



The Landings Garden Club

Beautification. Conservation. Education

THE PETAL PUSHER NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB

November 2018

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that it is early November with the Holidays just around the corner! But, before we talk about what we have going on before the Holidays, I want to take a look back at the Heritage Luncheon. By all accounts, our third Heritage Luncheon was a big success with 172 attendees, 64 members and 108 guests. What I was really excited about is that there were 18 Landings residents who came unaccompanied by a member and 30 unaccompanied from off-island. My interpretation of those figures is that "the word is out" that this group is friendly and congenial. We already have 7 new members with 6 more finishing their membership applications.

There are so many people to thank for making this event a success! Kathy Collura put together an outstanding publicity campaign with help on graphics from Jane Golz. Sharon Lundin took all the reservations and tried to accommodate all requests. Our membership chairs, Pat Costanzo, Donna Nicol, and Janet Murphy along with "the Marie team" (Marie DeAngelis and Marie Termorshuizen) organized the check-in so it moved smoothly. Marie T prepared lovely guest nametags. Susan Heath designed the programs and question cards which were on the tables. Marybeth Krovisky and Anne Gardner worked with Nancy Strobel, Nancy Rosenthal, Margie Hardesty, Seekie Drysdale, and Dottie Kirkland to create beautiful centerpieces which set the tone for the event--Great Job! Michele and Blake at the Landings Club went above and beyond to insure that our event went smoothly including helping with the menu (People really did rave about the food!). The authors were not only knowledgeable about the history and construction of Georgia gardens but they were also interesting speakers—another rave review from attendees! Last but not least Donna Slappey and Marianne Gardner sold \$900 in bows! Thank you all for stepping up and making this event outstanding!

And now for the future.....you know this group doesn't stand still. We had 2 other events in October, the well-attended tour of Belinda Winters' beautiful garden and the Done in a Day project headed by Angela Devore making Fall wreaths for nursing homes. Then on November 7 th we toured Kathy Collura's garden which was billed as "in progress"—another wonderful retreat. Additionally, in November we are doing a Field Trip and another Done In a Day project. Our next meeting is December 3 rd.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we will celebrate a holiday that is truly, uniquely American. We have so much for which to be thankful. Let us rejoice in gratitude! Stay safe in your travels and enjoy friends and family.

Diane, President

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 15, 9:15-11:30AM
Field Trip to Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens to learn about Camellias

December 3, 9:30-11:30 General Meeting

We will meet and design our own Holiday centerpieces.

Dec 5th, Club Crawl

January 7--Special Event: Georgia Hummingbirds

January 14---New Member Social (New Members Only)



Awards presented at Oleander District Annual Meeting

The Landings Garden Club was well-rewarded for its work over the past year. The District presented 10 awards and we won 3. The three awards were the Nelle Pope Horticulture Trophy, the Louise Stewart Membership Award and the All-Star Club Award. In addition, we were presented with the actual certificates for the awards which were announced at the National Garden Club annual meeting in May 2018. At the state level, we were presented the Standard of Excellence certificate for our accomplishments in 2017, recognition for our donation of a Named Scholarship in the name of Linda Sue Babcock, and recognition of our other state donations back in January 2018. All in all, our club received a lot of positive attention at the district meeting.

Thank you to Stephanie Corley for her outstanding work on the award applications! Committee chairs, please remember to give Stephanie info and pix about all of your events so she can determine if they fit an award category.

WAYS AND MEANS



November and December are vital months for the Ways & Means Committee, because the Holiday Bow Sale is the Garden Club's primary fund-raising opportunity. Sales proceeds from this annual fund raiser pay for all our charitable contributions. Please join this extremely important effort by volunteering your time and energy.

Speaking of sales, we need volunteer to help sell bows at the Village fountain. Same 3 time slots as previous years- 10-noon, noon-2pm, 2-4pm. We have 13 of the 24 shifts filled- with some members volunteering for more than one shift. We don't have another member meeting until December, so PLEASE contact Donna Slappey or Marianne Gardner to sign up.

Sale dates are Nov 16, 19, 26, 30, Dec 3, 5, 7, 10.

Bow sales kicked off on Oct 15 as part of the Heritage Luncheon at Plantation.

It was a great start with many of the visitors stopping by our table to admire and buy bows. As we were completing the bow fluffing in September, Jane Golz, our Vice President, contacted Merrill Lynch to inquire if we could store our bows, tables, chairs at their office during sales season and they graciously agreed! We "moved in" Oct 18. Thank you to Jane and Merrill Lynch!

Watch for TWATL and Skidaway Neighbor articles in November about bows and the Garden Club.

Donna Slappey and Marianne Gardner, Co-Chairs



New Bethesda Project

The LGC Board voted to fund up to \$500 to clean and plant around a commemorative sundial which was dedicated 60 years ago to celebrate the contributions of Elizabeth Johnson to the boys of Bethesda. If you are interested in working on this very small project, please contact Diane Ingram, diingram@bellsouth.net.



November 15 9:15-11:30AM Field Trip to Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens

A member of the Camellia Society will lead a tour and explain the different varieties of camellias. We will meet at Messiah Lutheran Church at 9:15. Cost: \$10, Contact Person: Betsey Andersen

Betsey.andersen@gmail.com

November 28 Installation of Gate Decorations The committee can always use additional help so if you are new and want to help, please contact Dottie Kirkland at dezinerdot@aol.com.



December 3, 9:30-11:30 General Meeting

We will meet and design our own Holiday centerpieces. Please bring greens from your garden. We will provide flowers. This will be a time of fun and friendship with other members. Bring your own container. Cost: \$5. Please RSVP to diingram@bellsouth.net we can plan flowers and food.

Club Crawl

We will do a club crawl again this year on December 5 th, to hear about the beautiful Holiday decorations at Deer Creek, Plantation, and Oakridge. You may opt to stay for drinks and dinner afterwards! We will announce more details in an eblast soon!

Blooming with Art

If you wish to participate in Blooming with Art on February 13, 2019, please contact Diane [Ingram at diingram@bellsouth.net](mailto:diingram@bellsouth.net). You may want to be a designer or you may want to be a hostess we need lots of volunteers!

HORTICULTURE

Composting 101: Feed Your Dirt

Here is a summary of my talk on Composting – Have any of you started just looking at the coffee grounds and food scraps you throw away every day? Or the beautiful molded leaves that are still in your yard under your bushes from the last several years? They are treasures!!! Composting is not a fertilizer; it is a soil-conditioning amendment. It is valuable in so many ways:

- 1) Improves the soil structure
- 2) Increases nutrient content
- 3) It improves moisture retention, increases soil aeration, remediates contaminated soil
- 4) Reduces plant diseases and pest problems
- 5) Reduces need for chemical fertilizers
- 6) Improves organic matter



There are lots of ways to compost whether it is in a hidden part of your yard, or if it is in a nice plastic bin that you turn. It takes time and effort, but is well worth it. It is important to remember that you need a much larger amount of brown (carbon) stuff than green (nitrogen rich) stuff. If you can remember, I had a poster with a lot more brown rectangles than green ones. That is a visual representation of the ratio of browns to greens. If you don't have the correct ratio other things can happen – little frogs (that was really nice), gnats (not so hot), and Black Soldier Fly larvae (it took me awhile to be able to open the bin without fear). The Soldier Fly Larvae are actually sold for their valuable calcium content! So it turned out that none of the problems I encountered were a hindrance to my composting project. Only a learning tool!

Some of the green things to compost are vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells, grass clippings, and old plants that have bitten the dust. Everything you put in needs to be free from chemicals. I never put weeds in my bin, and think twice about some of the flowering plants if they are invasive (reseed easily). You might find lots of volunteers all over your yard. I had tomato plants in a lot of different areas of my yard this past summer – but none of them produced a tomato. I have a bowl in my refrigerator that I use to save my veg/fruit scraps. The trick is to go out there about every other day add stuff to your bin and turn it for aeration. It sounds icky to keep those scraps in your fridge, but I figure if I can keep live meal worms in my fridge, then food scraps are nothing.

Brown things to add are dry leaves – sweet gum leaves are better than oak. Don't use pine straw – there is a good reason we use it for mulch. You can add sawdust – not from treated wood! Cardboard works too. If my bin gets too mucky I find a bunch of dry leaves and put them in there. I just recently added blood meal to speed up the decomposition. You can also add alfalfa meal or cottonseed meal. Never put meat or dairy products!! I never use animal manure– even though I have some books that say that is OK. Also, the more you chop things up the faster they will break down.

If anyone has questions for me send me an email (pampattersonjax@gmail.com) or call me.

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Cicero

My research for this project came from 'The Organic Composting Handbook Techniques for a Healthy Abundant Garden', by DeDe Cummings. If you are still reading this – Thanks!

Pam Patterson Horticulture Committee

A CONSERVATION MOMENT - Gardening To Support Our 'Sustainable' Community

This spring The Landings won an award from Audubon International, naming our community the first and only Certified Sustainable Community in the state of Georgia. What does sustainable mean? Sustainability is a lifestyle that is forward-thinking, looking ahead to secure a healthy future. When we choose to preserve and protect resources, to make as little negative impact on the earth as possible, to nurture the planet as well as those around us, we have chosen sustainability.

Toward this goal the Landings promotes green buildings, is reducing light pollution and planting native plants among other things. What can we do to promote sustainability in our own little piece of the environment? If you have a garden or landscape you can do a lot!



1) **Recycle**- In the home landscape and garden this means **Composting**. See the great article on composting by Pam Patterson in this newsletter. Using composted plant material or other organic materials as mulch enriches soil fertility, improves soil texture and increases its water holding capacity. Using your own shredded fallen leaves as mulch lessens the amount of organic materials in landfills while adding nutrients back to your soil. Don't pick up grass clippings. They make great fertilizer and contrary to popular belief they do not create thatch.

2) **Conserve water**- Water only when plants need it. Check and adjust your irrigation system frequently to avoid excess water loss to run off. Mulch garden beds with 2 to 4 inches of organic materials (compost) to retain soil moisture as well as discourage weeds. Reduce the size of your lawn which takes vast amounts of water and fertilizer to maintain. Use rain barrels to collect rain water to water plants that need extra moisture.

3) **Plant Selection**- Planting with diversity of plant types will discourage pests and diseases naturally. Using native plants will provide food and habitat for birds and beneficial insects while giving your garden a sense of place. Do not plant invasive plants. They will spread and upend natural ecosystems on our beautiful island.

Using native or water wise exotic plants will help save time and water. This website has info on plant selections: <https://gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/programs/ecoscapes/native-invasive-plants/>

4) **Planning**- See where the storm water runs and collects. Using permeable surfaces such as pavers for the drive way and patios will allow rainwater to enter the soil instead of running into the sewer system. Create a rain garden if you have a naturally wet spot. Reduce your lawn to a minimum, using native perennials and grasses instead. They will use much less water and little to no fertilizer while providing food for birds and beneficial insects. Plant thickly, using a diverse variety of native plants, and mulch to discourage weeds and diseases instead of using herbicides and insecticides.

5) **Maintenance**- Before you fertilize obtain a soil test to see if you need fertilizer, soil pH correction or other elements. Using excess chemical fertilizers can harm soil flora and cause damage to your plants. Using organic materials such as bagged composted manure or your own compost to enrich your soil is safer and will improve soil health, texture and water holding capacity as well as fertility. Learn to tolerate a small amount of insect damage in your yard. If damage becomes too much, use organic insecticides. Apply the right insecticides only when insects are vulnerable. Do what you can to reduce the number of valuable insects killed. Here is a website describing integrated pest management practices:

<https://gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/programs/ecoscapes/wildlife-and-pollinators/integrated-pest-management/>

If we all use these practices, or even just a couple of them, we will do less harm to our beautiful island and we will be a strong force for sustainability.

“Walk softly upon the Earth. May its beauty forever surround you, its wonders forever astound you”

Alfred V. Fedak.

Sue Hamlet, Birds and Conservation Committee

FROM MRS. “SUNSHINE”



Pat Sunshine, our corresponding secretary and “sunshine Lady” reports that we have two members who have health concerns, Leslee Bowler and Joanne Bovey. You are in our thoughts and prayers—Get well soon!

Please support our club and its many charitable projects by clicking on this link on our website when you shop at Amazon.



[Privacy](#)

SERENITY GARDEN

Thanks to the lovely group of Serenity Sisters for their participation at the Anderson Cancer Institute at Memorial Hospital. The Landings Garden Club took over the maintenance of the garden 1 year ago. We are so proud of our accomplishments that comfort patients, family, guests and staff.



Diane Gustafson and Vicky Kramer Serenity Garden Co-chairs

GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

Here is a link to the October Landscape Design Newsletter from The Garden Club of Georgia. It discusses the beautiful Botanical Garden of Birmingham, Alabama.



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Dixie Diffenderfer, Garden Club of Georgia Liason



Scenic Chatham

There is a group forming called Scenic Chatham which is a local “chapter” of Scenic America. The focus of this group is preserving community character, honoring parks and open spaces, celebrating byways and gateways, mitigating overhead wires, and promoting highway beautification. Locally, they are trying to make people aware of what can be done to eliminate eyesores and urban blight by reporting it appropriately. If you are interested in this aspect of beautification, please contact Nancy Rosenthal or Diane Ingram.

New Master Gardener Class

Abby Wolfe, the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Chatham County, announced the new training course for the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program consisting of a few hour class each Thursday next year from January 10 through April 18. Here are two links which further explain the application process and the program.

1.) <http://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/georgia-master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program/volunteer/becoming-a-mgev.html>

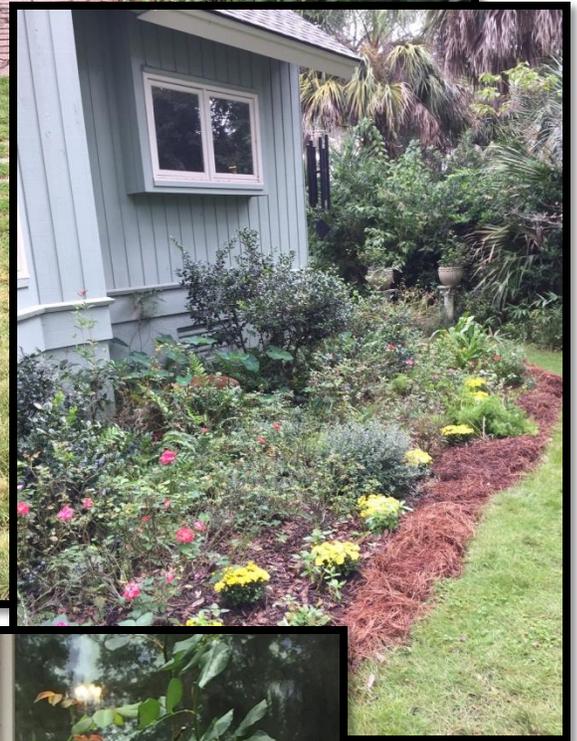
2.) <http://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/georgia-master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program/volunteer/projects.html>.

You may contact Abby at 912-652-7981.



GARDEN VISIT AT BELINDA WINTER'S YARD

Photos by Jayne Rogers



HERITAGE LUNCHEON, OCT 15, 2018

Photos by Dawn Cordo







The Landings Garden Club Board Meeting, October 22, 2018

The Landings Garden Club board meeting, held at the dock at Delegal Marina, was called to order by President Diane Ingram at 9:30 a.m. Twenty-two members were present.

Old Business

Bows – Donna Slappy reported that Sales of bows at the Heritage Luncheon totaled \$915. Sales in the Village start November 16. More volunteers are needed to fill the time slots. The bows will be stored at the Merrill Lynch building.

Horticulture – Betsey Andersen announced 2 garden tours.

October 23, 2018 at the garden of Belinda Winters, 6 Fore Royal Court from 10-11:30 a.m.

November 7 at Kathy Collura's garden

Done in a Day – Belinda Winters reported that a Holiday Wreath activity is set for October 30 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Angela DeVore. In December there will be an activity with residents at John Wesley Villas, date to be determined.

Newsletter – Sue Hamlet asked that people in pictures be identified. The deadline for the next addition of The Petal Pusher is October 31.

Birds and Conservation – Jean Deitch discussed how to select binoculars for bird watching. Her report will be printed in The Petal Pusher.

Heritage Luncheon – Diane Ingram reported much positive feedback following the luncheon. She reported 64 members in attendance along with 104 guests. Thirty guests were from off island and another 18 on-island residents bought tickets independent from Garden Club members.

The event collected \$6125. Expenses included the following: floral \$464; supplies \$6.50; printing \$111; lunches \$3877; program printing \$147; speakers \$1036. While not a fund raiser, the event netted \$483.12.

Blooming with Art – Diane announced that arrangers are needed for the February 13, 2019 event.

Designers will select their art pieces by drawing.

Serenity Garden – Diane Gustafson reported that the garden had been spruced up for fall by adding colorful foliage plants and mulching.

New Business

Treasurer's report – Diane Ingram reported \$2500.76 in the Reserve account; \$4,353.09 in the Operations account; \$6791.28 in the Ways and Means account for a balance of \$13,645.13. The report is attached.

Diane Ingram presented a charitable gift proposal to the board: Revitalize Bethesda's Sundial Memorial Garden which honors Elizabeth Johnson, a long-time employee of the facility. The proposal submitted by Sharon Lundin is attached. Discussion ensued regarding dispersal on money for Charitable Gifts. It was noted that there is \$1000-\$1500 typically undesignated and therefore available for projects that are unanticipated. After discussion, Belinda Winters moved to proceed with the proposal under Done in a Day, funded by the surplus money. Funds not spent for this project would be available for consideration for other projects. The motion passed by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Shirley Brown, Recording Secretary

The Landings Garden Club General Meeting, October 15, 2018

Prior to the general meeting of the Landings Garden Club, President Diane Ingram welcomed members and guests to the 2018 Heritage Luncheon at the Plantation Club at The Landings. She gave a brief history of the event, now in its third year, and followed with a history of the formation of The Landings Garden Club. She introduced Sandra Wolf, a charter member of the club, and the past presidents of the club who were in attendance: Anne Dauray, Dixie Diffenderfer, Nancy Strobel, Anne Gardner, Judy Sweeterman, and Tina Zipperer. The general meeting of the Landings Garden Club was then called to order by President Diane Ingram at 9:45 a.m. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance and The Collect in unison. The membership committee reported 63 members and 104 guests in attendance. The minutes were approved as published in an e-blast to the membership.

Announcements:

Yearbooks have been delivered to all members.

Diane extended an invitation to non-members to join the club.

The Program team was thanked for their hard work in planning and coordinating publicity and setup for the event.

Holiday Bows are available for purchase in the lobby. Sales for this major fund raiser will continue in the Village on Mondays and Fridays in November and December.

Pat Costanza has Canna Lilies to give away.

Upcoming events:

October 23 rd - Cottage Garden Tour at Belinda Winter's home 6 Fore Royal Circle, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

October 30 th – Done in a Day at Angela DeVore's home, 35 Mainsail Crossing, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

November 7 th – Garden in Progress tour, Kathy Collura's home, 18 Middle Marsh Retreat, 10a.m.-11:30 a.m.

November 15 th - Camelias at Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden, 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Jane Golz narrated a slide show entitled "What Is The Landings Garden Club?" The presentation highlighted the events the club participates in as a member of the federated system of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Kathy Collura introduced the authors of Seeking Eden – A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens.

Staci Catron is the director of the Cherokee Garden Library and Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center. Marianne Eaddy is a retired historic preservationist from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The presentation was followed by lunch and a book signing by the authors.

Shirley Brown, Recording Secretary

