



THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB

February 2012

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

By the time you get your Petal Pusher, we will all have experienced the Sunday, Feb. 12 hard freeze, and maybe a few more. I have been browsing my gardening books over the last few days for advice on gardening in the early Spring. However, Dixie Diffenderfer forwarded this article from the Chatham County UGA Extension agent, David Linville. (Thank you, Dixie). It is exactly what I had in mind for the subject of my "message", so please read for great advice on this subject.

"This Sunday the temperature in the Savannah area is supposed to get down to 26 degrees Fahrenheit. Just a couple of days ago it was in the 80's. I suspect that we will have injury on our plants this coming spring. This is caused by the warm temperatures, which causes the plants to break dormancy and grow. Some of the Azaleas have started to flower already. Then the temperature drops and plant tissue freezes/shrinks and splits open and allows harmful fungi and other pathogens to enter and cause disease. One of the first plant parts to suffer are open flowers and buds that are swelling because they contain soft tissue. In this case the actually tissue in the plant cells freeze and are destroyed. I hope you followed my newsletter and did NOT fertilize like I suggested. Fertilizing forces plants to grow which makes them more susceptible to cold injury. People who recently fertilized will have a lot more problems this spring than the people who didn't.

Second, I attended an agricultural weather update a few weeks ago and the projection was there is a strong possibility of less rainfall than normal this year. We are already in a drought and I am going to try to water my trees next week. If you are not going to water your plants or you are cutting back then you do NOT need to fertilize as much. I would even cut back or make split applications of fertilizer that are based on the soil test recommendations.

There is not much you can do to prevent cold injury. You can try to cover sensitive plants but that only protects plants by keeping them a couple of degrees warmer. I would certainly take any potted plants inside the garage if possible.

Do not be in a hurry to cut back what you think is dead growth right after this freeze. Many times people cut back wood that is actually going to put out new branches and stems from dormant buds. People like to throw fertilizer at a plant right away thinking it will heal the plant. Let the plant come back on its own and don't force it. Remember the plant also requires more water in the future when you apply fertilizer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 27 Monday Meeting. 9 am board, 9:30 coffee, 10 am general meeting, 10:45 program

March 5 Causeway Cleanup. Meet at Smiths at 8 am, wearing sturdy shoes and gloves. Nancy Strobel will be there with the other supplies.

March 10 Petal Pusher deadline

March 26 Monday meeting. 9 am board, 9:30 coffee, 10 am general meeting, 10:45 program

Do not prune any plants today or tomorrow. Hold off normal pruning till after this weekend. Bottom line is take it slow and don't panic with the cold. Plants are remarkable and have a way of coming back on their own. Remember moderation, you can always add more but can't take away. Be sparing with your fertilizer and water correctly (which is another subject for another day).
PS – Since we might be short on water this year - you might want to select fruits and vegetables varieties than mature quicker. For example you might want to select a tomato variety that is rated at 45 days to harvest instead of one that takes 90 days. This saves you 6 weeks of water which is a lot. When is the last time you took a soil test?"

David Linvill
Chatham County Extension
124 Bull St. Suite 120
Savannah, GA 31401

Work (912) 652-7981
Fax (912) 652-7989
Email: dlinvill@uga.edu
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/chatham>

PROGRAM: FEBRUARY 27-SUSAN SCOGGINS

Topic: From Live to Dried -- How to Preserve What You Grow

Dried plant materials provide distinctive indoor decoration. Arrangements made from dried materials are long-lasting and require little care. Drying flowers and foliage expands gardening activities without elaborate equipment or previous experience. Drying flowers is inexpensive. Flowers or leaves for drying may be collected anytime during the growing season, from early spring until late fall. Now is the perfect time to learn how.

Be sure to come to the Feb. 27 meeting to meet Susan Scoggins.

Susan, originally from Greenwood, SC developed a love for plants and flowers at a very early age. She brings a wide range of experience to her floral arts and preservation classes, drawing from her years as a professional florist and her experiences in the classroom. Currently the manager of the Heyward House Historic Center, Bluffton, Susan enjoys every opportunity to share her skills and love of the floral arts.

She will discuss tools of the trade and give a demonstration of preservation techniques including

Hang drying

Dehydrating

Pressing

Desiccants

You will also learn to create two types of potpourri from your left overs.

MARCH 26TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Scott Thompson will speak at the March meeting on native plants. A list of plants available at Thompson's nursery will be distributed prior to the meeting. Lisa Hall will coordinate the preordering.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We're starting off the New Year with five new members! Please welcome *Barbara Martin, Maddie Harwood, Ginny Knoll, Karen Angers and Junko Bick.*

CHARITABLE GIFTS

The Charitable Gifts Committee will be meeting in March. Please forward any suggestions for recipients of our gifts to sally4th@bellsouth.net .

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pull a tab, save a tab. your aluminum pull tab is needed to support the Ronald McDonald House and their guests (parents of very ill children). Tabs will be collected at each of our meetings. Meg Bremer

ARBOR DAY

Every year Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in February. "But I thought National Arbor Day is scheduled for the last Friday in April." Yes, there are 2 Arbor Days. However, every state determines when their state celebrates Arbor Day. Arbor Day in Georgia is determined by the best time to plant trees. The time coincides in February, while the trees are dormant, but soon to begin their spring growth. To read more about Arbor Day, Google ArborDay.org.

To celebrate Arbor Day for 2012, The Landings Garden Club is donating a Bottle Brush Tree to be planted at the Landings. The location of the tree will be in the Tidewater Square center island, where it will be visible as it grows. The Bottle Brush Tree was ordered via Sean Burgess, with the order given to Valley Crest for planting. It's expected that the tree will be in and planted around Arbor Day. This location was selected due to the visibility of the area to residents and the irrigation for the tree's growth there. Enjoy the tree!

Come Cruisin', Y'all

Another exciting LGC cruise is planned for April 30, 2012. Enjoy a day on the water with your Landings Garden Club friends aboard our water chariot, the Island Explorer. We set sail from Landings Harbor (the marina at the north end of our community), go up the Wilmington River to the Thunderbolt Bridge and beyond. This narrated tour is steeped in history. We will Bonaventure Cemetery from the water and enjoy the history and nature of the area. Thunderbolt is a historical fishing village that sees more yachts than fishing boats today, being the home of Palmer Johnson, builder of megayachts. Learn the natural history of the area and hear stories of the islands. See the older homes on the Wilmington River and contrast them to the ones that have been built more recently. Interested in Paula Dean? See the homes she has lived in. We boat through the marshes, watching for dolphins and water birds, and who knows what else.

Cost of the trip is \$50 per person. The trip will start at 10 AM and be about 4 hours in length. Sign up at the February meeting (look for a table in a prominent place with a signup sheet). Payment may be made then (checks to The Landing Garden Club) or by the middle of March. Space is limited, but spouses and friends are welcome if space allows. Call Sandra Wolf at -1349 or email sandyw65@ymail.com for further information or to sign up if you will not be at the meeting.

IN MEMORY:

Helen Szmyd, who passed away on Jan. 30, 2012, was the founder of the Landings Garden Club. Hans Weisemann, husband of Marguerite Weisemann also passed away. The Landings Garden Club has bought a memorial brick in their honor, which will be placed in the herb garden at the Botanical Garden on Eisenhower Street.

BRIGITTA NOONEY’S ADDRESS:

Emeritus at Spruce Wood – 25 Worthen Road – Durham, NH 03824
(603) 659-1100 – Phone | (603) 659-1199 – Fax

Please help support *THE LANDINGS* Green Projects

Through

THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

It’s Easy:

Go to www.thelandingsgardenclub.com

Once there, click on the Amazon link



The Landings Garden Club

Will receive a percentage of your Amazon purchases as a referral fee.

It doesn't matter what you purchase. It can be as small as a book*, or as large as a TV.

As long as you link to Amazon through the Garden Club's website,

www.thelandingsgardenclub.com

The Landings Garden Club will receive money to support:

Local Environmental Education Programs

Orphan Bird Care

The Landings Native Plant Trail

Holiday Decorations of Community Gates

Causeway Clean-up

Library Plantings &

Many other LOCAL projects.

Website: Please report website additions or corrections, in writing to Sally Jones at sally4th@bellsouth.net or 11 Stargrass Retreat.

LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2012

The January meeting of the Landings Garden Club was called to order by President Judy Sweeterman at 10:00 am. Judy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. She then read the Collect.

Judy asked how many members did not receive the Petal Pusher and suggested that those who did not receive it get it from the website. She stated that there approximately 5-6 members who receive hard copies and suggested that those who do not have the availability of e-mail or do not wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail contact Lynn Barnard and let her know you prefer a paper copy, and one will be delivered to you.

Sally Jones reminded us that the form for membership and paying our dues was in this month's Petal Pusher and that we will need to fill that form out and pay our dues by February 14, 2011 in order to have our names included in next year's yearbook as well as the Georgia Garden Club and the Oleander District's list and to continue receiving the "Garden Gateway."

Judy asked for corrections to the minutes of the November meeting. There were none and it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as printed in the January Petal Pusher.

Leslie Bowler reported on membership. We had 41 members present today along with 5 guests. Our guests were Carol Nasr, Junko Bick, Ginny Knoll, Maddie Harwood, and Barbara Martin.

Ruth Casey, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she sent out "Get Well" or "Thinking of You" cards to John Nooney, Brigitta Nooney, Joan McNellis, Kay Osborn, Sandy Humphrey, Priss Wentworth, Patsy Dulles, Pat Barry and Edith Teifeld. She also read a thank you note from Helen Schmitt whose husband, Wyn, died and in whose memory the Landings Garden Club made a donation to the Garden at the Hospice Center where he spent his last days.

Sally Jones gave the following Treasurer's report: The balance in the checking account as of Nov. 19, 2011 was \$6872.70. We had deposits of \$4593.66 and expenses of \$699.90 over the past two months. That left a balance of \$10, 766.46 as of Jan. 23, 2012. We also have a balance of \$3963.68 in Certificates of Deposit in the Sea Island Bank. Sally also reminded everyone to sign up for a committee for the coming year when renewing their membership.

Lisa Hall reported on the committee to re-establish the position of Historian to the board. That committee consisting of Sandra Wolfe, Edith Teifeld, and Lisa Hall is gathering information and will continue to do so through the summer. They will have a report and recommendation at the September meeting.

Judy Sweeterman reported on the Holiday Tour of Homes on St. Simon's Island. She and Nancy Stroebel both attended this activity and felt that it was a wonderful display. They plan to return next year and encouraged all of us to consider it.

Judy brought in her amaryllis from the Bulb and Bow Sales to show everyone its beautiful blooms. Hers was white with pink stripes and was full of blooms. She said that she put it next to a window and watered it once a week. The red one, which we also sold, bloomed in time for Christmas, but the white one was just now blooming. Muffin King said that if you have an amaryllis that did not bloom, you should wait until all the greenery has died off in the spring, cut it back, feed it fertilizer through the summer, put it outside and then

bring it in and put it in a closet in September where you let it dry out. When you bring it out in November, it should bloom.

Judy mentioned that Scott Thompson will be bringing native plants to the meeting in March and they will be for sale. She will email us the list of what he is bringing so that we can pre-order our plants from him and have them delivered at that meeting.

It was announced that there would be a change of speaker for the February meeting. Susan Scoggins will replace Juliette Swenson. Susan is a professional florist in Bluffton and will speak on preserving plants, air drying and dehydrating.

Judy reported on Sparrow Field. Caryl Warner, who is in charge of planting the field, has asked for the Garden Club's help in planting and weeding. There will be planting and weeding parties Jan. 28th and Feb 11, 2012. Please contact Caryl at 598-7568 if you can help. He has also asked for a \$250 donation from the Garden Club to help defray the expenses of upkeep of Sparrow Field. Sally Jones mentioned that you can go on the Garden Club website to see pictures of Garden Club work parties working at Sparrow Field.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Lisa Hall reported that she has submitted our Garden club's Year-book, newsletter and website to the Garden Club of Georgia and the National Garden Club for consideration for an award. She is currently working on submitting our club's fund-raiser, The Holiday Bows and Bulbs Sales, for consideration for an award from these same entities.

Birds and Conservation: Linda Sue Babcock reported that fewer birds are flocking to our island this year, but that some Cedar Waxwings have been seen. Judy Sweeterman thanked her for her article regarding this in the TWATL. Under Conservation, Linda Sue stated that fresh water is becoming more scarce and we should all be aware of conserving it. Only water your yard one inch, once a week for established trees, shrubs and sod. New plants need more water until established.

Civic Beautification:

Causeway Clean-up – Nancy Stroebel reported that the next clean-up will be Feb. 6th. Meet at Smith's at 8:00am. She needs 20 volunteers to do the job properly.

Village Library – Cynthia Calder reported that the library is in full remodel mode and she sent plants dug up from the library to Sparrow Field to be used there. Her committee would like to place two terra cotta-like planters at the entrance to the library and fill them with perennials and annuals to brighten the looks of the entrance.

Landings Gate Decorations - Nancy Stroebel thanked everyone who helped with putting up as well as taking down the decorations this year. All went smoothly. She also reported that there has been some rodent damage to the lighted garlands we use to decorate the gates. The garlands were used this year, but will need to be replaced for next year. New plastic tubs have been purchased by The Landings

Association for storage of our decorations to prevent a recurrence of this type. These decorations are stored in the Moon River Gate House.

Arbor Day – Debbie Roth reported that on the third Friday in February we will be planting a bottle brush tree in a place to be determined here in The Landings in honor of Arbor Day.

Community Service – Priss Wentworth was not present today due to illness but Pat Sunshine reported that she bought 30 warm-up suits for the residents of Georgia Regional Hospital for Christmas with money designated by the Garden Club for this purpose. She also stated that much underwear and sox were donated and that all were greatly appreciated. She reminded us to continue to bring our sample-size toiletries to Priss.

Horticulture – Pat Barry will be taking over this position from Karan Gross who recently moved away. She announced that it had been decided that we only need to present a “Horticulture Moment” twice during the year at times when our program is not about horticulture. This year it will be in February and April.

Hospitality – Jean Wrenn asked everyone to sign up today for next year’s Hospitality calendar so that it can be published in the Year Book. She had 2 plastic plates left over from the tea at the October meeting and asked everyone to check to see if they left them here. Jean thanked everyone who brought food today.

Ways and Means – Pat Sunshine thanked everyone who helped with the Holiday Bow and Bulb sale and distribution. She gave a special “thank you” to the various captains, Sally Jones, Kay Osborn, Jean Wrenn, Leslie Bowler, Kathy Zmijewski and Sandy Randolph. We grossed over \$7000 this year.

Georgia Garden Club Liason – Dixie Dieffendorfer reported that the Superior Court of Georgia has issued an injunction effectively blocking any more tree cutting on Georgia rights of way until the court rules on the constitutionality of HB 179 which was passed by the Georgia Legislature and signed by Gov. Nathan Deal in 2011. This is a temporary victory for all Garden Clubs who oppose the cutting of trees for the billboard industry, so we should continue to contact our legislators to let them know that we are opposed to HB 179.

Dixie was also contacted by the “Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens” who is seeking gardeners to serve as tour guides for the upcoming Tour. They need 3 volunteers for Thursday, March 22, 2012. Please contact Dixie if you are interested.

Sandra Wolfe reminded everyone of the upcoming boat trip around Skidaway Island which is planned for April 30th. It will leave from the North Harbor and tour around the whole island. Cost is \$50/person.

The raffle drawing was held for the centerpiece and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

The program, “Propagation and Care of Camellias” given by Bill Lutes, began at 11:00.

Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Marting, Recording Secretary