

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

January 2025, Volume XV, No.1

MEMBER MINGLE

Granville Gardeners Members

Monday, January 27 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC



How many can you name?



Which ones are members? The usual suspects – identify



About the Program

Who are the members of the Granville Gardeners club? With all the new members who have joined in the last couple of years, the program committee wants members to have the chance to connect, to get to know each other and our gardening interests better. To that end, we will form small groups to introduce ourselves and start conversations with the help of a group host who, with a list of prompts, will get you talking. Then groups will break and reform with different members. The goal is to learn new things about gardening, as well as each other.

About the Speaker (s)

Since the speakers are you, tell us about yourself – how long have you been a GG member? Where do you live: Oxford, Granville County, other? What sparked your interest in gardening? Why did you decide to join the club? What do you get out of being part of the club, or what do you hope to get out of the club? We hope these conversations will result in finding new friends, mentors, and garden buddies and will also help guide the direction of the club.

By Marty Finkel, Liz Carr, Kat Ravenel
Photos: Marty Finkel

President's Notes

12.30.2024

Happy New Year, Fellow Gardeners!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday with friends and family. For us, it was the first time in a long time we had small kids in the house at Christmas. It was a great time.

I am interested in your feedback regarding our Installation of Officers/ Board Members and Awards dinner. Please send me your thoughts in email at your earliest convenience. I already have a list from my wife! My intention is to compile your thoughts for a discussion with the board in our January meeting on the 27th.

As I mentioned at the Installation dinner, we are looking for someone to take over the audio-visual role at meetings supporting our program presenter. The scope includes greeting our guest speaker and helping him or her connect to the room's monitor and audio connection about 5 or 10 minutes prior to the start of our meeting. If this is something you can take on, please reach out to me either by email or at our meeting.

Believe it or not, the Expo is around the corner. Planning is underway to make this year's event the best yet. The club has a new software tool that will enable us to be more efficient and organized. If you have the ability to volunteer at the event, please speak to one of the Expo Committee members.

I hope you received and had time to review the program options in consideration for this year. Our quality programs are what makes our club what it is. Please provide your feedback on the program content being considered. We even have one that is X-Rated!

David Quinn

"Of winter's lifeless world each tree
Now seems a perfect part;
Yet each one holds summer's secret
Deep down within its heart." __ Charles G. Stater

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." __Margaret Mead

"What you do makes a difference, and **you have to decide**
what kind of difference you want to make."__ Jane Goodall

To-Do List for December

- If you still 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 October and November 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.

By Marty Finkel

"Forests are trees holding hands underground."
— Jeffrey Campbell, head of the Forest Farm Facility of the FAO

2024 Installation of New Officers/Board Members and Awards Dinner

The awards dinner at Verdigris restaurant was well attended – we must have had 60 people! Officers and new board members were installed, and many awards were handed out to deserving club members as follows:

Awards of Appreciation for many years of service: Linda Niles, James Counts, Jacalyn Thomas

Family Appreciation awards: Henry and Pam Isley, and the Arnott family – Mark, Doreen, Andrew, and Ryan

Award for Going Above and Beyond: Rob Thornton

Appreciation of the President award: David Quinn

Special President's Award: Peter Gumaer and Brenda LaFayette

Thanks to all for their service to the club, and thank you to everyone for coming out!



Awards Dinner (continued)



Native Seed Propagation Workshop

Eight Granville Gardeners and three others recently attended a propagation workshop held at the Art and Craft Space in Oxford. They received guidelines on planting native seeds, many of which require a period of cold, moist stratification. The group plans to keep each other posted on the progress of their plantings and share tips. The workshop will be repeated for as many times as there is interest. We hope to make it the first of a series of workshops. Next will be plant identification using iNaturalist and other means; then responsible and sustainable seed harvesting and storing.

Planting species native to our area is one of the most important acts we can do to heal our environment. The Forestry Service recommends having a goal of 70% native plants on your property.

By Kat Ravenel, Photo by James Counts



Member Marketplace

Any members of the Granville Gardeners who sell agriculture or plant-related products are invited to send a description of your business, including up to 3 of your own photos, to be included in this space. Send descriptions to the editors by the 26th of the month.

Happenings

January 5. (Sun.) Program Committee Meeting. 2:30-3:30pm. Come give your input on our meeting programs for the year. We have many ideas to choose from, or bring your own ideas. The meeting will be at Kat Ravenel's, near Oxford. Contact Kat (she's in the directory) for directions and so she will know how many to expect.

Mid-January. Projects and Activities Meeting. Time and place to be decided. The Projects and Activities Committee would like to hear from you to better tailor the year's activities to your interests. Text or email Kat if interested, and give your available times mid-January. We will choose the time that works for the most people.

January 21. (Tues.) Spice Up Your Life. 10-11am. Online. The workshop offered by NC Cooperative Extension will discuss different herbs and spices, health benefits, food pairings and explore new recipes. Cooking with herbs and spices can help reduce salt intake by participants and can help with various chronic conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure, etc. Free to all. Register here: [Spice Up Your Life](#).

January 23. (Sat.) NCBG: The Home Patch with Mary Sonis. 12-1pm. In person and online. The talk is about birds that are frequently seen in spring migration. Free. Read more and register here: [The Home Patch. with Mary Sonis](#).

NC Botanical Garden offers many free hybrid talks. You can check the up-coming talks here: [NCBG up-coming online talks](#). Past talks can be accessed on their YouTube channel here: [NCBG videos](#)

January 25. (Sat.) Winter Symposium. Plants with Benefits: Plotting a Purposeful Garden. 9am-12:30pm. JC Raulston Arboretum. 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. For more information, fees, and registration, go here: [JCRA Winter Symposium](#)

February 1. (Sat.) Blueberry Workshop. 1-3pm. 2511 Hwy 158, Oxford. Granville County Cooperative Extension will host blueberry specialist, Bill Cline, who will cover selecting your site, preparing your site, selecting the right blueberry cultivars, and establishing and maintaining your blueberry plants. Hands-on pruning opportunities will be available. Inclement weather date: Feb. 8. Free to all. Register at [Blueberry Workshop](#).

February 1. (Sat.) Fruit, Hardwood Cuttings, and Grafting Workshops. 9-11am. Durham County Extension Office, 721 Foster St., Durham. Fee: \$10.

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](#)

February 11. (Tues.) iNaturalist with Robb van Epps. 7-8:30. Sponsored by NC Wildlife Federation, this hybrid talk can be attended in person (in Charlotte) or online. Those who register will receive a link to the recording once it is posted. Free. Register here: [Learn to ID Plants, Fungi, and Animals with iNaturalist](#).

(If enough people are interested, the Projects and Activities Committee is thinking of organizing a field trip for plant identification with iNaturalist later in the spring. This webinar would be a good introduction to have before the field trip.)

PLANT OF THE MONTH
WINTER RED DECIDUOUS HOLLY (*Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Red’)



Winterberry holly is a slow-growing, woody, deciduous native tree and a member of the holly family (Aquifoliaceae). The red berries mature in the fall and persist into winter providing food for birds and small mammals. It's especially bright when planted in front of evergreens. It may grow to 15' tall and 12' wide. Dwarf cultivars are available.

Quote from the NC Extension Gardener Toolbox: “Winterberry holly requires moist, acidic soil with good drainage in deep or partial shade, or full sun. It tolerates heat, drought, and soil compaction. It may abort fruit set in dry soil. It is resistant to deer foraging, fire, and salt. To produce berries, the plant must be properly cross-pollinated. Match blooming times with a male pollinizer like 'Jim Dandy' or 'Southern Gentleman' by planting one male (per 10 to 20 females) within 50 feet of female plants.”

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 January.*

Asian wild gingers	Witchhazel *(some spp.)
Camellias	Lenten rose
Japanese quince	Spring starflower
Wintersweet	Netted iris
Cornelian cherry ‘Spring Glow’	Winter flowering iris
Crocus	Golden winter jasmine
Daphne ssp	Winter spicebush
Isu tree ‘Blue Cascade’	Winter honeysuckle
Japanese paperbush	Chinese fringe flower
Darley heath	Deciduous magnolia
Snowdrop	Mahonia
Grape hyacinth	Narcissus
Chinese ironwood	Japanese flowering apricot
Taiwan cherry	Hybrid flowering cherry
Afghan bush cherry	Various viburnum species *(some spp.)

Photos of some of the plants in bloom this month



Winter spicebush



Butterfly Iris



Compact laurustinus



Tama Peacock camellia



Bi-color Chinese fringe flower



Buckland grape holly



Snowbells Christmas rose



Hoop petticoat daffodil



Compact strawberry tree



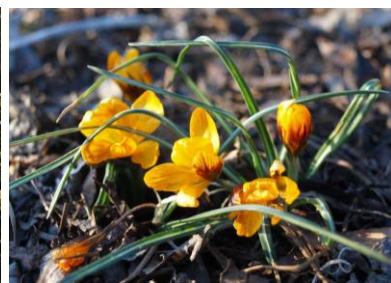
Panda face wild ginger



Dwarf flowering Japanese quince



Dwarf Japanese cornel



Zwanenburg crocus



Winter Gold edgeworthia



Japanese flowering apricot



Smiling Forest magnolia



Walker Ross iris



Witchhazel Jelena

Chosen by Marty Finkel from JCRA Photo Collection for January