

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



*Beautification,
Conservation, Education*

November 2014

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

I've been busy working in my yard continuing to pick up the moss, leaves and small branches that came down in the winds from last Saturday. Somehow, though, the word "work" about what I do in the garden does not mean the same as it did when I used to go to work. The immediate satisfaction of transforming part of the garden is something I rarely felt when I worked. And now I am happy to go out and transform my garden, my personal space, to suit me. Most of the time I am doing these things alone, thinking of nothing but the next weed to pull or perfect place to plant a new bush. In the background I hear the Carolina wren's chirping or the woodpecker's tapping and I am happy to be doing this work. I hope you enjoy working in your garden as much as I do.

We have an interesting program this month. A young lady from Athens is coming down to talk to us about bats. I hope to see you there. If not, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and if you are traveling, be safe.

Leslee

NOVEMBER PROGRAM



From a Savannah Now article: "With their nocturnal habits, beady eyes and strong association with Dracula, bats were once reviled. Bats used to have a terrible reputation for sucking blood and getting stuck in hair, said wildlife biologist Trina Morris. But as someone who surveyed GA's barrier island for bats this summer and who regularly educates about them, she's seen these attitudes morphing into curiosity. I'm even surprised how much people are getting interested, she said. There are 16 bat species found in Ga. Many are tiny, but can live long lives, some up to 20 years; GA species eat only insects, making them tremendously beneficial to people." Stay after our meeting and hear what other interesting facts Trina will share about bats!

A Reminder.



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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 17th Monday meeting: 9 AM Board meeting, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 General meeting, 10:45 Program

Dec. 1st Causeway Pickup: Meet at Smith's Parking lot at 8 AM

Dec. 1st Deadline for Poster, Poetry, Essay Contests

Dec. 4th: 1st Presbyterian Church Program in Savannah: "A Gracious Christmas", 9:30 AM to 1 PM, \$45

Dec. 6th: Cassina Garden Club's Tour of Homes: Jingle Bells and Seashells" on Sea Island 10 AM – 5 PM, \$45

Dec. 15th: Deadline to register for 2015 Master Gardener Program to be held at Lake Mayer

THEN AND NOW

When our club started 28 years ago, meetings were at 9 AM because board meetings were held the third Monday of the month. Members were able to browse the horticultural information table before coffee at 9:30 and the general meeting at 10 AM. Locations for the meetings have changed over the years based on rental charges and suitability for our group. We have been at the Lutheran Church since 2009. As they do now programs revolved around a wide range of gardening interests including design, preparation of soil, planting and specific types of plants. Members were hungry for information about what plants would thrive in coastal Georgia. Flower shows, long a staple of garden club activity were held, and projects of civic beautification within the Landings and off island, kept the members busy.

Researched by Claudette Engval, Historian

UPDATE ON "PLANT SAVER"

We all struggle with "critters" eating our plants here at the Landings, yet, we love the "critters" and don't necessarily want to get rid of them. Last year, I wrote about a product I found which seemed to work well. It is called "Plant Saver" and it comes in tablet form. The tablets are made up of natural microbial products that act as both a fertilizer for the plants as well as a deer repellent. You push the tablets into the ground very near the trunk of the plant and let the rain wash them in. As the plant absorbs them a bitter taste develops and thus is repulsive to the deer. You will notice a bitter taste in your mouth as you work with the tablets, so you want to be very careful, using gloves and keeping the container covered as much as possible. I have been using this product for about a year and have found it to be quite effective. If you use it in the proper quantities, it will last about 6 months. I found that the deer only ate my azaleas once in that 6 month period and then, not nearly to the extent that they had eaten them in the past. "Plant Saver" is no longer available at Herb Creek, however I found that you can order it directly from the company at deergone.com. It takes 1-2 weeks to become effective so during that time period, I use moth balls to keep the deer at bay. Hope this helps with your "deer problem." *Peggy Marting, 598-8970*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An Opportunity for:

WHO: You

WHEN: Monday, Dec. 1st at 9:30 AM

WHAT: Decorate the Landings Gates

WHERE: Meet at Moon River Gatehouse

THEN: [Come to my house for coffee](#)

Maddie Harwood, Chairman



WAYS AND MEANS

With the holiday season is right around the corner Margaret Hunter has the perfect solution for gorgeous table decorations. The pre-ordered, bulbs-in-bud amaryllis will be ready for pick up (& payment) at the Nov. meeting. We will also have the gift boxed amaryllis for those early bird shoppers. The official kickoff for the sale of bows and bulbs will be Saturday, Nov. 15th at the Artisan's Market. The following Monday will be the first day of the sale in the Village. We still have shifts that need volunteers. At the meeting, please check the sign-up sheet to see if you can help us. Thank you to everyone who has worked on this committee. It's a big undertaking and "many hands make light work".

Barbara Martin and Maggie Richard Ways and Means Co-chairs



Pull and Save Tabs for Ronald McDonald House



Please Remember to Bring Your Tabs

Ronald McDonald Houses are “Homes away from Home” for many families that have seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment in a nearby hospital. These homes provide beds, food, a place to do laundry, rest and the ability to be with other families in a similar situation. But most importantly parents can be near their child. All tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald Houses or recycle center in each district. Money collected is used toward items needed to make guests comfortable.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members.



Ann Otjen: Ann is quite a mover. She has moved 27 times since she and her husband, John, have been married. His career as an Army officer has carried them to many places in Europe and the United States. They and their family have been exposed to many cultures and have become multi-lingual. However, her soft southern accent still comes through. Ann graduated from Auburn University, teaching school in the early years before her children were born. She and John have visited The Landings at least

ten times and settled here a year ago. After living in west Georgia for a few years she finds the flora so different on the eastern coast and she looks forward to learning about gardening here in Savannah.



Beth Larance: Beth and her husband, Larry, moved to The Landings from St Louis 12 years ago. Beth has a degree in foreign languages and was a high school academic counselor. She is an avid bridge player. Beth and Larry have traveled the world but their hearts lie with their trips to Guatemala. For the past eight years they have traveled, sometimes twice a year, with the church sponsored Faith in Practice group. There Beth

uses her language skills as a translator for the health teams treating the impoverished and sick. Going from village to village, over two thousand people are involved in the many jobs in order to carry out this mission. She speaks of the beautiful flora that flourishes there and we look forward to her sharing some of the many photographs she has taken.



Rosalind Brady: Rosalind came to the United States when she was seven years old. She became aware that she spoke differently from the other children so it wasn't long before she lost her British accent. Today there is no trace of an accent and even when she tries to speak like a Brit she says it doesn't sound right. Rosalind and her husband, Jack, moved to Savannah 14 years ago. They have lived in The Landings less than two

months. Both were involved in school administration and special education. Rosalind has taught locally at Windsor Forest High School and Chatham Academy. She was president of The Southbridge Garden Club and The Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs and is a member of The Garden Club of Savannah. As a sideline she works as an assistant with a local dog trainer. That helps keep her three poodles in line. Three barks for Rosalind!

Pat Sunshine, Membership Co-Chair

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPARROW FIELD



Our most recent monarch testing and tagging was on Saturday Nov 8th. It was a beautiful day on the berm. We had a great turnout of 17, including grandparents, parents and children. They enjoyed netting monarchs and learning about and participating in the tagging and sampling processes. The adults were as excited to be hands-on citizen scientists as the children! Twenty-nine adult monarchs were tagged and sampled bringing the season total to 50 tagged and 67 sampled. If you would like to participate or observe the netting and testing process, talk to Shirley Brown at our meetings or call 912-598-1924. Our small group of volunteers always meets on

Wednesdays around 9 am to weed and trim. Please join us!

Shirley Brown and Sue Hamlet, Sparrow Field Co-chairs

WEBSITE

Please continue supporting green projects through the Landings Garden Club website. (www.thelandingsgardenclub.com)



Landings Garden Club General Meeting Minutes - October 27, 2014

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Collect was read by Sandra Wolf. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was approved and filed.

Kay Osborn/Treasurer: Suntrust Checking balance: \$7,141.46 Sea Island CD Balance: \$4,059.48. Total Funds: \$11,075.94

President's Report: Leslee encouraged us to get youth involved in the various youth contests available through the state garden club affiliations. Information for these activities is always available at our meetings. Our contribution to the Savannah Tree Foundation for trees, which we thought would be planted on Whitefield between Ferguson and the Truman Expressway, are going for trees on Whitefield and Hendry Streets. Because the medians closer to The Landings are still under state control trees will not be planted until the county takes over this property.

Committee Reports:

Ways and Means: Maggie Richards asked the membership to sign up to sell bows. Margaret Hunter reported that the amaryllis in bud plants can be ordered today and will be available at the November meeting. There are currently three colors: pink, red and white. She will try to obtain the green plants also. Barbara Martin asked that we all think holiday bow purchase. Our decorated mailboxes with order forms will be located at the Library and Village Drug Store. New Neighbors are a good prospect for us. We will have an announcement on the electronic billboard the days we are selling at the Village fountain.

Causeway Clean-up: Nancy Strobel once again urged members to please become involved with this committee. She needs approximately 28-30 people for the next cleanup on Monday, Nov. 3.

Birds & Conservation: Linda Sue Babcock reported that we should be watching out for the winter migration birds – they will be coming soon, especially hooded mergansers around Nov. 5.

Hospitality: Judy Sweeterman thanked the hostesses today. They are Peggy Schilly, Nancy Rosenthal and Shirley Brown.

Membership: Pat Sunshine reported there were 54 members present at this meeting and four guests: Rosalind Brady, Mitza Toth, Dottie Kirkland, & Joan Mattson. New members **Donna Nicol, Bianca DeNapoli, Linda Stephens, and Ann Objen** were welcomed and given garden gloves. Elaine Whitbeck told us that master gardener classes will begin Jan. 16 at the Lake Meyer building. She encouraged us to attend.

Design: Maureen Treat thanked Marie Scheuermann for the floral arrangement won by Margie Hardesty. The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Program: Megan Desrosiers, Executive Director of One Hundred Miles: Protecting our Salt Marshes.

Karen Angers, Recording Secretary