



The Landings Garden Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

# Petal Pusher

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### General Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:30 - 10:00 Meet & Greet

10:00 - 10:45 General Meeting

10:45 - Program - Jayne Rogers

Grow and care of African Violets

Special Guest Speaker to join

Jayne with Camellia Waxing

demonstration.

### February - Field Trip

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

Meet at 9:30 AM to carpool for a Private Camellia Garden Tour.

Program Details: Anita Poole will

lead a Private Camellia Garden

Tour followed by a Waxing

Demonstration.

### March General Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:30 - 10:00 Meet & Greet

10:00 - 10:45 General Meeting

10:45 - Program - Meredith and

Chris Zipperer, Planting in the

Spring

### President's Message

Happy February,

I hope everyone managed to keep warm during our "big snowfall." While it may have been an inconvenience, it turned out to be a memorable time for all. My granddaughter and her friends spent the entire day playing in the snow. They transformed beach boogie boards into sleds and used sand toys to create snow castles. This is a week we will reminisce about for years to come.

Many of us had the chance to catch up on overdue projects, books we've been wanting to read, or TV shows. It was a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the rare beauty of snow in our coastal area. It also gave us time to worry about which plants might not survive. As Gayle mentioned in our last meeting, the best approach is to wait and hold off on any action for now.

February may be one of the shortest months, but it is also one of the busiest in the Deep South. Traditionally, it is wise to wait until after Valentine's Day, and then show your plants A LOT of love. Towards the end of the month, it's safe to prune, remove dead leaves, and refresh the soil. I always incorporate worm castings throughout my garden. However, I don't start feeding until March. Don't assume a plant is dead; most, except for tropicals, can weather a freeze and snow. If by April, you see no signs of life—such as green on the stems, new leaves, or budding—then feel free to dig it up. Instead of feeling sad about losing a plant, view it as a chance to try something new; as the British say, "just give it a go".

You won't want to miss our February meeting! Jayne Rogers will share her expertise on propagating African Violets, and Gayle Ridgway will take us on a virtual tour of Arizona's Cactus Botanical Gardens. On Wednesday, February 26, we will have a field trip to visit a private Camellia Garden and enjoy a waxing demonstration. We will carpool from the church for the short trip to the garden. Keep an eye out for all the details in your upcoming Evite, as this information differs from what's printed in the Purple Yearbook.

I have so much to tidy up in my garden and can't wait to get started. My garden is my sanctuary, where I find immense joy in the beauty that surrounds us. I'm usually there every morning, so please feel free to stop by for a chat and to exchange gardening tips. Attire is always casual, as the flowers don't mind what you look like; they seem to thrive regardless of my appearance.

Happy Gardening,  
Vicki

Inspire to Grow Through Beautification, Preservation, Conservation, & Education



# Horticulture

## Submitted by Jayne Rogers

### African Violets, Saintpaulia

**Origin is the Usambara Mountains of East Africa, close to the equator**

African violets are comfortable as houseplants in our homes with the following:

**Light:** South or West in Winter is best. Prolonged direct sunlight on leaves is not good. Bright, but not direct sun. Without enough light, the plant will not flower.

**Temperature:** 65- 70 degrees is ideal. Not below 55 or above 85

**Watering needs:** Moist but not soggy. Most plants die from overwatering. Don't use cold water; tap water should be left at room temperature for 30 minutes before watering. Don't allow water to stand on leaves. I prefer self-watering pots to prevent overwatering.

**Soil:** Potting soil expressly for African violets.

**Humidity:** Natural environment is humid, so it may be useful to grow on top of moist pebbles or in a terrarium. A steamy kitchen window works too.



Propagation by stem cutting

**Fertilizer:** Any good water soluble fertilizer made for African Violets. I use Jack's African Violet food. Use WEAKLY weekly for pots with drainage holes. For self watering pots, weakly when needed.

## Horticulture, pg. 2

### **Saintpaulia. African Violet, a Genus of 20 species, with over 2,000 cultivars**

National organization- African Violet Society of America ,  
[www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

Books of note:

African Violets by Tony Clements

The African Violet Bible by Christopher Makomere

The African Violet: America's Favorite House Plant  
by Helen Van Pelt Wilson and Leonie Hagert

## Serenity Gardens Submitted by Martha Nesmith

The Serenity Garden is looking great! As of now, there has been no cold damage reported. We recently added new ivy and viola to the three urns, and the ivy is starting to climb the trellises we reinstalled. The snapdragons are in bloom, bringing vibrant color to the garden. The waterfall is functioning again, and the fish are swimming happily. We plan to visit again in mid-February and are keeping our fingers crossed that everything has survived the recent snowfall and ice from late January.



## Sparrow Field Submitted by Dawn Cordo



The Pollinator Berm at Sparrow Field features a vibrant array of over 100 flowering plant species that draw nearly 200 documented pollinators, including bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies. Additionally, numerous bird species gather to nest in the nearby trees and thickets, creating a delightful chorus of birdsong.



With spring just around the corner, we are excited to resume our Friday morning "work party" and invite everyone to participate. If you're interested in joining our team for camaraderie, storytelling, and the sharing of gardening tips while getting your hands dirty for a meaningful cause, please contact Dawn Cordo at [cordodawn@gmail.com](mailto:cordodawn@gmail.com).

# Gardening Tips

Submitted by Pat Barry



## Managing Freeze Damaged Foliage and Plants

Savannah faced unprecedented snowfall and ice during the last week of January. For several days, temperatures barely exceeded 40 degrees, dropping to the low 30s at night. The kids had a great time on these snow days but our plants did not fare so well. This weather has taken a toll on our coastal ecosystem's flora, requiring us to exercise patience and perseverance. When the beloved foliage appears to resemble steamed vegetables, there's no need to lose hope. New growth is quietly waiting for warmer temperatures and abundant sunshine to break through.

Take a careful look at the entire plant or shrub. To determine if the woody branches are still alive, make angled cuts across the stem or branch and inspect the color of the interior flesh. If it appears black or gray, make another cut further back toward the trunk or larger stem. Look for the cambium layer beneath the woody bark, which will reveal a brighter, thin green layer between the outer bark and the center of the plant. Remove any dried or slimy leaves that seem rotten. The goal is to eliminate only the parts of the damaged plant that are beyond recovery, allowing healthier leaves and branches to remain in case of another cold snap before St. Patrick's Day.

After the holiday, be ready to fertilize with a slow-release granular product (I recommend Nelson Color Star). The injured plants and shrubs may take up to six months of warm weather to recover fully. Deep watering now will benefit all plants, both in the ground and in containers, helping to rejuvenate their root systems.

Good Luck and Happy Gardening!



## Skidaway Farms

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz



Our vegetable garden weathered the unusual ice and snow that Savannah experienced in mid-January. Although we lost one butter leaf lettuce, the rest of our plants thrived. The following week brought warm temperatures and sunny days, enabling us to harvest three cabbages and all the carrots. We also planted additional radish seeds. By mid-February, we plan to harvest the remaining kale and aim to plant our warm-season vegetables by the end of March.

If you're interested in helping with our warm-season planting or any other tasks at the garden at Skidaway Farms, please reach out to Meg Kettlitz.

The Farm...  
Snow Jam 2025!



*Skidaway Farms is a remarkable initiative focused on tackling hunger within our community. All the produce grown and harvested from the Landings Garden Club plot is generously donated to the Social Apostolate of Savannah.*

# Vice President's Corner

## Submitted by Gayle Ridgway

Welcome to 2025! Several of my friends participated in Dry January, and I'm not referring to dry white wine. In our household, I embraced the Whole30 diet, while my husband, Carl, made progress by reducing his snacking.

I'd love to share a nutritious salmon recipe that we often enjoy. It's also time to prepare my garden for spring and introduce some new herbs, which are easy to cultivate. Basil thrives in our climate and can elevate the flavor of many dishes. I hope you enjoy my recipes for February!

### Salmon Filets with Skin...3 Simple Cooking Methods - Grill, Skillet, or Oven Bake

- 2 thick salmon filets (recommended weight: 6-7 ounces per person)
- 1 lemon - juice and zest
- 2 tablespoons of brown mustard (or feel free to use your favorite mustard)
- Optional: 1/4 cup of white wine, plus a glass for the cook! (also optional)



Zest the entire lemon and evenly distribute the zest on top of the salmon filets, skin side down. In a bowl, mix the mustard, wine, and remaining lemon zest to create a paste. Spread this mixture evenly over the salmon filets. Squeeze fresh lemon juice on top and season with salt and pepper.

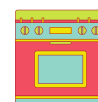
- Grill
  1. Arrange the salmon filets on an aluminum foil pan, folding up the edges about 1" to prevent juices from dripping onto the grill.
  1. Preheat the grill to high and place the salmon on it, closing the lid.
  2. Cook for approximately 20 minutes or until done (it's safe to enjoy salmon cooked medium or well).



- Stove Top Skillet
  1. Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a pan, adding salt and pepper. Heat until hot, then lower the temperature to medium-low.
  2. Place the salmon filets skin side down and cover with a lid until they reach your desired doneness.



- Oven Bake
  1. Lay the salmon on a piece of aluminum foil with the edges turned up 1 inch, then place it on a baking pan.
  1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and bake for 20 minutes or until fully cooked.



### Fresh Basil Pesto

- 2 cups fresh basil
- 1-3 cloves of garlic (adjust to your preference)
- 1 lemon: zest half and use the juice from the entire lemon
- 1/3 cup olive oil (I like to drizzle until a creamy texture forms)
- 1/2 - 3/4 cup parmesan cheese (choose your favorite; some can be quite strong for my taste)

1. Combine basil, garlic cloves, the juice of the whole lemon, half of the lemon zest, and parmesan cheese in a food processor.
2. Pulse to mix, then blend on and off for one minute. Gradually drizzle in olive oil until you achieve a creamy consistency.
3. Spoon the pesto into ice cube trays and freeze. Once frozen, you can remove the cubes and store in plastic bags for later use.

\*I prefer to skip the nuts, although many recipes include them; common options are pine nuts, walnuts, and pecans.

# The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

This and That, Tidbits of Interest...



**Look for Evides to CLUB EVENTS**  
**PLEASE RSVP - YES or NO**

**The Coastal Georgia Camellia Society**  
**Camellia Festival**  
**February 15 - 16**  
**Saturday 10 - 4 / Sunday noon - 4**  
**Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens**  
**2 Canebrake Road, Savannah**



**Donna Slappy**  
**made this beautiful**  
**arrangement from**  
**Camellia's from her**  
**garden...**  
**she went to the show**  
**a couple of years ago**  
**and is now hooked!**

**Georgia Native Plant Society**  
**Maritime Chapter Meeting**  
**March 8, 10:00 - 12 :00**  
**Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens**

**Coastal Wildscapes**  
**15th Annual Symposium**  
**March 1, 9:00 - 3:00**  
**Richmond Hill City Center**

**Coastal Wildscapes**  
**Spring Native Plant Sale**  
**April 5, 9:00 - 1:00**  
**Ashantilly Center, Darien**

## Sources for finding local Native Plants

**\*A Georgia Native Plants Guide - Tina M. Samuels**  
**The Georgia Native Plant Society - gnps.org**  
**Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health - Invasive.org**  
**Georgia Invasive Species Council - gainvasivespeciescouncil.org**



## Introducing... The Landings Garden Club BOOKSHARE presented by Pat Barry

Most members of the garden club have subscribed to magazines featuring beautifully illustrated depictions and intriguing articles covering various aspects of horticulture. Many have also acquired or received timeless books that are rich in description and vivid illustrations, making them too precious to discard. I possess several volumes of books and magazines that remain cherished yet unused, often resting on shelves or packed away in cardboard boxes.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to share this wealth of information among our club members? Once you finish with a periodical, consider returning it so others can enjoy it too.

Take a moment to explore your home for any books or periodicals that have been sitting idle, waiting to be revived by new readers. Bring your books to our monthly meetings for fellow members to peruse. Feel free to take a book for your collection and keep it as long as you like, or return it when you're done. Think of it as finding new homes for these valuable gardening treasures.



# Spring Time is Garden Time Save The Date...



**Field Trip**  
**Stan Gray's River of Irises**  
**Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens**  
**April 23, 2025**

**Explore one of the largest and most varied iris collections in the country, showcasing a breathtaking spring bloom that ripples with vibrant colors. Additional details will be included in the March newsletter...**

**For Garden Club members we are calling this  
The Year of Conventions!**

We hope you'll join us at one or all of these events.  
Click the pictures below to find out more about each convention.



*Charms of the South*  
**Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**  
March 11-13, 2025  
Valdosta, GA  
Rainwater Conference Center

*Hosted by The Garden Club of Georgia!*

**Register by 2/17/25 to avoid late fees.**



*Gather on the River*  
**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**  
**97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
April 29-30, 2025  
Augusta, GA  
Riverfront Marriott

**Register by 4/18/25 to avoid late fees.**

Links to registration are on  
the GCG website home  
page. Scroll down to view.



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Annual Convention 2025**  
May 18-22, 2025  
North Charleston, SC  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport  
Hotel & Convention Center

**Register by 4/20/25 to avoid late fees.**

To register for these Garden Club events, go to the home page of the  
GCG website: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Submitted by Karyn Rohan

The Landings Garden Club FEBRUARY 2025 - Treasure's Report					
	Beginning Balance	Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Year to Date	
Operations:	\$7,382.09			\$5,845.88	
Ways & Means:	\$8,298.04			\$12,077.30	
				\$890.35	Grants
				<u>\$11,186.95</u>	Balance Available

## The Landings Garden Club, General Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2025

### Submitted by Phyllis Aaron, Recording Secretary

Meeting began at 10:00 am. Vicki Menke was in Victoria, BC, so Gayle Ridgway ran the meeting.

The Pledge Of Allegiance was recited and a short prayer was read by Gayle.

#### President's Report:

Members were asked to pay their dues by the end of January. Place envelope in Susan Mason's tube or in Karyn Rohan's tube. Dues are \$40 for active members and \$50 for inactive members (those who don't wish to participate in volunteer activities).

**Treasurer's Report:** Printed in the Petal Pusher.

#### Recording Secretary:

There were no corrections to the minutes so they were accepted as published in the newsletter. Susan Mason welcomed our three guests, Gail Jordon, Barb Belucci, and Judy Anderson.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Community Service:

Georgia Regional Hospital is seeking donations of entertainment items for their patients. They have asked if we could schedule collection in May.

Soda tabs are collected every month for the Ronald McDonald House.

##### Skidaway Farm Project:

Meg Kettlitz reported the vegetables survived the last freeze. They just lost one head of lettuce. The soil temperature, which is important when planting, went from 55 degrees to 45 degrees because of the freeze. They have harvested 4 pounds of broccoli, 2.5 pounds of kale, and 3 pounds of cabbage. There remains 10 cabbages, lettuce, carrots, and kale to be harvested.



## Pg. 2 LGC General Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2025

### Horticulture:

Meg Kettlitz reported that they need volunteers to work on the garden tour that is being planned in April for our club. They are also working on a field trip with Stan Gray and his "River of Irises" also in April.

"Hort Short" was given by Sue Hamlet. She implored us to not use invasive plants in our gardens. Native plants feed the birds, reptiles, and insects. 95% of the birds raise their young on caterpillars and insects that feed on our native plants.

Yearbook: Lisa Hall volunteered to help this year with the Yearbook which will be compiled in May.

### **New Business:**

Our February meeting will be on Monday, February 24th.

Hospitality volunteers for February are Jen Johnson, Nancy Rosenthal, and Meg Schreck.

Pat Barry wants to start a book exchange and brought in some gardening books to start the process. She is hoping to find a place in the church to keep the books so she doesn't have to drive them back and forth.

We are going to sell the Narcissus Carlton daffodils again in September. This year we will order a larger quantity of bulbs as well as several different colors.

Field Trips being planned include a visit to an olive farm (1 1/2 hours away), miscellaneous garden tours, and a tour of the "River of Irises."

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

Sue Hamlet won the beautiful bouquet made by Connie Gescheidt in the raffle.

Barbara Victor introduced our program speaker Kat Erickson who spoke about the Savannah Tree Foundation and their active role to enhance our community.



## 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.



**The Landings Garden Club**  
*Is a Federated Club and a proud member of*  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
The Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.  
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.  
Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs

