

THE PETAL PUSHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB



September 2016

Dear Garden Club Members,
Welcome to the 2016-17 Landings Garden Club Year and the Club's Thirtieth Anniversary. It is great to have so many returning members, and to have new faces join us as well. Whether you are new or returning, I want you to know that I appreciate your enthusiasm and dedication to the club. YOUR inventive and fresh ideas will contribute to the club's growth and success.

This past summer the executive board voted on one of those fresh ideas from Diane Gustafson and we now have a new committee called Container Gardens which has partnered with the Landings Club. Pat Barry immediately put her design talent to work and the finished product are beautiful planters at Franklin Creek, Oakridge, and Marshwood. The committee quickly recruited garden club members who keep a watchful oversight and maintain these lovely container gardens. Please take the time to view the beautiful collection of garden art.

The project is a natural fit because our club already shares our talent and time to keeping up various garden related projects on the island including the Village Library and Sparrow Field and the beautification project we all know as Causeway Cleanup. I would like to recognize the co-chairs of those committees as well. Many of our committees work year around and the Village Library and Sparrow Field are two of those. We all know the hot summer months have challenged our landscape and co-chairs Diane Gustafson and Elaine Witbeck will be the first to tell you their committee worked hard to keep the library planters thriving and beautiful. Shirley Brown and her group of volunteers have braved the heat week after week. In addition to maintaining the Berm and Sparrow Field, they collect data for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. If you don't know about this project, please ask Shirley. Her passion is contagious.

Our Ways and Means Committee also worked all summer making gorgeous bows for our annual fundraiser. Dottie Kirkland and Maggie Richards opened their homes and welcomed in their committee members week after week. This group of women made 720 BOWS! If you have never attended one of these sessions you should mark it on your calendar next summer. The organization and system they have is incredible. After visiting one session all I could say was WOW! Club members will have the opportunity to purchase these bows at our first meeting. There is so much more to share that I will have to continue to highlight this year's activities on the next page, so please keep reading.

In closing, I am honored to be in this position for the next two years. My hope is to inspire you, inspire you to get involved, and to inspire others to become part of this dynamic group. I want to thank the board members and all committees for the time and effort you've given this summer and that you will give throughout the year. We are a garden club that is social and will give you the opportunity to make lifelong friendships. Volunteering has it's rewards.

Tina Zipperer, President

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

With the celebration of the club's **THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY**, club members are in for fun and excitement. There's something for everyone so remember to invite your friends and neighbors to visit and join our club.

Our FIELD TRIP to Atlanta Botanical Garden and Gibbs Garden is approaching. There are twenty-two people traveling with us. We can't wait to share the excitement. You'll be able to follow us on Facebook and in the meantime see the fabulous slide show on our club's website that Sally Jones created. Also NEW this year, are after hour workshops. The first one will be The Orchid Rescue held in November and Camellia Waxing which will be in February. Both are limited to twenty people. More information will be available in the coming weeks and you can refer to the new yearbook for dates and times. An ANNOUNCEMENT will be made at the September meeting for an exciting new club sponsored event. We will invite all residents of the Landings to attend. This inaugural event will no doubt become a yearly tradition and the talk of the town!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM



We welcome Norman Winters to our first meeting of the year. The "Garden Guru" has been writing about his passion for gardening for the past 20 years. He shares his garden expertise through columns in Savannah Morning News, and is a feature writer for Georgia Gardening Magazine.

Norman has written several books including "Tough as Nails Flowers for the South", "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden", and "Paradise Found: Growing Tropicals in Your Own Backyard". These books can be purchased on Amazon and brought to the meeting for Norman to autograph.

Mr. Winters is currently the director of the University of Georgia's Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden at the Historic Bamboo Farm. His program will focus on container gardening.

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!



AWARDS

Lisa Hall has handed off the daunting task of chairing this committee this year, and with her assistance and guidance we hope to match or exceed the number of awards our club garnered last year. Our first application will be for the Butterfly Conservation Award for which we won first place last year, both from the Deep South Region district and the Garden Club of Georgia. Shirley Brown and her crew of laborers have done an incredible job with this conservation project. This application recognizes the dedication and hard work of so many people.

Barbara Martin, Awards Committee

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 26th, Monday Meeting

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

Oct 3rd, Causeway Clean-up

Meet at the Smith's parking lot at
8am

Oct 10th Petal Pusher Deadline

Oct 11th Field trip to Atlanta
Botanic Garden and Gibbs Garden

Oct 24th Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration and Meeting

Oct 25th Oleander District Fall
Meeting, Statesboro, GA

THE POLLINATOR BERM AT SPARROW FIELD

Despite the heat, volunteers at the Pollinator Berm at Sparrow Field have been busy this summer maintaining an inviting habitat for insects and birds. Even with the excellent new automated irrigation system, many of the plants have suffered stress from the heat with shorter bloom cycles. By cutting back these spent plants we intend to encourage new growth for what we hope will be a long, mild fall season. While Hermine created some real messes on the island, the Pollinator Berm garden benefited from the soaking rain that encouraged renewed flowering.

The sweltering weather has impacted the pollinators as well, especially the number of butterflies of all species. This is an issue that is more widespread than just our area. This article addresses some possible explanations for the decrease in these garden beauties: <http://www.kansas.com/living/home-garden/article91041272.html>. Fortunately, going into September, there has been an increase at the Pollinator Berm at Sparrow Field in the number and type of butterflies utilizing the host plants and nectar sources in place for them. The passion vines are being defoliated by the spiky orange and black caterpillars of the gulf fritillary while the adults are making the beds of clasping heliotrope look alive as they sip nectar. The orange of these butterflies against the lavender and green of these spreading plants is a beautiful sight.

The Monarch Larva Monitoring project is continuing its second year at the Pollinator Berm garden. This citizen scientist initiative sponsored by the University of Minnesota obligates its participants to count monarch larvae on milkweed plants throughout the growing season. In Savannah, that is a long time. This year the garden supported 9 species of milkweed, 7 of them native. Monarchs continue to prefer *Asclepias curassavica*, the non-native tropical milkweed, which flourishes in our hot, humid climate. A recent count yielded 194 tiny eggs on 25 tropical milkweed plants, as well as 42 caterpillars in various stages. The next two species that seem attractive for egg-laying are *A. incarnata* (swamp milkweed) and *A. syriaca* (common milkweed). The highly touted butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*) has not been a good attractor of ovipositing monarchs in our garden. For more on the monarch decline see this article: <http://texasbutterflyranch.com/2016/08/27/monarch-butterflies-heading-our-way-but-not-as-many-as-we-hoped/>.

Tropical milkweed is readily obtainable at the garden centers, and is an important host plant for the monarch. However, it must be cut back by the end of October to discourage breeding by any monarchs that may have decided to over-winter rather than continue the migration to Mexico. Last winter as a control in the Monarch Health research being done by University of Georgia doctoral students, the tropical milkweed in our garden was not cut back. The butterflies collected and tested showed a high rate of infection with the protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) that sickens the adults, interfering with their ability to fly.

If you have milkweed of any species in your gardens that continues to grow into the late fall, cut it back.

To learn more about these citizen scientist projects, download a free app on your smart phone and scan the QR code near the butterfly section of the sign at the Sparrow Field.

Berm work parties are held every Friday morning starting about 8 a.m. while it is still so hot. Volunteers are needed to weed, trim, count monarch eggs, turn compost or just enjoy the pollinators and each other.

Shirley Brown, Sparrow Field Committee



DESIGN

The design committee will continue the tradition of raffling off a floral arrangement created by one of our members. Tickets for the raffle are available before the meeting and during coffee time.

Design Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year at every meeting we will continue to collect items for three of our local agencies which provide services to our community. Georgia Regional Hospital is a state-funded facility which provides 24-hour care to mentally ill adults and individuals with developmental disabilities. The hotel toiletries that we collect on some of our travels are used as incentives, gifts, and prizes for the residents. These toiletries are highly valued items, so please donate any soaps, lotions, shampoos, etc., that you've collected on your travels. We will continue to support the Ronald McDonald House with our collection of pop-tops. If you've been cooling off this summer with your favorite pop-top beverage, please bring the pop-tops in and we'll take them on over to Ronald! Last year we began collecting old towels and blankets for the Humane Society's new low-cost spay and neuter clinic. If you have old towels or blankets that are no longer serving your purpose, please donate them so they can find a new life comforting animals recuperating from surgery. We will have a table set up by the sign-in area for your donations at every meeting. Thank you!

Barbara Martin and Mary Stewart, Community Service Committee

MEMBERSHIP

The Landings Garden Club New Member: Marge Young



I had the pleasure of visiting with Marge Young, a new member of The Landings Garden Club. Marge has lived in The Landings since 2005, and about two and a half years ago moved from Yam Gandy to the Marshview Landing section of The Landings. Originally from Long Island, NY, Marge has also lived in Delaware, California, Texas (twice), New Jersey and Maryland. She states that she's always had an interest in gardening, but living in such varied places emphasized the difficulties of gardening in different types of soil and in different climates. Beyond tending to her outdoor and indoor plants, Marge is active in golf and working at The Village Library. She's fortunate to have four grandchildren living in Jacksonville, and enjoys spending time with them at Jacksonville Beach

whenever possible. Her fifth grandchild lives in Kansas, and will be joined by the sixth grandchild in the near future. Welcome to The Landings Garden Club, Marge!

Jan Smart, Membership Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

We have received a request from the Deep South Regional Director to help our garden club friends in southern Louisiana. Many garden club members were personally affected by the recent flooding and rushing waters which also destroyed many garden club projects in their communities. Plantings at parks, libraries and other public places were wiped out. I will be passing the hat for your donation at our first meeting in September. There are over 33,000 garden club members in the Deep South Region. Let's participate in restoring Louisiana's beautiful gardens. If you will not be attending the September meeting I will also accept donations at the October meeting. Thank-you,

Leslee Bowler, Legislative Committee

YEARBOOK

Yet another committee that worked all summer is the yearbook committee. An updated format was needed and the collection of content was an ongoing process. With that said, Margaret Hunter was assisted by Leslee Bowler and this year's yearbook was produced and printed just in time for the first meeting. Make sure you get your copy as this is your go to resource for meetings, activities, and member contact information. Make sure you thank these ladies!

CAUSEWAY CLEAN-UP

Causeway clean-up needs volunteers!! **ANYONE** can volunteer, so get your husbands, friends, neighbors and church group to come out to help. The causeway clean-up group beautifies our community as well as promotes conservation by picking up debris that would otherwise blow into the marsh, and waterways. This volunteer project has earned Landings Garden Club multiple state awards. The group is in need of volunteers to continue its important work this season.



The causeway clean-up crew meets on the first Monday of the month at 8 am, in the parking lot by the mail boxes near the old Smith's building in The Village. Bring work gloves and bug spray. Vests, grabbers, and bags are provided. If you have questions please contact Nancy Rosenthal at nrosen892@aol.com, or call 598-0411. Please join us on Oct 3rd for the next clean-up.

Nancy Rosenthal, Causeway Clean-up Committee

WAYS AND MEANS

Our tradition continues.....A Red Bow on Every Mailbox



Bows will be available for sale at our September meeting, so please bring your cash, cards or checks. Sales in The Village will begin in November and we are asking for your help to sell these beauties! Also, please bring your calendars to this meeting, as we will have sign up sheets for the sales schedule. Those of you who have been on the sales team before we hope you will volunteer again and encourage our new members to join the fun. Many of our members spent the Summer making these beautiful bows. We are very grateful for each of you who create and then sell bows to raise funds for Ways & Means. Finally, if you have collected nice large shopping bags from your Summer travel, we will be collecting those at our meeting.

Dottie Kirkland, Ways and Means Committee



Please remember to bring your own coffee mug to the meeting to reduce waste and pollution!!

THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, April 25, 2016

President Margaret Hunter called to order The Landings Garden Club April meeting held at the Messiah Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. 67 people were in attendance (61 members and 2 guests signed in at the welcome table). The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the Collect read by Past President Edith Teifeld. The Minutes from March as published in the Petal Pusher were approved. (Note: One correction was made as per the Minutes of the Board Meeting. See April Board meeting Minutes).

Committee Reports:

TREASURER Marcia Willis presented the Budget for 2016-2017. Margaret Hunter called for a motion to approve the Budget and the motion was seconded, with all in favor and no one opposed.

PRESIDENT Margaret Hunter presented the Lifetime Membership Award to each of the following Founding Members, all present: LINDA SUE BABCOCK, JOAN ROSS, SANDRA WOLF, LIB YINGLING.

AWARDS: Tina Zipperer who attended the Georgia Garden Club Awards ceremony in Macon GA with Margaret Hunter announced that the LGC were awarded the following:

GCG (Georgia Garden Club) Oleander District 1st Place - PUBLICATION AWARD

GCG (Georgia Garden Club) Oleander District 1st Place - WEB SITE AWARD

GCG (Georgia Garden Club) Oleander District 1st Place - BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

GCG (Georgia Garden Club) Oleander District 1st Place - LITTER & POLLUTION CONROL

Deep South Region of National Garden Clubs - 1st Place - Butterfly Conservation

Deep South Region of National Garden Clubs - 1st Place - Litter & Pollution Control

PRESIDENT Margaret Hunter praised the six floral design arrangers from our Club who entered the Telfair In Bloom exhibit. Shelby Schavoir, Anne Gardener, Pat Barry, Donna Slappey, Janis Encapera and Valerie Hamilton.

SAGCG Nancy Rosenthal announced that the Rose Festival & Sale will be held on May 7 at the Botanical Garden on Eisenhower Drive. The Orchid Show will take place at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens April 30.

BIRDS & CONSERVATION

Linda Sue Babcock announced that the butterflies are here. They will then continue North and return at end of the season. She implored us to select plants that have good color and named salvia, plumbago, passion flower and any native plants and shrubs as good choices to help our butterflies and hummingbirds.

DESIGN Maureen Treat announced that the centerpieces will be for sale at the end of the meeting. Valerie Hamilton's lovely arrangement was raffled off.

HORTICULTURE Irene Thornley said that patience is needed to garden in GA. She introduced Joan Ross who showed us a bloom from a cactus she has been growing from a cutting taken at Ossabaw Island 11 years ago. It just bloomed for the first time this year.

HOSPITALITY Judy Sweeterman thanked all of the members who have generously contributed treats at meetings over the last year. Please sign up to help next year; the names will be in the Yearbook to remind you if you signed up.

MEMBERSHIP Jan Smart introduced a new member, Heidi Lieberman. Pat Sunshine introduced another new member Sally Headley. She also introduced two guests attending today: Donna Bunn and Marge Young.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS Irene Thornley introduced the new officers and stated the duties of each office. Each officer agreed to uphold the duties of her office.

President: Tina Zipperer

Vice President: Jayne Rogers

Treasurer: Maddie Harwood

Recording Secretary: Shirley Brown

Corresponding Secretary: Donna Nicol

Tina Zipperer thanked outgoing President, Margaret Hunter and presented her with a gift of thanks from LGC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Jayne M. Rogers/ Recording Secretary