



**The Proclamation in Recognition of the 35th Anniversary of The Avid Gardeners will be presented at our meeting Friday, November 18 at 9:45. Please plan to attend.**

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

On the occasion of our Club's 35th anniversary as a federated Garden Club, Sandy Stern was inspired to write the following article for submission to the South Carolina Gardener publication. I am delighted to present it here for your general information and enjoyment.

**H**ave you ever wondered how your garden club got started? I did. So as *The Avid Gardeners* celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of becoming a federated garden club, I decided to ask our veteran members to reflect on its history. I first approached Patti Peacock, who was one of the original members of the club, and who was quite eager to share her thoughts, insights, and memories of the club's accomplishments. She started off by telling me how a group of 12 ladies first met in someone's home to discuss their love of gardening and before the year was out they had applied to the GCSC to become a member, which came about in March 1988.

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They set as their mission 1) to create the love of gardens and flowers; 2) to promote beauty in the community and roadsides; and, 3) to conserve natural resources. For Patti, it was a trip down memory lane. She recalled how they began by selling dried flowers for arrangements during the holiday season, to raise money for their treasury. Many would sell their own plants by the island's Welcome Center to raise funds. They soon were able to put on their first flower show (one of many since then.) In Patti's own words, she said, "Mercifully, it turned out to be a huge success, which gave us a public definition."

Then in 1999, the club took on its most challenging endeavor, to publish a unique cookbook, Culinary Treasures, with over 400 pages of recipes by its own members. The book sold in great numbers, leading to a second printing. Since then, it has found its way across the country. Among the other projects Patti reminded me of was the yearly holiday decorations of roadside signs throughout the community that club members have been doing for over 30 years to beautify the neighborhoods. She also reflected on the NGC awards the club has received for its Flower Shows, the General Howard Davis Island Garden, the Plant-it-Pink Garden, and the Korosi Educational Herb & Vegetable Garden.

Which brings me to yet another old-time gardener, Nadine Korosi, who provided me with her special memories of being a longtime member. She spoke about the variety of guest speakers who have come to share their expertise at our monthly meetings, the multitude of field trips, and, the annual spring visits to members' gardens. But, most importantly, Nadine remembers the camaraderie developed while arranging flowers and planning for public flower shows, while working on community projects, and while teaching young students as they developed a love of hands-on gardening and experienced the wonders of plants, flowers and seeds at the school's Butterfly Garden and the Korosi Vegetable Garden. In Nadine's words, "Best of all, was making lifelong friends while enjoying gardening in the Lowcountry."

Our newest members may not appreciate the history of the club's countless accomplishments, but they do have an opportunity to review them in the volumes of photos in scrapbooks our historians have maintained, the years of monthly newsletters (TAG Talk) chronicled on our website, and the 35 years of gardening experiences we share at our monthly meetings.

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President's message continued from page 1.....

And, on the occasion of the impending Thanksgiving holiday, I am sharing this quote that I came across on the internet.

*Let's give thanks for the wonderful diversity and uniqueness of plants, the ever changing colors, and the movement of the seasons that help us mark time in our lives.*

Wishing you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving!!



Wednesday, November 16

Pick up Holiday sign Decorations & Lights

Plantation House

10:00—12:00

**Coming Soon:**



**Home Tour Thursday, December 8  
3:00-7:00 p.m.**

**ENJOY**

## This month's Meeting November 16, 2022

### Gardening for Wildlife

Debbi Albanese, a Biologist focusing on ecology and conservation will discuss dealing with the challenges to gardening with native plants. There are benefits which include deer resistant native plants and the contribution to the health of our planet. Information regarding Pesticide Regulation will be included.

Nancy Renner  
Program Chair

**p.s.** This month's raffle will be the silk scarf that was tie-dyed at the Indigo Farm last month.

## Savannah Garden Tour

Mark your calendars now for our **April 14, 2023** Avid Gardeners field trip to Savannah for a **walking tour of private gardens in the heart of Savannah**. All the private gardens are in the Historic District within approximately a 1-mile loop and it takes about 1.5-2 hours to visit the gardens.

An account has been set up for our club members to **purchase your own ticket for the Tour for FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023 including the 1PM Southern Tea**.

**Tickets will go on sale December 1**

Details regarding purchasing the tickets on line will be sent out soon. Our group price for the tickets is \$60. per person. Their website [www.gardenclubofsavannah.org](http://www.gardenclubofsavannah.org) is not fully updated but includes pictures from previous tours.

We will be carpooling to Savannah and it is a self guided tour to the gardens. You will be able to tour before & /or after the Southern Tea and Tour of the historic Green-Meldrim House (was Sherman's Headquarters.) We will all gather for the Tea at 1 o'clock. Guests are welcome. Information regarding parking, etc will be sent out when it becomes available.

I know this seems early to make plans for April, but the tickets sell out quickly and early.  
The Tour is organized by The Garden Club of Savannah.

## Art in the Garden

NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens



NOGS means North of Gaston Street which means downtown Savannah Featuring a Garden Party at the historic Green-Meldrim House located on Madison Square.

Walk through private hidden gardens with some of the most picturesque scenes in the county.

Irons-work and cobbled walls, creeping fig vines, fragrant shrubbery and unusual plants that inhabit the coastal area will give

## *Horticulture.....Ann Clayton*

As the Holiday Season quickly approaches, I thought a little history of the plants that help us enjoy this special time of year might be a good idea. Reminders of so many pleasant and happy memories in our lives spent with families and friends.

**MAGNOLIA** - is the quintessential southern Christmas greenery, use it generously to create good-looking holiday DECORATIONS. Cut tips 4 or 5 inches long and arrange down the table length as you would a fabric runner. Add candles, golden ribbon, or ruby colored apples for attention. Red nandina berries are a good addition. Out of water the magnolia leaves stay fresh and supple for about 5 days, then begin to dry and curl. If you want to keep them indefinitely, place the branch stems ahead of time in a solution of 1/3 glycerin and 2/3 water for 3 weeks, or until enough of the glycerin has been absorbed to make the leaves soft and pliable.



**AMERICAN MISTLETOE** - *Phoradendron flavescens*. A yellowish-green bushy plant that grows on the branches of many different kinds of trees from which it receives food and water. There are more than 600 species of this plant. Collected in many countries for use as a decoration, especially at this time of year. They are evergreen and can be seen best on trees that lose their leaves in Fall. Small yellow flowers appear in late winter, followed by white pearly berries that are loved by the birds. After eating the berries, they wipe the seeds off their bills against a tree branch. The seeds stick to the bark and later send a fleshy tube-like root through



the bark. The young mistletoe plant then takes part of its food from the tree, but the rest it makes itself. Historically, mistletoe stood for sex and fertility, hence our current tradition of exchanging kisses under a sprig of mistletoe. Before Xmas trees were popular, mistletoe boughs took center stage in British parlors. These evolved into kissing balls. Always a fun thing to make. Begin with a large Idaho potato and make your ball by tucking sprigs of boxwood, holly, evergreens, cedar, or any other greenery for a

fresh full look. For the hanger attach a ribbon loop to the top of the ball with a U-shaped florist pin. The raw potato keeps the branches moist and fresh.

**CHRISTMAS CACTUS** - *Schlumbergera bridgesii* - Arching, drooping branches made up of flattened, scallop-edged smooth, bright green 1 1/2-inch joints. May have hundreds of many long tubular, 3' pink, white or rosy purplish red flowers at Xmas time. There is a Thanksgiving Cactus that blooms in November that has slightly different leaf segments. This plant likes slightly moist soil when it's actively growing and blooming and slightly dry soil when it's not. Make sure it has good drainage.



**POINSETTIAS** - *Euphorbia pulcherrima* - A few reminders with regard to this ever-popular Xmas plant. Poinsettias need adequate drainage, be sure if you leave the foil around your holiday plant to punch holes in it, they do not like to sit in water. Don't fertilize poinsettias when in bloom. This plant is sensitive to cold and drafty areas - keep away from heater vents. Give bright indirect light. The sap of the Poinsettia can cause nausea, vomiting and irritation if digested. Skin contact also causes irritation of the skin.



**CHRYSANTHEMUMS "MUMS"** - I have enjoyed so many beautiful "MUMS" this Fall, I would be amiss not to mention the joy the numerous colors have brought. A note on their history. Although not a Holiday plant as such, I feel this plant is associated with Halloween and Thanksgiving. Chrysanthemums whose name literally means "golden flower" were cultivated in China some 2,500 years ago. It was praised by the Chinese philosopher Confucius, who admired a dark-flower variety with dark leaves. Chrysanthemums arrived in Japan in the 4th Century A.D. long before Europeans ever set eyes of them. In Japan their cultivation was limited to the gardens of the emperor and nobility. In about 1790 a purple-flowered cultivar reached Kew Gardens in London, by 1796 it was exhibited in large numbers by British nurserymen, and became known as *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, a main ancestor of many of today's garden and pot varieties.



I wish you all a wonderful THANKSGIVING - I am definitely "thankful" to be a gardener and a member of the AVID Gardeners Club for over 20 years.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!! ANN



*Birding.....Beth Hommes*

The Roseate Spoonbill

This month I'd like to talk about a beautiful bird that I am thankful for, the Roseate Spoonbill. The Roseate Spoonbill is a tall pink bird with a large, flat, spoon-shaped bill. They can be found in tidal pools, marshes, and creeks in the Low Country. They stand up to thirty inches tall with a wingspan of up to five feet. They have long pink legs and bright red eyes. Their necks and backs are white. They fly with their necks extended which is unlike many other large birds, like herons, which tuck their necks when flying. The males are slightly larger than females.



They eat fish, crabs, shrimp and other crustaceans. They feed in groups called bowls. Their bills are swept from side to side in shallow water capturing their food. The shrimp and prawns contain carotenoids, the same pigment found in carrots and squashes. Because it is fat soluble, it builds up in the animals and they get darker with age. Some appear almost red.

They nest in ponds and lagoons in low shrubs and trees. There may be 2-400 in their bowl. They live with herons, ibises, and storks. Females are the nest builders and males are the material suppliers. Both parents incubate the eggs for three weeks. They are born white and it takes a month for their bills to take on the spoon shape. Parents share feeding duties for the young chicks for six weeks when the chicks fledge.

They are migratory. They breed in Florida in the winter and Louisiana and Texas in the spring. Their breeding range is expanding probably due to habitat destruction and global warming. In the early 1900s they were almost extinct in the US. They were hunted for their beautiful feathers. The millinery industry banned their use and preservation efforts have helped a significant boost in their population.

# WELCOME new members

We have six new members.

Lynn Tax  
18 Lenora Drive  
610-417-5825  
[lynn.tax@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.tax@gmail.com)

Didi DeAngelis  
59 Old Fort Drive  
704-340-8374  
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Melissa Olsen  
20 Fernwood Trail  
678-725-1053  
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Janet Manglitz  
44 Santa Maria Dr  
503-201-7204  
[peonygardener@protonmail.com](mailto:peonygardener@protonmail.com)

The following is a list of mentors for our new members

Lynn Tax.....Barbara Holmes  
Melissa Olsen.....Jane Johnson  
Carolyn Schmidt.....Caroline Alderman  
Didi DeAngelis.....Mary Ellen Phillips  
Ceil Weser.....Ann Clayton  
Janet Manglitz.....MaryAnn Sweet





**Help needed at the elementary school butterfly garden. Weeding and mulching planned. Work day to be announced.**

**Publicity chair**

**Someone to write a short article monthly for Plantation Living, the plantation's newsletter**



A gentleman contacted us through the website and has 50 buckeyes he's interested in sharing.

For more information, please contact him directly.

His name is Roger Kline

[roger19@roadrunner.com](mailto:roger19@roadrunner.com)



**MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS  
THIS MONTH / NOVEMBER**

*Nancy Combs.....14*

*Lori Schmidt..... 9*

*Liz Van Alstyne.....6*

*Carol Vivona.....25*

**NEXT MONTH / DECEMBER**

*Marlene Brush.....27*

If you would like to have your birthdate listed in TAG Talk, please send us the date.

## ON THE WEB

[www.theavidgardeners.org](http://www.theavidgardeners.org)

- ◆ **Amaryllis Care**— instructions for planting
- ◆ **Gardening Tips**—Resource article for garden design
- ◆ **Gallery**—See other members' photos of amaryllis in their gardens or homes.
- ◆ **How to Use Amaryllis as Cut Flowers**—Coming soon
- ◆ **Irises for the Southern Garden**—How to select what works best here

Visit the website to see what's new. Click on the tabs listed above.

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

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