



Caswell Horticulture Club

April 2011 Newsletter

The spring social hosted by Margaret and Ben Williams was delightful! The weather was perfect, the food delicious, and the company wonderful. Margaret and Ben are so gracious to continue to have us for this event. After the physical work we do, it is a great reward to be able to go to their beautiful home, sit among fabulous art, and have light conversation that includes nothing about tasks! On behalf of us all, *thank you*, Margaret and Ben, and the social committee!

We were all saddened by the news that Linda and Dan Taylor are moving from Danville to Dan's home state of South Carolina. We hate to have Linda, a founding member, leave the club. Linda has always been a reliable and steady member, taking on the tasks without complaint and with grace. Once she assumed a responsibility you could relax, knowing it was in capable hands. We wish you much happiness in this new chapter of your lives! Know that you have left Caswell County (Linda has roots in Caswell) a better place because of your efforts. Visit often! I will share their address and contact information when I have it.

Our next meeting is the **plant sale on April 21st!** I hope you're all busy with plants, plants, plants! Shelly came prepared with a table loaded

with plants and we need to make up for her absence. Shelly is taking time off from the club to work on her own business, Swann Forge. We will certainly miss her.

Our gardens have been well prepared for spring, and are ready to put on their show, thanks to their hardworking committees! The mulch is down in the arboretum and looks great, thanks to Atlantic Mulch, and the CHC! The county maintenance neatened our mulch pile, and helped move some to the jail. Our committees work hard at keeping their gardens so beautiful. We are all grateful for their contribution of physical labor and their careful attention to the needs of our gardens. We must not forget that there is a financial contribution also, more so than ever with the high price of gasoline. We do work hard for our plants, don't we! We keep thinking we're controlling them, but the longer we garden, the more we know they're the ones in control.

In the arboretum Robert and Amy constructed a rock lined bed and it will be ready to be planted with some blooming plants once the mulch is 6 months old. Robert has spread a pre-emergence herbicide. Cy and Janice Vernon's donated sassafras tree looks happy! We are trying to make the arboretum look its best for the plant sale on the 21st.

Spring in south – air conditioning one day, heat the next. Everything is leafing out and blooming. Our last frost date for the season is usually April 16th, and our break from gardening comes to an end. We are set in motion trying to keep up with the burst of growth, sure to be lush this year with lovely rains!

- . There are annuals that are perfectly happy to withstand multiple frosts and continue to bloom, such as nemesia, diascia, snapdragons and osteospermum. These are good choices for early spring color. It is important they be **hardened-off** to survive.
- Many potted perennials can be planted, make sure they were grown outside or in cold frames so they are acclimated to the cold temperatures of early spring. If the plants were grown outside and are hardy for your area, you should be able to plant them.
- Bareroot perennials can be planted.
- Shrubs and trees, either dormant or leafed out, can be planted as long as they were grown outside.
- Cool season vegetables can be seeded or planted out. Things like lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, radishes and seed potatoes (not potato plants which will not tolerate a freeze) can be planted.
- From the Proven Winners website

There is a flowering quince that is red, double (touted to look like a camellia) and best of all – thorn free. It was developed in North Carolina and is a Proven Winner.

From an old article in the magazine, *Southern Living*, is the following recipe used by Eve Dunaway for her **English boxwood**. **Recipe:** 8 cups cottonseed meal; 8 cups cow manure; ½ cup Epsom salts. Sprinkle 2 cups around a large boxwood, 1 cup around a small boxwood. Apply recipe mid-April. Remember that boxwood like a neutral soil. A soil test will be beneficial. Jim, Margaret, and Pat will need to do that recipe in great volumes!

Have you paid their dues? I want to get that directory printed!

Bossy Yancey