



The Trillium

newsletter of
the Piedmont Chapter of the
American Rock Garden Society

Vol. 3, No. 1

Chapel Hill-Durham-Raleigh, N.C.

January, 1993

Finding Lemon-Colored Flowers

by Sue Templeton

Color coordination takes good knowledge of plants and where to get them. Agreement of color shade could be a problem, and flower color can vary according to the season. Roses, for example, that have the odd bloom out of full season can be quite a different shade to when they are in full bloom. And soil can affect flower color. What kinds of lemon-colored plants are out there? Well, making allowances for these variables, the following is a list of "lemon" flowering shrubs.

There is a lemon *Abutilon* (Chinese lantern) which grows about six feet high and wide, flowering profusely except in severe frosty areas. It is often available in nurseries.

Chimonanthus praecox is probably in nurseries now as it has fragrant lemon flowers in winter. It is not overly fussy about its conditions and it grows about six feet high.

Winterhazel (*Corylopsis veitchiana*) is another fragrant winter flowerer on bare branches. It prefers organic soil that is slightly acid and grows about six feet.

Some of the Hawaiian hibiscus have pale lemon flowers but they are tricky here in my home in Australia because they do not like frost. There is an annual hibiscus (*H. trionium*) which is not very widespread although very suitable for the area. It grows about 50 cm high, has large lemon flowers with a dark spot in the center and flowers and seeds profusely through the summer. It is tolerant of dry conditions.

Fragrance could come from ginger lilies (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) in summer. I am not experienced in growing these although I think they may need to be cut down and well mulched over winter.

The climbing rose, 'Mermaid', could be a good backdrop to a "lemon" garden. Mermaid repeat flowers very well with large single roses, but it also has vicious thorns. Growers find it a nuisance to produce as it wants to grow horizontally rather than upright; thus the nursery supply is usually limited. And there are

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London's Tradescant Museum of Garden History

by Bobby J. Ward

On a cloudy day in autumn the winds that whip across the Thames River can be biting if there are few shielding windbreaks along the south bank opposite London's Houses of Parliament. Here, among a cluster of sycamore trees next to Lambeth Place, is sheltered St. Mary-at-Lambeth where over the last 900 years five churches have stood. However, the bells in its 14th century tower no longer peal for the 20th century parishioners of Lambeth Borough. Abandoned as a church in the early 1970s, St. Mary-at-Lambeth became slated for demolition by the mid-'70s to make way for a promenade on the bank of the Thames in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. By this time much of the glass from its windows had been vandalized and the site had been reduced to a rubbish heap. In the churchyard the sooty tombstones of six Archbishops of Canterbury, Captain Bligh of the "Bounty", gardener and curio collector John Tradescant and his family, and others lay hidden by overgrown weeds and grasses and by litter left by vagrants that had frequented the site.

Unthwarted by the challenge that lay ahead in attempting to preserve the decaying building from bulldozers for a gardening museum, gardener Rosemary Nicholson began an inveterate campaign that took her from Church Commissioners to Lambeth councilmen to city planners and others, and in 1977 formed the Tradescant Trust that would undertake the establishment of a museum of gardening and garden history at the former church.

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Our January Meeting of the ARGS
Note Date Change
Saturday, January 23, 1993, 10:00 am
Totten Center, NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC
"The Evolution of My Garden"
Presented by Rebecca Zinn
Chapel Hill, NC

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As a condition of its lease from the Church Commissioners, the Trust was required to restore the building (the leaking roof alone needed \$200,000 of new slate), and a host of volunteer Trust friends cleaned the grounds and made public appeals that received matching grants, gifts and work-in-kind. Behind the church a 17th century knot garden was laid out and by May, 1983, the site---although far from complete at the time---was dedicated as the first museum of garden history by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, herself a phytophile of longstanding.

Who Were the Namesake Tradescants?

The Tradescants, namesakes of the Museum, were John (the father, ca. 1570 to 1638) and John (the son, 1608 to 1662). The elder Tradescant was an importer and gardener to various dukes and earls and traveled extensively throughout Europe (including eastern Europe and Russia) collecting plants---primarily fruit trees, vines and bulbs---for the orchards, avenues and gardens he maintained. He also brought back or had sent to him an assortment of oddities and rarities that he cultivated or stored at his house and its sixty acres of then-rural surroundings (he called it "Tradescant's Ark") off South Lambeth Road about a mile from St. Mary-at-Lambeth. Among his appointments was the title of "Keeper of the Gardens, Vines, and Silkworms" at the royal palace at Oatlands.

When the great bell of St. Mary tolled the death and funeral of John Tradescant (the father), his only son John was on the first of three botanical surveys to Virginia for Charles I and would return with some 200 new plants, seed, and dried specimens intended for his father. On that trip John brought back to London for Englishmen to see for the first time bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), and the purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). Subsequent trips introduced other New World natives to Europe including the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), and yucca (*Yucca filimentosa*) that were destined for The Ark and for listing in his catalog of the collection, the *Musaeum Tradescantianum*. (The Tradescant Trust and the garden museum now own a copy of the 1656 first edition). Both Tradescants were friends of Captain John Smith, and the father bought stock in the Virginia Company. Because of their friendship, the younger Tradescant brought back from Virginia for display at the Ark the Great Mantle of Chief Powhattan, father of Princess Pocahontas. (The Mantle now is displayed at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford where the bulk of the remaining artifacts from the Tradescant's Ark reside).

The genus that includes spiderwort was named by Linnaeus for the Tradescants; *Tradescantia virginiana*, a blue form known as Moses-in-the-Bullrushes, appears to have been sent to the Tradescants from a friend in Virginia and was being grown at South Lambeth as early as 1629. Another species, *Aster tradescantii* also named by Linnaeus, is believed to have been collected by the young Tradescant, probably in 1633, and took back to England by him.

What is the Garden Museum?

In short, the museum is intended to be a center that will display the heritage of gardening for amateur and professional garden lovers world wide. Currently, there is much to be done, particularly inside the building, while the planning and fund raising continue. The Prince of Wales signed on as patron of the Trust in 1989 and helped launch a \$6 million drive that would urge along the transformation of the old church to its envisioned garden museum. Architectural renderings to be realized in seven phases have been completed. For example, the British garden section (the bulk of the focus of the museum) will be divided into six exhibits chronicling history from the Middle Ages and Renaissance to the works of Jekyll, Lutyens, and Sackville-West in the 20th century. An exhibit on the link to the Americas and the New World plant introductions is planned. There are drawings for an information center, reference library, a restaurant, and an expanded museum shop (that currently sells seed from plants grown on the site and teas and scones). There is ample space for rotating temporary exhibits; a recent one, for example, included photographs and the potting shed of Gertrude Jekyll.

Outside the church-museum, the 17th century-design knot garden is comprised of plant stock from various English nurserymen and contains plants that were grown by the Tradescants or were known from the period. Appropriately, near the center of the knot grows *Tradescantia virginiana* while near the grave grows *Aster tradescantii*.

The contributions to botany and gardening that the Tradescants provided should not be minimized. The final words attesting to this legacy are provided by the epitaph on the tombstone of the Tradescant family in the graveyard at St. Mary-at-Lambeth. It reads as follows [John (the son) also had a son named John who died at the age of 19]:

"Know, stranger, ere thou/pass, beneath this
stone/Lye John Tradescant,/grandsire,
father,son,/The last dy'd in his spring,/the other two/
Liv'd till they had travell'd/Orb and Naturethrough."

How to become a "Friend of the Tradescant Trust"

If you wish to become a contributor and Friend of the Tradescant Trust, contact Rosemary Nicholson, Chairman and Trustee of the Tradescant Trust, 74 Coleherne Court, London, England SW6 OEF. The Trust publishes newsletters which are also on sale at the Museum's Shop.

An American branch of the Trust is listed. But I have personally been unsuccessful in receiving any responses from inquiries that I have made of Lawrence Lewis, Jr., President The Tradescant Gardeners of America, PO Box 644, Richmond, VA 23205-0644. If you're interested, perhaps you'll have better luck than I.

[Bobby J. Ward is an environmental scientist living in Raleigh, NC.]

Lemon-Colored Flowers continued from page 1

other lemon-flowering climbing and bush roses you can seek out.

Phlomis russeliana, sometimes known as Jerusalem sage, is a sturdy, drought-tolerant bushy plant often found in herb garden photos. The architectural foliage is complemented by lemon flowers for a long time in summer.

Thalictrum speciosum is one of my favorite perennials because it has large gray-blue maidenhair-type foliage and lemon, brush-like flowers. It makes quite a large plant to fit feet and is dormant in winter.

Potentilla fruticosa a plant I did not appreciate until I saw it in the spring of 1992 in the U.S. I saw it widely used as landscaping plant. The original species has been hybridized and developed into many different named forms. It is a small deciduous long-flowering bush that will take cold and some drought.

Sisyrinchium striatum is a hardy member of the iris family. This species comes from Chile but most species come from California. It can have foliage almost one yard high and the spikes of lemon flowers with a white center in spring. I brought back seed of a variegated form of this which I had not seen before.

Scabiosa ochroleuca is quite a nice small perennial with a fairly continuous supply of flowers. A taller relative with similar lemon flowers, *Cephalaria gigantea*, does not seem so strong-growing. A plant that annoys me because of its also being weak-growing is *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam'.

One of my favorite lemon-flowering plants is *Digitalis lutea* which has flossy, dark green foliage, and spikes of massed thin lemon foxgloves to 80 cm tall.

Another easy plant is *Corydalis ochroleuca*—that is if you have dry conditions. It will self-seed into cracks and crevices and is a delicate plant that can easily be removed. A lot of water in summer will rot it out very quickly.

The common English primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) is a pretty pale lemon with darker centers. These plants persist and multiply if they have enough water in summer with some shade.

The ferny foliage of *Polemonium* is always popular and the lemon tubular flower of the species *pauciflorum* are very attractive.

There are two kinds of lemon Californian poppies. I think it is the alpine kind that is marketed as 'Lemon Drops'. It has much finer foliage than the common variety. It is not usually possible to buy larger lemon Californian poppy on its own, but if you grew a mixed color batch and pulled out every other color than lemon as soon as they began to flower the next generation of plants from the seed they will set should be almost all lemon colored.

Linarias are rather dainty plants whose flowers look like small snapdragons. All of this family of plants are good value because they flower for a long time. Besides the annual linaria, which includes some lemon flowers, there are two perennial linarias with lemon flowers. *Linaria vulgaris* grows about 25 cm high and tends to invade, flowering continually as it goes. The flowers are lemon with darker throat. *Linaria tristis* does

not run, has grayish foliage about 15 cm high and smaller creamier flowers. It demands good drainage.

This selection of lemon-colored plants covers a range of shapes and textures. With a bit of searching here will be many more to discover.

[ARGS Piedmont Chapter member Sue Templeton gardens on Boomerang Drive in Aubury, NSW, Australia. She writes a weekly garden column for The Borden Mail newspaper.]

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Evergreen Armand Clematis Graces Winter Landscape

By Kim E. Tripp

Vines are often neglected in the landscape. Frequently misunderstood as rampant or weedy, many are not. Instead, climbing and twining vines are actually amazing creatures. With their ability to climb vertical surfaces and cover horizontal spans, vines are capable of transforming the commonplace landscape into a spectacular, multi-dimensional garden. There are hundreds and hundreds of wonderful, garden-worthy vines. Chief among those are the many species of showy-flowered *Clematis*, of which there are hundreds of species and hybrids alone. But even among the many *Clematis*, the Armand Clematis, (*Clematis armandii*) stands out as an exceptional flowering vine.

Armand Clematis is an evergreen, climbing vine native to China. Its dark, leathery leaves are very large and handsome. Individual leaves are oval or somewhat heart-shaped and can be 6 inches long and 2 inches wide. The foliage drapes from the woody, twining stems all year and keeps good color throughout the winter. In early to mid spring, the vine is covered with charming, white, almost translucent flowers that age to a very light pinkish color. Unlike the blooms of the more common, large-flowered *Clematis* hybrids, individual flowers of Armand Clematis are not exceptionally large, usually about 2 inches across. While their individual size is demure, since many flowers are in bloom at the same time, they create a lacy floral quilt that covers the vine with delicate beauty.

The individual flowers, though, are quite lovely by themselves. The showy part of the *Clematis* flower is actually a different botanical part of the flower from the colorful part of most flowers—which are called petals. The showiest part of a *Clematis* flower is the 'sepal' which is more often an insignificant, lower layer on the flowers of other plants whose 'petals' are the stars.

The fruit of *Clematis* are also interesting. Brown, very small seed 'pods' with long, soft hairs develop through the summer. While these wonderfully silky pods are not especially eye-catching from a distance, they are an attractive reward for the attentive gardener in the fall.

Culture of Armand Clematis is not difficult but does require more awareness than some plants. Clematis in general prefer, cool, moist, well-drained, loamy soils with the option to climb up into a warm, sunny perch for the foliage. These conditions will result in the best flowering. However, less than perfect sites can also give very good results with a little work to keep the roots cool by planting the vine in a partially shaded area, and perhaps using a light mulch. Partial shade is also helpful for this evergreen in preventing sun scorch on the leaves in winter. At The NCSU Arboretum, Armand Clematis has done very well in just such a position, even when planted in clay soils.

Clematis can be propagated from seed, which requires a long, chilling pretreatment, or from softwood cuttings taken in

the summer and rooted under mist. Armand Clematis will be reliably hardy throughout the Piedmont and coastal areas of the southeast but will be less reliable in the mountains with damage likely in severe winters. Temperatures below -5 F may completely kill the plant.

Armand Clematis is a rather uncommon plant but it is well worth a bit of hunting. There are some named cultivars, including a rare, true-pink flowered selection. 'Apple Blossom' has pink-tinted flowers and bronzy new foliage. 'Snowdrift' has especially clear white blooms. 'Farquhariana' has pink blooms while 'Early Spring' is an early bloomer with pale pink flowers.

Armand Clematis will cover a trellis, a fencepost, or bannister with a graceful blanket of delicate floral beauty in the spring, and handsome, dark green leaves throughout the year. Look for this lovely vine in specialty nurseries so that you can bring its unique charm into your own garden.

[Dr. Kim Tripp is a graduate of NCSU's Horticultural Department where she is currently a postdoctoral associate at the NCSU Arboretum in Raleigh, NC. Kim is also curator of the Arboretum's conifer collection]

A Song for Winter

Speak not of snow and cold and rime now they prevail.
Would you have joy in winter time, think of the pale
New green that comes of blossoming lilacs, think
Larkspur and borders of the fringed pink.
And sing, if winter grants your heart to sing,
Of summer and of spring.

Would you secure some happiness in frosty hours,
Trust to the eye external less than to the powers
Of inward sight that even now may show
Opaline seas, blue hilltops and the glow
Of daybreak on the glades where thrushes sing
In summer and in spring.

Gaze not on fettered lake and brook and sullen skies,
But in your happy memory look where beauty lies
As once it was, as it shall be again
When sunshine floods the fields of blowing grain,
And sing, as must who would in winter sing,
Of summer and of spring.

—Mrs. Schuyler van Rensselaer
from *The Melody of Earth*,
edited by Mrs. Waldo Richards,
Houghton Mifflin, New York 1918.

Hardy Orange: Sharp Sculpture for the Winter Landscape

By Kim E. Tripp

Chill gusts, bare branches, leaves skittering across the road from their old places among carefully raked piles --- these are all signs that Fall is turning to Winter. With the approach of Winter, we often abandon our gardens and retreat to warmer realms indoors. Yet, during this transitional time, its good to remember that the Winter landscape offers us a unique sculptural beauty that we miss by staying in near the fire.

One plant that demonstrates this unique type of beauty is *Poncirus trifoliata*, the Hardy or Wild Orange. The Hardy Orange is a deciduous, large shrub or small tree that can reach 20 feet in height and spreads to 10 to 14 feet. Hardy Orange is a citrus relative introduced from China in the 1850s. It has naturalized throughout the eastern USA into Pennsylvania and is hardy in North Carolina, both in the Piedmont and the mountains.

Hardy Orange is a very interesting looking tree with a dense, angular habit. The branches are bright green when young and the whole tree bristles with long, sharp, vicious thorns. Hardy Orange blooms in the Spring with small, white, fragrant flowers. The foliage is lustrous green throughout Spring and Summer and turns yellow in the Fall. The leaves are divided into three 'leaflets' and are therefore called 'trifoliolate' - hence the name *Poncirus trifoliata*. It is a relative of the true orange tree and bears small, orange-like fruit which ripen in September or October to a dull yellow color and are covered with a light downy fuzz. Even when ripe, the fruit are very sour but they make delicious marmalade and can generally be used as a substitute for lemon.

Hardy Orange is tolerant of most conditions. It does best in full sun with moist, well-drained, acid soils but will also grow in a range of difficult sites from wet, to hot and dry. There are no serious disease or pest problems with this tree and its easy to transplant. Hardy Orange can be readily propagated from seed which have been layered in a moist medium and stored at 40F for 90 days. This cold period is necessary for good germination. Softwood cuttings taken in Summer can be successfully rooted when cuttings are treated with a rooting promoter.

Hardy Orange makes a unique landscape statement, particularly in late Fall when the leaves have fallen and a few yellow fruit may persist. Because of its extremely nasty thorns, Hardy Orange can be grown at close spacing to form an impenetrable hedge which will daunt even the most inveterate of gate crashers! As a specimen tree, its sculptural and textural effect is very striking. Even more fascinating than the species is the cultivar 'Flying Dragon' with dramatically twisted branching and sharply curved thorns.

As Winter arrives, Nature's cloak of leaves and flowers is blown aside, revealing the forms of hillsides and streams, fields and trees. This is the season to look in the garden for an array of line and shadow, silhouette and form not found in any art museum. The Hardy Orange cultivar 'Flying Dragon' is one of

the most beautifully and intricately sculpted plants of the Winter landscape. Put on your woolies and venture out to be captivated by the twining of its branches; but don't get caught on the thorns!

Rocky Mountain (Colorado) Chapter of ARGS Extends Welcome Without Bias

Marilyn Raff (Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of ARGS) and other organizers of the national ARGS meeting (called "Rocky Mountain Rendezvous") planned for Vail, Colorado, (June 24-27, 1993) have sent the following resolution to all ARGS chapters:

"Recent legislative initiatives in Colorado make it necessary that the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the ARGS emphasize what has always been our practice: All gardeners regardless of race, creed, color, gender or sexual preference are welcome to be with us. We do not discriminate and do not approve of it. This welcome is extended without reservation. All our ARGS members will be warmly and sincerely greeted at any of our upcoming events."

Order of Business at Piedmont Chapter ARGS Meetings

- Arrive and pick up name tags prior to 10:00 am if doors are open.
- 10:00 am — 10 to 15 minutes to socialize, view plant table, etc.
- 10:15 am — a 45-minute -to-one hour program.
- Show and Tell Time
- Plant Auction
- Announcements
- Social time and Clean up (usually end by noon)

(Schedule may be altered at the discretion of the Chairman. If you have anything you wish to present to the chapter at large, contact the Chairman prior to the meeting).

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Book Review...

Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants. Richard E. Bir. The University of North Carolina Press, 1992, 192pp.; clothbound, ISBN 0-8078-2027-X; paperback, ISBN 0-8078-4366-0.

By Barbara Scott

I was disappointed when I couldn't attend Richard Bir's talk to the Friends of the Arboretum at N.C. State University this past fall. After reading his book on growing native woody plants, I realized how much I missed by not being able to hear him speak. This book is one that I will use over and over again as my garden develops.

Beginning gardeners will find it especially helpful because it is so exact in its instructions, and its tone is knowledgeable without being intimidating. But it has enough detailed information on propagating and growing woody plants to serve as a textbook for growers.

The first fourth of the book is devoted to specific instructions on how to propagate native plants and care for them. It discusses exactly how to handle seeds in spite of their fragility and the "impreciseness" of instructions for each. I paid special attention to the explanation for scarification and stratification. The "why's" and the "how-to's" of these processes are not overwhelming with the step-by-step instructions given here. Hardwood, softwood, and root cuttings are discussed in the same experienced tone, along with plant growing mediums, fertilizing, and pruning for newly established plants.

The next 30 pages or so discuss how to re-create or enhance a native plant community by paying attention to site and soil, including soil chemistry, fertilizing, and mulching. The comments on site analysis—"looking around and recognizing what you have"—are simple but exact. The section on mulching is valuable because of its cautions about the dangers of over-mulching. Planting, fertilizing, and pruning are covered with specific instructions for maintaining effective spatial relationships between plants and how to calculate the amount of fertilizer to apply once they are established. These beginning sections are illustrated with Karen Palmer's line drawings that are both effective and well placed.

The remainder of the book provides a descriptive list of native woody plants with information on each one's propagation, best habitat, and landscape characteristics. Reading these descriptions, which are interspersed with color photographs from Dick Bir's own collection, makes me want to grow almost every woody plant listed. The photographs are excellent and highlight the blooms and berries that make native plants so desirable.

High on my want list is *Clethra alnifolia* 'Pinkspire,' a "slightly smaller form having rose-pink buds that open to a pink which does not fade," *Viburnum alnifolium* (*lantanoide*s) with white blooms that are best "viewed from a distance against woodland shade," and *Amelanchier canadensis*, sometimes known as service: "An eastern spring would not seem right without delicate, often fleeting white and light pink service flowers catching the eye during the last gloomy days of winter."

Dick Bir's personal experience with many of these woody plants in the landscape enlivens his descriptions—comments on which ones insects and rabbits are fond of chewing, how their bark looks in winter, and where to place them to best emphasize their qualities.

The experience he shares is invaluable. I look forward to studying these descriptions many times and to adding more native woody plants to my garden each year.

[Chapter Board Member Barbara Scott lives in Raleigh, NC]

Board Members 1992-1993 Piedmont Chapter of ARGS

Chairman: Bob Wilder, 1213 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607; telephone (919) 781-2255 or (919) 362-7115.

Vice-Chairman: Richard W. Hartlage, P. O. Box 7477, Durham, NC 27708; telephone (919) 490-9785.

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Board Member-at-Large: Barbara Scott, 1321 Chaney Road, Raleigh, NC 27606; telephone (919) 859-6703.

The Trillium Newsletter Editor: Bobby J. Ward, 930 Wimbledon Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609; telephone (919) 781-3291.

Piedmont Chapter Positions of Responsibility

Refreshments & Hospitality: Ruth Lee, 102 Dixie Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; telephone (919) 968-0737.

Joan Wall, 113 Collins Avenue, Hillsborough, NC 27278; telephone (919) 644-6422.

Spring Garden Tour Committee: Volunteer gardens and coordinator(s) needed. Contact Bob Wilder immediately.

National ARGS Offers \$5 Gift Vouchers

The National American Rock Garden Society has presented us with a unique way to raise funds for our treasury. At present there is a special offer (\$5 Gift Voucher) to anyone who signs up a new member. Norman Singer, our national ARGS president, has suggested that our chapter can sign up new members and have the \$5 issued to the chapter. With these vouchers, we can purchase books from the chapter bookstore and then sell them to members. National ARGS will benefit, local chapters will benefit, and most importantly, you will benefit. So give yourself a late Christmas/Hanukkah present. Join National ARGS at our January 23, 1993 meeting. You must use the special voucher form—which will be available at the meeting. The \$5 voucher will only be issued if sign-ups are made on this special form. See the special offer order blank on page 7 of this issue of *The Trillium*. Clip the page and bring it to our next chapter meeting on January 23, 1993.

The Trillium © 1993 by the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS.

The Back Page...

Chairman's Comments by Bob Wilder

Since 1992 has just ended, it's time for the "State of the Chapter Report." There are 167 paid memberships, but these memberships just barely pay the cost of publishing and mailing *The Trillium*. Dues have not increased since 1985, but expenses have increased. Without plant sales, we could not bring in outside speakers. These plant auctions have been very successful with the November auction, for example, adding \$151 to our treasury. The auction has been a success thanks to a limited number of members. There are a few members who always donate plants for auction and nearly always the same people stay for the auction. This says to me that those who only pay their dues are getting more than \$5 in return. We need to have more active participation by our membership or ultimately, we'll have to raise the dues to cover our basic operating expenses.

I am sorry to report that it appears that the spring plant sale is a dead issue. Only a few nursery people responded and most of these were negative. This will be a great loss to our fund raising efforts.

I treasure the comments, suggestions, complaints, and compliments offered by the membership. They do not fall on deaf ears. Even negative criticism can be productive at some point.

Please note the change in dates for our January and March, 1993 meetings. New dates are January 23 and March 13. These changes were necessary because of Totten Center availability. The goodies for January are to be furnished by last names beginning "O" through "Z".

To close, I'd like to offer some New Year's resolutions for your consideration:

1. I will pay my membership dues immediately after receiving the July newsletter and/or prior to the first meeting in September.
2. I will certainly have many desirable plants ready for the September, 1993 plant sale.
3. I will not forget to bring good things to eat to our chapter meetings when I am scheduled.
4. During the year, I will bring some plants to the chapter meeting for plant auctions.
5. I will give serious consideration to joining the National ARGS (\$25/year) this year.
6. I will continue to give support—including volunteerism—to our local chapter.

May our chapter continue to be happy, relaxed, and thankful in the coming year!

Bobby J. Ward
American Rock Garden Society
Piedmont Chapter Newsletter Editor
930 Wimbledon Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609-4356
USA

First Class Mail



Mailed January 8, 1993

Note Changes in Chapter Meetings---

**New Dates: January 23
and March 13, 1993**