



# TAG TALK

*April, 2019*

## *President's Message*

### *The Ultimate Amiga Plant*



In previous messages, I mentioned how blessed I am to have made so many friends in TAG. As I think back, these friendships developed over time through shared activities...committees, carpooling on field trips, chatting at the coffee hour and countless other times together. There was no grand plan, everything just unfolded over time.

This is why I have been encouraging you to fully participate in TAG. If you haven't been asked to take a leadership position...volunteer. If you prefer to wade in, rather than fully take the plunge...volunteer for a committee. Attend the field trips...try Gardeners Who Lunch...initiate a trip to a nursery with someone from TAG...just do it!

The picture this month is of Sharon and me with the most amazing amiga plant ever...a giant staghorn fern which needed a new home when Sharon moved. Sharon and I have become such good friends that like some other TAG members, we travel together. We will miss the Magnolia Plantation Tour, because we will be on a yacht, with my family and a crew of two, sipping pina coladas and sailing the crystal clear waters of Guadaloupe. Cheers!

*Caroline*

*Our gardens are like our friendships...if we nurture them, they grow with love!*

# April Meeting - 4/26/19



## 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

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:***

### **MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:**

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

**Or call Olivia, 843-785-7144, some seats still available**



## Jr. Gardeners

Sandy Stern

The Jr. Gardeners worked in the vegetable garden (weeding, watering, and harvesting red lettuce and cabbages) and then had an Easter party with fruit kabobs, bunny cupcakes, and Easter eggs filled with chocolates. Next, they created cards and planted a variety of flower seeds into biodegradable egg cartons to take home as gifts to their parents. They were given printed instructions on how to care for the seedlings and when to transplant them into their home gardens. Nadine Korosi, Ann Clayton, and Sandy Stern worked with parent volunteer, Beth Cooler and club teacher, Ms. Jackson on these activities.





## **SNACK BREAD (Ranch cream cheese cucumber ryes)**

- 8 oz light cream cheese
- 1 package ranch dressing mix (dry)
- 1 loaf cocktail rye bread slices
- 1 seedless cucumber -- peeled and sliced
- Sprig fresh dill (or dill weed)

1. Mix cream cheese and ranch dressing mix until well blended
2. Spread on cocktail rye bread slices
3. Place 1 or 2 slices of cucumber, peeled, scored on the side with a fork, well blotted with paper towel for excess moisture, on top of each slice of bread
4. Place sprig of fresh dill on top (or sprinkle with dill weed)



# All Saints Garden Tour

Purchase your tickets now for the 32<sup>nd</sup> **All Saints Garden Tour on Saturday, May 18, 2019** from 10am-4pm. The 2019 self-guided tour features seven private gardens, four on Hilton Head Island and three in Bluffton, SC and will provide inspiration for gardeners at all levels.

Each garden is unique- the majority feature water in a variety of ways including marshes, lagoons and a river setting- all providing a stunning backdrop for the garden. Several gardens are beautifully restored from the major damages caused by recent storms . There are unique features in some of the gardens- one has skillfully blended over 150 different specimen plants into the landscape, while another features Native plants. Several of the gardens are designed for relaxing, perfect for retreating. A Charleston inspired garden features a formal courtyard in the front and garden rooms for recreation and entertaining in the back. All the gardens provide tranquil settings to enjoy nature and the beauty that drew many of us to the Lowcountry.

In addition to the tour, lunch is included in the ticket price and is served in the All Saints Episcopal Church social hall from 11:00-2:00. Also at the church you will find a boutique with lovely items made by local artisans; a bake sale of delicious home make confections; a booth of pottery produced and for sale by the students at Programs for Exceptional People (PEP); master gardeners available to answer questions; and a display of landscape items offered by Taylors Quality Landscape Supply & Nursery.

All net proceeds from the Tour are donated to local charities. 2019 grant recipients are Backpack Buddies of Bluffton, Backpack Buddies of Hilton Head Island, Jasper County Backpack Buddies, The Literacy Center, Hilton Head Island Safe Harbour, and St. Stephens United Methodist Church Outreach Foodbank. Over the years, more than a half million dollars have been given to local charities from this Garden Tour bringing truth to our logo "Through the Beauty of a Garden ..... A Gift to the Community". All who attend the 2019 Garden Tour add to this legacy.

Tickets are \$35 and are available on line at [allsaintsgardentour.com](http://allsaintsgardentour.com) and in late April when the colorful 2019 Garden Tour posters appear around the Lowcountry, tickets will be also be on sale at local nurseries and other merchants. For further information look at our website [allsaintsgardentour.com](http://allsaintsgardentour.com) or call (843)681-8333.



Gail Ladwig's granddaughter, Elizabeth, was in Sri Lanka with a group from Scott arboretum at Swarthmore College. She was visiting world famous botanical gardens so she could take ideas back to Swarthmore.



Last month's TAG meeting featured Maggie Engstrom of Sweet Bay in Beaufort. Maggie demonstrated some new ideas in Spring floral design.



## Horticulture...



This is the time to really enjoy your garden as you finish up planting and begin weeding in earnest. Feed Spring flowering bulbs with a balanced fertilizer to promote next year's blooms, and do not cut off any leaves until they turn brown. Take photos of them to note where you want to plant more this Fall. Start your hanging baskets keeping them higher than deer can reach or go shopping for them at one of our excellent nurseries. You can 'Google' all of them online.

Take your houseplants outside for the summer when the temperature is the same as indoors. Mulch everything with three inches of mulch to conserve moisture and help prevent new weeds. Keep mulch away from stems and trunks. Pick off and discard any leaf galls on azaleas. I have found a few this year. Clean up any fallen camellias and use new mulch under them. Magnolias need this also.

The loquats are so loaded with fruit now that I have had to prune them to keep the branches from breaking. They are delicious but hardly worth the effort it takes to make jelly

*Diane Middleton, Master Gardener*

Former TAG member, Marcia Sullivan, has reminded us that the Lunch and Learn Program offered by the Lowcountry Master Gardeners Association resumed on April 6th, offering a wide variety of gardening topics. It is held at the Port Royal Farmer's Market on Saturdays at noon and *classes are free...* just bring a chair! The com-



Here's the list of the West Lowcountry District Awards TAG won this year:  
First Place - President's Report  
First Place - Best Program Award - + \$25 check (for Olivia's program on succulents)  
Second Place - Youth Award (for Jr. Gardeners Program)  
Second Place - Publication Award (for TAG Talk)  
Third Place - Horticulture Award ( for Plant it Pink Garden)



## *Birding*

*George Westerfield*



Read no further if your refined sensibilities exceed your interest in birds. This issue's topic is far from the varicolored painted bunting or the beautiful wood duck. Let's meet the garbage disposal unit of the avian world...the turkey vulture. Yes, this is the black feathered, red-headed flapper you see roadside dining on the remains of Bambi, her mom, or a slow-witted armadillo. All creatures find their niche and these winged wonders have gone where others have declined to be.

Turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) are one of two species of vultures to grace our skies. The other is the black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), a bit smaller than the Turkey vulture. The Turkey vulture in search of a meal soars above the earth rocking back and forth on wings in a flattened V. With extraordinary eyesight and acute smelling ability these birds can find a fresh meal of their liking. They, along with their hungry companions, reduce to bones the deceased animals. This is a boon for us and should be recognized as such. These birds remove that which would be a noisome task for you and me.

In reflecting on these birds, I hope that you put aside your delicate sensibilities at least briefly to appreciate the wondrous world in which we live.







## Looking ahead.....

**Monday, 5/6/19:** Plantation Garden Club. ***Small Standard Flower Show.*** St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Open to the public 2pm—5pm

**Thursday, 5/16/19:** Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs. ***Horticultural Specialty Flower Show.*** 913 Port Republic Wt., Beaufort. Open to the public 9am—5pm.

**Saturday, 5/18/19:** ***All Saints Garden Tour.*** See details on page 4.

**Friday, 5/17/19:**

### ***TAG Installation of Officers and Member garden tours***

View gardens according to the following time schedule:

9:00am - Pattie Peacock's , 4 Hermit Crab Court

10:00am—Trudee Bamberg's, 8 Sea Otter

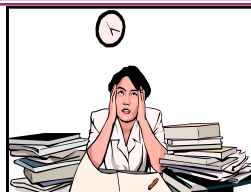
11:00am — MaryEllen and Dick Philips', 5 Birkdale Court

12:30pm - Installation of Officers Luncheon at Palmetto Hall Golf Club

\$24 per person, pre-paid to Olivia Ford (checks made to TAG)

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

Christine Thumm  
thumms@aol.com  
843-415-6809



Carol Sevelowitz  
sevelcss@gmail.com  
843-715-2248