

**WE HELP GARDENERS GROW**

# The Seedling—November 2016

**The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC**

Volume 50, Issue 11

**Next Meeting: Nov 22, 2016**

Occasions, 286 East Front Street  
Burlington NC

**Speaker: David Benfield**



## A message from President Tony Abbruzzi

Greetings gentlemen,  
I just returned from a seven-day cruise to the Southern Caribbean where I was pampered and tended to like never before. One of the unplanned benefits was not having to listen to the incessant political commercials on television and radio. I am very happy that the election is behind us but unhappy that I am no longer cruising on the beautiful Caribbean Sea.

November is the last meeting of the year and it is time to pay your annual dues. This month we will vote for club officers; it is your chance

to get on the ballot, so if you are interested please let your intentions be known. We will be voting on a member-at-large for the Executive Committee as well all other officers.

Thanks to Joe, Alvis, Wayne, Dirk, and Melvin for their unselfish service to our club this year. Please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts as well.

This month's program is on Bamboo and will be presented by David Benfield. I think that this will be an excellent presentation, one that I have been waiting to hear all

year.

I would like to extend a thank you to all of the veterans in our organization and echo the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



**Tony**

### Inside this issue:

*Bulbs and Weevils*

*Bamboo*

*Bambi*

*Election Night at our Club Meeting 11.22*

*Happy Thanksgiving and Toys for Tots*

*Birthdays*

Cool Links and Twitter

*Deer & Collard Greens information from Field and Stream online. See page 2.*

### Officers & Contacts

**59MOGGUY@GMAIL.COM**

**President: Tony Abbruzzi**

**Treasurer: Alvis Webster**

**Vice President: Joe King**

**Chaplain: Melvin Martin**

**Secretary: Wayne Smith**

**Editor: Dirk Sprenger**

I thank the club for emphasizing a garden log. I began one today, recording the first frost and planting some bulbs on 11/15 after 3 soil amendments. I planted 16 tulips. Bulbs endure so many cold nights and then have the power to burst forth in Spring. That's why I love bulbs. When the ground is too wet in the Spring and I must wait and wait for the dogwoods to bloom on the last of March, there they are poking through the soil.



### Kinds of bulbs and examples

True bulbs: e.g. tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and their ilk

Tubers: such as dahlias, and some of the begonias

Corms: e.g. crocuses and gladioli; Rhizomes like Iris.

On a 2010 blog post "Beekeeper" said:

Yes Rylie, They love them and they will also mow collards to the ground as well. I once killed a 210 pound doe (scale measured) in a 90 acre field of collards being grown commercially. The old gal was living full time in the field and was obviously doing well for herself. One problem though... when we cooked the meat from her it gave off the odor of cooking collard greens... (end of quote) .... so when I googled "do deer eat collards" I found the above story.

&&& Some of my friends say the clay is too hard to work in NC, but the farmers know how to do it. You may also like a website called Red Dirt Ramblings, a blog for young folks (20-39) who like to read about gardening online. As one website leads to another I have found this list of hits to recommend to you. Send us your favorites.

1. Horticulture Week see <https://twitter.com/hortweek> (Dirk tried the 14 day free trial)
2. <https://twitter.com/sweetrebecca> Rebecca Sweet on Twitter says: I am a garden designer, author of Garden Up! (2011) and Refresh Your Garden Design (2013), and a column called Harmony in the Garden for Horticulture Magazine.
3. <http://reddirtrambblings.com/> Red Dirt Ramblings

**Test of a mobile App called  
MYGARDENANSWERS on page 4**



What is this bug? See page 4  
about the largest weevil.





**The garden club program for October 2016 was The Year in Review.**

**A few highlights of the discussion are condensed here, with credit due to Secretary Wayne Smith for excellent minutes.**

**Tony Abbruzzi** reported success this year with his peppers. Two varieties that he liked were Carmen and Escamillo, both Italian sweet bullhorn type peppers. He used 18 inch stakes and said they were too short resulting in heavy branches breaking. He planted buckwheat in his raised beds as a green manure crop which was also great for his honey bees and that you should turn the buckwheat under before it goes to seed. Tony also suggested keeping a garden log.

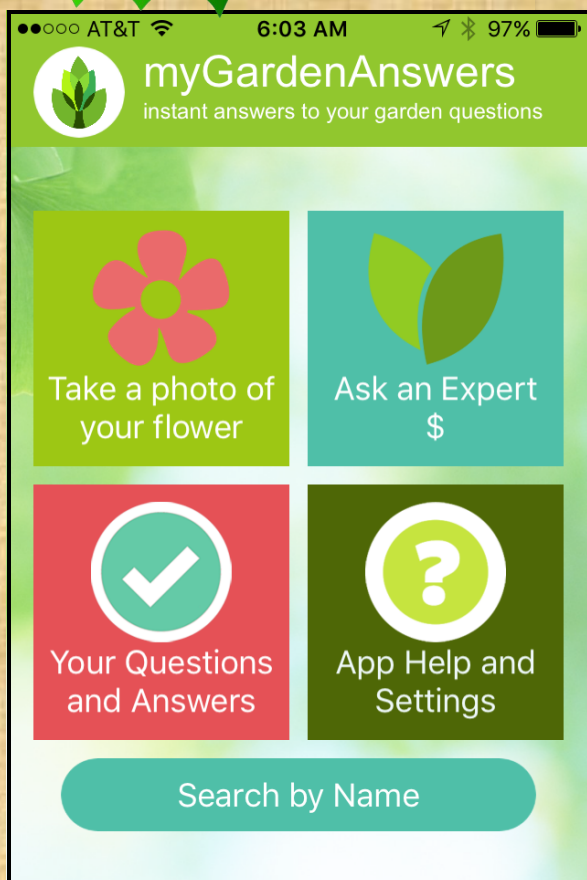
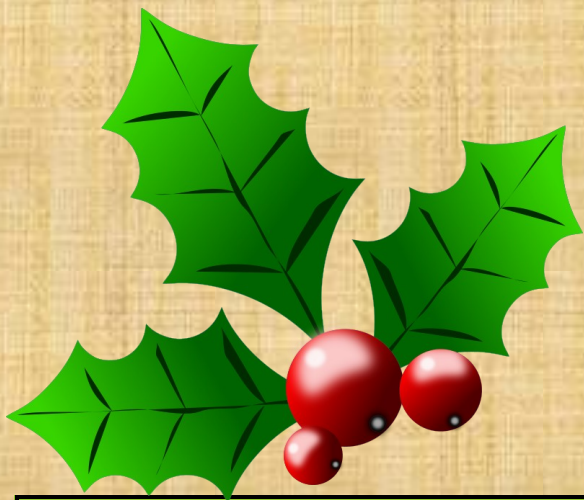
**Chester Honeycutt** suggested using tomato cages for peppers as well as for tomatoes. He also suggested for you to sucker tomatoes for a better yield, rotate crops, especially onions and tomatoes and recommended planting potatoes in January.

**Alvis Webster** reported that his lemon tree leaves were turning yellow and asked for advice from club members. Lemon trees are a small evergreen tree and native to Asia. He received a few tips.

**Joseph Castagna** reported that his garden did well especially his zucchini and sweet peas. **Ron Namest** reported success with his window boxes. He had planted begonias and said they did well this summer with the heat.

**Bob Griffin**, new to Alamance Count, asked for advice in dealing with hard clay soil. Raised beds is one way to go.

**Wayne Smith** said that he had purchased a 10x10 dog kennel and covered it with a trestle to keep deer out. The kennel and trestle worked for the deer but hail damaged his peas and string beans. Club members suggested several ways to keep deer out of your garden. There were several garden related topics discussed during the evening; we talked about cantaloupe, soil samples and buying lime.



The App as it appears on iPhone 4

#### BIRTHDAYS

BOB HELD 11.26  
DUDLEY CLINARD 12.9  
JOSE SANTOS 12.12  
DON MUNDY 12.27

On the mobile app “mygardenanswers” you can browse photos of insects and plants, or submit one for free and see what it says are similar to identify weeds, insects and more.

A young whipper snapper, Andy Tripp of Mebane showed me this App and I tested it by entering the word Weevil. From that I started learning about the Sri Lanka Weevil which came to FL in 2000 and caused a rush to start a program to eliminate it immediately. The **App** also lead me to the University of Florida Ag extension website with its copious information on subtropical weevils. The photo quiz at bottom of page 2 is from their publication #EEY013, photo by Michael Thomas. **The Palmetto Weevil, a native species, is the largest North American weevil.**

I uploaded my picture of holly from a flower box near West Jefferson NC. Then my phone immediately showed me that it was American Holly.

Arbor Day has great articles on American Holly (*ilex opaca*) which can be used as a hedge as well as a landscaping tree that grows moderately fast. Birds love it too.

You can buy them online but they also grow wild from Texas thru the South and up to Mass.

Native Americans used its berries for buttons and barter; George Washington planted some; dozens of which are still alive today according to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) It was first described by scientists in 1744 and there are now 1000 varieties.

Happy Holidays from your  
rambling Editor.

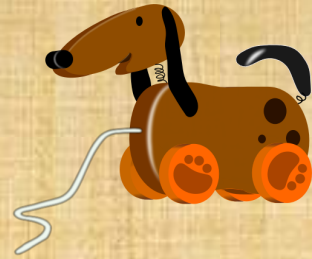




# News and Notes

## Officers Nominated at Press Time

1. President: incumbent Tony Abbruzzi
2. Vice President: incumbent Joe King
3. Treasurer: incumbent Alvis Webster
4. Secretary: Dirk Sprenger
5. Chaplain: incumbent Melvin Martin
6. Member-at-large: to be nominated at the meeting.



**Dues are due**

Toys for Tots is a program supported by many of our club members.

Please ask you wife for a little extra walking around money to contribute on the evening of our November club meeting.

For more information about the U.S Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program see

[www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

