

The **Clod-Hopper**



Volume 3, digital edition 3

Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. — Raleigh, NC

March 2019

VERITAS—Be All You Can Be

by Christine Elliott, Friendship Chair

Jim and Kathy Moore have been members of the Gardeners of Wake County for about seven years. They are originally from upstate New York where they gardened on three acres of land surrounding their home, a 150 -year-old farm house. They raised their son Matthew there. Kathy was a fourth grade teacher for over 33 years while Jim became a union organizer. Jim is now our Club's secretary.



Although his dad did keep a small vegetable garden and fruit trees, Jim says he didn't learn much about gardening as he was growing up. But three acres of land require attention. Jim and Kathy began collecting gardening books at garage sales and from the library. They learned as they went along.

As an AFSCME union leader Jim was offered the opportunity to return to college and study at Harvard University. There, he encountered and adopted the Harvard motto, Veritas (Truth), for his own. For many months Jim worked and studied from 6 AM until 10 PM each day in a special International program offered by Harvard Law

Club Meetings

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

At our next meeting on March 18th, we've asked award-winning Wake Forest garden writer, photographer and lecturer Pam Beck to tell us what urban gardeners need to be thinking about as we design food and decorative landscaping in a world of changing weather and increasing development. Pam says it's time to reevaluate our landscapes and our relationships with them. She encourages urban gardeners to plan sustainable landscapes filled with healthy plants. Pam advocates using a holistic approach to create gardens that are maintainable, water-wise, nature-friendly, and food-producing. For GWC members who appreciate fine gardens and love North Carolina, this month's inspirational lecture is filled with practical suggestions to take home to your own outdoor habitat.

continued on page 2

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

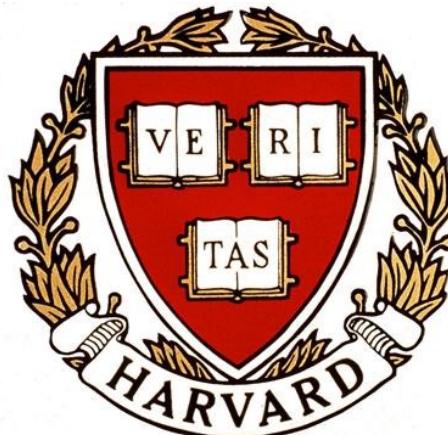
Being All You Can Be (continued from page 1)

and the JFK School of government. He was fortunate to return home twice, and, upon graduation, returned to New York to be in charge of 110 local unions representing over 50,000 union members. Although a huge commitment for the young family, it opened many doors for Jim.

Matthew was attending college at Charlotte, and Kathy and Jim fell in love with the south while visiting him. They discovered the Triangle area and decided to retire here. Like so many of us transplants, they had to relearn gardening in the south. They downsized to a home in Cary on only 1/3 of an acre and quickly started to learn of flowers and shrubs that thrive in their new gardens.

Many years ago at a Club Azalea Sale they met Mac and Vivian Williamson and were encouraged to join the GWC, where they have been active members ever since.

Thank you, Jim and Kathy, for your ongoing efforts to help our Club "be all it can be"



Pam Beck Showcases Urban Sustainable Gardening at the March GWC Meeting

by Kalli Shevzov, Vice-President



This month we've asked award-winning Wake Forest garden writer, photographer and lecturer Pam Beck to tell some of her ideas about what gardeners in Wake County, largely an urban landscape, need to be thinking about as we design both food and decorative landscaping in a world of changing weather and increasing urbanization.

Pam has spoken for years about her belief that it's time to reevaluate our landscapes and our

relationships with them. She encourages urban gardeners to plan sustainable landscapes filled with healthy plants. Pam advocates using a holistic approach to create realistic gardens that are maintainable, water-wise, nature-friendly, and food-producing.

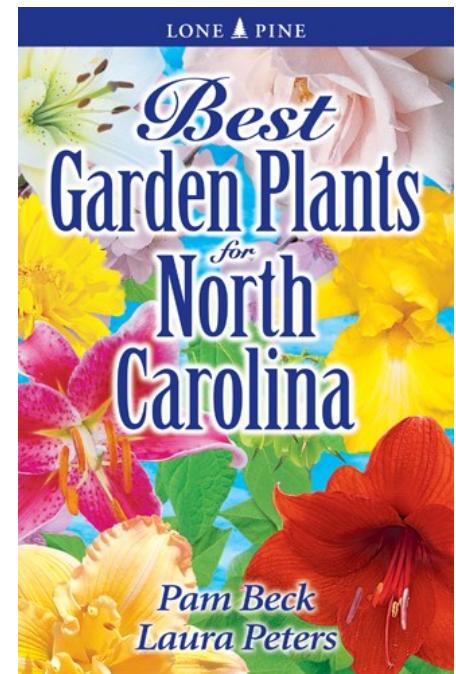


For those not familiar with Pam's work, her articles and photographs have been published in national and regional magazines, newspapers, professional newsletters, and websites since 1988. She has taught adult education landscaping classes, worked in garden centers, done design and installation work, and been a garden scout and photo shoot stylist for *Better Homes and Gardens*. She is co-author of *Best Garden Plants for North Carolina* and a frequent guest on radio programs like WPTF's *Weekend Gardener* and the *Tom Kearney Show*.

Pam has served on the Board of Advisors at the JC Raulston Arboretum, the Arboretum at Johnston Community College, and the Urban Forestry Board of Wake Forest.

When not cultivating her own two-acre property, Pam often travels throughout the southeast speaking to avid gardening audiences – such as the Gardeners of Wake County.

For GWC members who appreciate fine gardens and love North Carolina, this month's inspirational lecture is filled with practical suggestions to take home to your own outdoor habitat.



March—A Two-for-One Month

by Sharon LaRusch



Well January started out with a bang and a great turn-out for the first workday in 2019.

After January's workday, we had a meeting with WakeMed facilities that rendered some more great news. After her trip, Lynn had found the time prior to our meeting to make some adjustments to the Longview design 2.0 so we were able to present the new plans to WakeMed (she is so awesome!). That was so helpful in being able to immediately talk about hardscape timelines and how we needed to structure our efforts accordingly.

WakeMed has interest in doing additional grading so our immediate need is to rescue the brick path so they can re-lay it in the coming months. The smaller equipment used so far has not been good for the path. Larger equipment will make an even bigger impact—ouch!

A quick thank you to all that responded to the request for pallets! It looks as if we have what we will need to begin the process. Special thanks to the Reed and Chris Elliott for their willingness to transport those to Longview.

WakeMed is also planning for lighting and irrigation logistics, so our Club efforts are maximized. The timeline projections are in process so we will keep you posted on that. I thought that since our February workday was moved to March 9th, I would give you some post-workday pictures so you could see the continued efforts by WakeMed. It has been so wonderful to see their involvement and we are so thankful for their work! They will also be providing us with large quantities of mulch prior to our March workday that will help prevent weed growth and further enhance our soil prior to planting! The left and right side have had substantial clearing. They are removing the pool and remaining debris piles.



March—A Two-for-One Month (continued from page 4)

Now you ask yourself, ‘If I can’t make the workdays, how could I still contribute to this incredible project?’

- We are always thankful for photographers and video work - Just as many hands make light work, many angles make for interesting perspectives. If you have the interest in helping, contact Sharon.
- Speaking of perspectives, we like to have an article in the *Clod-Hopper* each month. If you would have interest in submitting an article one month, we would welcome your perspective.
- Last year WakeMed helped with the harvest of four cedar trees from the Longview space. Our intentions are to use the wood for several items like benches, obelisks, birdhouses and the like. If you are a woodworker (or know one) and would like to chat about any of these or even have an idea, we would love to chat with you further.
- Of course, what would a garden be without plants! Some of you are already foster parents and have taken pre-selected plants home to grow up so they make a bigger presence when they come to Longview. We still have plants available!
- Some of us have plants at home that will require thinning or have just been the perfect plant for the spot we had them in but now you might want something else there. (Gardeners always enjoy changing things up). We have a list of plants from The Garden Walk at Longview 3.0 that we will share shortly.

No great things are done by one individual and Lynn and I want to thank everyone again for making this such a tremendous Club project!

Hope to see y'all March 9th (and 23rd, too)!

A Change in the March Longview Schedule

So, I'll bet everyone's wondering where and when the “two -or-one” in March was going to come in. Not one to disappoint—here's the deal:

Our next efforts will come in the form of a **rescue mission**. We have all seen the effect of the equipment on the brick path. With more of that to come, we need to palatalize the brick so it can be saved for relay-ing. WakeMed will take care of moving the pallets for us and then relaying the brick once groundwork has been done. In addition, there are some smaller plants that we would like to pot up and save until there are ready to replant (daffodils, forsythias, nandinas, etc)

We don't need to tell everyone that the weather, so far, has not cooperated. February was a washout **so, we're moving the workday originally scheduled for February 23rd to Saturday March 9th. The original March workday (Saturday, March 23rd) is still on.** As a result, March is a “twofer.”

We'll send out an email one week before each workday to talk about specifics.



Hmmm,
what plants
do I have?

New Members

The Gardeners of Wake County welcome anyone and everyone who loves gardens and gardening. This month we're happy to have added Valarie and William Lorenz of Youngsville. Be sure to say “Hi and welcome” when you see them at the next meeting.

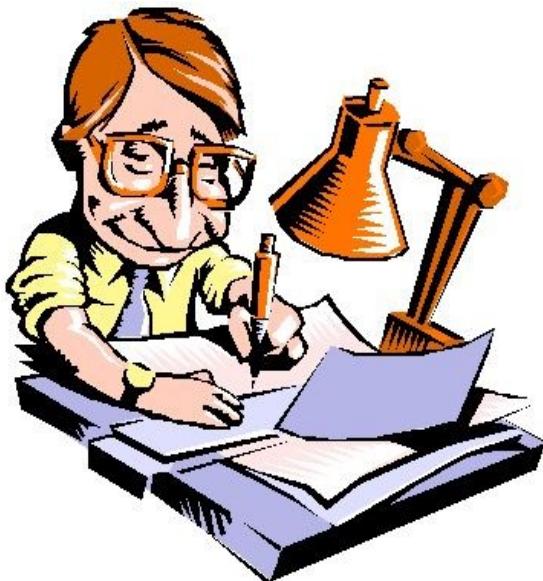
My Corner of the Garden

by Reed Elliott, Editor

March is a wonderful month. Spring, of course, starts officially on March 20th. Unfortunately, the early spring-like weather we enjoyed so much in most of February may have been only a kiss and a promise. The forecast for the first few weeks of March look more like the freezing weather we'd normally expect in winter - there even are threats of a couple possible dustings of snow before spring weather finally arrives. This year February seems to be doing the reverse of what March is supposed to do—coming in like a lamb and going out like a lion! Still, spring's gotta come some time and, huddled here in my down jacket, I'm optimistically looking forward to spring flowers, spring birds, and spring planting.

From the point of view of being a member of the Gardeners of Wake County, one of the wonderful things about March and April is that it's a time all us Club members get the opportunity to do something concrete and positive for our Club and our community. April is our Annual Azalea Sale. This is the single most important fundraiser the GWC has. The Azalea Sale not only brings in the dollars that fund our many Club activities and presentations, more importantly, it brings in the dollars that fund the bulk of each year's annual scholarships for horticulture majors at North Carolina State University. Historically, the Azalea Sale has raised well over \$10,000 each year. This has happened because our members are great about stepping up and helping. And now's a time when that helping spirit is needed.

If you haven't worked an Azalea Sale before perhaps you're thinking, "I can't help because I'm not in a position to give a whole day." Maybe you've got kids in school who have to get dropped off and/or picked up. Maybe you've got a job. Not to worry. There's plenty of flexibility. The first thing to understand is that **it's not necessary to volunteer for an entire day**. Signup slots are for half days. And if you can only come for 2 or 3 hours of a 4 hour slot, no problem. Sign up and just let Charlie Leverett know that you'll be needing to come a little late or leave a little early. Your fellow GWC members will pick up the slack, never fear. Also remember that the busiest times, where the most help is needed, tend to happen on weekends. The good news there is that, for most of us, there are no conflicting demands from school or jobs on weekends. And, you don't need to hire a babysitter. If your kids are old enough, think about bringing them along. Kids like to be helpful. And at the Azalea Sale, they can be.



[Signing up for a slot is easy](#). Take a few moments right now to look for a couple of slots where you can make a difference and push the button that says "[Sign up](#)."

We all love the many positives our Club provides – opportunities to be with and share with other Carolina gardeners – opportunities to hear expert presenters who expand our knowledge and practical gardening skills – and, hey, free plants and incredible food! Well, now's our chance to give something back.

If you haven't yet signed up to volunteer at the Annual GWC Azalea Sale, [do it now](#). You'll be glad you did. You'll help your Club. You'll help deserving NCSU horticulture majors! And, hey, you'll have fun! I promise!