

The Clod-Hopper

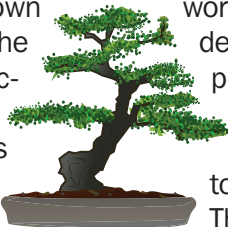


Volume 28 Edition 10 Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. – Raleigh, NC

NOVEMBER 2012

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The speaker for the November 20 meeting is Jan Little, the Education Director at The Duke Gardens. The Triangle area is lucky to have three major universities with gardens that are known throughout the world for the scope of their plant collections and their educational programs. Duke Gardens are the most “formal” of the three gardens with more structural elements than the JCRA or the UNC Botanical Garden. Their Japanese garden is often the site of a Bonsai collection or a “tea



ceremony”. The iris gardens in the amphitheater are beautiful in the spring.

Duke Gardens has an excellent lecture series as well as a series of workshops and classes for gardeners of all ages. Be sure to pick up a copy of their schedule at the meeting. You may want to arrange a group trip to the gardens or to a lecture. There are agreements between the “triangle gardens” that allow members of the “friends” groups to attend some programs at reduced rates.

AWARDS BANQUET

The December 11 meeting is the Awards Banquet. It will be held at the NCSU University Club on Hillsborough Street. A reservation form is at the top of page 3 of this newsletter. Please get your reservation to Ginny Parker as quickly as possible, hopefully no later than the November meeting if you want to be assured of a seat. The last possible day for Ginny to receive your registration is December 7. That is a date that many of us will not forget – but for a less pleasant gathering

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The Social Hour will begin at 6:00 pm. Nuts and cheese straws are provided and there is a cash bar for beer and wine. The buffet dinner will be served beginning at 7:00 pm. The menu includes tossed salad, fruit salad and pasta salad; broiled garlic and butter shrimp, London broil with mushroom sauce and carved turkey as main course choices; vegetables include lemon asparagus, sugar snap peas with red peppers, parsley potatoes and baked ziti casserole. The desert is Key Lime Pie.



The cost of the meal is \$20 for a club member. If you are bringing a guest, the cost for your first guest is \$20; each additional guest is \$35.

CLUB MEETINGS

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

Nov. 20 Duke Gardens,
Jan Little, Director
of Education

Dec. 11 Awards Banquet

BUSINESS MEETING

Please remember that the annual business meeting of the Club is held at the November meeting. It is time for elections. The slate that will be voted on includes: President, Marc Boone; Vice President, Sherrill Johnson; Secretary, Paula Hoffmann and Treasurer, Mac Williamson. The at-Large Board Members to be voted on are Will Farmer and CJ Dykes.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Remember that dues for 2013 are due in the hands of membership chairman Carole Johnson before the end of 2012 so she can get the 2013 Membership Directory printed as quickly as possible. She would really like to get it ready to distribute at the January meeting. Dues are still a bargain at \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families.

The membership application is at the bottom of page 3, just below the form for the 2012 Awards Banquet. You may mail it to Carole with your check, or bring it to the November meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CHARLES GILLIAM

Vice President
MARK BOONE

Treasurer
MAC WILLIAMSON

Secretary
PAULA HOFFMANN

At Large Board Members
BOB JACKSON
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Immediate Past President
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- Activities Juliette LaBonte
- Audit Gary Jewel
- Azalea Sale Bob Hartgrove
- Beautification Awards Donna & Will Farmer
- Club Awards Mac Williamson
- Endowment Investment Chairman Rick Tate
- Flower Show Charles Gilliam
- Friendship Paula Hoffmann
- Historical Dick Lankford
- Membership Carole Johnson
- Newsletter Anne Clapp
- Nominating Ed Ponek
- Programs (ex officio) Mark Boone
- Projects vacant
- Publicity Catherine Donleycott
- Scholarship Mary Brown
- Telephone Johnny Johnson
- Webmaster Jim Wilson

www.gardenersofwakecounty.org

NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Bulbs Etc. Most of the “bulb’ books your editor has read recently include lots of plant materials that grow from underground “structures” that are not true bulbs. If you cut a daffodil bulb, or a clove of garlic, in half from the pointed tip to the flat bottom you will see the “layers” of plant material in a true bulb. At the base of the bulb you’ll see the basal plate that contains the roots that will anchor the plant and provide the nutrients for next year’s growth. At the center is the “stem” that will produce the flower as it grows from the tip of the bulb.



Storage of bulbs after they are harvested from bulb fields is very important. Tulips are usually pre-chilled to ensure their bloom in the spring. Read planting instructions carefully because some will need an additional chilling period. If you purchase bulbs from a supplier who has stored bulbs or displayed them for sale in an area outdoors in the hot sun they may not bloom.

Early November is usually a good time to plant spring flowering bulbs in our area. The soil is cool and moist. Prepare beds by digging to a depth of about 8 inches and adding composted organic material and lime, if needed. Some gardeners like to add bone meal as a source of phosphorus. Be careful if you do because it may attract the neighbor’s dog who thinks you have buried a treat for him. Red pepper sprinkled on top of the bed may discourage that behavior. Do not fertilize the bulbs until they come up in the spring

If you have trouble with voles, chipmunks and squirrels digging up bulbs there are two methods of planting that might help. One is to use “Perma-til” or sharp “pea gravel” as a soil additive. Some gardeners find putting a layer of these “rocks” around the bulbs is more effective than tilling them into the soil.



Another method is to make a shallow box with half-inch metal hardware cloth and set the bulbs on the bottom of the box. Put box and bulbs in the ground, spread soil on top of the bulbs and put a layer of the screen wire on top of the planting then fill the rest of the hole with soil. The roots can grow out of the bottom of the box and there is space for the stems and foliage to grow from the top. One advantage of this technique is that it helps you “find the bulbs” and it provides protection from slicing into the bulbs when you dig them up.

Lime. With as many oak trees as most of us have in our neighborhoods soil can become more acidic than some of our plants like. It is best to have a soil sample tested to find out how much lime needs to be added to gardens, lawns, rose beds, etc. Some of us just sprinkle a little bit of dolomitic limestone on the ground and hope for the best. There is still plenty of time to apply lime and correct the pH of the soil before the spring growing season so take the soil sample to the state lab and get the test results back.

(continued on page 4)

2012 AWARDS BANQUET

The 2012 Awards Banquet will be Tuesday, December 11 at the NCSU University Club (Faculty Club) on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. The Social Hour will begin at 6:00 pm with nuts, cheese straws and a cash bar. The buffet dinner will follow at 7:00 pm. Dessert and coffee will be served. The price for each member and their first guest is \$20/person which includes tax and gratuity. The cost of each additional guest is \$35. Please complete the following form and return it, with your check made payable to **Gardeners of Wake County**, to Ginny Parker at the address given at the bottom of the form.

Reservation Form – Awards Banquet December 11, 2012

Member's Name _____ \$20.00

Guest's Name _____ \$20.00

Additional Guest _____ \$35.00

Total Amount \$ _____

Return form and check no later than December 7 to: Ginny Parker, 1801 Ridley Street, Raleigh, NC 27608

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**

GARDENERS OF WAKE COUNTY

5346 Lake Wendell Road
Zebulon, NC 27597

Change Service Requested

NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

(continued from page 2)

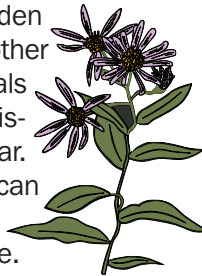
Most fig trees will appreciate a little lime in the fall. If you used pine straw as mulch for roses and flowering shrubs other than camellias and azaleas you may need to lime those beds. It is also a good time to apply lime to warm season lawns. Lime can also be applied to areas of any lawn that is beginning to develop "mossy spots".

Peonies. It is not too late to dig and divide peonies this year if you can finish the chore by the middle of the month. Dig them carefully because the new eyes have started forming. Cut off the damaged tubers or roots, remove the foliage and wait a day to replant the divisions after they have had a chance to begin "healing". If you are not dividing your plants you do need to remove the old foliage and dispose of it to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Botrytis

disease affected some peonies in our area this year so be sure to remove the foliage at ground level. Do not add the clippings to the compost pile.

Flower Beds. Golden rod, phlox, asters and other fall blooming perennials have put on quite a display of bloom this year. Most of our perennials can still be dug and divided until our first hard freeze. If you already have enough plants you would be wise to dead-head the blooms to reduce the number of seedlings in the garden next year. Phlox and goldenrod can be cut back to the ground to clean up the space but leave the stems and foliage of tender asters, ferns, salvia and chrysanthemums to protect the crowns on the plants in cold weather.

Some of us are concerned that we will not know where plants are located in the garden when we start dig-



ging to add plants early next spring. If you want to clean up the beds and apply mulch for the winter, mark the location of plants with golf tees stuck in the ground. You can also use a plant label stick and write the name of the plant on the stick if you do not think you will recognize the early foliage of the plant in the spring.

Fruit Trees. Fall is a good time to mark limbs on trees that need pruning. You know which limbs are dead and need removal and you can see the shape of the tree and see which other limbs need trimming or removal. Do not prune the plants until January or February. Rake up fruit debris and leaves under the trees. If you had disease problems with the trees this year do not add the debris to the compost pile because it might re-infect the trees next spring.

