

Tryon Garden Club News

October 2020



Monday I spent the morning at Pearson's Falls greeting visitors. I had a wonderful time asking, "Is this your first time at Pearson's Falls?" Most responded, "Yes." One couple had been directed down Pearson Falls Road and claimed it had been a challenge they did not want to repeat. They asked, "How do we get back to Saluda on better road?" Most were wearing face masks. All were glad that PF was open and the water was gushing. *Donna Southworth, Editor*

Above photo and comment by NGA member Kousa. Info from Nov. 16, 2019, Garden.org newsletter, National Gardening Assoc., pigeon@garden.org.



Photo by 9-year old Jenny Buchanan local 4-H member.

Jenny's Photo is a Winner: In August Jenny Buchanan won fourth place in the State-wide 4-H Junior Division Photography Contest. There were three categories to choose from: 4-H in Action, Pets in Action, and Nature's Beauty. Photos were judged on their relevance to the category topic, their composition, focus, sharpness and lighting.

In honor of her winning photograph the Tryon Garden club awarded Jenny and her family a pass to Pearson's Falls so that they can return, hike and enjoy the falls often. Jenny is a 9 year old homeschooler who has been involved with 4-H for two years.

The official announcement was made in the *Tryon Daily Bulletin*, September 9, page 15, by the Polk County Extension Administrative Assistant, Kerry Jones and 4-H agent Helen Blackwell.

Club Business

Development: Beth Rounds reports that the Kirby Grant application was submitted by Carol Newton and a check was received. The club has \$2120.88 remaining in the Special Projects Fund.

Two thank you letters were sent to donors by Gretchen Morris. Two annual passes were purchased; Carol Meeske will follow-up with notes.

The National Garden Club Plant America grant application was received too late to act on it.

Financials: Carol Newton reports that this is her final Treasurer's report. The club's board members will miss her! She has streamlined the job and kept a watchful eye on the club's finances.

She and Larry will be traveling over the next few months. Carol is hopeful that a replacement has been found. She is grateful, as is the board, that Jane Herman has agreed to be Assistant Treasurer. Carol, Jane and Debbie at Smyth Accounting have worked out a new system for paying invoices. If you see Carol and/or Jane, tell each that she is appreciated!

During September Pearson's Falls attendance and revenue were down slightly compared to last year

(September 2020 was \$311 less than last year). At the moment, the budget is holding its own; expenses have for the most part been down. There was a slight increase in the usual expenditures for salaries and operational items. The three Polk County Community Fund investments continue to do well.

The Tryon Garden Club's 2019 tax return (990 in nonprofit terminology) is about to be finalized. When it is sent to the board members, it is the responsibility of each to review the 990 return AND acknowledge that it was reviewed. The return includes a specific question about Board member 990 review.

Hospitality/Programs: Denny Crowe reports that Donna Wise (Programs), and Cindy Caldwell and she (Hospitality) met at the Lanier Library with the new Director Jenny Purtill. They discussed the possibility of collaboration and engagement with the library to live-stream meetings to our members. Jenny suggested that we could offer this to our members about once a quarter. Topics would be related to gardening and/or the natural world. It was decided that we could do a "Facebook Live Stream" program from the Library, availing ourselves of their equipment and expertise, and have Donna Wise's presentation on Catesby be our first one in January (date and time to be announced). Cindy and Denny will help set up these works of art in the library for the presentation. We have many other ideas that we discussed that would include collaboration with the Library. We are excited to be able to have a platform that can somehow bring us all together again.

Marketing/Publicity: Beth Rounds reports that she and Janet Peterson have had a busy month. A Pearson's Falls monthly update provided to *Saluda Lifestyles*. The website was updated with fall pictures, more will be added in the coming weeks. Google Business Page and Facebook were posted every other week. Google top searches are Pearson Falls and Hike Near Me, Hiking. FB had over 5000 engagements with 213 likes. Direct messages via our FB site are received and Beth replies within 24 hours.

These contracts were up for consideration:

- Website annual contract was renewed.

- Visit Greenville annual contract was renewed.
- Tryon International Equestrian Center advertising was not renewed.
- Visitor's Guide and *Life in Our Foothills* magazine advertising was modified.

A local youth, Jenny Buchanan, won 4th place in a 4-H photo contest. We got wind of it via the *Tryon Daily Bulletin* article. Her photo is fantastic (see pg. 1)! We connected with Jenny's mom and offered the family an annual pass. They are so thrilled! A delightful thank you note was received from Jenny and her mom.

SouthPark magazine <https://southparkmagazine.com> is doing a feature on Charlotte Day Trips. The magazine editor asked for a photo of the falls. Once published, we will get a link to the article, and if appropriate, will promote via our website or FB.



Photo from IMDb.com website.

Figure 8
Films reached out to see if they could use our property for the Reality Show *7 Little Johnsons*. After discussion, it was decided to allow them access early next Sunday am –before our

regular hours. Beth and Bob Tobey will join Andy to meet the crew and Johnson family. Appropriate papers are being signed on both sides to ensure confidentiality and liability. They will pay a fee for the two hours. Google them – interesting family of little people.

Membership: Jackie Weedon completed the yearbook. Donna mailed it for judging by Garden Club of NC District 1, and it has been confirmed that it was received before the deadline.

The TGC Yearbook is on the website: pearsonsfalls.org, member section, password: "pearsonsfalls". The yearbook is a pdf file, but is very large; it takes a while to download. Please start it, then go for a cup of coffee while you wait. It's worth it!

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Civic Beautification

Depot Garden Activity: Denise Barthold reports that she and Linda Lovelace have been working in the Depot Garden deadheading and weeding. The St. John's Wort and Blue Mist shrubs were moved to new locations in the lower garden. They were underperforming along the Pacolet sidewalk. The Turks Cap lily was moved to the tall-natives garden. Two Turtle-head and 1 Lobelia were also transplanted. Denise has planted 3 'Table Mountain' Helianthus, 3 'Low Down' Helianthus, 1 Nippon / Montauk Daisy, 1 New York Ironweed, 1 narrow leaf Ironweed and 2 coneflower. Additional plant labels were added to the garden.

Jackie Burke stopped by the garden with a mossy rock and more peat pots. The rock is now at home in the moss and fern garden. The peat pots will be used in the spring for Zinnia seed germination.



The Depot Garden sign that Denise Barthold has been pampering trying to make it last. It may soon be replaced.

Photo by Denise

Ann Wendling has agreed to take the lead on the purchase of 3 new garden club signs. They will replace the original signs that Denise has been trying to maintain. The plan is to create signs cohesive with the two signs from Sign Source. Once Ann has explored available options and created the sign design, the committee will discuss the next steps. Two estimates have been received; a third is expected.

Denise is out of town for a few days. The irrigation system is on hiatus due to heavy rain from tropical

storm Beta. But if it is needed, Linda is in charge of waking up the irrigation system.

To keep the Depot Garden welcoming to all, Denise and Linda are regularly deadheading roses and perennials, picking up fallen branches, and blowing the garden paths and Pacolet St. sidewalk.

From the Pearson's Falls Mist

What's Happening at Pearson's Falls: Bob Tobey reports that Gene Justice is fully recovered from COVID-19. He is doing a great job at the gate and helping Andy with projects as needed.

Bob suggests that he may be willing to work at PF for a portion of 2021 and asked that members give him a call at PF (749-3031, Mon., Tues. or Wed.) and tell him members would love for him to continue at PF.

Gene and Libby were on vacation earlier this week. Thank you to volunteers Donna Southworth, Mary Reeves, Jean Shumway, Ceille and Jim Welch, Lucy and Tim Brannon, Virginia Meador, and Carol Meeske for covering Gene's three days away.

An arborist is coming this month to treat PF's hemlocks for wooly adelgid.

Two men recently came to PF and volunteered to help with physical work! Will Kallberg from Columbus and John Swenson from Landrum. They are both helping Andy and Gene on Wednesday mornings. Thank you guys! The Pearson's Falls team is very fortunate!

Monday through Friday picnicking is being allowed and the restrooms are open at PF. This seems to be working well.

PF Maintenance: Andy Ruff reports that now that fall days are here, the leaves on the parking lot, trails and roofs need to be blown more often. The weeds continue to grow at the entrance signs and in the bus turn around, and the ditches and runoffs have been filling with storm debris; he still needs to use the weedeater and clean ditches. The educational garden is looking sad as the plants begin to die back and yellow.

The donated bench was installed along the Pearson Family Trail. It's not going anywhere—three bags of concrete are holding it in place. Webster's Way has



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needed some special attention, a rail was replaced and a tree had to be removed. Mulching the trails is an ongoing project.

Pearson's Falls September Attendance: September's numbers were slightly behind 2019, 3567 visitors vs 3631 and \$15,407 vs \$15,718. Both years had the same number of weeks (4).

Over the three-day Labor Day Weekend PF had 980 visitors. The falls were backdrop for three September weddings. During September PF was open every day. YTD, there have been 18,942 visitors vs 22,738 in '19.

Getting to Know One Another

New Member Anne Fitz arrived to North Carolina in 2016 with Hurricane Matthew and her poodle Chilly.

She moved to NC from Colorado and having lived in the ski resort of Vail for 35 years and most recently on the prairie outside of Denver in Elizabeth, she decided to reside in the foothills of North Carolina with a bit better climate.

While Anne is no "master gardener" she worked for a landscape company in Vail that experimented and perfected the art of propagating alpine plant materials that were collected with the curator of the Denver Botanical Garden.

Additionally, Anne was married to one of the foremost landscape contractors in the county.

New member Susan Taylor commented that she and her partner David moved to Tryon from Annapolis, Maryland after retiring from a career in commercial banking. Horses and the love of open spaces brought them to the area. Susan's previous non-profit experience includes 15 years with The Light House, Inc., a homeless shelter, resource and prevention center. She has held various positions including President, Vice President and Treasurer. Despite leaving Annapolis she remains a member of The Light House Finance Committee. She admitted her lack of gardening skills to Denny Crowe, but Denny insisted everyone in the club is happy to share their knowledge and offer tips.

Historical Tidbit

Early Tryon Beekeepers: The general meeting program this month was to have been Bees and Trees presented by Ron Lance. Unfortunately that isn't happening due to the pandemic. This historical note will have to suffice.

A TGC Archivist, Mike McCue, says that there is an understandable connection between liking bees and liking gardens. From his research he has shared the identification of two early beekeepers. In the late 1800s Tryon resident Margaret Warner Morley (1858-1923) wrote a book *The Bee People*, which was in print as late as 1930. Though she and her partner moved to Massachusetts in 1919, her influence continued. During those years a number of Tryon people were interested in the pollination of fruit.

Early Tryon Garden Club leader, Miss Irene Mae Flentye, (born Feb. 1879- alive in 1943) was a lacemaker, a versatile community organizer, a leader in the TGC Pearson's Falls Project, Lanier Library activist, and a beekeeper. Volume 1 of *North Carolina Beekeeper*, published 1924 identifies Flentye as the leader of Tryon's coterie of bee people. A resident of Lynn, her Polk County influence extended to Saluda, as she was a trustee of the Tryon-Saluda Administrative School Unit where her Saluda colleagues were Albert Salley, H.G. Laughter and William Egerton, Jr. Thus Holbert's Bee Supply enterprise active today in Saluda can trace its business history back a century to the formative influences of remarkable Tryon women with keen interest in bees.

GCNC District 1 News

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. 2021

Engagement Calendar and Journal: This beautiful calendar (Sorry no picture was included with the order info) is available for \$8.00 plus postage and handling. If you would like one of these for yourself or to give as a gift please contact TGC member Mary Reeves who is placing a bulk order on October 31 and would like to include your order.



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National Garden Club Inc. Update

TGC/NGC Inc. WWII War Effort: During the WWII, Tryon Garden Club with TGC President Marie Holmes (formally from England) worked with the NGC to raise funds for Red Cross Ambulances, and later raised funds to send “Seeds to Britain” and “Seeds for Peace” to Russia.

In the fall issue of *The National Gardener* there is an article about the Pennsylvania seed challenge where PA garden clubs planted Burpee seed gardens. NGC and Burpee are teaming up to have beautiful gardens planted across America. The current project was to provide information to learn and establish best practices for a future larger national program.

Member to Member Sharing

Goldenrod: In the Pinnacle Falls, Zirconia, NC, October 2020 e-news TGC Member Jim Welch writes about this native plant. North Carolina has over 4,000 native plant species and few are more conspicuous in late summer or early fall than the goldenrod. Goldenrod (*Solidago*) with over 100 species in the United States has bright yellow flowers and is often blamed for allergies. The real culprit is the nearby Ragweed that blooms at the same time and has much lighter pollen that is easily airborne. The pollen of goldenrod is heavy and falls to the ground. Native Americans had



Photos & article by Jim Welch

many medical uses for goldenrod and the colonists made “liberty tea”. This became necessary following the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773 when all of the English tea was destroyed as a protest against British taxes. Among the most prolific and showy of the fall bloomers, goldenrods attract more than 50 species of insects including the little soldier beetle.

The Landscape Design Process, Part 1: Tryon Garden Club member Mary Reeves contributed this useful outline for garden planning. It will be presented in three parts: 1) The Design, 2) Landscape Design Considerations, and 3) Important Dos and Don'ts of Landscape Design. The original information is from *Hidden Road Landscape Design*, Nina Shippen, nina@gardeninadesign.com.

Site Assessment and preparing a base map are the first steps in the process. Keep a file of all the plants, materials, and other elements that you want in your design. They will become your palette.

Consider Physical Attributes: Orientation and exposure, light, slope, soil, existing vegetation and features to keep, property lines, placement of house, driveway, and other built features.

Context: What are the surrounding characteristics of the property: Rural, urban, architecture, local/HOA ordinances, and/or views from your house?

Opportunities and challenges: Views, micro-climates, erosion/flooding risks, noise, privacy, and others?

Functional assessment: What do you want to do on your property? Work spaces? Play areas? Gathering? Gardening? Attract wildlife? Show? Create an area for seclusion?

Connecting your functions: How will the different areas of your property relate to each other? How will you connect them? Primary and secondary paths?

Select your geometry: Biomorph, Rectilinear Axial, non-axial, and/or diagonals. (And stick with it.)

First Draft! Commit your plan to paper, share it and revise it to reach a final design.

Final Design: You have identified your site's physical attributes; its good and not-so-good



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features, and what will remain in your final design. You know what you want to do on your land, and how those different activities will relate to each other in the way of paths or “circulation”. Now you can really play with the design tools that will help you create a satisfying landscape or garden.

News you can use

South Carolina Native Plant Society Sale: The SCNPS is having their Fall Plant Sale from now until October 31. This is not your normal sale. Plants can be ordered from the plant list on the website, SCNPS.org, and picked up by appointment. Or you can make an in-person appointment with a volunteer who will help you find the plants you want. Should you chose to shop in person, it is a good idea to have perused the website list, and have your shopping list ready. Fall is the most successful time to plant.

Tyron Garden Club member Virginia Meador says that she has pre-ordered the plants she knows she needs, because she is concerned that they will be sold out, then she made an appointment to shop with a volunteer guide for any she missed.

The sequence for finding the list on the website is: Go to **SCNPS.org**, click on: **UPSTATE**, click on the article titled: “Upstate Nursery Fall 2020 Native Plant Sale.” In this article you will find directions for ordering or in person shopping.

The last day of the sale is Oct. 31; plants may be picked up until Nov. 7. Directions to the greenhouse will be given when you place your paid order.

Now is the Time, Kudzu Control Measures for the Fall: That was the title of Leah Justice’s article in the September 20, 2020 *Tryon Daily Bulletin*.

The picture that accompanied the article looked like bubbling pudding—not a delicious site. As you drive to Pearson’s Falls along route 176 the kudzu blankets the bank and hangs over the roadway. Like a horror movie, it looks like it is coming to get us. Don’t park the car, you may not find it when you return.

Leah suggests that property owners should begin treating the invasive species in the fall, at least 2 weeks

prior to the first frost. (It may be too late for this year as the TV weather person is raising the frost alarm for the coming weekend.)

Leah describes Kudzu as a deciduous woody vine that may reach 35-100 feet in length. It has small lavender flowers most of the summer and flattened pods that mature from September to January.

Kudzu is a non-native originally introduced here from Asia for erosion control and livestock forage.

The NC State University states that it is difficult to control once it is established. They recommend, “control with glyphosate, but it may take several years of follow-up treatments to achieve eradication.” Leah notes that there are other, stronger herbicides available, but they are not appropriate for use by home owners.

From her research Leah recommends mowing or weed-eating ground level patches during the growing season exposing the root crown. As the vine re-spouts, spot-spray the ground level foliage at the root using a 10% solution or painting the entire node with undiluted glyphosate concentrate (53.8% preferably) hoping that that will inflict more damage.

After talking with Joe Cooper, Polk County Appearance Commission Chair, Leah found there is no quick fix. Cooper recommends 3 different ways to control Kudzu. 1) Use goats or cattle to graze the area. The drawback is—there needs to be fencing and return visits for many years. 2) Mow and dig which also needs repeating for several years. 3) Spray with herbicide. This method may take 3-5 years. Cooper suggested glyphosate, or another class of herbicides that includes Transline or Lontrel with Clopyralid (this kills kudzu and broad leaf plants including legumes, but will not kill most trees or other plants).

Leah concluded her article with websites where you can get information about controlling kudzu, and the names and phone numbers of local contractors who handle kudzu control. The article is posted on the *Tryon Daily Bulletin* website.

Less you forget: On the next page are pictures of what the social time used to look like. Remember these people? These pictures are from earlier this year before general meetings came to a muffled halt.



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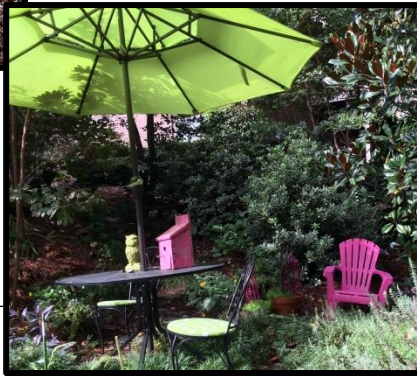


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Above: Made using recycled materials, this garden path encouraged the visitor to wander among the plants.
Right: Welcome to our garden. Come sit with me.



The Greenville, SC Garden Clubs' Fall Garden Tour: On Friday, September 18, Donna Wise and I (Donna Southworth) arrived a little after 10 am at the first garden of 6 gardens all in the same general neighborhood and were directed to the back of the house. The mistress of this garden was out setting up direction signs

and making sure all was ready for the guests. The backyard was tiered. The path led us by a fuchsia chair and a lime green umbrella table with a matching birdhouse to a flat area overlooking the creek below and the kudzu on the far bank. We were impressed by her huge fern plants. The owner said when she moved there, she found many hidden under the wild plants that had taken over the area.

From the road my favorite garden looked neat, tidy and similar to others on the street, but on closer inspection, we saw that the raised beds at the front entrance contained eggplant, okra and other edibles with pretty perennials tucked in between. This is where the garden received the most sun coverage. This gardener planted plants she liked and wasn't overly concerned that the height was too high or that the branches overhung the front walk. Many would say it wasn't picture-perfect, but it looked loved, enjoyed and useful—it fed the family. This is where 'The Donnas' found Tryon Garden Members Mary Reeves and Jean Shumway. Mary was one of the garden hostesses. Here

also was where there were plants for sale from the gardener's beloved garden—ferns, hellebores and others. I couldn't resist, three plants were mine.

Most of the gardens had a compost pile tucked under the overhang of a tree, a birdhouse or two, and plants in pots that filled in the blank places or to thwart the voles.

We commiserated with the gardener who had had a water main break in his driveway that flooded his garden before the tour. He had some new plantings and lots of pine mulch. The highlight here was his water fountain feature. It leant peacefulness to the garden as it bubbled over. At the last garden we walked up rather than down to enter the lovely backyard with old trees and beautiful statuary. They had a bronze child playing in the fountain with frogs, a girl with a hose, a boy sitting on the wall and a child with a rabbit. Here we sat in rocking chairs and Donna Wise told the owner about a good tree service that might save her tall spreading red oak tree that would leave a large gap in her backyard should it die. The owner told us about an earlier fire that destroyed the house and left the dogwood trees snarled and scared. The high fence surrounding the backyard was a lovely backdrop for her plantings.

In all the gardens, the fall green foliage was accented with crimson coleus, other colorful foliage plants, and/or a comfortable lawn chair with a bright pillow. Social distancing was being observed and masks were worn by most people. The tour proceeds go to maintain the Kilgore-Lewis House, its garden and the Arboretum.



Behind the masks are Donna Wise, Jean Shumway, Donna Southworth and Mary Reeves in front of a beautiful Aucuba shrub.



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A hodgepodge of pictures from the Greenville Council of Garden Club's Fall Garden Tour September 2020.

Photos and article by Donna Southworth



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For the Good of the Order

Hosta—Once the Crown Jewel of My Garden:

Fourteen years ago, Donna Southworth planted hosta in a variety of leaf sizes and colors in the shady garden immediately in front of their house.

Covered with annual leaf mulch that she made herself each fall, it was weed free and very low maintenance. She enjoyed admiring the plants as she walked the bridge from the driveway to the house. Then a few years ago unbeknown to her the voles feasted on her hosta's roots all winter long. Come



To the left the plant is only stakes, in front the plant was eaten to the ground & the right hosta, the deer didn't touch.

Article and photo by Donna Southworth.

spring what hosta that came up sprouted as small plants in a ring. The plants' lush centers were gone. Her solution was to beg plants from her granddaughter's garden, buy new, and plant hostas in pots. The first year was successful! Then tree roots found that they could come up through the holes in the pot bottoms and fill the pots with root tentacles to the point that they stole all the nutrients and stunted the hosta's growth. Her next solution was to set the pots on patio blocks and add new potting soil. Success!

Now there is a new glitch. Not enough activity at her house, and the deer are getting more brave. They're entering the garden and eating her hosta plants—some to the ground others so that the plant looks like a pot of short stalks. Next spring she will try Linda Eiserloh's hot sauce remedy and see if she can discourage the deer. She has found gardening in the woods is a challenge!

This week "How to Ruin a Deer's Lunch" appeared in the October issue of *Carolina Country*, Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation's magazine. L.A. Jackson writes about deer and tulips. He suggests not serving up tulip delicacies for deer or

rabbits, although bambi will nibble any plant until he discovers his dislike. In other words, plant bulbs they hate. L.A. suggests daffodils, hyacinths, Siberian squills, and snowdrops. He also suggests liquid deer-repellents—if you can stand the stink. (*I'd rather live with the odor than not have hosta. Donna Southworth*)

Fall is for Tree Planting: The *Arbor Day* Sept./Oct. issue states that fall is the time to get trees successfully in the ground. The mild temperature mean less stress on young trees, less watering is needed and more time for trees to develop strong root systems before the heat of summer—Avoid non-natives, e.g. Norway Maples. Don't forget to mulch with wood chips or straw.

Yard and Garden October Jobs

Information from the *Tryon Daily Bulletin*, Monday, October 3, 1988, The Polk Co. Agricultural Service:

- **Fertilize** your spring flowering bulbs at planting time with a balanced fertilizer.
- **Plant** spring flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, crocus and hyacinth.
- **Prune** NOTHING.
- **Spray** woody weeds like blackberry and trumpet creeper with a recommended herbicide.
- **Lawn Care** includes over-seeding warm season lawns like Bermuda grass, centipede grass and zoysia with rye grass. Keep the leaves from collecting on your lawn. .
- **Propagate** Nothing.
- **Specific chores:**
 - Collect soil samples if you didn't do it earlier in the year and send them off to be analyzed.
 - Continue to add leaves to the compost bin.
 - Prepare bird feeders.
 - Dig and store summer bulbs like gladiola, dahlia,, and caladium.
 - Clean up and store your garden tools.
 - Store leftover fertilizers in a dry location.

Quote of the month: "We who garden in a Mid-Atlantic 'four-season climate' know that reality hands us two seasons and tacks two weeks of respite in between." Marianne Willburn, the voice of *The Small Town Gardener*



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