

WE HELP GARDENERS GROW

# The Seedling – August 2017

Volume 41, Issue 8

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC

Next Meeting: August 22, 2017 — Bring a guest!  
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

Gene Stafford—Colfax Persimmon Festival



## *A Message from President Tony Abbuzzi*

Greetings Gardeners,

We are halfway through August and in the 18 years that Nancy and I have lived here we can't remember a nicer summer. We have enjoyed many breakfasts and dinners on our deck and late evening drinks on the front porch without the dreaded humidity. As the saying goes, "We weren't born in North Carolina but we got here as soon as we could."

The garden is still providing but it's not pretty and doesn't get the attention it was getting only four weeks ago. If you haven't taken a soil sample in the past couple of years now is an ideal time to do so. If a fall garden is not in your plans, consider planting a fall cover crop like crimson clover, rapeseed, or rye to add organic matter to your soil. A cover crop will protect your soil from erosion by the wind and rain and will

help with weed control. Think of it as growing compost directly into your garden. Early fall is prime time to plant winter cover crops. Johnny's Seed has a nice selection of cover crops if you can't find the seed you want in our area.

This month's program will be presented by Gene Stafford who will talk about the Colfax Persimmon Festival. Looking forward to seeing you, please bring a friend.

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Officers & Contacts

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President: Tony Abbuzzi

Treasurer: Alvis Webster

Vice President: Joe King

Chaplain: Melvin Martin

Secretary: Dirk Sprenger

Editor: Kurt Moore

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August Birth Month  
Flower is the Gladiolus

More at  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth\\_flower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_flower)

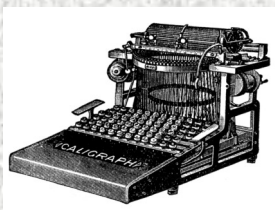
*Continued from page one*

*"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs."*

- Henry David Thoreau

Happy gardening,  
Tony

## 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

Dick Annand—29th

**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 August Meeting

The Executive Committee will report about how donations to recipients of our funds will be handled in the future and will be voted on at the August meeting.



## July Meeting Highlights

This was our annual meet and greet our donee organizations meeting. Attending were representatives from Peacehaven Farm, ACC horticulture program, Southern Alamance High School FFA and Western Alamance High School FFA.

See pictures on page 5.



## 2018 Meeting Presentations

Jan	Mark Danieleley "Safe Use and Application of Pesticides"
Feb	Doc & Todd Mundy "Emergency Medicine at Home."
Mar	Chester Honeycutt "Using Pots in The Landscape"
Apr	Dr. Geoff Leister "Ferns and Their Fabulous Fronds"
May	Ms. Deborah Wilson, "Herb Gardening"
Jun	Annual Summer Social
Jul	Melvin Martin "A Visit to a Working Cattle Ranch."
Aug	Kurt Moore "Prehistoric Horticulture and The Origins Of Agriculture."
Sep	Lee Byrd, John Deere, "Preventative Maintenance and Winterizing your Lawn and Garden Power Equipment."
Oct	Joe King "Home Gardens"
Nov	Tony Abbruzzi "Making Seed Tapes," a hands on event
Dec	No meeting

## Area Plant Sales—Updated!

Fall planting is getting close. Below are some of the upcoming area plant sales. If you know of others, please let me know by Sept 10, so I can include them in the next news letter.

**Sept 20** — Alamance County Extension Service Master Gardener Fall plant sale, Burlington (**please note corrected date**)

**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

**Bet your ash!**

Benefits of using your wood ash in the garden.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZMf6rTPuPl  
&feature=em-subsub\\_digest](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZMf6rTPuPl&feature=em-subsub_digest)  
Courtesy of Bob Held



**First new leaves** from Dirk's recently transplanted banana trees.—Photos: Dirk Sprenger

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**Banana Trivia**—While they are found all over the world's tropical and subtropical regions, bananas are native to the Indian Ocean and Australian regions + Banana trees aren't trees, but the largest living herb + Bananas were brought to the Americas by the Portuguese in the 16th century + The familiar yellow banana we know resulted from a mutation discovered in Jamaica in 1836 + Commercial bananas are all clones with almost no genetic diversity making them susceptible to disease + If you remember bananas as being sweeter when you were a kid prior to the early '60s, you remembered correctly; the sweeter Gros Michel variety was wiped out commercially by a fungus and replaced by today's Cavendish, considered an inferior product, but resistant to the fungus.



## Photos of our 2017 Annual Donee Organizations

*Photo credits: Alvis Webster*



### **\$800 for Alamance Community College for Horticultural Scholarship**

Pictured (L to R): Genevieve Riley,  
scholarship recipient; Tony Abbruzzi, Club  
President and Liz Riley,  
(new) ACC Horticulture Department Head



### **\$300 to Peacehaven Farm**

Pictured (L to R): Tony Abbruzzi, Club President  
and Mark Socha, Farm Manager



### **\$150 to Southern Alamance High School FFA**

Pictured (L to R): Tasha Dawson, Agricultural  
Education Teacher, Tony Abbruzzi, Club  
President and Haley Ingle, FFA member



### **\$150 to Western Alamance High School FFA**

Pictured (L to R): Blair Hogsed, FFA President, Tony  
Abbruzzi, Club President and Taylor Sykes, FFA  
Treasurer