



*Caswell Community Arboretum
Enter a winter's gloaming, December 2011*

CASWELL HORTICULTURE CLUB
FEBRUARY 2012 Newsletter

Christmas on the Square was lovely! Everything is stored for another year. Jim expresses his gratitude to all that came to the Square to put out and then came to help remove the Christmas decorations. Group effort makes it easier for everyone.

Annual Meeting: February 16

Time: 10:30 a.m.

**Location: Home of Cliff and Stacy Matkins for a video,
Followed by business meeting and Dutch-treat lunch at Caswell
Pines
Club House**

Please let Cliff or Stacy know if you're coming so that seating can be arranged!

Directions to the Matkins' home: Enter by the main entrance at Caswell Pines' clubhouse on County Home Road. Their house is the first house on your left, a large, two-storey brick house.

This meeting marks our fiscal year end. Bring your dues of \$25 for 2012! While our dues don't make a huge difference in our treasury, they do help us maintain

our gardens. Because of the generosity of our members almost none of our treasury is used for operating expenses, keeping our treasury intact, for the most part, for our projects. As you are aware it takes a lot to maintain all of our county gardens! We will have reports from all of the committees, so I ask that the Chairpersons come prepared to report to the club members. The beginning of a new fiscal year is also the best time to invite potential members.

I have enjoyed being President of the CHC for the past two years and welcome our new President, Jim Upchurch! I know he will be an excellent leader. Please make him feel welcome and help make his job easy by helping out in any way you can!

FYI: From *Fine Gardening* magazine's February issue there is a segment on the Top Ten recommendations for your garden (our seminar title two years ago).

Must haves from the article:

1. Hydrangea – 'Big Ben', Blue Billow', 'Snowflake'
2. Salvia – 'Amethyst', 'Black and Blue'
3. Rose – 'Carefree Celebration', 'Graham Thomas', 'Just Joey'
4. Viburnum – 'Korean spicebush' (Carlesii), 'Winterthur'
5. Hellebore – 'Janet Starnes', Oriental hybrid
6. Iris – 'High Stakes', Variegated Japanese iris
7. Oak – 'White Oak' (Quercus alba)
8. Hosta – 'Fried Green Tomatoes', Giant blue, 'Sum and Substance' (*'Deer Love'em all hosta'- Y*)
9. Sedum – 'Matrona', Neon', 'Purple Emperor'
10. Japanese forest grass – 'All Gold', Aureola' (Beware of all things japonica)

Tony Avent's (owner of Plant Delights Nursery) recommendations for the Southeast:

1. 'Liberty' hosta (*you've been warned -Y*)
2. 'Carolina Moonlight' false indigo
3. Tropicanna canna
4. 'Maestro' sedum
5. Variegated water iris (*if you have plenty of moisture-Y*)
6. 'Minnie Pearl' phlox
7. Variegated Solomon's seal (Love it for shade)
8. 'Thailand Giant' Elephant's ear
9. Wrights dropseed
10. Indian pink

CHC Gardeners' Tips and Recommendations:

Every fall we use our Leaf Vac/shredder to quickly clean up the leaves under our oak trees. We then put these shredded leaves about four inches deep around all our shrubs and in every garden bed. This keeps the plants protected, the soil moist and the weeds down. But most of all it improves the soil. What used to be hard clay is now, after four years of leaf mulch, about five inches of soft, dark soil. And the lawn looks great. Leaf vac/shredders come in all sizes and shapes. We love ours!!

Pat Ewalt

I love my secateurs (hand pruners) by Felco. They're light, don't pinch my fingers, and for you left-handed folks, they make left-handed pairs. They're also red, so if you lay them down, they're easily located. My most treasured garden item is my string trimmer. I use a Stihl with a straight neck, the curved neck was tiring for me and seemed to throw more debris on me. If you trim right to left you can better control the trimmings away from your body. **ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GLASSES, GOOD SHOES, LONG PANTS OR TROUSERS** (In England they called underwear pants – imagine the shocked look when I told Justin, Robin's husband, to look in my pants pocket for change because my hands were full!) **AND HEARING PROTECTION.** *Yancey*

I'm having babies !!

Ruth East



I have had this pink Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*) for a number of years. A couple of years ago I bought another one which is red. I bring these plants inside in the fall as they don't like our winter.

This past summer the red Desert Rose produced two seed pods but they didn't seem to mature. The plant has been inside since fall and just this past week the pods started to dry out and "explode". Each pod is 6 inches long and each seed 3 inches.



