



## TAG Talk

November, 2023

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

*The early and persistent nip in the air reminds us it's Fall. That, and the changes we're seeing in our gardens and elsewhere, of yellowing leaves, withering flowers, and hyperactive squirrels. And here I am, still with a closetful of summer clothes!. For some inspiration on preparing for the new season, turn to Jackie Emery's Horticulture article on November's garden chores. Then, pick up your Amaryllis bulbs (this week, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday) from Liz Van Alstyne. Also, check out the next page for information on our December gathering...an elegant holiday luncheon at Hewitt Oaks in Bluffton, on December 6th, We have to guarantee 40 people, so do invite your significant other or friend to join you.*

*Thanksgiving is a time for reflection: and I would like to say that, in addition to my family's health and well-being, I am so thankful for all of you Avid Gardeners, especially those, past and present, who regularly step up to do the things that need doing to support this club. We would not be the success we are without you.*



Coming in December.....



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at:

**HEWITT OAKS**

An elegant catering venue

205 Stillwell Rd., Bluffton

Wednesday, Dec 6., 11:30—1:30



Luncheon, in Huling Hall will include a delicious buffet with beverage and desserts. Price \$35 per person. Feel free to bring a guest. RSVP by 11/27 latest, to Liz Van Alstyne or Sandy Stern.



## Garden Chores for November

Fall is THE best time for planting in the South.

### Bulbs

November is the time to plant bulbs in your garden. This for me is a Thanksgiving Holiday chore. Plant to the depth specified for the type of bulb you are planting according to the directions provided by the vendor. A handdrill with an bulb auger bit can make this chore a snap. Plant in large drifts to make a biggers statement. Put smaller bulbs near your entry way where you can enjoy them! Work some bulb fertilizer in the soil when you plat them. A low nitrogen fertilizer like 6-10-10 is best. If you have squirrels that dig up your bulbs, consider using a synthetic fertilizer rather than bonemeal. The smell of bonemeal attracts squirrels. Alternatively cover your bulbs with wire mesh.

### Annuals

Winter annuals, such as: Snapdragons, Pansies & Violas, Dianthus, pink & white Ornamental Cabage varieties, Kale, and bronze-leafed Mustard 'Miz America' can still be planted.

### Perennials

As the weather gets colder, it is a great time to divide and or re-locate perennials. Move that plant that got too much/ too little sun to a new location, or just divide perennials that have gotten too large.

### Deer, Rabbits & Squirrels

Make sure to protect your new plantings from deer. Fall and winter are times when they are more prone to 'sample' your new plantings. Squirrels will dig around your planting beds this time of year to hide acorns for a winter 'treat'. Repellex® systemic tablets will protect plantings from deer, rabbits & squirrels for an entire season as it gets incorporated into plant tissues. Liquid Fence® deer and rabbit repellent might also be helpful, as is the use of (transparent) 30 or 40 lb monofilament fishing line.



## Lawn

If you did overseed your lawn, you should have a lush green carpet right now.

## *Prune*

Do only cosmetic pruning. You do not want to promote new growth that will not mature well before the cold weather. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs, as they have already set buds.

## *Mulch*

Continue to 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. Use pinstraw or (uncolored) pine mini nuggets. Aside from mulching your beds, pine nuggets make a fine soil amendment. They will decompose and provide organic material to our sandy soil. After several years you will have the deep, rich soil we are all striving for!

## *Spray*

With cool damp nights and warm days, watch out for mildew. This is usually a sign that you are providing more water than your plant can process during these cooler temperatures. Reduce watering amount and duration. Treat with fungicide as needed.

## *Watering*

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

## **Camelias**

My Camelia Sasanqua (Autumn Camelias) are in full bloom now. Although not native to the South, the insects in my garden don't seem to mind. The bushes are literally teeming with wildlife, from bees to butterflies to moths and the occasional hummingbird, on sunny days. (Please do not tell them that Camelias are non-natives!).

## **Crinums**

My Crinum *jagus* 'St. Christopher' plants are blooming, again. They rebloom several times a year, and are a welcome addition this time of year.

## **Cape Honeysuckle**

The latest addition to our garden is a fiery orange *Tecomaria capensis* (Cape Honeysuckle). It was 'love at first sight'. We could not resist! It is currently the star of our polinator garden. It is supposedly cold hardy to 23° F. We will see...

*Happy Gardening!*

*Jacqueline*

# Jr. Gardeners

Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,  
Melissa Olsen



Our Jr. Gardeners Club members, a.k.a. the Butterfly Bunch, have been busy this season, planting vegetables and flowering plants, creating pine cone seed feeders, and building, painting and decorating individual Blue Bird houses. They are also learning about pollinators and nectar plants. The young students are engaged in Garden Club of South Carolina and National Garden Club Inc. projects, such as the Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, that teaches children how to prevent forest fires and how they can reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. The students maintain a compost pile and use water collected from a rain barrel. Thanks to The Avid Gardeners who volunteer on Thursday afternoons at the Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts to help teach the next generation how to appreciate nature, develop a love of gardening and understand the role gardeners





*POA Annual Volunteer recognition Holiday Party*

*Friday, December 1, 4:00—6:00pm*

*Spring Lake Pavilion*

*In recognition of our service to the HHP community, the POA invites us to attend their annual Holiday Cocktail Party. This is always a lovely event with catered hors d'oeuvres and wine. Look for your invitation in the mail, but you must respond no later than November 17th to*

*Sharon White at the POA, (843) 681-8800 ext. 233*

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Thumm

We are happy to welcome our newest member

Beth Higley,  
17 Golden Hind Dr, 828-406-5536, [inmygarden55@gmail.com](mailto:inmygarden55@gmail.com)

Also please note the following corrections:

Pat Rapp 99 Birdsong Way, D306, 843-415-1737

Jacqueline Emery

978-846-1070



November birthdays

Nancy Combs

Lori Schmidt

Liz Van Alstyne

Carol Vivona



“May your stuffing be tasty.  
May your turkey be plump.  
May your potatoes and gravy  
have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
and your pies take the prize, and  
may your Thanksgiving dinner  
stay off your thighs!”

—Anonymous



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thumms@aol.com



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