

WE HELP GARDENERS GROW

The Seedling – December 2017

Volume 42, Issue 12

The Men’s Garden Club of Burlington, NC



Next Meeting: January 23, 2018 — Bring a guest!
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

Mark Daniely “Safe Use and Application of Pesticides”



A Message from President Tony Abbruzzi

Gentlemen,

As I sit down to write my final input for the award-winning *Seedling* I am gazing out the window of my home at 6,000,000 new leaves that weren’t there after I completed blowing them into the deep woods yesterday. The good thing is that most of the trees are now void of their leaves so maybe only one more day of leaf disposal will be required.

I would like to express my sincere

gratitude to Joe King, Alvis Webster, Dirk Sprenger, Dudley Clinard, Kurt Moore, Melvin Martin, and Wayne Smith for their unselfish dedication to the Garden Club this year. During the five years that I have been president many of them have held the same or a different position. There are others in our group who have also served as officers and for that I am extremely grateful. I am also thankful for those members that have so diligently worked as organizers of different

events like the Dogwood Festival, Hospice work days, Hospice Plant Sale preparations, and many others. Some members were unable to contribute as much as they would have liked because they were working or had other more pressing responsibilities but they came out and contributed what they could and you can’t ask for more than that.

I did not accomplish some of the goals that I had set like

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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

**Happy Holidays
And
Best Wishes
For
2018!**

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filling all of the round tables with active members but we did grow thanks to your recruiting efforts and the fine programs you delivered or obtained speakers for.

We also updated our By-Laws, established guidelines for the distribution of funds to our benefactors, created a framework with which to select the Gardener of the Year, created a website, streamlined the manner in which our meetings were conducted, created a marketing flyer, and became more known in the community through regular appearances in the local newspaper. There may be many more items or individuals that I failed to mention or thank but that is only because of my inability to remember.

Thank you for a very rewarding and enjoyable five years as president. I never quite got used to those pesky Roberts Rules of Order since in my previous life meetings were run quite differently and it is difficult to teach an old dog new tricks.

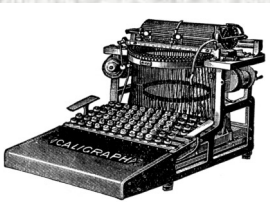
"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st, and ends on December 31."

- Marie Huston

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

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 and let me know that it is for the newsletter. Thanks. Kurt.

Member's Birthdays

Dudley Clinard — Dec 9 Don Mundy — Dec 27

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 Item for December Meeting

Remember that we DO NOT have a December meeting! We'll see you January 23rd.

November Meeting Highlights

November saw the election of new officers for 2018: Dirk Sprenger—President; Wayne Smith—Vice President; Harry Porthouse-Secretary; and Ray Schwartz-Treasurer. The following non-elected positions will continue for 2018: Dudley Clinard, Member-at-Large; Melvin Martin, Chaplain; and Kurt Moore, Newsletter Editor. Dirk Sprenger gave a presentation on the Braceros Mexican agricultural Guest Worker program (1942-1964) from his personal perspective growing up on a cucumber farm in his youth.



Christmas Tree Industry in NC—Did You Know?

North Carolina produces over 20% of the real Christmas trees in the United States, with over 1,600 Christmas Tree growers and a total of 34.2 million trees growing on 23,530 acres. The NC Christmas Tree industry is ranked second in the nation, behind Oregon in the number of trees harvested and first in the nation in terms of dollars made per tree. Ninety-nine percent of the trees produced in NC are Fraser fir. Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Watauga, and Jackson counties produce 88% of the state's Christmas trees. It takes as long as 12 years to grow a tree to an average retail height of 6-7 ft. The average 6-7 foot Fraser fir Christmas tree has been visited by the grower more than 100 times during its life.

The North Carolina Fraser fir has been judged the Nation's best through a contest sponsored by the National Christmas Tree Association and chosen for the official White House Christmas tree 13 times (more than any other species)....1971, 1973, 1982, 1984, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2005, 2007, 2008 2012, and soon to be 2018!

More info at: <http://www.ncchristmastrees.com/educational-environmental/tree-facts>

12 Plants Associated with Christmas

Holly—Ivy—Mistletoe—Christmas Cactus—Poinsettia—Christmas Tree—Frankincense— Myrrh—
Pear Tree—Cranberry—Brazil Nut—Cocoa

Of the 12, five are from the New World and did not enter Western Christmas traditions before the 1600-1800s: Christmas Cactus (from the Amazon), Poinsettia (originally from Mexico), Cranberry (from New England), Brazil Nut (can you guess?), and Cocoa (Central America).

Holiday Gift Giving Guide

From the Members

Members have shared some of their favorite online shopping sites for the upcoming holiday season for supplies from “toys” to serious tools. Make sure Santa knows what you want and where to get it!

AgriSupply: www.agrisupply.com (retail store in Gardner, NC)

Burpee's (not just seeds) www.burpee.com/gardening-supplies

Craigslist (see other NC city listings): <https://greensboro.craigslist.org>

Gardener's Supply: www.gardeners.com

Greenhouse Megastore: www.greenhousemegastore.com

Lee Valley Tools: www.leevalley.com/us/garden/WhatsNew.aspx

Plow and Hearth: www.plowhearth.com/garden-tools-and-supplies.htm

Urban Garden Supply (for the indoor gardener): www.urbangardensupply.net

For a longer annotated list including many sites that I did not know about:

39 of the Best Online Gardening Stores: www.backyardboss.net/online-gardening-stores



For the January issue, please send me the names/URLs of your favorite seed and bulb catalogues with any notes or comments.