

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Monday, December 11 at 6 p.m.

Verdigris Restaurant at the Oxford Oaks Distillery, 127 College Street, Oxford, NC

Social: Begins at **6 p.m.** -- cash bar available, **6:30** bread and butter served

Served dinner: 7:00 Grilled chicken breast or beef tri tips, crisp honey-glazed Brussels sprouts, garlic mashed red potatoes, bread and butter, ice tea, water
Desserts: chocolate chunk bars and lemon berry jazz bars, coffee with dessert

Program: Installation of officers and board members, Awards

- President: David Quinn
- Vice President: Joyce Cifers
- Secretary: Jacalyn Thomas
- Treasurer: Dany Devito
- Board members: Linda Niles and Christi Henthorn

Thanks to David, Joyce, Jacalyn, and Danny for continuing in their offices and to Linda and Christi for accepting 3-year terms on the board. David had one year left to serve as board member last year, and when he resigned to take the office of President, Bob Holtaway agreed to serve the remaining one year of David's term. As Bob leaves the board, we thank him for his service. Lois Dinterman will be leaving the board after 3 years, and a big thank you to her as well.

By Marty Finkel

Photos: Verdigris Restaurant, with permission

JCRA Plant Auction Winners from November Meeting
Thanks to these bid winners, \$135 will be added to the scholarship fund!

Salvia 'Newe Ya'ar' and the
Cloudburst™ Dogwood went
home with Judy McHugh.



Cornus florida. Photo: © Penny L.
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Salvia 'Newe Ya'ar' Photo: JC
Raulston Arboretum,
<https://jcra.ncsu.edu>

Kay Nutt had the winning bid for
the *Clematis integrifolia* 'Blue
Boy.'



Photo copyright by Ken Woolfenden,
used with permission;
www.clematisinternational.com.



Clematis 'Blue Boy.' Photo copyright by Ken
Woolfenden, used with permission;
www.clematisinternational.com.

Taxodium distichum 'Falling
Waters,' Weeping Bald
Cypress, went to Harvey Spurr.



Photos taken at Duke Gardens, by Kat Ravenel



Special thanks go to Mary Ann Simpson for bringing a table-full of bags of labeled bulbs ready for planting!

To-Do List for December

- Run the lawnmower over fallen leaves to chop them, then use as mulch. If you have more leaves than needed to cover beds, pile them up and let them weather into compost for next year's garden. Or alternate with "green stuff" to make lasagna compost (see November 2014 issue of the GGG)
- Continue to plant trees and shrubs this month.
- Keep checking kale, cabbage, etc., for caterpillars even if the temperature has been in the low 20's a couple of times. Treat with BT or insecticidal soap.
- Wait a couple of months before pruning (if any is needed).
- Leave ornamental grasses standing for winter interest and for habitat for overwintering pollinator insects, larvae, and eggs.
- If perennials still have seeds (coneflower, black-eyed Susans, etc., leave for the birds.
- Cut stalks of perennials that have gone dormant – except perovskia (Russian sage), perennial salvias, caryopteris (blue mist shrub), or any others that have hollow stems that will collect water, freeze, and kill the roots.
- If you didn't get all the spring bulbs planted last month, be sure to do so now.
- If certain perennials or shrubs didn't do well for you over the past couple of years, take them out.
- On nice days this month and in January, walk through the yard and garden with pad and pen and make notes of where and what to plant. There will still be time for roots to become established before the heat of summer.
- Look at seed and plant catalogs as well as garden magazines and books for inspiration for combining colors, adding textural plants, etc.
- Order seeds so you will have them on hand when they need to be started early for transplants to set out around March 31 (revised first frost date). Vegetable seeds such as snow, snap, or green garden peas need to be in the ground in February.
- Trees and shrubs planted in Oct. and Nov. should be checked to be sure the soil they are planted in is not dry. If it's dry, one deep watering is probably all the water they will need until the spring rains come.

Member Marketplace

Name: Judy McHugh.

Phone: 919-691-4790

I have a backyard nursery for old-fashioned flowers and shrubs. At present I have:

- butterfly bush (purple, yellow, and lavender)
- snowball bush
- hydrangea (blue and limelight)
- bee balm
- purple coneflower
- spirea
- green dragon
- honeysuckle bush

Prices range from \$5 to \$10. Arrangements can be made for pick up by calling me at 919-691-4790.



Note: The Oxford Farmer's Market has closed until spring. The last day was the Saturday before Thanksgiving, where Judy, Danny, and Cindy (above) faced the cold with a smile!

Name: Danny and Cindy DeVito. (Find them at a meeting or in the directory.)

My wife Cindy and I have been members of the Granville Gardeners for 10 plus years. We sell our fruits, vegetables, and plants from our home garden. This month I will have Japanese persimmon. Cindy will have holiday gift boxes. Each has an ornament, a candle, and either a chapstick holder or a tissue holder.



Name: Joyce Cifers - Dalton Mill Nursery

Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507

Phone: 919-482-9883

I have many of the native grasses and sedges presented at the October meeting available with lots of the companion perennials. I have: Carex Pennsylvanica, Chasmanthium latifolium, Eragrostis curvula - Weeping Lovegrass, Muhlenbergia capillaris-Pink Muhly, Little Blue Stem, and many more. Some of the companion perennials are still blooming. I also have many of the shade plants that were discussed at the November meeting. Please call to schedule a visit to make your selections.

Happenings

December

The next workday at the **PO Garden** will be Wed., Dec. 4, at 9am. We will do light weeding and mulch spreading. Afterwards, we can hop over to Strong Arm Baking to socialize. Come join us!



An August workday at the Post Office Garden.

Extension Master Gardeners **wreath-making**: Sat., Dec. 7, 9-10:30 and 11-12:30. Person County Extension Office, 304 S. Morgan St., **Roxboro**. 919-451-9745. **Fee**: \$45/wreath, cash or check only. Get the details here: [Cooperative Extension Wreath-Making](#)

Native seed propagation. Sat., Dec. 14, at 2:00 pm, there will be a workshop on native seed propagation at the **Art and Craft Space**, 125 Main St., Oxford. You will learn three common methods of propagating seeds that require a period of cold stratification. Each participant will leave with three containers of seed and planting medium ready for the cold. **Fee**: \$15. Space is limited to 12. Contact Kat (in the directory).

Looking Into the New Year

Growing Fruit, Hardwood Cuttings, and Grafting Workshops. Sat., Feb. 1, 9-11am. Durham County Extension Office, 721 Foster St., Durham. **Fee**: \$10. **Tickets go on sale Dec. 15, at 8am and sell out quickly!**

If you miss the workshops, you can still go to the Scion Exchange afterwards from 11-12 noon. The **scion exchange is free** and does not require registration. Read more about it all here: [Fruit Grafting/Scion Exchange](#).

Blueberry Workshop. Sat., Feb. 1, 2025, 1-3pm the Granville County Cooperative Extension will be offering a **free** workshop on growing and caring for blueberries. Register early to save a spot. For details and to register, go here: [Blueberry Workshop](#).



PLANT OF THE MONTH: Ozark Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*)



This native witch-hazel is tough, durable, easy to grow, and flowers from late fall to early winter. It will grow and flower in partial shade, but for more flowers plant in full sun. Its flowers have four petals that resemble twisted ribbons, and they grow in axillary clusters. They are fragrant and range in color from yellow to reddish-purple. It tolerates clay soil as long as the drainage is good. After roots are established, it will tolerate periods of drought, but it grows best with consistent moisture. In hot, dry summers it may suffer leaf scorch. It spreads by root suckers, so if the suckers are not pruned out, a thicket may result. Flowers are borne on old wood. Witch-hazels brighten up a garden when not much else is in bloom.

SOME OTHER PLANTS IN BLOOM THIS MONTH – Asterisk indicates native (*)

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom). *Source: JCRA Showtimes for December*

Japanese Fatsia
Japanese Flowering Quince
Fragrant Wintersweet
Crocus
Cyclamen
Leopard plant
Alpine Wallflower
Mexican Anise
Mahonia
Paper-white Narcissus
Osmanthus
Fuji cherry
Afghan bush cherry
Flowering apricot
Butcher's broom
Willow Leaf Sweet Box
Japanese Snow Rose
Spirea *several species native to NC
Viburnum *many species native to NC

Witch-hazel photo: JCRA Photo Collection Description: NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox
Plant list: JCRA Photo Collection December Showtime
Compiled by Marty Finkel

Photos of Some Other Plants in Bloom this Month



Parrot beak gladiolus



Double Lenten Rose (Hellebore)



Winter flowering iris



Reblooming iris



Chinese tea olive



Oxalis 'Irish Mist'



Rosemary 'Barbeque'



Spiketail (*Stachyurus*)



Chinese paper plant



Camellia



Cast iron plant



Bear claw hellebore



Ruscus (berries)



Sweet box

Assembled by Marty Finkel

Photos: Chinese paper plant, Pixabay Free Photos; Last row, Plant Delights Nursery

www.plantdelights.com All others: JCRA Photos, December Showtime