

Chapel Hill Garden Club
Newsletter
January — February 2016

LIPPINGS





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Reflections

Editor's Note



Barbara Clare

When I begin working on a new issue of *Clippings*, I first choose the cover photo. Hours fly by as I search for just the right one that fits the season and says WOW. With that arresting image in place, inspiration sets in and I begin working on the contents of *Clippings*.

This month I realized that y'all might like to know more than simply

the botanical and common names of these chosen plants. So when space is available, I'll be giving you more info on these beauties.

This issue's selection, *Ilex glabra*, is perhaps my quietest image to date, yet this modest-looking plant does much to sustain wildlife in the Piedmont.

Genus name in Latin means 'oak' probably because it is similar to the leaf of a Mediterranean oak, *Quercus ilex* (holly oak). Species name means 'smooth' and refers to the plant's leaf surfaces.

Known variously as "Inkberry," "Gallberry,"

'Winterberry,' and 'Appalachian Tea,' the inkberry holly is a native to our area.

Native Americans used dried and roasted inkberry leaves to brew a black tea-like drink, hence the common name, 'Appalachian Tea,' for this shrub.

A slow-growing, evergreen shrub, the inkberry has narrow, glossy, spineless leaves. In the spring, it produces greenish white, inconspicuous flowers followed by jet black, pea-size drupes.

Ilex glabra is more casual in form than the spinier hollies and can be used in borders,

around ponds, as foundation plantings, or in woodland gardens. Gallberry honey is produced from this plant. Beekeepers release bees from late April to early June to coincide with inkberry flowering time.

An evergreen native that the DEER DON'T EAT and provides food for the birds and bees — what's not to like?

Care: Plant in moist, well-drained soil. Plant or transplant in spring. Prune in early spring to keep from getting leggy.

Height: 6 ft. to 10 ft.
Spread: 6 ft. to 10 ft.

Light Full Sun to Part Shade

From Our President

I was recently browsing the history of our club and in addition to being generally impressed with what an engaged group we have always been, I noticed that floral design has played a significant part since our inception. In my relatively short history as a member, I have seen Floral Design blossom (couldn't help myself) into one of our most vibrant programs. This is a result of the education we offer - Workshops and Design Guilds - teaching the art.

For this we are indebted to Betsy Nininger and her partner, Jinny Marino. Betsy did not know I was planning this piece when she sent me a missive titled "The Case for Floral Design and Horticulture in a Garden Club". A coincidence or just how the world works!

To quote Betsy:

"Everyone in a garden club enjoys 'growing things' likewise, if we grow things it naturally

falls that we want to share what we grow, to educate others, to please others, to broaden ourselves. The natural offshoot of growing flowers is putting them into a design, the next natural offshoot is to share that design with others through having a flower show. Same with Horticulture. Entering a plant class in a show is the natural follow up to growing that plant."



Char Thomann

Reflections

From Our President cont.

We all are the beneficiary of Betsy's enthusiasm. You may not have contributed to the floral designs at our recent Holiday Tea, but you certainly enjoyed them.

These designs were done not only by some of our seasoned designers but also by brand new members and older members new to design. Under Betsy's mentorship, those who didn't think they could, have been transformed into confident (well,

getting there) floral designers.

So I encourage you to participate in our Floral Design program and stay tuned for what she's got planned for next year.

Thanks Betsy!

~ Char

*W*ELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Mary Jo Pringle

Elisabeth Plattner

Jennifer Schmidt

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

2 — 4pm

Home of Gill Roberts
607 S. Camellia Street
Chapel Hill, 27516



Events Calendar

JANUARY

- 5 Board Meeting. Bell Seminar Room. 10 am — 12 pm
- 19 Tour Committee Meeting. 2 — 4 pm
- 26 Club Meeting: Woody Winter Wonderland. 9:30 am

FEBRUARY

- 6 Board Meeting. Bell Seminar Room. 10 am — 12 pm
- 16 Tour Committee Meeting. 2 — 4 pm
- 23 Club Meeting: Farm to Table. 9:30 am
- 29 Field Trip: Wing Haven Garden. 10 am *

CONTACT INFO

- * FIELD TRIP: For details, see page 8.

Club Events

WOODY WINTER WONDERLAND

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

FEATURING
BRIE ARTHUR



Foodscape and Landscape Design correspondent on the PBS TV show, *Growing A Greener World*, **Brie Arthur** will reveal her favorite winter woody plants for winter interest. We'll see trees and shrubs with interesting branches, berries, foliage and flowers that can add texture, color and food to our winter landscape.

For her gardening adventures, see: GrowingAGreenerWorld.com

Club Events



FARM TO TABLE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FEATURING
LEE & LARRY NEWLIN

Lee & Larry Newlin are owners of Peaceful River Farm where they grow vegetables, herbs and berries and offer Healthy Cooking classes. They will share tips for growing vegetables and herbs and preparing meals using fresh produce.

Club Events

FIELD TRIP



Wing Haven Gardens & Bird Sanctuary

248 Ridgewood Avenue
Charlotte, NC

winghavengardens.com

Monday, February 29, 2016

10 am; \$15.00

You must provide your own transportation.
Most of us are adding this on to the Davidson trip.

Please let Ruth Little know if you're joining us.
mommapudding@gmail.com

TWO ELIZABETHS.

TWO VISIONS.

TWO GARDENS.

A generation ago two extraordinary women named Elizabeth lived and gardened just down the street from one another on Ridgewood Avenue.

Elizabeth Clarkson was not your garden variety gardener: This Elizabeth developed her formal garden as a habitat for songbirds — long before the horticultural concept of the garden as *habitat* existed.

Elizabeth Lawrence wrote the book on southern gardening: This Elizabeth, author of *A Southern Garden*, designed her garden as a plant *laboratory* in which she might grow *some of everything that grows*.



Elizabeth Clarkson



Elizabeth Lawrence

Together, [they] made Ridgewood Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, one of the most famous addresses in Southern garden history.

Club Events

USER-FRIENDLY QR TECHNOLOGY COMES TO OUR 2016 TOUR

Do you have a QR reader on your smart phone?
If not, you can download one from the your app store for free like I did.
A QR reader will benefit your tour experience in two ways.

First, you can scan your QR reader on the QR code square below,
which is specific to our Tour and it will take you directly
to the Tour website where you can buy tickets
and read about the Tour.

Secondly, some 100 magnificent trees in the Coker-Burns Garden
have QR codes located at their trunks;
scanning those QR codes will provide you with more detailed information
about each tree species as you tour that garden.

Give it a try; scan the QR code below.

Ty Elliott
Tour Chair 2016

QR
CODE



Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour

April 30 & May 1, 2016

Tickets on sale now

chapelhillgardentour.net

 Chapel Hill Garden Club



NCBG Events

NCBG is *thrilled*
to celebrate the highly-anticipated
Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour.

Join us for our Prelude Party
“Step into Spring”

Thursday, April 28, 2016
6:30 — 8:30pm
North Carolina Botanical Garden

Enjoy light hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine while
CHGC recognizes the homeowners
who are opening their beautiful gardens to Tour-goers.

Presentation by Chip Callaway
Landscape Architect & Historic Preservationist
Designer of Fitch-Sweet and Coker-Burns Gardens

“...Chip Callaway's Southern designs are a study in living history.”
Logan Ward, “The Garden Artist,” *Garden and Gun*, Dec. 2009 - Jan.2010

Purchase your tickets: ncbg.unc.edu/gardentour

Or contact Victoria Caster : 919.962.2231

Club News

FLORAL DESIGN: WORKSHOP 1

BETSY NININGER



Left to Right: Anna DiConti, BJ Vogel, Terry Leese, Louise Law, Maggie Conger, Ellen Cuttler, Susan Housmann.

Talented beginners pose with their beautiful white and green Crescent Designs containing Bells of Ireland, Roses, Green Carnations, Myrtle and Philodendra leaves.

Members are welcome to visit & observe floral design sessions, but **please email Betsy** before you go. betniningerg@gmail.com

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONVENTION



To Register, click on this link:

[2016 SAR Convention Registration](#)

Our Roots Run Deep



First CHGC President, Josephine Pritchard, in her garden, 1933.

CHGC — Enriching the Soil & Soul of Chapel Hill for 85 Years

In the dark days of the Depression in 1931,

five women committed to beautifying Chapel Hill and their own home gardens, launched the Chapel Hill Garden Club.

From its inception, the CHGC maintained a policy of open membership. Unlike other garden clubs where membership is by invitation only and limited in number, CHGC welcomed and continues to welcome any garden enthusiasts.

Our Roots Run Deep

Club History, continued.

In the 1930s our Club...

- Had its first Flower Show.
- Established bird refuges along Laurel Hill, Battle Park and University Reservoir.
- Placed baskets of flowers and plants on the Post Office steps for anyone to claim.
- Provided floral arrangements for the University Infirmary every day.

In the 1940s our Club...

- Membership reached over 100.
- Landscaped 78 gardens in a trailer park beautification project.
- Donated funds for seeds to help England restore its gardens after WWII.

In the 1950s our Club...

- Helped create a designated Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mason Farm district.
- Helped prevent the building of large roadside billboards at Chapel Hill's entrances.
- Provided between 200-500 fresh floral arrangements a year for Memorial Hospital.
- Established and maintained our own 'cutting garden' which provided flowers for the arrangements the Club created for the community.

In the 1960s our Club...

- Began a Club newsletter and the tradition of the Friendship Bouquet.
- Advocated conservation of open spaces, roadside cleanup and beautification.
- Planted 52 crape myrtles on Strowd Hill when East Franklin Street was widened.
For decades each spring, members pruned these crape myrtles.

In the 1970s our Club...

- Found a permanent home at the North Carolina Botanical Garden.
- Members were volunteering 300 hours per month at NCBG.

In the 1980s our Club...

- Had a flower show at the Fearington Barn.
- Received an a state award for landscape design at Stonybrook subdivision.
- Adopted Jones Park. Cleared land for nature trails, rescued plants, identified and marked native flora, landscaped the entrance.

In the 1990s our Club...

- Established the Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour.
- Landscaped gardens at the Horace Williams House.
- Began our support for Habitat for Humanity home gardens.

In the 2000s our Club...

- Gave \$\$\$ to the Botanical Gardens raised from our Spring Garden Tours.
- Offered workshops in floral design and engaging field trips.
- Created the hummingbird garden at the Chapel Hill Ronald McDonald House and maintained various gardens at community sites.
- Established a Club website, a Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour website, a Facebook site, a Twitter account and an Instagram account.

Go Outside

SNOWDROP WALK AT MONTROSE GARDEN

CHAR THOMANN



Anna Berry & Ruth Little in 'Galanthus pose.'

Recently Anna Berry, Ruth Little and

Char Thomann attended a walk through the snowdrop woods at Montrose Garden in Hillsborough.

The snowdrop on display was *Galanthus elwesii* var. *monostictus*. This is an early blooming *Galanthus*, at its peak in late November. Among the THOUSANDS of *monostictus* there were a few *G. elwesii* 'Grumpy' to be found.

Our guides pointed out distinct variations on the inner segments of some other snowdrops; these may someday have their own cultivar names. **One must assume the 'Galanthophile position' - on hands and knees - to observe these differences!**

In the US one could potentially have *Galanthus* in bloom from October through April. *G. reginae-olgae* in October; *G. woronowii* into April and many others species in between.

At least one of our trio has become obsessed with snowdrops! Hint: she has a British accent.

Though not native, they have a long history in Britain where there are well over 500 varieties identified. While not in bloom at the time, we were in awe at the number of Cyclamen that along with the snowdrops carpeted the woodland garden. So many that we could not help but step on the foliage as they grew into the paths. What a sight to be there for the Cyclamen bloom! Though as the foliage was varied there must be a number of species/cultivars and so would not flower at the same time. A good thing.

Go Outside

SNOWDROP WALK AT MONTROSE GARDEN CONT.



'Galanthus River'



'Grumpy' - Note two eyes & a downturned mouth.

More information:

Fine Gardening - February 2016 issue
Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade

hortmag.com/archive/gardener_nancy_goodwin

carolynsshadegardens.com/

revolution-snowdrops.co.uk/

nytimes.com/2012/03/08/garden/nancy-goodwins-montrose-garden-blooms-in-a-mild-winter.html?_r=0

Planet Botanic

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 4,000 KINDS OF BEES IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

ADRIAN HIGGINS

WASHINGTONPOST.COM

JANUARY 6, 2016



This article expands on Debbie Roos' pollinator talk and anticipates the Newlin's upcoming "Farm to Table" presentation.

With its striped abdomen, furry thorax and large compound eyes, this may look like the quintessential honeybee, but it is a bee named *Colletes*, feeding on a prairie clover. (Joseph Wilson)

At social gatherings, when folks learn that Joseph Wilson is an expert on bees, they sometimes parade their knowledge of these insects: Bees live in large colonies with their mother queen, they make great stores of honey and if they sting, the stinger stays attached to your skin.

This is all true for the honeybee, but not for the 4,000 other species of bee found in the United States and Canada. "They don't live in big hives, they don't make honey and they can sting you multiple times," Wilson said. "All those things they thought applied to bees are an anomaly."

Honeybees have been husbanded for centuries, valued for their honey, their wax, their ability as supreme pollinators to make an apple orchard all the more fruitful. Their struggle with colony collapse disorder in recent years has captured the popular imagination. As someone who has kept bees, I can say that honeybees are an enchanting, if somewhat needy, form of livestock. The one thing they are not: "a poster child for other bees," said Wilson, a biology professor at Utah State University.

The colony losses of the honeybee — linked to pesticide use, parasitic mites and other factors — have broadened a sense of our reliance on pollinators in general.

Planet Botanic

BEES, CONT.



The largest and smallest kinds of bee found in North America.
Left, *Perdita*. Right, *Xylocopa*.

Most of us know the large, black and pesky carpenter bee that gnaws into our decks in May or the sweet bumblebee that seems oblivious to its own stem-bending heft.

But what of the small iridescent green bead that is the euglossa bee, or the golden Svastra, stocky, woolly and like a miniature teddy bear with wings.

Yes, bees can sting, but they are generally much more placid than such waspish creatures as yellowjackets and bald-faced hornets, and certainly more agreeable outdoor companions than biting flies. And yet many people can't distinguish a wasp from a fly or bee, never mind among bee species. For people who enjoy and observe the natural world — gardeners, for example — that confusion can seem as odd as calling a cat a dog.

So as folks become more interested in bees, it seemed logical to Wilson and fellow bee biologist Olivia Messinger Carril that people should be more informed as well. The result is their new guide, "[The Bees in Your Backyard](#)," which offers an introduction to a world of bees that is mostly hidden to people who aren't entomologists.

Honeybees can be managed in hives because in nature they congregate in tree cavities, but 70 percent of wild bees nest in the ground, often as solitary insects or as a congregation of loners: Think of an apartment building full of singles. Maybe as many as a third of bees evolved to feed off a given flower or flower family. The others are generalists and will devour whatever nectar and pollen is around.

Planet Botanic

BEES, CONT.

The largest bee in North America is a species of carpenter bee, whose hulking frame smothered most of a quarter. The smallest is a gnat-size species named *Perdita minima* – on the same quarter, it would just about cover George Washington’s nose.

Here’s another honeybee-vs.-wild-bee quirk: For all the colony losses experienced by beekeepers, they can (with work, skill and expense) repopulate lost honeybee hives. The species isn’t imperiled. Wild bee losses may be more troubling: According to the 2014 book “[Bumble Bees of North America](#),” as many as half of the 46 species covered may be in decline.

For many other bee species, their status is murky even to scientists, Carril and Wilson told me, because there is so little historical record of their past presence and abundance. “Nevada, for example,” Wilson said. “It’s probably a very diverse area, but it’s had very little bee research done on it.”

So if we are making gardening resolutions in the new year, it might be good to promise ourselves to do more for these lesser-known bees and to pay more attention to them.

We can attract them the same way we enrich our gardens for other pollinators and ourselves: with an extravagant floriferous garden that blooms abundantly from March to November. We should make sure that we steer clear of pesticides that can harm bees, and buy only plants that haven’t been treated with systemic neonicotinoids. Carril pointed out that the showiest double-flowered blooms offer reduced levels of nectar and pollen.

One of the easiest and most bee-friendly plants is the annual sunflower. Perennial versions are also long-blooming and are high-performing garden plants for summer and fall. Look for varieties of *Helianthus angustifolius* and *H. giganteus*. Asters are also great for bees, along with goldenrods. There are many varieties to consider during the current garden-planning period some people call winter.

You can build nesting boxes for bumblebees (not always successful) or simple wooden blocks drilled with holes for cavity-dwelling bees. Most usefully, keep a dry corner of your yard free of lawn, thick mulch or ground cloth. A dry-laid stone wall offers perfect nesting spaces.

Asked which native bee he likes the most, Wilson said he is captivated by the 600 or so tiny species in the *Perdita* genus. “They’re small, so that’s interesting, but most are specialists in terms of which plants they visit.”

Carril, who lives in Santa Fe but received her doctorate from Southern Illinois University, said she likes the few species of *Exomalopsis* that have moved north of the Mexican border. With their black-and-white-banded abdomens, they are handsome and archetypal. Her other special bee is the *Diadasia*, about two dozen species of medium-to-large bees that evolved to feed from mallow blooms but then adapted to also feed from cactus flowers. Her PhD thesis had to do with why they added a second source. Her research involved removing the antenna of a euthanized bee and placing it between gas electrodes to identify the floral compounds that attracted the bee.

The experiment, she conceded, “sounds bad for a lover of bees. I promised myself that later I would make a large cactus garden.”

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carolinanature.com
il-piccolo.tumblr.com
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pithandvigor.com
winghavengardens.com

Committee Chairs

Heidi Sawyer-Clark
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Ty Elliott
Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour

Liliane Komlos
Community Relations

Vicki Scott/Sue Tiedeman
Community Service

Anna Berry
Field Trips

Betsy Nininger
Floral Design

Jinny Marino
Horticulture

By Committee
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Hospitality Special Events

Debbie DiSabatino
Membership

Barbara Clare
Newsletter

Gil Roberts
Nominating Committee

Daphne McLeod
Photography

Louise Law
Website

Char Thomann/Barbara Clare
Yearbook

Heidi Sawyer-Clark
Youth Garden Club



Hostess of the mostest Debbie West beaming in her kitchen.
Holiday Tea, December 2015.

CLIPPINGS

The Chapel Hill Garden Club
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