



President's MessageDick Phillips

It's hard to believe it's mid-April already – what's that about how time flies when you're having fun?! Seriously, the first third of 2017 has passed by so quickly that I'm still wondering where it went. When I think about it, though, we've done so much with family in 2017 that a lot of the time flying by is accounted for by having the kids and grandkids visiting, getting ready for their visits, preparing meals, cleaning up after they've headed home, etc. With 5 kids, 4 in-law kids and 8 grandkids, we have a full house with all 19 of us staying in our home. We had the whole family here for Christmas and the first of the year, and each of the 5 families have come for different Spring Break times this Spring. For us, life doesn't get much better than that!

Like your gardens, ours have really come back to life, although with such a mild winter, a lot of annuals continued to bloom throughout the winter and nothing was “frosted” out. But these recent days in the 80s have pushed everything into a “blooming” mood. The butterfly weed and other milkweed-type flowers have begun to bloom, and I'm hoping the Monarch butterflies will find these flowers and create caterpillars and more Monarchs like they did last year. Also, we have a passion flower vine in the back yard, and these flowers are known to attract the brown fritillary butterflies, which we seem to have a lot of beginning in about July. Our two large brugmansia (Angel's Trumpet) stayed green during the whole winter, and a couple of days ago they started sending out their long buds, which started blooming just yesterday. Actually, I was surprised to learn the brugmansia isn't a flowering bush or plant as I had thought, but rather it is considered a mid-size tree! I should have suspected this in that the “branches” on the plant certainly look a lot like a “tree branch” rather than a branch from an azalea or other plant. But it is spectacular when it starts blooming as both plants will be full of large, up-side-down trumpet-shaped pink blossoms, and it seems to bloom throughout the spring and summer, and on into fall.

Our bluebird house is occupied again, and at this moment there are 5 eggs in the nest. The eggs are due to start hatching this weekend as it takes 14-15 days for the first hatchlings to break through. If everything goes as it usually does, we will have two more bluebird nestings in the house over the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you at our [general meeting on April 21, at Spring Lake Pavilion!](#) The program, [“What is Happening to our Bees?”](#), promises to be interesting for anyone who loves flowers and plants.

Horticulture.....Diane Middleton

April has again earned my admiration for being one of the very prettiest months on Hilton Head. Why anyone would take a trip now is beyond my comprehension. Except for a windy week the first of the month, it brought much needed rain at the same time. Roses are blooming beautifully along with larkspur and a few lilies.

All of our vegetables and herbs are growing rapidly, many of them in pots on the patio. Hydrangeas and gingers are putting out healthy new growth, and we are hoping the centipede lawns will come back after all the lovely green ryegrass dies back in hot weather.

This is the time to really enjoy your gardens as you finish up planting and begin weeding in earnest. Put on a big straw hat and loose clothing with a cool drink in one hand and a trowel in the other, and tell the man where to dig!

Feed spring flowering bulbs with a balanced fertilizer, and do not cut off any foliage until it is brown as it contains next year's blooms. Take your houseplants outside when the temperature is the same as inside. Mulch up to 3 inches everywhere to conserve moisture and prevent weeds. Keep mulch away from stems and trunks. Clean up fallen camellias and replace with new mulch to prevent diseases. Magnolias need this



new mulch to ease. Magnolias also.

Any questions? Call me at 843-384-0794 for instant answers.

Diane Middleton
dcmgard@aol.com



Jr. Gardeners



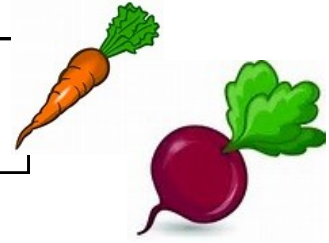
Our gardening program with the children started in late Feb. with 16-18 children! It is, of course, an after school program, so it is easy for parents to have the school day extended. It has been quite a challenge to keep them busy. Most of the children are from the 2nd grade and are eager to do everything! Somehow we have the spring garden planted and it is looking magnificent! Probably due to the wonderful young Grandmother who is at the school daily, loves to garden with us and keeps the water flowing. We are counting on some of the Avid Gardeners who said they could occasionally give us a hand—so if you get a call, please answer the call.!!!

We love to garden,,
Nadine and Sandy





APRIL'S HEALTHY RECIPES FROM ANNA BROECKER



BEET CARROT AND QUINOA SALAD

- 1 cup quinoa
- 2 cups water
- pinch salt
- 1 1/2 cups grated carrot
- 1 1/2 cups diced apple
- 1 cup dark raisins
- 1 cup sliced toasted almonds
- 1 cup toasted pumpkin seeds
- 1 bunch thinly sliced green onions
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups grated peeled beets

VINAIGRETTE

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- salt and pepper to taste

Quinoa is coated with saponin to protect the grain from insect and birds so wash until clear to avoid raw bitter taste

Cook quinoa with 2 cups of water, boil with high heat and then reduce to med/low and simmer partly covered for 10 to 15 minutes or until water is absorbed.

Combine everything except beets, drizzle with vinaigrette, toss and then add beets.



April TAG Meeting



Friday, 4/21, 9:30 am, Spring Lake Pavilion

Guest speaker, David Arnal, founder,
Bees Across America, LTD

“What is Happening to Our Bees?”

David will be selling honey.:

1 lb jar....\$8 or 2 for \$15



Can you guess which Avid Gardener and her hubby were seen attending a Hilton Head Symphony Under the Stars in their Flower Power best????

Gardeners Who Lunch



Friday, May 5th, 12:00 pm

This is your chance to get to know other Avid Gardeners

In a relaxed, casual setting...always fun!

Hope you can join us.

Contact Caroline Alderman for more details.

On Saturday, April 15, five Avid Gardeners gathered at our **Plant It Pink Garden** at Hilton Head Hospital at 11:00 am for some serious garden work. Sharon Jaunsem arrived with a flat of 15 new **pink pentas** and, along with Ann Gillen, planted them within the ribbon of **pink pots**. Nancy Renner weeded and replanted **pink ruella** around the perimeter of the garden. Sandy Stern weeded and took pictures of everyone at work. And Marge Gallagher pruned the blooming **pink knockout**





West Lowcountry District Awards for Avid Gardeners

1st place for President's Report

1st place for Yearbook

3rd place for Award #4, Horticulture—for Plant It Pink garden

1st place for Award #6 ,Best Program — for Standard Flower Show +\$25

2nd place for Award #7, Youth Award —for Special Youth exhibit at Flower Show

1st place for Award #14, Publication —TAG Talk newsletters +\$25

West Lowcountry District Awards for HHI Council of Garden Clubs

1st place for Award #9, Arbor Day Celebration +\$25

3rd place for Yearbook

Honorable Mention for President's Report



Lunch and Learn Program

From Sandra Educate, Lowcountry Master Gardeners

This will be our 7th year (or maybe it's our 8th if you count the year behind the oak tree!) of presenting this summer long series of lectures, classes and workshops. It has been an honor for me to produce this event every year and I'm always amazed at the talented Master Gardeners who present most of the classes. Talented professionals, too, donate their time and knowledge to this special program.

As usual, TV host Amanda McNulty will be on hand to host our final event of the year, "Keeping it Growing", our spoof of her wonderful TV program "Making it Grow".

Please contact Marcia Sullivan for a copy of the program and show your support of the LMGA by coming and "Lunching and Learning" beginning [Saturday, April 29th](#). Of course, we always have door prizes. You never know what will be donated.

See you at the gazebo at Port Royal Farmers' Market., Heritage Park, Port Royal

Saturday classes begin at 12:00 noon and are free...just bring a folding chair!



**If you haven't already done so, please pick up
your caladium bulbs from Corliss' front porch.
They are baking in the sun!!!**

Coming in May
**May garden tour and
annual End-of-Year luncheon and
installation of officers.**



Christine Thumm
thumms@aol.com
843-415-6809



Carol Sevelowitz
sevelcss@gmail.com
843-715-2248

Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of the month.