

# The Seed Pod



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

Founded 1940



Brent Russell

## October 2019

### Upcoming Events

October 1 Meeting  
Field Trip  
Peter Gentling's Garden  
(see p. 3)

No October Board Mtg.

Seed Pod of the Month  
(see p. 2)



Moonflower

### From the President

Ah, the first days of autumn are officially here. I know you will be reflecting on the summer past, the success of your garden and the work needed to prepare for the winter. Seems like we will be having a late summer, so hang onto all things green as long as possible.

The Fall Plant Sale at the Botanical Gardens was a big success thanks to those who organized and helped through the weekend. Thanks again to Ted Faber for his taking the helm and shepherding everyone with things to do to make this sale a success. The Spring and Fall Plant Sales are vital to funding our scholarships for well deserving students who are interested in horticulture. The additional benefits of organized efforts like the plant sales, beautification sites and the horticultural center are the opportunities to gather and enjoy each other. I was amazed at all of the plant advice dispensed at the Fall Plant Sale by various members. So fun to see years of knowledge being happily shared with customers and friends. We even had people from Virginia visiting Asheville stop by and purchase plants. Thanks again to all who volunteered.

We are in the final stages of completing the review and update of the Bylaws, so please be on the lookout for further communication from the committee to read and approve the Bylaws. In addition, your board is working hard to streamline communication for all members and make sure that new members are welcomed and up to speed quickly with the mission and volunteer opportunities.

We have a wonderful field trip planned for October to Peter Gentling's home and garden off Town Mountain Road. It promises to be a great event with a box lunch and very interesting garden. I hope to see you there.

See you in the garden,  
Brent

## Seed Pod of the Month

The moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*) is a favorite for late summer because it blooms when other annuals are fading. A relative of the morning glory and sweet potato, it is a vine that produces large pure-white, sometimes fragrant flowers in the early evening. Like its relatives, the moonflower is a tender tropical perennial grown as an annual. It likes rich soil – we usually grow it in a container filled with compost and place it on the deck to enjoy the flowers in the evening. Just wondering at the vine's growth is also entertaining.

As the sun rises the next day, the flower wilts and dies, but it may produce a rather ungainly seed pod. It's tempting to try to collect the seed after the seed pod swells to final size, but wait until it ripens and begins to open. The seeds are slow to germinate in the spring, and it is suggested to nick the hard seed coat with a file and/or to soak it in water to hasten initial growth.

Tom Mills

## Plant Sales



This year's spring and fall plant sales were overall successes, making money for the student scholarships we give. In addition, there was excellent member participation with many people giving their time in a wide variety of ways. These took the form of planning, growing and caring for plants before the sale, multiple activities during the sale days and caring for the plants afterwards. Without the combined hard work and willingness to pitch in where needed, the sales would not have been as successful as they were.

Besides the countless things needed to make the sale days happen, the Club got an extra boost from the many plants, principally perennials, that members and friends of the Club contributed from their gardens. Members stepped to help dig, pot, and get these plants to look their best before the sale. Thanks to everyone who made this possible. (By the way, there are still many different perennials and shrubs at the Horticulture Center waiting for members to purchase.)

While there are too many people to mention specifically, an exception needs to be made for Glenn Bass. As many know, Glenn has a beautiful and extensive plant garden. He has graciously donated several hundred plants encompassing many varieties to the Club. His overall plant knowledge and practical gardening know-how that he willingly shares, in addition to his generosity, has made Glenn an outstanding friend of our Club. Thank you, Glenn.

Nelson Sobel

## 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.

## Annual November elections

As part of our annual cycle of Club business, we announce candidates for the Club Officers and Directors at the October meeting and vote on these positions at the November meeting. A Nominations Committee has been working hard to solicit members willing to serve in these positions.

In addition, a revision of our Bylaws will be put to the membership for approval in November. Look for an email with the proposed revisions sometime in October.

Lest you think about skipping the November meeting, rest assured that the voting issues will take no more than several minutes, and there will be a gardening presentation as usual.

## September Meeting



Todd P. Wilcher of Discover Life in America (DLIA) spoke at the September 10 meeting to relate the work identifying new species inside the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. His presentation was enthusiastically received and helped us further appreciate the unique natural wonders nearby at our footsteps.

## October Members' Meeting

Our October meeting will be a field trip to Peter Gentling's garden on October 1. His garden is located on Sunset Mountain (aka Town Mountain), thus parking is very limited and carpooling will be necessary. As such, the field trip is open to members and their guests but not to the general gardening public.

Peter is a friend of and former member of the Club (President in 1975), and he and his wife Jasmin hosted a similar garden visit some ten years ago. His garden is extensive and showcases Peter's interest in many area of growing. You won't want to say "I didn't go."

**Please note the earlier time for the meeting.** We will gather for carpools at 9:30 am at the First Baptist Church parking lot, and the tour will begin at 10:00 am. Following the garden tour, we plan to eat box lunches at noon. Club members will be contacted regarding lunch reservations and the cost of the box lunch. Contact Walt Leginski at [wleginski@yahoo.com](mailto:wleginski@yahoo.com) by noon on September 27 if you have not been contacted.