



TAG TALK

February 2016

President's MessageDick Phillips

A month ago in Tag Talk, I commented about what a spectacularly warm “winter” we had been having here on the Island, with daily temps from October to mid-January in the high 70s and low 80s. However, the past month or so has seen more normal temps, with a few nights down around 30, and some wind chill temps in the low 20s. We've been putting sheets on our ixoras, cardboard palms and ponytail palms on the nights where 32 or below is projected as HHI is right at the northern border where the ixora and these two tropical palms will survive our winters. Our two queen palms, also at their northern frost border, have to fend for themselves as they are 20' to 25' tall – a little too high for me to cover! In our coldest winters, the queen's fronds have turned brown, collapsed and fallen off. We keep our fingers crossed that the growth bud in the tree hasn't been frozen, and thus far over the past 8.5 years (except for one queen replaced by a “mule palm” - a more “cold tolerant” hybrid between a queen palm and a pindo palm), they've always come back by May/June. These colder temps have put a bit of a damper on the flower blooms all around our yard, and the crotons, cannas and coleus have taken a beating. That said, still blooming are the tubochina, African daisy, butterfly weed, “Wendy's wish” salvia, angel's fishing rod, purple and red geraniums, pentas, red and orange roses, pink and red camellias, red hibiscus, salvia, and a hydrangea that is just now sprouting a number of blue flowers at the top. Sometime in the next week or three, we'll be out there removing everything that has died back, and clearing the way for the spring flowers.

As you have probably noted in your yards, too, our azaleas started blooming in mid-January, and at this date, they are about 30% in bloom. We've never seen them bloom this early in our years on HHI, so very unusual indeed. Enjoy whatever early color you see on our wonderful Island, and hope for more to come!

I want to put in another comment regarding the Flower Show. Suzy Baldwin and her Committee have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to get things ready, and the show is going to be spectacular! I also want to again encourage everyone to enter some of your favorite plants and specimens as, after all, we are The Avid Gardeners!! If you are a new member of our club, this is a time to improve your horticultural and gardening skills, and this is also a time for our seasoned members to assist you with their knowledge of a federated Flower Show – what FUN!

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Meeting

Friday, February 19
Spring Lake Pavilion

9:30 am

“Everything You
Ever Need To Know
about Daylilies”

Hostesses:

Mary Jane Major
Edie Ward
Carol Wenk
Barb Holmes

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In our March program, Ann Clayton will do a powerpoint presentation of past TAG Flower Shows, which should be a nice trip down "memory lane", and we will focus on the what, when, why and how of entering your specimens in this April's Flower Show - it will be a blast!

Don't be ashamed to weep; 'tis right to grieve. Tears are only water, and flowers, trees, and fruit cannot grow without water. But there must be sunlight also. A wounded heart will heal in time, and when it does, the memory and love of our lost ones is sealed inside to comfort us."

Brian Jacques, Author, in "Taggerung" 2002

Birding.....Mary Jane Major



ARE THESE SOME GOOD LOOKING BIRDS, OR WHAT??? For weeks now, in Hilton Head Plantation's neighborhood, The Rookery, the fine artist, David Noyes has been painting a spinet piano to drum up interest in the upcoming early March piano competition. David Noyes has created "true to life" marvelous local birds, and the Harbor Town Lighthouse! Only seeing is believing!! Fellow TAG member, Hannah Obstler, snapped the attached photo of the Big bird, and those birds we Christmas Birders love!!

Do pop over to check out this work of art anytime until March 1st! You will find this artistic and nature-oriented creation located outside in the open air, under the white tent right in front of the Pink Art Gallery!! Do admire the artist's skill, and do stick your head in and thank the Pink Gallery owner!! Thanks to our Hannah, Sandy Stern, Doris Lindner, and Helen Rizzo for dropping in!!! It is a MAJOR happening....don't miss art & nature!!!



Harbinger of spring.....

Red maple flowers

Vicky McMillan.....Conservation

Horticulture.....Diane Middleton

We have had a few minor frosts this year including February 14, which damaged my white camellia blooms but little else. Looks likely that it will be warming again, but do not put out any tender annuals or veggies until our last usual frost date on March 15th.



If you know where to buy one, the Savannah Morning News on Saturday features beautiful garden photos and tips by Norman Winter. One of my favorite coneflowers that he wrote about is called Pow Wow Wildberry. It is very full of blooms over a long period of time, and is certainly worth ordering if you cannot find it at one of our nurseries.

A terrific tip that just came in from Master Gardener, Sandra Educate is to trim off the end of a bramble and insert it into a florist water holder full of Roundup. It will be taken down to the roots and kill the whole thing.



If anyone can use some (deer proof) Shasta daisies, I have loads to give away. Same for Larkspur.



This is the month to prune anything that does bloom in the Spring. You may take out up to one third of a plant each year if needed. Don't flattop anything. Prune roses and fertilize now. Plant new ones only where they can be protected from deer. Keep your daffodils watered or they will bloom on short stems. Begin fertilizing everything, paying attention to type and amount to use. Spray dormant oil with an insecticide where needed for scale. Transplant annuals such as Larkspur as they appear in your beds. Divide perennials.

Diane Middleton, Master Gardener



Save the Date
Flower Show
April 8, 9, 10, 2016



Good grief, ladies and gentlemen, our flower show is less than two months away! The flower show committee has been working hard in preparation but much is still needed to be done. The whole TAG membership is expected to participate in some way whether it be entering a design arrangement, horticulture from your yard, setting up tables and chairs, being a clerk, or a docent. The list goes on.

It's a busy, busy time for The Avid Gardeners but a fun and exciting time. It's a great time to get to know your fellow TAG members through participation in the flower show.

Ask your friends and neighbors to come to the show and see what The Avid Gardeners can do. If they need a gate pass and are thinking about coming they should email

theavidgardeners@gmail.com

and enter the name (or names) of those who might want to come to the flower show. Their name will get them through the HHP gate.

Information and sign up tables will be set up at Friday's meeting to answer questions and offer guidance.

Sarah Jebo, Flower Show Committee

The annual **Caladium** fund raiser sale is starting. Details and order forms to be available at Friday's meeting or contact Corliss Zampino at **corlissz@aol.com** or 843-681-6062



Flower Show Update

- Get involved with crafting. Contact Caroline Alderman to help make white paper flowers carolinealderman@roadrunner.com
- Consider helping with the Boutique. Contact Carol Sevelowitz at sevelcss@gmail.com
- For help with horticulture specimen IDs, email picture to the avid gardeners' at theavidgardeners@gmail.com
- Attend a class given by Olivia Ford fordlarryolivia@hargray.com
- Plan on attending the **Flower Show Preview party** on Saturday, April 9 open to all Avid Gardeners and guests. See all the ribbon winners before the show is opened to the general public.
- Save your empty **Perrier** bottles. Remove labels and bring them to the next meeting or to Dede Bethke, 30 Flagship Lane.
- Enter to create an artistic floral design. Help is available from “seasoned” flower show participants. Contact Dede Bethke dbethke@hargray.com

An Invitation from the Hilton Head Island Garden Club

ALL ABOUT BEES

At 1:00 on Monday, March 14th, the Hilton Head Island Garden Club will host an open meeting at the Community Room of the Palmetto Electric Building at 111 Matthews Drive. Master beekeeper David Arnal will discuss the importance of bees to our gardens, ecology, and our dinner tables. Mr. Arnal is a member of the Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association and the Beaufort-Jasper Beekeepers Association.

The public is invited to attend, but attendees are requested to RSVP to Beth at bethandpeter@neshq.com. There is no charge. All attendees should park in the back of the building.

TAG Design Workshops

“Plant New Ideas-Let’s Blossom Together”

Rationale: Why are we having design workshops?
To educate members on floral design
To provide an outlet for creative expression
To study the Elements and Principals of Design
To stimulate an interest in flower arranging for the home and for entries in our Flower Shows

Date: February 26, 2016

Format: Workshop class #2

To be held at the home of Olivia Ford, 6 Ribaut Dr.
At 10:00 AM
Sign-up at the general meeting or call Olivia Ford(785-7144) or Nadine Korosi (689-5156)
Cost \$10.00 for flowers and supplies (oasis)
12 students maximum

Class #2

Answer Questions on Table Designs
Discuss the Design Principal of Scale
Demonstrate a Functional Breakfast Tray
Make a **Design “in the Oriental Manner”**

What to Bring:

Small, circular oasis holder (call if you need to buy one)
Scissors or clippers and tape measure
Small green plants to cover oasis
Optional: a container to hold your Design

Flower Show, Artistic Floral Design Division

“Fleurs des Intimité”

Eligible for the Award of Design Excellence

Section A: *“Amuse Bouche”*

Eligible for the Table Artistry Award

Class 1. “Tête-à-Tête”

4 entries

An Intimate repast with someone special. Informal, yet thoughtfully planned to the last detail. The perfect setting for delightful conversation over a memorable meal.

A Functional Café table for two. 30” round 30” high table with white cloth to the floor. (Table and Cloth provided)

Class 2. “Ma Chérie d’ Amore”

4 entries

The height of decadent extravagance...breakfast in bed! As you blink the sleep from your eyes, your lover appears with a beautiful tray, just for you. No pledge of undying love necessary...this says it all.

A Capsule-Functional Breakfast in Bed on a tray of your choice, no more than 28” by 16”. To be displayed on the fireplace hearth 15” high.

Class 3. “Chocolat ”

4 entries

A chick flick with the girls, celebrating your love affair with the movie “Chocolat”...and Johnny Depp too.

A functional buffet table for 4. Presented on a table 24” deep X 48” long table, 38” tall with a white table cloth. (Table and Cloth provided)

Section B: *“C’est si bon*

Eligible for the Tri-Color Award

All fresh plant material, No dried material or wood

Class 4. “Orient Express”

4 entries

The Orient Express from Paris to Constantinople evokes exotic images and opulent settings...the ultimate fantasy adventure.

A floral design in the manor of Traditional Oriental Style. Arrangement no larger than 18” deep and wide staged on a 30” tall white cloth covered table. (Table and Cloth provided)

Class 5. “La Vie en Rose”

4 entries

A rose by any other name...throughout the ages, the symbol of romance and love...classic and beautiful.

A Traditional mass design including roses. Staged on a 40” tall white pedestal with a 12” square top to be viewed from all sides. The pedestal is not incorporated in the design, but must be considered for the proportion of the design.

Class 6. “Joie de Vie”

4 entries

This incredible single bloom...intimately viewed up close so that every exquisite detail is revealed. Inspiration and interpretation come together in a magnificent floral creation.

Each of the Creative Line designs in this class will stand next to and compliment one of four of Sharon Jaunsem’s photos. Design must not exceed 18” deep and 22” wide staged on a 30” tall white cloth covered table. (Images, table and cloth provided)

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Section C: "Clair de Lune"

Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award

Class 7. "Ambiance"

4 entries

A romantic chandelier provides a delightful element of surprise in your garden room...a bit of whimsy, another charming layer of design. Let your imagination run wild. A type II hanging kinetic design chandelier. Not to exceed 30" round or 26" tall. Free-standing and hung from ceiling to be viewed from all sides.

Class 8. "Ménage à Trois"

4 entries

Three distinct elements...residing in harmony or perhaps playful tension...achieving a pleasing whole, more exciting and dynamic together than individually.

A Creative Parallel Design with 3 elements. No larger than 18" deep and wide. To be staged on a 30" tall white cloth covered table. (table and cloth provided)

Class 9. "Réflexion de la Lumière"

4 entries

Reflection and light...playful or dramatic...a poetic dance in design.

A Creative Reflective design with a reflective component. To be staged on a 30" tall, white cloth covered table. (table and cloth provided)

Council News



On February 2, the Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs held election of officers for the upcoming year. They are as follows: President, Sarah Jebo, Vice-President, Terri Konrad, Secretary, Beth Evans, and Treasurer, Rosemary Kratz.

Besides our own Flower Show, two noteworthy events in the near future are the Herb Society's herb sale to be held April 9 from 10-12 at Shelter Cove and a flower show by the Sea Pines Garden Club to be held April 1-2 at the Sea Pines Community Center.

The locations of Heritage Oaks within Sea Pines have been identified by resident, John Parsons, and a map of the area is available from Sea Pines CSA to anyone interested.

Volunteers are needed for spring cleanup work at the Xeriscape Garden. Details to follow.

Christine Thumm, Council Representative

Website: hhicgc.org

Member password: **hhicgc1989!**

February's Healthy Recipe from Anna Broecker

SWEET KALE VEGETABLE SALAD

- 4 cups shredded and chopped curly kale
- 2 cups thinly sliced Brussels sprouts
- 1 cup broccoli match sticks
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup roasted and salted pepitas (the inside kernel of the pumpkin seed)
- Optional" shredded red cabbage, chopped endive, zucchini match sticks

DRESSING INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise (for vegan, vegenaïse)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar (I used fig infused white balsamic)
- 1 tablespoon honey (or maple syrup)
- 2 teaspoons poppy seeds
- pinch salt



Toss all the greens with the dressing
Put the cranberries and pepitas on top and mix slightly
Enjoy!

Description:

"A healthier fresh version of the Sweet Kale Vegetable Salad Kit from Sam's Club"

Many of you requested the next 2 recipes from last month's meeting

ST. LOUIS DEEP GOOEY BUTTER COFFEE CAKE

- 1 Yellow Cake Mix (not butter or pudding)
- 1/2 cup Butter, melted
- 2 Eggs

Mix together above ingredients. Pat into well greased & floured 9X13 pan.

- 8 oz. Cream Cheese, room temp
- 1 lb. Powdered Sugar
- 2 Eggs, beaten

Spread over bottom layer, sprinkle with additional powdered sugar. Bake 40 to 45 min at **350'** until top is golden brown.

Freezes well or stays fresh several days
From Suzy Baldwin

Glad you like our families favorite coffee cake. we don't have a family holiday without it. I and my parents were born in St Louis. We had a bakery down the street named Lublies (sp). When we were moving to Chicago my mother convinced the owner to give her the recipe. They shortened the prep for her by starting with a cake mix.

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EGG BROCCOLI BAKE

3 cups broccoli or zucchini
 1 cup Bisquick
 ½ cup Onion chopped
 ½ cup Parmesan cheese
 2 Tbs. parsley
 ½ Tsp. Oregano
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ cup oil
 4 eggs, beaten

Put all in a greased 9 x 13 pan
 Bake at 350 F. for 20-25 min.

From Nadine Korosi



Coming in March

Reaching for the Blue (Ribbon)

Tips and Advice from club members for
 the upcoming Flower Show
 Including a Power Point Presentation
 by Ann Clayton
 of past TAG Flower Shows

March 18 9:30 am
 Spring Lake Pavilion

Hostesses: Peg McCann, Sally Price, Pam Riebesell, Gail Ladwig

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 Friday of the month.