



THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB

February 2013

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

Congratulations are extended to everyone. All of our hard work paid off in another successful year of fundraising!!!! We now need help from everyone. Please forward suggestions for worthy recipients of our charitable gifts.

It is now time to relax and enjoy the social events we have planned. The Dunham Farm trip is March 4th. You will see historic gardens, marsh views and camellias in full bloom. A special lunch will be prepared and served at the estate for the garden club.

The nominating committee will also meet in March. Let us know if you are interested in an office or chairmanship.

Linda Lamb, a native plant expert, will present "Redefining Beauty with Native Plants" at our February 25th Garden Club meeting. Get ready for Spring.

SEE YOU SOON. Anne Guira

WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means has nothing new to report since the January 28 meeting...but once again a GIANT THANK YOU to all Garden Club members who supported us with their time and helped to make this our most successful year to date...we raised \$4,286.38 !!!!!

Sandy Randolph and Pat Sunshine, co-chairs

Please note: the **CHARITABLE GIFTS COMMITTEE** will be meeting in early March. Please submit, in writing, any suggestions you might have for recipients of our gifts this year to Kay Osborn at kayosborn@bellsouth.net or 5 Seafarer's Circle (in Oakridge).

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14th – Dues Deadline

February 23rd – Sparrow Field Berm Cleanup – volunteers needed!

February 25th Monday Meeting
9 am board, 9:30 coffee, 10 am general meeting, 10:45 program- Redefining Beauty with Native Plants

March 4th Causeway Cleanup
Meet at Smiths at 8 am, wearing sturdy shoes and gloves. Nancy Strobel will provide supplies.

March 4th Dunham Farm Trip

March 10th Petal Pusher Deadline

March 25th Monday Meeting

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FEBRUARY 25th MEMBERSHIP MEETING --REDEFINING BEAUTY WITH NATIVE PLANTS



Our speaker, Linda Lamb, is a retired science teacher who now lives in McIntosh County. She has a BS and MS degree in Biology and Science Education respectively from Georgia State University. She taught in the DeKalb County schools for 30 years. Almost all of that time was spent teaching at Fernbank Science Center and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta where she developed and taught courses in anatomy and physiology for high school students and ecology and natural sciences for middle and elementary students. While at Fernbank she taught elementary school classes in Vermicomposting, and coauthored several books.

She served as the Chairperson of the Wild Garden Project for four years and is a member of the Monarchs Across Georgia Steering Committee. She is one of the founding members of the non-profit, Coastal WildScapes, which is exclusively dedicated to preservation and restoration of native coastal habitats. Linda is passionate about native plants and the concepts of sustainability, stewardship of the land, ecosystem services and coastal habitats.

THE CHANGING FACE OF SKIDAWAY ISLAND

Our speaker for the February 25, 2013 meeting of The Landings Garden Club, Linda Lamb, will talk about redefining beauty with native plants. But what plants are, or would have been, native plants for this island? Have you ever wondered what Skidaway Island looked like before natural forces and man changed the face of the island?

Skidaway is one link in Georgia's Pleistocene barrier island chain that would have been oceanfront property at some stage approximately 40,000 years ago during the last Ice Age. With the melting of the glacial ice and the rise in sea level, Skidaway's younger sister, Wassaw, a Holocene island, came into being approximately 5,000 years ago.

The first known men on Skidaway, which has rich marshes filled with oysters, mussels, clams, and whelks, were the Timucua Indians. These Indians had used the island for hunting and as a ceremonial ground at least

4,000 years before General Oglethorpe sailed up the Savannah River in 1732. They became extinct by the 1760s from European plagues and English-sponsored slaving. We know they used plants like the **yaupon holly** in their ceremonies, but it is likely they did not change the landscape much. They did, however, leave their mark by creating shell rings along the edge of the marsh.

Major changes to the island came about through attempts to farm it. Oglethorpe assigned five families and six single men to Skidaway Island but by 1740 the island was abandoned when the pioneers were unsuccessful in farming. The next period of settlement was from 1754 to 1771, when 29 grants of land on Skidaway were issued to settlers who were more successful. Between the War for Independence and the Civil War, the area saw relative prosperity, with approximately 2,000 inhabitants and plantations producing cotton, indigo, corn, cattle, and hogs. With the success of the Union blockade in 1862, Skidaway was abandoned, and when the South lost the war and slavery was abolished, the plantations fell into ruin.

Black freedmen were the next to try their luck on Skidaway. Benedictine monks, who established a monastery and school for black children near Priest's Landing on the eastern side of the island, helped. But a tidal wave in 1889 ruined the freshwater supply, farming failed, and Skidaway was abandoned again. During Prohibition of the early 1900s, Skidaway became a prime bootlegging site because of its isolation.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries various northern interests gained control of the island. The largest of these, Union Camp, consolidated its holdings and used Skidaway for pulpwood production in the 1940s. By 1964, Union Camp had designs to develop residential property on the island. A bridge was built in 1971, and Union Camp subsequently developed the gated, residential golf community called The Landings.

So, when we talk about coastal wildscapes and native plants, to what are we referring? Be sure to come and hear what one person's thoughts are about this.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pull a tab, save a tab. Your aluminum pull McDonald House and their guests (parents at each of our meetings. Meg Bremer



tab is needed to support the Ronald of very ill children). Tabs will be collected

Priss Wentworth reminds us to continue collecting toiletries for the Georgia Regional Hospital



SPECIAL GARDEN CLUB TRIP TO DUNHAM FARMS



Dear Garden Club Members:

Please join us for a special event trip to *Dunham Farms on Monday, March 4.*

We will visit this 30 acre estate near Midway with expansive marsh views and historic gardens during the height of the camellia season.

For more information you can go to:

www.dunhamfarms.com

A one hour guided tour will be followed by a light lunch. Total cost is **\$24 per person.**

We will car pool from Messiah Lutheran Church **leaving at**

10 am for the one hour drive.

For the tour wear comfortable shoes! A light lunch will be served including: Torte Milanese with a side salad, bread, coffee and tea. (It does include Black Forest ham. A vegetarian version is available. Please advise when signing up for the trip).

I will be taking reservation and collecting money at the meeting next Monday, January 28.

Please make your checks payable to The Landings Garden Club

You may also tube or mail your checks to 25 Sparnel Road

Any questions call Lisa Hall 598-9504 or Anne Gardner 598-8762

The deadline to register is Monday, February 25.

Thank you! Lisa Hall

FROM YOUR CLUB HISTORIANS

In honor of Arbor Day in Georgia, February 15th, here is a brief story of a very special tree

The Liberty Tree

In response to a request from The National Garden Club to create memorial tributes to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, The Landings Garden Club planted an American Liberty Elm on November 3, 2001. The tree can be found on Sounding Point Retreat by lagoon 58 and near house #4. A memorial plaque had been installed.

This tree was the first memorial Liberty Elm planted in Georgia. It is warranted for life against Dutch elm disease, which killed almost all elms in the last century. A few elms survived and ours is a clone of one of them. Planted and nurtured by the Thornleys, our tree seems to be at ease in a sunny spot with well-drained soil.

The special tradition of the American Liberty Elm dates back to August 14, 1765 when the people of Boston awoke to discover two effigies suspended from an elm tree in protest of the stamp act. From that day on that elm had become known as the Liberty Tree. For the next 10 years, that particular elm stood in silent witness to

countless meetings, speeches and celebrations, and often served as the rallying place for the Sons of Liberty. In August, 1775, prior to their evacuation of Boston, British soldiers cut it down because it bore the name “Liberty.” With naming that first Liberty Tree, the sons of Liberty seized upon the opportunity to establish a patriotic tradition.

Our tree really is a most suitable memorial to the victims of 9/11.....”A phoenix rising from the ashes.”

(Excerpts from 2006 editions of The Skinnie and TWATL as written by Irene Thornley)



PENNY PINES PROGRAM FOR ARBOR DAY IN GA

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program.

In honor of Arbor Day, February 15, 2013, The Landings Garden Club will participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pine plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement and/or trees indigenous (*Not Just Pine Trees*) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe. Our donation will be used in the state of Georgia.

Under a Conservation agreement, the Forest Service will do the planting, using our donation together with Federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular National Forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected

by the Supervisor of each National Forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

(Information on the Penny Pines program from the National Garden Club-NGC)

CAUSEWAY CLEAN UP

Hi, everyone. Thanks so much for a great cleanup. The causeway looks so nice. I need to send out an **SOS as we are running low on our picker uppers**. Some of you may have taken them home thinking you would bring them along next time, but haven't been back to help yet. Please drop them on my front porch or come back in March with them. They are expensive for the Garden Club to buy and we need all we own to come back to my box.



Thanks, Nancy
48 Shellwind 598-4370

FEBRUARY 23rd - CLEANUP AT THE SPARROW FIELD BERM - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

The Sparrow Field provides an important habitat for many bird species, including Loggerhead Shrike, Purple Martin, American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebird, and Painted Bunting.

The annual spring trimming and cleanup event of the **Sparrow Field Berm will be held at 9 am on Saturday, February 23**. The Sparrow Field Berm is adjacent to the fairway of #15 Magnolia toward the green and comfort station. This activity will be assisted by Brandon Kirk of Magnolia Maintenance who will haul the debris away.

Please bring garden clippers and work gloves, if you have them. The berm is looking better each year but we need lots of assistance in getting the 2013 growing season off to a good start.

Thank you.

Caryl Warner 598-7568

Sparrow Field Oversight Committee of Skidaway Audubon



Please continue supporting

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.

JANUARY 28TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Irene shares the mysteries of mistletoe



Kay shares the Treasurer's Report



Lisa shares details of the upcoming trip to Dunham Farms

LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB MEETING MINUTES – January 28, 2013

The General meeting of the Landings Club was called to order by the President, Anne Guira, at 10:05AM. There were 49 members and 3 guests present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Sandy Humphrey read the Collect.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as they appeared in the January, 2013 Pedal Pusher.

Corresponding Secretary: Betty Ann King thanked us for our Red bows and decorating support at Reinhard Farmhouse. And thanks to Priss Wentworth we received two notes from Ga. Regional Hospital for our generosity and thoughtfulness at the Holidays.

Treasurer's Report: Kay Osborn reported a balance on January 28, 2013 of \$11,732.44 with deposits of \$5,122.32 and expenses of \$373.55. The Sea Island CD has a balance of \$4018.63. Brigitta Nooney's brick was set in the Botanical Garden.

President's Announcements:

Join fellow members for a trip to Dunham Farms to view the historic gardens, marsh view and camellias in full bloom on March 4.

Causeway cleanup is February 4.

Deep South Convention is in Savannah March 24-26.

Completed and mailed President's Report of Garden Club Achievements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Sally Johnson reported we had 49 members and 3 guests present.

Ways and Means: Sandy Randolph and Pat Sunshine reported a most successful "B&B" sale. Sandy thanked Kathy Z for organizing the sales committee, Leslee Bowler for being the "Chief of Bows", Linda Tompkins for delivering flyers with her committee and Kay Osborn for collecting the money and paying bills. The \$50.00 gift certificate from the decorated golf cart parade was raffled.

Birds and Conservation: Linda Sue Babcock reminded us the Blue Birds are returning so be sure to clean out your BB houses.

Civic Beautification: Causeway cleanup will be February 4. Nancy Strobel discussed a few safety tips.

Gate Decorations: Libby Cluett thanked everyone for their help decorating the holiday gates.

Community Service: A successful trip was made to the Ga. Regional Hospital to deliver Holiday gifts. Priss Wentworth reminded us to continue collecting toiletries.

Hospitality: Liz McGough announced and thanked hostesses Peggy Martin, Kay Osborn, Jan Kemp, Maddie Hart and Marie Scheuermann for her floral arrangement.

Horticulture: We learned the history of mistletoe from Irene Thornley- a very mysterious plant.

SACGC: Nancy Rosenthal is working on the nominating. She requests that we help in the gardens if we have time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was passed to give a \$100.00 sponsorship to the Audubon benefit golf tournament.

A motion was passed to give a \$150.00 gift to the Botanical Garden for a concrete garden bench.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Nancy Rosenthal introduced our speaker, Maria Wargovich.

Petal Pusher is published for distribution to the members of the Landings Garden Club,

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