



OWC GARDEN CLUB

January 2012

OFFICERS

Cathy Delcambre, Chair, 249-1698
Anne Parker, Editor, newsletter, 249-1985
Betsy Hughes, Secretary,
Carol Herman, Treasurer,

CHAIRS

Yard of the Season, Chris Gillespie
Hostesses, Suzanne Mendell
Photographer, Linda Parker, 249-0888

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Chair: Happy New Year to all of you gardeners! I am really looking forward to having lots of fun AND learning more about gardening this year. Many of us are still working to recover our yards (and homes) from the devastation of Hurricane Irene so there will be lots of interest in pass-along plants this spring. Please keep this in mind as you are thinning out plants in your gardens. The winter is also a great time to get your gardening tools in shape for spring activities. Make sure you clean and sharpen your pruners, loppers and shears. This will be beneficial for both you and your plants, especially if you plan to shape up your holly or camellia bushes in February.

JANUARY PROGRAM

January's program is the "Jump Into Spring" Gardening Conference sponsored by the Craven County master Gardener Volunteer Association on Thursday, January 12 at the Carolina Colours Pavillion in New Bern. Topics to be discussed include Residential Trees, Herb and Vegetable Gardening, Hardscape Design, Beautiful Bulbs, Backyard Camellias and a Camellia Pruning Demonstration.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

We will meet on February 21st at the OWC clubhouse at 9:00 am for the social and 9:30 for the meeting. Suzanne Mendell, Carol McAdoo and Christing Garman have volunteered to hostess the meeting. We have a guest speaker, Matt Hunter, President of the American Camellias Association, who will give a presentation on "Camellias in the Landscape" and "Show Camellias: Past, Present and Future". This meeting will be open to the public.

MARCH PROGRAM

We will meet on m at the OWC clubhouse at 9:00 am for the social and 9:30 for the meeting. As there is no formal program identified for this meeting, I would like to spend our meeting time reviewing all of the changes that were agreed upon at the end of 2011 for our club activities and finalize as best we can our responsibilities, activities and programs for this year. If you have any specific items that you would like to include in the agenda, please let me know.

IN THE GARDEN . . .

Be sure to keep newly planted shrubs and other plants well-watered during winter thaws and mulch them with a 2 inch layer of compost. Now is the time to apply dormant oil sprays on shrubs and trees to smother overwintering insect eggs, aphids, and scale insects. Be sure to read the label for high and low temperature restrictions.

During these great warm spells, it's a good opportunity to attack those small weeds in your garden beds before they become well established.

... AND ONLINE

- Here's an interesting container garden planting calendar from the NC Cooperative Extension folks: http://cals.ncsu.edu/hort_sci/extension/documents/ContainerGardening_final.pdf. While geared to the Piedmont, it will work well for much of the year here in the east. The time for sowing peas, carrots, radishes, and spinach is fast approaching!
- A friend recently recommended this garden blog and website from Margaret Roach: <http://awaytogarden.com/>. Margaret gardens in New England, but many of her ideas transfer readily to any region. Two standouts on the current front page are a selection of beets and a strategy for managing the tendency to go overboard with seed catalogs.

Beat the Rush!

Remember to send your soil samples to the county extension office for testing, so you'll know what your plants will (and won't) need during this growing season.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 22 Arts Festival Open House Clubhouse 12-3

Feb 7 General Meeting 1:00 Clubhouse—2012 Raffle Quilt will be unveiled!

Feb 11 District 8 Arts Festival, Clayton

Feb 13 Clubhouse Inventory 10-12

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

Feb 21 Garden Club 9:00

Feb 23 Soup-n-Games Clubhouse 11-3

Feb 28 New & Potential Member Luncheon (following EC Meeting)



Not long now....