



The  
Landings  
Garden  
Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

## The Petal Pusher Newsletter

### April 2020

I am so sad that we cannot meet again prior to the summer. How odd it is for me to be stepping down from this position without a chance to say goodbye and thank you in person. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving the Landings Garden Club for the past year. At this time I'd like to thank each of my board members for their tireless work ensuring our projects move forward... I could fill two pages of this newsletter listing the skills and passion that you all bring to the table. Thank you also to my executive board for so effortlessly making the year a success while still having fun. Thank you also the members who serve on committees, attend our events, and make the club so dynamic.

My Vice President (and your future President) Hannah Burtnik has been a huge help in sharing the load, being a sounding board, and always being delightfully upbeat. I am confident she will be a huge asset to the club next year with her can-do attitude and love of gardening. Diane Ingram has fielded dozens of phone calls from me asking questions and offering suggestions. She left perfectly organized records for me when she stepped down last year.

How lucky I am to have become friends with all these accomplished women.  
Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer, on our beautiful island.

*Jane*



## Installation of Officers

Because we will not be together in person, we will have a “virtual” installation of officers on April 26th. At that time please welcome your new Executive Board:

Hannah Burtnik, President

Pam Patterson, VP

Sharon Lundin, Treasurer

Angela Devore, Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Jacobs, Recording Secretary

## Welcome New Member

### HELEN BURNS



“Friends, boating, and a needed change from overcrowded Florida” were reasons for Helen and Robert Burns to move to The Landings last October. She had worked in Admissions at several private elementary schools in Massachusetts and Florida for 25 years.

Helen enjoys gardening and has been a member of the Piscataqua Garden Club in York Harbor, ME, (summer home) for 30 years. She held various offices in the club and represented the club at national meetings of the Garden Club of America. Now she is interested in doing “a bit of gardening and landscaping around her home here” and learning how to deal with deer. Helen also enjoys working with decoupage and decorating mirrors and other objects with shells.

She looks forward to learning about native plants to this area. “I think we need to be very conscious of what we plant, especially in this beautiful low country.”

*Submitted by Janet Murphy and Pat Costanzo*



## **Gardening Publications**

Be sure and visit our website to read the most recent issues of gardening news:

GCG: [Planting and Nurturing March 2020](#)

[Planting and Nurturing April 2020](#)

SACGC: Spring Edition of "For Garden's Sake" will be delayed until late April

## **GCG Annual Convention Cancelled**

The annual convention offers opportunity to meet, share ideas, and celebrate accomplishments. Because the convention has been cancelled and we will not be able to meet, there are a few announcements:

-The raffle drawing **will occur** after the Shelter at Home restrictions have ended.

-The Wildflower Photo Contest continues - entry deadline has been extended until April 30<sup>th</sup>;

**see GCG website for details.**

- GCG Award winners will be announced via a Power Point Presentation/PDF posted on the GCG website before June 1. We may know Deep South and NGC winners by that time too. The names of the Winners will also be published in Garden Gateways due to be out in June.

## **Serenity Garden**

At this unusual time of our lives the Serenity Garden is taking a rest from our devoted efforts. All volunteers have been suspended from the campus at Memorial Health. However, several of us have crept into the garden and watered from the fish pond the latest geraniums that were planted in the urns.

We are so thankful and appreciative of all the volunteer hours that the Serenity Sisters have provided with the care of this garden since we took over in July of 2017. You all make a difference.

Once the hospital opens up again to the public, I am hopeful that we can move forward once again. Management did finally paint the bridge and bench and several other areas that needed some sprucing up. However, we are still waiting to hear if irrigation will be forthcoming.

Plans for implementation of new plantings are all ready to go. Thanks to the "Gang of 5" that have worked to achieve this new design.

Any further communications to those who recently signed up will follow once things return to normality. All stay well and enjoy this time to reconnect to those that make a difference.

*Submitted by Vicky Kramer and Diane Gustafson*

## **Biodiversity in Your Garden**

With natural areas diminishing, we must raise the bar of what we ask of our landscapes. We can no longer be satisfied with gorgeous gardens that are not also designed to support ecosystems. Doug Tallamy is an author, scientist and professor at the University of Delaware. He is passionate about helping homeowners, gardeners and designers create ecologically driven gardens. The following article is reprinted below with his permission.

# 10 WAYS TO START BUILDING A GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

Turn your garden into a wildlife sanctuary with these eco-friendly tips

*By Doug Tallamy*

Here are ten easy ways to fill your garden with biodiversity and beauty:

## 1. *Plant an oak*

There are native oaks for just about every state in the U.S. These trees form the hub of a native Garden, providing habitat and food. In most counties, oaks support more than 450 species of moths and butterflies. Moths and their caterpillars are important food for birds.

Learn more about growing oak trees: [Planting Oaks](#).

## 2. *Add a bird bath*

Keep it shallow! Birds will not use a bath where the water is deeper than their legs. A bath 1 inch deep by 15 inches diameter will attract avian friends. If you have access to a large stone, you can carve a shallow bird bath into it for a natural look.

See a Portland garden full of birds: [A Naturalistic Garden Welcomes the Birds and the Bees](#).

## 3. *Create a layered planting or border*

If you have the space (it can even be as small as 10 by 10 feet), build a multilayer planting: Add a row of canopy trees (maples, hollyleaf cherry); weave in medium-sized trees and tall shrubs (willows, toyon); tuck in shrubs (sweet pepperbush, manzanita); fill in with herbaceous plants (native grasses, salvias); carpet with groundcovers (spring ephemerals, checkerbloom).



## 4. *Build a native arbor*

Use branches of native trees to build organic allées and arbors that are nice to look at and good for wildlife. You can grow native *Halesia diptera* over an arbor for a formal look or a native vine

## 5. *Add groves or thickets*

If you have an underutilized space, plant groves of native trees, berry bushes, or coyote brush to provide food for yourself and the birds. For a clean look, plant a single species.

## 6. *Plant native fruit trees*

Pawpaws, persimmons, black cherries, and serviceberries support birds, caterpillars, and butterflies- and supply delicious produce for you. (Downy serviceberry, amelanchier arborea trees shown right)



## 7. *Screen with native hedges*

When creating a screen, plant native shrubs such as Alabama snow wreath or coffeeberry to provide habitat and food for wildlife. Don't hesitate to use several species that work together, including an occasional red cedar or incense cedar for accent.

For more local native plant choices, also see [Gardening with Native Plants](#).

### 8. *Encourage pools and ponds*

Add a pool or pond in an area of your garden where water collects naturally. Even a small one can support several species of frogs as well as toads, spring peepers, turtles, and more. Line it with water lovers like willows, buttonbush, winterberries, sedges, and rushes.

### 9. *Make a meadow*

Even a small 5- by 10-foot meadow garden can supercharge a garden with wildlife. Adding a mix of native milkweeds and umbellifers can help fill a garden with activity from butterflies, bees, and birds. Get inspiration for your own meadow garden: [Meadow Magic](#).

### 10. *Grow vines*

Native vines are a secret weapon of wildlife gardening—especially in a small garden, where letting natives climb up arbors, over trellises, and along fences maximizes limited space. Hummingbirds will often visit trumpet honeysuckle and native clematis. (Native clematis, *clematis virginiana* pictured at right.)

Bonus resource: A web tool recently launched by the National Wildlife Federation makes it easy to discover which indigenous plant species are the very best at supporting the insects that drive local food webs. Simply enter your zip code for a ranked list of the plants in your county that produce the most caterpillars and thus support the most wildlife. Access the tool here:

[Native Plant Finder](#).

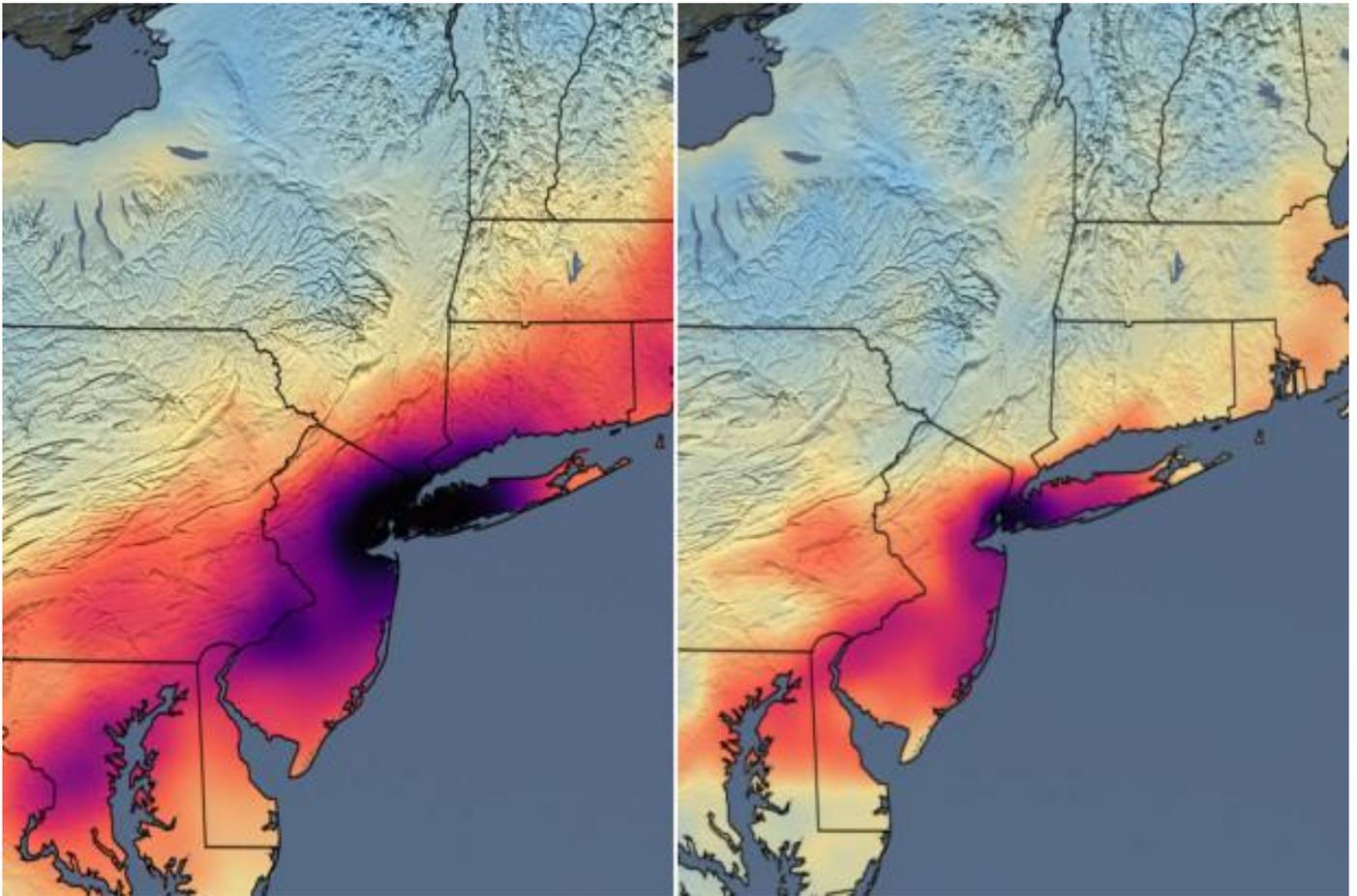
*Submitted by Sue Hamlet*



## **A Year for Planet Earth**

April has always been that marvelous month when our hemisphere experiences the joy and rebirth of our environment. Our gardens are blooming. Birds are noisy and excited as they build their nests, the time we supplement our feeders with meal worms. We watch the chaos of pollen, leaves and debris. Our allergies are peaked. That is how we usually spend our spring. This year, however, we have been thrown a curve ball that is The Corona Virus Pandemic.

While humans have been quarantined and mandated to practice social distancing, our planet, plants and animals have been given a respite from our polluting and abuse. Within 30 days of widespread human infections, the waters of the earth had become clearer, the atmosphere cleaner and seismologists are clearly hearing the earth's movements without all the background noise that we, humans, produce. We have no idea how long this quarantine will last, how long our parents and children will need our assistance and guidance from afar but we will come out of this year of pandemic with new understanding, new skills and new appreciation for our futures. This pandemic has seen a terrible loss of life, not only the virus victims and a great many caregivers but those we have lost from causes other than the pandemic; we have been unable to mourn in community any of their passings.



*The left image shows the average concentration of air pollution across much of the East Coast from 2015 through 2019, and the right image shows the pollution levels in March 2020.*

This very quiet time is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to listen, to observe and support the Earth. This is a perfect opportunity to watch the birds nest, feed and drink from water splashing through the air from our garden sprinklers. We can still marvel at the herd of young deer on the fairways, the hummingbirds drinking from yard feeders and battling for their territory. It's a time to enjoy digging, planting and watching new plants come to life in our backyards. This quiet, imposed serenity will allow us to be reflective and hopefully we will find a way to be kinder to our planet and to one another.

Humans have created marvels on our planet; the creativity, architecture, technology and generosity are limited only by our dreams. We are a very fast paced species and require a lot of space; sometimes it feels like we are the cloud in the silver lining we call Earth.

Please live part of your quarantine out of doors, close to home. Embrace the sun, nature and all that surrounds us, especially on our beautiful Island. We feel the social loss when we Zoom into a group meeting, or think about the daily exercise classes we previously attended. This pandemic will end and we will resume life, but we will be changed. I look forward to and will once again embrace the camaraderie of our garden club meetings with interesting view points, speakers and thought provoking programming. In the mean time, enjoy this very quiet Spring.

*Submitted by Jean Deitch, Birds and Conservation*

## Budget

Treasurer's Monthly Report from March 24, 2020 thru April 15, 2020				
	Operations	Ways & Means	Reserve	Total
	Account	Account	Account	
<b>Beginning Balance as of March 24, 2020</b>	<u>\$7,535.14</u>	<u>\$11,409.99</u>	<u>\$2,501.06</u>	= <u>\$21,446.19</u>
Revenue:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Revenue	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	= <u>\$0.00</u>
Expense:				
GCG Membership 20/21	\$110.00			
Bow Supplies 20/21		\$531.39		
Total Expense	<u>\$110.00</u>	<u>\$531.39</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	= <u>\$641.39</u>
<b>Ending Balance as of April 15, 2020</b>	<u>\$7,425.14</u>	<u>\$10,878.60</u>	<u>\$2,501.06</u>	= <u>\$20,804.80</u>

## Meeting Minutes

Because we did not meet in March, we have no minutes from a March meeting nor Board meeting to present.

