



TAG TALK JANUARY, 2022

President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz

Happy New Year !!

Hope you all had happy, safe and healthy holidays. I enjoyed a white Christmas in Maine this season...first time in many years. It was pretty to look at, but suffice it to say, I'm happy to be home! Not that it's been reliably warm here. In fact, I've spent a good deal of time moving my outdoor potted plants into and out of shelter lately!

The new year has brought with it some difficult decision making for us as a Club. Regrettably, the Board has decided to once again postpone plans for a Flower Show in April. There were several reasons for this decision, not the least of which was the recent surge in Covid Omicron cases. Perhaps we'll be able to move ahead with it next year. In the meantime, Program Chair Nancy Renner is hard at work putting together a replacement program for April. Similarly, we have had to make a tough call regarding whether or not to hold regular meetings. As you may have already read in the email I sent on Friday, in our efforts to protect ourselves and others, yet still try to live "normal" lives, the Board has voted to require all meeting attendees to provide proof of vaccination and booster, mandatory masking, and social distancing. Additionally, at least for now, we will refrain from serving refreshments prior to the meeting, which would require unmasking. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to return to normalcy. But for the time being, we feel that it is prudent to err on the side of caution. So, when you come to this Friday's meeting at Spring Lake Pavilion, please cooperate when asked to present your proof of full vaccination and booster. Your name will be checked off on a list for future reference.

So, with "safety first" in mind, I look forward to seeing you all on Friday, and to enjoying our virtual tour of Flower Shows to be given by Ann Clayton, who has put a lot of effort into providing us with an entertaining and enlightening look at Flower Shows from several venues, including our own! Something to aspire to...

Carol

JANUARY MEETING

FRIDAY, 1/21/22 9:30am Spring Lake Pavilion

Come and join The Avid Gardeners on a wonderful "VISUAL TOUR" of three of the World's most prestigious FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOWS.

We will visit the famous **CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW** in LONDON, ENGLAND. THE **CINCINNATI FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW** in OHIO, and previous **FLOWER SHOWS of the AVID GARDENERS**. "Stroll" through the many exhibits in amazement of the creativity that abounds as you relax in the comfort of Spring Lake Pavilion.

Reminder: We will be social distancing and please wear your mask. We will be asking for proof of vaccination and booster.

MEMBERSHIP Christine Thumm

*TAG is happy to welcome our newest members. Please add their info to your Member Booklet.**

Nancy Combs
15 Rusty Nail Lane
925-351-6999
nancypcombs@the.combsteam.com

Frances Hughes
82 Deerfield Rd
202-459-8969
fran@jonandfran.plus.com

Gina Franklin
27 Flagship Lane
478-747-1764
gfranklin1270@gmail.com

Karen Malecha
139 Headlands Dr. S.
219-510-7871
kjmalecha@gmail.com

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

HORTICULTURE

Rosemary Kratz

January is the month when we have time to check our garden and seed catalogs for spring planting ideas. Consider redesigning your garden as a xeriscape. Local xeriscape plantings often include azaleas and camellias. Both do well in our climate zone (8+), need afternoon shade, good drainage, acid soil and average water use. Xeriscaping is about planting appropriate trees, shrubs and perennials in a grouping that minimizes watering requirements. Be patient, any garden you plant will require a couple of years to be fully established. Many of our plantings are native to our area. However, our popular azaleas and camellias are native to China.



Do your research and be surprised at what you can accomplish when you develop a colorful garden that is as unique as you are. Just remember to save time, money, and water by using xeriscaping techniques that may be as simple as transplanting shrubs to an appropriate area or installing an efficient drip watering system.

Suggested Research Books:

“The Southern Living Garden Book”

“Southern Living Annuals and Perennials”

“Gardening with Native Plants of the South” by Sally Wasnowski with photos by Andy Wasnowski





January's
HEALTHY RECIPES
from Anna Broecker



GRANOLA BARS, NO BAKE

1 cup dates, pitted
1½ cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1 cup dried berry and nut mix
¼ cup honey
¼ cup nut butter of your choice

Directions

Line a square baking pan with parchment paper.

Process the dates in a food processor until it forms a dough-like consistency, about 30 seconds to 1 minute.

Place the pureed dates, oats and dried berries and nuts in a large bowl.

Place the honey and nut butter in a small bowl and microwave for 30 seconds. Stir briefly, then pour over the date and oat mixture. Using a wooden spoon, stir to combine, breaking up the pureed dates to ensure that they are evenly incorporated throughout the mixture.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan and press into an even, compact layer. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes to firm up. Remove from the pan, transfer to a cutting board, and slice into bars.

The granola bars can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week, or wrapped individually in plastic wrap, placed in a freezer bag, and stored in the freezer for up to 2 months.



Holiday Luncheon 2021

Many thanks to Dede Bethke, who generously offered her beautiful home for our spectacularly successful Holiday Luncheon in December. Kudos to the planning committee—Liz VanAlstyne, Dodi Eschenbach and Dede — who made it all happen. Food catered by Publix, desserts by members, Floral arrangements were offered by raffle from club members Olivia Ford, Jane Johnson, Nancy Renner, Nadine Korosi, Claudia Hawn and Gina Franklin.

And a splendid time was had by all !!!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's time again to think about Officer positions that will need to be filled in September. This year, we need only vote for a new Recording Secretary, as Nina's term will expire in June. Our ByLaws require a Nominating Committee consisting of 2 Board Members and 1 non Board Member. We already have Board volunteers in Lori Schmidt and Jane Johnson. If you would consider serving on this committee as a Non- Board Member, please let me know ASAP. It's a very short term commitment with just the one slot to fill, and that must be done and presented to the General Membership by our February meeting.

TRIP TO WORMSLOE STATE HISTORIC SITE

In November, we were fortunate to take a field trip to the Wormsloe Historic site in Savannah. Our guided tour by a Park Ranger led us on a comfortable walking tour of the ruins of Noble Jones' 1736 estate and an introduction to the settling of Wormsloe and the city of Savannah. It was a beautiful day and we learned a lot. Following the tour, many of us enjoyed an outstanding lunch at the nearby Driftaway Café. Many thanks to our intrepid VP of Programming, Nancy Renner, for making it all possible.



BIRDING.....Dick Phillips

As we are on the cusp of winter having arrived here in South Carolina, those of us who are interested in watching birds are pretty aware that things are a bit different here in the south as compared to how things evolve in the north, where the majority of us came from. The primary thing is that the same things occur with regard to birds preparing for winter and then spring. But the things that do occur just occur sooner the farther north we are. Each fall millions of birds will travel from their breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and Canada to wintering areas in the southern U.S., Central America and South America. Interestingly for us, South Carolina is located along the "migratory routes". Many of the birds that will transition from the colder north to the warmer south as the seasons get colder, follow these routes, which means twice a year our area is flooded with transient birds. This migration actually makes bird-watching more fun and interesting in that we get to see these travelers twice each year - once as they head south, and again in a few months when they will head north.

Most of the smaller, weaker birds such as different kinds of warblers and different kinds of sparrows typically migrate by night, usually departing soon after dark and flying several hours before landing prior to dawn to rest and feed during the daylight hours. Stronger flying birds, such as hawks and swallows, are usually daytime migrants, and their passage is generally much more visible to birders. Even more interesting are the "strong fliers", such as Golden-Plovers, as these birds will migrate nonstop over a long distance, thus being in flight both day and night.

In late winter, many birds experience inner physiological changes that are initiated to prepare birds for both migration and reproduction. Migrant species in their winter habitats become restless, and by April and May, migration is at a peak in the Carolinas. By early April many permanent resident birds will have begun nesting, whereas migrants arriving from farther south may not begin nesting until much later, perhaps as late as June in the more mountainous regions.

As the urge to begin the reproductive process takes hold, males of many species establish territories, areas from which other reproductively active males of their species are excluded. Small land birds usually advertise territory ownership by singing. Their song has two functions - it warns other breeding males away from the territory, and secondly, the song will hopefully attract prospective mates. Males will often use physical displays to advertise territorial ownership and to attract females. Such females, once attracted to a territory, are courted vigorously by the resident breeding male. The male may sing, perform plumage displays, dance, or make acrobatic flights in an effort to attract the female. If she crouches and flutters her wings like a baby bird, the male may respond by offering her a bit of food, an act called "courtship feeding". The final choice of mate is generally up to the female. Pair formation is usually for a season, but may only be for a single brood. In some species, including the Canada Goose, the bond is usually for life.

In fall and winter small land birds often feed in loose flocks containing several species. In our area Eastern Bluebirds may have as their companions Carolina Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, Pine Warblers, Tufted Titmice, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and occasionally an unusual migrating warbler.

Normally, winter is a time of intense feeding activity because birds require great amounts of energy to counteract severe cold weather. As the days begin to lengthen in late winter, the reproductive urge again takes precedence, and the annual cycle begins again.



*Looking
Ahead*



February Program
Friday, 2/18, 9:30am

Creating a Bird Friendly Backyard

An individual from Wild Birds Unlimited will cover the basics of creating a songbird friendly backyard through the use of native plants, bird feeders, water sources and nesting boxes.

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