



TAG TALK

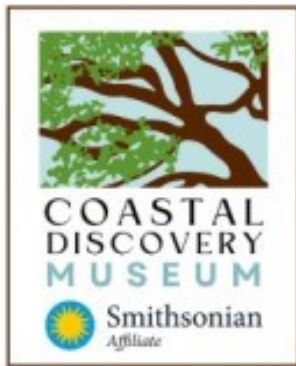
March 2024

MARCH 15 MEETING OPEN HOUSE
Spring Lake Pavilion 9:30 am

Topic: Native Plants in the Lowcountry

Speaker: Laura Lee Rose

**Laura Lee Rose is the President of the
South Coast Chapter of the South Carolina
Native Plant Society (SCNPS) and is a
Retired Clemson Extension Agent.**



NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday MARCH 16, 2024
10 AM - 1 PM

From **VERDANT VINES** to **BLOOMING BUSHES** and everything native in between!

PRO TIP!
Native plants are adapted to the local environment and require little or no care at all

Local plants attract butterflies, wildlife, birds, and pollinators!



1 gal. plants \$10.00

CASH & CHECKS ONLY

3 gal. plants \$17.00



70 HONEY HORN DRIVE, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC, 29926

For a complete list of plants available visit:

<https://www.coastaldiscovery.org/explore/events/native-plant-sale/>



**Lowcountry Master Gardener Association
&**



South Carolina Native Plant Society – South Coast Chapter

Present:

Native Plant Symposium

Please secure your seat now!

Saturday, March 23, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

University of South Carolina Beaufort – Bluffton Campus



SPEAKERS



Keith Bradley – South Carolina State Botanist

Topic: Native Plants of South Carolina

Terasa Lott – State Coordinator, SC Master Gardener Program - Clemson Cooperative Extension

Topic: Invasive Plants and Alternative Planting Recommendations

Laura Lee Rose – President - South Coast Chapter SCNPS, Retired Clemson Extension Agent

Topic: Lowcountry Plant Communities

Click the link sent with this email to get your ticket today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-symposium-tickets-794873095827>

March



Garden Chores for March

❖ *Plant*

- ❖ Flowering plants & annuals: may be planted as they become available in the stores.
- ❖ 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.



- ❖ Tropicals: are best planted this time of year, as opposed to in the fall (their worst enemy is frost, not heat), as soon as the nights stay reliably above 55°F.
- ❖ *Prune*
 - ❖ Complete the heavy pruning started in February (see last month's newsletter).
 - ❖ If shrubs have been badly damaged by cold, be patient. When new growth begins to appear you will know how much of the plant actually needs to be cut.
 - ❖ Evergreens: Evergreens might have suffered winter damage. Do not cut them back. They need their leaves, ugly tips and all, in order to recover. Wait to prune them until after they have sent up fresh replacement leaves (I learned that the hard way last winter).

❖ *Fertilize*

- ❖ Shrubs, trees, ground cover and vines should be fertilized now.
- ❖ The 4Rs of fertilizing are: apply the *Right fertilizer*, in the *Right place*, in the *Right amount*, and at the *Right time*.
- ❖ If you are new to your garden, get a soil test (see <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/soil-testing/>).
- ❖ Do not fertilize newly planted shrubs and trees; without an established root system this does more harm than good.
- ❖ Look at 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. Potassium improves drought tolerance, disease resistance and general durability.
- ❖ Nitrogen fertilizer is best applied as a slow-release fertilizer, or as a spray. Applying too much can burn a plant.
- ❖ Do NOT use nitrogen fertilizer on bulbs or blooming annuals. You will get beautiful leaves, but no, or fewer, flowers. Use a specialized bulb fertilizer instead, or use liquid bloom booster, such as Miracle-Gro garden hose spray (works great on annuals).
- ❖ Be aware that organic fertilizers may smell and attract squirrels and deer.

Irrigation

- ❖ March 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, March can be a good time to inspect irrigation systems to make sure they are working properly for the growing season.

Blooming in March

- ❖ Azaleas, Camelia japonica, Crabapple, Dogwood, Flowering Almond, Flowering Apricot, Quine, Spirea, Loropetelum ('Ruby' above), Magnolias (*Magnolia x soulangeana*).
- ❖ Daffodils, Hyacinths, Large (perennial) Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), Snap Dragons, Pansies & Violas, Dianthus and Lenten Roses, Stock flowers (*Matthiola incana*), Miniature (annual) Calla lilies (*Zantedeschia rehmannii*), .
- ❖ Do not forget to protect early spring blooms (on Magnolias and Camelias for instance) from browsing deer. They love those tasty blossoms even more than we do 😞!

Happy Gardening!

Jacqueline

Jr. Gardeners.....Sandy Stern

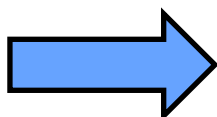
The Jr. Garden Club (group picture) began the spring season by creating bird feeder ornaments using cookie cutters. They were taken home to attract birds to the students' backyards.

Thanks to TAG members who donated their cookie cutters.



Another project entailed creating mini-terrariums with succulent plants. Each student layered the glass bowl with rocks, sand, charcoal and soil before planting a mini-succulent. A small toy dinosaur was then added for effect. Again, the students were instructed on how to care for their succulents at home.

Finally, the kids planted flowers in the Butterfly Garden, harvested and weeded the vegetable garden, and planted a lime tree in the courtyard.



The Jr Gardeners are in need of small cans: tuna, pineapple or cat food size for their project. Please bring your cans to the meeting Friday, March 15



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)
- the green thumb home and garden (25 Dillon Road)
- Hilton Head Wine & Spirits (50 Shelter Cove Plaza, Suite K)

You may pick up tickets (with proof of purchase on your smart phone or in hard-copy) or purchase them with cash or check at All Saints Episcopal Church beginning Monday April 15, Monday-Thursday from 10-3:30, on Friday, May 17 from 10-12, or **on the day of the tour if tickets are still available, at the church from 8:30 til noon**. Tickets picked up at the church on the day of the tour must be picked up by noon or they are forfeited.



Library Plant Swap

Celebrate the coming of Spring with us and join in our Library Plant Swap! Bring a healthy plant or cutting to the library to swap for free. Indoor or outdoor, big or small, all plants are welcome at the Library Plant Swap.

No registration required.

Library Plant Swap Hosted By Beaufort County *Library* System.

Event starts on Tue Mar 12 2024 at 12:00 pm and is happening at *Hilton Head Library*.

For more information, please call **843-255-6525**.



MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

March

6.....Sandy Stern

18.....Pat Rapp

23.....Carolyn Schmidt

23.....Mary Long

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.



PLANT IT PINK GARDEN

Volunteers needed

Work date: Friday, March 22 10:00

**Meet at the garden, Hospital Center Boulevard
(across from Main entrance to HHI Hospital)**

**For more information call
Janina 843-298-0329 or Rob 843-298-1654**

Welcome to our three newest members

Mary Long

126 High Bluff
973-229-2090
marylong25@gmail.com

Diane Mills

6 Virginia Rail Lane
440-655-5281
dianejmills@aol.com

Wendy Dickes

301 Seabrook Dr
843-295-8815
wendydickes@gmail.com

To put a face to the name, go to our website: theavidgardeners.org

Next Meeting: April 19

Field Trip: Palmetto Oaks Sculpture Garden

11 Palmetto Beach Lane, Bluffton

10:30—11:30

Meet at Plantation House to carpool at 9:45

Stephen Kishel, owner and artist will walk around the sculpture garden with us. This one-acre garden and art studio allows visitors to enjoy a lowcountry woodland garden with mostly flat gravel walkways.

Lunch arrangements are on your own.

Upcoming meetings:

- May 17 - **Officer Installation and Speaker:** Lisa D. Watson, who is a gardener and artist, has a strong interest in sustainable gardening. Her topic "Seven Plant Blunders of Our Coast" covers a lot of different ways to be a better and more sustainable gardener.
- June 21 - **Pot Luck Social** Dolphin Head Point 5:00 pm
TAG members and their families invited for a potluck dinner.

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

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