



TAG Talk

April, 2024


President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz

Well, I think it's safe to say it has finally warmed up here on Hilton Head. And, happily, the pollen seems to have abated, and the gnats and mosquitoes haven't yet arrived. In fact, the past few days have been nearly perfect. Even the grass is greening up (thanks to generous applications of Milorganite). Hope you're all getting outside to take advantage of this "golden period".

I'm happy to report that our March new member Open House meeting was very successful, with many visitors attending. We even got four new members signed up. You'll find their contact information on the next page. In April we'll be carpooling to Bluffton to visit the Palmetto Oaks Sculpture Garden. And in May, in addition to a brief installation of new officers ceremony, we'll have a speaker who'll tell us all about what we might be doing wrong in our gardens. I know I can use all the help I can get!

Your Board has been exploring potential community projects that we can support. One project we have committed to is decorating the new Dolphin Head Clubhouse for the Holidays. Later in the year, we'll be calling on members to help with that. If you have any suggestions for other projects, please let us know.

For now, I'll be outside enjoying the day...hope you'll do the same!

Carol 

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."
— Margaret Atwood, [Bluebeard's Egg](#)

April 19th Meeting

Field Trip to Palmetto Oaks Sculpture Garden

11 Palmetto Beach Lane, Bluffton

Meet at Plantation House at 9:45am to join a carpool, as parking is extremely limited. Stephen Kishel, owner and artist, will give us a guided tour of the garden. Enjoy a woodland garden with flat gravel walkways.

Please call *Carolyn Schmidt* 336-509-2062 to let her know you will attend,

Membership News

Happy to report that last month's New Member Open House was a grand success. As a result, we have four new members. Please add their info to your Directory:

Anne Bender
12 Redstart Path
484-431-9618
annebndr@gmail.com

Sharon Bailiff
31 Purple Martin Lane
854-683-0792
sharern0817@yahoo.com

Christy Beltran
87 Headlands Dr
843-530-1415
hiltonheadRE@gmail.com

Janet Monsalvatge
9 Myrtle Bank Rd
205-587-6850
jmonsalvatge@bellsouth.net



Garden Chores for April

Jacqueline Emery

Plant

This is the best time to plant flowering annuals. The stores are overflowing with them

Annuals: I like to use root starting hormone on my annuals. This comes as a powder but is now also available in liquid (concentrate) form. Bonide Root & Grow Plant Starter, which is easier to use, can be used as a pre-planting soak. I also incorporate a systemic deer repellent (Repellex tablets), and some Vermiculite, in the planting hole. Gardening is personal. See what works for you.

Perennials: are an investment. They take time to get established (typically around 3 years). Be patient, don't plant too close. With the exception of Tropicals, perennials are best planted in the fall in our climate.

Tropicals: are best planted this time of year, as opposed to in the fall (their worst enemy is frost, not heat).

Prune

Azaleas and other spring flowering shrubs can be pruned after they have finished blooming.

Fertilize

Note the **N-P-K ratio** listed on every fertilizer:

N stands for Nitrogen, which promotes leafy growth.

P stands for Phosphorus, which stimulates fruit, root, and flower production.

K stands for Potassium, which improves drought tolerance, disease resistance & durability.

Nitrogen fertilizer is best applied as a slow-release fertilizer, or as a spray. Applying too much can burn a plant.

If you have not fertilized your azalea yet, you must do so now. Use a special Azalea/Camelia fertilizer.

Gardenias will develop yellow leaves at this time of year. Yellowing of many older leaves is often a sign of insufficient nitrogen or magnesium. Young gardenia leaves turning yellow is likely from low iron. Magnesium insufficiency can be cured by an application of (non-smelling) Epsom salts Iron deficiency can be treated by an application of iron (lawn sprayer).

Use a specialty bulb fertilizer (low N) on your bulbs (Amaryllis, Calla Lilies, Irises, Spanish Hyacinths, Butterfly gingers). Using a fertilizer with too much Nitrogen will promote lush green leafy growth but fewer flowers.

Blooming tropical plants that are heavy feeders (e.g. Strelizia) can be fertilized with citrus fertilizer spikes (9-12-12).

Use an 'all-purpose' fertilizer on all your other plants at this time.

You can supplement with a water hose application of bloombooster on plants that are in bloom if you have sandy soil. use liquid bloom booster, such as Miracle-Gro garden hose spray (works great on annuals).

Do not fertilize newly planted shrubs and trees; without an established root system this does more harm

Irrigation

April normally brings with it a few warmer days, and it may be tempting to turn the irrigation on to make sure plants and turf are getting enough water, but try to remain conservative with irrigation. Too much water at the wrong times may cause problems in the landscape.

While it is important not to overwater in early spring, April can be a good time to inspect irrigation systems to make sure they are working properly for the growing season.

Blooming in April

Loropetalum. Japanese naples have flushed out and have their colorful leaves.

Daffodils (Thalia), Spanish Bluebells (Hyacinthoides hispanica), Large (perennial) Calla Lily (Zantedeschia *aethiopica*), Snap Dragons, Dianthus, Stock flowers (Matthiola *incana*), Iris Ampliflora 'Ming Treasure' (above), Strelizia Regina.

Visit

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens' River of Irises typically blooms from now (Mid April) to the end of the month. Hundreds of Louisiana iris varieties populate the low-lying gullies that help drain excess moisture from the garden After a heavy rain, slow-moving water flows through the iris plants in picturesque, gently winding rivers.

The 51-acre garden, (not be be confused with the much older, and smaller, Savannah Botanical Garden located in the center of Savannah), is located near Savannah airport.



More info at: <https://coastalbg.uga.edu/the-gardens/rivers-of-iris/>.



Jr. Gardeners

Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,
Melissa Olsen



Members of the Butterfly Bunch Jr. Garden Club have been busy weeding and planting petunias and flower and vegetable seeds in their gardens. Two Meyer Lemon trees were purchased and planted thanks to the generosity of Bartlett Tree Experts and The Avid Gardeners. Kids are continuing to harvest kale from the fall garden. They have painted flower pots and will decorate them after spring break.





All Saints Garden Tour, May 18, 2024

The 35th All Saints Episcopal Church Garden Tour will be held Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9am-4pm. We will have:

Six lovely gardens in Hilton Head and Bluffton.

A time change, now 9-4 (previously 10-4),

A price of \$45, the first price increase in 9 years. Lunch will be available at The Seabrook of Hilton Head, one of the gardens on the tour. The cost will be available later.

Tickets are available to purchase **on line** from now until May 16. If you purchase your tickets on or before May 11, we will mail them to you. **Tickets purchased online between May 12 and Thursday, May 16th must be picked up at the church.**

Artisans Market and bake sale, a new and enhanced version of the Boutique – At All saints Episcopal Church, 3001 Meeting Street, Hilton Head Island, same date as Garden Tour, May 18, 9-2 (note that the Boutique ends at 2)

After Monday, April 15, 2024 tickets may be purchased at the following local nurseries and businesses:

In Hilton Head

- All Saints Church Episcopal Church (3001 Meeting Street)
- BRUNO Landscape and Nursery (109 Dillon Road)
- Burke's Main Street Pharmacy (1101 Main Street)
- the greenery, inc. (960 William Hilton Parkway)

PLANT IT PINK

The Plant It Pink gardeners have been busy sprucing up the garden for Spring. They have removed all the dead Pentas as well as pine straw, weeds and “rubbish”. The Greenery has been contacted to order 50 new Pentas and 10 bags of mulch, As soon as they know when those items will be available, another work day will be scheduled. As soon as the weather stabilizes (as in no more rain), the sign will be repainted. There was a bit of bad news —there is a break in the new water line down toward the main entrance, so no water to the irrigation system. Rob hopes to talk with the maintenance manager of the hospital about the problem, but we may need to go back to hand watering for a while until it is fixed. As soon as we get the new flowers, Rob will prepare a schedule. Ir you would like to join this team of gardeners, please contact Rob or Janina Cushman at 843-298-1654 or 843-298-0329,



April Birthday Greetings

Tracy Elizabeth

Dick Phillips



Remember our very popular and successful Holiday Home Tour of 2022? Well, we're doing it again in 2024 !! Currently, we are in the earliest planning stages, but it promises to be even better than before. Our greatest need at the moment is to identify five beautifully decorated homes whose owners are willing to open them up for the tour on Saturday, December 7. If you or any neighbor residing in Hilton Head Plantation is interested in participating this year, please contact any one of our Fundraising committee members: Liz Van Alstyne, Jane Alexander, Maryanne Sweet or Melissa Olsen.

Coming in May

May 17 9:30am

Spring Lake Pavillion

Speaker **Lisa D. Watson,** **Seven Blunders of Coastal Gardening**

Lisa is an artist and Master Gardener, who specializes in conservation and restoration of native plants to our lowcountry backyards and byways.

Also.....

Installation of officers: Secretary Melissa Olsen and
1st VP of Programs, Rita Rivlin.

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

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thumms@aol.com



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