



SEED POD

Men's Garden Club of Asheville
Fellowship, Community Service, Beautification

Donald Dossey, Editor

October 1, 2006

<http://www.mensgardenclubasheville.org>

FALL PLANT SALE SUCCESSFUL!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!



Wayne Dickson

We have had some varied and very interesting topics presented by our speakers this year. Linda Blue presented another excellent program on trees and shrubs that provide fall color. This was a very timely subject because late summer or fall is the time to examine the leaf and berry color of plants to see if they meet your color requirements.

The July program on native ferns and mosses by Ernie Henshaw was another interesting and educational topic. If I had a shady area in my yard, I would be tempted to grow a moss and fern garden after seeing Ernie's native moss and fern specimens.

I doubt that many members had either the knowledge or desire to grow shiitake mushrooms. But they certainly could after Buzz Durham's highly informative presentation. In fact, a few of our members decided to have a go at growing these delicacies after hearing Buzz.

Our next presentation on propagating native medicinal plants scheduled for October 3rd promises to be another informative program. If you don't mark our next meeting on your calendar right now, you might either forget or schedule something else. If that happens, you won't know what you missed!

PLANT DONATIONS: If you are dividing plants this fall and don't have a use for all the divisions, the horticultural center is accepting plant donations. It is important that plants be identified. If the variety is not known, the color should be specified. Please call Gerry Hardesty to advise him what you have and how many, and to make arrangements to drop them off at the greenhouse. We reserve the right to refuse donations if it is felt that we may be unable to sell them.

BOARD ECSTATIC FOLLOWING REVIEW!

All reports sounded very much the same: "Things went smoothly and shoppers were enthusiastic!" The Fall Plant Sale on September 9th at the Botanical Gardens was one of our best. In fact, gross and net money figures were above projections. An important part of the review of the sale was the improved measures instituted by Director Jerry Friedman to provide accessible plant information, a more evident pricing system, and a better organized staging of plants before moving them to the sale site.

Treasurer Carl Debnam reported the following: \$226 in member sales, \$2102 in public sales, and \$2238 in total sales. The tentative net figure is \$1751 - beyond expectations and better than last year! Another piece of good news: we had a great crew of many hands to move plants to the sale site and back and to help with the sale. Thanks to all who participated.

Mike Stevenson



Shoppers enjoying MGC-A plant sale at Botanical Gardens of Asheville.

4-H Club Sunflower Contest Results



Donald Dossey and Special Projects committee chair, Carl Peterson judged the the kid's in the Buncombe County 4-H Club annual sunflower contest.

This contest is sponsored by the Men's

Garden Club of Asheville.

Two first place winners tied with a sunflowers with diameters of 15 inches! The winners were Aundraya Shepherd of the Sandy Mush Club and a group participation from the Horse Spirits Club.

Second place winner was Abby Fleming from the Growing Branches 4-H club. Ane third place was won by Lee Stafford of the Kids of the Kingdom 4-H club.

The Cloverbuds kids, ages from 5 to 8, are not considered old enough for competition. However, they must be mentioned. Four and eight year old Jabin and Rabekah Sprinkle of the A Brighter Tomorrow 4-H club presented the judges with a whopping sunflower which measured 14 inches across! Ethan Morris of the Kids of the Kingdom club grew a beautifl 11 inch one and Ta'von Tineley of A Brighter Tomorrow proudly showed a 5 inch diameter sundlowoer. You can tell I'm in love with these kids.

The awards and dollars will be given to the winners and to each of the Cloverbuds in Jauary 2007.



Jabin and Rabekah Sprinkle



Judges Dossey and Peterson having fun!



Amanda Molnar, our Hardesty Scholarship winner will be at the December Awards Luncheon where you will have a chance to meet a bright, determined young lady from Haywood Community College.

“PLANNING FOR FALL COLOR” with Linda Blue

Our speaker for the September meeting was Linda Blue, Buncombe County Agricultural Extension Agent for Urban Horticulture. She spoke on “Planning for Fall Color” and was illustrated by colorful slides. A great show, Linda. Thanks.

Membership News

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c-hopper@snowcreek.com

OUR NEW BEAUTIFICATION SITE

We had our first workday on Thursday, September 14th at our new beautification site, the Irene Worthem Center on West Chapel Rd in Asheville. In case you are not familiar with the center--they provide child care for working parents as well as programs for handicapped children with Autism, Down Syndrome, Palsy, etc. This site is one we can be proud to do our best for.

On hand were Al Friedman, Carl Aufdermarsh, Carl Peterson, Wayne Dickson, Milford Shaver, Lou Merrill and Jerry Friedman. In two hours we did a fine job. We received a donation for some of the plants from Lowes in Fletcher.

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all the Plant Sale volunteers: the men who priced and “staged” the plants, and/or helped transport them to and from BGA, and and/or advised customers on the plants’ merits & growing requirements—and thanks to you, Dave, for your work in developing “the process”, as well as helping to lay out the plant display area. Everyone, else come back for more next Spring.

Jerry Friedman

KUDOS TO:

Jerry Friedman, once again, for his stalwart leadership in our Fall Plant Sale;

Carl Debnam for his thorough work and reporting as our club treasurer;

John Wingerter and Tom Mills, our newest member for their volunteer work at the Plant Sale;



Members prepare for and selling at the plant sale

OCTOBER PROGRAM: MEDICINAL PLANTS with Robert Eidus



Do you know the name of the plant whose roots are selling for \$80 a pound? That plant is American ginseng *Panax quinquefolium* L., and its fleshy root is highly sought for medicinal uses. At our October meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Asheville you will be able to hear Robert Eidus, owner of the North Carolina Ginseng & Goldenseal Co., describe the propagation and use of medicinal plants.

Since 1993, he has been growing organic medicinal herbs such as ginseng, goldenseal and other woodland botanicals in a natural hardwoods cove at Eagle Feather Organic Farm, which is a designated Native Botanical Sanctuary. His major crop, American ginseng, has the reputation for being some of the highest quality and potency in the world and the ginseng root has been exported to the Orient since the early 18th century. Robert is owner and teacher at The Southern Appalachian School for Growing Medicinal Plants. This is an herbal growing school that holds workshops each month throughout the season on all aspects of organic farming in the woods with forest crops. Each workshop is conducted by experts in their field, with a Certificate of Merit awarded at completion. He has been a regular on several radio programs in WNC. Check out his website for more information www.ncgoldenseal.com.



Our meeting will begin at 7PM on Tuesday, October 3 at the Botanical Gardens, Asheville. Bring a friend (potential member) and enjoy Robert's very exciting presentation. This is also an excellent opportunity to learn about current Club activities and to visit with fellow members. **Presentation is free and open to the public.**

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Seedpod Newsletter:

Donald Dossey 258-1311

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held at the Botanical Gardens **Tuesday, October 10th, 2006 at 12:15 p.m.** All members are welcome.

Men's Garden Club

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www.mensgardenclubasheville.org

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INSIDE: Sunflower Contest Winners