

The Clod-Hopper



AWARDS BANQUET

The annual awards banquet will be held on December 13 at The University Club (NCSU Faculty Club) on Hillsborough Street. It is a good time to socialize with other club members and “spice” as well as say thank you to the Club members we will honor. Complete the registration form on page 3 of *The Clodhopper* and return the form, with your payment, to Ginny Parker as quickly as possible.

Ginny needs your response by Thanksgiving.



The bar will be open for those wishing to purchase beer, wine or soft drinks. The meal will be served buffet style. The Club has been redecorated this year and there is ramp access to the main entrance under the new covered portico.

BONSAI

We thank Carl Barnett, a member of Triangle Bonsai Society as well as Gardeners of Wake County, for a very interesting program on Bonsai at our October meeting. We also appreciate all those that braved the State Fair traffic to attend the meeting.

Carl grows over 50 Bonsai at his garden in downtown Raleigh. Most are what he calls “Bonsai-in-Training” because it takes ten or more years to develop a plant into what can truly be called Bonsai.

While some house plants are trained for growing as Bonsai indoors, most are outdoor plants that spend the winter outside. The plants are continually pruned and shaped to stay small and well-

formed. The shape or form of the plant is produced by careful pruning then bending the branches by twisting wire around them. Carl prefers aluminum wire for most of the shaping because it is flexible and easy to manipulate. A strong copper wire must be used on larger branches to produce the desired shapes.



The plant Carl used for his demonstration was an azalea that had been in training for about 5 years. The plant got reshaped and repotted so we could see both processes in one demonstration. He prefers not to do both at the same time because it puts the plant under too much stress.

You do not want to remove too much plant material at one time. Carl removed the longest undesired branches and will do the rest of the pruning of side branches and shaping of the plant in the spring. He also trimmed the roots.

(continued on page 4)

CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are at 7:30 pm at the JC Raulston Arboretum

Nov. 15 Annual Business Meeting

Dec. 13 Annual Banquet

DUES ARE DUE

The 2012 membership renewal/application form is also on page 3 just below the banquet reservation. Carole would appreciate getting the renewals in as quickly as possible so we can get the membership directory printed for distribution. It would be nice to have the Directory available at the January meeting and with your help that is possible.

NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

The speaker for the November 15 business meeting is The Honorable Paul Newby, Justice of the NC Supreme Court. His topic is ‘Gentleman Farming in Wake County’. Our 2011 GWC Scholarship winners will be introduced and you will have an opportunity to talk with them during refreshments prior to the meeting.

Mac Williamson has been nominated to serve as Treasurer. The other officers are eligible to serve at least one additional year.

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- Projects vacant
- Publicity Vandy Bradow
- Scholarship Leon Lucas
- Telephone Jim Wilson
- Webmaster Jim Wilson

www.gardenersofwakecounty.org

NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Seeds can still be sown for some of our flowering annuals and biennials. Remove weeds and add organic matter to the soil before sowing the seeds. Some that you might try are foxglove, larkspur, money plant and poppies. This is also the time to start seeds of some perennials. Some such as amsonia (*Blue Star*), monkshood and turtlehead (*Chelone*) need a period of cold stratification to germinate. Sow them in a cold frame to transplant next summer.

There is still time to set out plants of snapdragons, pansies and sweet William. A light mulch around the plants will protect the soil from heavy rain and cold temperatures. Peonies can be planted, or transplanted, as well.



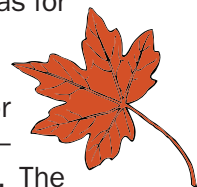
Colder temperatures have killed or damaged flowering annuals and vegetables. Remove the plants from the garden and add them to the compost pile. If the beds will not be replanted until spring it is a good time to add lime and organic material. Then top dress the area with mulch that can be dug into the beds in spring.

If you are growing dahlias they may be overcrowded. Early November, after the tops get frozen back, is a good time to cut them back, divide and replant. It is also a good time to add the bulbs of crocus, daffodils, scilla and snowdrops to a prepared bed — or you might add them to a natural area or the lawn. Remember to add fertilizer when you plant.

Roses can be transplanted until the end of the month. Keep them watered and mulched to protect them from freezing. Allow roses to go dormant by not cutting spent blooms and allowing the blooms to form “rose hips”. Spray the plants and soil with lime-sulfur if you had problems with black spot. Mulch the beds at the end of November. Many rosarians are waiting until January to cut plants back. If a plant is very tall and might be blown over by strong winds you can cut it back after a hard freeze.

This is also the month to check for bag worms on juniper and arborvitae. The eggs in the bags will overwinter to hatch out next spring. You can pick the bags off and destroy them or use a dormant oil spray. Check the backs of the leaves of camellias for scale. Dormant oil will smother those insects as well.

Remember to keep leaves blown or raked out of ground cover beds — especially under oak and maple trees. The leaves can be shredded to use as mulch. Leaving the whole leaves in place smothers the groundcover.



2011 AWARDS BANQUET

The 2011 Awards Banquet will be Tuesday, December 13 at The NCSU University Club (Faculty Club) on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. Appetizers will be served from 6:30 to 7:15 and beer and wine may be purchased from the bar. A buffet dinner will be served at 7:15. Dessert and coffee will be served. The price for each member and their first guest is \$20 each which includes tax and gratuity. The cost for an additional guest is \$36. Please complete the following form and return it with your check made payable to Gardeners of Wake County. Mail to Ginny Parker at the address below.

**Reservation Form – Awards Banquet
December 13, 2011**

Member’s Name _____ \$20.00

Guest’s Name _____ \$20.00

Additional Guest _____ \$36.00

Total Amount \$_____

Return form and check by Thanksgiving to: Ginny Parker, 1801 Ridley St., Raleigh, NC 27608

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Gardening Special Interests _____

Other Interests/Hobbies _____

Sponsor (not required) _____

Membership dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families for the calendar year: January – December. Make checks payable to Gardeners of Wake County. Application form and check are to be mailed to:

Gardeners of Wake County
Carole Johnson, Membership Chairman
5346 Lake Wendell Rd.
Zebulon, NC 27597

**GARDENERS OF
WAKE COUNTY**

5346 Lake Wendell Road
Zebulon, NC 27597

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit No.2494

Change Service Requested

BONSAI *(continued from page 1)*

Small feeder roots are important for plants that have to get their nutrients and water from the soil in a small container. The large roots get removed when the plant is repotted. Carl removed or cut back about 1/3 of the plant roots. The root-pruned plant was left with a small mass of very fine roots and not much soil.

The azalea was repotted to its new home — a tray larger and more shallow than its previous container. The soil is not the usual bagged house plant potting soil. It is a special Bonsai mix that is very porous. Some Bonsai growers use a premixed soil that is available from some specialty garden supply dealers. Carl prefers to mix his own from equal parts of granite fines, organic matter and native soil. He used a 30-year old bamboo chopstick to carefully pack the bonsai soil into the root mass as he repotted the azalea.

(Your editor used the book “The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes” by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna Halford as a practical reference when she grew Bonsai.)

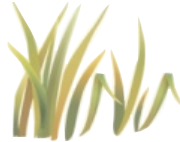
FIELD TRIP

Several GWC members did indeed make a trip to a field of turf grasses in October. They visited the Super Sod farm in Angier on October 5. It is a division of Patten Seed and has its headquarters at the North Carolina Farmers Market on Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh.

Sod is cut daily, even in winter. Most is cut to order and shipped directly to the customer. A Wake County customer can place an order with the Farmers Market location. The sod gets cut in the morning and you can pick it up or have it delivered that afternoon.

The farm has been in operation for 6 years. There are 300 acres of grass in production at the Angier farm. They grow Bermuda, zoysia and fescue on fields widely separated to prevent contamination of one grass with another variety.

Bermuda can be harvested twice a year under ideal conditions. The fields are not replanted from seed. After the field is established, new grass will emerge from stolons of harvested grass that were left in the bed.



Super Sod fescue is grown from seed in fields cultivated for good root growth. They use two types of Rebel fescue seed from Pennington Seed. They find that year-old seed germinates more quickly than fresh seed. Their recommended zoysia is Zenith. It is grown from seeds, not plugs, as was necessary with older varieties.

For additional information check their website www.supersod.com/outlet-locations/raleigh.html

(Thanks to Charles Gilliam for supplying the information in the articles on Carl's bonsai presentation and the field trip.)