

The Clod-Hopper



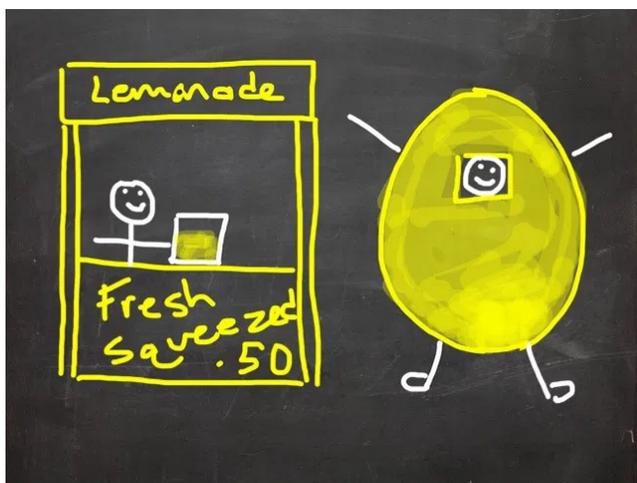
Volume 4, digital edition 5

Gardeners of Wake County, Inc. — Raleigh, NC

May 2020

Making Lemonade—the 2020 GWC Members Garden Tour

by Paul Hoffman, Immediate Past President



Our Club decided last fall to reestablish a popular GWC tradition and host some member garden tours in the spring of 2020. Several members stepped forward and volunteered to show their gardens or to help organize the event. We set a kickoff date in early May. Then came the great unforeseen shut-down of all things social.

What to do now? Must we cancel? Could we put in place tour rules so that volunteers and visitors would feel confident that they were safe? Then it hit us. We needed to haul out the old juice squeezer and make lemonade out of the lemons life was handing out so freely. As every good housecat knows, it's sometimes necessary to think outside the box. With that thought firmly in mind, we decided to hold this year's tour in cyberspace - on the internet. Visitors can still enjoy our gardens and now they can do it from the comfort of their armchairs without leaving their homes.

The idea sounded good but how, exactly, could this be done? After all, we're gardeners, mostly of a certain age, and certainly not tech video experts. Do we even have the tools to do the trick? Turns out we do. We've got cell phones that take pretty good pictures. We've got microphones on our computers with an app called a "voice recorder" that lets us record descriptions to go with the pictures. And we've got a great webmaster, Reed Elliott, who can string those pictures and narrations into a video stream and make that stream available to the world on YouTube.

Club Meetings

In "normal" months, meetings are held at the JC Raulston Arboretum every 3rd Tuesday. Due to the Coronavirus, our May meeting will be held remotely using Zoom. We'll stick with our usual schedule and Zoom together on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30 PM. Zoom links will be sent to members by email.

This month we'll discover *Gardening for the Well-seasoned Gardener: Plants and Practices for an Aging Generation* with Bryce Lane, a perennial favorite with Gardeners of Wake County. Bryce is a longtime Zoom pro and currently teaches classes (on Zoom) and is both familiar and comfortable with it so this is sure to be both an enjoyable and relaxing evening. Heck, even those who aren't of the "Aging Generation" will enjoy this presentation from a master gardener and master speaker. And, with any luck, we'll all continue to age.

If you're a Zoom newbie and at all nervous, Paul Hoffman is our resident expert. Just send him a line. He's in the Club Directory.

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Club Officers and Committees

Board members

President: Virginia (Ginny) Parker
Vice President: Kathleen Thompson
Secretary: Jim Moore
Treasurer: Mac Williamson
Immediate Past President: Paul Hoffman
At-large board members: Leslie Cohen, Christine Elliott, Rich Engates, Eddie Robinson

Committee members

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

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/>

Making Lemonade (continued from page 1)

Once the process got rolling, it turns out that cyberspace tours have some big advantages over on-site, in-person tours. Your garden doesn't have to be perfect on the day of the tour – you only show the parts that are looking good. And a cyberspace tour is not just run and done. Rather it's unconstrained by time and space – tour hosts can include views from different years and different seasons. If the dahlias looked better last year, use last year's pictures. One of our hosts this year even included a few snowy winter scenes. Best of all, visitors can come at their own convenience and from anywhere in the world. The tour remains online for future visits, too. And if you find a tour a really love, you can share it with others pretty much anywhere on earth.

In the future, we'd like to encourage more members to put their gardens "on tour." We have helpers who can assist with narration and even with photography. In fact, we've already got one more garden in the pipeline for a second cyberspace tour at the beginning of June. If you think you might like to join in the fun, let Paul Hoffman or Christine Elliott know, and your garden just might end up in cyberspace.



Some virtual tour suggestions:

1. No more than 25 pictures (horizontal format preferred)
2. Keep narration short. Finished videos ideally run less than 10 minutes.
3. Contact Paul Hoffman if you need help with photos or writing/recording narration.

Great Garden, Less Work – Hear Bryce Lane Tell Us How to Get It Done

by Kathleen Thompson, Vice President



This month, discover *Gardening for the Well-seasoned Gardener: Plants and Practices for an Aging Generation* with Bryce Lane. Bryce is a perennial favorite with the Gardeners of Wake County. Of course, with the rapidly -wearing-out-its-welcome Coronavirus still with us, Bryce’s presentation will occur on *Zoom*. Fortunately, Bryce is a longtime *Zoom* pro and currently teaches classes (on *Zoom*) and is both familiar and comfortable with it.

As is often the case, Bryce found his passion for plants at an early age while working at a garden center in Massachusetts.

Bryce earned his MS in Ornamental Horticulture at Ohio State University. After earning his BS and MS in horticulture, he came to NC State Department of Horticulture Science as an Instructor and Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator. He was interim Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum from 1996-1999. At NC State, Bryce shared his immense knowledge with over 20,000 students, teaching and advising for more than 34 years before his retirement in 2014. Not one to slow down, Bryce still teaches part time at NC State.

Over the years, Bryce has earned multiple awards, including the NC State Outstanding Teacher, and Beautification award for Excellence as a garden communicator from Gardeners of Wake County.

For eleven seasons, Bryce hosted and produced the three-time Emmy award winning UNC-TV Public Television Show “In the Garden with Bryce Lane”, helping students and viewers alike learn gardening through his pleasant, easy-to-follow, and unique teaching style.

Bryce now spends his time giving garden talks, leadership and communication training, teaching classes at NC State and at the JC Raulston Arboretum. He works closely with the NC Extension Service, the NC Nursery and Landscape Association. Currently, he is featured on Logan’s Garden Podcast.

Bryce has been planting and cultivating his beautifully designed quarter acre garden for 36 years. He lives in Raleigh with his wife of 42 years. They enjoy spending time and making memories with their children and grandchildren. Join Bryce and your fellow garden enthusiasts at this month’s GWC *Zoom* monthly meeting at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 19th. Mark your calendars and set your alarm. We’ll leave the light on for ya.



GWC Garden Tours—Get'em Here!

Paul Hoffman, Immediate Past President



The way things have been going, what with Corona-virus and social distancing, any betting person might have put long odds against the GWC being able to host our planned Members Garden Tour in May this year. We, however, have beat the odds. This year's GWC Members' Garden Tours are occurring online!

For May, the GWC is presenting six outstanding member gardens ranging

from one created by the Wake County Public School System's Landscape Supervisor to a first try at Carolina gardening by some recent immigrants from California. The range of gardens you'll see represents the range of our Club's membership. That's what makes the GWC such a great club!

Links to each of the gardens are available below and also on the [GWC Club Website](#):



1. [Tour the garden of CJ Dykes](#)
2. [Tour the garden of Jim and Kathy Moore](#)
3. [Tour the garden of Paul and Joseph Hoffman](#)
4. [Tour the garden of Christine and Reed Elliott](#)
5. [Tour the garden of Mark and Joanne Boone](#)
6. [Tour the garden of Shay and Irene Campbell](#)

Would you like your garden to be in the Tour? Contact Paul Hoffman (contact information is in this year's GWC Directory). He'll walk you through what to do and how to do it.

Some virtual tour suggestions

1. No more than 25 pictures (horizontal format preferred)
2. Keep narration short. Finished videos ideally run less than 10 minutes.
3. Contact Paul Hoffman if you need help with photos or writing/recording narration.



After the Bloom Is Over—Tidying Up

Christine Elliott

Bulbs like daffodils and Dutch Iris flower in early spring and need to stay in the ground for some months after the bloom to “ripen” as they send nutrients into the bulb to prepare for next year’s bloom. Their leaves can get very messy and overwhelm a flower border for months.



To get the best plants next year, cutting off the flower head right after bloom allows the plant to put all its energy back into the bulb rather than into seeds. After a few more weeks to allow for maximum photosynthesis, a tidy gardener like me just needs to do something with all that foliage. Years ago I visited a Japanese garden in Los Angeles and saw neat little bundles of Dutch Iris leaves tied up in their own foliage. While less photosynthesis can occur in a bundle, it does allow the leaves to continue



to send nutrients into the bulb and to dry out and fall off naturally. I used this technique for years in my California garden and again here in North Carolina. My iris continue to multiply and flower well year-to-year while I feature new plants in the bed.

The technique for iris leaves is to gather up a bunch and cut the stem(s) down to about 8 inches from the ground. Smooth the leaves upward and then fold the bunch down at the level of the cut stem. Begin to wrap the leaves around the base a few times before tucking the ends into the top loop made by the first fold. Sometimes there is enough length left to ring the loop again before tucking the last bits in tight. This little bundle looks neat and other plants can be introduced in the same area while the iris leaves continue to ripen and die.

I tried this with my daffodils but their leaves are just too thick and short to manage. The braiding technique works better here. Again, cut off the flower heads as they die back letting the rest of the plant gather energy from the sun. After about a month, braid the leaves, tying them off with a leaf cut from the bottom of the braid. They will continue to send energy to the bulbs and will die back completely in a month or two. Meanwhile you can plant around them or let other perennials fill in the now open areas.



GWC Supports and Thanks Our Healthcare Workers

by Sharon LaRusch and Lynn Swanson, Projects Chairs



There are many changes to the way we live life right now and we of the GWC are certainly missing going out to fellowship and creating beauty at Longview. WakeMed's attentions are still on COVID and supporting the community. I reached out to them recently and wanted to share some of their needs in case you find yourself with time and/or resources and want to help. Here is an excerpt that includes a couple of links. I will be glad to collect any of these items and deliver them. I plan on writing some notes and cleaning out our stash of travel size items. Feel free to contact me at sharonlarusch@gmail.com or 919-656-1717 if you want me to pick anything up from you.

Current Needs

- Clorox type wipes
- Travel size shampoos/conditioner and other personal hygiene items

Other Needs

- N95 masks
- Surgical masks
- Surgical masks with shield
- Nasal swabs for medical use
- Eye protection, including safety goggles/glasses
- Face shields
- Non-latex gloves, disposable
- Gowns, disposable
- Hand sanitizer, greater than 60% alcohol
- Shoe covers, disposable

Expressions of Encouragement and Thank You

Our health care workers on the front line sincerely appreciate handmade letters and notes of encouragement. There are multiple ways you and your children can support this effort. Send them to share@wakemed.org or by mail to WakeMed Marketing & Communications, 3000 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27610. We will see that our teams receive your well wishes.

For the full page of information and needs for in-kind support visit the [WakeMed homepage](#).



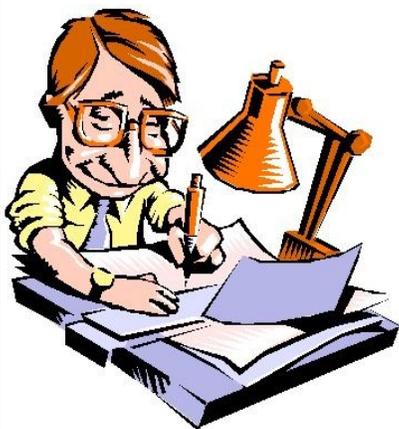
My Corner of the Garden

by Reed Elliott, Editor

If you're like me, you've probably had about all the doom, gloom and rumors of boom you can stand and are ready for just about anything else—even clowns throwing pies in people's faces or pretentious blowhards slipping on banana peels. Well, as uplifting as that kind of comedy is (just ask my wife), I've got something even better for you, because it features a gardener with a heart of gold, a voice that booms with happy, positive calm, and a ton of garden experience. I've been trying to see that Monty Don, known in the UK as "Britain's Favorite Gardener," also becomes known in the US as our favorite gardener. What's great about this series (aside from the heart of gold, booming happy voice, and tons of garden knowledge) is that this amazing series is free and, more importantly, it's front and center, here and now. In fact, Monty just returned from two weeks in isolation with the coronavirus himself. He's back and he's talking about the benefits and pleasures of gardening during this pandemic. This is topical. This is real. I've enjoyed Monty Don for some time, but I've got to say he's hitting the ball out of the park during this time of crisis. Get yourself a shot of cure for the blues. [See all the Monty Don Gardener's World 2020 episodes right here](#). Tell'em the GWC sent ya. And while you're there, consider making a donation—the link's on the *Gardener's World* website.

A traditional Club focal point is our monthly get-togethers when we assemble to enjoy other garden lovers and a great presenter who will expand our gardening knowledge. Monthly physical meetings at the Arboretum are off for awhile but we can still meet and share a live meeting and presentation online through the magic of *Zoom*. Last month, Brie Arthur kicked off this new way of doing an old thing with a personal view of her new book—*Gardening with Grains*. Brie made it look easy and I have to admit that it felt like the height of luxury to enjoy a first-class garden presenter while sitting in the comfort of my own armchair and sipping an inspiring glass of my favorite evening beverage. Can't do that at the Arboretum!

This month the darn coronavirus hasn't had the decency to go away, but the upside is we still get the armchairs, the glass of our personal favorite beverage, the society of our fellow gardeners and a top notch presenter. For May, it's Bryce Lane. He's a longtime GWC favorite with an all-new topic that certainly sounds like he's looking straight at me—*Gardening for the Well-seasoned Gardener: Plants and Practices for an Aging Generation*. I know most of you are a little too young for this, but, just hang around a little longer. It'll get relevant sooner than you think! We're sticking with Club tradition (just to show the coronavirus who's boss) and Bryce will kick off the festivities on the third Tuesday in May at 7:30 PM— that's May 19th, Tuesday, 7:30 PM. All GWC members need to do is to be sitting somewhere with computer access and *Zoom* turned on. An invitation, reminder and needed links will come to all Clubmembers directly by email later this month. Keep your eyes on your inbox! Oh, and you have to supply your own libations.



New Members

The Gardeners of Wake County welcomes anyone and everyone who loves gardens and gardening. Does that describe you? If so, c'mon down and join the Club. Download a Membership Application on the GWC website or contact our Membership Chair, Barbara Brown, at 517 Wyndham Drive, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526-7706.