



PHOTO BY JUEL DUKE

Juel Duke's patio garden of pitcher plants in containers, bidding one to "sit a spell."

FLORA  
FROM PAGE 1

My aunt had a huge vegetable garden, and weeding it was not fun; but I liked picking the strawberries. Two long rows of marigolds and zinnias separated the garden from the yard around the house. My aunt had no time for yard ornaments, but my dad enjoyed surrounding flower beds with painted rocks in our yard up in suburban Richmond. He also collected concrete figures to station around the yard, but he never had a tire planter; I have four of which I'm very proud!

In the old days, folks didn't have ready access to garden centers or extra money to purchase flowers and shrubs, so they shared "pass-along plants" or took to the local woods to collect desirable

plants. In addition to dogwoods and redbuds and wild azaleas, Westmacott describes rural folks favoring "grancy graybeard" collected from the woods to be planted on the edge of the yard. It's been a long time since I heard that common name for fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*, a popular small native tree commonly available in garden centers today.

There is a grand old specimen of fringe tree on the edge of my front yard. My hunch is that it was brought out of the woods behind the house, now the University Lake watershed, and planted along with two southern sugar maples, from the same woods, back when the house was built in the late 1930s. Later this spring, you will notice a number of big fringe trees in some of the older front

yards of Carrboro. They probably all came out of the local woods when grancy greybeard, not available elsewhere, was prized as a fine ornamental.

Rural African-Americans had colorful yards filled with yard art, often considered cheap or tacky. They were, however, in all cases, personal artistic expressions of pride and welcoming invitations for neighbors to stop and sit a spell.

Juel and I take great pride in retelling the histories of our hand-me-down and collected plants and we love the stories behind all our yard objects d'art. We appreciate our African-American gardening heritage.

For more information and to register for Richard Westmacott's "African-American Gardening" this coming Sunday, Feb. 22, call the Botanical Garden at 962-0522.



Scott's Tree House, 1955 PHOTO BY ROLAND GIDUZ

For us boys growing up in the '50s, having your own tree house was practically mandatory. All you needed was a tree, some spare lumber and parents who believed in the transformational power of tree houses. The split-level version belonging to childhood chum Scott Parker was more elegant than most — even boasting an American flag — fitting for this photograph taken by the late Roland Giduz for the July 4th 1955 edition of

the Chapel Hill *News Leader*. Scott, proudly wearing his Cub Scout uniform, smiles down at "Foo" Giduz from the old post oak tree on Briarbridge Lane, where I spent many a happy day. After an illustrious career as the director of the Institute of Outdoor Drama at UNC, Scott is now enjoying his retirement in Chapel Hill. And these days we're better chums than ever — though we haven't done any tree-climbing of late.



A THOUSAND WORDS  
BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Send your 300 dpi scan to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY AVA BARLOW

LEFT: Carrboro High School's Denzel Ingram keeps the ball inside as he maneuvers around a Northwood opponent in Friday night's varsity boys game against the Chargers.  
RIGHT: Carrboro High freshman Geneiya Hodge tries to save the ball from going out of bounds in Friday night's game against Northwood High School. The varsity girls' team lost against the Chargers, 59-37.

Rites of Spring  
A GARDEN TAB

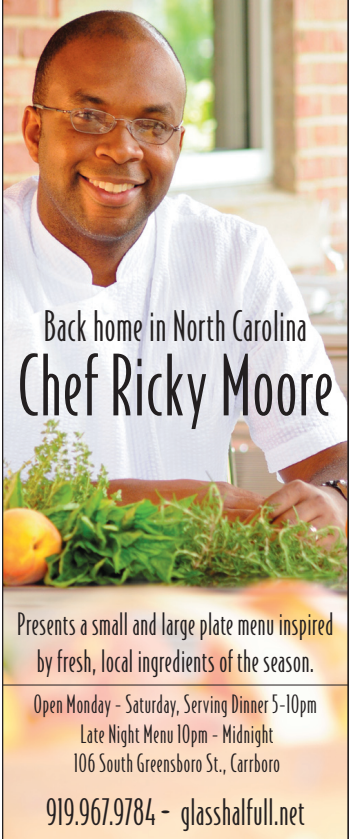
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Marty Cassady  
942.2100  
marty@  
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Some things just go together

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How much would you give for more time with your pet?

Advertisement for Orange County Animal Services featuring a photo of a young girl holding a gray cat, with text: "Spayed and Neutered Animals are Less Likely to Develop Cancer. The \$20 FIX Spay or Neuter Your Pet for \$20 Orange County Animal Services in partnership with AnimalKind www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices www.animalkind.org".