

FEBRUARY 2021

Petal Pusher



The
Landings
Garden
Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

'Shroom Walk

Tuesday, March 23rd

Take a walk on the wild side

Garden Tour

Monday, April 12th

Anne Gardner's Garden

Ossabaw Island Trip

Wednesday, April 14th

Skidaway Audubon

Plant Sale

April, 17th

Annual fundraising event

River of Iris Tour

Tuesday, April 20th

Coastal Botanical Garden tour
with Stan Gray.

Garden Tour

Monday, May 10th

Penny LeBlanc's Garden

Garden Tour

Tuesday, June 8th

Jenny Carlisle's Garden

Eventbrite sign ups for
all tours to follow at
later date.

Dear Members,

I hope this issue finds you all well and I hope most of you are getting the vaccines. Time marches on and waits for no one...the first day of spring is March 20.

This spring millions of cicadas will be emerging in Georgia and you should keep your eyes and ears peeled. What is remarkable about this natural event is that this periodical cicada brood has been underground for the past 17 years and will be emerging in swarms once warm weather hits. The periodic cicadas can be identified by their black bodies, orange wings, and notable red eyes. The last time this incredible phenomenon took place was in 2004 and included 15 states, from New York to Ohio and down to Georgia. Georgians can likely expect the mass synchronized emergence around mid-May, and you will likely notice their arrival by the loud mating calls. This emergence of cicadas is a rare chance for millions of people to enjoy a front-row seat to a natural phenomenon that does not occur anywhere else on the planet.

Waiting 17 years is a long time. In 2004, we moved to Georgia from New York. I guess for us with the pandemic, a few more months until most of the population has been vaccinated is not too long to wait. But the noise we will make once we can get together will be a lot louder than the Cicadas. And I am looking forward to that noise!

Hannah

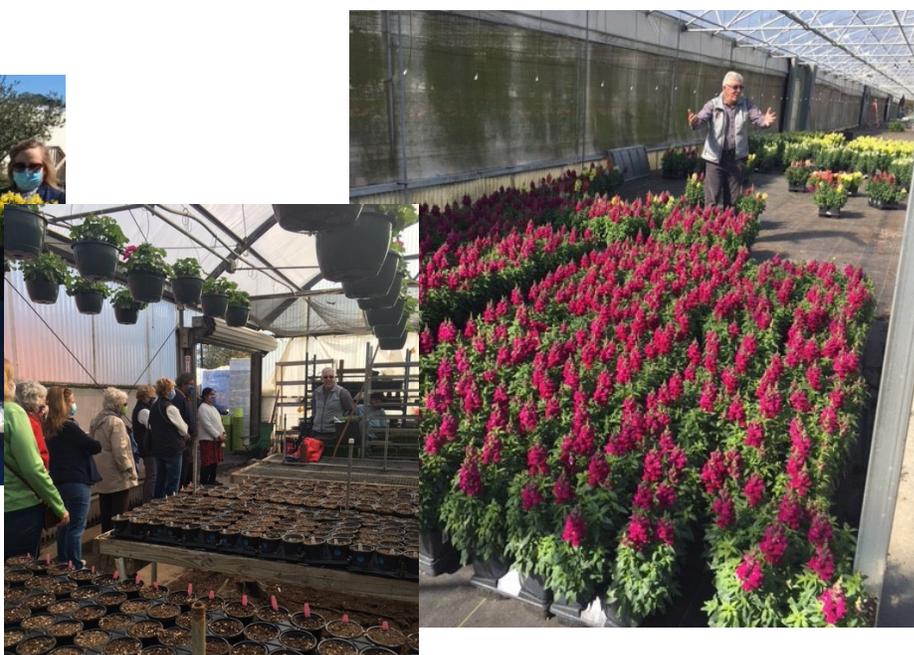


Oelschig's Nursery Tour Submitted by Pam Patterson, Horticulture Chair

We had a wonderful tour of Oelschig's Nursery on February 16th. They have been in business for 3 generations here in Savannah, and still run by the same family. They are lucky to have Terry Beasley to give tours. He not only shares their history but explains the complications of space and timing for sales, as well as info on all of the beautiful plants. We had a good crowd, and the weather was perfect for walk through the wonderful greenhouses. It's so hard to walk around all of those beautiful plants without bringing some home, but they do sell to our local nurseries.

The big surprise was they were "long" on some daffodils, so he graciously gave them to our group!! Of course, we all quickly loaded them in our cars – we are all plant lovers in this club.

I am really looking forward to our next field trip to Ossabaw Island on April 14th, followed by our trip to the Coastal Gardens to see the River of Iris on April 20th. Hope to see you there!



Membership Drive / 2021-22 Dues

It's time to renew your membership!!

We are looking forward to returning to a calendar filled with meetings, programs, tours, and social events.

Please renew your membership NOW by visiting the website and downloading your form [here](#).

Ways and Means - Bow Making

Submitted by Dottie Kirkland and Shirley Brown

Ways and Means Bow Making Co-Chairs

It feels like we just got the winter holiday decorations put away, but it is time to start planning for the next season's décor. Your Bows Co-Chairs have been in contact with the Ribbon Rep and are ready to preview new patterns and get the selection process under way. We will soon be contacting our team of creative crafters from last season for a repeat performance. The pandemic appears to be hanging around, so we will likely need to continue to work independently.



In addition to the red velvet, red with gold edge and the diamond red and gold, we will be looking for another holiday plaid. The inventory will include an increased number of the popular double-sided red/ apple-green velvet, more silver bows and some gold bows if we can find ribbon comparable to the silver.

Thanks to all for the wonderful community support of this fundraising project. Looking forward to another great season!

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Sharon Lundin

Monthly Detail Summary Report from May 1, 2020 thru January 31, 2021

| | Operations Acct. | Ways & Means Acct. | Reserve Acct. | Total |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2020 | <u>\$6,387.30</u> | <u>\$15,107.39</u> | <u>\$2,501.24</u> | <u>= \$23,995.93</u> |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Interest | | | \$0.06 | |
| Total Revenue | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.06</u> | <u>= \$0.06</u> |
| Expense: | | | | |
| GCG - Dues | \$5.00 | | | |
| SACGC - Dues | \$387.00 | | | |
| Ossabaw Isl. Trip Deposit | \$100.00 | | | |
| W&M - GCG Named Scholarship | | \$1,000.00 | | |
| Total Expense | <u>\$492.00</u> | <u>\$1,000.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>= \$1,492.00</u> |
| Ending Balance as of January 31, 2021 | <u>\$5,895.30</u> | <u>\$14,107.39</u> | <u>\$2,501.30</u> | <u>\$22,503.99</u> |

Sparrow Field Report

Submitted by Dawn Cordo, Sparrow Field Chair

Not much is happening at Sparrow Field other than planning for Spring planting. We will secure the plants from Skidaway Audubon's Pollinator Plant Sale April 17. Below you will see the finished retaining wall. Our group will have lots to do so new volunteers are welcome!

To learn about work opportunities, contact Dawn [here](#).



What's Going On In the Garden

Submitted by Penny LeBlanc

I take a walk around my garden each day to see what is emerging. I notice plants that have seeded with the help of mother nature and need to be transplanted to new locations.

Some bulbs are starting to emerge! The deer are hungry this year and I have lost a few daffodils. I have added professional Deer Scram to protect other spring bulbs. Now is a good time to thin out or remove Ginger or Flax Lilies, while Elephant Ears can be divided and transplanted after the last frost, this year they are predicting March 15th. Anytime you are cutting into a plant use tools that are sharp and clean. Move the soil around until you find the rhizomes or tubers and gently lift the plant out of the soil. Look for healthy rhizomes or tubers with a good root system. (cont.)



What's Going On In the Garden, cont'd.

After the selection use a shovel or sharp knife to remove the plants. The plant selections can be grown in a container or placed in the garden with potting mix, compost, and new mulch. Make sure to keep the new plant watered to develop a good root system.

Some plants need reshaping. Many of those plants work great for cutting to propagate new plants (Black & Blue Salvia, Amistad Salvia, Wendy's Wish Salvia, Golden Delicious Salvia, Firecracker Plant, Cigar Plant). Cuttings can be propagated by preparing a potting mixture of equal parts perlite, sand, and peat moss. Fill a container with the mixture leaving 1" from top of the container. Find a healthy branch with at least two healthy leaves and cut off 6" below the leaves with a clean knife or cutting tool. Make an incision on the bottom 3" up the base of the stem. Wet the base of the cutting and place in powdered rooting hormone and gently shake off excessive powder. Place 3" in the soil and 3" exposed. Water the plant so it is moist but not waterlogged. Cover the plant with plastic (it creates a greenhouse). Keep the plant covered until additional leaves emerge. I have also had success with placing cuttings in a glass vase with water and after a few weeks the cuttings develop a root system and then I plant in the potting mixture.



Now and into early spring is a great time to fertilize Azaleas, Citrus and other deciduous trees that are starting to bud out.

The Rust Fungus is prevalent now and destructive to plants. The Fungus is identifiable by rust color on leaves of the plant or stems. The treatment for Rust Fungus is Neem Oil, a dusting of sulfur or baking soda with horticultural oil. You may need to retreat during the season both Scale and Rust are caused by high humidity, too much water by sprinkler or rain.



It did not get cold enough to kill Scale Bugs that sucks sap from plants. The Scale insect is small, oval flat and white (they are immature now and will turn brown with a hard armor shell). The safest treatment for Scale is Neem Oil.

I have noticed weeds emerging and I'm working diligently to remove them. After weed removal the exposed soil is covered with mulch.

What's Going On In the Garden, continued

I do spend time walking around the garden envisioning how I would like to make improvements. With all the rain and cold temps, it's a perfect time to checkout the spring gardening magazines (Garden Gate, Fine Gardening, Southern Gardens, Birds & Blooms, just to name a few). I keep a notebook to note plants, shrubs, trees, that I am interested in. Then I will do research to find out the growing zone, light requirements, deer resistant, growth pattern, what season will it bloom, is it invasive in our area, and where can I purchase the plant. When I see an inspiring garden online or a photo in a magazine, I photograph it and make a photo file to refer back to for gardening ideas.



Did You Know About Pollinators? Submitted by Hannah Burtnik, President

557: Varieties of butterflies and moths supported by native oak trees, as compared to only 5 butterfly and moth species supported by non-native ginkgo trees.

96: Percentage of land birds that rely on insects to feed chicks.

1,200: Number of crops that depend on pollinators to grow.

40 million: Acres of lawn in the U.S. currently.

80 million: Pounds of pesticides applied to lawns in the U.S. annually. Native plants, on the other hand, support a balance of predator and prey and thrive without pesticides.

800 million: Gallons of gas used annually by lawn mowers. This produces significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases driving climate change.

Over 75% of all flowering plants are pollinated by animals. Pollinators, such as most bees and some birds, bats, and other insects, play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables.
(Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

Check the website below for ideas on how to create a sustainable garden.

[The National Wildlife Federation](#)



Capital Conservation Day 2021 is Virtual!

Garden Club of Georgia Event March 3rd Noon - 1:30 PM

Dear GCG Members,

Usually we ask you to come to the Capitol when the legislature is in session. We have a breakfast meeting at the nearby church with informative speakers, break out into discussion groups, take a photo on the Capitol Steps, and go in to meet our legislators.

Well, this year is different due to the virus. We are doing CCD virtually. That means that many more people from around the state can participate with no need to drive to Atlanta and fight the traffic!!! Yippee!

Rather than an early morning breakfast, we will start at noon on March 3.

There will be a big group ZOOM meeting with informative presentations on the issues of the day. Trust Funds and Coal ash are possible topics - the speakers will let us know exactly what bills are being considered. Things are always fluid, so it's too early for an exact agenda. There may be some break out sessions too. And small groups meeting with local legislators.

Please register now and you will be sent instructions for joining the ZOOM meeting. The hope is to get a group of people from the same area to have a mini-meeting with your local representative - you won't be solo - it would be a group - making it easy for all. Or you can contact your legislator via email later - your choice. Still easy.

Register now and plan on hearing the group presentation at noon. Always very informative.

Register for this event [here](#).



Garden Club of Georgia

Planting and Nurturing / January 2021 Edition

View publication [here](#).

Links to district, state, and national publications are also found on our [website](#).



Welcome New Member

Submitted by Janet Murphy, Membership Committee

Susan Terrio (here in front of her grapefruit tree) joined the Garden Club in the fall of 2020, and is also a member of the Landlovers Green Thumb garden club. She and her husband Steve moved from the Washington, DC area, where she was a professor of Cultural Anthropology at Georgetown University. They spent summers on Bald Head in North Carolina (no cars, accessible by boat), where they still own a second home. When Susan retired in 2018, she and her husband moved to the Landings. She joined the Garden Club now because she wants to learn about gardening, especially local/native plantings. She stated that she wants to address the "wild jungle" of her back yard; she is sure it has potential. And she is interested in learning more about succulents.



After having a knee replacement in 2018 shortly after moving here, Susan now regularly plays pickleball. She learned bridge and plays mah jongg as well. Since being here, she has been busy volunteering as the VP of Activities for New Neighbors in 2019-2020. She currently serves as Vice-President on the Board of the Skidaway Abigails, and was just named to the board of the Savannah Council on World Affairs. She looks forward to becoming involved in Garden Club activities, especially after we can resume in-person meetings.

Protecting Environmental Clean Up

Submitted by Leslie Bowler, Legislative Action

Dear GCG Members,

Legislators can create fees to fund specific programs, but until recently, they couldn't guarantee that the fees collected will be used for their intended purposes. Over the years, the state has raided hundreds of millions from the Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds that were created to help state and local governments address tire dumps, repair problems at landfills, and remediate hazardous waste sites. Last year, Georgians voted overwhelmingly to allow these funds to be dedicated - now it's time to seal the deal! Lawmakers must pass HB 511 - a bill that will finally dedicate the Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Trust Funds. Once passed, this bill will force the state to spend every dollar collected for environmental cleanup projects on those specific programs. It's time to fully fund environmental cleanups. **Pass HB 511 now!**



Take action now on HB 511 by contacting your representative [here](#).