

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



*Beautification,
Conservation, Education*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 5th, Monday Meeting

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

Dec 12th, Causeway Clean-up Meet at the
Bank of America parking lot at 7:45am

Nov 25th Holiday Lights Festival at the
Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens through
Christmas Eve

Dec 10th, Petal Pusher Deadline

December 2016

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

The holidays are here and our members continue to spread cheer. The aftermath of hurricane Matthew has not stopped the club's ongoing activities and projects. It was just a week after returning from the evacuation that the Library and Container Garden committees contacted me about a trip to Oelschig's Nursery. These committees have transformed the library containers as well as the containers at the various clubs into a feast for the eyes. All of that within one month of a major storm. The Ways and Means committee continued to put their plan in place in order to participate in The Artisans Market and had record sales for the day! This was a great way to kick off the traditional Bow Sales for the season. Congratulations!

There were several calls of concern about postponing the club's anniversary party. Fortunately the club reopened just in time for us to celebrate our history and success. We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day. Members dined under blue skies and a hint of fall weather was in the air. The tables were adorned with beautiful roses arranged by Valery Hamilton. Music provided by Don Read created a fun and festive atmosphere. The ladies looked beautiful and it was a memorable time. I'd like to thank Judy Sweeterman for assisting me in the party planning. Thank you to Lisa Hall, Sandra Wolf and Sally Jones for putting together a lovely program. Please visit our website to view the wonderful video Sally has posted for us.

The gate decoration committee will soon be working on decorating the entrances of our neighborhood. This beautiful display is a traditional project that welcomes us home as we drive in our gates and is a wonderful reminder that the holidays are indeed here.

Tradition! Tradition! That is what our club provides to our community. For some, traditions are for holidays, but for our club we have traditions thru out the year.

A sincere thank you to all who take part in continuing our traditions.

Warm Wishes and Happy Holidays to all.

Tina Zipperer, President



WEBSITE

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



DECEMBER PROGRAM



Our [December meeting is Monday Dec 5th](#). Please join fellow members and guests for a hands-on Holiday workshop. Choose between creating a pair of candlestick decorations or an 8 1/2 tabletop wreath. Supplies, inspiration and instruction will be provided. Bring your own scissors and hand clippers. If you wish to do the candlestick project, bring your own candles. Also, bring your favorite holiday bling to personalize your design. We hope you can join us!

Please bring your own coffee mug to cut down on waste!!



AWARDS



Congratulations! Our club was awarded the Martha Miller Butterfly Award for the second consecutive year. Thank you to Shirley Brown whose leadership and dedication brings our members together as they work on this project through out the year. They have made outstanding environmental contributions through planting and maintaining the butterfly garden. If you would like to know more about it, please call Shirley. Her knowledge and passion are inspiring.

SPARROW FIELD POLLINATOR BERM

The Pollinator Berm Garden at Sparrow Field escaped the wrath of Tropical Storm Hermine and Hurricane Matthew. In fact, the rain from those systems stimulated a burst of growth and blossoms from the fall season flora. The weekly work parties continue on Friday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

Following the suggestion from the monarch butterfly researchers who discourage late season breeding the garden volunteers cut back the milkweed the first week of November and ended the larvae counts for the season. Lingering larvae of monarchs and the queen butterflies are persistently feeding on stalks and new shoots of the tropical milkweed and the giant milkweed. Those plants will be pruned again.

Monarch Health recently sent reports from the monarch samples collected and submitted in June and in September. These reports will be posted to the Skidaway Audubon web site www.skidawayaudubon.org. Of the 20 samples analyzed for the protozoan parasite OE, 10 (50%) were free of disease and 10 (50%) were infected. 5 (25%) were heavily infected. Fourteen more samples were sent to the Odum School of Ecology at UGA on November 10th. Those butterflies developed from eggs deposited on milkweed in the Sparrow Field

Dara Satterfield, PhD, our Monarch Health mentor, is continuing her work with monarchs in her position as a Fellow at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Knowing that *Calitropis gigantea* (giant milkweed) is growing at the berm, she asked for assistance in collecting data about cardenolide toxins in monarchs that feed on that species of milkweed. Cardenolide toxins from milkweed are concentrated in the caterpillars and butterflies and make them distasteful to their predators. In asking for our participation in this project, Dara Satterfield, PhD, explained, "We have already done this for numerous milkweed species, but we don't yet have any monarchs representing *C. gigantea*. This information is being used to help us determine which monarchs (in TX) are resident and which are migrant, for a project examining whether migratory monarchs use tropical milkweed gardens and what happens to them if they do (we are monitoring for disease and reproduction)."

To provide the butterflies, several larvae eating giant milkweed were collected, and fed exclusively giant milkweed. All the larvae pupated, but only three eclosed, including one fed exclusively giant milkweed. The chrysalises of the others turned black, an indication of disease. The healthy monarchs were sent to Odum School of Ecology for analysis. We will likely repeat this activity next year with more controls. This is an interesting article on the cardenolide toxins in milkweed. <http://monarchlab.org/biology-and-research/biology-and-natural-history/feeding-life-cycle/interactions-with-milkweed/>

Many other species of butterflies are flying at the field, where there are abundant sources of nectar. The cloudless sulfurs are utilizing their host plant, the Christmas senna (*Senna bicapsularis*). The larvae that eat the bright yellow blossoms are yellow, and those on the green leaves are green. Nature at work to protect her babies! Fitz Clarke has some stunning pictures. See them on the Skidaway Audubon web site.

Shirley Brown, Sparrow Field Coordinator



MEMBERSHIP



Barbara Hamlet grew up in Minot, ND, and arrived at The Landings in August of 1994 after traveling the globe and living in many wonderful places. That includes living in the Netherlands where she enjoyed the country, Dutch flower arrangements, and the close proximity to London where she was able to travel and enjoy theatre productions. She and her husband Joe, have two daughters, nine grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. As a previous member of the LGC, she was membership chair and active in the Diamond Causeway litter pickup effort back in its early days. Her absence from the LGC came about due to surgeries that she has had over the years. The last surgery was 3 years ago and she is ready to get back into the Club and enjoy our many programs and activities. Among other activities that Barbara enjoys are reading (she loves her Nook) and taking classes at the

Learning Center. We are happy to welcome Barbara back into the fold.

Donna Nicol, Membership Co-chair



Diane Ingram's husband Chip decided in the late 70's that when he and Diane retired they would settle in The Landings on Skidaway Island.

Because of his connection with the Meade Paper Company and serving on a board with members from Union Camp he made frequent trips to Skidaway and had the opportunity to see the initial growth of The Landings. A few years later Diane and Chip started their own company that supplied returnable, reusable, recyclable, custom-designed packaging for General Motors and smaller businesses. In thirteen years their business grew from working out of their home to a 70,000 square foot facility with thirty five employees. Diane, who is a graduate of Purdue University and has an MBA from Indiana University, worked in their business and raised a family. In 1993 the Ingrams purchased their first property at the Landings, and in 2003 after selling their business in Indianapolis they became full-time residents at The Landings. Diane and

Chip have two daughters. Dawn lives in Savannah and Lindsay lives in Parker, Colorado. Diane is a past-president of Savannah Newcomers and is on The Union Society Board of Bethesda as well as serving as a docent at the Harper-Fowlkes house. Diane looks forward to learning about our southern gardening and environment. The Landings Garden Club extends a warm welcome to Diane Ingram.

Pat Sunshine, Membership Co-chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE



At our next meeting will have a table set up by the sign-in area for donations for the three agencies that we continue to support this year. Please bring your pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House, your travel-size toiletries for Georgia Regional Hospital, and any old towels or blankets for the Humane Society's PetFix program to the December meeting. Georgia Regional Hospital would also appreciate any donations of men's clothing in large sizes. This includes shirts, trousers, and jackets.

Barbara Martin, Community Service Co-Chair



NOVEMBER WORKSHOP



On Thursday, November 10, more than a dozen ladies of the Landings Garden Club, gathered at the home of Nancy Strobel to attend a special horticulture workshop led by Camille Fisher, a Landings resident. Camille has been working with orchids for many years and maintains a large collection at her home here. She assured us that orchids are not difficult to grow and gave us many helpful hints for their care.

After a brief introduction and history of orchids, we got right to the main focus of the workshop - repotting orchids which had finished blooming. Nancy's hospitality of wine and cheese was enjoyed and participants went home with increased orchid knowledge and great hopes for the freshly potted orchids. If you missed the fun and camaraderie of this

workshop, join us at the next special event, "Waxing Camellias" on February 23. Look for sign-up as it will be limited to 20 members.

Jayne Rogers, Vice President

LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 24, 2016

President Tina Zipperer called to order the 30th Anniversary celebration of The Landings Garden Club at the Plantation Club ballroom at 10:00 am with an attendance of 65, including 7 guests and 5 new members.

Tina led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Collect was read by Past President Barbara Paull. The minutes of the last meeting, printed in the Petal Pusher were accepted. Maddie Harwood gave the treasurer's report and requested that anyone with questions see her personally.

Tina Zipperer welcomed everyone to the Anniversary Party. Guests and new members were introduced and the following Past Presidents attending the celebration were recognized: Anne Dauray, Caroline Nusloch, Edith Teifeld, Dixie Diffenderfer, Barbara Paull, Nancy Strobel, Anne Gardner, Lisa Hall, Judy Sweeterman, Leslee Bowler, and Margaret Hunter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No formal committee reports were given, but the following announcements were made:

Causeway cleanup will be on November 7 at 8am.

Continue to collect toiletries, clothing, towels and blankets, and tabs from drink cans for the Community Service Projects.

Christmas bows will be for sale after the brunch.

There is a waiting list for the "Orchid Rescue" program on November 10th. Notify Nancy Strobel if you signed up but are unable to attend.

The next meeting, a holiday decoration workshop, will be December 5th at Messiah Lutheran Church.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:30. The program was introduced by Past President Anne Dauray. Lisa Hall and Sandra Wolf narrated a slide show of the history of the Landings Garden Club highlighting the community activities of the club over its 30-year existence. The slide show will be posted on the website.

Following the program, the members withdrew to the lawn for brunch.

Shirley Brown, Recording Secretary