



# **TAG Talk**

## **September, 2023**

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

### *Welcome Back!!*

I hope you all have had a wonderful, relaxing and refreshing summer, despite the oppressive heat I heard about. Personally, I did not have a heat problem at our place in Maine. Quite the opposite, actually; it was cool and very, very wet... lots of rain. I didn't get out of jeans and sweatshirts until mid-July! However you spent your summer, hopefully you're back and ready for an exciting TAG year ahead. We have a full slate of interesting meetings and trips scheduled. The new Program and Member Directory, which will be handed out at our September meeting, describes each month's activity. (If you are not able to attend September's meeting, please contact Lori Schmidt or me to arrange to pick up your Directory).

Speaking of September's meeting, our speaker, David Arnal, will update us on recent important developments in the bee world. He will also bring honey from his bee farm here on Hilton Head, available for sale at \$10/jar. Hope to see you there!

First meeting is: Friday, 9/15/23 9:30am

Spring Lake Pavilion.....



# AMARYLLIS SALE

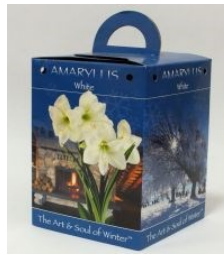
2023

## Amaryllis Gift Boxes - Perfect for holiday gift-giving - \$20/each

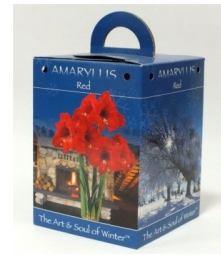
Each box contains one 30/32 cm bulb, a green plastic pot, lid, saucer, potting medium & instructions.



White/Red Striped



White



Red

## Individual Bulbs - \$15/each



**NYMPH**

**White w/intermittent veins of pale to deep coral-red.**



**EXOTIC STAR**

**Orchid-like shape with raspberry petals w/ivory & green highlights.**



**SNOW WHITE**

**Frilly glistening white.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Orient-red, usually on SHORTER 12" STEMS.**

**Order Form 2023**

**On next page**

**Order Forms will also be available at Friday's meeting**

## Amaryllis Order Form 2023

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### GIFT BOXES

### Quantity

### BULBS

### Quantity

WHITE/RED STRIPED GIFT BOX . . \_\_\_\_\_

NYMPH . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

WHITE GIFT BOX . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

EXOTIC STAR . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

RED GIFT BOX . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

SNOW WHITE . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

MERRY CHRISTMAS \_\_\_\_\_

### **Send orders with checks (made out to TAG) to:**

The Avid Gardeners, 17 Sentry Oak Lane, HHI 29926

Questions: Call: Liz VanAlstyne 315-342-1246

Email: [elizzy1106@aol.com](mailto:elizzy1106@aol.com)

**Order By: October 16**

**Delivery By: November 13**

**Pick Up: 17 Sentry Oak Lane (Liz)**

## From the National Garden Club.....



One of the 2023-2025 administration President's projects is a campaign to help feed the hungry across America. Called ***Plant America-Feed America*** the project will encourage every NGC member to participate in one of several ways to help fight food insecurity. During the 2023-2025 term, National will be keeping a running total of how much fresh fruit, herbs, produce, etc. is being donated by our members. They want to spotlight how the NGC is making a difference across America

To that end, the Hilton Head Plantation Farm Club has proposed collaborating with members of the Avid Gardeners to work with them in their ongoing efforts with the St. Stevens Food Bank in Ridgeland. There are many ways in which we can help: maintaining a vegetable plot, assisting with harvesting, delivering produce to Ridgeland, etc. Nancy Renner, who is active in both clubs, has suggested gathering a group of our members who might be interested in working on this very worthy project to meet with Farm Club representatives to work out a plan.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help please let Carol Sevelowitz know as soon as possible ([sevelcss@gmail.com](mailto:sevelcss@gmail.com)) so that a meeting can be arranged.

## Garden chores for September

### *Plan*

#### **Now is the time to pre-order your bulbs!**

Bulbs are an important addition to a Southern garden. They are able to tolerate heat better than many other perennials. Not all bulbs do well in the South, however. (See the TAG articles “Bulbs for the South”). Time tested varieties to try: **Crocus** Cloth of Gold (*C. angustifolius*), Snow Crocus (*C. chrysanthus*), Tommies (*Crocus tommasinianus*) & their cultivars.

Deer- and rodent-resistant, **Anemone blanda** makes an attractive ground cover in border plantings. **Daffodil** varieties that are recommended include members of the Jonquilla, Tazetta, Triandrus & Cyclamineus families.

**Don't forget to order your Amaryllis!** (A. ‘Ruby Star’ shown above)

Although you may choose and purchase those spring flowering bulbs that you'll plant in fall now, don't get them in the ground just yet. Wait until soil temperatures are in the 60's or cooler, likely in November. I like to plant my bulbs around the Thanksgiving holidays. Most vendors will send you the bulbs you ordered at the

### *Plant*

Fall is the most important planting season in the South. Unlike in the North, where winterfrost is the greatest danger to getting plants established, in the South, the heat is the greatest threat. You want your plants to develop a copious root system in order to be able to weather our hot humid summers.

Although not all perennials are available right now, some vendors will ship plants yearround, which is great when you live in a warmer climate, where fall-, rather than spring-, planting is preferred. If you cannot find the plants you are interested in locally, check Digging Dog nursery ([diggingdog.com](http://diggingdog.com)). They offer a temptingly large selection and ship year round!

Plant Bearded, Louisiana & Spuria irises, Agapanthus & Tree Peonies.

Divide and replant perennials that have finished blooming. Daylilies, Irises and Liriope should be divided and replanted at this time.

Cold tolerant annuals include: Calendula, African daisy (*Osteospermum*), Pansies, Violas, Pinks (*Dianthus*), Petunia, Flowering cabbages, Snapdragons & Geraniums.

Interested in natives? The Coastal Discovery Museum Annual Native Plant Sale will be Sept 23rd, 2023 from 10:00am-1:00pm. The sale will take place at the Coastal Discovery Museum on the Honey Horn grounds. Over 90 species of native plants will be available.

(continued next page)

## *Prune*

Do only cosmetic pruning. You do not want to promote new growth that will not mature well before the cold weather. Fill in gaps in your landscape with cooler tolerant annuals such as pansies, marigolds, mums etc. Plenty to choose from at the local nurseries. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs, they have already set bloom.

## *Mulch*

Spread a layer of mulch over your planting beds. Mulching is THE best way to add organic matter to your sandy soil and increase retention of water and nutrients. Keep in mind not to mulch over or against the crowns of perennials or too close to the stems of trees and shrubs.

## *Spray*

With cool damp nights and warm days, watch out for mildew, especially on squash, crape myrtle, zinnias, dahlias and roses. Treat with fungicide as needed.

## *Watering*

September and October tend to be dry months in SC. Grass needs about an inch of water per week during the fall, and rainfall may not be enough. Check all sprinklers and spigots for leaks. Continue watering lawns regularly. Lawns must be protected from drought if they are to recover well the following spring. Water during the early morning hours to give the grass time to dry off before evening and prevent disease.

Consider reducing your irrigation settings for your planting beds, in accordance with cooler temperatures to prevent mildew and rot (see above). Selectively supplement with handwatering where and when needed.

## *Weeding*

Your September gardening to-do list might also include dealing with invasive weeds (not a gardener's favorite garden chore). This is THE best time to target Poison Ivy. As the days shorten and temperatures drop, poison ivy leaves will change their color to bright orange, yellow, or red, making it easier to identify. Use a dedicated systemic poison ivy herbicide if you are very allergic (as I am). Do not use broadband herbicides in your garden. Attempt to get rid of other invasive plants that are a problem in your garden as well.

*Happy Gardening!*

*Jacqueline*

# Jr. Gardeners

Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,  
Melissa Olsen



As you know, the pandemic took a toll on our school garden project. But now plans are underway for the re-establishment of the Jr. Garden Club at the School for Creative Arts, HHI. Plots have been weeded and the gardens generally cleaned up. Some ideas for projects are additions to the Butterfly Garden, planting of a vegetable garden, and a unit on Birds and Butterflies. We will meet with the children one afternoon a week for approximately 1 1/2 hours at the school. Flyers to solicit student interest will be going out shortly. We will have a limited number of children to work with. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact Sandy Stern, Melissa Olsen, or Jane Johnson.



## SHRIMP, AVOCADO, & TOMATO SALAD

1 lb raw shrimp, peeled, deveined  
2 Tbsps olive oil, divided  
1-2 fresh garlic cloves, minced  
zest  
2 large avocados, diced  
chopped

8oz mixed cherry tomatoes, halved  
1 jalapeno chili , seeded & sliced  
1 large fresh lemon, both juice and  
handful fresh cilantro or parseley,

1. Heat 1 tblsp of oil in a large skillet over medium high heat.
2. Add shrimp and garlic and cook for 3-4 minutes or just till shrimp turn pink.
3. Season shrimp with sea salt and pepper to taste, remove from heat.
4. In a large bowl add cooked shrimp, tomatoes, avocado, chili, and chopped cilantro.
5. Drizzle with remaining 1 Tbsp oil and squeeze in lemon juice, add zest, and gently toss to combine everything.
6. Adjust seasonings and enjoy!

## Plant It Pink

*With many thanks to his crew of dedicated workers, Rob Cushman is happy to finally report that the irrigation system for the Plant It Pink Garden at the hospital is now operational !! The garden is looking great, and Rob had a meeting with a reporter for PINK magazine, who will be doing an article on the fine job that was done to resurrect the garden following this past winter's devastation. Kudos All!!*



Ann Clayton	9/25	Anna McCann	9/9
Jackie Emery	9/1	Peg McCann	9/5
Claudia Hawn	9/8	Nina McGlade	9/2
Jane Johnson	9/25		

Christine Thumm  
thumms@aol.com



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sevelcss@gmail.com

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