



Tryon Garden Club August News 2018

Starting in the Carolina Foothills



Summer's about gone, but the TGC's grand new year is just beginning. Read all about it. Donna Southworth, Ed.

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar:

TGC General Meeting, Wednesday, September 19

Meeting: 1:00 pm at FENCE

Refreshments: 1:30 pm

Program: 2:00 pm

Pearson's Falls TGC 90th Anniversary Public Free Day, Wednesday, Oct. 24.

The Gala 90th TGC Celebration, Wednesday, Oct. 17

TGC Christmas Party, Monday, December 10

More information as these dates approach.

Kickoff to another fantastic year! Frank S. Holleman III, President, Natural Land Trust, will discuss the work of the Natural Land Trust in North and South Carolina with special emphasis on land near Landrum, SC. For 40 years this group has protected the Blue Ridge mountains and special places in the Piedmont—the waterfalls, forest, wildlife, and rare plants. In partnership with SC Conservation Bank and the SC Native Plant Society, and Upper Savannah Land Trust, members have been working to protect and preserve Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve in McCormick County, SC. (As a program bonus, Steve Marlow [husband of TGC member Janie Marlow] will show his revised short video on the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve.)

Speaker Frank Holleman is a South Carolina attorney and politician. In addition to other important appointments, President Clinton appointed him Deputy Secretary of Education, a post that he held until the end of the Clinton presidency. Holleman is now a senior litigating attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, where he has led the effort to litigate against power utilities over the disposal of coal ash, especially in the wake of the 2014 Dan River coal ash spill.

Club Business

Membership: Welcome new member Carol McCall. TGC has 62 active and 4 honorary members.

The TGC roster was sent to the membership asking each person to verify his/her information. Co-Chair Jackie Weedon heard from 38 members who either verified their membership and committee information or made corrections. *Please reply*, so that the roster can be posted on the website's "Member Login" section.

Hospitality: Do you own a pair of white gloves? If you do, plan to wear them to the TGC September 20 meeting at FENCE. Hospitality Chair Ceille Baird, and committee members Jim Welch, Jackie Weedon and Donna Wise, with historical assistance from Joy Soderquist, have a tea planned to honor those ladies who organized the TGC 90 years ago.

Publicity: Great job Ann Wendling and Lucy Brannon!

As of Aug 1, the TGC Facebook page had 2073 followers. Thank you Beth Rounds for this Facebook page. Check out Facebook for information about the Depot Monarch Waystation.

First Peak has a new website with a Pearson's Falls description and photos, firstpeaknc.com. First Peak posted the Pearson's Falls awards on Facebook Aug 2.

Another great post was Pearson's Falls as a Great Hike for Little Ones on <https://kiddingaroundgreenville.com/hiking-in-greenville-with-toddlers>.

There is an article in the August *Saluda Lifestyles*, *Cool & Easy Hiking in Pearson's Falls Glen*.

The TGC dates including the Sept. 19 general meeting at FENCE, and the Oct. 24 Free Day have been added to the Community Calendar and *Saluda Lifestyles* calendar.

A short ad has been placed in *Tryon Resort Fall/Winter Visitor's Guide*.

Lucy Brandon is working with *Tryon Daily Bulletin's* Ted Yoakum on an article about the Depot Garden and its history for the *Foothills Magazine*.

A Dropbox repository project has been started to collect new High Definition photos that can be used for TGC articles and publicity.

Financials: Treasurer Kathleen Hamilton reports that about half of the expenses for July 2018 were salaries and taxes. There were the usual monthly expenses for maintenance and operating expenses, including: CPA Blake Smyth's fee, TGC office rent, utilities, telephone and supplies Occasional expenses were: advertising and special project payments.

Development: Chair Joanie Newman met with Noah Wood at the Polk County Community Foundation on August 9, to present the TGC documentation for the current Kirby Grants cycle.

Joanie has resigned her post. Kathy Wright will fill her unexpired term as Development Chair until a replacement is found.

Getting to Know One Another

New member **Barbara Oklesen** visited Tryon for several years before moving here almost three years ago. Tryon Garden Club members Joy and Jerry Soderquist have been an invaluable Tryon resource, including information about the TGC. Barbara and her husband, John Fowler, live in a home that was part of the two-house property owned by Gertrude Stone, sister of one of TGC founders, Elia Peattie. It was the residence of Elia Peattie's nephew, Romaine Stone.

Barbara is a retired attorney who practiced in Illinois and Florida. Before practicing law, she was a librarian. She's always loved archives! Guess what TGC committee she volunteered to join. Barbara currently serves on the Lanier Library Board, and the Tryon Downtown Development Association Equestrian Committee, as well as being a TROT volunteer. Her interests include Native Am. art, travel, horseback riding and reading.

Another interesting fact: In the late 1940's Barbara's husband visited Pearson's Falls, in utero—has a picture to prove it.

New member **Angie Bross** and her husband Jim who is the CEO at St. Luke's Hospital in Columbus moved to Tryon in July 2016. The couple is originally from upstate SC, but has lived in NC for 27 years. They lived in Rutherfordton the longest, where Jim worked as the hospital CFO/COO, and Angie taught elementary school. In 2012, Jim's work took them to Franklin where they enjoyed the mountains. Now they are enjoying Tryon. They appreciate all that Polk County has to offer from the people, wonderful food, fun events such as the ones at the Tryon Fine Arts Center, how the community gets out and supports events, especially for our hospital. They are devoted Clemson Tigers supporter--Jim grew up in the Clemson area. They have one daughter, Anna who was married in June to a wonderful guy named Trey. Anna is also a school teacher! Angie is excited to be joining the Tryon Garden Club and hopes to learn lots of new things.

Civic Beautification

A Crain-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), a perennial terrestrial woodland orchid, is blooming in the shade of the large oak along the Depot Garden fence. You will find it nestled among the Autumn ferns!

Bids for Depot Garden lighting, rock and irrigation system improvements were requested from Avery Creek Nursery and Landscape by Chair Denise Barthold. Avery put Denise in contact with Jordon Smith from Jay's Landscape with whom she has met.

Jordon suggested that a few new sprinkler heads and an adjustment to existing heads would provide the coverage needed in the dry areas of the garden. No new zones are required. Jordon adjusted a sprinkler head that was spraying the back door to the Depot building.

Presently, there are no working landscape lights in the garden. New lighting could be low voltage and approximately a foot high. The old lighting is very low, not readily visible, the mature plants have overgrown it.



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River rocks need to be installed at the same time as the lighting. Both are located in the same area of the garden along the sidewalk. The new low voltage wire would run just under the rock as opposed to being under soil. The rock serves three purposes. It would provide better drainage in this low laying area of the garden that does not hold mulch, it would take the place of mulch and it would provide a greater lifespan for the lighting as wiring would no longer run through wet soil and be exposed to standing water.

The Monarch Waystation sign and certificate were received. Jack Carlock and Jane Darby helped Denise with installation. Lucy Brannon wrote an article for the *Tryon Daily Bulletin*.



From the Pearson's Falls Mist

Pearson's Falls July Attendance: Good News! The number of guests at PF was 4,750. July 2017's total was 2,869. That improved the club's 2018 bottom line, both financially and in total number of guests. On July 30 the year's total was now only down 459 guests.

Garden House Renovation: The renovations are almost complete. The damp summer has slowed exterior progress. The front door exterior has been painted with a semi-gloss red paint to match the cottage. The interior walls have been painted with a soft green color semi-gloss. No storm door could be located to fit the size of the front door. The safe has been ordered.

Andy Ruff has replaced Gretchen Morris as Project Manager. Thank you Gretchen for your dedication!

What's Happening at Pearson's Falls? Chair Bob Tobey reports that he and Gene Justice met with stone mason Mark Burrell on July 18. They inspected the Colt Creek bank erosion caused by the May rains. and the bridge foundation. Good news! Mark believes that the area of the trail that was a slightly undercut by

the storms is okay without repair. There is good solid rock underpinning the trail in that section. He also thinks the foundation under the bridge is in good condition and does not need any work at this time. However, both need to be continually monitored. Repairing either or both will be expensive.

Andy Ruff and Gene Justice were on vacation in July; they and Bob want to thank everyone who worked the gate and volunteered while the guys were away: Norma and Alan Batchelder, Jack Carlock and Jane Darby, Pat Gass, Susan Kelley, Gretchen Morris, Eva Pratt, Mary Reeves, MaryAnn Sloan, Kathleen Sousa, Donna Southworth and Bob Tobey.

One restroom sink has been repaired. Thank you to Andy for the repair that saved the club a costly plumbing bill.

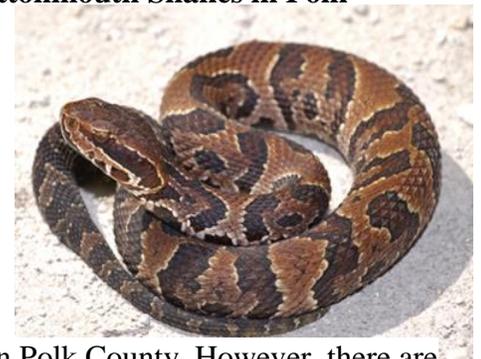
Pearson's Falls was closed for a couple of hours Friday morning, August 3, while Andy and Gene cleared a fallen tree from the trail. The fence received minor damage. This is the third fallen tree since May.

What's Blooming at Pearson's Falls? There are orange jewelweed, spotted wintergreen, Joe-pye weed, wingstem (yellow ironweed), passion flower, and Indian pipes. Coming soon: pink turtlehead.

Frequently Asked Questions at Pearson's Falls: *Does Colt Creek flow into the Atlantic Ocean?* Answer: Colt Creek flows into the Pacolet River and then south into the many tributaries of rivers that eventually flow into the Atlantic Ocean.

Correction: No Cottonmouth Snakes in Polk County!

Thank you Eva and Sam Pratt. They verified that there are no cottonmouth snakes in Polk County with David Campbell, who says, "There are NO Cottonmouths in Polk County. However, there are harmless Northern water snakes. Cottonmouths are mostly Coastal Plain species, far to the east of Polk County. People often misidentify water snakes."



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Historical Tidbits from the Archives

Acquiring the Pearson's Falls Property: *Past newsletters have reported that in June 1931, Minnie Hester, Felicia Calhoun and Irene Flentye had tried to get Ellis Pearson to show them the falls. Determined investigators they hiked to the falls. There were three parcels: Pearson's 5 acres, Saluda Bank's 314 acres and Arledge's 114 acres. On Nov. 6, 1931, the club agreed to purchase 425 acres for \$3,050 and secured a 6% loan from Frances and C.A. Lightner.*

The following is taken from the Tryon Garden Club meeting minutes, January 1932. The deeds were made out in Mr. Lightner's name as he paid the purchase price, but an agreement was drawn with the committee, promising to deed the property to the club when the purchase price was paid, minus the last \$500, which was a gift from Frances and C.A. Lightner. (*Joy notes that when you read in between the lines in later minutes there was a lot of concern by C.A. about getting his money back, because the Depression was taking a toll on everyone!*)

The committee agreed to keep up the property, pay taxes, if any, and pay Mr. Lightner 6% interest from December 11. Interest for the first year of \$183 had already been paid by two members of the club.

The PF Committee suggested several improvements that were necessary before opening the falls to the public: stepping stones, hand rails, foot bridges over the stream, and fencing the property where it is accessible from the road. The club agreed to make the improvements. They thanked Mrs. Minnie Hester for her report and Donald Peattie for his help with the Pearson's Falls Project.

Ellis Pearson was appointed to act as caretaker until March 1 or until other arrangements were made. He would take the gate receipts as his pay.

Historical information used at TGC Annual Meeting May 18, 2016, the TGC Program November 16, 2016, and the General Meeting January 18, 2017, researched by Joy Soderquist, TGC Archival Committee Chair.

GCNC District 1 News

Correction--Scholarships: July's information about scholarships came from the Garden Club of North

Carolina website. Joy Soderquest talked with the GCNC scholarship person who said the information for the website is being updated. Great news--four \$6,000 scholarships for a total of \$24,000 will be awarded.

Presidents' Meeting, Waynesville, NC, July 13: The Tryon area was well represented. TGC President Susan Kelley and TGC Past President Donna Southworth attended along with Margie Pankie and Chris Reed from Green Blades, and Mary Lance from Daffy Jills. District 1 Director Elaine Hefner conducted a lengthy meeting. Several questions were raised about the 2018 GCNC budget, Elaine presented the state awards including TGC's first place newsletter award. There was a strong emphasis on awards! The Waynesville clubs are having an awards competition. On the year-book topic, most attendees prefer paper, 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch yearbooks. Vice Director Joy Soderquist discussed scholarships and distributed the engagement calendars.

Although there will be no 2018 formal district meeting, Elaine has planned an informal gathering to be held in a Waynesville barn venue. She wants this to be a fun event to which non-members are invited. The only business will be the annual presidents' reports, and a memorial service for deceased club members. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 10.

Elaine would like this to be a fundraising opportunity for clubs. She asked each club to prepare a raffle item; the sale profit will go to the club that prepared it. She also encouraged club vendors to reserve a table and sell their own items; profit to the club or to the individual. Send questions to Elaine at enhefner@bellsouth.net. The state organization is funding the event up to \$500.

National Garden Club Update

NGC 2018 Award of Excellence: This award recognizes exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that make a significant contributions to their communities in such areas as environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects. Nancy Hargroves, 2017-19 NGC President, remarked that this is the highest honor for non-NGC members. Three awards were presented: Paul B. Redman, President and



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CEO of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA; George Longenecker, landscape architect and founder of WV Botanic Garden, near Morgantown, the only garden of its kind in the state; and Jack Wood, a staunch supporter of home and community gardening, growing food, and how these activities enhance the quality of life in Fargo, ND. He is the impetus behind Growing Together, the largest community gardening program in the region that supports 150 families. Information from *The National Gardener*, Summer 2018 issue, pgs. 10-13.

New daffodil cultivar has been selected for National Garden Clubs by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs. It has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society as N. 'Plant America'. Brent and Becky's Bulbs will donate a percentage of the sales to the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Fund.



This bulb will be available for purchase exclusively by NGC members for three years before it goes on sale to the public. There is a LIMITED amount of stock available for purchase this fall, as is typical in the first year of a new cultivar. For the second and third years, the number of bulbs available will be much larger.

N. 'Plant America' – A split corona daffodil - Color Code: 11 W-Y. The yellow perianth segments of this mid-season flower fold back smoothly over its white petals. It has a nice thick substance, which is why its flowers last so long. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12"-16", depending on the richness of the soil. Sold only in quantities of 5 bulbs; \$7.50 per bag of 5 bulbs, plus shipping. The order form is on the NGC website <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/brent-beckys-bulbs.aspx>.

For the Good of the Order

The Michigan Pollinator Initiative team is excited to announce the launch of a new online course!

"Pollinator Champions" is a free, self-paced course offered at Michigan State University. The course is packed full of videos, articles, and fun activities to guide you through the amazing world of pollinators and pollination. Anyone with an internet connection can enroll. You do not have to be an MSU student or faculty to participate. Everyone is welcome to learn about pollinators for free, but for a small contribution, you can also receive a certificate and materials to help you give your own presentations about pollinators. Help Dr. Lucy Bradley, NCS, spread the word, become a MSU Certified Pollinator Champion! Read more or register for Pollinator Champions at www.pollinators.msu.edu/programs/pollinator-champions/

Yard and Garden July Jobs: The following is information for gardeners from Scott Welborn, Polk Co. Cooperative Extension Director, *August Polk County Cooperative Extension Update*, e-newsletter.

- Remember to **water** newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and lawns as Aug. and Sept. become drier.
- **Mulch** shrubs and young trees in hot, dry weather with a 3-4" layer of pine straw, leaves, pine bark or hardwood mulch. Do not over mulch as research shows that too much mulch can reduce the amount of oxygen in the soil causing plants to become less vigorous or to decline.
- August is a good month in which to **transplant** iris and daylilies. Be sure to water well after transplanting.
- **Don't Prune** Shrubs or Trees! It can stimulate new growth which will not have sufficient time to harden off before cold weather. February is the best time for major pruning, but dead or diseased wood may be removed at any time of the year.

Quote of the month: "No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." Thomas Jefferson



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