

The Seedling – January 2021

Volume 46, Issue 1

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC

<https://burlingtonmensgarden.club>



Next Meeting: January 26, 2021 Bring a guest!
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
 Topic: *No Meeting*
 Send suggestions for 2021 programs



A Message from President Dirk Sprenger

Dear Members and Friends of the Garden Club

The club has reached "critical mass." We have more than 12 renewing members as of January 7th, counting my buddy in Pennsylvania, Dennis, and our newest member Steve Wright. Therefore, I have high hope for our club, fiscally, socially, and educationally. I think if 11 football players (Georgia Tech vs. Cumberland for example) can score 200 points in a single college game, then our club can, in spite of Covid, sell more tomatoes, more shrubs, trees, and flower bulbs than last year. We can do whatever it takes to thrive and grow this Spring.

I thank each of you for your faithfulness last year in attending meetings and going beyond previous

years in donations. Each day you moved us closer to the goal post! We learned a lot in the uphill battle to conduct Club business online and plan a picnic in an unprecedented environment. A motto you may have heard at work truly applies to our future successes: Prior planning prevents poor performance. Now our victory gardens are ready to sprout with success in 2021.

Here are some facts which give us all hope for 2021. Our faithful customers told us they missed our April Tomato Plant Sale, therefore we can sell a bunch this year, with or without a festival. We have three new members from 2020 who are eager to serve with us this year: Eric,

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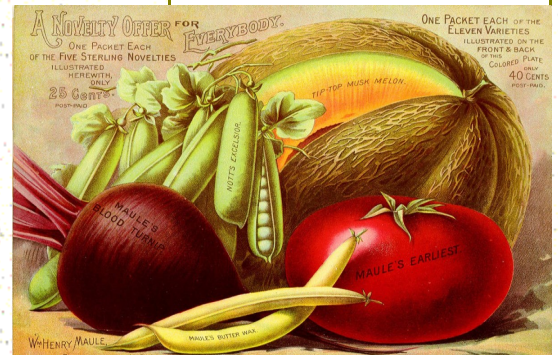
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Officers & Contacts

59MOGGUY@GMAIL.COM

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



Continued from page one

Steve and John. The January Club election is coming up so you will get a ballot soon in your email, paper mail, or in person. These are candidates willing to give of their time freely for many months. **Please take the time to vote.** Finally, the interest in Urban Gardens and Community Gardens has never been higher. We can harness this to help our club and to help Horticulture in Alamance County more than ever before.

On a personal note, this is a comical report from my gardening hobby of late.

- I acquired my first case of so-called winter poison ivy on Dec. 25th. I'll share details on the Zoom call (monthly meeting).
- Collards are doing well since the frost made the slugs go away.
- Garlic has come up 2 months early. There are still some green leaves on the cherry tree.
- My lasagna garden has grown and we are recycling more organic waste through it, such as apple cores, than ever. Thanks to the club for teaching on that topic.

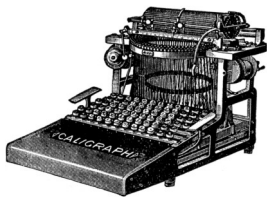
In closing, I give you all a gardeners handshake, a greeting for Epiphany and a boisterous Happy New Year.

As the little blue steam engine says: I think we can, I think we can, I think we can!
1930 Children's Book).

Dirk Warren Sprenger

Editor's corner

Send me your news for 2021! - What are you planting this year?



The New Year is here! Please feel free to send me new content that you would like to share with your fellow members—upcoming events, gardening tips, resources, pictures, 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.

January Birthdays

Dirk Sprenger—4th Alvis Webster—20th

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

Upcoming Meeting

The club will host the regular January 26, meeting virtually via Zoom starting at 6:30. Harry Porthouse will send out the link for joining the meeting via phone, computer or smart phone. Login instructions are on page 4. You can learn more about Zoom at <https://zoom.us/>. Topic TBD. We will send out an update when available.



November Meeting Highlights (Repeated)

Since we had no December meeting

We held our regular November meeting by Zoom arranged by Harry Porthouse. Instead of a speaker, we watched two short videos (see entire list below) about milkweed which is a host plant for endangered Monarch Butterflies, whose populations have been declining for the last two decades. Thanks to Harry for finding the videos.



Again, we did not have a quorum and thus had a short business meeting. We continued discussions on growing our membership and the publicity required to do that in 2021.

For our upcoming January meeting we will be presenting a slate of officers for 2021. Please attend this and future meetings as we need a quorum to decide on club matters.

2021 Dues are Due

Be sure to get your annual dues (\$15) paid for 2021. Send those to Ray Schwartz, our Treasurer.

PLANTING MILKWEED VIDEOS

For those of you who do not always read the minutes, Harry included a list of a four-part series on growing milkweed to support the Monarch butterfly populations which are in serious decline. We saw parts 2 and 3 at the meeting.

Part 1 Collecting Seeds (9:05)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_d1FMJiLo8

Part 2 Sprouting & Growth (9:31)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICjZk9wbDa0>

Part 3 Ready To Transfer (13:45)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPRBZeQ6Hgk>

Part 4 Banding Pods & Harvest (10:15)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb0VCKR5Aec>

For a longer program on the current state of monarch butterfly research, the following program from Monarch Joint Venture, available through the Ohio State University's 2020 Virtual Insect University is very informative: [Monarch Biology and Conservation: The 10,000 Foot Overview](#).

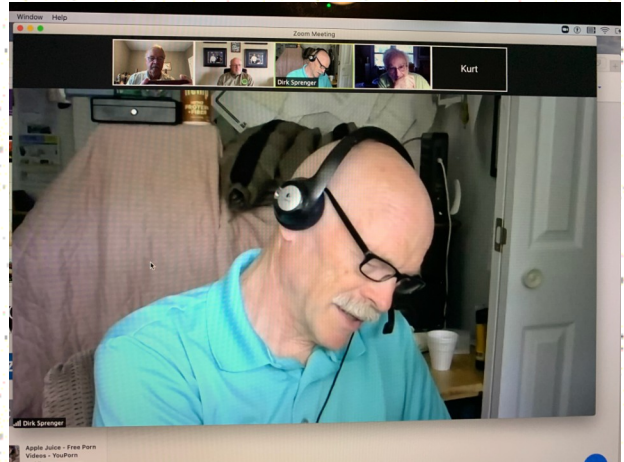
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ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

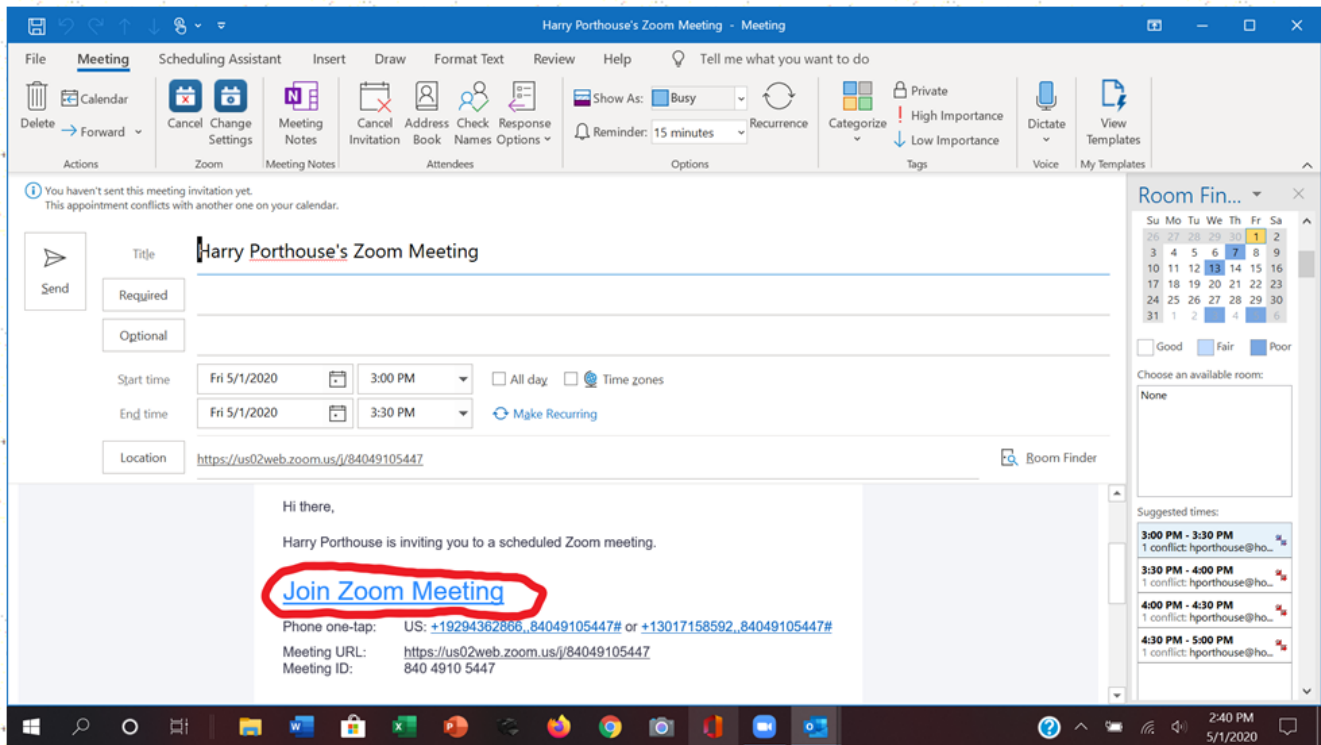
This isn't hard! **We need your attendance.** We rarely have had a quorum to conduct regular business.

We will send you an email containing a meeting invite via Zoom. At the scheduled date and time, join the meeting using one of the following methods. Note: You do not need a camera to participate.

1. To join from a laptop or desktop just click on the blue link (shown in a red circle here so you'll know where to find it).
2. To join from your smart phone, just click one of the "Phone one-tap" links shown below the circle.
3. To join by phone with no video (not recommended, as you will miss a lot of the meeting content), just dial one of the phone numbers at the bottom of the message.



You will be placed in a waiting room, and the moderator will admit you to the meeting.



Gardening in the News—It's Seed Catalogue Season!

By Kurt Moore

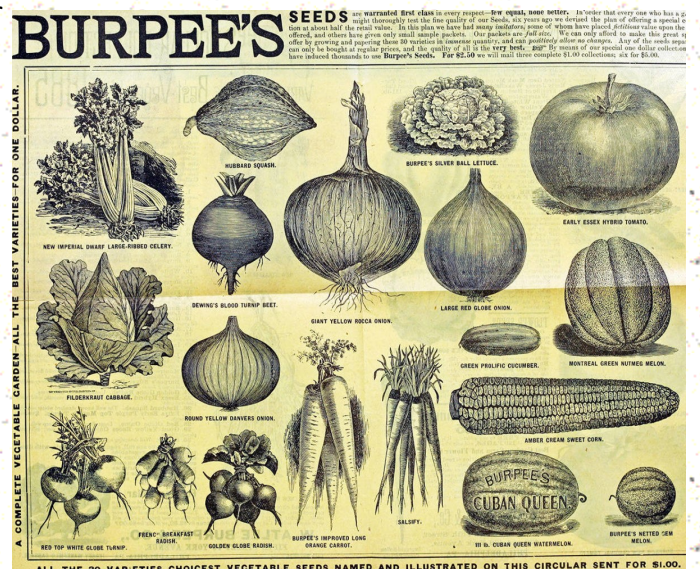
It's that time of year again, "seed catalogue season", when free, colorful catalogues show up in your mailbox. If you have ever purchased seeds by mail or online, as well as any other gardening supplies, rest assured you will get them. They take your mind off of the gloomy winter weather with their color photos and descriptions with a promise of warmer weather and a lush harvest, whether it is cut flowers for the table or edible vegetables. While most are also online, thumbing through the paper versions and tagging pages of anticipated purchases is more fun. However, some will direct you towards their website for special collections not available via the printed catalogue, such as an interesting heirloom tomato I am considering.

While we think of the lists with hand drawn illustrations as something that originated in the late 1800s, seed catalogues are older than you might realize. A recent article noted that "*the oldest surviving plant catalog contains a merchant's list of tulip bulbs for sale in 1612*" (the oldest surviving plant catalog contains a merchant's list of tulip bulbs for sale in 1612" (www.thedailyworld.com/life/seed-money-a-short-history-of-garden-catalogs)). Through the next two centuries as more plants became available via colonial trade, the catalogues became longer, more ornate and with descriptions of how to grow the various plants. This coincided with the popularization of gardening as a hobby. As commercial printing and reliable postal services developed, the catalogues became more colorful, and the hand illustrations became classics.

With today's digital photography and printing there are some really phenomenal illustrations in both the print and online versions. We probably all have our favorites. Gurney's (since 1866), Burpee (1875) and the more recent Johnny's (since 1973) remain perennial favorites. Other recent favorites focus on heirloom seeds such as [Seed Savers Exchange](#) (1975) and [Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#) (1993) and offer varieties that you will be hard pressed to find elsewhere. Then there are some very rare and ancient seed types available through organizations such as the [Dwarf Tomato Project](#), [Native Seeds](#) and [Restoration Seeds](#).

For a list of seed catalogues and websites, Joe Gardener aka Joe Lampl of "Growing a Greener World" has a downloadable pdf with hot links to the site at joegardener.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/MSS-Seed-Sources-List.pdf.

If you grow anything rare or unusual this season, let me know and send pictures and background info for inclusion in a future newsletter.



Cover from the 1896 Burpee Seeds catalogue

Member photos:

From the Members

Below: Another late bloomer, a November clematis from Kurt's yard. The long autumn season also saw some azaleas having a second bloom and daffodils popping up out of season.

Top, page 7: A Kwanzan cherry (left) and some garlic that has sprouted early in Dirk's garden from the late phase of warm weather we had into December. Kwanzan cherries were developed in Japan during the Edo Period (1603-1868).

Bottom left, p. 7: A camellia from Dirk's "old homestead".

Bottom right, p.7: No, it's not a spirit catcher, but carrot greens from Kurt's garden hung out to dry. Dried carrot greens can be substituted for dried parsley. Like most other greens, fresh carrot greens are edible. Haven't tried it yet, but for something different, here is a link to a Japanese [carrot greens salad with sesame seeds](#).





