



TAG TALK

February, 2019

President's Message

“I’m willing to help but I don’t want to be in charge.”

It’s time for TAG to look to its future. When I became your Fearless Leader a year and a half ago, I had BIG plans. Some we have achieved, others not. I really wanted to get some new small groups such as flower arranging and crafts going, but everyone I asked to head up a session, turned me down. (On a brighter note, when I got a leader, there were lots of willing worker bees who stepped up.) For TAG to reach our potential, we need both leaders and workers. I am asking you to consider stepping up to lead. I think you will find that you have lots of help, but someone needs to take charge...to organize and make things happen.

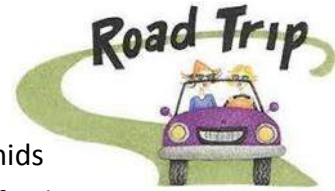
Probably each of us is aware of an organization or interest group on the island or in the plantation that flourished and then failed, for lack of leadership. Others are limping along year to year, never certain that there will BE a next year. As vibrant as TAG is, we have a leadership crisis. We have three offices to fill this year and several board positions. If we are to have a flower show next year (which I am willing to head up) we need a dependable committee and subcommittee leaders. My mantra throughout my presidency has been...Many hands make light work. I urge you to think about TAG and what YOU can do to make it great. Once you have determined where you think you might be able to help, don’t be shy...tell someone. You can tell one of the current officers or board members. You can say yes, if you are asked to lead.

Shortly after I joined, I was asked to take a board position that wasn’t a huge job. I did that and attended monthly board meetings. I learned how TAG worked, and I made friends. I felt part of the group and some of these friendships extend beyond TAG. I urge you to take a risk...be the leader and if you need help, another member will be there. In the immortal words of Nike...”Just DO IT!”

Caroline



February Meeting — 2/15/19



We will take a “close to home” excursion to visit the May River Orchids Greenhouse. Madeline Nelson, the owner, will give us a tour and info about growing and caring for her beautiful orchids. We will also have the opportunity to make purchases. See details below.

Field Trip To:

MAY RIVER ORCHIDS

122 Confederate Avenue

Bluffton, SC 29910

Madeline Nelson-Owner



Orchids for sale: \$14 small, \$20 large

Cash or check only

Meet: at the Plantation House

Time: 9:00AM-9:25AM

Leave: 9:30AM Promptly

Directions:

- 1. Leave HH Plantation from the back gate*
- 2. Take the **second right** from the circle onto **Squire Pope Rd.**, go 1 mile to Rte. #278*
- 3. Turn **right** onto #278 William Hilton Pkwy.*
- 4. Go approximately 4 miles*
- 5. **Bear right** onto Bluffton Pkwy. overpass*
- 6. Go 2 miles. **Turn left** at the light-Burnt Church Road
Go to the end*
- 7. **Turn left** onto **Bridge Street**, go 1 block*
- 8. **Turn left** onto **Confederate Avenue***
- 9. **122 Confederate Ave.** is about 3/4 mile on the right*
- 10. Pull in and park on the grass-orchid house is in the rear*



Conservation Note: Asiatic Hawksbeard

Here's a fragile-looking weed, typically 6-15 inches high, that may have been popping up in your lawn and garden this winter. Asiatic, or Oriental, Hawksbeard (*Youngia japonica*) is considered a "summer annual," but it may thrive during much of the year if the weather is fairly warm. It's in the same plant family (Asteraceae) as daisies, asters, sunflowers, and dandelions. The plant has a basal rosette of leaves and a long, slender stem usually topped by several flower heads. Each head resembles a small dandelion, with many tiny, strap-like, yellow florets tightly clustered together. When the plant goes to seed, it produces numerous tiny fruits bearing "parachutes" that promote wind dispersal. Although native to Southeast Asia, Asiatic Hawksbeard has become widespread in the U.S, from Pennsylvania to Florida and throughout much of the Southeast to Texas.

-- **Vicky McMillan**

Editor's note:

*I always thought of it
as a weed!*



Photo by TAG member Kerry Mangan



FUNDRAISING

The Fund Raising committee has cancelled the fund raiser of selling notecards and seed bomb pots at the April State Conference in Beaufort. The decision not to participate was made due to logistics and fees set by the Garden Clubs of South Carolina. Thank you to all the members who signed up for the March workshop. We plan to utilize you all in the future! We are currently looking at other possible fund raisers for the Spring.



Jr. Gardeners

Sandy Stern

The ***Jr. Gardeners Club*** will begin its spring term on February 28, 2019. Twelve students in grades 3 - 5 will participate in this after school program at HHI School for the Creative Arts under the direction of Avid Gardeners Nadine Korosi and Sandy Stern. The teacher in charge is Ms. Bethany Jackson; the parent volunteer is Ms. Beth Cooler.

The students cordially invite all Avid Gardeners to attend their '***Garden Party***' to be held on **March 7 at 2:30 pm**. The students will be planting three trees in the school courtyard as part of their delayed ***Arbor Day*** program. They will also be reciting stories about their garden activities and experience as well as displaying their citrus print art.

Parent volunteer Beth Cooler and two Jr Gardeners picking grapefruits off a tree in the school's courtyard.



Membership Notes.....

We are happy to welcome new member Nancy DeValle. Nancy has attended several meetings as a guest and has decided to become a regular! Please be sure to introduce yourself to her.



Horticulture

Diane Middleton

The camellias are blooming more beautifully than ever before with the yellow Carolina jessamine climbing happily among them. Not much to cut for bouquets yet, but my daffodils are beginning to show flower buds among the leaves. And my orchids have a few buds too.

It is time to prune anything that does not bloom in Spring. You may take out up to a third of each shrub if needed. Don't flattop anything! Pampas grass only needs cutting back every third year, but do take off the plumes now.

Plant roses and prune and feed the old ones. Begin fertilizing everything paying attention to type and amount to use. Use dormant oil with an insecticide where needed for scale. Follow directions precisely. Transplant new annuals such as Larkspur as they appear in your flowerbeds. Divide perennials.



Birding

George Westerfield

FEEDING THE FLOCKS

Sometimes we hear opinions on feeding birds that are at odds with one another. In Living Bird magazine Australian scientist Darryl Jones offers some facts, opinions, and observations on the avian version of a soup kitchen taken from his book, *The Birds at My Table*. Jones begins by revealing the relatively recent appearance and growth of serious bird feeding. Until the 1980s most offerings for birds were food scraps and leftover grain. With the increase in pet stores and hardware store offerings, widespread feeding really took off. Specialized mixtures are commonly available today. Jones explains that the feeding of wild birds increases the likelihood of their survival during harsh winters. Feeders in urban areas provide sustenance not available in the local environment. Disease risks to birds from dining at feeders are few provided that regular cleaning is provided. Jones explores some reasons we have for feeding our feathered neighbors...a sense of unity with fellow creatures, a recompense for human environmental degradations, a natural curiosity to wildlife around us.

Here is an unsolicited commercial plug. The Audubon Store next to Publix in Festival Centre has an extensive inventory of supplies for birds of all feathers. Do drop in.





February's
Healthy Recipes
From Anna Broecker

Vegetarian Lettuce Wraps

Yield: 4 servings

3 tablespoons hoisin sauce

3 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce

2 tablespoons rice vinegar

1 teaspoon sesame oil

2 teaspoons canola or grapeseed oil

1 (12- to 14-ounce) package extra-firm tofu (do not use silken)

8 ounces baby bella (cremini) mushrooms, finely chopped

1 (8-ounce) can water chestnuts, drained and finely chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger

4 green onions, thinly sliced, divided

8 large inner leaves romaine lettuce (from a romaine heart) or butter lettuce leaves

Can also use as an appetizer and put in Belgian Endive

Directions:

In a small bowl, stir together the hoisin, soy sauce, rice vinegar, and sesame oil. Set aside. Press the tofu between paper towels to squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Refresh the paper towels and press again. Heat the 2 teaspoons canola oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Once the oil is hot, crumble in the tofu, breaking it into very small pieces as it cooks. Continue cooking for 5 minutes, then add the diced mushrooms. Continue cooking until any remaining tofu liquid cooks off and the tofu starts to turn golden, about 3 minutes more. Stir in the water chestnuts, garlic, ginger, and half of the green onions and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds more.

Pour the sauce over the top of the tofu mixture and stir to coat. Cook just until you hear bubbling and the sauce is warmed through, 30 to 60 seconds.

Spoon the tofu mixture into individual lettuce leaves. Top with remaining green onions, grated carrots, as desired. Enjoy immediately.

The tofu filling can be refrigerated for 3 to 5 days. Reheat gently in the microwave with a bit of water or stock to prevent it from drying out or in a skillet over medium heat. Try the leftovers mixed with rice or scrambled with eggs!

Vegetarian lettuce wraps with tofu and mushrooms that taste just like the famous P.F. Chang's lettuce wraps. All the flavor for a fraction of the calories!

NOMINATIONS FOR TAG OFFICERS

As you may recall, last year TAG By-Laws were modified such that the Executive Board of officers (President, First VP-Programs, Second VP-Membership, Treasurer, Secretary) are elected for a two year term, rather than one year. It is also arranged such that only 2 or 3 officers are elected each year, which means there will always be 2 or 3 experienced officers on the Executive Board every year. For the upcoming 2019/20 fiscal year beginning in September, the officers whose terms will expire are President, First VP-Programs and Treasurer. The By-Laws also state that the slate of officers will be presented to the membership at the February meeting, and the membership will vote on the slate at the March meeting. Since the February meeting is actually a field trip to the May River Orchids Greenhouse, the slate of officers is being presented here, and we will vote on this slate at the March meeting.

President – Olivia Ford First VP-Programs – Sue Blake Treasurer – Lori Schmidt

We believe this is a slate that will do an excellent job in each office.

Nominating Committee: Janet Hicks, Corliss Zampino, Dick Phillips



IDEAS FOR TAG PROGRAMS FOR 2019/2020

We will have a new First VP–Programs when our next fiscal year begins in September. To assist this person, we wanted to ask for your input in terms of programs you might like to see/hear next year. And if you know of good speakers with interesting information that you might have seen or heard somewhere else, please let us know that person’s contact information if you have it, or let us know where they work, or teach, etc. As an aside, TAG budgets \$100 for program speakers, although some speakers don’t accept the check. Also, we’re very interested to know any suggestions you might have for “field trips” next year, preferably places no more than 60 minutes from HHI so we can car pool, rather than worrying about a bus. Usually we have 2 field trips in a season, which means we would have 5 programs at SLP since there is not a program for Dec. (Christmas party), May (Installation of officers luncheon) or June (final picnic lunch). The VP-Programs person must have everything scheduled and submitted for inclusion in the “Programs & Member Directory” by July 31. Please let me know of any suggestions I can pass along to our new VP-Programs person. Thanks for your help and consideration.

Dick Phillips

Gardeners of the Lowcountry

A Major Symposium Just For You!



Wild, Beautiful & Captivating!

*Understanding and Managing
the Beauty of the Lowcountry Landscape*

Saturday, May 11, 2019

USCB Bluffton Campus

Keynote Address: Norman Winter

Acclaimed Horticulturist &

National Garden Speaker

Visit his Facebook page at "The Garden Guy"

This all-day symposium features fifteen separate talks on a wide range of topics important to gardeners in the Lowcountry. If you love to garden this is your chance to learn all about planning and working in your landscape.

You choose 5 topics from the list of subjects!

May 11, 2019

8:00 – 8:45 Registration

9:00 - 9:50 Keynote

10:00 –10:45 First Set

10:45 –11:00 Break

11:00 –11:45 Second Set

11:45- 1:00 Lunch

Includes a Lunch & Learn and Vendor Displays

1:00 – 1:45 Third Set

1:45 - 2:05 Break

2:05 - 2:55 Fourth Set

3:00 - 3:45 Fifth Set

4:00 - Summary and
Door Prizes

4:15. Adjourn

Topics include:

Butterflies

Perennials for the Shade

Survival of the Fittest

Carolina Yards

Native Plants

Yes, You can Grow Grass

Citrus – How Sweet it Is!

Trees of the Lowcountry

Sustainable Landscapes

Bulbs of the South

Roses of the Lowcountry

Banish Bambi

Daffodils for the Southern Landscape

Hydroponic.

Gardening

New Plants

This is the current agenda. However, unexpected circumstances may require a change of a specific presentation.

Spring Symposium May 11, 2019

WILD, BEAUTIFUL AND CAPTIVATING – THE LOWCOUNTRY LANDSCAPE

Understanding and Managing the Beauty of the Lowcountry

The symposium is sponsored by the Lowcountry Master Gardeners Association and the AVANT

Gardeners of Sun City, the Beaufort Garden Club and the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at USCB.

When traveling to the USCB Campus set your GPS to 1 University Blvd. Bluffton, S.C.

- 8:00 – 8:45 REGISTRATION
- 9:00 – 9:50 Keynote Speaker: Norman Winter The Lowcountry – Wild, Beautiful & Captivating
- 10:00 – 10:45 Survival of the Fittest The Canary in the Bulbs for the South
Jay Weidner Coal Mine of our Ecosystem Sandra Educate
Norman Winter
- 10:45 - 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 11:45 Mating Behavior in Butterflies Sustainable Landscapes Roses of the Lowcountry
Vicky McMillan Laura Lee Rose Becky Guin
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch & Learn: New Introductions – 2019 Tim Drake / Vendor & Club Displays
- 1:00 - 1:45 Carolina Yards Trees of the Lowcountry Native Plants
Ellen Comeau Barbara Duffy Lindblad Lisa Lord
- 1:45 - 2:05 Break
- 2:05 - 2:55 Hydroponic Gardening Citrus: Have a Juicy Day Banish Bambi
Donna Gaal Joe Allard Wendy Hilti
- 3:00 - 3:45 Perennials for the Shade Yes, You Can Grow Grass Here Daylilies
Sue Roderus Bill Camp Victoria Bergesen
- 4:00 - 4:15 Closing comments and drawings

Application follows on next page.....

This is the current agenda. However, unexpected circumstances may require a change of a specific presentation.

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

List Your 1st Choice

Your 2nd Choice in event first is full

10:00 Session

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10:55 Session

.....

1:00 Session

.....

2:05 Session

.....

3:00 Session

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The cost of the symposium is \$ 65 and \$ 55 for members of the Avant Gardeners, Beaufort Garden Club, OLLI Gardener Faculty and LMGA. Please make your check payable to: LMGA and mail to: Susan Harden 121 Sunset Blvd. Beaufort, S.C. 29907.

Your address: _____ Phone: _____

You will receive confirmation of your class selection via email unless no email noted in which case we will send it by U.S. mail. For all questions please contact Bill Moss at: billmosshhi@gmail.com



Looking ahead.....

Garden Clubs of South Carolina State Convention Apr 11-13 Beaufort

*GCSC State Flower Show All 12" petite designs Apr 11 Beaufort
Open to the public 2:30—5:30pm*

TAG Bus Trip to Magnolia Gardens Apr 26 more info to follow

Friday, February 15

Field Trip To:

MAY RIVER ORCHIDS

122 Confederate Avenue, Bluffton, SC 29910

Meet: at the Plantation House for carpooling

9:00AM-9:25AM

Leaving promptly at 9:30



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

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