

The Clod-Hopper



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Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. — Raleigh, NC

August 2019

The Little Gardener

by Christine Elliott, Friendship Chair



Although many of us in the GWC grew up in gardening families, Rich Engate's credentials include the CB handle of "Little Gardener." Rich grew up in a gardening family. His great-uncle worked at a landscape nursery and his father grew vegetables. Rich and his father participated in new

ways of growing vegetables through their local 4-H Club. He joined the Navy Seabees after high school and truly traveled the world for 5 years. Using the GI bill to help with college, Rich has been working in construction and in the soil ever since.

Rich and Renee moved to Wake County three years ago from Helena, Alabama. Rich is a Geotechnical Engineer. He is a licensed engineer in AL, MS, NC and VA and is currently involved in many aspects of quality control for some of the large building sites in downtown Raleigh. Renee retired after 27 years of high school teaching when they moved here. She currently enjoys working at NCSU in the sensory analysis department which consists of tasting ice cream, bacon, and sometimes less tasty items. She enjoys spin class, riding her bike on the American Tobacco Trail, cooking and trying new recipes, reading and traveling. Renee, with Rich's able assistance, is the GWC's current refreshments coordinator, so if you enjoy all those yummy nibbles and refreshingly flavored waters, be sure to find her behind the tables and thank her personally for her efforts on our behalf.



Club Meetings

Monthly meetings are at 7:30 PM at the JC Raulston Arboretum every 3rd Tuesday. Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00.

This month, Dr. Will Hooker, Emeritus Professor from NCSU's horticulture department and a landscape architect, artist, and permaculture teacher, presents how to use the land we have in ways that make every aspect of the landscape useful - permaculture. Although not known for its aesthetics, permaculture has become popular for its principles of sustainability and resiliency. Dr. Hooker, has worked to bring a change to the way permaculture is designed. Recently he put it this way, "My mission is to bring good design to permaculture."

Don't miss this speaker! You will surely leave this event with new ideas, a fresh perspective, and a different way of seeing the possibilities in your own back yard.

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Club Officers and Committees

Board members

President: Virginia (Ginny) Parker
Vice President: Kalli Shevzov
Secretary: Jim Moore
Treasurer: Mac Williamson
Immediate Past President: Paul Hoffman
At-large board members: Barbara Brown, Rich Engates, Leslie Cohen, Eddie Robinson

Committees

Activities Chairs: Will Farmer, Reed & Christine Elliott (seed swap), Renee Engates (refreshments), Mark Boone (picnic), Ginny Parker (awards banquet)
Audit: Charles Gilliam, Sharon LaRusch, Reed Elliott, Donna Farmer
Azalea Sale: Charlie Leverett
Beautification Awards: Laine Thomas
Club Awards: Jim Moore
Endowment Investment: Charles Gilliam
Friendship: Chris Elliott
Historical: Donna Farmer
Membership, Barbara Brown
Newsletter Editor: Reed Elliott
Nominating: TBA
Programs: Kalli Shevzov
Projects: Sharon LaRusch, Lynn Swanson
Publicity: Charles Gilliam
Scholarship: Joanne Boone
Telephone: Johnny and Sherrill Johnson
Webmaster: Reed Elliott

Contact Us

For additional information email our Club at gardener@gardenersofwakecounty.org

Contact Ginny Parker, President, by phone at home: 919-832-5483 or by cell: 919-880-3233

Our Club webpage is available at <https://gardenersofwakecounty.weebly.com/>

Gardening to Enchant

(continued from page 1)

When they moved from Alabama, Rich and Renee left behind mature home gardens that Rich had carefully curated over the years. Special memories are of shady gardens, a rose arbor, daylily and iris gardens; a few of which they are trying to recreate at their new home in Apex. The 1/3-acre yard provided a blank slate, and a new beginning in gardening with no mature trees to provide shade.



Renee is the first to admit that she is the annual and perennial flower gal; Rich does all the rest, from planning to execution. He's been hard at work for the last two years laying out garden beds, planning and planting. With all the sun in their yard, growing vegetables has been the easy part. As a way to fill the need for plants in the yard, they propagate hydrangeas snipped from one shady side yard. Perhaps one day they will bring some of the varied hydrangea flowers for us to see, or maybe we could have a "five minute" member talk on how to successfully propagate hydrangeas. Rich has come a long way from the days of "The Little Gardener," but he still loves growing things and working in the soil.

Bringing Good Design to Permaculture

by Kalli Shevzov, Vice President



Is it August already?! That means our meeting on August twentieth is coming up fast! We have an excellent speaker scheduled, Dr. Will Hooker, Emeritus Professor from NCSU's horticulture department. As a landscape architect, artist, and permaculture teacher, Will has developed his homestead to include gardens, artwork, chickens, and fences: all designed to please the eye while performing a function. His yard is a green pocket within city limits.

There are various teachings that focus on the need for proper use of the land we have, but there is one in particular that points to making every aspect of the landscape useful - permaculture. Although not known for its aesthetics, permaculture has become popular for its principles of sustainability and resiliency.

In his profile on the Permaculture Worldwide Network, Dr. Hooker explains how his interest in permaculture began, "Although I have always taught landscape design as an ecologically based discipline, I became concerned, in 1988 while on a cross-continent bicycle trip, that there were almost no people out in the landscape observing what was happening. I looked around for a stronger statement, and eventually found permaculture. Dr. Hooker, has worked to bring a change to the way permaculture is designed. Recently he put it this way, "My mission is to bring good design to permaculture."

While it may take more time for this sustainable practice to become something that the average person would find beautiful, to Dr. Hooker and his colleagues, it's well worth the wait. "If a space is well designed to function seamlessly for its intended use, it will be used; if it is used, it will be loved; and if it is loved, it will become beautiful."

Don't miss this speaker! You will surely leave this event with new ideas, a fresh perspective, and a different way of seeing the possibilities in your own back yard.

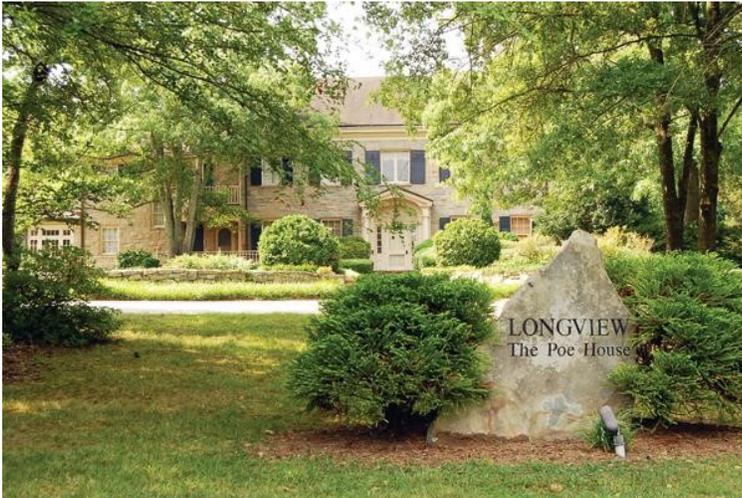


Got Plants? Think Longview!

by Sharon LaRusch

Hi there fellow GWC members!

Hope everyone's staying as cool as possible in this sweltering Raleigh summer weather! With the temps as they have been, a hiatus from the GWC Longview Project couldn't have come at a better time! For the newest members, I hope you will look at the previous *Clod-Hopper* articles on Longview to see its (going on 2 year) history and progress.



At our May picnic, you heard that a plant list was coming for those wanting to contribute to the Longview project. Well, it's here!

On the GWC website, you can now access a complete list of the plants on our submitted plans for The Garden Walk at Longview. The link is clearly indicated in the Longview Project section of the website [or you can just click here](#).

I have crossed through the plants that Lynn and I have

already gotten commitments from various Club members (THANK YOU!). In addition, WakeMed will be helping provide the larger plants on this list but I am leaving such plants unmarked on the list for now.

If you have plants on this list that you would like to donate from your yard or if you have an over-abundance, please email thegarden-walkatlongview@gmail.com with the details. You also can direct your questions there or see Lynn or me at the monthly meeting. If you are visual like me and want to see pictures of any of these needed plants on the list, it just so happens that our very own NC State has an incredible database. You can copy and paste the names into the search box of this link—
https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/

More updates to come! Until then....

Stay cool!



My Corner of the Garden

by Reed Elliott, Editor

Last month I sent out an offer for budding *Clod-Hopper* writers—you write it and I'll publish it. Long-time GWC members Will and Donna Farmer took me up on it so this month we're Growin' Garlic with the Farmers!

In North Carolina, garlic should be fall planted from mid-September (western NC) through November (eastern NC). The cloves must be planted early enough for large root systems to develop before winter begins. A well-established plant will grow rapidly



in the early spring as temperatures begin to rise. Spring planting of garlic is not recommended because the bulbs from spring planted garlic are usually very small and must often be allowed to grow a second season to reach marketable size.



Most strains of garlic require a cold period for about 2 months at 32° to 50°F to initiate bulbing. Fall planted garlic achieves this naturally, but spring planted garlic may benefit from a few weeks in cold storage (at less than 40° F) to produce larger bulbs. The bulbing response is stimulated by long days and warm temperatures in late spring. It is during this time that a flower stalk will develop on some varieties, particularly those of the hard-neck types. To achieve the largest bulbs, break off the flower stalk or pinch

off the flower buds. The young, unopened flower buds are edible and often used in spring salads. If the flower stalk is allowed to grow, the aerial bulbils that develop on some varieties can be used as planting stock that will produce marketable size bulbs in two to three years.

Store planting stock as whole bulbs, breaking the bulbs apart into individual cloves just prior to planting. Plant only damage and disease free cloves. If large bulbs are desired, plant only the largest cloves.



New Members

The Gardeners of Wake County welcomes anyone and everyone who loves gardens and gardening. Does that describe you? If you're not already a member, c'mon and join in on the fun! This is a great Club and we'd love to see your name featured in this box in next month's *Clod-Hopper*!