

The Seed Pod



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

Founded 1940



Brent Russell

August 2019

Upcoming Events

August 8 Monthly Meeting
Governor's Western Res.
4:30 pm Annual Picnic
(No August Board Mtg.)
(see p. 3)

Seed Pod of the Month
(see p. 2)



Burdock

From the President

Kukui, Alexandra Palm, Breadfruit, Papaya, Juniper Berry, Coconut Palm, Coffee, Song of India, Chinese Hibiscus, Avocado, African Tulip and Princess Flower are all common names of plants and trees that I have been seeing on the beautiful island of Oahu, Hawaii this past week. Our family has had lots of fun looking up both the scientific and common names of many plants and trees. The most amazing tree is the Banyan Tree with its massive canopy and trunk. Research says that Hindu traders conducted business under these trees and it is the national tree of India. Many plants and trees are not native to Hawaii. I credit my time with our club with noticing and increasing my curiosity about the many plants and trees on my travels.

Speaking of traveling, I hope you are planning to travel just a short way up Town Mountain Road on Thursday, August 8th to attend the annual picnic at the Western Residence. This is always a great time to catch up with old friends, enjoy fellowship and an exciting program. I hope to see all you there.

Please note the Nominating Committee is forming to contact members about various opportunities to volunteer and share your talents with our club. Gerry Hardesty is leading this effort. The strength of any volunteer organization is the sharing of talents, so please volunteer and answer the call to serve. It is a rewarding way to give back and a revolving cast of members is needed to keep our club vibrant and interesting for all.

See you in the garden,
Brent

Seed Pod of the Month

Burdock is well-remembered by those of us growing up in the eastern half of the country and who played in wild places. The burrs hooked on our clothes and were a bit of work to pull off. These burrs were the inspiration for Velcro. But it comes as a shock to hear that some people grow it intentionally!

Burdock comes from Eurasia and has naturalized in the US. Almost all the parts of the plant are used, either meant for culinary purpose or as a curative remedy for medical conditions. Internet information is available regarding nutritional or medical properties and methods of preparation.

Some folks grow it as an ornamental! Greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*) is easy to grow – just don't cut it out when it appears. The plant is a biennial, with first-year growth consisting only of the large basal leaves. Flowers and burrs appear the second year on plants 3-6 feet tall.



This photo is from one of several we let grow – they are impressive plants, but they are known to become invasive. We'll have to see if this was a mistake.

Tom Mills

Horticulture Center News



At a July 13 work day at the horticultural center, we began work on the major overhaul of the facility. The turnout of members was very gratifying, and much progress was made.

Among the activities that took place were: planting of donated daylilies from Keith Shanty, setting posts for the new gate provided by Ted Faber, and major clearing of weeds and porcelain vine from the unused hoop house area. Moving of the shade house to the hoop house area was begun.

Since then the gate has been installed and it looks great. We also received a number of plants gratis from Painter's Greenhouse in Old Fort, thanks to Bob Jones' efforts. These will be available for beautification projects.

Further work days will be announced in coming weeks. There remains much work to accomplish before we get things wrapped up for the growing season, and future work days will be announced by email or in the Seed Pod.

Working together at the Horticulture Center is one of the most rewarding experiences for many of us, so please heed the call for help. You will also probably learn some gardening tips, either by what we are doing or from conversations with others.

Fall Plant Sale

What? We just had the spring sale – how does this creep up on us so quickly? At any rate, the fall plant sale at the Botanical Gardens will be Saturday, September 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. Put this date on your calendar.

While the spring sale was quite successful, the Club Board has recognized we need to be more organized in arranging member participation in transporting plants and setting up our sales area, helping during the sale. Signup sheets will be passed at the Club picnic and at the monthly meeting on September 10. Please volunteer to be part of the effort.

New Member



Lou Lieb moved to Asheville from the Washington DC about nine years ago. He was a financial analyst as well as a member of several horticultural clubs in that area. A new house, recently built with his partner, Marilyn, absorbs their focus. Lou enjoys hiking, outdoor sports and is concerned for the environment. His gardening interests include a vegetable garden, native plants, cut flowers and establishing small meadows. Lou's sponsor is Bob Sharp

August Members' Meeting

Our August meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8 at the Governor's Western Residence off Town Mountain Road. Plan to arrive at 4:30 pm or soon after. The meal will be a barbecue provided by Okie Dokie Smokehouse, and it will consist of pork & chicken BBQ, 3 vegetables, 2 desserts, sweet & unsweet tea, buns/sauce, paper goods and setup. Cost of the meal will be \$14. Plates, etc. are provided.

In the past, we have been invited to visit the Residence as well as to tour the grounds. No information on the house visit at this point.

For those who haven't been there before, take Town Mountain Road off College St. (opposite MLK Blvd.) and go about 2 miles. A brown sign tells you where to turn left. After ¼ mile, turn right through the gate and go up the hill. Parking will be near the picnic pavilion.

Our speaker for the annual picnic will be Jennifer Strules, a post-graduate student from North Carolina State University. She is associated with the Urban/Suburban Black Bear Study being conducted in collaboration with the NC Wildlife. That website is urbanbearstudy@ncsu.edu or on Facebook at [facebook.com/urbanbearstudy](https://www.facebook.com/urbanbearstudy). Jennifer will be speaking about her research on urban black bears in Asheville: why they are studying these bears, the techniques to capture the bears, and the outcomes of the research so far.

Club members will be contacted regarding picnic reservations. Contact Gerry Hardesty at gerry327@charter.net if you have not been contacted.