



PKS Garden Club

Members of The Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club were treated to a veritable wonderland of beauty following their May 12th business meeting at Town Hall. Gordon (Hoot) Gibson of Oakleaf Drive, Pine Knoll Shores very generously invited the membership to view and enjoy his magnificent garden of roses in full bloom located in his yard adjacent to Bogue Sound. The impact of the sight of these 100 or more gorgeous rose bushes was intoxicating. Each bloom was more perfect than the next. The varieties were myriad ranging from white, pale to deep shades of yellow, peach, delicate pink to deep rose to maroon - a true pallet of nature's art, aided, of course, by the nurturing hand of Mr. Gibson.

He has been raising roses since 1991. His two favorites are "Mr. Lincoln", a magnificent brilliant rose color hybrid T, and "Double Delight", also a hybrid T, but as its name implies, a delight to the nose as well as the eye, since it emits a breathtaking spicy aroma.

Rose enthusiasts have been enhancing the appearance of the flower through hybridization since 1867, unfortunately often causing a complete loss of scent. The hunt for these old scents is on! Rose societies' members are combing deserted and abandoned properties for these ancient surviving plants with great success. All roses had aromas before 1867! Maybe they will again by 2020.

Mr. Gibson has planted a row of majestic black Japanese pines, sound side of his rose garden as protection from the strong north wind. His plants thrive on Mills Magic Mix organic fertilizer; and ladybugs and fungicide ward off unwanted pests and blight.

At the meeting, President Judy Poit announced with great sorrow the death of Betty Gray, a member of the club since 1981.

Plans have been finalized for the 25th Anniversary Celebration at Town Hall on

Friday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m., to be immediately preceded by the dedication of the new garden in front of the building to the memory of Peg and Lee Hereth.

Officers for 1999-2000 will be installed at the luncheon meeting to be held at the Royal Pavillion on June 9th.

Jane Page, Arlene Terrell and Julia Wollard prepared delicious refreshments for the meeting, and Julia's centerpiece of a gorgeous apple blossom amaryllis bloom was a visual delight.

Nan Gildner announced that the 1999 Plant Sale was a huge success, not only financially, but also in member participation, which was just about 100%.

Irene Doremus expressed appreciation to Bill Filan for magnanimously constructing and presenting to the club three bird houses for different species, along with detailed instructions, to be used in a workshop enabling every club member to build and place a small home for our feathered friends in their yard.

Lee Cosgrove shared the secret of her giant pansies. She feeds them bloodmeal, which contains the magic combination of nitrogen, potassium and potash.

Joan Smith, Environmental Chairman, warned that this wonderful bloodmeal is an Epicurean feast for squirrels. She suggest fending them off by placing eggshells on top of the soil, then treating them to "Hot Varmint Mix" - a mix of 2 tablespoons hot tobasco sauce, 2 tablespoons cayenne pepper, 1 tablespoon chili powder, and 1 teaspoon shampoo in 1 quart of warm water.

Submitted by: Clare Winslow

