

A word from our president

WELCOME, 2024!



Paul Freeman

A new year, a fresh start. As gardeners, we are already chomping at the bit. The red maple around the corner is budding, and I've seen bulbs beginning to show. Winter here is so short, we really should embrace it. Just pretend someone left the air conditioner running outside. Over the next couple of months, take the time to reflect on your gardening successes and challenges. It's time to plan and get organized before you know we'll be back to the warmth and comfort we gardeners crave.

Announcements

- **WE ARE LISTENING!** You may have noticed that we now have a suggestion box as you pick up your name tag at our meetings. These are some of the fabulous ideas we have incorporated that came from YOU, our valued members:

PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP!

In addition to our public Facebook page which we've been enjoying, we now have a private, members-only Facebook group. Need to carpool? Have a gardening question? This private group is a great place to go. Search for "Charlotte Garden Club Members."

PLANT SWAP

At our Meeting on March 18th, we will be hosting a plant swap! Bring a prop, seeds, or a mature plant! Swapped items must be labeled with the type of plant and care instructions and all items must be pest-free and healthy.

- **MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE**

To ensure that we maintain the high quality of speakers and activities offered and for the first time in seven years, we have found it necessary to increase our membership dues. New members will see this increase immediately. For existing members, this change will be reflected in your next annual invoice which will be due in August 2024.

Updated membership dues are as follows:

\$50 Individual

\$75 Family

\$150 Ivey League sponsor

\$250 Business

Students with active school IDs can attend meetings at no charge.

Art in the Garden tour hosts receive a one-year complimentary family-level membership.

Recent Happenings

- **FREE COMPOST!!** As previously announced, a local equine facility has offered free horse manure compost for your garden. They can't deliver but can help load your truck/trailer. The manure sits in their O2compost system for 30-60 days before being put to their pastures or your truck/trailer.

The facility address is located at 6000 Joli Cheval Ln., Mint Hill, NC

Contact Molly Paris [704-936-7696](tel:704-936-7696)



BOOK SIGNINGS BY NOTED AUTHORS



VOLUNTEERS MANNING CHECK IN TABLES



MEMBER EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

Garden Tips



**Mary Griggs
CGC Program Chair
&
Daytrippers Coordinator**



Use the warm days to your advantage, even if you can only commit an hour or two!

January

- Remove leaves from Epimedium & and Hellebores to enjoy the flowers.
- Clean up blooms from Camellias to prevent petal blight.
- Weed/ Weed/Weed - keep after the winter weeds!
- Consider planting more winter interest plants for you to enjoy and to help the pollinators.

February and March

- It is safe to start cleaning up perennials and grasses, especially grasses before they put out new growth.
- Consider adding a new ground cover to help cut down on weeds and mulch.
- Prune shrubs that bloom on new wood that you know you have. If you are unsure, wait until after blooming.
- Prune/fertilize your tea and shrub roses.
- Mulch to prevent weeds.
- Clean out birdhouses.



"my nod to 'winter gardening' - the Hellebores, Epimedium Winter Iris, and Camellias inspire and make me happy"... Mary Griggs

Note: We are always searching for beautiful Charlotte Gardens to feature in our annual Art in the Garden Tour. If you would like to nominate a property for the tour, please contact **Mary Griggs or Joey Pellegrin** at info@charlottegardenclub.com



Meet JP Chalarca!

A recent transplant from the scorching deserts of Phoenix, Arizona, to the lush landscapes of Charlotte, North Carolina, JP joined our club in the summer of 2023.

JP found several compelling reasons to become an active member of the Charlotte Garden Club. Primarily, the club has provided a welcoming haven to meet like-minded people with the same passion for gardening and the outdoors.

According to him, It is the ideal place to find enthusiastic green thumbs congregating, eager to share their experiences, tips, and love for the outdoors. JP quickly found himself surrounded by new friends who became a source of inspiration and camaraderie. This became clear after JP and his wife attended the Garden Club Summer Picnic. They had a blast.

Since then, JP has tried attending as many of the club's regularly hosted speakers as possible. These monthly presentations have become a highlight for JP. He thinks they have provided valuable insights, practical advice, and the latest gardening trends specific to Charlotte's climate. JP looks forward to these sessions for the knowledge and the social hour. Especially the social hour.

Moreover, the club has offered JP volunteering opportunities to give back to the club and community. He has been particularly drawn to this aspect of being a club member. JP's unique skills as a self-described techy soon found an exciting outlet within the club. JP recently volunteered to write and send emails reminding members to RSVP for each monthly speaker event. With his passion for technology and a flair for communication, JP embraced this role wholeheartedly.

In short, being part of the club has become a multifaceted source of enrichment for JP. It has nurtured his interest in gardening, provided access to expert knowledge, and allowed him to engage with friends and neighbors in meaningful ways; most importantly, it has offered him a welcoming community of fellow garden enthusiasts who have helped cultivate a sense of belonging.

Want to get Involved?

The Charlotte Garden Club is looking for volunteers to learn and grow with our organization. Throughout the year we need assistance in our community gardens, with our committees, and on the Art in the Garden Tour. To get involved contact us at info@charlottegardenclub.com

Upcoming Events

MOSAIC PLANTER POT - 2 Day Workshop

January 15th 10a-2p and January 22nd 10a-12p

16 Scottsdale Lane, Mooresville, NC 28117

You can bring any broken dishes you'd like to use, but it's not necessary.

Instructor Carol Luttrell has a variety of things you can use.

Location: 116 Scottsdale Lane, Mooresville, NC 28117

Option to carpool: Walmart at 9:30

11145 Bryton Town Center Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078.

Limit of 10 participants.

Cost \$50 at the door (cash please!).

Text or Call Mary Griggs to register: 910-439-5198.

MEMBER MEETING: January 22, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Speaker: Sara Gagné

Topic: *"Where is the best place to connect with nature? At your door!"*

PRUNING WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 24th 1pm

1750 Emerywood Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210

Limit 10 participants. \$100 per person.

Call/text Mary Griggs: 910-439-5198

MEMBER MEETING: February 12, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Jared Barnes

Topic: 'Thrivable' perennials for the South

MEMBER MEETING: March 18, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Speaker: Keith G. Robinson

Topic: Re-Imagining Historic Southern Gardens