



## TAG TALK

March 2017

### *President's Message.....Dick Phillips*

Like most everyone, I've gotten kind of used to a "very mild winter" this year, but as I sit here writing this message in the early afternoon on March 12, it's cloudy, breezy and 46 right now, or 41 with the wind chill! We were planning to work in the gardens this afternoon, but I think we'll wait a day or so and let it warm up a bit.

In a couple of earlier President's Messages, I've emphasized that aspect of the TAG By-Laws regarding membership and meeting attendance. These By-Laws were written many years ago, and with regard to general TAG meetings, require that to stay in good standing, members should attend 5 of the 10 meetings that occur each year. This seems to most of us to be a reasonable requirement, and speaking for myself, I always enjoy the meetings very much, whether it be a guest speaker or a field trip somewhere, and the only meetings I've missed over the past 6 or so years is when travel has prevented me from attending a meeting. The primary negative for members who don't try to make at least the 5 minimum meetings in a year is that TAG always has a "wait list" of potential new members who can not come on board until a member moves, or for some other reason drops out of TAG. Please consider this if you are a member who really isn't all that sure of whether or not you want to continue your membership in TAG

All the warm weather this winter has really brought an early bloom to the azaleas all around HHP! It always makes me think, "It's looking like Augusta National here on HHI!", Augusta National being the home of one of golf's most prestigious tournaments – the Masters, which is generally the first week of April and the week prior to HHI's own Heritage Golf Tournament.

Hope to see you at Friday's Palmetto Bluff outing, which promises to be interesting and a lot of fun!

*Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.* Luther Burbank – botanist, horticulturalist, pioneer in agricultural science. 1849-1926



Meeting Friday, *Mar 17*, 2017

**9:30 am**

**Field trip to Palmetto Bluff**

*Meet at Plantation House*

*Horticulture.....Diane Middleton*

March tiptoed in like a lamb, but is roaring its head off on Sunday. I'm sure the St. Patrick's Day parade goes and participants appreciated no rain falling as was predicted, but we were disappointed that Mother Nature contributed no moisture to our very thirsty landscape. After a rather warm winter, our expected last day for frost is doing exactly that-predicting temperatures in the low 30's for March 15<sup>th</sup>!

The snapdragons have been the prettiest ever for months when some years they did not bloom until now. Cut yours back when the blossoms are spent, and feed them with a little osmocote or Miracle Gro for continued bloom until hot weather knocks them out.

Continue dividing perennials to share with friends. I have plenty of Shasta daisies and bearded iris to share. Just call my cell at 843-384-0794 if you want any. Plant summer flowering bulbs now including gladiolas every two weeks for a long season of bloom.



Use new soil for planting pots. Try to find soil that does not contain fertilizer when planting herbs as they do better in leaner conditions. Use only palm fertilizer on sagos, and watch for scale.



Photo courtesy of Diane Middleton

Diane Middleton, master gardener  
[dcmgard@aol.com](mailto:dcmgard@aol.com)

## *Birding.....Mary Jane Major*

Mother nature sure has pulled a "fast one" on our plants and creatures this year, sending in a rash of warm, even hot air! Back in February while playing golf on our plantation, imagine my shock to see vivid bright blue male Bluebirds, flipping around in the trees and open fields in small groups. That bright intense "mating season blue" is easy to spot, and signals that mating season is about to take place. Needless to say, this is very early, and we hope that a blast of cold weather does not set back our plants or the mating/nesting season.

Patti Peacock and Liz Morrison are Audubon members, who attended the Bluebird presentation recently in early March at the Palmetto Electric Company, so if you have any Blue Bird questions, do ask them!!

Whenever you are out in nature, make a special effort to observe all aspects of nature, for many a surprise may brighten your day! For example, check out Pam Schofield's photos of finches who have returned this year to drink again from her hummingbird feeder! They obviously love that sweet water!!



Speaking of Pam Schofield, we were partners on the courts at CCHH last week, when 4 Northern Cardinals were flitting about in the Crepe Myrtle trees! Just imagine! "Birding while playing tennis"!! I had never before observed the male Northern Cardinal's "dance of intimidation" against other males, or the "dance love" by the Northern Cardinal. Watch for the male feeding his lovely female during courtship! Both male & female sing anytime of the year. In the spring of the year listen for its "whata-cheer-cheer" territorial call in spring!! Very territorial in spring, it will fight its own reflection in a window....I have even observed a female attacking its own image on my Ford Explorer's rear view mirror! On your house window, it will drive you crazy mad!!!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Saturday, May 20 10-4

***30<sup>th</sup> Annual All Saints Garden Tour***

Seven beautiful gardens  
 Lunch and boutique at the church  
 \$35

Tickets on line beginning April 1  
[allsaintsgardentour.com](http://allsaintsgardentour.com)  
 843-689-9495  
 Tickets at vendors beginning April 17

*Council News.....Christine Thumm*

Two TAG members have graciously stepped forward to serve as officers of the HHI Council of Gardrn Clubs. Ann Clayton will assume the duties of the president of the Council and Olivia Ford will serve as vice-president. The next Council meeting will take place on May 1 at the HHI Library.

**Belk Department Store Spring Charity Sale**  
 April 29 from 6 - 10 a.m.

As a TAG fund raiser, we are selling tickets to this event. We keep 100% of the proceeds from every ticket sold. Customers receive 15%-70% discounts storewide during the sale. Each ticket purchased can be redeemed for \$5 off your first purchase during the sale.

If unable to attend on April 29, you may reserve your merchandise for the event beginning April 20.

Contact Olivia Ford for tickets (cost \$5)  
 843-785-7144  
[fordlarryolivia@hargray.com](mailto:fordlarryolivia@hargray.com)

*Healthy Recipe.....Anna Broecker*

## PUMPKIN BREAD PUDDING

Serving Size : 8

1¼ cups pumpkin puree (a little over ½ of a 15-ounce can)

1 cup unsweetened plant-based milk

½ cup 100% maple syrup

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

2 tablespoons cornstarch

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

¾ teaspoon ground ginger

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

¼ teaspoon ground allspice

? teaspoon ground cloves

8 slices stale whole wheat bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 6 cups)

½ cup golden raisins



Preheat the oven to 350°F. Have ready an 8 x 8-inch nonstick or silicone baking pan.

In a large bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, plant-based milk, maple syrup, and vanilla. Add the cornstarch, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice, and cloves and whisk well. Stir in the bread cubes and raisins, and toss to coat completely.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan. Bake for 25 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and firm to the touch. Serve warm.



## The History of TAG's *Plant it Pink* Garden

TAG's award winning '*Plant it Pink*' garden located on the grounds of Hilton Head Hospital was created to promote the awareness of breast cancer. The Garden Club of South Carolina and the National Garden Club encouraged garden clubs throughout the country to create '*Plant it Pink*' gardens using pink cultivars to support the fight against breast cancer.

TAG accepted the challenge and collaborated with Hilton Head Hospital to approve a site for our garden. A mutual site was selected on Hospital Blvd., across from the main building. The project's Co-chairs: Sandy Stern, Rosemary Kratz and Sharon Jaunsem, then approached local businesses with our plan and requested donations. Lowe's came through with supplies and the Greenery donated the original flowers.

Then came the work phase. TAG members worked on the site, tilling, raking and leveling the mound of dirt to get it ready for the planting. Other members spray-painted the 140+ flowerpots to be placed upside-down on the site in the shape of a ribbon.

A dedication ceremony took place in September, 2010. Several member's of the Garden Club of South Carolina attended, as did other honored guests. Our garden was written up in *The Island Packet* and *Pink* magazine as well as interviews on local news featuring Sandy and Sharon.

Through the years the flowers had to be replaced and Bruno's Landscaping was requested to contribute. They did and have continued to do so selling us plants at a discount. The Knock Out roses are contributions from TAG, The Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs and Bruno's.

A lot of time went into the effort of this TAG project, which has won National Garden Club, GCSC and West Lowcountry awards. Nowadays, the garden is regularly maintained by TAG members: Marge Gallagher and her husband Steve, Ann Gillen, Sharon Jaunsem, Rosemary Kratz, Jo McReynolds, Nancy Renner and Sandy Stern. All members are welcome to volunteer their help in maintaining our '*Plant it Pink*' garden, especially newer members.



## *Jr. Gardeners*



Photos of students in the after school Jr. Garden Club working in the garden and tasting the veggies they picked: kale, Swiss chard, red and white cabbage. Students liked the cooked kale the best.



Students using magnifying glasses as they dissect azaleas to learn the parts of a flower.



Photos courtesy of Sandy Stern



## *Coming in April*



### What Is Happening to Our Bees?

A presentation on the process of keeping bees and  
a discussion of "colony collapse disorder"  
by local beekeeper, David Arnal

Meeting at Spring Lake Pavilion 9:30 am

*Hostesses: Sandy Stern, Liz Van Alstyne, Nadine Korosi*

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