



## PKS Garden Club

Lisa Wimpfheimer, agricultural extension agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, addressed "Gardening with Bulbs" at the February 12 meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club at Town Hall. She explained that bulbs are subterranean modified leaf buds, the storage medium of several classes of flowers. This medium in the daylily, daffodil, tulip and gladiola is a CORM. The subterranean root stem in the canna, iris and ginger is a RIZONE. The stout thick stem in the caladium is called a TUBER.

This February in Pine Knoll Shores we have all noticed that the warm winter weather has hastened the blooming of our daffodils, azaleas, crocuses, snow bells and flowering fruit trees. Instead of depending on the amount of hours of daylight, some flowers are temperature dependent. These harbingers of Spring have delighted us with Spring in early February. Planting in groups or, even better, mass planting of these bulbs creates a spectacular display of early color. Daffodils thrive in our area, and many new varieties with colors ranging from deep yellow to lemon, apricot or even white have been developed, including shorties, which even withstand our coastal winds.

The first year's bloom of tulips is all we can manage in Carteret County if we don't dig up and refrigerate the bulbs for 10 weeks each year. Our winter soil just doesn't chill down enough to prepare the bulb for yearly flowering. The fabulous displays of tulips massed in the formal gardens of Tryon Palace seem cultivated to satisfy the yearnings of our local tulip lovers.

Bulbs should be planted in the Fall -small bulbs 5 inches deep, large ones 8 inches deep. Bone meal should be added before the bulb is covered, and 8-8-8 fertilizer used as continued food. Two important remonstratives-Plant in well drained soil and never remove or even braid yellowing leaves. Doing so steals energy from the plant preparing for next years bloom.

Maureen Kocher, Martha Randall and Mary Ann Shapiro created a delightful refreshment table with marvelous gastronomic treats set with a red and white Valentine theme including a large red heart decorated with white lace and February birthday recognitions.

President Sheryl Woodbury welcomed three new members - Kay Howe, Carol McVitty and Shirley Schaeffler.

Paulette Murphy distributed order forms for the annual Plant Sale, April 27.

Arbor Day will be celebrated at Brock Basin Friday, March 22 at 10 a.m. Everyone in town is welcome.

The garden club will be distributing FREE tree seedlings supplied by the Community Appearance Commission at Brock Basin March 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone needing new trees is urged to participate.

Irene Doremus shared the Didjano tip. Spider mites on house plants, caused by dry winter house heat, can be eradicated by spraying with a miticide or placing a liquid soap and water mix on the soil, or by rubbing the leaves with an alcohol and water mix.

Three exciting garden-related trips were discussed-Brookgreen Gardens in Litchfield, South Carolina March 20-21; a garden tour of Bath, North Carolina by the Bath Garden Club April 20; and the international Floriade in the Netherlands, which is held every ten years, from April 26 to May 3.

The program for the March 13 meeting will be conducted by Park Ranger, Randy Newman at Fort Macon State Park.

Submitted By: Clare Winslow

## A vote for the beach

For a beautiful sight on the coast, drive to Pine Knoll Shores on Bogue Banks in Carteret County, and observe the dramatic transformation of a severely eroded beach into a wide new beach. By spring, this rebuilding project will be extended through Indian Beach.

Although local taxpayers are funding this initial project, the Army Corps of Engineers' Long Term Protection Project will continue any necessary rebuilding beginning by 2010. However, the adjacent Atlantic Beach shows that rebuilding should be minimal. Hurricanes Bertha, Fran, Dennis and Floyd had minor effects on Atlantic Beach because of nourishment shortly before those storms.

The last section of Bogue Banks needing nourishment is in Emerald Isle, particularly the eastern half and the point on the west end. On March 5, Emerald Isle voters will decide on a bond referendum to fund this beach rebuilding project. If approved, oceanfront home owners will have an average \$1,630 annual property tax increase for seven or eight years. Non-oceanfront homeowners will have an annual increase of about \$53, a small price to pay for a stable oceanfront assuring that the overall town property tax rate will remain as one of the lowest in North Carolina.

Is nourishing the beaches of Bogue Banks justified? Coastal geologists and environmentalists agree that not every beach is suitable for nourishment. However, scientists and coastal geologists agree that the excellent nearby sources of beach-quality sand make Bogue Banks one of the most worthy candidates for nourishment of any North Carolina beach!

CHARLES W. STUBER

+ Raleigh