



## TAG TALK MARCH, 2022

### *President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz*

As I write this, the calendar says it's March 15<sup>th</sup>, a noteworthy date for gardeners in coastal South Carolina. Is it the Ides of March? No, that's another place, another time. For us, here on HH, it's the frost date! The date it's safe to plant without fear of frost killing off our tender young plants! And this year, I'd venture to guess that could be an iffy proposition, what with the weather yoyo we've been playing with lately. There are so many plants in my garden that had started to emerge, green and tender, only to turn brown and dead from the recent freezing temperatures. I was sure I'd have to dig them up and start over. But, as my friend, George Westerfield, has told me several times, "nature's will to survive is very strong." And, sure enough, most of them are coming back to life, with lovely bright green shoots and buds now emerging again! So, check out Ann Clayton's Horticulture tips on page 5 and get out there in the garden to take care of those babies! After all, it's Spring, and the calendar doesn't lie.

*"In the Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."  
Margaret Atwood*

#### ***FUTURE MEETING DATE CHANGES.....PLEASE NOTE***

**APRIL 22, 2022.....SPEAKER MAGGIE ENGSTROM OF SWEET BAY**  
Will discuss floral arrangements with items from  
Your own gardens.

**MAY 13, 2022.....GARDEN WALK AND INSTALLATION LUNCHEON**  
Tour 3 member gardens, then lunch at Port Royal Golf Club.

**JUNE 3, 2022.....HAPPY HOUR GATHERING AT SLP**  
End of year covered dish social, with partners. More details  
To follow.

## **MARCH PROGRAM.....Field Trip to Oldfield**

**Friday, March 18**



Our program will be presented by their naturalist, Leanna McMillan and the president of their Community Garden Club. Learn more about their community gardens, herbs, and pollinators. We will be outdoors in the gardens - so dress appropriately and bring a chair if you want to sit. Afterwards, those who are interested may return with Leanna to their Outfitters Center. In case of rain, the presentation will take place there.

The presentation will begin at 10:00 and last about 45 minutes, but as an added bonus their Farm Market occurs that same morning from 9-12. There will be local vendors selling mushrooms, eggs, meat, seafood, produce etc. If you wish, you can shop before or after the meeting.

It takes 30 minutes to get to Oldfield from HHP. So we will leave from the Plantation House promptly at 9:15, where you can connect with your passengers. If you would like to attend, but need a ride, please contact Carol Sevelowitz or Nancy Renner.

*A gentle suggestion:*

*With the price of gas being what it is, If you are riding with someone, Please consider chipping in for gas.*

*Parking info:*

Immediately after entering Oldfield, park in the field on your left. If you want to shop, take a cooler bag and some cash – some of them take credit cards.



# March's HEALTHY RECIPES from Anna Broecker



## SAUTEED KALE

1 1/2 Pounds deribbed kale, chopped (approximately 1 inch pieces)  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
3 cloves garlic, finely sliced  
1/2 cup vegetable stock  
salt and pepper  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Heat olive oil in a large saucepan over medium high heat. Add the garlic and cook until soft., but not colored. Raise the heat to high, add the stock and kale and toss to combine. Cover and cook for 5 minutes. Remove cover and continue to cook, stirring until all the liquid has evaporated. Season with salt and pepper to taste and add vinegar



## MEMBERSHIP ..... Christine Thumm

*TAG is happy to welcome our newest members. We are now 68 members strong!  
Please add their info to your Member Booklet.\**

Mary Dorth  
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*\*If you have not yet obtained your copy of the 2021-2022 Program & Member Directory, please contact Membership Chair Chris Thumm at [thumms@aol.com](mailto:thumms@aol.com)*

## **2022-23 DUES INFORMATION**

Dues for the coming year are due and payable by no later than May 31 of this year in order to be included in the Member and Program Directory and to continue to receive TAG Talk and the GCSC bulletin. Please plan to bring your check with you to the May Installation Luncheon, \$30 payable to TAG, and give it to Chris Thumm, Membership VP.



Dede Bethke

Anna Broecker

Mary Dorth

Karen Hardwick

Talie Harris

Pat Rapp

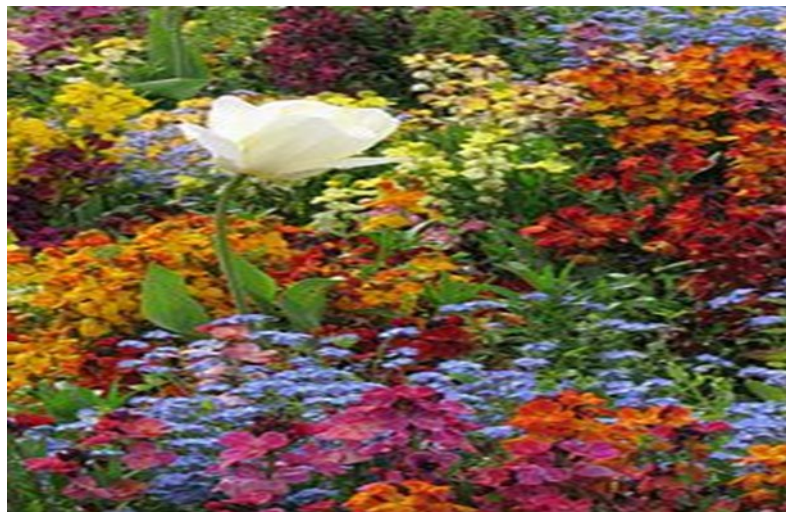
Sandy Stern

# HORTICULTURE

ANN CLAYTON

As we begin to start the planning of our gardens try to incorporate low-maintenance native plants as well as new drought-resistance varieties of perennials, trees and shrubs. A few good varieties to look for are Echinacea (purple or pink coneflowers) Rudbeckia otherwise known as Black Eyed Suzies, Coreopsis, and Salvia Indigo Spires. Keep the number of plants in an area to a minimum. With fewer plants there will be more room for roots to develop, less competition for moisture. Most plants thrive on 1" water per week. Air circulation will prevent fungal diseases. Keep fertilization light at this stage. Plenty of organic matter at the start holds the moisture and helps the roots become established. After the threat of freezing, (deadline for the Low Country is March 15th) dahlias, lilies, gladiola, crocosmia and elephant ear bulbs, to name a few, can be planted; add bone meal. AVOID planting caladiums, tuberous begonias and cannas too early. Plant the tubers shallowly, only an inch or two deep. Cut back dormant foliage on your ornamental grasses. Time to prune bushes. Delay Azaleas till they have finished blooming. (What a wonderful display we have had this Spring) Tidy up and remove dead leaves, excess pine straw and oak leaves. Gardenias love acidic soil and a warm and sunny spot, humidity and evenly moist soil. They are a little fussy but pamper them and you will enjoy their wonderful beauty and fragrance. To prevent bud drop, keep these plants in the same area once planted. One of my favorites is Buddleia Bushes. I have had fun propagating them from seeds off my previous years' bushes. Fast growing with beautiful long purple blooms all Summer. A medium height bush, so give it space.

ROSES - A big favorite of mine. Repeat blooming roses such as floribunda and hybrid tea roses need an annual pruning that is done in the Spring, just as the buds break dormancy. This could be mid--to-late March. The best way to judge when to prune is to look at the buds, when they begin to swell, go ahead and prune. Dead, diseased or damaged wood on any rose tree should be removed as soon as it is seen. Use sharp pruning shears, or long handled topping shears. Dip your pruning shears periodically in a 70% alcohol solution to avoid spreading diseases. Leather gloves will protect your hands. Since rose bushes send out new growth from the bud



## Plant It Pink Garden

With oodles of gratitude for her 12 years as our devoted PIP Chairperson, Sharon Jaunsem is ready to step down. We will need another volunteer to take the helm as contact person for this outstanding, Award Winning community project, located at the Hilton Head Hospital. A committee of similarly dedicated volunteers stand ready to assist. Please let Carol S. know ASAP if you would consider this position.



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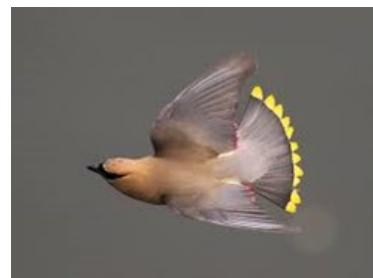
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## BIRDING.....Dick Phillips

With several 2022 winter days in February being in the 70s, rather than the 30s and 40s, it has been nice (and interesting) to see some “newcomers” to our back yard bird feeders over the past few weeks. One in particular is one I’ve always looked for every spring, and generally sometime in the month of March, the Cedar Waxwing makes its appearance. Waxwings are a sleek brownish bird with waxy red tips on their “secondaries”, i.e., their wing tips and tail tip. Surprisingly to most people, there are 3 different Waxwing species in the world. The most common one we see in southern SC is the Cedar Waxwing, which is brownish with a yellow tail tip and a pointed crest at the back of its head, along with a black “mask” covering its eyes from the end of its beak to the beginning of the head crest. CWs are somewhat nomadic in that they are widespread across Canada and northern U.S., and often travel to Panama for some winters. They may even stay as far north as southern Canada if the food supply is sufficient.

Another very interesting species are the warblers. There are several different warblers, one of the more popular ones being the Yellow-Rumped Warbler. These birds are about 6 inches in length, have a large yellow spot at the top of their tail (rump), and yellow spots on their shoulders. The males have a large black breast patch during their breeding season in the spring, which then becomes brownish like the rest of the bird (and like the female), except for the white underbelly. Although the Yellow-Rumped Warbler is found in Alaska and Canada, most of these warblers winter in the U.S., rather than the more snow covered northern areas.

There are many other types of warblers, such as the Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Black-Throated Green Warbler, Townsend’s Warbler, Black Throated Gray Warbler, and the Black-and-White Warbler. As one would expect, the names of these warblers give a very good indication of their outer characteristics. The majority of these warblers are found both in the western



# Looking Ahead...

## **Installation of Officers Luncheon & Members' Garden Tour**

**5/13/22      Port Royal Golf Club      12:30pm**

Please note the date change. Originally scheduled for the third Friday of the month (May 20). It has been rescheduled for the second Friday of the month, May 13. \$25 per person, payable by check, made out to TAG, to Liz or Sandy by April 30, please. Check your email for garden viewing details.

## **End of year Potluck Social**

**6/3/22      Spring Lake Pavilion      5:30pm**

Our final get together for the year. Again, note the date change to June 3 instead of June 17. Bring your own beverage of choice plus a dish to share....and also your significant other! More details to follow.

*Deadline for submitting articles for TAG Talk is always the Sunday prior to the next General meeting.*

*Email your article to either:*



Christine Thumm  
thumms@aol.com

or

Carol Sevelowitz  
sevelcss@gmail.com