantage of the friends and family discount being offered on Saturday April 27th and Thursday, May 2nd.
- Yes, we may join other club members as we enjoy an exclusive tour of the Biltmore Gardens on May 7th.
- Yes, we may also volunteer to help with the transportation and sales at the Black Mountain Spring Sale May 17 & 18.
- Yes, we may share in great applause, accolades and back slapping of each other for a job well done to make all of these events a success.
- Yes, we may and should seek out those who have helped organize and take charge of the various events and thank them.
- Yes, we may enjoy the memories, sore muscles, funds and sense of pride that May and every month brings for our Club.

Thank you to our board members, committee chairman and participants and all members who volunteer and cheer on our club each and every month.

## Seed Pod of the Month

To me, one of the joys of early spring is the bright, happy yellow of celandine poppies in a wooded area. The page 1 picture shows the flowers as well as the fuzzy seed pods plus the attractive leaves. The pods produce large numbers of seeds which seems to self-germinate and readily spread the plant. It's a North American native, though I haven't seen it totally wild in the woods.



I bought one some years ago and planted it in a largely shaded location, and I now have dozens of plants, some of which I transplanted to widen their extent. There will be some celandine poppy plants for sale at the upcoming member and BGA sale. In addition, members have donated a wide variety of other perennials, including natives, which will be for sale. If you have the right area, consider some of the less common perennials for your gardens.

Tom Mills

## Help Needed for the Spring Plant Sales

Please keep the Spring Plant Sales, our most important events on your calendar to volunteer, attend, and take pride in our club. We need members on the following dates and times:

**Thursday, May 2, 3:00 pm.** We will transport the tables, equipment and hardware from the greenhouse to the Botanical Gardens. Members are needed at the garden center to help load and transport items, and members are also needed at the sale site at the Botanical Gardens to unload and set up. The more members, the easier this will be. There will be designated leaders at each location.

**Friday May 3, 8:00 am.** We will transport plants only from the greenhouse to the sale site at the Botanical gardens. Members are needed both at the greenhouse to load and at the Botanical Gardens to help set up the plants and organizing them until the sale start time of 12 noon.

**Friday May 3, 11:30 am -** Need members to arrive and help with the plant sale from 12 noon to 6:00 pm. Please come out and join fellow members for whatever time you can give.

**Saturday May 4, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm** - Need members to attend and help with the sale during this time. What a fun time for all and we expect a large crowd this year!

**Saturday May 4, 3:00 pm** - Help organize any plants not sold to be taken back to the greenhouse. Loading and transporting will be critical.

On May 17 and 18 we will be selling remaining plants at the Black Mountain sale. The schedule for logistics is not yet set, but we will also appreciate your help then. We will provide information at a later date.

## Parking at the BGA Sale

Parking at the BGA sale can be a problem, and we have not been given any guidance. However, in recent sales a parking lot on the south side of Weaver Boulevard has been available for use. It is a bit east of the BGA lot. When you enter this lot, turn right and go up the hill to a sizeable gravel lot. There is a diagonal path from the lot towards the Botanical Gardens. The walk is a few hundred yards to the Gardens.

You might consider that some purchaser would skip the sale because they couldn't find a parking spot within easy transport distance to their car.

## Plant Sales to Members

You will have a first crack at our plants at the member sales dates. Some of the plants are in limited supply and are expected to go quickly. Perhaps more importantly, members and their friends will get a 15% discount from the prices we will charge at the Botanical Gardens sale.

Members and friends sales will begin on Saturday April 27 at the Horticultural Center. The greenhouse will be locked, so members will have to know the lock combination and be certain to relock the Greenhouse after purchases. Please do not give the lock combination to friends and permit them to come without a member present. Other days between April 27 and May 2 are also permitted for members and friends sales under the same rules. These sales will be on the honor system; please get the payments to the treasurer in a timely manner.

On May 2 the regular member sale will occur between 10 am and noon, the greenhouse will be open, and the treasurer will be there to collect for purchases.

Here are the retail prices:

Profusion zinnias	six-pack	\$3.75	flat of 36	\$20.00	
All other annuals	six-pack	\$3.25	flat of 36	\$18.00	
All annuals	3 or 4"	\$2.50	flat of 18	\$40.00	
Hanging Baskets	1 basket	\$16.00	2 baskets	\$30.00	each after 2 \$10.00
Perennials	3 or 4"	\$4.50			
Perennials	1 gallon	\$9.00			

Remember, when you buy plants at the Greenhouse, take 15% off the above prices.

Do not ask to buy the plants at the Botanical Gardens at member prices. We are honor-bound to pay the BGA 15% of our gross sales as the cost to sell there.

## New Members

Earlier this year, the Club welcomed two new members.



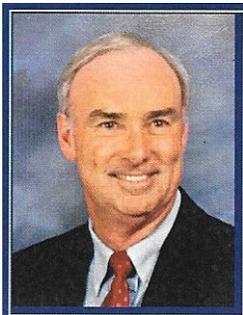
Steve Ehly and his wife, Joan Ana-Leo, moved from Atlanta, GA to Asheville in 2016 to better connect with nature. He is retired after working as a computer programmer and real estate broker. He's interested in photography, carpentry, and beekeeping. Steve's gardening interests are in permaculture, native species, and pollinators. Ralph Lambert is Steve's sponsor.



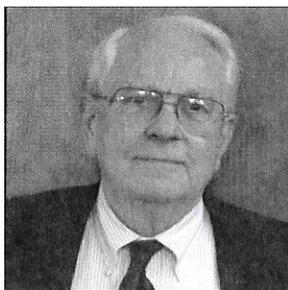
Nick Stoian and his wife, Molly, moved from the metro area of New York City where Nick was a dentist. Bob Sharp is Nick's sponsor.

## Obituaries

We regret to announce we have lost two longtime members this past month.



Carlton (Carl) Debnam passed on April 4. Carl was a Club member since 2004 and previously served as Club Treasurer. Carl was the comptroller at NCI, Inc. in Asheville for many years. He led a very active outdoors life with his family and was a college athlete in multiple sports. Many recall he was an avid golfer while a Club member. Carl's infectious smile and always upbeat manner are how many will remember him.



Robert (Bob) Spangler passed on April 14. Bob was a Club member since 1993 and served as Club President in 1997. He was enthusiastically involved through the establishment of the Horticulture Center in 2002. In recent years his health had kept him from remaining as active as he was previously. Bob was a retired Episcopal priest, and is remembered as a revered friend by longtime members.

## 2019 Directory Corrections

The Club Directory is a valuable resource if you want to contact another member with a question or do a plant swap. Take a minute to be sure your contact information (phone, email, address) is correct. If you have a correction, be sure to let Walt Leginski (he's in the directory!) know. Corrections will appear in next month's Seed Pod.

## May Members' Meeting

Our May meeting will be a tour of the gardens at the Biltmore Estate on May 7 at 10:00 am. The tour will be free but it will not include access to the Biltmore House. The meeting is open to members, spouses and partners, and friends, but it is not open to the public.

Carpooling is strongly recommended by Biltmore. A suggested carpooling location is at the parking lot for Beverly-Hanks at Charlotte and College Streets and adjacent spaces along College St. If you use that lot, it is suggested you arrive at the car pool location by 9:15-9:20.

The admissions gate staff will be expecting us - just let them know you are with the Men's Garden Club. Parking at Biltmore will be behind the conservatory (near the sales shop), downhill from the main house and the walled garden, where the tour will start. When you get to a person directing people to parking lots before the Biltmore House, turn on your car's emergency flashers to let them know you are heading towards the conservatory.

Plan your arrival at the conservatory sales shop area no later than 9:45. If you're early, the shop is fun to browse. The tour will start at 10:00 and last for approximately two hours.

Due to difficulties in catering meals at the Estate, lunch will not be served, and members will be on their own for lunch. There are several dining options available at the Estate.

Callers will be asking members if and how many persons will be attending. This will assist Biltmore personnel in providing sufficient tour guides.

Past tours of the Biltmore gardens have been fascinating, and you will be able to further discover the gardens on your own after the formal tour is over. Please plan to come and enjoy this rare treat!