

The Clod-Hopper



Volume 29 Edition 1 Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. – Raleigh, NC

JANUARY 2013

AWARDS BANQUET

The club members and guests who attended the Awards Banquet thank Ginny Parker for all her hard work making the evening a success. The weather was perfect — warm and dry so we didn't need coats. The food was excellent, the poinsettia center pieces were festive and we had time to visit with friends.

Will and Donna Farmer were in charge of the Beautification Awards this year. Allen de Hart received the individual award for the botanical



garden he created on Hwy 401. The garden has been donated to Louisburg College where he taught for many years. GWC members plan to tour the garden sometime in 2013.

The group beautification award was presented to The Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail (www.ncmst.org/) for the Little Lick Creek Bridge approaches. Liz King and Gregory Scott accepted the Award for the organization. Liz King, a professional landscaper,

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CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are at 7:30 pm at the JC Raulston Arboretum

- January 15** Weed ID, Wayne Carlson, Master Gardener
- February 19** Topic Not Available, Jeana Myers, Wake County Horticulture Agent
- March 19** Soil, Skin of the Earth, David Crouse, NCSU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My only daughter (I have three sons) is getting married in May so my attention is focused on getting the yard in shape for the big event. Paths that I have trudded up and down for years suddenly need to be gentler in grade — and the clumps of iris and white ginger that came from one of the Club plant exchanges have to be thinned and replanted. Joanne suggested I plant a cut flower garden



where I have grown corn stalks with very little corn for the last 3 years.

The box of bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulbs got planted in 400 little holes and then covered with soil for the winter. They are supposed to bloom in late spring. My son Johnathan went to the Progress Energy yard on Simms Creek Road to get 12 old utility poles for me to build a new bridge. That will be a good winter project while I wait to see if I planted the bulbs too deep. The free utility poles are a lot cheaper than posts and stringers from Home Depot.

I look forward to hearing your stories about gardening. When you find something interesting in your yard bring it to the Club meeting. Show it off.

— Mark Boone

Membership

Remember that the membership year for the Club begins in January. If you have not renewed your membership please use the form at the top of page 3 of this issue of the *Clodhopper* and return it to Carole Johnson as quickly as possible. We would like to have accurate information in our 2013 directory when it is distributed.

January Program

Our January speaker is Wayne Carlson, a Master Gardener from Morrisville. The title of the presentation is Weed ID. The 2013 Yearbook will have information on all the programs for the coming year. They were not available as we went to press.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Activities	vacant
Audit	vacant
Azalea Sale	Bob Jackson
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Club Awards	Ginny Parker
Endowment Investment Chairman	vacant
Friendship	Paula Hoffmann
Historical	vacant
Membership	Carole Johnson
Newsletter	Anne Clapp
Nominating	
Programs (ex officio)	Sherrill Johnson
Projects	vacant
Publicity	Charles Gilliam
Scholarship	vacant
Telephone	Johnny Johnson
Webmaster	Jim Wilson

www.gardenersofwakecounty.org

AWARDS (continued from page 1)

designed the project, procured the materials and directed the planting. Gregory Scott is the Task Force Leader responsible for the maintenance of the landscape project.

Mac Williamson presented the other Club Awards. Charles Gilliam, immediate past president, received the Silver Vase for his work with the interfaith garden in East Raleigh. The Dogwood Award, designated for someone who is not a member of the Club, was presented to Julie Lovett of The Raleigh Garden Club who served as Co-chair of the Hospice landscaping project. Club member Maggie Larson received a Green Thumb Award for her service as the other Co-chair of the project. Two additional Green Thumb Awards were presented to Sherrill Johnson and Johnny Johnson for arranging the mini-programs at the 2012 meetings. Trowel Awards and a real trowel were presented to three club members for service to the Club: Mark Boone, for planning our programs and field trips; Juliette La Bonte, for chairing the Refreshment Committee and Anne Clapp as *Clodhopper* Editor. Thank you to all the Award Winners for their contributions to our Club



The evening ended with the installation of the new officers by Anne Clapp. We welcome Mark Boone as President, Sherrill Johnson as Vice-president; Paula Hoffmann, Secretary; Mac Williamson, Treasurer; At-Large Board Members: Will Farmer and CJ Dykes. Charles Gilliam has the best job, Immediate Past-President. An additional Board Member will be appointed at the January Board meeting to complete the term of Sherrill Johnson who was elected vice-president. The listing of the board is on page 2 but several committee chairmen had not been appointed by the deadline for the January *Clodhopper*.

ROSES

Thanks to Don Myers, local rosarian and rose judge, for providing information on taking care of roses in this area. He is a regular contributor to *American Rose*, the magazine of the American Rose Society. Your editor cut a bloom from the hybrid tea "Veteran's Honor" the week after Christmas. There were still blooms on a couple of her roses and on plants in the JCRA on New Year's Day.



None of those plants have been cut back as of 1/3/13. Don's advice is to cut roses (except climbers) back by half in January and wait to do final pruning and shaping. If there is a dead cane on a bush it can be cut back to ground level. Some Knock-Out roses may have dead canes.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Gardening Special Interests _____

Other Hobbies _____

Membership dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families for the calendar year January to December. Make checks payable to Gardeners of Wake County. Application form and check are to be mailed to:

Gardeners of Wake County
Carole Johnson, Membership Chairman
5346 Lake Wendell Rd.
Zebulon, NC 27597

Roses *(continued from page 2)*

A major reason for cutting roses back by half is to reduce the damage to plants and roots if we have ice storms or high winds during the winter. Floribundas, hybrid teas and “Knock-Outs” all benefit from cutting back. It is really not necessary to seal the cut stems; when night temperatures drop below freezing insect and disease problems are reduced. If you had plants that showed signs of Rose Rosette Disease (dark red stems and prickles that are badly deformed) dig the plant and its roots and dispose of it. Wait until March to do final pruning and shaping.

Get the weeds pulled. The ground is soft so roots come out more easily. Some weeds have set seed so you might try slipping a plastic bag over the top of the weed, grasp the bag just under the seed pod and

pull the weed. You may lose a couple of seed pods but it does reduce the weeds for next year.

Don recommends applying liquid lime-sulfur spray on a warm day in January to kill over-wintering black spot disease spores. It gives your plants a head start on the disease in the spring. He also reminded me it is a good time to sprinkle a cup of lime around the base of each plant. It reduces the pH and supplies calcium and magnesium that roses need for healthy growth.

Pruning Blueberries

A lot of local gardeners are growing “highbush” blueberries for an “edible landscape”. They have good form, interesting fall color — and they taste good. A mature plant should have between 5 and 12 canes; ideally it will have between 5 and 7 canes that are

2 to 5 years old plus 2- or 3-year-old canes.

Young plants do not have to be pruned other than removing dead wood or damaged canes. After its 7th cane has developed it is usually time to start a pruning cycle by removing the oldest and weakest cane. If an older cane did not produce fruit last year, remove it. The cane is cut off at ground level.



Each year after that, the plant gets pruned to remove old and young canes to the ideal numbers of canes listed above. You will also need to remove side shoots that are not producing fruit, especially those that are shorter than 6 inches. That improves air circulation in the plant that will encourage pollination and reduce disease problems.

GARDENERS OF WAKE COUNTY

5346 Lake Wendell Road
Zebulon, NC 27597

Change Service Requested

Hardwood Cuttings

The best way to learn about plant propagation is to sign up for one of the workshops at the JCRA. The cost for members is quite reasonable – and you get to keep the plants. At this time of year you can root hardwood plants. Some plants that will work with the technique described below are Barberry, Blueberry, Butterfly Bush, Dogwood, Forsythia, Rose of Sharon, Viburnum and willow.



Take cuttings 6 to 8 inches long from the previous season's growth. Cut the top of the stem at a slant so water will run off the tip. The bottom should be a straight cut made just below a leaf node. Use rooting mix that is four parts compost (not peat moss) and one part

perlite, by volume not weight. Combine the materials and add water to moisten. The mixture should "stick together" but not drip water.

All cuttings may be of the same plant type or they can be a mixture of several plants. Cut a piece of black plastic (contractor weight garbage bags work) that is about 12 inches tall and no more than 3 feet wide. Spacing cuttings about 3 inches apart will produce 12 plants.

Lay the plastic on a flat surface and spread a 1.5-inch thick layer of rooting mix across the plastic about 4 inches from the bottom. The top of the layer should be about 7 inches from the bottom edge of the plastic. Dip the base of the cutting in hormone then press the cutting into the soil so the bottom 2 inches of the cutting are covered.

When all cuttings are in place, fold up the bottom of the plastic to cover the soil, carefully roll from one side to form a package that will be open at the top. Use several rubber bands to secure the soil, bases of the cuttings and folded plastic. Punch some drainage holes in the bottom of the roll then leave the roll in a protected space until new growth appears. They can be next to the foundation of a house or an unheated carport or garage. They may need to be watered if the soil dries out but dormant cuttings without roots do not need much water. When new foliage appears unroll the package to check root development. Rooted cuttings can be potted up.

