

The Seed Pod



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

Founded 1940



Brent Russell

September 2019

Upcoming Events

September 10 Meetings

First Baptist Church

10:00 am Board Mtg.

11:30 am Luncheon Mtg.

(see p. 4)

September 14 Fall Plant Sale

8:30 – 3:00 BGA

Seed Pod of the Month

(see p. 2)



Canna

From the President

Wow, I woke this morning and it was 57 degrees ... was I dreaming or did fall sneak in on us? No, just that false cool spell we get every August as a tease to the cooler days ahead, but first in September, we will be warm again. No doubt, autumn and all of its beauty is just around the corner! I hope you have had a wonderful summer in your garden and are looking forward to a change of season.

Speaking of fall, the Fall Plant Sale is on Saturday, September 14 at the Botanical Gardens. WE NEED YOU! All members are encouraged to help in some way by helping to set up, work the day of sale and then help take down. This is a short and fun one day sale. GREAT fellowship occurs and there is no better way to get to know club members and have some fun. This sale is important to top off our funds to fulfill our scholarships and other club initiatives. Again, please watch for e-mail, sign-up sheets and phone calls to participate and make this sale a success. Our September speaker, Todd Wilcher will be talking about the twenty year mission to identify and understand species that inhabit the 522,000 acres of the Great Smoky Mountains. You will not want to miss Todd's presentation.

On a final note, please answer the call as the nominating committee begins the important work of securing future leaders of our club. You are needed as any good organization is built on the minds and labor of its members.

See you in the garden,

Brent

Seed Pod of the Month

This view of the canna fruit is not how most people would recognize the plant, but its color and form make it attractive and reason to hold off deadheading. Canna is a monocot and is related to true ginger and bananas. The seed pod contains a number of hard, round seeds which are slow to germinate.

The most common means of propagating canna is by division of the rhizomes, which can grow quite large under favorable conditions. Canna is considered hardy in Zone 7, but I find it often winters over in my Zone 6 garden when I miss lifting all rhizomes. And, it can undoubtedly be wintered over with heavy mulching – I've had luck with that for elephant ears and hardy banana (*Musa basjoo*).

With autumn approaching, this photo reminds me that the beauty of a plant is not restricted to the flowering alone. As with people, maturity in plants can have its own glory.

Tom Mills

Horticulture Center News

On the August 24 work day at the horticultural center, we continued work on the major overhaul of the facility. Accomplishments this week have included: 1) Further amounts of undesirable plant growth near the pond were cut back. 2) Hoops for a pavilion were erected near the pond. 3) All trash that had been gathered was put into a dumpster for removal. 4) Treated lumber framework for four 10' by 4' raised beds were assembled. 5) The riding lawn mower was not cost-effective to be repaired and was disposed of. 6) New shrub cuttings were started in the rooting enclosure.

Previously we have started two large daylily beds for future sales, installed a new gate to the Horticultural Center, and relocated the shade house nearer to Hardesty Lane. Come by and view the changes to our garden area.

The plan is to complete upgrades by the end of October in preparation for buttoning things up for winter. There remains much work to accomplish before we get things wrapped up before winter, and future work days will be announced by email or in the Seed Pod. Please heed the call for volunteers for work days, and we will ensure the quick finish of these tasks.

Smith-McDowell House News

The next date for work at the Smith-McDowell House will be Wednesday, October 2. This will be the fall cleanup day, and the backup day is the following Wednesday, October 9. Work will start at 9:00 am with some breakfast-type items and coffee available throughout the day.

Contact Bob Thatcher (btman15@charter.net) for further information.

Fall Plant Sale

The fall plant sale at the Botanical Gardens at Asheville will be Saturday, September 14 from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

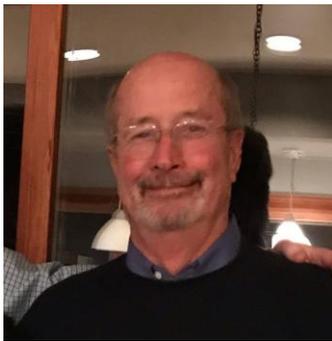
The monthly Members' Meeting will only be 4 days before the sale, so please check your availability to help at the sale and be ready to commit your time when asked to sign up to help.

In Memoriam



Bob McAfoos passed on August 10. Bob was a stockbroker in Asheville for many years, and he joined the Men's Garden Club in 2002. He is remembered as a kind man, very willing to help with club activities, while sporting the great smile shown in this photo. Our sympathies go out to his wife, Lou, along with other family members and friends.

New Members



Thomsen Guth and his wife, Linda, traveled the US in their RV for about six years. Last November, they sold their RV and moved back to Asheville. Although retired from his work as a construction superintendent, he keeps a hand in the work with a small business. Thomsen stays busy with work around their home. Hydroponics gardening has captured his interest of late. Bob Jones is his sponsor. Thomsen reminds us his last name rhymes with 'truth.'



Rush Battle moved to Asheville from the Texas Gulf Coast last year with his wife, Erin, and his son, Bos. He currently helps run a small engineering and manufacturing company in Houston and hopes for considerable growth. Rush enjoys fishing, hunting, hi-fi audio, watching collegiate football games, and wandering around his yard. Rush holds degrees related to aquaculture and maintains reef aquaria at home. His gardening interests include vegetable gardening, native flowers/plants for Erin, and native plants for erosion control. Rush's sponsor is Tom Mills.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

A Constitution and Bylaws Committee has been working to update the Club's document to more closely spell out how we conduct business. It will help describe more fully the duties of officers and directors, and it will more accurately reflect how we are organized. The last revision was done over six years ago.

Look for more information on this in coming months. When the final draft is ready, the proposed revisions will be announced and put to the Club's membership for a vote of approval.

August Picnic



The August 8 annual picnic meeting was attended by many and the weather was good. Food from Okie Dokie Smokehouse and a program on urban bear behavior from Jennifer Stroles, NCSU doctoral candidate, were the attractions. The Governor's Western residence was toured by some members, and all enjoyed the fellowship at the beautiful location in the mountains.

September Members' Meeting

Our September meeting will be held Tuesday, September 10 at the First Baptist Church in Asheville. Our speaker will be Todd P. Wilcher of Discover Life in America (DLIA), and he will report on the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP).

In 1998, GSMNP and the non-profit DLIA formed a partnership to discover and understand all species that inhabit this 522,000-acre habitat, including plants, fungi, birds, amphibians, insects, bacteria, and more. Over the life of the ATBI, many plant and animal species have been found for the first time in the park. More importantly, many species not previously known to science have been identified. Overall, the ATBI has more than doubled the number of species inhabiting the park, from about 9,200 historic species records to nearly 19,700 known in the park today. Some of this information has been covered by local media in recent years, and this will be a great opportunity to learn more first-hand and ask questions.

We will gather for fellowship at 11:30 am with lunch at noon (cost \$12.00). The program follows lunch and is free for those not having lunch with us. Guests are welcome. Club members will be contacted regarding lunch reservations. Contact Walt Leginski at wleginski@yahoo.com by noon on September 6 if you have not been contacted.