

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



*Beautification,
Conservation, Education*

March 2017

Dear Ladies,

Spring has sprung and it's the time of year gardeners look forward to. However, you don't have to be an avid gardener to take in the beauty of what Savannah has to offer in spring. The azaleas can't seem to bloom fast enough thanks to our mild winter. My favorites are the redbuds and cherry blossom trees that are everywhere. If you are new to Savannah, now is the perfect time to drive through Ardsley Park and other neighborhoods you may not have explored yet. There is something blooming everywhere.

One of my favorite things about calling myself a southerner is the fact that we have a reputation of celebrating everything. It all seems to start in the spring too. I encourage you to check the local calendars, gas up your car, and leave the island. There's a reason people travel from all over the world to visit our beautiful city. Home and garden tours are a must. As a past chair for the NOGS tour, I highly recommend it. Not only do you have the opportunity to look at private gardens not open to the public, but it is the main fundraiser for The Garden Club of Savannah. For those of you that drive Eisenhower frequently, stop by the Savannah Botanical Gardens and check out the rose garden. This is home to our Savannah Council of Garden Clubs that our club is a member of. If you run out of things to see locally, Beaufort and Charleston are close and offer a full calendar of events.

Last but not least, take in the beautiful island we all call home. Visit the berm and see what Shirley and her team are working on. The container gardens will soon be planted at the clubs and a must see! Enjoy exploring this spring. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

Happy Spring,

Tina Zipperer, President

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 27, Monday Meeting

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

April 3, Field Trip to Bethesda

April 10, Petal Pusher Deadline

April 14 and 15, Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens Plant Sale

April 21 and 22, NOGS Tour of Gardens

April 28, 29 and 30, Orchid Show at Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden



MARCH PROGRAM



Liz Lubrani is the Outreach & Development Coordinator at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, an Extension facility here in Savannah run under the auspices of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. She received her Master's Degree from Armstrong State University in Business Communication and her Bachelor's degree from Penn State in American Studies. She has worked in non-profit development and outreach since graduating from Penn State and has written for various publications on these topics. She is a certified Georgia Master Gardener and recently began a collaboration program with the Coastal Master Gardener Association and the U.S. Army working with wounded soldiers through garden

therapy. She currently resides in Richmond Hill with her husband Tony and their dog Kitty. Her presentation will be on the history, lore, and use of herbs.



FIELD TRIP



Reservations are still open for the field trip to Bethesda on April 3rd at 10 am. The cost is \$10.00. We will carpool from the Methodist Church at 9:45. Following our tour we will dine at Fiore for lunch. Please email Tina: tina@zippererandco.com

WORTH THE DRIVE

Middleton Place Charleston, SC,
Feb. 7th - Mar. 18th

Camellia Walks every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Details are on the website at <http://www.middletonplace.org>

Gibbs Gardens Ball Ground, GA
Mar. 1st - April 15th
Daffodil Season!



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Please bring your donations for the three agencies that we continue to support this year. 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. 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



WEBSITE

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



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



MEMBERSHIP



Joan Christensen; Joan is a native of northern England, but her English accent is less pronounced as a result of her many years of living in the south. She met her husband, Jim, while teaching in the Bahamas. Little did she know they would wind up owning a 2000 acre dairy farm in Wrens, Georgia. There, they raised two daughters who learned the ropes of dairy farming and sometimes were called on to rise early to help with milking the cows. When one of her daughters needed a dress for a coming out ceremony, Joan realized there was a need for a formal attire shop in their area. So, for thirty two years she created and operated a bridal shop in Augusta, Ga. After Jim passed away Joan's daughter Anna, who lives on the Isle of Hope, encouraged her to settle in The Landings. She noted the many activities that The Landings offers. Although, she has only been here a short time she has found the residents to be welcoming and is looking forward to being an active member of our club. Her interests lie in container gardening and playing bridge. She was a member of The Louisville Georgia Garden Club. We are looking forward to having Joan as a member of our organization. Our warmest welcome goes out to Joan.

Our club continues to grow and attract informed and industrious new members interested not only in gardening but in the environment, as well. You will be meeting new members Kathy Collura, Linda Rich, Haydee Toedtman and Karen Burroughs at the March meeting and will learn more about them in our April Issue of the Petal Pusher. Our warm welcome goes out to all of our new members and to those of you who been with us through the ages. See you at the March meeting.

Pat Sunshine, Membership Chair

NANDINA DOMESTICA



Dozens of Cedar Waxwings were found dead in Thomas County, Georgia in April 2009. Five of these were examined and were found to have died from cyanide toxicity associated with Nandina Domestica, aka Heavenly bamboo. Again last April, 14 Cedar wax wings were found dead near a high school in Decatur GA. Necropsy of the birds disclosed their death was also caused by cyanide toxicity from eating Nandina berries. How many birds die but are not found? Cedar Waxwings travel south in winter in large flocks to search for food. Nandina holds its beautiful berries through the winter, enticing these birds with lovely fruit. This story is important because Nandina is also classified as invasive in Georgia. This means that after birds eat the berries they carry them off, and spread seeds in forests or fields where Nandina

spreads without any gardeners care. While some states like New York, have outlawed selling and planting this invasive plant, most other places still allow it.

This is a cautionary tale warning us to avoid finding and planting invasive plants. It is up to us as gardeners to educate ourselves on invasive plants and insist on native or non-invasive plants from our local nurseries. We the consumer, have the power to effect positive change.

Sue Hamlet, Editor

LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY, 2017

President Tina Zipperer called to order The Landings Garden Club meeting at Messiah Lutheran Church at 10:00 am with 48 members present and 6 guests. The Pledge of allegiance was led by Tina Zipperer; the Collect was read by Jayne Rogers; the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Petal Pusher were approved as published. Treasurer Maddie Harwood provided the financial report via the printouts on each table. The balance in the checking account on 1/31/17 was \$18,419.02. The 2016-2017 Charitable Gifts were listed totaling \$4,968, \$3500 being held for next year's budget. Corresponding secretary Donna Nicol reported that a sympathy card was sent to Joe Rainey whose wife had died, and a card was sent to Pat Sunshine who was ill. Tina announced that the special event "Blooming with Art," a flower and art show in collaboration with Color by 12, held on February 9th was an "awesome event" attended by 500 people. She thanked the arrangers whose creations can be seen on the club's web site. She thanked Sally Jones for the frequent web blasts advertising the event. The show will alternate with Telfair's Art in Bloom. The tulips on the tables are available for purchase for \$10.

Hostesses were Judy Sweetermen, Diane Gustafson, Sue Hamlet, Meg Schreck and Elaine Witbeck. Tina Zipperer brought King Cake and the membership committee donned festive Mardi Gras masks to carry out the theme of the meeting. Valery Hamilton supplied the floral arrangement for the raffle. Tina announced a spring field trip to Bethesda museum and chapel on April 3 at 10 am. Merrin Slocombe will share information about the pollinator program and growing plants for sale. Members may go to lunch at Cohen's Retreat after the tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Donna Nicol introduced the guests: Elizabeth Cowell, Tina Gilbert, Kathy Collura, Nancy McGirr, Donna Bunn, and Barbara Lohr. Members were reminded to pay their dues and to fill out the committee form.

Causeway Cleanup – Tina announced that this project is being discontinued due to safety concerns and will be replaced with a new Environmental Committee chaired by Nancy Rosenthal.

Community Service – Georgia Regional needs toiletries and clothing for discharges. The Spay/Neuter clinic needs towels and blankets for the pets. Collecting tabs from drink cans is an ongoing project with the Ronald McDonald House.

Horticulture Committee – Irene Thornton announced that the April meeting is a plant swap and that you must bring one to take one. She encouraged members to grow their own plants.

Birds and Conservation – Linda Sue Babcock reminded members to clean their bluebird boxes and feeders and bird baths using bleach.

Backyard Habitat - Shirley Brown thanked the Pollinator Berm Garden team for their show of "woman-power" in spreading a trailer load of compost, amending the soil for spring planting.

Nominating Committee – Donna Nicol introduced the slate of officers for the next year.

President - Tina Zipperer

Vice President – Diane Ingram

Treasurer – Maggie Richard

Recording Secretary – Shirley Brown

Corresponding Secretary – Donna Nicol.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

PROGRAM

Nancy Strobel introduced Kara Day, a Department of Natural Resources biologist, who presented the program "Garden Friends and Foes," all about snakes and spiders.

Shirley Brown, Recording Secretary