

WE HELP GARDENERS GROW

The Seedling — March 2017

Volume 52, Issue 3

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC



Next Meeting: March 28, 2017 — Bring a friend!
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

Speaker: Gail Moore — Establishing a Butterfly Garden

A Message from President Tony Abbruzzi

Greetings Gardeners,

Snow peas and snap peas have been planted in the garden and a couple different types of lettuce, spinach, and parsley are germinating in my cold frame. The tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant under grow lights in a spare bedroom, are in various stages of growth although the peppers and eggplant seem to be taking more time than normal to germinate. The gardening season is just around the corner and it feels great.

Also, just around the corner is the annual Mebane Dogwood Festival. We will again participate in an effort to raise funds to enable us to continue our philanthropy for horticulturally related organizations. As in the past, we will each receive 20 one dollar raffle tickets at our March meeting that we would like you to sell or purchase yourself. If you need more, please contact Dudley. We will also be asking you to assist at the festival on Saturday, April 22. We would prefer that you volunteer for the entire day but know that for some it may not be

possible. So, if you can only help for half a day that is fine. Please look at your calendar and be ready to sign up for what will be a fun filled day of comradery and fellowship.

We may be asking for your help in preparation for the festival, it is an all hands event and will only be as successful as the efforts that each and every one of us puts forth. Let's hope for great weather. If you need tomato plants and Atlas gloves this is the place to get them so tell your friends and neighbors.

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Officers & Contacts

59MOGGUY@GMAIL.COM

President: Tony Abbruzzi

Treasurer: Alvis Webster

Vice President: Joe King

Chaplain: Melvin Martin

Secretary: Dirk Sprenger

Editor: Kurt Moore



Last Call!!
Volunteer April 22 for
the Mebane Dogwood
Festival!

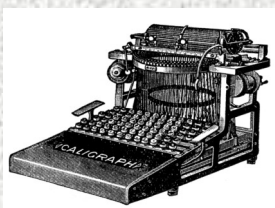
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"The first day of spring was once the time for taking the young virgins into the fields, there in dalliance to set an example in fertility for nature to follow. Now we just set the clocks an hour ahead and change the oil in the crankcase."

- E.B. White, "Hot Weather," One Man's Meat, 1944

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. Please send to me via email to bikehasher@gmail.com. Thanks. Kurt.

Bring Your Money for Dogwood Festival Raffle Tickets

At our March meeting each member will receive 20 Raffle Tickets for the Dogwood Festival to be held April 22nd. The tickets are \$1 each. Members are requested to either sell the tickets or purchase them as gifts for family and friends. It would be nice if members can pay for the tickets at this meeting.

Member's Birthdays

Dennis Cox—March 9

Note: anyone who has not sent in your birthday, please do so. Your perk is to head the chow line with our guests!

Website Contact

Dick Annand has volunteered to be the club website phone contact to answer, or to forward to any member to answer, any questions about membership or about the club that comes through the website. Contact: 336-449-7225 or Trowelman@earthlink.net

Club News

February Meeting Highlights

Our scheduled speaker, Rett Davis, who was going to present on “Historical Horticulture” had to cancel due to other obligations. We hope that we can reschedule him later. Tony Abruzzi jumped in to save the day and gave his presentation, originally scheduled for October, on “Africanized Honey Bees: Where Are They Now and When Will They Get Here?” Spoiler Alert! - Not yet. While the question is when they will arrive in North Carolina, the other half of the question is will they be able to establish permanent colonies since there is some question as to whether they can survive the prolonged winter.

Preparations are being made for the Annual Dogwood Festival. Club Treasurer Alvis Webster reported that the same three booths that we had had in previous years were requested. This year we will also be selling gardening gloves at the festival. Please wear your shirts to the festival. If you need a shirt, please contact Alvis as he will be putting in an order for additional shirts.

Dudley Clinard asked if we would add the New Leaf Society to our list of club donations. There was a discussion about whether to create a new donation or to increase support of our existing donees. Alvis Webster requested that Tony Abruzzi to set up a committee to review and make recommendations to the club about increasing current donations. Dick Annand (Chair)) volunteered along with Ron Namest and Kurt Moore. Club Donations (checks) will be distributed at our July 2017 Club meeting.

Area Plant Sales

March 1-31 – Alamance 4H Plant Sale: place orders March 1 – 31; pick up April 6-7

April 1 – Spring Plant Sale, Duke Gardens, Durham

April 1 – JC Raulston Arboretum Plant Sale, NCSU, Raleigh (admission fee)

April 8 – Ciener Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale, Kernersville (0800-1200)

April 20 – ACC Spring plant sale – main campus, Mebane

April 20-21 – Women’s Resource Center Herb Festival, Burlington, NC

April 22 – Mebane Dogwood Festival

April 29 – Native plant sale and festival – NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill

May 12-13 – Guilford county EMGV plant sale – Guilford Extension Service



SHELF LIFE OF SEEDS

Just found some seed packets from 2014? Should you give it a try or go buy new ones? People always wonder about how long they can save seeds. When properly stored, they can last even longer than in the table below. I found the info below in a short article from the Extension Service at West Virginia University by Roberta Jackson, WVU-Harrison County Master Gardener. There are also tips on storage and for selecting from this year's crop to decide which seeds you want to save for next year. For the full article go to: <http://harrison.ext.wvu.edu/r/download/60363>

Vegetable Seeds		Flower Seeds
1 year	Leek, onion, parsnip	delphinium
2 year	Corn, okra, parsley	Aster, phlox, sweet pea
3 year	Asparagus, beans, carrot, parsley	African daisy, cosmos, Dusty Miller, marigold, pansy, petunia, scabiosa, Shasta Daisy, snapdragon
4 year	Beet, Brussels sprouts, mustard, pepper,	Sweet alyssum
5 year	Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collard, cucumber, eggplant, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, muskmelon, radish, rutabaga, spinach, squash, turnip, watermelon	Calendula, carnation, chrysanthemum, hollyhock, nasturtium, stock, zinnia

SHELF LIFE RECORD

In 2005, botanical researcher Dr. Elaine Solowey, successfully sprouted a pit from the Judean Date Palm, a species that had been extinct since about 500 AD. Approximately 2000 years old, the seed came from a small stash of seeds in a clay jar excavated by archaeologists at Masada in the 1960s and stored at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.