

Petal Pusher



The
Landings
Garden
Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023
Messiah Lutheran Church
9:00 am Board Meeting
9:15 - 10:00 Meet & Greet
10:00 - 10:30 General Meeting
10:45 Program- Holiday
Arrangements

Holiday Bazaar at the Farmhouse

Saturday, November 18
Savannah Botanical Garden
1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah
9:00 am until inventory is sold

December Nights & Holiday Lights

Nov. 25-26; Dec. 2-3; 9-10 &
Dec. 16-24 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
2 Canebrake Road, Savannah

Special Event

Skidaway Audubon Society

Saturday, January 13, 2024
Messiah Lutheran Church
10:00 am Coffee Meet & Greet
11:00 am Virtual Tour of Skidaway
Audubon's Dave Scott Bluebird
Trail

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

President's Message

Happy Holidays!

WOW, I cannot believe I just typed that. Is it just me, or do the years seem to go by faster the older you get? Soon it will be 2024!

As I drove the Diamond Causeway last evening, I could not stop gazing in awe at all the beauty surrounding us. The marsh grass is turning a golden brown and rustling in the evening breeze. I had to roll down my window and inhale the smell of the marsh. I know many do not like this aroma, but I love the smell of life in the river's pluff mud. Even if you cannot abide the smell, you must admit the view is breathtaking as it welcomes us on our drive home.

Here in the south, opportunities abound for those who choose to garden late November through February. I have been frantically trying to get my garden planted before I leave to visit our son in Paris on the 19th. I've come to the conclusion if it doesn't get done, all will be ok as families come first.

Most perennials can be moved or set out but they still require plenty of water. This is the best time to prune evergreens such as juniper, cedar, holly, and magnolias. Don't throw those clippings away as many of these are great to use in your holiday decorations. The first of December is also the optimum time to plant daffodils and the good news is deer will not eat these.

Winter in our coastal south is also an ideal time for planting trees and shrubs. And, don't forget to plant your seeds for flowers including Bachelor's button, Sweet peas, Calendula, Nigella, sweet alyssum and poppies. These hardy annuals will add color to your winter and spring garden. If you like to grow flowers from seed, the topic for our next Wine / Whine and Weeds will focus on how to grow and maintain a winter garden. This will be our first Holiday Get-Together (look for more information on page 9).

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on December 11. This will be the last event of our calendar year. If you are not able to attend, I wish all of you safe travels, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Vicki

Go Green-Plant America



Thank you



A special thank-you to all the past Presidents who were able to attend our Heritage Luncheon and provide interesting insight into the history of our club. I learned so many new and impressive things about our club.

Did you know...

- The LGC presented a Blue Star Marker to The Landings Association (it is located in front of the TLA Administration building).
- We established the first pollinator garden located in a Georgia State Park, right here at Skidaway Island State Park. This successful program has now expanded throughout Georgia to all state parks.
- The LGC was instrumental in establishing the recycling center at the fire station.
- We organized the Causeway Clean-Up program which is still in effect today.

What an incredible group of ladies we have in our club!

I would also like to thank Anne Gardner, Donna Slappy, and their entire committee for the beautiful fall floral arrangements that adorned the tables. Thanks also goes to Tina Gilbert, Barbara Martin, and Meg Schreck for all the preparation they did to set up the venue - tables, drinks, etc...Everything was lovely!

A note from Vicki...All past LGC Presidents were invited to be part of the Heritage luncheon and unfortunately several were unavailable. Pam Patterson sent her regrets along with a bio and comments about her time being President. Due to time constraints, I was unable to read this at the luncheon, but will share with you at our December meeting.



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...

In order to support our Mission Statement (as noted above) and to fulfill our club duties, we **MUST** pay our Annual Dues on Time

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

December 11, General Meeting: 9:30 - 10:00 Committee Fair and Membership Renewal

- Our various Committee Chairs will be available to meet and greet so you can determine the committees that most appeal to you. They will have forms for you to sign-up and provide your contact information.
- Membership Committee - will be available so you can pay your dues early. Please bring a \$40.00 check, payable to *The Landings Garden Club* and POST DATE for January 31, 2024 - checks will not be deposited until end of January.

**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 early...one less thing on your to-do list for 2024!*



Welcome New Members!

Please welcome the following new members to
The Landings Garden Club



Susan Mason



I'm not the infamous Savannah caterer, but the new Membership Chairperson of The Landings Garden Club. After college, I worked in advertising and real-estate before settling into a career in education. I am a former math and language arts teacher. I may not be a Master Gardener, but for 25 years, I was a Master Educator teaching in various schools throughout the state of Georgia.



I moved to the Landings in June 2018, along with my mother and partner John. Shortly after our move, I became a caregiver to both of them and sadly both passed in April and June of this year. Since my time in Savannah, Vicki Menke has been a good friend and mentor. She always spoke very highly of this club and the great support it provides for the community. My mother and aunts loved to garden and I want to share in their passion to create a beautiful yard. I'm excited to learn about gardening on Skidaway and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you!

Marianne Claysmith



I am a flower lover! Unfortunately, my gardening abilities have been seriously limited since I moved to The Landings...DEER.

I grew up in the Midwest and have a BA in education along with a MS in Counseling Psychology. Over the years, my work experience has varied. I have two daughters and four grandchildren, all living in New Mexico. I enjoy playing competitive bridge and I recently signed up to be a LOVE Mentor in Savannah public schools.

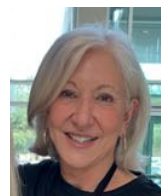


Amanda Dorman



I grew up in Columbus, GA where I met and married my husband Wes. In 1981 we moved to Savannah. We have three married sons, a spunky daughter and five grandchildren. Having homes in the Ardsley Park area, Isle of Hope, and Dutch Island, we are delighted to now live at The Landings.

After failing miserably for years of gardening in the Savannah soil, I took the Master Gardener course where so many things began to make sense. I put that knowledge to work in creating a veggie garden that we worked for three years. Now I have a small courtyard that I am enjoying. Our backyard is God's amazing marsh that we wake up and go to sleep everyday.



My love for gardening was kindled by my mother who taught me to propagate under grow lights. I observed through the decades that my mother's garden club buddies were her very dearest lifelong friends. I look forward to making friends with others that also share a passion for gardening and don't mind getting a little dirt under their nails.

Mary Mahoney



Mary and her husband John Robinson moved to The Landings in August 2023, from Orlando, FL. Their desire to be in a smaller town with a three-season climate brought them to The Landings. They are enjoying their new home in Oakridge and are in the process of designing a new garden which will include lots of beautiful perennials and flowering trees. In their spare time, Mary and John are avid golfers, gardeners, travelers, foodies, bikers, and hikers.



Welcome New Members!

Martha Nesmith

I grew up in Richmond, VA and lived there until last summer. My husband and I have been married for 33 years and have one daughter. Our daughter, her husband, and two children live here in The Landings. I also have a stepson that still lives and works in Richmond.

For over forty years, I worked various jobs and in 2015, I retired from the College Counseling office of a local private K-12 school. After retirement, I became involved with many organizations in Richmond, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond Woman's Club, and the Maymount Foundation.

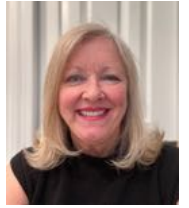
My mother was a wonderful horticulturist and I'm hoping to learn some of her skills through my involvement with The Landings Garden Club.



Beth Weathers

I am a native of North Carolina but have been a Georgia girl for thirty seven years. My husband Bill and I have lived at The Landings for four years and have loved every minute of our time here!

I joined the Garden Club to become more aware of the indigenous plant species of our coastal community and help conserve the habitat. I hope to improve my overall gardening skills and plant knowledge so I can contribute to the beautification of Skidaway Island as well as Savannah and the surrounding area.



Skidaway Farms

Submitted by Jayne Rogers



Skidaway Farm Project for the Hungry

The Skidaway Community Farm volunteers gathered at the Farm in October for the first harvest of the cool weather season. Fourteen pounds of lettuce, kale, and Swiss chard were bagged, weighed, and placed in the refrigerator for collection by the Savannah Social Apostolate. A second crop of lettuce and collards were then planted. Throughout this process, we noticed a problem with the Swiss chard. Part of the educational component of the Farm project is learning from problems that invariably occur. In this case, it was decided to cut back the Swiss chard and spread Sluggo (an environmentally friendly control for slugs and snails) and cautiously wait for new leaves of chard to emerge. Swiss chard, like kale, will continue to produce new leaves all winter...the food that keeps on giving!

Each Garden Club volunteer has agreed to give their time for a week to check the crops, weed and water where necessary. We all try to gather for harvest. More fun and harvests will continue through the Fall. We welcome all that would like to join us! If you are interested in helping with the garden, please contact Jayne Rogers: JMRogers341@gmail.com



Birds and Conservation

Submitted by Pam Patterson



Leave the Leaves: Tips on Winter Habitat Protection

This month's message is focused on conservation... I've received several notices through different garden emails to "Leave the Leaves". There is a great article from the Xerces website that I thought would be good to share with our club.



Leaves provide a diverse habitat for invertebrates and pollinators during the growing season so helping them in the winter is almost as simple as doing nothing. Rake leaves into garden beds, around tree bases, or other designated areas. Too many leaves can kill grass, but when they are used in soil, they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition. Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements.



Listed below are just a sampling of Invertebrates that benefit from leafy debris:

- Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves.
- Bumble bees create nests in cavities underground, in trees or brush piles.
- Yellow spotted millipede juveniles eat humus, the rich organic layer of decayed plants and animal matter at the surface of the forest floor.

Source: Xerces.com

Jenks Farmer (one of my go-to favorite gardeners) also brings up an important note for us living in the Maritime Forest. We have lots of magnolia leaves, which do not decompose easily so it is best to throw these out unless you have a shredder (BTW- I'd like to borrow your shredder if you have one!). Once shredded these will provide great mulch for winter habitats.

One more helpful tip, if we get a freeze and your philodendron and ginger die back, do not leave the leaf on the plant as they will continue to rot. If left too long the rotten parts can expand to the healthy section of the plant, hindering future growth.

Check out Jenksfarmer.com and Xerces.org for additional information on winter habitat protection as well as a wide range of gardening tips and topics.



DON'T FORGET...

DECEMBER MEETING...COOKIE EXCHANGE



You've probably participated in a cookie exchange (groan!), but this is a MODIFIED version. Each member, please bring just one dozen (that's 12) cookies to share with members. We will have containers for everyone to use for scooping your choices. Feel free to bring more, but if everyone brings just a dozen, we'll have enough left over to even feed Santa and his Elves.

Please bring your own coffee cup to help cut down on the trash that ends up in our landfills.

We look forward to a Yummy exchange!



BEWARE!!!



YELLOW-LEGGED HORNETS FOUND ON SKIDAWAY ISLAND

Submitted by Gayle Ridgway & Meg Kettlitz

In August 2023, the Georgia Department of Agriculture in coordination with the USDA and University of Georgia, confirmed the presence of yellow-legged hornets near Savannah. This is the first time a live specimen of this species has been detected in the US.

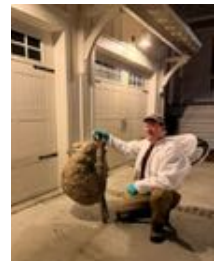
The yellow-legged hornet poses a threat to honeybees and other pollinators in our state. These pollinators play a significant role in Georgia's agriculture industry, the states main economic driver, and it is imperative these invasive pests are tracked and eradicated.

The public plays an important role in reporting sightings of this insect which is exactly what Gayle and Carl Ridgway did when they spotted some of the hornets. The DNR tracked and located the yellow-legged hornet nest across the street from their home in a 100 ft. pine tree. The DNR sprayed the nest to kill the hornets and then cut it down. The DNR has placed several traps around the island and the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture checks them regularly.

For more information, please check out the Georgia Department of Agriculture website: www.agr.georgia.gov. Once in the website, search for yellow-legged hornet and within the article there is a link to report a sighting.

*Please note: there are many domestic lookalikes that are native to the US and do not pose a threat to honeybees. If you have a questionable sighting, it's is always best to report to the Dept. of Agriculture to ensure we are keeping our beautiful island home free of these invasive insects.

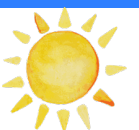
If you have additional questions, Meg Kettlitz is a certified UGA Specialist in invasive species - plants, insects, animals, etc...her contact information is in the annual year-book.



Hornet Trap



I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house. So, I have spent almost all of the daylight hours in the open air.
Nathaniel Hawthorne 1804-1864



Holiday Arrangements Submitted by Pat Barry



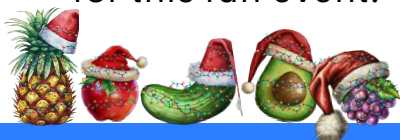
Please Plan to Attend... December 11, General Meeting for a Trompe l'oeil Floral Presentation

Trompe l'oeil (French: "deceive the eye"), is an artistic term for a highly realistic optical illusion that tricks the viewer into perceiving objects or spaces as real. At our December meeting, Pat Barry will feature a demonstration of this concept using faux and live fruits, vegetables, and flowers to create a pleasing and novel composition to the eye. You will learn how to utilize this technique in making lovely and interesting arrangements for the holidays and beyond.

Please join us for this lighthearted and interactive presentation. Several holiday arrangements incorporating the Trompe l'oeil technique will be on display for all to view and decide what is real and what is faux. Our floral designer is challenging you to find the faux items in each arrangement. Don't be fooled!



At the conclusion of the presentation, the arrangements will be raffled via silent auction starting at \$20 each, all proceeds will benefit The Landings Garden Club community projects. So put on your detective hat and join us for this fun event!



Serenity Garden Submitted by Vicky Kramer

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

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.



News from Across the Pond - Chelsea, England Submitted by Kathy Dole



It's not too early to make plans to attend the greatest flower show on Earth, the Chelsea Flower Show which is hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Each year more than 150,000 visitors travel to London's Royal Hospital to see the work of the most experienced nurserymen and designers whose creations represent the best in art and skill of horticulture. I was lucky to be one of those visitors in May, as was Lisa Hall. Lisa's hubby aptly described it as "Disneyland for gardeners".



Begun in 1913 and supported by the Royal Family, every year the show brings crowds to experience all things floral (including gardening tools and dress) along with amazing gardening inspiration and education. It was fantastic to see the enormous display of David Austin Roses and get advice for which roses might thrive in our hot, humid climate (fenced off from the deer). The Royal Entomological Society had a large staff on-site ready to answer numerous questions from simple to complicated.



Upon entering the Chelsea district of London, I was amazed at the phenomenal floral displays on storefronts. From Cartier to Ralph Lauren, each shop had a themed display highlighting their support for this spectacular event.



Several lessons learned from this year's show (highlighted in the RHS magazine September edition), focused on how we should rethink weeds. Specifically, we should consider adopting a more tolerant approach "towards pioneering plants, embrace their spontaneity and appreciate the impressive services they provide for pollinators and other wildlife. Many native butterflies and moths complete their life cycles on a limited range of plant species, including those often called weeds. The rewards, come summer, a graceful ballet of butterflies".



Another lesson is to "waste not, want not". The RHS made a commitment to ensure the afterlife of the show gardens. Every garden area for the show is being relocated to a hospital, public, or community space including all pesticides, plastic, and peat. Sara Price's Gold medal-winning garden was crushed, graded and repurposed as a mulch.



A final lesson learned is to "become an ecosystem engineer" by choosing pollinator friendly plants and flowers and include a range of habitats that welcome wildlife.

Be sure to put the Chelsea Garden Show on your calendar for May 2024. For more information about this show as well as other events, visit the Royal Horticultural Society website: rhs.org.uk



You're Invited...

Holiday Wine / Whine & Weeds

Tips for growing a Southern Winter Garden



Thursday, December 7 @ 6:00 pm

Gayle Ridgway's home - 26 Delegal Road

Please bring your favorite beverage and an appetizer to share

The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

Upcoming Events of Interest...



Saturday, November 18, 9:00 am, Botanical Garden 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah

Holiday Bazaar featuring holiday decor and local crafts for sale. Fully decorated trees, mantles, wreaths, garland. Crafts, quilts, and more! All proceeds benefit SACGC Botanical Children's Garden.

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am, Messiah Lutheran Church

Take a virtual tour of the Skidaway Audubon's Dave Scott Bluebird Trail with Brenda Ecken and Sarah Lucas. They will present the history of the Bluebird Trail and talk about the various birds that use these birdhouses as well as knowledge and resources we can use to have our own backyard bluebird houses.



For more horticulture information, check out these blogs:

*Linda Vater - topiary queen, has just moved to her new home & loves showing off her newly landscaped garden

*Growing in the Garden - with Angela in Arizona, great information

Holiday Baking Question...

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by it's diameter? Pumpkin Pi



Looking for gift ideas for fellow gardeners or yourself?
These catalogs are filled with lot's of ideas...

- *White Flower Farm*
- *Kinsman*
- *Gardner's Supply Company*
- *Terrain*



TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Karyn Rohan

The Landings Garden Club - Treasure's Report		November 2023
	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operations:	\$8,001.48	\$5,173.30
Ways & Means	\$5,622.53	\$9,044.64
		(Bow Sales to date \$2,118.88)

The Landings Garden Club, General Meeting Minutes: October 23, 2023

Submitted by Connie Gescheidt, Recording Secretary

General Membership Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2023 The Landings Garden Club
Called to Order at 10:000 AM by President Vicki Menke
Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Club of Georgia Collect
Executive Board Report

Treasurer: Report on Budget passed for review.

Recording Secretary: September Minutes published in the October Petal Pusher.

Corresponding Secretary: Thanked all for assistance with Heritage Luncheon.

Vice President: Assisting President

President: A bit of a crazy month personally, now improved. Thank you extended to the Committee Chairpersons. We would not be able to be a Club without you.

Communications Committees

Newsletter: Linda Moore has done a fantastic job pulling together the Petal Pusher. Vicki was able to publish the newsletter without consulting Susan Health for assistance this month.

Standing Committees Reports

Awards: Chairperson still needed. An alternative plan to be presented under New Business.

Birds & Conservation: Pam Patterson will be the new Chairperson.

Pg.2 LGC General Meeting Minutes: October 23, 2023

Civic Beautification

Bethesda: Continues to meet the 1st Thursday of the month. We added one new committee member and could use additional members.

Container Gardens: Many of the urns have been replanted and are being maintained by the committee on regular schedule.

Garden Gnomes (GG): Had a nice article in the newsletter. Fall planting has begun. GG will be going in a new direction and the plan will be presented under New Business.

Sparrow Field: Very colorful at this time of year. Many thanks extended to all of the Volunteers for assisting with garden maintenance.

Holiday Decorations: Sue Lomax is the Chair. Looking for storage bins with the decorations (Where are they?)

Village Library: Container gardens at library entrance are looking good. Fall/Winter planting pending.

Community Services

Community Service: Georgia Klautzer has returned and will speak at the membership meeting.

Done In A Day: Six Ladies helped Meg and Jayne plant Fall crops at the Farm.

Skidaway Farms: Fall crops have been planted. The watering schedule has been set. Still need a new Chairperson to head up the committee as Jayne will be stepping down at the end of this year.

Serenity Gardens: Committee working on this important project. Very disappointed that no one has stepped up to serve as Chairperson.

Club Operations

Design: Committee has been busy planning & preparing floral arrangements for the Heritage Luncheon. All agreed, the arrangements are fabulous.

Horticulture: Kathy Dole is moving, will stay as a member until 1/31/2024. We will need a new Chair. Everything has been completed for the current year. Meg Kettlitz will step in until a new chair has been determined.

Hospitality: Committee has planned and are prepared for the Heritage Luncheon which will follow today's General Membership Meeting.

Membership: The Chair met with her committee last week. We have five new members that have joined since September. The membership committee has welcomed new members and contacted them for their bio. The committee continues to hand out Yearbooks to all members at the check-in table and is requesting signatures to ensure all have been delivered. They began updating the Website along with a page for Landings directory. Forms & information on ordering name tags are available.

Programs: Barbara Victor has lined up a wonderful selection of programs for this year and next.

