

The Seedling – December 2019

Volume 44, Issue 12

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC

<https://burlingtonmensgarden.club>



Next Meeting: January 2020 Bring a guest!
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

"Orchids"
Ray Schwartz

A Message from President Dirk Sprenger

Greetings members and friends,

Christmas music and other winter holidays have filled our calendars. I read about mistletoe and make peanut brittle & mince pie during my spare time, which is shrinking. Our membership must grow next year and we have a plan in the works.

The November meeting was cozy with 8 of us and we donned our new Club Shirts and listened to Ray Schwartz explain some old ways of farming that are becoming new ways in 2020. I have much to reflect on and be thankful for this season. For one, the ability to keep learning about plants and soil from the North Carolina Ag community. For example, I've learned

there are two types of mistletoe, the 'true' mistletoe which has become visible because leaves are all falling down, and the dwarf which attacks only conifers. Like the elves that make the toys and candy, most folks are not aware that the dwarf mistletoe is busy sapping the strength of huge trees all around. During this downtime (no club meeting this month) we too are unseen getting ready for next year. The officers will meet early in January and put together a multifaceted program to bring in some young talent and double our membership in 2020.

I am also thankful for the harvest of ten gourds

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Officers & Contacts

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President: Dirk Sprenger	Treasurer: Ray Schwartz
Vice President: Ron Namest	Chaplain: Bob Held
Secretary: Harry Porthouse	Seedling Editor: Kurt Moore



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that I put into the barn today. (They must dry until April.) I am thankful for my family that continues to grow Christmas trees in Michigan and my family here in Hillsborough who continue to support my efforts in Gardening. Last but not least I am thankful for they guys who helped us overcome many obstacles this year and signed up to do it again by running for office this month. It has been a very memorable year in the Men's Garden Club.

I close now with a DECEMBER POEM stirring in the kitchen of my mind:

Plant seeds of friendship all around, the sprouts that come up will astound.

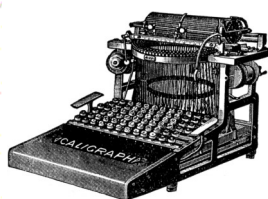
Plant bulbs and trees before the ground freezes, you'll sleep well as you dream of future blooms and breezes.

Plant smiles and hugs, - - and be kind to the ladybugs.

Be careful on those roads and walkways and have a very, very happy and safe Christmas and New Years Holiday season.

Dirk Warren Sprenger

Editor's corner



Send me your news for 2020!

The year is almost done. When we meet again it will be 2020. Hard to believe—seems like Y2K was only a few years back. 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 me and let me know that it is for the newsletter. Kurt.

December Birthdays

Michael Bradley—17th

Your perk is to head the chow line with our guests!

Important Agenda Items Next Meeting

There will be no December meeting as usual. Our next meeting will be in 2020 to ring in the next year. If you have not paid your dues for 2020 and/or not picked up your new shirt, bring your hard earned money to the next meeting, or mail it to Ray Schwartz. Ray will also be our January speaker on the topic of "Orchids". Please see pages 4 and 5 for some photos that Ray took at the NC Annual Orchid Show in October.



November Meeting Highlights

The November meeting was very sparsely attended, there fore we did not have a quorum and could not elect the slate of officers proposed for 2020 (see below). The nomination committee will send a ballot by email and snail mail to those who were not present at the November meeting.



Dr. Mueller, our proposed speaker had to cancel at the last minute. Instead, we had an interesting talk by Ray Schwartz on “Regenerative Agriculture” which combines aspects of sustainability, permaculture and other earth-friendly agricultural practices.

Ray also brought our long awaited shirts! Please come pick your up at the next meeting.

Position	Current	Nominee #1	Nominee #2
President	Dirk Sprenger	Dirk Sprenger	
Vice-President	Ron Namest	Eric Levine	
Secretary	Harry Porthouse	Harry Porthouse	
Treasurer	Ray Schwartz	Ray Schwartz	
Chaplain	Bob Held	Bob Held	
Historian (newsletter)	Kurt Moore	Kurt Moore	
Member-at-large	Alvis Webster	Alvis Webster	
Current Officers & Nominations for 2020			

2020 Plant and Garden Sales

Winter hasn't officially started, but people are already looking towards Spring and organizing the first round of garden sales and plant shows.

March 28—Duke Garden's Spring Plant Sale <https://gardens.duke.edu/events/plant-sales> (details TBA)

April 17-18—Women's Resource Center 21st Annual Herb Festival, 0830-1900 (Friday) & 0830-1500 (Sat), Burlington, <https://festivalnet.com/2399/Burlington-North-Carolina/Home-and-Garden-Shows/Herb-Festival>

April 24-25 – 32nd Annual Mebane Dogwood Festival <https://www.visitalamance.com/event/32nd-annual-mebane-dogwood-festival/15114/>

May 8-9 —Guilford Master Gardeners Pass-along Plant Sale, Ag Extension Service, Greensboro, NC. Friday 9 am—3 pm, Saturday 9 am—1 pm.

plant
sale

From the Members



Pictures by Ray Schwartz from the NC Orchid Society
Show held in Raleigh in October





Holiday Gourd Collection

Photo by Dirk Sprenger

