



TAG TALK

March 2019

President's Message.....Caroline Alderman



“Spring Has Sprung” and as your thoughts turn to your garden for this year, consider adding some garden art. Garden art is as individual as the gardener, ranging from classic sculpture, to whimsical fairies, animals and fanciful folk art. Art provides a little surprise and enhances the vignette that you are creating with your plants.

When you start looking, you will see that it is everywhere...art galleries, cute local gift shops, big box stores and online.

This is one of my favorite arrangements. It features colorful talavera pottery from Mexico, and a bottle tree crafted by a local artist to carry on a Gullah tradition. The blue bottles were fished from the recycling dumpsters because they are traditional on a bottle tree. They capture haints, furies and other ornery spirits and provide protection from their mischief. I love the deep blue color and the way they reflect the sunlight.

So, if you haven't included garden art in your landscape, I urge you to give it a go. And, if you're like me...exercise restraint and leave some room for the plants!



Magnolia Plantation Bus trip April 26 See details pg 2

Magnolia Plantation Gardens
Day Bus Trip
Friday, April 26, 2019
The Avid Gardeners



- Magnolia is the oldest major public garden in America (70 acres)
- It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Magnolia is the oldest plantation on the Ashley river (1676) and is still under the original family ownership-The Drayton family- now twelfth and thirteenth generation
- Its majestic springtime display has been likened to the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls

TIME LINE

What we will see and do

- 9:00 AM-11:00AM - Travel to the Plantation on bus
- 11:00 AM - Upon arrival, see an orientation film (23 min.) in the theater
- 11:30 AM-12:30 PM - Have lunch in the cafe
- 12:30 pm- 1:30 pm -Take a 1 hour guided tour of the Romantic Gardens
- 1:30pm- 2:15pm - Ride the Nature Train for 45 minutes through the Wildlife Habitat, with guides discussing the abundant residents
- 2:15pm-3:00pm - Time to visit the Gift Shop
- 3:00pm - Back on the bus
- 3:00pm -5:00pm-Enjoy our ride home

Trip Costs

\$42.00 Per Person covers:

- The Admission
- The 1 hour Guided Tour of Romantic Garden
- The 45 minute Wildlife Train Ride
- The cost of the bus and the driver tip
- The refreshments going and coming home



MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

TAG, Olivia Ford, 6 Ribaut Drive, HHI, SC 29926

Or call Olivia, 843-785-7144, to get on the list. All \$\$ due by Apr 1

Birding.....George Westerfield



The pileated woodpecker is the largest of that group and uses that size and strength to hammer away at rotting tree trunks and limbs in pursuit of delicious carpenter ants and beetles hiding inside. The bird has a long sticky tongue tipped with a barb to extricate its unwilling prey from deep below the bark.

You may not have seen many of these woodpeckers in HHP but they are here and proudly announce their woodland presence with a raucous “kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk” as they fly to another tree in their search for more delectables.

The pileated (from *pileus* meaning “red crest”) is as large as a crow, has solid black wings, tail, and body and a red (male) or black (female) moustache. The bird grips the tree bark with its four sharp toes and supports itself while drilling with stiff tail feathers pressed against the bark.

February, March, and April are the months of romance and ensuing parenthood. The woodpeckers excavate a large cavity high up in a dead tree with a large oval opening. She lays her single clutch of three to five eggs and tends them with her body warmth for about three weeks before they hatch. The male hustles back and forth delivering groceries. The hatchlings stay with their parents for about three weeks before going off to keep the species growing just like every other creature, including you.



Nominations for TAG Officers

At our TAG meeting on March 15, the Nominating Committee (Janet Hicks, Corliss Zampino, Dick Phillips) will present the slate of officers for three TAG Officer positions for the next fiscal year (beginning in September, 2019).

For **President**, we have nominated Olivia Ford. For **First VP-Programs**, we have nominated Sue Blake. And for **Treasurer**, we have asked Lori Schmidt to continue on in her current position as Treasurer. We believe this is an excellent slate of officers, and we look forward to the membership's vote on Friday!



Ideas for Programs and Field Trips for 2019/2020

We also wanted to again ask for your ideas and suggestions for meeting speakers and field trips for next year. If you know of good "garden" people who might be interested in presenting a program at one of our meetings next year, please provide me with their contact information, and this will be passed along to our new First VP-Programs.

We do provide a stipend of \$100 to our speakers, although many speakers do not accept this, but it is available. Each year we typically have "5 meetings" which include a program speaker, and we typically do "2 field trips" each year. If you have a suggestion for a field trip you believe TAG members would enjoy and appreciate, please let me know that as well.

The "programs and field trips" for next year must be identified by July 31 to be included in TAG's "Program and Member Directory 2019-2020", which goes to the printer on August 1. So please, give some thought to program speakers and field trips you believe would be of interest, and please pass that information to me.

Dick Phillips
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Horticulture.....Diane Middleton

Continue dividing perennials to share with friends. Plant summer flowering bulbs now including glads every two weeks. Buy more azaleas while in bloom. Every yard should have tons of them as well as camellias for winter color. Cut branches while in bloom to bring in as cut flowers while you are pruning them.

Be cautious about planting tomatoes and tender annuals until after the 15th. Use new soil when planting pots. Try to find some that do not contain fertilizer for planting herbs as they have better flavor without it. Use only palm fertilizer for sagos and watch for scale.



Diane Middleton, master gardener 843-384-0794

Lowcountry Living Horticultural Specialty Show
May 16, Free to the public

The Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs will hold a horticulture specialty show on Thursday, May 16 at Tabby Place, 913 Port Republic Street in Beaufort, from 9 am to 5 pm. The event is free to the public.

In addition to the horticultural exhibits, the show also will include a variety of botanical arts, educational exhibits and photography.

The Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs includes seven local garden clubs: The Beaufort Garden Club, Camelia Garden Club, Dataw Garden Club, Lady's Island Garden Club, Palmetto Garden Club, Royal Pines Garden Club and Sea Islands Garden Club.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit entries either through their garden clubs or by reaching out to: Victoria Bergesen - victoriabergesen@gmail.com

Junior Gardeners.....Sandy Stern



A Special Arbor Day Celebration and Garden Party

On Thursday, March 7th, the Jr. Gardeners of the HHI School for the Creative Arts, under the direction of The Avid Gardener volunteers, the club teacher, Ms. Jackson, and a parent volunteer, Beth Cooler, invited parents and school staff to join in the planting of two trees in the courtyard area.

The eight students planted a fig tree and a pink lemon tree to add to the grapefruit, lemon and lime trees already growing in the garden. The children also performed on the outdoor stage, telling about their garden experiences and displaying their citrus art paintings.

There were delicious treats for all and an opportunity to learn more about the building of a greenhouse in the courtyard in the near future.

The children showed their parents around the Korosi Vegetable Garden and the Butterfly Garden.



Thanks to those who attended and participated in this educational event.



ROASTED LEMON BROCCOLI

Serving Size : 4

- 1 Pound BROCCOLI FLORETS
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon zest
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted



Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In a large bowl, toss the broccoli with the oil and salt and pepper to taste.

Arrange the florets in a single layer on a baking sheet (on Parchment paper) and roast turning once, for 12 minutes or until just tender (I just do 10 and do not turn).

Meanwhile in a small saucepan melt the butter over medium heat.

Add the garlic and lemon zest and heat, stirring for about 1 minute.

Let cool slightly and stir in the lemon juice.

Place the roasted broccoli in a serving bowl, pour the lemon butter over it and toss to coat. Scatter the toasted pine nuts over the top.

To toast pine nuts, place in a small skillet and cook over medium heat 1 to 3 minutes or until lightly browned, stirring constantly. (I find that 3 heads of broccoli/ 1 pound of florets serves 8 nicely and I double the sauce recipe)

ROASTED ASPARAGUS

Serving Size : 8

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus
- vegetable cooking spray
- 1/2 cup pine nuts toasted
- 2 plum tomatoes (I use 4) -- seeded and chopped



Spray asparagus lightly with cooking spray. (preferably olive oil)

Arrange on aluminum foil or parchment lined cookie sheet

Bake at 425 degrees for 7 minutes.

Sprinkle with chopped tomatoes (and pine nuts, optional).

To roast pine nuts, bake at 325 degrees for 5 to 7 minutes on ungreased cookie sheet. Stir often to prevent burning.



Buckwalter Recreation Center, Bluffton

The 2019 Lowcountry Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of local home and garden experts, all in one location, who will provide visitors the insight and inspiration needed to renovate, decorate and landscape their homes this SPRING!

Taking place **March 29, 30 and 31!** Be sure to check out the 2019 DIY workshop, cooking demos, kids zone activities, seminar schedule and much more.

Presented by the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association

For more information, go to

[www. lowcountryhomeandgardenshow.com](http://www.lowcountryhomeandgardenshow.com)

Lunch & Learn

The LowCountry Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn Program will soon be underway.

The schedule for 2019 is on the next page. Take a look and plan to attend. Lots of good information.

Lunch and Learn Schedule 2019

The Gazebo at the Farmer's Market, Heritage Park, Port Royal
Saturday Classes begin at 12:00 noon and are free... just bring a folding chair

Date	Program	Speaker	Description
April 6	Right Plant, Right Place	Jay Weidner	A little pre planning will keep that lovely tree or shrub you planted from blocking your driveway or wrecking your house foundation.
April 13	Do you say Herbs or 'erbs?	Jenny Staton	Herbs, as well as life, can be beautiful! And you'd be surprised at how many different kinds thrive here. Jenny loves to cook and step outside her door for fixins'.
April 20	Put 'em Up!	Bob Guinn	Preserve nature's bounty. Literally. Or can it, freeze it or dry it. It's good to know what actually is in the food you prepare!
April 27	Veggies for the Ornamental Garden	Laura Lee Rose	So many veggies make beautiful plants as well as great eating. If you don't have room for a veggie garden, Laura Lee will let you know what you can tuck into your flower beds for beauty and bounty.
May 4	Lawn Alternatives	Joe Allard	Turf lawns are beautiful, but ecological thugs. There <i>are</i> other ways to make your landscape inviting. And less work.
May 11	Do You Know More Than You Know You Know?	Sandra Educate	Probably more fun than educational, this interactive class will challenge you! Prizes, too!
May 18	Fooling Mother Nature	Jay Weidner	She'll let you grow lots of plants that she didn't put here if you pay attention. Learn which ones to introduce and which to avoid.
May 25	Botany in the Produce Aisle	Victoria Bergesen	Learn the real back story behind the fresh fruit and vegetables that you find in the supermarket.
June 1	Ground Covers	Laura Lee Rose	The Good, the Bad and the Ugly! Things to know before introducing these workhorses into your garden
June 8	Palms for a Tropical Look	Lora Quincy	The care and feeding of these stately symbols of the tropics. Like humans, these palms live long enough to become very Senior Citizens, so keep them healthy.
June 15	Sedges and Ornamental Grasses	Natalie Bowie	These plants gain in popularity every year as new and more cultivars are introduced. Easy care and low maintenance, you need some in your landscape.
June 22	Pot et Fleur	Sandra Educate	French indoor garden décor that lets you successfully mingle fresh flowers with living plants.
June 29	Keeping it Growing	Amanda McNulty	Our signature season-end class. Join Amanda and a great panel to answer your gardening questions. And don't forget to wear an imaginative hat! .

March 15 9:30 am
Spring Lake Pavilion

Speaker favorite, Maggie Engstrom, owner of Sweet Bay in Beaufort, will demonstrate new ideas for Spring in floral design, just in time to help us with designs for the State Flower Show in Beaufort next month.



Coming in April
Magnolia Plantation

April 26

Bus trip
See details pg 2

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

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