

# *FOR GARDEN SAKES*



## VIRUS ENDS SPRING WEDDING SEASON

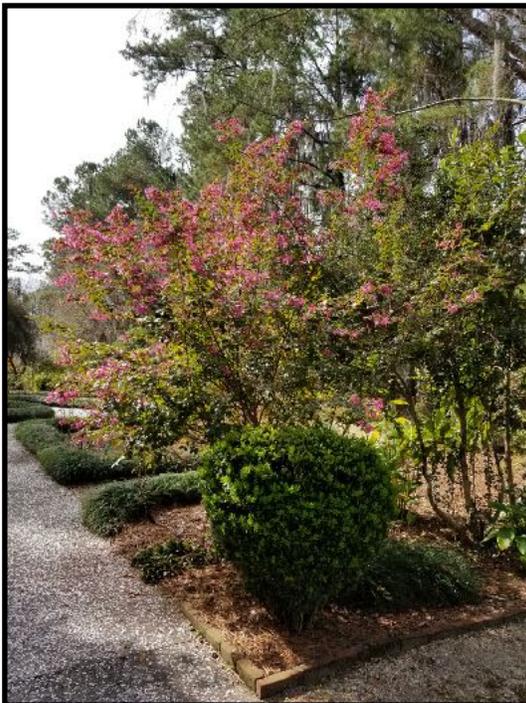
It is very quiet and sad to be in the Garden. It is really beautiful this spring and couples have had to cancel all their weddings. Not only is this sad for them but it is a huge monetary loss for the SACGC. Some have been able to reschedule to the fall. We also were unable to do all our school tours. All of us in the Garden will miss the kids the most. I have to thank Barb Stahl for all the work she is doing to keep up the Gardens. Pat Ryan is helping too and we have sweet Diane Dugger who works so hard to fight the weeds. Larry is maintaining the lawns and doing repairs. We feel safe because there are few people around and we can keep our distance. Thanks to Oelschig Nursery for the daffodils and the geraniums, the Day Lily Society for keeping up their garden, Ron Jacob for tending to the camellias and Karen Halloran for tending the Herb Garden. The Compassionate Friends would like to thank Terry Beasley for beautifully replanting the urns in their garden. I hope to welcome everyone back soon. Until then, stay safe and be well.

Betty Ward

Garden Center Director



I stopped by our garden on the way to the post office and the man I found sitting on the bench thanked me for having a restful place to enjoy!  
*Irene Michaels*



**SADLY, the Rose Festival is cancelled and the Annual Meeting on May 12 is postponed due to our present health crisis. Stay safe...**

## ATTENTION!

Editor is looking for a responsible volunteer to take photographs of garden  
4 x a year - Seasonally (Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter)  
For inclusion in newsletter and website.  
You will be given credit for any photos used.

Please contact Claire for more detailed information  
[moreta6@comcast.net](mailto:moreta6@comcast.net)

**OUR GARDENS ARE FLOURISHING  
DURING THIS CRISIS.**



EUGENIE OGDEN'S LOVELY  
ORCHIDS



Dyanna Byers lovely arrangement +  
adorable cat.....

Dear All,

I hope this finds you safe and well. As everyone, I am waiting through this difficult time until we can continue our activities together. It gave me joy to help others when I made a care package from my home to give to a family in need in our community. Since I was a child, my interest in gardening has brought me joy and continues every-day as a way to get through this most difficult time. Here are some photos of my garden flowers that I hope will give you a smile or two.

Irene Michaels  
SACGC Past President

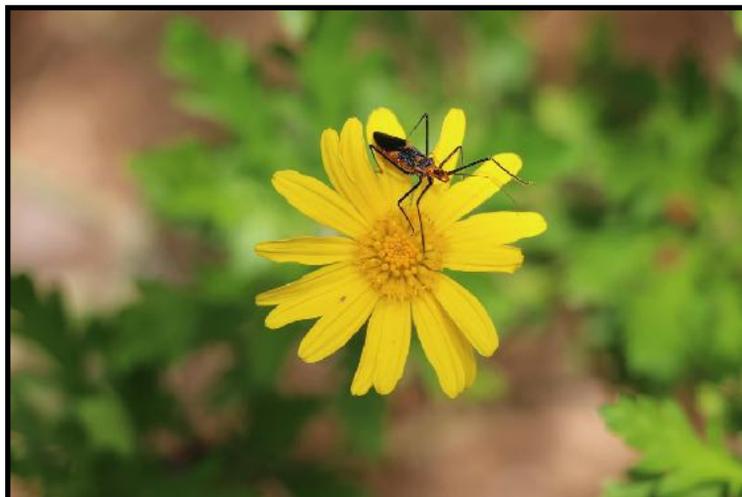


## UPDATE ON FARMHOUSE REPAIRS

Things are moving along nicely. RNR Restoration has finished the repairs to the back porches, railings, ramp and clapboards. A big thank you to them for donating their work. We have power washed the back of the building and it will need to be painted. Larry Ward and Rick Clark are replacing the slats on the upper porch. They have one more section to complete. I have attached a picture.

Betty Ward

Garden Center Director



# The Parkersburg Garden Club

Because of COVID-19 constraints, the *Parkersburg Garden Club* held our April meeting via email, and while we missed being together, we still managed our meeting successfully. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Patti Davis, led our Opening Prayer in a beautiful video. We distributed Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, the final results of our *Cards and Games Luncheon*, Committee Reports and Announcements via email, and conducted our vote on new club officers, with votes being sent to our Parliamentarian by email or phone.

Based on a request from member Margaret Romanelli, we are donating sewing supplies (cloth, thread, and elastic) to a group of Savannah ladies – “Be Wives” – who are making social distancing masks for distribution to the homeless. They also sell them at a low price to the public, but need more donations of the supplies. For more information:

1. Go to [https://nextdoor.com/for\\_sale\\_and\\_free/6b19bfbbb1b6-4709-b735-4e57771e98be/?init\\_source=search](https://nextdoor.com/for_sale_and_free/6b19bfbbb1b6-4709-b735-4e57771e98be/?init_source=search)
2. Check their FACEBOOK page, <https://www.facebook.com/be.wives.3>
3. Call Renee Hamilton, (912) 547-1435.

Since we can't tour local gardens just now, we are viewing some beautiful gardens around the world:

1. <https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g31746949/gardens-you-canvirtuallytour/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/visitkeukenhof/videos/143760397021829/?vh=e>

We sent information on how to enter an Instagram-based flower arranging contest.

A highlight of the meeting has been the sharing of pictures from member's gardens, below:

LINDA MARTIN  
Spring Garden



MP MURPHY  
Garden-in-Progress



**Something  
—OLD,  
Something  
NEW**



LUCY HITCH

## Garden Club of Pooler

During The Garden Club of Pooler's February meeting, plans were discussed for observing Georgia's Arbor Week. Karen Williams a member of The Garden Club of Pooler and also Pooler City Council Woman is in charge of "Plant a Tree for Free". The city event held in partnership with The Garden Club of Pooler will be held in February. The 430 trees bought by the city of Pooler will be available until they run out to give one to each family residing in Pooler. This will take place due to the fact that so much development has occurred. A second club project "Butterflies and Pollinators" was discussed in which a garden will be planted at Pooler Veterans Parkway. Third project and not least was Pooler's new Mini Garden Center located in the City Hall.

The program was waxing camellias and each member had fun waxing a flower or two.



The Garden Club of Pooler met in March with a program given by "The Greenery" a commercial landscape organization. The club members had many questions and learned much about the many plants that were brought to the meeting by the company.



Irene Michaels Oleander District Garden Centers Chairman is happy to announce **The Garden Club of Pooler's new Mini Garden Center** and a thank you goes to Garden Club of Georgia President Barbara Bourque for her help! It is located in the Pooler City Hall where they have their meetings and members change it quarterly to educate and keep the public informed about the club's activities. Members Beverly Holbrook and Susan Brown developed the current exhibit "Butterflies and Pollinators" to coincide with the club's future garden to be developed at the park located at Pooler's Veteran's Parkway. Louise Schindler is the Mini Garden Center's creator but she says, "The Mini Garden Center project belongs to the whole club!"



In Pooler (The Garden Club of Pooler) we are going ahead with our City/Garden Club Pollinator Garden. After a little mixup and miscommunication regarding the pandemic, they are starting to till up the plot for us old ladies, and we might get 1/3rd of it planted this year. That is probably good, because I am not sure we will have the amount of pollinator plants to put in. But we didn't want to waste a year. Gardening season doesn't wait for the pandemic.

It is suppose to rain (big time) here tonight and tomorrow, so I'm not sure how this will proceed, and you have a 10-day deadline. Here are some photos I took of the plot partially tilled up, but I will try to remember to take more if they finish it and the ladies start working in it.

There is also some good news from the Georgia legislature about Coal Ash, but I'll leave that for Tally Sweat to report on from Brunswick.

Claudia



# Pooler council approves ‘Plant a Tree for Free’ initiative

By [Will Peebles](#)

Posted Feb 5, 2020 at 6:58 PM

Pooler’s City Council has the final say on the commercial and residential growth of the city, but on Monday, Feb. 3, they approved a measure that would promote a different kind of growth: trees.

Freshman Councilwoman Karen Williams’ action item to host a “Plant a Tree for Free” event was approved unanimously by council on Monday. Williams invited residents “to join us in a practical and symbolic gesture of sustaining our environment and wildlife.”

“How do we do this? We plant trees,” Williams said.

The event, held in partnership with the [Garden Club of Pooler](#), will be held in observance with Georgia’s Arbor Week, which is Feb. 16- 22. While National Arbor Day is held on the third Friday in April, Georgia is too warm at that time of the year to plant trees, according to the Georgia Forestry Commission’s website.

The city will purchase 430 trees from The Greenery Inc., which will be available for residents to pick up at the front parking lot of the Pooler Recreation Complex on Feb. 22.

Certified Arborist Jessica Perry will be on hand to answer any questions residents have about the trees, and each tree will come with a guide on how to care for the species.

Williams, a member of the Garden Club of Pooler, said she has long been concerned about the trees lost in the wake of Pooler’s rapid development.

“Since I started attending the Planning and Zoning meetings almost four years ago, landscape and the loss of trees has been something I’ve paid a lot of attention to,” Williams said. “I feel like we’re losing too many trees with the clear cutting that’s going on, and so I’ve worked on this and spoken with these organizations because I wanted to give back to Pooler.”

Seven different indigenous species, including sycamores, river birches, October glories, maples tulip poplars, trident maples, opecup oaks and Eastern redbuds will be available at the event, all in their dormant stage, in 6-foot, 5-foot and 4-foot sizes.

The city will pay \$5,410 for the saplings, which will be taken from funds paid to the city by developers who can’t or don’t meet the requirement for trees on a given development, what council members called the “tree fund” on Monday.

[Technically, there isn’t a “tree fund” as outlined by the Pooler’s tree ordinance, Pooler CFO Chris Lightle said in June 2019.](#) But the account the money goes into still functions as the ordinance requires: the money goes into the city’s general fund, but it can only be used for tree planting and maintenance on city properties.

Councilman Aaron Higgins thanked Williams for her work on the project Monday night.

“I applaud her for putting this together for all of us, and I think this is a great benefit for our community to help restore our breathable air and our green space.”

The council meeting, which was attended by around 30 people on Monday, applauded Williams, as well.

“I think we all need to give Councilwoman Williams a hand for setting this up,” Benton said during the motion.

Tree recipients will need identification showing proof of Pooler residence.

## How to Grow your Own Garden during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Larry Ward

People hoping to add fresh fruits and vegetables to their diets in the time of the COVID-19 may not need to go to the grocery store to get them

All garden centers are working to help aspiring gardeners start their own plots in the middle of the pandemic.

Anyone with a backyard or an apartment windowsill with some light can take up gardening. The recommendation is to conduct a “sun survey” before you commit to a particular spot. Make sure the spot you choose has a lot of sunlight to grow fruits and veggies at least six (6) hours of sun per day.

Newbie gardeners can start out small with plants like beans and raspberries. Beans are really fast growing. Fig trees, plum trees, pear trees cheery trees and raspberry bushes are all relatively easy to grow. Apple and peach trees are options too, but it is often difficult to keep them pest free.

For those who prefer flowers to produce, plants like sunflowers are a good start.

If you have pots on a windowsill, maybe plants that you would place on a piazza, like oregano, and tomatoes and basil will work.

For those who are still nervous about starting a garden, whether big or small, remember seeds grow pretty much on their own if you provide them with good soil, some sunlight, and some water.

# How to Create a Sustainable Garden for your Family

By Jay Betts



Want to lower your monthly grocery bill and eat healthier? There's no better investment than a vegetable garden. And if that garden allows for you to reduce, recycle, and reuse items that would otherwise go to waste, you're doing your part to create a healthier environment, too. Creating a sustainable garden for your family is inexpensive and easy - even if you're not the "green thumb" type. Here are some tips to keep your garden and the planet green.

## Pick Plants Wisely



Native plants will naturally thrive under the climate conditions in your backyard. Others will struggle because they're not acclimated to the temperature or conditions.

Going native means is environmentally-friendly because it also encourages the use of companion plants. Native plants use less water and fertilizer than invasive varieties. Companion plants attract pollinators while repelling pests. Including both in your garden means better crops with less waste and fewer chemicals.

Note: Native species aren't just great for gardens! If you're looking to add beauty to your property, native trees offer many of the same benefits as native garden plants.

## Location, Location, Location



A garden costs more and uses more resources if it's in the wrong spot. Before you dig in, check out this checklist.

Full sun – You can create shade for those plants that prefer it. But you can't add more sun to a garden dug in a shaded area.

Convenient location – your garden should be easy to access. The closer it is to you, the better attention you're likely to give it. And the more likely you'll be to spot issues early.

Nearby water source - The last thing you want to do is drag a hose across the lawn to water your plants. Make sure you have a sprinkler nearby, or the hose extends to the garden.

Clutter-free – lots of critters that are bad for your plants make their homes in piles of wood, leaves, and the like. By putting your garden in an area free from this kind of clutter, you'll lower the risk of damage caused by rodents, animals, and insects.

## Rise Above or Get Down and Dirty?



The next thing to consider is whether you'll be planting in a raised bed or into the ground. Raised beds offer protection from some pests. You can fill them with soil and nutrients, so you'll have greater control over your soil's composition. To make things more eco-friendly, you can make raised beds from [old storage containers](#) or [discarded pallets](#).

Planting directly in the ground cuts your expenses and offers you as much garden space as you have yard. It is also sustainable since all you need is a shovel. Tilling soil is labor-intensive, though. And your soil's composition might not have the same level of nutrients you'd find in the soil you purchase. If you've never done either, consider doing a small raised bed and a small plot in the ground to see which works best for you.

# Soil Additives and Fertilizers



There are plenty of fertilizers and additives used to help gardens grow. But not all are appropriate for every plant. For [tomatoes](#), cow manure and eggshells are common additives. [Strawberries](#) like phosphorus and potassium. Some gardeners begin preparing their soil the fall before they plant. Others mix compost or all-purpose fertilizer into the soil during planting and never add anything else. If you plan early, you can add different materials to areas of the plot where different crops will grow.

## Have Fun, without Spending a Ton

The most important ingredient in any garden is your enjoyment. Simple, sustainable gardening is a great activity for any age. If you plan carefully, you can [save a fortune on your grocery bills](#). So grab the family, pick out your favorite seeds and seedlings, and get ready to garden. Just don't forget your gloves—blisters don't care how eco-friendly your methods are!

*Jay Betts is a graduate from the University of Texas at Austin, regional representative for LawnStarter, a creative entrepreneur and an avid gardener. He enjoys hiking in nature and following a minimalistic lifestyle.*



## Camellia and Azalea Garden

In February we were able to obtain three camellias for the garden: Mrs. Charles Cobb and Professor Charles Sargent, both of which are historic camellias introduced by Magnolia Gardens, and Bobbie Fain, a Georgia introduction from Walter Homeyer of Macon. All three have red flowers. Professor Charles Sargent has an interesting back story; it was named after the director of the Boston Arboretum, who was a personal friend of John Drayton of Magnolia Gardens, and who hiked Yosemite with John Muir in the early days of the national park's founding. It is also a stunning flower.

We also moved some camellias to better locations. Gunsmoke, a Savannah original (Bob Burgess, 1961) now resides in the main garden. Two Kanjiro sasanquas moved near the entrance to the Children's Garden.

We also accomplished, after many years, the identification (we hope) of every camellia in the garden, putting tags on the ironically named small white flower "Mansize" and the mutable "Betty Sheffield Pink."

The shelter-in-place orders came out just as the azaleas were blooming, so azalea season was lost to us. We hope everyone is staying safe, and better days (and gardening!) lie ahead for us all.



Bobbie Fain



Professor Charles Sargent



Mrs. Charles Cobb

Our favorite photographer, **John Alexander** has shared some of his photos for this newsletter. [JohnAlexanderPhotography.com](http://JohnAlexanderPhotography.com)



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