



Celebrating Our 35th year

President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz

At our meeting this coming Friday, we will be providing you with a ballot listing the potential slate of officers, as prepared by a Nominating Committee of three. While it is true that all current officers except one have agreed to serve a second term, the resulting vote is not cast in stone. Our Bylaws provide for the opportunity to nominate other candidates from the floor "providing that the consent of the nominee has been obtained." Your ballots will be collected, and the outcome "will be determined by an affirmative vote of the majority of those present." The new Officers will be installed and take office at the close of the annual meeting in May." Traditionally, that installation of officers has taken place at a luncheon which followed a tour of member gardens.

This year, however, things have been changed somewhat. The member garden tour has been eliminated due, in large part, to the widespread damage that was caused this winter from which our gardens are still recovering. Plus, many of us will be attending the Savannah Garden Tour next month. Luncheon details are still being finalized, but you will have ample knowledge of the details...stay tuned.

I recently had occasion to re-read our ByLaws to resolve an issue from our Board meeting, and I learned several things that I either was not aware of or had forgotten. I urge you all to familiarize yourselves with those ByLaws, a copy of which is available on our website: www.theavridgardeners.org; the members only password is available in your program directory. I think you, too, will learn something from reading them, both about our club in general, and about your obligations as a member. As a federated club, we are bound to abide by these ByLaws.

Following a brief business meeting, we will welcome our speaker, from Taylor Quality Landscape Supply, who will further educate us about obtaining benefits for your garden from proper watering, fertilizing, and soil amendments. The timing is perfect for us to get out there and get our hands in the dirt. Hope to see you there!

Carol 

March Meeting, Friday March 17
Spring Lake Pavilion 9:30 am

The speaker this month is Lauren from
Taylor's Quality Landscape Supply and Nursery.
This program was rescheduled from January

Topic: Proper Watering, Fertilizers and Soil
Amendments

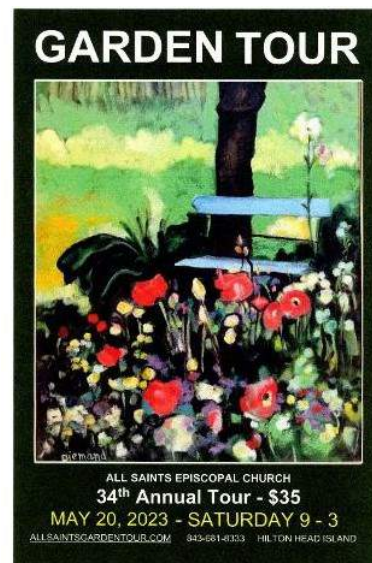


There will be plants for sale (cash or credit) after the presentation

All Saints Garden Tour
Saturday May 20, 2023
9 am—3 pm

Tickets are available now
on line at
allsaintsgardentour.com.

If ordered by May 6 they
will be mailed to you.



Horticulture.....Ann Clayton

Thinking back to before the Pandemic: several members of the AVID Gardeners used to go after school and volunteer with the children at the School for Creative Arts in the gardens we have created. Mainly vegetable plots - very successful and..... a Butterfly Garden.

Last week we returned to clean up Nature's overgrown "weed Garden" in order to resume working with the children in the Fall. While working on this project it occurred to me that many of you may like to have your own Butterfly Garden right in your own back yard.

Ann's column continued on next page.....

Horticulture.....Ann Clayton

Continued from previous page

As Spring welcomes us into our Gardens and we re-connect with Nature why not begin to think of a special area where we can experience the beauty of the "Jewels of the Sky".

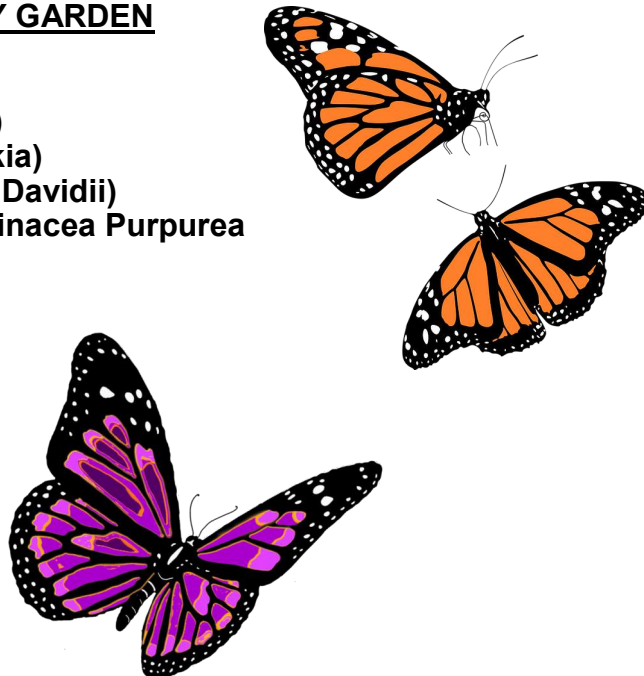
Butterflies are active from early Spring through frost. having a mix of plants in your garden that flower throughout the entire season will leave you in awe of nature's beauty all season long. Nectar is what the butterflies are looking for...plants with short tubular flowers, or flowers with large flat petals (landing platforms) Host plants, the place where the females will lay her eggs and the food that caterpillars need. Both are needed to create a successful butterfly garden.

Avoid plants with fancy double petals. Many native butterflies prefer plants that have pink, red, purple, yellow or orange flowers. Try to mass a single color in one area. Bright sunny areas with good drainage and protected from wind are advisable. Do provide a water source, bird bath, saucers filled with water etc. The use of pesticides will kill many butterflies and their caterpillars, try using biological control. Insecticide soaps or horticultural oils can be applied to the areas of the plant where the pests are located. Keep your plants naturally healthy. Insects usually attack sick or weak plants first.

It is important to create flowering that lasts the season long. Butterflies are active from early Spring through frost. Having a mix of plants in your garden that flower throughout the entire time will attract them all season long.

PLANTS FOR THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

AGERATUM
BEE BALM (Monarda Didyma)
BLACK EYED SUZIE (Rudbeckia)
BUTTERFLY BUSH (Buddleia Davidii)
PURPLE CONEFLOWER (Echinacea Purpurea)
LANTANA
HIBISCUS
ROSEMARY
VERBENA
YARROW
ZINNIA
MARIGOLD
PINEAPPLE SAGE
COSMOS
PENTAS
MEXICAN SUNFLOWER
BUTTERFLY WEED
SALVIA



The LowCountry Master Gardeners Association invites you to join them at their upcoming spring symposium. For more information please continue to the next page.



Carolina Plantsmen & Their Phenomenal Plants

LMGA Spring 2023 Symposium

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
8AM-1PM
USCB Bluffton Campus

\$65 per person.

Click this link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-lowcountry-master-gardener-association-symposium-registration-528624910337>

“Exciting Plants for Deep South Gardens”

Ted Stephens, Plant Hunter, Award Winning Horticulturalist & Owner of Nurseries Caroliniana Inc. (est. 1973) in North Augusta, SC, will focus on new & exciting “woodies” & perennials that perform well in our Deep South gardens. Ted, who specializes in *Osmanthus fragrans*, will highlight the great selection of Tea Olives carried by Nurseries Caroliniana as well as examine numerous plants in the Lily family that perform exquisitely in our Southern landscapes.

“Soul Gardening - A New Style, New Ethos for Deep South Gardens”

Jenks Farmer, Renaissance Plantsman, Noted Garden Designer, Author & Owner of Jenks Farmer, Plantsman company in Columbia, SC is redefining Southern gardens. He will discuss the design process, construction methods, soil care & unique plant selections that have made for spectacular, unique gardens. Jenks will share how he & teams of forward-thinking plant lovers bring wildness, art, hidden history & new plants to all sorts of spaces. Along the way, you’ll get tips for incorporating these lessons into your landscapes.

And, of course, Jenks will talk about crinum bulbs and will sell them as well as books in the lobby starting at 8 AM!

Interactive Panel Discussion

with Ted, Jenks, & Horticulturalist Laura Lee Rose

LMGA Spring 2023 Symposium Schedule Carolina Plantsmen & Their Phenomenal Plants

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Meet the Speakers, Shop for books & plants (cash, cc, check)
9:10 - 10:20 AM	Ted Stephens "Exciting Plants for Deep South Gardens"
10:20 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 11:40 AM	Jenks Farmer "Soul Gardening - A New Style, New Ethos for Deep South Gardens"
11:40 - 12:30 PM	Interactive Panel Discussion with Ted Stephens, Jenks Farmer, & Horticulturalist Laura Lee Rose, former Master Gardener Coordinator for Beaufort & Colleton Counties
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Raffle & Closing Remarks by LMGA President Victoria Bergesen

The Avid Gardeners 35th Anniversary Proclamation



School Garden Program.....Sandy Stern

In February a team of six TAG volunteers gathered at Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts to begin cleaning up two courtyard gardens: the Korosi Vegetable & Herb Garden and the Butterfly Garden. Members cleaned out 5 raised vegetable beds, the former butterfly garden, as well as other areas in the vicinity.

This work is all in anticipation of starting up the Jr. Garden Club after School Program in the fall. We have already recruited a teacher-assigned and looking to recruit a parent to assist in this endeavor. (see photos below)



Birding.....Beth Hommes

Eastern Towhee

The Eastern Towhee is a large sparrow that occupy niches in the eastern US. A close relative is the Spotted Towhee which lives in the western states. They were probably once one species but when glaciers sweep through the mid-US, populations became isolated and new species evolved.

They have a black or brown back and head with brick feathers on their flanks and white under-sides. They like to live in tall fields and bushes. They look much like robins but are a bit smaller and their russet color is only on the sides and not the breast of the birds. Their name comes from their distinctive call. A group of towhees is called a tangle or a teapot of towhees.



Eastern Towhees live year-round in the south-east and Midwest. Those that live in Virginia and north may migrate further north to New England and the Great Lakes in the summer to breed. Females build cup-shaped nests of twigs, weeds, and bark which are lined with a softer material like animal hair on the ground amidst fallen leaves or among grape, honeysuckle, or greenbrier tangles up to four feet above ground. Mother birds generally lay 3-4 eggs and incubate them for 10-12 days. They often have two broods a year and some birds who reside in the south have three. When hatched, both males and females feed the babies.

Often their nests are taken over by Brown-headed Cowbirds who lay their own eggs and leave. Cowbirds often remove towhee eggs before laying their own and as such are called parasitic birds. Unlike many other birds, towhees do not seem to realize these are not their own eggs. Scientists have found that in some areas half of towhee nests are filled with cow-bird eggs..

They are omnivores. They forage in fields, along the ground and under feeders. Their diet varies with the season. In summer they like insects including beetles, ants and caterpillars. They also enjoy spiders, snails and millipedes. They also eat seeds, berries, and acorns and rarely small amphibians and reptiles. Weasels and blue jays together with snakes prey on towhee eggs. Many types of hawks eat young and adult towhee.

They tend to be solitary birds. Males will use movement of their wings and tails to warn others not to enter their territory. Males will defend a nesting territory by singing.

Towhees reach reproductive maturity in year two. They are able to live in the wild for twelve years or more. These birds are numerous and are of low conservation concern at present but a global temperature change of as little as 1.5 degrees could eliminate a large part of their southern range in the US.



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By popular demand, Melissa Olsen's Fruit Tart

Philly Fruit Pizza

1- 18 oz roll of refrigerator sugar cookie slice and bake cookie dough

1- 8 oz Philadelphia cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 tsp vanilla

1/2 cup orange marmalade or peach or apricot preserves

2 TB water

Assorted fruits: strawberries, blackberries, kiwis, blueberries, raspberries, mandarin oranges, etc.

Cut cookie dough into 1/8" slices. Arrange cookie slices on aluminum foil covered 14" pizza pan and flatten pieces and press edges together to make one big cookie!

Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool then remove from foil onto a round serving platter.

Combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla mixing well until blended. Spread over crust.

Arrange fruit onto cream cheese mixture. Make a glaze with marmalade or preserves and water. Spoon glaze onto fruit. Chill and cut into wedges. Enjoy!



Coastal Discovery Museum 2023 Spring Native Plant Sale

Saturday April 1st from 10 am to 1 pm.

One-gallon potted plants are \$9. Three-gallon potted plants are \$16, *CASH OR CHECK ONLY*

Over 90 Native Plant Species-For a complete list visit the museum website at <https://www.coastaldiscovery.org/explore/events/native-plant-sale/>

The museum will have over **80** native plant species to cover diverse landscaping needs, from vines to blooming bushes to butterfly friendly landscaping. Native plants have the advantage of being adapted to the local environment and therefore require little or no care at all. Native plants are also used by local wildlife in a number of ways and are great to attract local pollinators. The museum will have the majority of the native Lowcountry butterfly host-plants which are used by native butterflies to lay their eggs and raise their larvae, and without which they cannot survive.

Museum volunteers and representatives from both the Lowcountry Master Gardeners and the South Carolina Native Plant Society will be available to explain the value of the different species and answer questions. This will be a great opportunity to enhance your garden with plants that require little care and provide great benefits to the environment at an affordable price.

Please join us at this unique event!



The Purple Passionflower is a native vine. The beautiful summer blossoms attract a variety of pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. The vine is also the host-plant for the Gulf Fritillary and Zebra Longwing butterflies.



**MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH / March**

6....Didi DeAngelis

6....Sandy Stern

18....Pat Rapp

23....Carolyn Schmidt

24....Karen Hardwick

25....Dede Bethke

26....Janet Manglitz

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

ON THE WEB

www.theavidgardeners.org

- ♦ **Amaryllis Care**— instructions for planting
- ♦ **Gardening Tips**—Resource article for garden design
- ♦ **Gallery**—See photos of past events
- ♦ **Irises for the Southern Garden**—How to select what works best here
- ♦ **Membership Directory**—Contact info for all members

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

Upcoming programs:

April—Savannah Garden Tour

May—Luncheon, Installation of officers

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

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