



# The Landings Garden Club

*Beautification. Conservation. Education*

## THE PETAL PUSHER NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB

### March 2019

Dear Members,  
With the warmer weather, I think we are all getting inspired to get back to “digging in the dirt”. Unfortunately, my “digging” is going to have to wait until I have recuperated but I will be anticipating getting back in the garden.

While I was thinking about how much I am looking forward to getting back to my little weed patch where everything has gone wild, I was reminded why I miss that so much. My mother was not able to garden but my grandmother was an avid gardener. I’m sure she gardened by necessity when she had a young family but she had a garden until she was 80. I guess it became just a part of life. I remember also what a comfort it was when I was going through a bad time in my life but I could spend evenings and weekends in my yard—always feeling like my grandparents were there with me. I found that very inspirational.

Then last summer, when my granddaughter was here, she became very interested in aloe. I think first for its structure but then when she found out about its medicinal qualities, she had to take some home to grow. With snow on the ground, they have started their seeds for their summer garden. Hopefully, she is inspired.

One of the purposes of TLGC is to inspire all of us. This year, Jean and Betsey have provided lots of information regarding birds, pollinators, and plants. We have had experts talk about design, use of plants, and how to provide an environment for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Hopefully, you’ve been inspired!

If you are inspired by your garden, please pass that passion on to the next generation. Give them a reason to leave their phones, tablets, games, etc. Encourage them venture out and enjoy the beauty the Creator has provided us.

Hopefully, they, too, will be inspired!

Happy Spring,

*Diane*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Fresh Farm Vegetables  
available Weekly;  
Tuesday 12-4pm  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Thursday 3-5pm  
Bethesda Farm**

**March 20—Done in a Day at  
Berm**

**March 25—General Meeting**

**March 28-31---Savannah  
Tour of Homes and Gardens**

**April 9---Special Event-  
Skidaway Garden**

**April 16-18---Garden Club of  
Georgia State Convention**

**April 21-27---Garden Week in  
Georgia**

**April 26-27---NOGS Tour**



## **MEETING PROGRAM**

Garrett Jones, Executive Director of Wilderness Southeast, will discuss host plants in our gardens. Many plants which we remove as weeds are actually important in the support of pollinators, birds, and wildlife.

Jane Golz will be presiding over the general meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> in my absence, with the exception of the voting for new officers. Tina Zipperer will conduct the vote on the following slate of officers.

President---Jane Golz

Vice President—Hannah Burtnik

Recording Secretary---Kathy Jacobs

Corresponding Secretary---Pat Sunshine

Treasurer---Sharon Lundin

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.



## **THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB, PROPOSED OPERATIONS BUDGET for 2019-2020**

Click on the links below to view our club operating budget-

[..\Downloads\LGC 19-20 OP Budget.xlsx](#)

Ways and Means operating budget-

[..\Downloads\LGC 19-20 W&M Budget.xlsx](#)

*Sharon Lundin, Treasurer*

# St. Patrick's Day



## **HORTICULTURE**

### **The Miracle of a Seed**

I am constantly in awe of a tiny seed – smaller than the head of a pin. To see it grow into a beautiful plant is an absolute miracle! An even bigger miracle is to see seedlings from my long dead Columbine, smothered by my Mexican Bush Sage last summer, surprise me with tons of new seedlings in it's place. When I got a grow light, I suddenly felt like I had the means to create swathes of color; theoretically anyway. Suddenly I could plant a whole crop of Foxglove for my yard. Last year I planted some Bee Balm grown from seed that should flower this year, and Nicotiana (Flowering Tobacco) is popping up everywhere from last year's crop. I have already put out a flat of Verbena Bonariensis seedlings as well. I just sowed a flat of Coneflower (this is my 4th attempt at germinating the seeds). Whether or not you have a grow light you can have beautiful flowers in your yard. There are some seeds that are so prolific they grow easily with little effort. About three years ago I planted some Cosmos in my pollinator garden. It returns every year. I leave them wherever I have a blank spot or just let them mix with others. Another one that I used the Direct Sow method this year is Nigella. I planted the seeds last fall and they are coming up nicely now. My Larkspur has not done well, but I know it will grow here – if you can grow it in Jacksonville Florida it will grow here too. One of my favorites is the Mexican Sunflower Torch. That grew into a HUGE plant and was covered with butterflies.

### *Native Aquilegia Columbine*



### *Mexican Sunflower Tithonia or Torch*



Growing vegetables is wonderful, and I keep thinking I will do that, but when you have veggies that are ripe you have to do something with them or just let them die. It's definitely a commitment of your time. With flowers, you can just enjoy the pollinators on them. The anticipation of a bloom is always wonderful. If you are planting seeds in the ground, you just rake it so it is really clean. I like to work in some compost, and then smooth it out. (It reminds me of clay) Plant the seeds as directed on the seed packet, and keep them sort of damp. You do need to baby them at least until they germinate. Some of my favorite seed companies are listed below. You can easily find them online and order a catalogue if you like.

Johnny's Select Seeds, Prairie Moon Nursery, John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds, and Siskiyou Seeds. I leave you with a quote that sums it all up.

"The very act of planting a seed in the earth has in it to me something beautiful. I always do it with a joy that is largely mixed with awe." Celia Thaxter

### *Verbena Bonariensis*

*Pam Patterson, Horticulture Committee*



## **BIRDS AND CONSERVATION**

The weather is warming and the air is filled with the sound of birds singing and calling. It is time to prepare for the return of our spring and summer resident birds as well as travelers migrating through our area. Here is some information I got from Russ Wigh my neighbor, and our area bird expert.

“Spring is your best bet to look for those birds returning to Skidaway to nest, rather than the transients. It will pay people to listen to their vocalizations at:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx%3Fpid%3D1059>

The following species move through in Spring:

- Northern Parula - mid March
- Chuck-will's-widow late March - early April
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo -April into May
- Eastern Wood Pewee - one of my favorites
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler - singing now
- Prairie Warbler - late March
- Pine Warbler - sings almost all year
- Red-eyed Vireo - April
- Yellow-throated Vireo - mid April
- Wood Thrush - late April
- Veery - late April
- Painted Bunting - a complex song - mid April

The Thrushes, Veery and Wood Thrush, do not nest here but they have beautiful songs. All the others either nest or have the potential to given habitat available here. However, we have no records of Black-and-white, Prothonotary or Prairie Warbler nesting - yet!”

There are many things we can do to encourage birds to nest in our yard. David Yarold, president of The Audubon Society states, "Recent science points to native landscapes as a key tool in increasing bird diversity and abundance." [https://www.audubon.org/news/yards-non-native-plants-create-food-deserts-bugs-and-birds?ms=digital-eng-social-facebook-x-20181000\\_fb\\_link&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=20181000\\_fb\\_link](https://www.audubon.org/news/yards-non-native-plants-create-food-deserts-bugs-and-birds?ms=digital-eng-social-facebook-x-20181000_fb_link&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=20181000_fb_link)

What else can we do to attract and support birds besides native landscaping? The familiar necessary elements of food, shelter, and moving water still apply. Here are 10 suggestions from Bird Watching Digest:



*Wood Thrush singing*

- 1) Make your windows safe by moving feeders back, and placing reflective decals to prevent injury from birds striking your windows.
- 2) Put up your filled Hummingbird feeders and keep them clean.
- 3) Scatter some seed on the ground for ground feeding birds.
- 4) Leave leaves on the ground so birds can find insects in your yard.
- 5) Let your garden go... seed heads and some natural areas will provide food and cover for birds.
- 6) Let you lawn go. Again, this will provide seed heads and cover. Because your neighbors might frown on this particular suggestion, I suggest planting areas of beautiful native grasses.
- 7) Clean your feeders.
- 8) Clean out birdhouses and add clean dried grasses for roosting.
- 9) Keep your cat inside. The Society of Conservation Biology estimates 1.4 to 3.7 Billion birds are killed by outdoor cats each year!
- 10) Water in motion. Add a fountain or dripper to provide clean shallow water for bathing and drinking.

I hope you will take some time to listen and enjoy our beautiful birds the next time you are outside.

*Sue Hamlet, Birds and Conservation Committee*

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Community Service Committee will continue to collect old towels for the surgery patients at PetFix, pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and unused hotel toiletries for the patients at Georgia Regional and the families that are staying at Ronald's house while their children are receiving treatment at Memorial Hospital.

Thank you for all of your donations.

*Barbara Martin, Community Service Chair*



## **SERENITY GARDEN**

This darling little lady comes to visit the garden with her grandmother. She loves to spend her time visiting near the fish pond.

*Vickie Kramer, Serenity Garden Chair*



## **MEMBERSHIP**

Please welcome these new members!

### **SHERRI REDICK**



Sherri Reddick and her husband Paul moved to The Landings from Massachusetts. They had lived there for 27 years. They own and are presently trying to sell The Gateways Inn, a bed and breakfast located near Tanglewood, in Lenox, MA. Interestingly, the house was built in 1912 by William Proctor, son and successor of the founder of Proctor & Gamble. Paul was born in Savannah and grew up in Valdosta. They discovered The Landings while visiting family. Sherri and Paul like the beauty of the island, the friendliness of the people, and the proximity to the water. Sherri has degrees in Medical Illustration and in Graphic Design. While living in Massachusetts, she was instrumental in bringing arts and science into the elementary and middle schools. She became an advocate for bipolar children. Her hobbies are craft oriented. She made jewelry to sell at craft fairs. She now enjoys sculpting, drawing, photography, antiquing, decorating, and cooking. She has been co-chair of the Landlovers Photography Club for three years. She teaches yoga and line dancing in her home and at the Fitness Center. She was an avid gardener in Massachusetts, landscaping

about half of the four acres of property they owned, but she is just getting started at her home here on Skidaway Island.

## ELAYNE LANE



Elayne Lane is a relative newcomer to The Landings having moved here in March of 2018 from the Washington, D.C. area. She grew up and lived in Charlotte, N.C. for 32 years. She and her husband Steve, lived in many locations due to his career. Elayne worked as a special education assistant teacher and raised their two sons. After Steve retired as an FBI agent/pilot, he was hired as a Gulfstream pilot, and they chose to live at The Landings for its security and natural beauty as well as the six golf courses. Elayne's many hobbies include golf, reading, walking, crafts, Bunco, gardening, and bird watching. She is active in Skidaway Cat Alliance, caring for the feral cats in The Village. Elayne is a master gardener and ran a plant nursery in Jacksonville, FL for three years. She has been busy renovating her yard, removing overgrown and aged-out shrubs, etc. She soon hopes to get started really gardening very soon.

## SUE LOMAX



Sue Lomax and her husband George Jeremias, moved to The Landings about a year ago from New Jersey where they had lived for 35 years. They had visited Savannah on a regular basis and are very fond of its downtown area. They chose The Landings because of its proximity to downtown Savannah and its security. They own a second home on the coast of Maine where they enjoy the summer months. Sue earned a dual masters degree from Boston University in Health Care Management and Business Administration. She became an investment banker based in New York City and traveled worldwide working for global clients until she retired in 2012. Her hobbies in New Jersey included horseback riding and sailing, both of which she hopes to resume here. She also enjoys music, traveling to

music festivals, reading and cooking. She has two dogs and two cats. Sue loves to garden and has a beautiful summer garden in Maine and had maintained a lovely garden at her New Jersey home. She is presently enrolled in the Master Gardeners program here to learn about southern gardening.

*Janet Murphy and Pat Costanzo, Membership Committee Co-Chairs*

## REMINDERS

As a follow-up to our meeting last month about plastics, please bring your own coffee cup to reduce the number of plastic cups we are putting into the environment.

Also, please remember to silence your cell phone before the meeting begins.



### ***DONE IN A DAY BETHESDA PROJECT***

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, five LGC members beautified planter beds which surround a sundial memorializing Elizabeth “Miss Lizzie” Johnson. Miss Johnson began as a teacher but felt too restricted in the classroom and therefore moved to work on the farm. Serving Bethesda for 40 years, many boys thought of her as a mother-figure.



Pictured left to right: Beth Larance, Diane Ingram, Kathy Sorvillo, Shirley Brown, Connie Gescheidt

### **St. Simons Island Garden Tour**

Two special events are happening this April on beautiful Saint Simons Island, Georgia. The Cassina Garden Club is excited to present a VIP Wine and Cheese experience at The Dodge (former home of *New York Times* Best-Selling Author Eugenia Price), on April 26th and our Garden Walk on April 27th. Please visit our website at [www.cassinagardenclub.org](http://www.cassinagardenclub.org) for additional information and ticketing. Or contact me directly. We hope to see you in April!

Debbie Williamson

Cassina Garden Club

770-605-2803

## CALLAWAY GARDEN WORKSHOPS

### Native Azaleas! **March 23 @ 9:30 am - 11:30 am**

The native azaleas of the southeast have been called the most beautiful of our native flowering shrubs. Here's your chance to learn all about native azaleas and some of the outstanding cultivars now available. These dazzling beauties are great additions to any landscape. You'll learn from someone who has had years of hands-on experience growing these plants. Ernest is the second-generation owner of a nursery established in 1957 which has become the largest grower of native azaleas in the country. Instructor: Ernest Koone, owner of Lazy K Nursery. **Fee:\$45** Registration: <https://tickets.callawaygardens.com/2146/2539>

### Cultivating a Sense of Place with Erica Glasener **March 23 @ 10:00 am - 2:30 pm**

The most compelling landscapes leave us wanting more and planning our next visit before we've finished the first. They teach us to look at our own gardens from a different perspective. Stunning plant combinations, thoughtful design and a strong identity tying a garden to its region and its owner are all factors to consider when creating a garden that offers four seasons of interest. In this workshop we will cover design tips and how to take cues from your environment to create an amazing garden that offers beauty in every season. Topics include:

Hardscape and the "bones of the garden".

Plant selection and plant combinations, native and exotic.

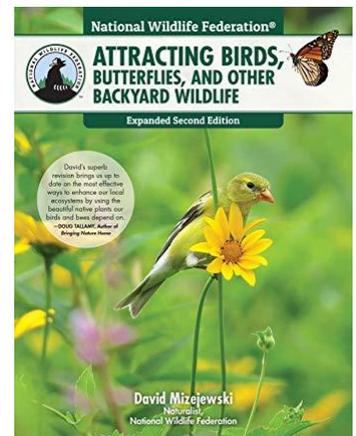
Trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs.

Bring a list of five things you would like to change about your garden or five additions you would like to make to your garden: such as water garden, more summer bloom, more fragrant winter flowers. Bring photos or examples of gardens that inspire you. Fee: \$68 Registration: <https://tickets.callawaygardens.com/2146/2538>

## SKIDAWAY AUDUBON

Friends of Skidaway Audubon will be bringing David Mizejewski to speak about "Saving Pollinators One Garden at a Time" on Sunday, May 5, 2019, in the Plantation Ballroom from 3-5pm. TLGC Board has approved a \$500 donation to this event.

Mr. Mizejewski is a National Wildlife Federation naturalist and television host noted for his energetic and informative talks on "Saving Pollinators in our Gardens". David will discuss the most important pollinators and their role in maintaining a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. He will also cover some of the reasons for the recent decline in their populations. After his talk, Mr. Mizejewski will be available to sign his most recent book "Attracting Birds, Butterflies and other Backyard Wildlife" an expanded 2nd edition. The new edition includes 17 projects with step-by-step instructions to give back to nature.



## Large Ficus Trees for Sale

A Landings resident who is moving is selling 2 large potted ficus trees. If you are interested, please contact Pat Sunshine for contact info.

## ***The Landings Garden Club General Meeting, February 25, 2019***

The general meeting of the Landings Garden Club was called to order by President Diane Ingram at 10:00 a.m. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance and The Collect in unison.

The minutes were approved as published in *The Petal Pusher*.

President's report:

Anyone without a yearbook should see the membership team.

Pat Sunshine reported that past President Leslee Bowler is progressing.

Additionally, she reported that the nominating committee has the slate of officers for 2019-2020:

President - Jane Golz; Vice President – Hannah Burtnik; Treasurer – Sharon Lundin; Recording Secretary – Kathy Jacobs; Corresponding Secretary – Pat Sunshine. The officers will be voted on at the March meeting.

Diane announced that Lisa Hall has been nominated as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Garden Club of Georgia. She is selling Raffle tickets for the Deep South Region whose convention will be held at Jekyll Island March 11-13.

The Treasurer's report lists \$2500.82 in the Reserve Account; \$8563.42 in the Operations Account; \$9422.87 in the Ways and Means Account. Total Balance \$20,487.11. Any outstanding receipts for Blooming with Art should be submitted to the treasurer. The event is self-supporting.

It was agreed by the LGC Board that a Charitable gift will be designated to Skidaway Audubon for a speaker event scheduled on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The amount of the gift is to be determined when the budget committee meets.

The election of officers at the March meeting will be chaired by Tina Zipperer; Jane Golz will chair the meeting since Diane Ingram has surgery schedule for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Diane announced that Ways and Means committee is dividing responsibilities into "Makers" and "Sellers." Consider your role when signing up. The program committee is also seeking leads for next year.

Upcoming events:

"Marvelous March"

3/7 - Done in a Day at Bethesda

3/11-13 – Deep South Regional Convention at Jekyll Island

3/13 – Horticultural Chat at the home of Jayne Rogers

3/20 – Done in a Day at Sparrow Field

3/25 – General meeting with speaker Garrett Jones

3/28-31 – Savannah Home and Garden Tour

Other events:

4/9 – garden tour, home of Sandra Wolf

4/16-18 – Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention at Columbus, Georgia

5/4 - Savannah Council of Garden Clubs Rose Festival and Plant Sale at Savannah Botanical Garden on Eisenhower

Diane Ingram introduced New members Sherri Reddick, Missy Goulard, Alice LaVigne, Sue Lomax and Elayne Lane. Three guests were in attendance: Jean Holzinger Daisy Balmes, and Nancy Thompson.

The centerpiece was designed by Liz McGough and the raffle was won by Hannah Burtnik. Tulips on the tables are for sale for \$7.

Hostesses for the meeting were Karen Angers, Barbara Martin, Shelby Schavoir, Karen Feeney, Jo Ann Morrison, Judy Davis, Margy Hatch and Anne Guira.

Committee Reports:

Birds and Conservation – Pat Wolters had a picture display of some of the Orphaned birds she has recently cared for. She thanked the club for their donation to this important project.

Horticulture – Pam Patterson shared some sources for purchasing bulbs and seeds.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Dottie Kirkland introduced Kathy Herman, an international award-winning landscape designer from Doyle Herman Design Associates, who spoke about Form, Layers and Texture in landscape design.

*Shirley Brown, Recording Secretary*