

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



*Beautification,
Conservation, Education*

September 2014

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

During this hot, wet summer many of our gardening jobs lessened or were started and completed before the afternoon heat made it very uncomfortable to work outside. However, some garden club activities don't stop during the summer especially because they are done indoors. Your Programs, Ways and Means and Yearbook Committees have been working during the summer break. I think you will be entertained and hope you learn a few new things about gardening and our environment that you didn't know before after listening to the speakers we have invited this year. Some of us have red dye on our hands – which means only one thing – bows are being made! And Lisa Hall and her proof readers probably need to make eye doctor appointments after proofing our yearbook umpteen times to make sure it is error-free. I received a notice that the Botanical Garden has installed the bricks we donated in honor of our recently departed members Bonnie Taylor, Evelyn Kersten, Sally Johnson and Patsy Dulles. When you visit, please take a moment and locate them in the walkway. We have a request from Barbara Phillips, a professional bee keeper and Landings resident, who is planning a bee apiary at Oatland Island Wildlife Center. She needs help with the pollinator plants in the garden. If you will help, she can be reached at 201/966-8566. Finally, I am sad to report that Meg Bremer moved to Florida this summer. We will surely miss her. Mary Jane Rainey and Maureen Treat have graciously accepted the chairmanship of the Design Committee. Looking forward to seeing you on the 22nd! And don't forget to bring any plants you have divided and want to share with others (make sure you have a tag identifying them).

Leslee

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The September program will present Landings resident Matt Evans, owner and Master Floral Designer of "The Blooming Idiot". Matt will demonstrate how to create beautiful flower arrangements using fresh flowers and plants from our own backyards. This presentation is sure to be interesting and inspiring!

Julie DeHaven, Program Co-chair

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 22nd Monday meeting

9:00 Board Meeting, 9:30 coffee,
10 AM general meeting, 10:45 program

Sept. 27th Plant/Yard Sale

8 AM – 4 PM at Botanical Garden
(See article inside)

Oct. 6th – Causeway Cleanup

Meet at Smiths at 8 AM, wearing sturdy shoes and gloves. Nancy Strobel will be there with the other supplies.

Oct. 10th – Roswell Fall Farm Days

11-3 PM Artisan exhibits and demos of life on a 19th Century farm, petting zoo, wagon rides.

Oct. 15th – Deadline for Petal Pusher





Native Plant: Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia)

This is a gorgeous, dependable summer shrub that is native from coastal Maine south to north Florida and then west to the eastern edge of Texas. It blooms in mid July in North Georgia and will continue to bloom for 4-6 weeks. Light fragrance perfumes the air around it. The versatility of this shrub is one of its most attractive characteristics. This plant naturally thrives in moist locations (so it is good for a sunny, wet area), but it also does well in average garden conditions.

The species naturally has creamy white blossoms but light pink forms are available as well. The flowers are a bottlebrush structure composed of many small flowers that open from bottom to top. Flowers form on new growth, so late cold snaps will never affect these flowers. The foliage is a lustrous medium green. Source: <http://statebystategardening.com/> written by Ellen Honeycutt.

SACGC PLANT AND YARD SALE

The Reinhardt House and Botanical Garden will have a sale on September 27th from 8 to 4 PM. Drop off your items (household objects, handbags, jewelry, plants) on Sept. 23 – 26 between 9 and 3 PM. Signed up volunteers may shop early on the 26th. Call Irene Michaels at 429-4389 for more information.

A Reminder: To be more litter conscious bring your own coffee cup to our meetings.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Donations needed for Georgia Regional Hospital which treats behavioral health and development disabilities include: Individual toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand lotion, shampoo, etc. Also needed are new and used clean clothing in large sizes for both men and women, such as underwear and socks. We will be collecting these items at each meeting. If you have questions please call. Community Service Chairmen, Mary Stewart 598-1126, Edwina Walker 598-8381

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPARROW FIELD



There have been a lot of good things happening at the Sparrow Field this past summer. With the goal of creating a more diverse pollinator garden in mind, Swamp milkweed and butterfly weed were grown from seed and planted when the weather warmed in the spring. Native nectar plants were purchased and planted. Appalachian mountain mint, purple giant hyssop, Georgia savory and rattlesnake master have proven durable enough to survive the deer, full sun and dry sandy soil of the Sparrow Field. Yarrow, marigolds and cosmos were also planted. A new

soaker hose watering system was installed which is both more effective and less wasteful than the previous irrigation system. The Monarchs are back, and enjoying the new plants. Tagging and parasite testing will begin soon. Weekly volunteer work-parties meet around 9 AM on Wednesdays to weed, deadhead and trim. Any and **all volunteers are welcome** as well as visitors who just want to see the garden. Come by and see what's going on!

OUR CLUB WINS STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

We have won Runner Up, Certificate of Commendation National Garden Club Award for our Recycle/Reclamation Litter pickup. At the annual Garden Club of Georgia Standard of Excellence Award State Convention we received: First Place: Website; First Place: Publications, Newsletter; First Place: Litter and Pollution Control; Third Place: Yearbook; Patron of Scholarship Award. Thanks to all that participated in the past year to achieve this recognition!

Lisa Hall, Awards Chairman

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS 2013-15

National Garden Club President Linda Nelson chose the theme "Making a World of Difference: Choices Matter" emphasizing educational opportunities and projects centered on managing our natural resources. In 2014-15, The Landings Garden Club will feature speakers who will discuss protecting our salt marshes, bats in the garden, island birds, gardening with our friends the deer, and managing our water resources. We continue to participate in an on-going national project called Penny Pines. Penny Pines monies are used for reforestation projects through the USDA Forest Service. We also continue to support The Sparrow Field, the gardens at Skidaway State Park and we continue to clean up the Diamond Causeway. For more information about National Garden Club projects visit the website at www.gardenclub.org. *Lisa Hall, Awards Chairman*



YOUTH CONTESTS: Most kids love to draw and color so why not get your children or grandchildren busy creating a Woodsy Owl or Smokey the Bear poster. Older kids can enter the Poetry Contest, writing poems in a variety of verse forms. Details will be available at the Membership Table at the September meeting. Last year Jana Bowler, sponsored by The Landings Garden Club, won first place in the Georgia 4th grade division for her Woodsy Owl poster. She received a prize of \$50.00. Jana lives in Salt Lake City.

Please Remember to bring all your 'flip-tops'!
Ronald McDonald House thanks you!



MEMBERSHIP: We welcomed Marcia Wills and Valery Hamilton to our garden club this summer.



Marcia Willis, Marcia and her husband Larry moved to the Landings in 1998. Marcia, a Cornell graduate, was a systems engineer for IBM and a tax preparer for H&R Block. They lived in Connecticut where they raised their two children. Their daughter is now in Boston and their son in Atlanta. While living in Connecticut, Marcia belonged to the Wilton Garden Club for 15 yrs. In Savannah Marcia enjoys playing bridge, gardening, and has served on the board of Friends of Music. We welcome Marcia to our garden club and look forward to having her as a part of our organization.



Valery Hamilton, Before discovering our little piece of paradise Valery and her husband, Bill, had retired to Naples, Fla. and Zionsville, Indiana. They lived in California for several years before retirement, where Bill was chief scientist for Aero Jet. Valery was an active golfer (president of her golf association) and donated her time to several charities. One of her favorite charities was Assistance League of Zionsville which provided a wardrobe of new clothes and personal care items to needy children when they started elementary school. She remembers one of them telling her he had never had a new pair of shoes. He had only worn his father's shoes. Another, child never had a toothbrush. Valery also belonged to the Zionsville Garden Club and looks forward to giving of her time to The Landings Garden Club. *Pat Sunshine, Membership Chair*

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SEEING **RED**? You bet we have been--and gold too! But you can still share in the red bulb-and-bow frenzy! Magic fingers of Garden Club bow makers have been busy and very productive (thanks to all of you). At this time we have completed the target numbers of red and gold bows for our sale this year. If you were not able to attend a bow-making workshop, we still have opportunities for you. Our first bow and bulb sale date will be Saturday, November 15th, at the Artisans' Market held at Plantation Club. The remainder of the sales dates will be in front of the fountain in the Village on: Friday Nov. 21, Monday, Nov. 24; Saturday, Nov. 29; Monday, Dec. 1; Friday, Dec. 5; Monday, Dec. 8; Friday, Dec. 12. Check your calendars so you can sign up for a shift at the September meeting. We don't want anyone disappointed by missing a chance to participate in the bulb and bow sale extravaganza this year!

Maggie Richard, Barbara Martin, Ways and Means Co-chairs



CAUSEWAY CLEAN UP

As much as I wanted to clean the Causeway before the DOT mows, I will be out of town until mid September. I am so sorry. **We will begin picking up trash on Monday, October 6th** and hope for a nice day. I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Nancy Strobel, Civic Beautification Co-chair

MINUTES OF 4/28/14 GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Leslee Bowler at 9:30a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Margaret Hunter, the new Vice President was introduced and she read the collect. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the April Petal Pusher.

President's announcements: Leslee thanked Kathy Zmijewski for her service as Vice President this year and wished her good luck in her relocation to Vermont. Several May Garden events were announced. They included the Rose Festival at the Botanical Gardens, the Landings Green Thumb Garden Tour, and the Isle of Hope "Artful Gardens" tour. There will also be a SACGC lunch May 13 at the Savannah Golf Club. Cost is \$25.00. Updates on two of the Charitable Gifts given last month were that the Savannah Tree Foundation will not be able to plant trees in the parkway from the Truman Parkway to Ferguson until November, and the \$1000.00 gift to the Scholarship Fund was given in Lisa Hall's name to thank her for her continued work in obtaining scholarships for GA students majoring in garden related subjects. Please continue to bring in flip tops for Ronald McDonald house. **Treasurer's Report** - The Treasurer's report was distributed and filed. The Sun Trust Checking account has a balance of \$10,387.57 and our Sea Island Bank CD balance is \$4,059.48. Total funds are \$14,447.05

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Causeway Cleanup: Nancy Strobel said May 1 will be the last cleanup until fall. She said she hopes more of our garden club members will help with this project. The next date to clean up will be the second Monday of September instead of the first Monday in October because of the DOT mowing schedule. Hopefully excess trash from the highway will be removed before they mow, eliminating trash from being littered on the roadway and grounds. **Birds:** Linda Sue Babcock told us to watch for the 'blues'. Besides bluebirds, bluejays, blue grosbecks, and black throated blue warblers, indigo buntings have been spotted...a rare treat since they haven't been here in a while. **Ways and Means:** Barbara Martin said gloves are always available at \$7.00 a pair. Maggie Richards told us bow making will begin in July. Sessions are about 2-2 1/2 hour and are great fun. **Hospitality:** Judy Sweeterman thanked the past presidents who made the centerpieces for today's meeting. **Membership:** There were 46 members present and two guests, Valerie Hamilton and Ann Neary. **Programs:** Meg Bremer introduced our guest speaker, Lee Dunn, GCG Cherokee Garden Library Liaison.

NEW BUSINESS: Irene Thornley swore in the new officers for 2014-2015. They are Leslee Bowler, President, Margaret Hunter, Vice President, Kay Osborn, Treasurer, Karen Angers, Recording Secretary, and Susan Otter, Corresponding Secretary. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. followed by the program and the end of the year luncheon.

Karen Angers, Recording Secretary