

WE HELP GARDENERS GROW

# The Seedling – June 2017

Volume 41, Issue 6

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC

Next Meeting: June 27, 2017 — Bring your spouse or S.O.!  
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

Also Gardener of the Year Award



## *A Message from President Tony Abbruzzi*

Greetings gardeners,  
Happy Japanese Beetle Month. At least that is what I think it is around my garden. So far, they don't seem to be as bad as last year but they are enjoying a wide variety of vegetables and flowers. Pick and squeeze or pick and throw into a bucket of soapy water, the end result is one less beetle to terrorize my garden. If I was a true Southerner I would say "bless their little hearts" but being a career sailor I just say "I hate those @&\*\$%^ little #!@\$%^\$."

I want to personally thank Chester Honeycutt, Wayne

Smith, Bob Held, and Sam Moser for assisting in the pricing, pruning, and sorting of hundreds of beautiful plants that local nurseries donated to the Hospice Plant Sale. It was an enjoyable time and greatly appreciated by Hospice. There were a few members that had indicated that they would like to help but life got in the way and they were unable to make it. To those men, thank you, I hope everything is going well.

I have presentations tentatively scheduled for eight of the eleven months in 2018. I am looking for

someone to present in May, July, or August. If you are interested, please let me know. Our Club is only as good as you make it so please don't hold back.

It's here; our annual club picnic is at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, June 27th, at Occasions Restaurant. I hope all of you are able to attend along with your wife, friend, or significant other. This is an adult only event and there is a \$10 charge for your meal as well as that of your guest/s payable at the door. Dress is casual and a good time to wear your club polo shirt. We will be playing

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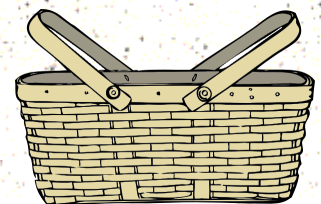
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**It's Here!**  
**Annual Picnic at Occasions for our June 27 meeting.**

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BINGO so bring your glasses. As usual, we will announce the Gardener of the Year. Will it be Kurt Moore, Ron Namest, or Bob Held? All three men are extremely well deserving and I thank them for their contributions to our club.

In July, we will host our donation recipients with an opportunity to meet with representatives from the organizations that we donate money to. Alamance Community College Horticulture Scholarship Fund, Peacehaven Farm, Western High School Future Farmers of America and Southern High School Future Farmers of America. We will present our donations to them at the meeting.

*"I used to visit and revisit it a dozen times a day, and stand in deep contemplation over my vegetable progeny with a love that nobody could share or conceive of who had never taken part in the process of creation. It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a rose of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green.*

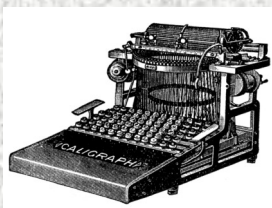
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mosses from an Old Manse

Take care, Tony

*"Spring – an experience in immortality."*

- Henry D. Thoreau

## Editor's corner



### Send me your news!

This is your newsletter! Please feel free to send me content that you would like to share with your fellow members—upcoming events, gardening tips, resources, websites and online tools, things learned, recipes using things from your garden, deals and other great bargains, etc. **If you send me a website, please also include a sentence or three about why it is useful, important, why you like it, or some info that I can pass along in the newsletter.**

Please send to me via email to [bikehasher@gmail.com](mailto:bikehasher@gmail.com) and let me know that it is for the newsletter. Thanks. Kurt.

### Member's Birthdays

Looks like none this month unless we do not have yours,. Note: anyone who has not sent in your birthday, please do so. Your perk is to head the chow line with our guests!

### Important Agenda Items for June Meeting

It's the **annual "picnic"** at Occasions. No business, just fun and the annual Gardener of the Year Presentation. Bring a spouse, a significant other, or guest(s). The cost is \$10 per person. Tuesday is the last day for sign-up so please contact Dudley or Alvis to let them know you are coming and how many guest are coming with you.



## May Meeting Highlights

Alvis distributed the Treasurer's Report with an updated balance from the Dogwood Festival. Net income from the vent was \$984.61, leaving the club with a balance of \$3,744.41 as of May 23.

The club approved \$1,400 in total donations for 2017 to support the following four groups: ACC—\$800; Peacehaven—\$300; and \$150 each for the South HS and Western HS FFA programs. As of the May meeting we have confirmed guests from Peacehaven and the ACC Horticulture Department for the July meeting.

Member Steve Wright presented a program on monoculture entitled "*Blessing of the Best*".



## Native Plants for Birds

More people are turning to native plants for their yards and gardens and North Carolina has no shortage of beautiful native plants. As naturally occurring plants, they have evolved over the ages to adapt to the local environment. Other species of animals have adapted themselves to our plants including our birds. While many birds may fare well feeding on introduced species, the ramifications go further down the food chain. Ninety-six percent of land birds depend on insects to feed their young. Our native insects are not as well adapted and a shortage of insects will mean a shortage of food for young birds. The NC Audubon Society has created a short brochure entitled Native Plants for Birds and advises that "*by adding native plants to your yard, you can help restore the imbalance created by non-native plantings and ensure the survival of future generations of birds.*"

I will bring copies of the brochure to the July meeting. Other resources for native plants:

NC Native Plant Society—[www.ncwildflower.org](http://www.ncwildflower.org)

Audubon NC—[www.ncaudubon.org](http://www.ncaudubon.org)

NC Botanical Garden—[www.ncbg.unc.edu](http://www.ncbg.unc.edu)

NC Coop Extension—[www.ncsu.edu/goingnative](http://www.ncsu.edu/goingnative)

## Area Plant Sales—Updated!

Spring plant sales are done, but that gives you the summer to save up your pennies for fall plant sales beginning in September!

**Sept 21** — Alamance County Extension Service Master Gardener Fall plant sale, Burlington

**Sept 29-30** — NC Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale featuring native plants. Chapel Hill, NC

**Sept 30** — Duke Gardens Fall Plant sale, Durham, NC





## From the Members

A little bit of club history sent in by Dudley Clinard (text & photos) and Dirk Sprenger (photo of plaque). Useful info for all of us newer members who were not here 40 years ago when the club was starting. *Editor*



**Dr. Jan Hooft** was born in the Netherlands and trained as a horticulturist. He emigrated to America post-WWII and lived in the mid-west. He was later hired by Carolina Biological Supply in Burlington and served as the head of their botany department.

He was a charter member of the Men's Garden Club of Burlington, and was its first president. Jan continued as an active member and wise counsel through 2013. He was also a member of the Burlington Tree Commission from 1993

through 2003. In honor of his service, a Pin Oak was planted in the Burlington City Park. The tree and plaque are located between the carousel and the YMCA, near the T J Sports shelter.

Following are extracts from an article which appeared in The Daily Times-News on Thursday, January 15, 1987 with the headline "Men's Garden Club Decade Old":

*According to Hooft, the objective of the Men's Garden Club of America is to promote gardening in the community. But Hooft's group functions primarily as a social club with gardening as a common bond.*

*Members of the Men's Garden Club of Burlington have yet to examine each other's gardens as a club – despite the fact they have met for the last decade, says Burlington's Jan Hooft, who organized the club in 1977. We get together and swap stories about the enormous squashes we grow. We don't bring them, you see, we just talk about them.*

*The group, an affiliate of the Men's Garden Club of America met for the first time 10 years ago this month with 12 members. Today there are 36 members with eight of the charter members still in attendance.*

*I was working on the city beautification committee. The Alamance County Garden Club chairperson asked the beautification committee to get a men's club together. I think we dragged our feet on that for a year, then said 'what the heck'.*

*He said 11 members organized the club in January, 1977 and received a charter that July.*

