



# TAG TALK

March 2018

*President's Message.....Caroline Alderman*

## It's Spring in the Low Country! WooHoo!!!

I lived in the Midwest half of my life...Spring tiptoed in. I would search my barren beds daily, anxiously trying to spot the little green shoots from my perennials...a promise of the glory to come.



On Hilton Head, Spring explodes! Seemingly over night, we have a riot of blooms...dogwoods, bradford pears, redbuds and the azaleas...arguably the stars of the show. These are followed by the jasmine, jessamine and wisteria. My amaryllis from all those TAG fundraisers are budding. The many crown of thorns on the deck continue to bloom. This often overlooked plant (could be all those thorns) never stops. They bloomed under my sheets during the Big Freeze and like the energizer bunny, they just keep on going. My geraniums also came through the freeze beautifully. I will plant more geraniums this year, since I keep searching for plants that continually bloom and survive the winter. I put in a bunch of knock out roses (again constant bloom and low maintenance) and Amiga Plants, generously shared by friends in TAG. There will be room for new plants...better cultivars of old favorites and delightful surprise "must haves" to entice us at the nurseries.

So, another gardening season begins. We will nurture the plants that survived the winter and replace the ones that succumbed. We are a resilient bunch... striving for perfection in our beloved gardens and realizing that Mother Nature undoubtedly has a few surprises in store for us.

Caroline



Meeting, 9:30 am  
Friday, March 16  
Spring Lake Pavilion  
"New Plants for Spring"  
details pg. 11

## *Horticulture.....Diane Middleton*

Azaleas are blooming like mad along with camellias and Carolina jessamine trailing high into my hedgerow and up to the top of a tall magnolia that was started from a seed scattered about 20 years ago. Spirea and forsythia are blooming heavily – no doubt appreciative of more sun since some large pines in the back came down during Hurricane Matthew.



The last frost date fell on Thursday of this week, but we expect nights in the 30's until then. Virtually all plants except my Tibouchina Tree came back from the freezing temperatures in January. Dutch Iris are beautiful at the farm.

Continue dividing perennials to share with friends. I have plenty of shasta daisies and bearded iris if you want any. Just call my cell at 843-384-0794. Plant summer flowering bulbs including glads every two weeks for continuous bloom. Use new soil for planting pots. Try to find soil that does not contain fertilizer for planting herbs as they taste better in leaner conditions. Use only palm fertilizer on sagos, and watch for scale.



Diane Middleton, Master Gardener,  
[dcmgard@aol.com](mailto:dcmgard@aol.com) or 843-384-0794

The Board has voted to increase dues for TAG from \$25 to \$30, effective for the 2018-19 Club Year. The Garden Club of SC has increased our yearly dues per member by \$2, which would leave an extra \$3 to go into our TAG treasury.

## *Plant-it-Pink*

On Sunday, March 11th at 10:00 am seven Avid Gardeners met at *Plant-it-Pink* Garden to begin restoring it back to health. For two hours, club members, Sharon Jaunsem, Marge Gallagher, Helen Rizzo, Sarah Jebo, Hannah Obstler, Louise Gorny, and Sandy Stern worked to clean up the garden and plan for future work-days.



As they pruned ruellia, removed dead pentas, fertilized rose bushes, removed pine straw and debris, the ladies began to make plans for re-painting the pink pots, ordering new plants and setting up a weekly schedule for watering the garden.

Once the garden was cleaned up, Marge watered and the rest of us simply 'supervised!' Thanks to all who volunteered, a clear case the old adage , "Many hands make light work."



- Sandy



Photos by Sandy Stern

Please visit the Avid Gardeners' Website. We have a new feature labeled "Gallery" among the tabs on the Home page. If you have additional photos we can use, please email them to me at [thumms@aol.com](mailto:thumms@aol.com)

Website: [theavidgardeners.org](http://theavidgardeners.org)

Chris Thumm  
Website Chair

## *Council News.....Christine Thumm*

Spring Meeting of the West Low Country District  
 Palmetto Hall  
 Wednesday, March 21  
 Theme: Spring into the Low Country

The deadline for registering is here. In case you overlooked it, you might still be able to attend. Contact Sarah Jebo at 843-681-7205 as soon as possible.

It promises to be a very interesting day. Our council, Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs, is this year's host for the District meeting. The District is comprised of 44 federated garden clubs from Greenville, Aiken, Beaufort, Fairfax, Bamberg, and Wagener just to name a few.

The Garden Club of SC (GCSC) president, Donna Donnelly, will be in attendance for a brief business meeting and the presentation of the District Awards. There are many fabulous raffle items and lunch is included. Members of Sea Pines Garden Club will present a brief design program interpreting artwork through floral arrangements which will be included in the raffle. Maggie Engstrom will once again entertain and enlighten us with her magnificent floral designs. Several vendors will be on hand as well as Council Garden Club member fund raiser tables with gardening related items for sale. Hope to see you there.

Christine Thumm,  
 Council Rep

Website: [hhicgc.org](http://hhicgc.org)



According to Monrovia, this year's "in" color for plants and flowers is purple.

<http://growbeautifully.monrovia.com/ultraviolet-rules/>

Thanks for the tip, Marcia Sullivan

(Right Click on address above, press and hold CTRL key, Right Click again to be taken to the website. You can do this anywhere throughout the publication if the website is printed in blue)





## TAG's New Virtual Library

We are selling our print reference materials (a few each month) and converting our library to a Virtual Library on the Website. (You can add your old books to the table, too)

We will get things started now and continue to make new additions as they are submitted. Every site will be recommended by a TAG member and this Virtual Library will be as good as our member participation...that means YOU. Sites to consider:

- mail order plant and seed sources that you've used
- gardening blogs and newsletters
- gardening TV shows
- research resources
- gardening apps

**Send your submissions to Liz VanAlstyne**

[elizzy1106@aol.com](mailto:elizzy1106@aol.com) example:  
Logees [logees.com](http://logees.com)

Mail order source for rare and unusual plants...many only available through Logees

I order from Logees several times each season. It is pricey and the shipping is expensive because of the great care that they take in protecting the plants for shipping. These are small plants that grow into specimens. Their catalog is gorgeous!

submitted by Caroline Alderman

**If everyone submits at least one source, we'll be off to a good start.**

## *Fundraising.....Jane Alexander and Dodi Eschenbach*

TAG's Club members came out in force for the March 1 workshop at Spring Lake to assemble our two fundraising projects - seed-bomb pots and cork-fork plant markers. There were nineteen of us on the assembly line of forking, wrapping, labeling and glue-gunning! Everyone found herself a spot!

Some of our volunteers even appeared before 10:00 to get an early start. We were able to complete everything well before noon - 33 seed bomb pots and 100 cork-fork plant markers in absolutely record time!

Fundraising chairs, Jane and Dodi, were so impressed with everyone's "can-do" attitude!

Thank you all for your help and support! Onward to the District meeting on March 21! Jane and Dodi



(Photos by Jane Alexander and Dodi Eschenbach)

*Healthy Eating.....Anna Broecker*

## KUNG PAO LENTILS WITH CASHEWS, BELL PEPPERS AND CELERY

**Lentils**

1/2 cup dry brown lentils, washed and drained  
 1 1/2 cups water  
 salt, generous pinch or to taste

**Sauce**

3 tablespoons soy sauce  
 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar  
 1 tablespoon dry sherry or rice wine  
 1 teaspoon hoisin sauce  
 2 tablespoons maple syrup  
 1/4 teaspoon lime zest  
 2 teaspoons corn starch  
 3 tablespoons water

**Vegetables**

1/2 cup chopped onion  
 3 tablespoons cashews or peanuts  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 inch knob of ginger minced  
 1 red bell pepper chopped  
 1 green bell pepper chopped  
 3/4 cup chopped celery

lemon juice and black pepper for garnish

Combine lentils, water and salt in a saucepan. Cover and bring to a boil over med high heat about 6 minutes. Reduce heat to med and cook for 20 to 25 minutes more or until the lentils are tender to preference. Let the lentils sit for 5 minutes before using. Drain excess water if needed and keep aside. Or use 1 1/4 cup cooked lentils, chickpeas or beans.

Make sauce: combine all the sauce ingredients into a bowl. Mix well to combine and set aside.

Cook the veggies: Heat a skillet over med hi heat. When the skillet is hot, add onion and cook for 3 minutes. Add the cashews and mix for a few seconds. Add garlic and ginger and mix in. Add the peppers and celery and mix well. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes.

Add in sauce and cooked lentils and mix well. Add some more water if you like extra sauce. Reduce heat to low and cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until the sauce thickens and some is absorbed by the lentils. Taste and adjust spice and sweet. Garnish with a dash of lemon juice and black pepper. Serve with cooked rice or grains.

## Junior Gardeners.....Sandy Stern

The Jr. Gardener Club started up again this year in early March, with the students planting tomatoes, kale, cucumbers, radishes and lettuce.

The students meet every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at 2:30 pm for an hour with Avid Gardeners volunteers Nandine Korosi, Sandy Stern, teacher, Ms. Jackson and parent volunteer, Beth Cooler.



During this time, they weeded 4 raised beds, tilled the soil, fertilized, planted seeds and 32 starter plants and watered them all. They continue to compost garden waste and other material from home.



While working in the garden, one third grade student commented, "I have many good memories from being in garden club."

This is what it's all about - developing a love of gardening at an early age.



(photos by Sandy Stern)



The Low Country Master Gardeners Association invites you to its Lunch and Learn Program. It's a series of free classes on subjects relating to horticulture and designed to address gardening in this unique climate.

The Lunch and Learn classes are held at The Gazebo at the Farmers' Market, Heritage Park, Port Royal. Classes begin at 12:00 noon. Classes are free. Just bring a folding chair. No registration is necessary.

For more information visit their website at [www.lowcountrymga.org/lunch-learn](http://www.lowcountrymga.org/lunch-learn)



**The Avid Gardeners  
General Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2018**

Attendance: 57 Guests: 2

President Caroline Alderman called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Hostesses: Cheryl Hocevar, Louise Gorny, Mary Jane Major, Susan Mattson, Sue Blake.  
2nd Vice President Corliss Zampino reported we are at 75 members. There are 4 new members.

Secretary Marcia Sullivan asked for the minutes to be accepted as emailed.

**Motion to accept minutes: Sandy Stern Second: Marilyn Lorenz**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Treasurer Lori Schmidt reported ending balance \$9879.50, Income \$486.00, Expenses \$0 Current Balance \$9556.05

**Motion to accept the treasurers report. Sharon Jaunsem Second: Pat Rapp**

1st Vice President Olivia Ford reported that next month program will be "New Colorful Succulents" which is a change from the Program and Member Directory due to Presenters scheduling conflict. Today's program will be presented by Olivia "How To Turn a Functional Table Into An Exhibit Table".

Board Members Reports:

Chairman Sharon Jaunsem reported that a large number of pentas plants will need to be purchased this year for the Plant It Pink garden at Hilton Head Hospital as the hard freeze killed them. She will be pursuing wholesale and discounts to replace these plants. Volunteers will be needed to replant and restore the garden.

Chairman Patti Peacock reported that the Reflective Garden will need a team of weeding warriors to do a spring clean up. Volunteer signup sheet was circulated.

Fundraisers: Jane Alexander reported that there is a need for 10 more forks for the garden stake project. 20 Volunteers are needed to assemble the items for the WLCD TAG vendor table at the district meeting. Workshop to assemble items will take place on March 1, 10 AM at Spring Lake Pavilion. Volunteer signup sheet was circulated.

Caroline Alderman reported for Librarian Liz Van Alstyne that library books are available to members for donation on table. We will move to a virtual library utilizing our website to present gardening articles of interest to members. Submission will be directed to Liz and she will organize and submit to Chris Thumm.

Mentor and Sunshine: Dede Bethke asked that all Mentors contact the new members to fully involve them in our club and programs. New members will complete a biography to introduce themselves to the club.

TAG Talk: Carol Sevelowitz announced the deadline for TAG Talk is always the Sunday before the General Meeting.

February minutes continued...

Hospitality: Cheryl Hovevar thanked the hostesses for today's meeting.

Old Business:

Parliamentarian Janet Hicks will email the proposed changes to our by-laws to all members before March General Meeting. We will vote on the proposed changes at the March meeting.

Garden Club of South Carolina: Ann Clayton, President of the Hilton Head Island Council of Garden clubs invited all members to attend the district annual meeting of The West Low Country Garden Clubs on March 21 at Palmetto Hall. Maggi Engstrom will be the speaker. Tickets are \$30.

New Business

Nominating Committee 2018-19 will be Dede Bethke, Peg McCann and Sandy Stern  
President Caroline Alderman asked for the Board to vote to reduce dues for new members joining the club at this time. Vote: Unanimous

President Caroline Alderman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Sevelowitz Second: Sharon Jauseum**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Sullivan, Secretary

## Spring Programs

Planting New Ideas, We're Blossoming Together

**March 16** Our program will be on "Seductive Succulents". We will learn all about

1. How to care for your succulents
2. How to Propagate succulents (make new babies), and
3. Succulents as living home decor (the latest craze).

**April 20** We will be taking a bus trip to the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah,GA.

[WWW.coastalgeorgiabg.org](http://WWW.coastalgeorgiabg.org)

### **Important Information:**

1. Cost \$25.00 pp which includes the bus fare, entrance fee, guided tour, snacks, and drinks and dessert for lunch. You will need to pack your own sandwich.
2. Send your check for your reservation to: Olivia Ford, 6 Ribaut Drive, HHI 29926 or bring it to the meeting.
3. Schedule:
  1. Leave the Plantation House at (9:00 AM sharp! Come early to board the bus.
  2. Guided tour from 10:30 to noon approximately.
  3. Bag lunch from 12:00-1:00 PM
  4. Gift shop or picking strawberries 1:00-1:30 PM
  5. Bus departs 1:00 PM sharp
  6. Arrive back at the Plantation House at 2:30-3:00 PM

**May 18** We will have our annual luncheon and installation of officers.

**June:** CHANGE of DATE: **June 22, 2018**- We have been invited to an evening twilight tour at the home of the Katz. He is a lighting and water feature expert from PA and the newest member of our club. Expect a dessert extravaganza!

Rain Date- June 24

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Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the Sunday before the General Meeting.