

JANUARY 2024

# Petal Pusher

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### General Meeting

**Monday, January 22, 2024**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**9:00 am Board Meeting**

**9:15 - 10:00 Meet & Greet**

**10:00 - 10:30 General Meeting**

**10:45 Program - Skidaway's  
Feathered Friends**

### Wine & Weeds

**Thursday, January 25, 2024**

**Vicki Menkie's House**

**2 Planters Lane**

**6:00 - 8:00**

### Let's Talk Terrarium's

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

**General Meeting - Messiah  
Lutheran Church**

### Savannah Bee Company

**Monday, March 25, 2024**

**General Meeting - Messiah  
Lutheran Church**

**Dues R Due - January 31, 2024**

**Wednesday, January 31 - last day  
to pay your dues for the 2024 year  
Annual Dues: \$40**



The  
Landings  
Garden  
Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

### President's Message

#### Happy January Fellow Gardeners!

I am always filled with such excitement for the new year ahead. So many new things to see, to visit, to learn, and to accomplish. So many things from the past year to still try and accomplish. I cannot wait for the new year to get going. A lot is happening and I hope you can join us for fun times ahead.

Working with the board we have scheduled a lot of fun and exciting events and as I write this, we are working on additional programs for 2024. I am so lucky to have such a wonderful Board of Directors and an Executive Board to help me at every turn. Thank you ladies for all that you do for our club!

I would also like to thank each of the Landings Garden Club members for taking time to attend our meetings, special events, and functions. It is so gratifying to see the large turnout and support for these programs.

As we go forward into the new year, here are some thoughts for 2024... No New Year resolutions, just wishes. My wishes for all of our members this year:

Each member learns something new

Each member meets someone new

Each member will get involved even more than before

Everyone will have Fun!

Here's to 2024!!!

Keep Gardening,

Vicki

Go Green-Plant America



# Are You a Floraholic or Hortimaniac?



I believe I may be on the verge of becoming a floral & / OR horticultural junkie. Below are some questions to ask yourself to determine if you **too** may have this same addiction...

- Do you immediately sit down when a garden magazine or catalog arrives in the mail? Do you read it from page to page before even considering dinner prep for your family or yourself? Do you circle every plant you would like to order? Do you sometimes go on-line and fill your cart with plants you can't really afford? Worse yet, do you sometimes even order them? All of them?
- Have you investigated every nursery within 25 miles of your home? Are you considering widening the search even further to find what you are looking for? Does visiting famous gardens help make your vacation more enjoyable? Do you worry about your sprinkler system working correctly, or if it has rained enough at your home while on vacation?
- Would you rather go to a nursery or garden center instead of clothes shopping?
- Do you want just one more flower? Do you come home from the nursery or garden center with a whole carload of new plants and wonder where in the heck you'll even plant them?
- Do you order too many seeds and not have enough room to plant them all?



Don't worry if you answered yes to many of these questions. If you have to have an addiction, you cannot beat Gardening! We know gardening is a healthy activity. Studies show it can help lower blood pressure, increase self-esteem, improve upper body strength and enhance mental attitude. It also gives one a sense of accomplishment. Gardeners greet each day with eagerness. We plant seeds and watch them grow. We are nurturers and know our efforts help make the world a more beautiful place, one garden at a time. Let's all make this year more beautiful together!

"HA  
HA"  
HA"

- What is a gardener's favorite novel?  
- War and Peas
- I tried my best to plant a complete herb garden,  
- But I just can't find the thyme...
- What do you call a gardener's bank account?  
- A hedge fund



# Membership News

## Submitted by Susan Mason

December was a busy month for all of us. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We will continue to collect membership dues at our next meeting on January 22. Remember that annual dues for active members is \$40 and inactive members pay \$50. Thank-you in advance for bringing your checks / cash to the meeting. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, please send dues payment to 120 Waterway Drive, Savannah 31411.

We had four guests at our December meeting: Sally Wheeler, Cynthia Gonzalez, Lee Gillis and Beth Powers. Beth just joined the Garden Club and has already volunteered to be a Committee Chair. Thank-You Beth! Mary White is one of our newest members having joined the club in December. We are so happy to have all of our new members.

## Welcome New Members!

### Mary Brown White

Mary and her husband Bruce are celebrating 39 years of marriage. This past year they moved to Savannah from the New Orleans area. They have three children and several grandchildren. Four of their grandchildren live here at The Landings. They love sharing family time with the grandkids, it helps to keep them young.

After working assorted jobs including positions in higher education, private schools, banking, volleyball sports complex, and a nursing home, Mary retired to run her family's business. Her hobbies are as varied as her work experience. She enjoys Cajun cooking, baking, knitting, running, doubles sand volleyball, weaving, and getting her hands dirty in the garden.

Mary said her grandmother had a farm and taught her to garden. She grew all of their food but also had a very large flower garden. Mary's hope and goal is to teach her grandchildren to garden and instill the same love of gardening she learned from her grandmother.



## The Landings Garden Club Mission

- To function as an educational organization interested in all phases of gardening and related subjects.
- To aid in the protection of forests, marshes, native plants, wildflowers and birds.
- To maintain membership in and coordinate club interests with those of The National Garden Clubs, Inc., The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and the Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

### Reminder to all members...

#### 2024 Membership Dues R Due by January 31, 2024

*We are a working club and it is a requirement to be active and serve time on a committee*

- Membership Committee will be available so you can pay your dues. Please bring a check or cash - \$40.00 for active members and \$50 for inactive, payable to *The Landings Garden Club*

*\*We pay a late fee to the Garden Club of Georgia if our paperwork and payments are not received on-time. Sign up for a committee and pay your dues...one done, off your to-do list for 2024!*



# Horticulture

Submitted by Pam Patterson



## Celebrate our Beautiful Camellias

Camellias are native to Asia, and have been in the south for nearly 200 years. There are two types of Camellias. One is *Camellia japonica*, which blooms mainly in the winter. It has dense foliage and large flowers. The other type, *Camellia sasanqua* blooms in the fall and has smaller flowers. *Sasanquas'* branches reach up and out and are more pliable than *japonica*, making *sasanquas* easier to espalier. Both varieties need about six hours of sun a day.

Camellias are easy to grow. It is best to plant them in the spring so the root system can get established. Plant in moist, lightly acidic soil with plenty of organic matter. When first planted, be sure to water 1-2 days a week until well established. Be sure to plant them in places that are sheltered from winter wind and hot afternoon sun. If you are uncertain about the planting area, observe other Camellias that are doing well and note their location. Are they protected by the afternoon sun or located away from other trees that might take up water and other nutrients?

Fertilizer is a key to growing healthy Camellias. All plants like consistency so establish a pattern for fertilizing and watering. In summer, during the stem and leaf growing period, use one dose of slow-release nitrogenous fertilizer. I recommend **Plantone** which is organic and prevents any plant burn. For the flowering period use a fertilizer with a lot of Phosphate. Phosphate-potassium fertilizer can be applied 1-2 times from the time of bud appearance to blooming. *See page 7 for a list of recommended fertilizers that are sure to have your Camellias bursting with beautiful blooms.*

Prune Camellias after flowering. Some are slow growers so be careful to not over prune. Cut off the weaker, diseased or downward growing branches as well as old branches that no longer flower.

Camellias bring so much beauty to our southern gardens. The late fall and winter blooms make them a focal point in our landscape at a time of year when other flowering plants are dormant.

## Skidaway Farms

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz



### Skidaway Farm Project for the Hungry

There's no resting for our eager Community Farm plot volunteers! After a warmer than normal October, we were able to harvest most of our vegetables in time to be added to Social Apostolate's Thanksgiving food hampers. We then decided to plant more lettuce and kale and try out some radish seeds.

We covered a portion of the plot in December when the temperature began dropping down to freezing. We are happy to report that all plants survived and the radish seedlings are flourishing.

We thank all of our volunteers for their support and we welcome all that would like to join us! If you are interested in helping with the garden, please contact Meg Kettlitz or Jayne Rogers.



We wish everyone a Happy and Nourishing 2024!



# HERE'S THE LATEST BUZZ ON THE YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET (VESPA VELUTINA)



Submitted by Meg Kettlitz

The December meeting of the Wilmington Island Garden Club featured guest speaker Christopher Adams, Georgia Department of Agriculture Plant Protection Field Agent and Project Lead on the yellow-legged hornet project.

Since the discovery of the first hornet in late July, Christopher has been in Savannah searching for nests and eliminating them. As this is a new invasive species to Georgia and the US, the GDA is dependent on the knowledge that Europeans have acquired since the yellow-legged hornet arrived there several decades ago.



This hornet has a similar life cycle to yellow jackets. All of the males will die off in cold winters. The nest can have anywhere from 50-500 queens. In the spring the queens will emerge from the nest and build small nests. This is when the males will be born. The queen will then move to a new location (around July / August) and start building a much larger nest. These large nests can be located under bridges or very high up in pine trees. They chew the bark of trees to create their nests which gives it a brown tint and texture similar to cardboard. The nest is exceptionally hard and unlike other hornets' nests, it only has one opening for entry and exit. The opening is rather large and located at the top of the nest.



Researchers have discovered that besides honeybees, the hornets also enjoy pears. The substance inside of the traps consist of a mixture of grape juice, brown sugar and alcohol. The alcohol in the trap serves as a deterrent to honeybees entering since they do not like alcohol.

Hornet Trap



A honeybee hive that is attacked by these hornets will lose about 25% of their honey production. The hornets hover near the hive and take as many bees as possible. The hornets like the part near the bee's wings as it has the most protein. They will then discard the remainder of the dead bee for other scavengers.

The GDA is working in conjunction with Clemson University, The University of Florida and Florida Department of Agriculture to learn more about these pests. Several hornet specimens were sent to a specialist at the FDACS for analysis.

The GDA received a grant from the USDA to help eradicate the yellow-legged hornet. In the spring they will be hiring 10 part-time inspectors to help monitor the 1,000 traps that will be placed around Chatham County.

If you see a yellow-legged hornet, please report it to  
**[Agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet](http://Agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet)**



# Serenity Garden

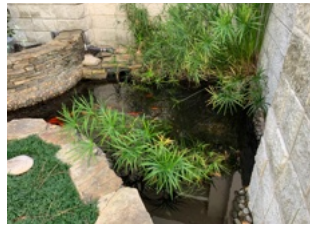
Submitted by Martha Nesmith and Amanda Dorman

Martha Nesmith and Amanda Dorman took over as co-chairs of the Serenity Garden in early November. These co-chairs have made several visits to the Garden to install seasonal plantings, trim and water plants, and service the pump for the waterfall. A big thank you to Amanda's husband who is a whiz with pumps! We planted new ivy and violas in pots, added pansies to several ground areas and planted two additional corlyline. Crotons were moved to a ground area where they hopefully will survive the winter. The fish pond needs maintenance which the hospital will hopefully address but all fish are healthy and the now functioning waterfall looks beautiful (see below photo).

We sent the gardening and maintenance schedule to all of our volunteers so they have these dates for the full year. Should you wish to volunteer on one of our monthly trips to the Garden (usually the 15th of the month), please reach out to Martha Nesmith: [mcnesmith1@gmail.com](mailto:mcnesmith1@gmail.com).

*Thanks to the Serenity Sister's care and dedication, their work at the Garden has it Looking Great!*

We appreciate all that the Sisters do to make this such a **serene** place to contemplate and refresh. If you have not done so, please take time to visit this exquisite paradise, created for those who need a quiet venue to reflect. Located at the Anderson Cancer Institute on the Memorial Hospital Campus, the garden is easily accessible and open to all that wish to visit.



## You're Invited...

## Whine & Weeds

### Tipsy Talk for Gardening Geeks

Thursday, January 25 @ 6:00 pm

Vicki Menke's home - 2 Planters Lane

Please bring your favorite beverage and an appetizer to share



# The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

## Upcoming Events of Interest...



### COASTAL WILDSCAPES

#### OUR MISSION:

To connect residents to the habitats of coastal Georgia and empower them to be stewards of their natural environment

#### OUR GOALS:

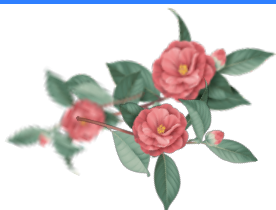
Educate target audiences about native habitats

Provide tools to empower ecologically based decision-making

Foster a culture that values biodiversity

*Coastal WildScapes is a 501 (c)(3) organization formed in 2009 to address the increasing need to educate and engage the public in practices that will preserve the biodiversity of the Georgia coast. We are run by an all volunteer board and one part time staff person.*

## The First Annual Savannah Camellia Festival February 24th, 2024



Camellias bring our community together, come out for a day of family fun and beautiful flowers!

The Savannah Camellia Festival is an annual all-day festival in February celebrating the history and presence of the Camellia flower in Chatham County. The day kicks off with a 5k Run/Walk coordinated by Savannah Recreation and Leisure Services followed by performances, kids activities, vendors, and more at Cohen's Retreat. Hobbes Hill Farm will have a variety of plant sales available throughout the festival, offering gardeners an opportunity to purchase the beautiful flowers we are celebrating!

The festival is also host to the Coastal Georgia Camellia Society's annual statewide bloom show; a camellia bloom competition judged by size, color, form and condition. The bloom show is open to everyone — the Coastal Georgia Camellia Society even offers assistance prejudging to anyone needing bloom-prep guidance.

There's something for all ages and interests!

For more information and to register for any of these events, check out their website:

[www.savannahcamelliafestival.com](http://www.savannahcamelliafestival.com)

### ***Celebrate our Beautiful Camellias (from pg. 4)***

#### **Recommended Fertilizers for growing beautiful Camellias:**

1. Big Bloom 0-0.5-0.7 by Fox Farm Organic Gardening
2. Phosgard 0-28-25 by Safergrow
3. Flower-tone 3-4-5 by Espoma
4. Triple Phosphate 0-45-0 by Espoma



*All of these can be found at various locations including Lowes or Amazon*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Submitted by Karyn Rohan

The Landings Garden Club - January 2024 Treasure's report				
	Beginning Balance	Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Year to Date
Operations:	\$8,001.48	\$9,497.49	\$3,909.95	\$5,587.54
Ways & Means	\$5,622.53	\$15,694.90	\$698.25	\$14,996.65
				Bow Sales \$8,658.39
				Bow Expenses: \$149.37
				Total Bow Income: 8,509.02
.				

# The Landings Garden Club, General Meeting Minutes:

## December 11, 2023

### Submitted by Connie Gescheidt, Recording Secertary

Call to Order at 10:00 by Vicki Menke, President  
 Pledge of Allegiance and Collect  
 President Report to General Membership

TLGC November evening program was attended by 78 members, spouses, and guests. There were many YES responses regarding repeating an evening event. Thank you to Barbara Victor for a fabulous event.

New Green Aprons: Embroidered with the Landings Garden Club. Purchased 4 (\$19.99 for 4). One apron went missing so only 3 were embroidered. The aprons are for members use when representing The Landings Garden Club at various events.

Wine (Whine) and Weeds (WWW): Still going Strong. There were many new faces at our last session. We will continue to have monthly WWW events.

Special Event: Saturday, January 13. Brenda Ecken and Sarah Lucas conduct a virtual tour through Skidaway Audubon’s Dave Scott Blue Bird Trail at 10 AM.

General Meeting: Monday, January 22 will feature Diana Churchill of Wild Birds Unlimited. So it’s a bird Month. Pam Patterson, Committee Chair of Birds and conservation to write an article for the January Petal Pusher. Barbara Victor also has an article to share.

## Pg.2 LGC General Meeting Minutes: December 11, 2023

Bylaws Proposed 3 Changes:

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP Section 1. ACTIVE All active members will choose 1 committee to serve on. All active members are committee members of DONE IN A DAY and will respond to calls for assistance from the President, Vice President or BOD to serve as needed. All active members will be required to respond and participate in one DONE IN A DAY PROJECT.

ARTICLE IV- DUES Section 2. Annual dues for an Active member shall be \$40 and shall be due no later than January 31. Our club year will run from January 31 to January 31 each year. All dues are payable at the time of application.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS Section 3 Election of officers shall take place at the April meeting. The term of office shall be two years and begin after the installation of officers

Welcome to New Committee Chairs:

Facebook: Diane Benson

Serenity Garden: Martha Nesmith & Amanda Dorman

Skidaway Farms: Meg Kettlitz & Jayne Rogers

Membership Renewal: Susan Mason distributed membership applications. Members were reminded to postdate dues checks for 1/31/2024.

Announcements by Lisa Hall President of the Georgia Garden Club:

A Basic Design Course will be presented in 2024 by four Savannah Area Garden Clubs - NOGS, The Landings Garden Club, Savannah Garden Club and Wimberley Garden Club. The dates will be forth coming. Evites will be sent out soon. There will be limited enrollment. October, 2024 Oleander District Annual Meeting will be held at the Palmetto Club.

December Program: Floral Arranging Demonstration Presentation by Pat Barry. Arrangements will be sold in a silent auction. Bid to start is \$20.00/ arrangement. Adjournment at 11:10.

