



TAG TALK

May 2017

President's Message.....Dick Phillips

TAG's annual "Tour of Gardens and Installation of Officers Luncheon" meeting will be this Friday, May 19. Sadly for me, I will not be in attendance at this important meeting. Happily for me, I will be in Italy instead of SC! For the past 53 years, Mary Ellen has always gotten a "surprise trip" as a "stocking stuffer" Christmas gift. However, this past Christmas she unexpectedly got two surprise trips, rather than one. The first we did in February, and that was a 10 day Southern Caribbean cruise (I know – tough duty, but someone has to do it!). The second is a 10 day trip to Italy – a "bucket list" trip for Mary Ellen. In addition to Rome, the Amalphi Coast, Capri and Pompeii, we will also spend a few days in Foggia on the Adriatic side to visit her dad's birthplace, and to see if there are any Benedetto's or DiBenedetto's still in the city. As I said, a "bucket list" trip, indeed!

As spring has unfolded, it's been amazing to see how all the flowers and plants have taken off. In my message last month, I mentioned how our 2 brugmansia "trees" (Angel's Trumpet) were full of flower buds. Now, both trees have been covered in huge pink and white blooms for over a week, and the best part is after the blooms fall off, the trees will start setting out new blooms, and so it will go all summer and fall.

Another interesting thing in the back yard has been watching our Bluebird family develop. Four babies hatched on April 17, and true to form, they all fledged on May 6 – a typical 18–19 days from hatching to fledging for Bluebirds. The adults will do two more nestings this spring and early summer, and as usual, I will continue every day to put a dozen or so live mealworms in a cup attached to the bird house pole to ensure the Bluebirds will continue to call our backyard "home".

I will look forward to seeing everyone at our final luncheon on June 16. I also should say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your President the past two years, and I look forward to many more years of fun and activities with The Avid Gardeners!

"God will reward you", he said. "You must be an angel since you care for flowers." Victor Hugo

Meeting Friday, May 19, 2017
9:30 am
 Meet at Plantation House for carpooling
Tour of Gardens
 Followed by Installation of Officers Luncheon
 SC Yacht Club 12:00

Horticulture.....Diane Middleton

Holy smokes, it's the middle of May! Where did April run off to? If you do nothing else this week, go see Pia Cannon's garden. What she has accomplished in twelve years is astonishing. Plus she lost nine trees, but her numerous flower beds are flourishing and probably welcome more sun.

In my gardens the snapdragons and gladiolas are colorful along with coreopsis, brown-eyed susans and zinnias just beginning to bloom with scores of sunflowers everywhere. Stokesia and salvia are begging to be cut for bouquets as well as larkspur which deer don't eat. The roses have never stopped.

Continue deadheading flowers to promote more blooms. If you plant or transplant anything this month, do it on a cloudy day or provide some shade. Check your irrigation system to make sure it is working. Every third day is best, but most pots require daily watering.

Remember the Farmers Market right here in our plantation is selling beautiful flowers and very fresh produce on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 in May and June. Hope to see you there each week!



Diane Middleton, master gardener at dcmgard@aol.com

Birding.....Mary Jane Major

MaryJane has left the island for cooler temperatures up North but she wanted to share this video with from YouTube. Its about a man rescuing an owl which was wrapped in fishing line. Just copy the link, paste it into your web browser, hit enter and view the story with a happy ending.

https://youtu.be/O5PJAucO_Z8

See you in the fall, MaryJane.

Council News.....Christine Thumm

On Monday, May 1 a Council meeting and luncheon with installation of officers was held at the Palmetto Hall Clubhouse. Officers for the upcoming year are President, Ann Clayton; Vice President, Olivia Ford; Secretary, Beth Evans; and Treasurer, Rosemary Kratz.

In March of 2018, The West Low Country District Meeting will be held on Hilton Head Island. Organizers are hard at work deciding on how best to showcase our beautiful island. Details to be announced in the fall.

Information on programs held by the clubs throughout the year was shared. More details can be found on the Council's website. Flowers by Sue has a new owner who is interested in working with the garden clubs and might be available for presenting a program.

The maintenance of the island's xeriscape garden is an ongoing Council project. The garden was named in honor of Betsy Jukofsky who is an honorary member of The Avid Gardeners. Rosemary Kratz has taken over the responsibility of keeping the garden weed free and organized and she can certainly use your help on Tuesday mornings. Come every Tuesday or come once in a while. Stay an hour or more or less. It's up to you, but please consider lending a hand. Rosemary's number is 843 681-2670.

Council Website: www.hhicgc.org

Member Password: **hhicgc1989!**



Luncheon & Chef Lucier Demo at the SCYC
 Noon - 2:00
 May 19, 2017
 10 Yacht Club Drive, Windmill Harbor
(Valet parking provided)

Menu: Select one
 Grilled Chicken or Grilled Salmon

Both served with mixed artisan greens, pickled onion, heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, candied pecans, carrot ribbons and champagne vinaigrette.

Provided:

Fresh baked Bread & Butter
Chocolate Mousse with berry compote
Soft Beverages

Price:

\$26.00 per person by **May 15, 2017**

Name

Choice: Choose one

Salmon. _____

Chicken _____

Enclosed is my check for \$26.00 made out to TAG

Mail to or drop off to Mary Ellen Harkins - box in courtyard of home
3 Old Fort Lane
HH, SC 29926

**List of Garden Clubs of SC Awards presented to
The Avid Gardeners 2017**

First Place - Yearbook

First Place – President’s Report

First Place - Plant-it-Pink Garden + \$25

First Place - Publication (TAG Talk) + \$25

First Place - Website + \$25

Achievement Award for Standard Flower Show nominated for
National Garden Club Award # 5C



South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs Award

Certificate of Recognition for Club Newsletter

Submitted by Sandy Stern
TAG Awards Chairperson
May 2017

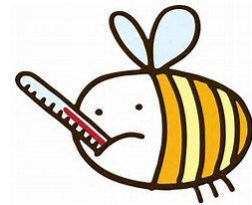
Great news!

Box Stores Continue to Phase Out Neonicotinoids

Lowe’s joins BJ’s, Wholesale Club, Home Depot, and several plant nurseries in phasing out the sale of products containing neonicotinoid pesticides.



Lowe’s announcement includes a promise to include more organic products, encourage customers to use biocontrol options, and provide more consumer and employee education.



An invitation from the Beaufort Garden Club:

We hope you'll join us when the Beaufort Garden Club presents its Annual Garden-A-Day tour of five private gardens, June 5-9, 2017, Rain or Shine. Admission to the gardens is free!

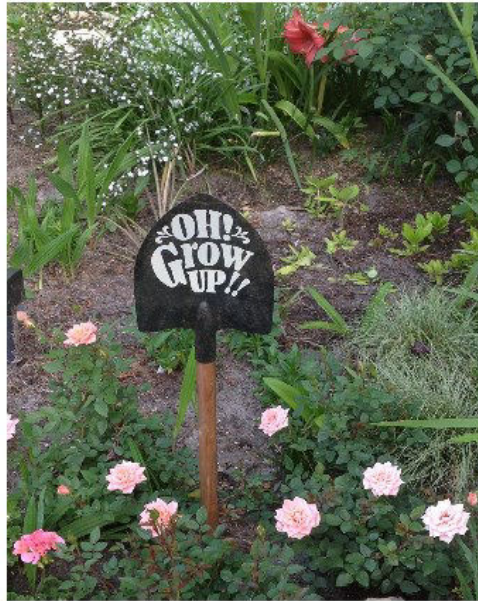
A different garden will be open each day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Most have been planned, planted and cared for by the homeowners. These passionate gardeners appear to have been all over the map, searching out the rare and exotic in the Southern states. And what they couldn't find in plant form, they found in seed catalogs and grew themselves. Each year, Certified Master Gardener members of the Low Country Master Gardener Association will be on hand to help identify plants and answer questions. It has become a social event kicking off Summer in Beaufort.

Please visit their website for more information: [www: beaufortgardenclub.com](http://www.beaufortgardenclub.com)

*Tour lovely private gardens during
The Beaufort Garden Club's 23rd annual*

GARDEN A DAY

June 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2017



Monday thru Friday **9:30-12:30** *Rain or Shine*

It's FREE!

JUNE 5th	500 Port Republic Street	The Point, Beaufort
JUNE 6th	45 Stuart Town Court	Spanish Point, Beaufort
JUNE 7th	16 Settler's Cove,	Bluff Farm, Lady's Island
JUNE 8th	1210 15th Street	Port Royal
JUNE 9th	100 Green Winged Teal	Walling Grove Plantation, Lady's Island

Junior Gardeners.....

We are winding down the gardening program with the 16 Junior Gardeners at the School for Creative Arts.



We were delighted and surprised by the original art project created for each of us!! This year was a challenge for us with so many students, however they were eager to do everything! Keeping 32 hands busy kept us busy. We are so appreciative of the two adult school helpers who were dependable and eager to assist.

The gardens have been very productive, allowing the children to taste vegetables they planted. These were radishes, lettuces, potatoes, kale, cabbage and cucumbers. The children were so excited to see and taste food they raised. It's too bad school will close before the beans, tomatoes, eggplant, and blueberries will be ready for harvest.

The Butterfly Garden is bursting with colorful flowers in anticipation of the butterflies that second grade classes will release next week. The Jr. Gardeners enjoyed watching the garden change from February to May. They helped plant, water, weed and prune the large variety of annual and perennial plants and now they appreciate the results of their efforts.

We will close the year with a narrated field trip around the Island given by Irv Campbell of Gullah Tours. He talks about growing up on Hilton Head and places where the youth found their fun.

Sandy



Nadine

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, May 20 10-4

30th Annual All Saints Garden Tour

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

Tickets on line beginning April 1
allsaintsgardentour.com
843-689-9495
Tickets at vendors beginning April 17

Coming June 16



Picnic

Details to follow

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