

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



*Beautification,
Conservation, Education*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 25th, Monday Meeting

9 am Board Meeting, 9:30 Coffee,
10 General meeting, 10:45 Program

Jan 20th The Great Healthy Yard Project,

talk at 10:30 am Coastal Georgia Center

Jan 21st Open the Garden Gate to

Pollinators, Coastal WILDscapes
symposium 9am to 4pm, Richmond Hill City
Center

Feb 2nd, Causeway Clean-up Meet at the
Smith's parking lot at 8am

Feb 10th, Petal Pusher Deadline

January 2016

Hello Ladies,

Happy New Year! We start our year with Thomas Angell, an excellent speaker and gifted landscape designer, who will help us add a dash of the wild to our island gardens. His presentation is just in time to start planning for spring. The year also begins with a blessing of riches: our bulbs and bows had record sales and we have welcomed a number of interesting and talented new members. Our club will have more funds and talent to invest in our community.

Last year ended on a very summery note with 80 degree temperatures for the Tybee Polar Plunge. Then in came 2016 with a wee nip of winter. Our trees and plants are very confused. Around Savannah we can see Sweet Gum, Gardenia, and Water Oak with fresh leaves. The trees have fading fall leaves still on the branches while producing spring growth. Azaleas are blooming all over town. Christmas Day my Lantana was covered with butterflies. I still see hummingbirds and butterflies on the feeder.

We don't know what the rest of winter will bring, but we should keep an eye on our trees and shrubs as spring arrives. They will need water and feeding after the stress of a warm autumn and (to date) a mild winter. Limbs may die off from the strain and require pruning. Bloom cycles for Azalea, Camellia and Gardenia may be out of sync. Take special care of any new plants. With luck our established plantings will probably bounce back with little input from us.

Thanks to all of you who made and sold bows last year. Your hard work has created funds which we will invest to support our island, community and State. And welcome to our new members. You will enrich our club with your talents and ideas. See you on the 25th!

Margaret Hunter

MEMBERSHIP

The Landings Garden Club dues and membership forms have been sent out by Treasurer Marcia Wills. Please return them to her along with your interest in committee participation. You may bring them to the January meeting or mail them to Marcia at 38 Cotton Crossing West by February 15, 2016. We are delighted that Judy Barquist and Margy Hatch joined our club in November. You will learn more about them in our February issue. Welcome, Judy and Margy.

Pat Sunshine, Membership Co-chair

WEBSITE

Please continue supporting green projects through the Landings Garden Club website. (www.thelandingsgardenclub.com) Click here before you shop -> and our club will collect a referral fee for purchases you make at Amazon!



TREASURER REPORT

A detailed financial statement was presented at the membership meeting Nov 16, 2015. Anyone who would like to receive a copy, please email mkwills@aol.com and I will mail one to you. Please be sure to check out the January 24, 2016 financial report to see the fantastic results of the Bow and Bulb Fundraiser!

Marcia Wills, Treasurer



Please remember to bring your own coffee cup to reduce waste!!

SAVE THOSE POP CAN TABS!

SUPPORT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE WITH YOUR CAN TABS!!!



Tabs are collected by all 7 districts of the Garden Club of Georgia and turned over to the Ronald McDonald House to purchase supplies for families with hospitalized children temporarily staying there. Landings Garden Club members please get your tabs to the meeting. Many thanks for your support of this worthwhile project!!



Trustees' Garden Club Speaker – Dr. Diane Lewis, “The Great Healthy Yard Project”

Trustees' Garden Club invites the public to hear Dr. Diane Lewis speak about “The Great Healthy Yard Project,” Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 10:30 a.m., Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm Street, Savannah, GA. There is no charge for this event. Parking behind the Coastal Georgia Center is free.

Lewis is an internist and a nephrologist, licensed to practice medicine in New York State. As an environmental activist, she has embraced education as a means for implementing change. Lewis created The Great Healthy Yard Project to draw attention to a growing problem in our country that often goes unnoticed. She has dedicated her work to teaching others in nuanced terms how chemicals end up in our drinking water, and what affects they have on our bodies, as well as teaching alternative ways to take care of our lawns and gardens without harmful chemicals.

For more information, please contact Mary Meade Sipple, [912.667.4824](tel:912.667.4824) or mmsip@bellsouth.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPARROW FIELD?

In the fall our garden club enjoyed an interesting and informative presentation from Dr. Barbara Phillips about honey bees. During Q and A the topic of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) came up. There has been conflicting evidence from studies presented by pesticides manufacturers and conservationists regarding whether neonics are a strong factor in colony collapse disorder in honey bees. A new study by the EPA was just released January 6th has caused more confusion. They reported that in some crops neonics are harmful to bees' health, while in others the chemical did not appear to cause harm. So what do we do? The fact remains that all insecticides kill insects indiscriminately. Here are some points from the Xerces Society:



- ~Neonics move easily through water and persist over time, making them exceptionally toxic.
- ~Neonics are systemic central nervous system poisons that move through plant tissues into stems, leaves, pollen and nectar.
- ~Neonics affect not only pollinators but birds, butterflies, bats, earthworms and soil microbes – essentially the entire environment.
- ~Neonics are sold under a myriad of different brand names.

Big box stores have been under fire from conservation groups and bee keepers for selling plants that have been treated with neonics. One such store has agreed to label the treated plants. This label however is more promotion than warning, with the wording in small faint print. (See the photo.) So buyer, beware! The recommendation is do not use these chemicals in your home garden, and take care not to inadvertently

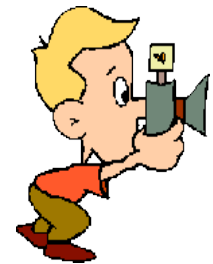
buy plants treated with neonics. Talk to the nursery you buy from to find out whether their plants are treated. For more information on neonics and alternatives for your garden click here:

<http://www.xerces.org/wings-magazine/neonicotinoids-in-your-garden/>

Sue Hamlet/ Sparrow Field Co-chair

WANTED: PHOTOGRAPHER

We are looking for a volunteer to take a few photos at our meetings & email them to Sally Jones for our website. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sally Jones at sally4th@bellsouth.net



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB (NGC) MEMBER SERVICES



Barbara Campbell, Member Services Chairman has sent information to share with all Nation Garden Club members regarding member services. On the recently updated website members can obtain 2016 Vision of Beauty calendars, pins and charms, books, plant markers and a beautiful new scarf design.

The link to shop is: <http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/> Check it out!

Monarch butterfly pin available through NGC

WAYS AND MEANS

Thank you, our Garden Club members, for all the help you gave to make this another very successful year for our holiday fund raiser. The charitable organizations, to which our club distributes these funds, are the real winners! The great weather for our sale dates, and the ease of using the SQUARE for credit purchases contributed to a successful event. We completely sold out of 656 bows and 130 Amaryllis bulbs!! Most of all, we are grateful for all the support from members who made, sold, purchased, advertised and in any way were helpful and encouraging of our efforts.



From left: 1) Barbara Martin, Peggy Schilly and Maggie Richard. 2) Lisa Hall at the Artisan Market. 3) Dottie Kirkland at The Village Maggie Richard and Dottie Kirkland, Ways and Means Co-Chairs

LET'S HELP BETHSDA'S BOYS

If you don't use some of your garden tools any longer the Bethesda boys can put them to good use. They always need more shovels, rakes, brooms, hoes and other garden implements for the work they do at the farm. Bring them to the meeting or drop them off at my house and I will deliver them.

Thank you! Leslee Bowler, 59 Peregrine Crossing.

LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB CHARITABLE GIVING

For our newer members, Linda Sue Babcock has provided some insight into how our giving works. Each year any member can petition the Committee to ask for funding for a project. Linda Sue has requested funding for three projects she has initiated:

The Butterfly Garden at the Interpretive Center at Skidaway Island State park was established as a small but very successful project. The LGC funds the garden and Rangers plant and care for it. As it has been so successful on Skidaway, all State Parks are adding Butterfly Gardens and ours will be enlarged.

Linda Sue also asks for our support of the Orphaned Birds Project directed by Pat Wolters, a Registered Bird Rehabilitator. She feeds and tends injured birds and those not mature enough to survive on our own.

Thirteen years ago, Linda Sue and Nancy Crawford began our Native Plant Trail near the Association Building. It was funded by our club and, with volunteers watering, survived for eight years. Unfortunately, two droughts ended the project. Of course the Nature Trail is still there for our enjoyment. Thank you Linda Sue and all of you with good ideas to care for our world!

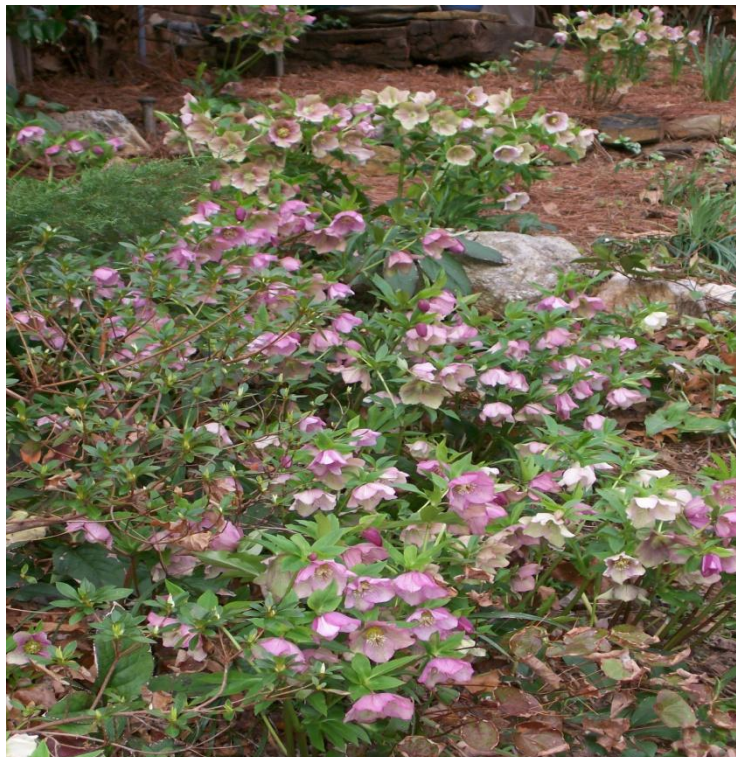
Our giving is funded by member dues and sales of bulbs, bows and gloves. This month our Treasurer, Marcia Wills, will chair the Charitable Gifts committee to determine the requests for financial assistance we will honor. Next month we will announce gifts for 2015-16.

Here is the list of some of the wonderful organizations and projects we have aided in the past.

- Audubon Sparrow Field Berm Butterfly Garden*
- Bethesda Academy*
- Native Plants for the Landings Nature Trail*
- Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund*
- Friends of Skidaway State Park Butterfly Garden*
- Skidaway Orphan Bird Care, Roadside Beautification*
- Roots and Shoots Children's Program at the Bamboo Farm*
- Savannah Botanical Garden*
- Savannah Tree Foundation for Plantings along Whitefield Avenue*
- Georgia Botanical Garden*
- UGA Marine Extension Service*
- Le Conte-Woodmanston Plantation Restoration*
- Skidaway Farm Pavilion and Bird Bath*
- Skidaway Animal Rescue*
- Brown Thrasher Scholarship Fund*
- Penny Pines Reforestation Project*
- Coastal Landscapes*
- Village Library*
- Skidaway Institute of Oceanography*
- Tallow Tree Project*
- Diamond Back Terrapin Project*

Your dues have also supported a number of projects of the State and National Garden Club. We are proud of all these donations to such worthy causes!

Winter Pleasure: Hellebores in February



LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES- NOV 16, 2015

The General Meeting of The Landings Garden Club was called to order at 10:04 am by President Margaret Hunter. There were 42 members and 4 guests present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Collect was read by Past President Leslee Bowler. She included a prayer for the people of France.

President's Remarks: Margaret Hunter called for approval of the October minutes as printed in the November Petal Pusher. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the Treasurer's Report was placed at each table. Marcia Wills asked that any questions be directed to her.

Causeway Clean Up: Nancy Strobel reported that the dates for the next Causeway Clean Up will be December 7th and January 4th.

Legislative Report: Leslee Bowler reminded members that it was just one year ago that Members went out into the Marsh to have our Marshy Photo taken. She reminded us of some of the progress that has been made in the past year, such as the 25' buffer for the saltwater marshes which goes in effect January 16th. The freshwater buffer proposal has been rejected, but we are not going to give up. Leslie gave us information about the worst polluters, referred to in the 2015 Dirty Dozen report.

Membership: Jan Smart and Pat Sunshine have announced two new members: Margy Hatch and Judy Barquist. Tina Zipperer brought a visitor, Janet Murphy. Donna Slappey also brought a visitor, Meg Schreck.

Horticulture: Irene Thornley recalled the planting of the Liberty Elm that the Club planted as a 9/11 memorial tree. It is now over 35' tall. She displayed the plaque which is due to be placed at the tree located on Sounding Point Retreat.

Ways & Means: Dottie Kirkland gave an update on the bows and bulbs. The Artisan market proved very successful. She asked that all members sign up to help sell the bows in the Village.

President's Remarks: Margaret Hunter reported that the limit for reimbursing floral arrangements has been raised from \$15. to \$30. Receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer.

Hospitality: Thanks were given to Tina Zipperer and Judy Sweeterman for bringing refreshments this morning.

SACGC: Nancy Rosenthal announced the dates for the Open House at the Botanical Gardens on Eisenhower Drive: December 5th and 6th from 1 - 5 p.m. December 4th is the date for decorating the home with authentic handmade decorations. Donations of refreshments for the Open House are needed. Nancy will pick them up. She also reported that the garden is looking beautiful and it is a lovely location for family portraits. On January 8th from 5 - 9 p.m., Chipotle Restaurant is donating half of their proceeds to the Botanical Gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am. Jan Smart introduced the speaker, Caroline Holder who led the program, "Holiday Floral Arrangements".

Jayne Rogers, Recording Secretary