



TAG TALK

January 2024

President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz

Happy New Year everyone!

TAG is looking forward to a great year, beginning with a talk on pruning in January and ending with another fabulous Holiday Tour of Homes in December. In this issue of TAGTalk you'll find updates and details on all program changes. Also, please be sure to read Chris's explanation of changes to the date changes for dues payments, and then bring your dues check to this Friday's meeting.

It seems like we just got thru the holidays, but it's not too soon to start planning for The Tour for '24. We'll be looking for both members and community residents who would be willing to open their holiday decorated homes for the tour, so if you know of a neighbor who "does it up" for the holidays, please let Liz Van Alstyne know.

The weather hasn't been great for gardening right now, but Caroline Alderman has offered us some great tips on protecting your precious outdoor specimens from the cold, so check those out too.

Look forward to seeing you Friday!!

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In keeping with the schedule of the National Garden Club and the South Carolina Garden Club, The Avid Gardeners Garden Club is adjusting its membership year. The new term will be Jan 1 to Dec 31 starting this year, 2024.

Since all current member dues are paid up through May, 2024 according to the previous schedule, renewals this January will be **\$20** for the new fiscal year of Jan 1–Dec 31, 2024. This applies only to renewing members currently on the membership roster as of January 1, 2024. All **new** memberships will be \$35 and next year (January, 2025) the dues will also be \$35 as before.

- ◆ Renewals for this year will be **\$20**
- ◆ Deadline for renewing this year is January 31, 2024
- ◆ Checks can be brought to this month's meeting, January 19
OR mailed (see address below)
OR dropped off at my home

My address is 12 Whitetail Deer Lane.
843-415-6809
theavidgardenersshi@gmail.com

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Christine Thumm
Membership Chair

Note: This change is for all renewing members and the deadline is January 31.
Please act quickly.

Meeting: Friday, January 19



9:30 am
Spring Lake Pavilion

Speaker: Bob Andreucci
Topic: Pruning 101-104, 5, 6



Garden Chores for January

Plant

Annuals

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

Shrubs & Trees

May be planted or transplanted this month.

Compost

Leaves are still coming down; If you have deciduous trees in your yard, as I do, you are probably awash in leaves (sigh). Leaves blown in to your planting beds may look unsightly, but they provide good winter cover, if you do not mind the 'messy' look. Alternatively you can rake the leaves and mix them with your grass clippings (green+brown) in a compost bin/ area to create a compost come spring.

Winterize

Baby it is getting **COLD** outside. Plan your frost strategy now. [Read my article on "How to Prevent and Treat frost damage"](#). See page 4

Plan

Time for a breather. Schedule some 'me' time. Take a break from and curl up with a good (gardening?) book. Now is a good time to take a good look at your garden and plan what you would like to change or add. Make your spring 'wish list'. You can pre-order a lot of plants now!

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening!

Jacqueline

The article written by Jackie on treating frost damage can be found on our website under the TAB: Gardening Tips by Jackie Emery theavidgardeners.org

Also, here's some useful information from Jackie on frost dates.



First Frost Dates for Hilton Head

As your growing season comes to an end, the nightly temperatures for Hilton Head Island start to go down, and therefore every day that goes by increases the chance that you'll get frost. Your risk of frost really begins around November 12, and by December 26 you're almost certain to have received at least one frost event.

How to read these charts for Fall

These charts show the **probabilities** of receiving a certain temperature on a certain day, for example:

- ❖ You have a small, 20%, chance of hitting 32° by November 21.
- ❖ There is a 50% chance of being hit by a 32° frost starting around December 9
- ❖ You have a 80% chance of seeing 32° by December 26
- ❖ Said another way, you have a 1 in 5 chance at making it to that day without a 32° night.

In the Fall									
Temperature	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
First 16°	Jan 13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
First 20°	Dec 27	Jan 9	Jan 21	Feb 3	--	--	--	--	--
First 24°	Dec 13	Dec 23	Dec 31	Jan 7	Jan 15	Jan 25	--	--	--
First 28°	Nov 24	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 25	Dec 31	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 25
First 32°	Nov 12	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 3	Dec 9	Dec 14	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 4
First 36°	Oct 31	Nov 6	Nov 11	Nov 15	Nov 19	Nov 23	Nov 27	Dec 1	Dec 8

What's a safe temperature for tender plants? When the nightly temperature falls, frost can form, even above 32°, because the air is colder high above the ground and the frost can form up there and then fall down onto your garden and do some damage, even if it's 36° on the ground. So many factors come into play, including wind, concrete, houses, trees and other structures, etc etc etc.

Because of all this, you might want to consider 36° as 'the danger zone'.

From member, **Caroline Alderman:**

Hello...

Freezing temperatures are predicted for next week. I have huge specimen plants that I cannot bring inside, but I save them each year by doing these things.

1. Push the plants close to the house for some heat
2. Festoon with Christmas lights...the old fashioned twinkle lights (not led)
3. Cover with sheets (never plastic)
4. clothes pin them to keep them snug against the wind

This works...4 days 26 degrees and I didn't lose a plant!
Is it work? Yup, but I got my husband on board when I declared "either we cover or we replace for \$1000 in Spring."

"Plastic will transmit cold air to the plants, causing more harm than good. We recommend using cotton fabric or frost cloth to protect plants from frost. Lightweight cotton fabric (i.e., bedsheets, thin blankets) will retain heat and provide frost protection for your plants. The above message is from member, Caroline Alderman.

Also, from **Jackie Emery:** Sheets & towels need to be removed and replaced with dry ones if they get wet or the plants will rot. No plastic tarp.

With all these helpful tips, all our plants should survive the pending cold weather next week.

Below is the revised Program schedule for the remainder of the year.
Please print and keep as a reference.

DATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
January 19 2024	SPEAKER Pruning 101 Spring Lake Pavilion	Bob Andreucci, an arborist who works for Bartlett Tree Experts in Hilton Head, SC will talk about removing dead, diseased, or unwanted branches from trees and shrubs.
February 16 2024	FIELD TRIP Camelia Garden Tour Coastal Discovery Museum	Fellow gardeners prepare to be inspired from the beauty of 135 species of Camellias in a rainbow of colors ranging from the brightest reds , pinks , yellows and snow whites. Learn about the history , diversity and significance of camellias and how to care for them. Please register to attend at the January Meeting or by calling Karen Hardwick at 404-808-2334. We will meet inside as the tour starts with a presentation by Wendy Dickes.
March 15 2024	SPEAKER Native Plants in the Low Country Spring Lake Pavilion	Laura Lee Rose has been a Horticultural Agent for Clemson Extension and a President of the Southcoast Chapter of the South Carolina Native Plant Society. She will teach us more about Native Plants.
April 19 2024 9:45 Meet at Plantation House to carpool 10:30 Arrive at garden	FIELD TRIP Palmetto Oaks Sculpture Garden 11 Palmetto Beach Ln, Bluffton, SC 29910 Tour 10:30-11:30	Stephen Kishel, owner and artist, will walk around the sculpture garden with us. This, one acre sculpture garden and art studio, allows visitors to enjoy a low country woodland garden with mostly flat gravel walkways. If TAG members wish to get lunch afterwards, individuals may make arrangements separately.
May 17 2024	SPEAKER Seven Plant Blunders of our Coast and Officer Installation Spring Lake Pavilion	Lisa D Watson, a gardener and artist, has a strong interest in sustainable gardening. Seven Plant Blunders of our Coast covers a lot of different ways to be a better and more sustainable gardener.
June 21 2024 5:00 PM	SOCIAL Pot Luck Social Dolphin Head Reserved for 5:00 PM	TAG Members and Families Event invited for a potluck dinner.



**MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH**

7.....Barbara DiRusso

10.....MaryAnn Snyder

22.....Rob Cushman

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

Here's some information from Jackie Emery about a free Zoom course about gardening. Attendance is limited to 229 participants for the online program, so register soon. Here's the link: <https://jcra.ncsu.edu/about/history/index.php>.

Thanks, Jackie



Intro to Gardening in the South (Online Attendance) Saturday, February 3, 2024 – 9:00 am–12:00 pm.

FREE online ZOOM course

Are you new to the area or new to gardening? Make plans to attend “Intro to Gardening in the South”!

While gardening in the Southeastern US can have its challenges, particularly for new gardeners and gardeners new to the area, this region is absolutely brimming with potential for creating diverse and breathtaking garden spaces. Join us for a morning symposium full of tips, tricks, and insights into Gardening in the South so that your Southeastern garden can start strong and stay glorious!

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Cost: Free.

Registration: Advance registration is required for both In Person and Online attendance. Register online using our registration e-store ([in-person program](#) and [online program](#)). Registration is limited and is complete when online registration is completed.. Please register by February 1, 2023 to allow enough time for your registration to be processed to ensure you receive the instructions to join us prior to the program.

Questions: Please write jcraprograms@ncsu.edu for more information about this program.

Edits to the Program and Member Directory
Corrections, Additions, Omissions, Changes

⇒ Nadine Korosi email: nadinekorosi@gmail.com



Next Meeting: February 16

*Camelia Garden Tour
Coastal Discovery Museum
Honey Horn Plantation*

Please register to attend at the January Meeting or by calling Karen Hardwick at 404-808-2334. See Program Schedule for additional information

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

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