



Holland Park, London

CASWELL HORTICULTURE CLUB

August 2011 Newsletter

AUGUST MEETING: August 26, 10:00 a.m., Agriculture Building kitchen. The change of the date became necessary so that we could have some key members present. I hope this will not be inconvenient for you. Please make every attempt to be there. We will begin planning for our Spring Seminar.

Upon your approval to proceed, plans to put a permanent sign on location at the arboretum have been progressing. I've had assurance from the Town of Yanceyville that they will contribute a portion of the NC Step funds designated for town signage, toward our permanent sign, although we do not have a check in hand. We *do* have a two ton stone from the granite quarry in Pelham in place where the temporary sign used to be. The original temporary sign is in the possession of the county maintenance department and if the town wants to use it in conjunction with their directional signs, it is available. The procurement and placement of the stone were made possible by the combined efforts of Jim Long, Cliff Matkins, Ted Bradner, and me. We are grateful for their continued support. These baby steps are frustrating, but still we go forward. Soon I will be placing the order for the plaque.

Topper Maxey has said he wants to purchase the bronze plaque for the arboretum permanent sign in loving memory of his parents, Evelyn and H.B. Maxey Jr. They lived in Olton, Texas until they moved to Edmond, Oklahoma, ten years ago to be near Topper's sister. Mr. Maxey, Topper's father, was born and raised in Texas, and after "The War" he brought his bride there from South Dakota. Mrs. Maxey said she cried for the first six months because there were no trees there. However, they planted trees that grew to be the largest in this little west Texas town. It is certainly appropriate that Topper has chosen to honor their memory in an arboretum because of our shared love of trees. Topper has been a tremendous supporter of the arboretum and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Many, many thanks, to Topper for his generosity and continued support!

FYI: Summer gardening: Good luck. It has become a common occurrence to witness drought, and the rain from hurricanes is overdue for us. Unfortunately, the 100+ degree heat and dry weather in what used to be considered our wettest month, July, has taken a toll. This pattern has never been more apparent to me than when we planted the first trees and shrubs at the arboretum, in the fall of 2006. That year stands out, in my mind, as the beginning of a pattern of heat and drought. Trees and shrubs are stressed and much more susceptible to pests and diseases. What to do? I water only the newly planted. I no longer will consider planting any balled and burlapped plants, only those in containers. I'll baby a container grown, planted in soil, tree or shrub for one year, after that they're on their own. I've adopted a saying "If they don't like the conditions into which they're planted, or adapt, they'll just have to die." In the meantime, I'm grateful July is behind us for yet another year, and I'm limiting my contact with any areas off pavement as much as feasible because I've already had my yearly war with chiggers and ticks. I would love not to have another! I'm watering only newly planted material and containers of flowers, and I'm not liking doing that - in short, summer is no longer a season of fun since I became a gardener. As a matter of fact, I'm running away on the 18th to Maine with Janie Leigh, so I'll see you on the 26th at our meeting!