

# The Clod-Hopper



## DREAMY GARDEN GIFT

In early December Steven, Greyson and I stopped by downtown Raleigh's Boulted Bread to get some pastries and ciabatta. Boulted is pretty awesome, and their bread is being served at many Raleigh restaurants. My favorite is

by grilling it in butter, as served at Standard Foods, where they call it Sopping Bread and invite you to slurp up yummy sauces. But I digress. Next door to Boulted is a tiny boutique that sells eccentric art, and carefully curated books. We took a break from our pastries to wander through, and I found my Christmas present: *The Gardener's Garden* – a global survey of gardens. It has 450 large (12 x 10 inch) pages of color photographs from amazing gardens around the world. I was also tempted by an awesome picture book of worldwide tree houses, but gardens provide more immediate possibilities.



*Edited by Madison Cox, The Gardener's Garden* was compiled by an international team of experts and includes world-famous, but also unknown and private gardens. As I mentioned in the five-minute talk last month, Middleton Gardens in South Carolina made the list. But from North Carolina, I was surprised not to see Duke Gardens and many others. Instead we are represented by Montrose garden from Hillsborough NC. I didn't even know it existed!! How cool is that! There seems to have been an effort to highlight lesser known and private gardens. Within a four hour driving radius of Raleigh there are seven noted gardens. Colonial

the Seeded Levain (hearty and full flavor, encrusted with organic flax, sesame and sunflower). Amazingly this bread can be improved upon,

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## CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are at 7:30 pm at the JC Raulston Arboretum every 3rd Tuesday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our February meeting will feature David Spain, co-owner of Moss and Stone Gardens — Where Moss Rocks. Mr. Spain provides an uncommon perspective on one of the first plants on earth. His work has been displayed at the State Fair and featured on multiple media outlets.

In March Brie Arthur will present on edible plants in your landscape garden, *Foodscaping 101*. If folks want to get a head start on the topic, here is a link to her video talk: [//vimeo.com/101100044](http://vimeo.com/101100044).



- New Members**
- Robert P. Majors, Jr., Raleigh
  - Patricia Korpik, Cary
  - Rose Marie Holsing, Raleigh
  - Florence Whatley, Raleigh
  - Arnold Oltmans, Raleigh
  - Daniel & Elizabeth Dunbar
  - Sid Strauss, Raleigh

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## BOARD MEMBERS

President . . . . . **Sherrill Johnson**  
 Vice President . . . **Paula Hoffmann**  
 Secretary . . . . . **Donna Farmer**  
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 Immed Past Pres. . . . . **Mark Boone**  
 At-large Board . . . . . **CJ Dykes,**  
**Paula Hoffman, Jim Moore &**  
**Bruce Wrenn** (To Be Confirmed)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Activities Chair . . . . . Mark Boone  
 Audit . . . . . Gary Jewell  
 Awards Banquet . . . . . Ginny Parker  
 Azalea Sale. . . . . Bob Hargroves  
 and JoAnne Hammerberg  
 Beautification Awards. . . . . Donna  
 & Will Farmer  
 Club Awards. . . . . CJ Dykes  
 Endowment Investment . . Rick Tate  
 Friendship . . . . . Chris & Reid Elliott  
 Historical. . . . . Dick Lankford  
 & Donna Farmer  
 Membership. . . . . Barbara Brown  
 Newsletter. . . . . Laine  
 & Steven Thomas  
 Nominating. . . . . Leslie Cohen  
 & Mark Duerst  
 Programs. . . . . Vacant  
 Projects . . . . . Will Farmer  
 Publicity . . . . . Charles Gilliam  
 Refreshments . . . . . Sharon LaRusch  
 Scholarship . . . . . Joanne Boone  
 Telephone . . . . . Johnny Johnson  
 Webmaster . . . . . Jim Wilson

### The Clod-Hopper

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For membership information or to change your address contact Barbara Brown, membership chairman at the address published in the membership directory.

Club Website:

[www.gardenersofwakecounty.org](http://www.gardenersofwakecounty.org)

## DREAMY GARDEN GIFT *(continued from page 1)*



Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC, VA

Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and Monticello are famous, and I described Middleton Place at our last club meeting. Dumbarton Oaks VA, Montrose NC and Pearl Fryar SC, are the remaining three. These are all open to the public and are described in greater detail below.

### DUMBARTON OAKS, WASHINGTON DC, VA

This garden was established in 1920 by Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss with a purchase of 53 acres in Georgetown. Landscape designer Beatrix Farrand was hired to design the garden and maintained the collaboration with Mildred Bliss for 30 years. During that time garden rooms were created with emphasis on texture and structure as much as flowering species. Upper terraces descend to a Rose Garden, and the Arbor Terrace displays wisteria in spring, and white clematis in summer. My favorite view is the Pebble Garden, which is a dry water feature of mosaic pebbles depicting wheat-sheaves. Another component of the different rooms is the garden furniture made of numerous wood, stones and metals. Pieces were

customized to the location; arched into a wall, or prominently displayed.

Sixteen acres now belong to Harvard University, while another twenty-seven are a public park. In the bequeath of Dumbarton Oaks to Harvard, Mildred Bliss wrote: *Those responsible for scholarship at Dumbarton Oaks should remember that the Humanities cannot be fostered by confusing Instruction with Education; that it was my husband's as well as it is my wish that the Mediterranean interpretation of the Humanist disciplines shall predominate; that gardens have their place in the Humanist order of life; and that trees are noble elements to be protected by successive generations and are not to be neglected or lightly destroyed. I charge those responsible for carrying forward the life at Dumbarton Oaks to be guided by the standards set there during the lifetime of my husband and me. The distinction of the scholars themselves as well as of their writings; the interpretation of the texts and the arts; the quality of the music performed; the free discussion within the limits of*



Montrose, Hillsborough, NC

*good deportment, and the whole tempered by the serenity of open spaces and ancient trees; all these are as integral a part of Humanism at Dumbarton Oaks as are the Library and the Collections.*

### **MONTROSE HILLSBOROUGH, NC**

After reading about Montrose Garden, I assume I must be the only member of GWC who hasn't heard of it. But I hadn't and now I have somewhere new and exciting to go! The VisitNC website provides a general overview: *A nationally known complex of gardens begun in the mid-19th century by Gov. William Alexander Graham and his wife, Susan Washington Graham. Montrose is listed property on the National Register of Historic Places. The grounds include several 19th century buildings, a rock garden, several acres of woodland plantings, and large areas of sunny gardens. Large unusual trees and shrubs and trellises, fences and arbors enhance the plantings. Guided tours available September-May by appointment on Tues., Thurs. and Sat. at 10 am. Tours for groups available by appointment at other times. \$11 per person.*

The property was purchased in 1977 by Nancy and Craufurd Goodwin. Nancy Goodwin has worked to extend the garden, and is known to spend her days working in it along with volunteers. For 10 years the garden included a nursery, but that business detracted from time in the garden, so Goodwin closed the business and returned Garden. During the winter of 2012 the garden was profiled by the New York Times, and describes some of the flowers that might be blooming now ([http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/garden/nancy-goodwins-montrose-garden-blooms-in-a-mild-winter.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/garden/nancy-goodwins-montrose-garden-blooms-in-a-mild-winter.html?_r=0)). This article focuses on Goodwin's interest in hardy cyclamen, and their beautiful winter blooms. She propagates them from seed; 6 weeks to germinate in dark, cold conditions and then 1 year growing in a greenhouse before moving outdoors. Having just started my seeds, I am impressed with the patience that takes.

For those who are interested in learning more about the development of the garden and Goodwin, she has published two highly rated books: *Montrose: Life in a Garden*, and *A Year in Our Gardens: Letters* by Nancy Goodwin and Allen Lacy. I have just ordered both on Amazon. A review will follow.

### **PEARL FRYER TOPIARY GARDEN, BISHOPVILLE, SC**

It is hard for me to get excited about topiary. I've always preferred plants in a more natural form. But Pearl Fryer has a vision that is compelling and contagious. His garden is a whimsical and playful celebration of art made with recycled materials. As Pearl



Pearl Fryer Topiary Garden,  
Bishopville, SC

Fryer says "The proudest moment in your life is if you feel you've influenced somebody positively" and he chooses to share that message of positivity through plants. The Pearl Fryer provides an excellent introduction:

*Since the early 1980s, Pearl Fryer has created fantastic topiary at his garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. Living sculptures, Pearl's topiary are astounding feats of artistry and horticulture. Many of the plants in Pearl's garden were rescued from the compost pile at local nurseries. With Pearl's patience and skilled hands, these "throw aways" have thrived and have been transformed into wonderful abstract shapes. Pearl Fryer and his garden are now internationally recognized and have been the subject of numerous newspaper and magazine articles, television shows, and even a documentary, *A Man Named Pearl*. Today, the Pearl Fryer Topiary Garden draws visitors from around the globe.*

*(continued on page 4)*

Change Service Requested



**Pearl Fryer Topiary Garden, Bishopville, SC**

**DREAMY GARDEN GIFT** *(continued from page 3)*

Visitors to the Pearl Fryer Topiary Garden experience a place that is alternately beautiful, whimsical, educational, and inspiring. Pearl's garden contains over 300 individual plants and few are spared from his skilled trimming. His extraordi-

nary topiary is complemented by his "junk art" sculptures placed throughout the garden. Pearl's garden is a living testament to one man's firm belief in the results of positive thinking, hard work, and perseverance, and his dedication

*to spreading a message of "love, peace and goodwill."*

My curiosity is sparked! The documentary is available for sale or with a docurama subscription on Amazon. Bishopville is only two hours from Raleigh, so a trip is in order. I'm afraid this Garden will be too inspiring! My husband Steven is already inclined to make eclectic garden art out of recycled materials. If we didn't have a tiny urban plot, we might have a recycled garden museum someday. Still, I'm excited to tour a topiary garden that looks eccentric enough to charm me! As this was going to press, I opened up my February Martha Stewart Living Magazine to page 17 and Pearl Fryer has a full page spread, as the featured garden of the Garden Conservancy. So the secret is out.