

The Clod-Hopper



Volume 31 Edition 8 Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. – Raleigh, NC

SEPTEMBER 2015

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

– Laine Thomas

I assume there was a great turnout for the August 18th meeting. Bryce Lane is a great speaker who we all look forward to seeing. Steven and I missed this one because we were on vacation in Portland, Oregon, on a trip that was partially inspired by Bryce. He often shows spectacular photos from botanical gardens around the county. By traveling to different botanical gardens, Bryce has pictures of plants thriving in their



optimal environment, bigger and happier than they look in my back yard (if they grow here it all). I think it was the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden that really got my attention last year. Plants looked different in Maine than they do here. Even the same plant grew differently and in different combinations. Gardens are an exotic travel destination because they are always unique to the location and conditions of the environment. So I've been looking for a

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CLUB MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September 15th – John Monroe will present a program on **Architectural trees**. Architectural Trees is a specialty tree nursery primarily serving homeowners, plant collectors, and landscape designers. Our mission is to find, grow, and promote highly ornamental cultivars of trees that grow well in the Piedmont of North Carolina. <http://www.archtrees.com/>

Recipes You've Enjoyed

Sharon LaRusch has done a great job organizing the refreshments for our club meetings. There is sometimes more food than plants, and it is really good! Many thanks to Sharon and everyone in the club who contributes. We tracked down these two recipes, and it was a good chance to include them in the *Clodhopper*. Hope you enjoy!

Bacon and Tomato Dip

10 slices bacon, cooked crisp, cooled
 3 Roma tomatoes, peeled & seeded
 1 C. mayo
 1T Dijon mustard
 1/3 C. green onions, minced
 1/3 C parsley, chopped
 dash Tabasco sauce

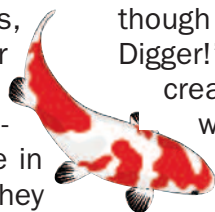
Put all ingredients in food processor & pulse until well mixed & is desired consistency. Serve with Melba Toast, crisp crackers, or chips. Great summer dip & is also great as salad dressing or sandwich spread.

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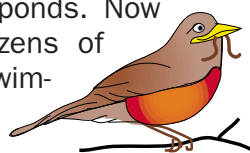
MEET A MEMBER: Sherrill & Johnny Johnson

– Chris Elliott

Sherrill and Johnny joined the Gardeners of Wake County in 2011. But as Sherrill says, she's been gardening all her life, first working alongside her avid-gardener grandmother. She and Johnny live in Garner in the home where they raised their son and enjoy visits



from their three granddaughters. They work together in their yard, though Johnny is "Chief Hole Digger!" Over the years they have created a lush mature garden with many different focal points and an extensive variety of plants. Sherrill and Johnny built three different koi ponds. Now there are dozens of colorful koi swimming in the ponds and even more birds, butterflies and dragonflies make their homes in the Johnson's yard. We all get a



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BOARD MEMBERS

President Sherrill Johnson
 Vice President . . Paula Hoffmann
 Secretary Donna Farmer
 Treasurer Mac Williamson
 At-large Board CJ Dykes,
 Norman LaRusch, Rick Tate,
 and Steven Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Activities Chair Mark Boone
 Audit Gary Jewell
 Azalea Sale Bob Jackson
 Beautification
 Awards Will & Donna Farmer
 Club Awards CJ Dykes
 Endowment
 Investment Rick Tate
 Friendship Bob & Judy Allen
 Historical Dick Lankford
 Membership Barbara Brown
 Newsletter Editors Steven &
 Laine Thomas
 Nominating Vivian Williamson
 Programs Paula Hoffmann
 Projects Vacant
 Publicity Charles Gilliam
 Refreshments . . . Sharon LaRusch
 Scholarship Joanne Boone
 Telephone Johnny Johnson
 Webmaster Jim Wilson

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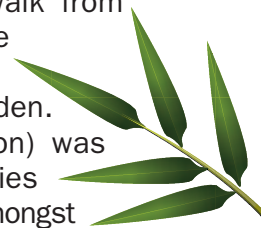
For membership information or to change your address contact Barbara Brown, membership chairman at the address published in the membership directory.

Club Website:
www.gardenersofwakecounty.org

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS *(continued from page 1)*

chance to plan a trip centered on gardening. When our friends moved to Portland, it was the perfect opportunity.

We spent most of our time in Washington Park, a 400-acre public park that includes a zoo, forestry museum, arboretum, rose garden, Japanese garden, amphitheater, and miles of trails through wild forest. At the beginning of our trip, we took an early morning walk from our condo to the International Rose Test Garden. Greyson (our son) was still in his jammies and we played amongst the 7,000 roses of 500 varieties. We enjoyed it so much that we went back two more times. The Japanese garden had the largest Koi fish we've ever seen, and numerous water works. Greyson's favorite was a bamboo tube that



slowly filled with water and then dumped itself out when it became too full. Steven and Greyson intend to add one to our yard. The Hoyt Arboretum had over 1,000 species of trees including the Dawn Redwood, a rare deciduous conifer that was once thought extinct but was discovered in China and reintroduced to the western hemisphere at the arboretum. Another highlight of our trip was the front yard gardens of Portland homes. Washington Park sits on top of a large hill overlooking the city. We walked or biked to it every day, passing through old neighborhoods with personalized gardens. The experience only reinforced the idea of making gardens a first stop in new cities.

Due to our travels, we didn't have much time to be writing for the *Clodhopper*. Fortunately, we received a lot of help this month, and we thank everyone for their contributions!

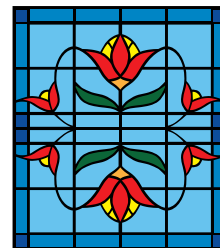
MEET A MEMBER *(continued from page 1)*

chance to visit their garden as a part of the GWC Garden Tour on September 19-20.

Sherrill is GWC President this year and served as Vice President in charge of programs before that. She is also a Master Gardener of Wake County. Sherrill and Johnny both work full-time now, but look forward to retirement and more time for gardening activities. They currently estimate spending about 20+ hours a week in the garden in spring and summer, down to 10 in the winter. In the winter when garden tasks slow down, they work

together to make intricate stained glass windows and lamp shades. Of course, flowers are the theme of many of their stained glass work. Johnny also plays both piano and guitar. Gospel music is his favorite style.

When asked for gardening tips, they suggested that watering and deadheading flowers is the most important garden task this time of year, and will result in a longer growing season. Thank you Sherrill and Johnny, for all you do to support, encourage and inform fellow gardeners in Wake County.



EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

• GWC FALL GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, September 19, 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday, September 20, 1 pm – 5 pm



Eight gardens are open for your enjoyment and education in the Gardeners of Wake County 2015 fall garden tour. These gardens were created by people like you who love to get “down and dirty” and who would love to share with you what they have learned about what works and what doesn’t work in getting plants to grow. The venues illustrate a variety of gardening challenges and solutions, including of course preparation of the garden for the fall season of the year.

The tour also provides an opportunity to view and purchase garden art. One garden artist displays his or her work in each garden, with individual pieces placed around the garden to suggest how things might look in your own situation.

Tickets will be available at each garden for cash or check. Tickets are \$15 per person and include all the gardens on the tour. Art can be purchased directly from the artist on site. Proceeds from ticket sales are used to fund scholarships for horticultural students at NC State University.

• FUQUAY-VARINA GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, September 12, 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday, September 13, 1 pm – 5 pm



\$15 in advance and proceeds support community beautification efforts. Follow us on Facebook <http://fuquayvarinagardenclub.weebly.com>
gardenclubcontact@gmail.com

NCEMGVA (North Carolina Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association) CONFERENCE Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22

The conference is open to all who garden and will be hosted at the Embassy Suites, Harrison Blvd., Cary NC. The conference fee is \$125 for members and \$145 for non-members, and covers education sessions for two days, materials, Monday lunch, Monday evening banquet, and breaks. Breakout Sessions by NC Gardening Experts include:

- Ecology and Natural Remedies
- Using the 3 Rs for Sustainable Gardening
- Out of the Sandbox, Into the Garden
- Weathering Our Changeable Weather
- A Gardener Saved Tolkien’s World
- Return of the Natives
- Create a Pollinator Paradise
- Composting with (Squirmy) Friends
- The Ecology of Better Backyards for Birds
- Write Your Way to a Thriving Garden.



For More Information and to Register, go to ncmastergardeners.org

Membership Renewal

It's time to think about renewing your club membership for 2016 (payment is due by December 31). Our new directory will go to press in January and we don't want to leave anyone out! Even if you're a long-time member, we ask that you fill out a new application so we can be certain our information is current. Please note the new dues amount for 2016.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail _____ Occupation _____
(if retired, state former occupation)

Gardening Special Interests _____

Membership dues are \$30 for individuals and \$45 for families in the 2016 Calendar Year. Make checks payable to Gardeners of Wake County. Mail application and check to:

Barbara Brown, Membership Chairman
517 Wyndham Drive
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526-7706

Change Service Requested

RECIPES (continued from page 1)

Sausage Pinwheels

From the Kitchen of Brenda Walker
Makes 30 – 45

3 - 8 oz refrigerated cans Crescent Rolls
2 - 8 oz. cream cheese
2 lbs sausage (uncooked)
Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese or
Pepper Jack Cheese
Onion Powder to taste
Ground Mustard to taste.

Mix cream cheese, onion powder and ground mustard together. Set aside. Unroll one can crescent roll on a floured surface. Press seams and perforations together. Stretch crescent dough into a rectangle (about 9 x 13). Spread cream cheese on dough. Spread uncooked sausage on top of cream cheese. Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top of sausage. Roll into log. (I let mine sit overnight in the refrigerator before slicing.) Slice into approximately 12-15 slices. Repeat with remaining cans of crescent rolls. Bake at 375 degrees for 18-20 minutes or until golden brown.

**PLAN AHEAD FOR THE
GWC HOLIDAY BANQUET - 2015**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Location – NC State University Club

Cost – \$20.00 (Club Member), \$20.00
(1st Club Member Guest),
\$35.00 Additional Guest



Time – Beginning at 6:00pm with Cash Bar and Cocktail Snacks
Buffet Dinner beginning at 7:00pm
Awards and Program Following Dinner

Registration Deadline – December 1, 2015

Mail check made payable to Gardeners of Wake County to:

Ginny Parker
1801 Ridley Street
Raleigh, NC 27608

Signup sheets will be available at the September, October and November meetings.