



# TAG TALK

September 2024


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

Is it really September already? After a pretty traumatic summer, medically, we did manage to get in a quick trip to our cozy little cabin in Maine...a cool and welcome escape from the oppressive heat and humidity of the Lowcountry. On the highway returning home now, we are appreciating the beginnings of leaf season and the magnificence of this country, from vast lowland farms to majestic mountains. A tedious drive, but good for the soul.

September brings a new season of gardening opportunities...think cool weather veggies, colorful mums and cabbages, re-greening lawns. So, break out the gloves and the pruners and get busy!

September also brings a new season of programming for TAG, carefully curated by our Programs committee comprised of Rita Rivlin, Sandy Stern, Carolyn Schmidt and Karen Hardwick. Kicking it off, on Friday September 20th, one of our favorite speakers, Tim Drake, will give us the lowdown on new plants that will thrive here. Be sure to arrive in time to catch up with other members who you may not have seen all summer!

However you choose to celebrate September, do it with a full and grateful heart for the joys of a new season. I look forward to seeing you all on Friday.

Carol 





Friday, September 20  
 Spring Lake Pavilion 9:30 am  
 Speaker: Tim Drake  
 Landscape designer from The Greenery  
 Topic: New varieties of plants that will  
 thrive in the Lowcountry



An Important message from Joan LaBoiteaux,  
 president of the Farmers' Club

There have been some articles lately on the possible migration from Georgia of the yellow legged hornet. They are here and they are attacking Dave Arnal's honey bees at Seabrook Farm. I watched them this morning, snatching our bees, carrying them off to rip legs, wings, and head off, then taking them back to wherever their nest is.

Clemson is working with Dave and the plantation to find out where that nest might be. They are placing traps (plastic bottles with bait in them) around the farm and in neighborhoods. If you see one, please do not disturb it. If you see these hornets, report them to Clemson at [dpi.clemson.edu](http://dpi.clemson.edu).

The nest is unlike other hornets. It can be very large and brown in color and actually looks like a big lump of clay. It's not smooth like other nests. Look in your trees at your homes and around the farm. Contact me if you think you might have seen the nest.

This is truly an emergency, if we lose the bees, we lose our crops.

We need bees!

Joan

**We need homeowners to be on the lookout for these nests and report them either directly to Clemson or to Joan at the farm. Thank you.**

<https://news.clemson.edu/clemson-officials-find-destroy-yellow-legged-hornet-nests-in-beaufort-county/>

# September



## 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!**

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 proper time for planting in our zone.

### ❖ *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.

### ❖ *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. Use pine bark mini nuggets if you want to add organic matter to your sandy soil.

### ❖ *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 broadbanded 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.....*

Mary-Jane Sexson (Jane Johnson's granddaughter) won 1st place in the West Lowcountry District division of the Garden Club of SC Smokey Bear Poster Contest.



Fall chores at the Plant It Pink Garden:



Photos by Rob Cushman

**I DON'T KNOW WHO  
NEEDS TO HEAR THIS,  
BUT YOU' RE A GREAT  
GARDENER.  
THAT PLANT REALLY  
SHOULD HAVE TRIED  
HARDER.**

Submitted by Melissa Olsen



MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

September

25.....Ann Clayton

9.....Ann McCan

1.....Jacqueline Emery

5.....Peg McCann

8.....Claudia Hawn

2.....Nina McGlade

25.....Jane Johnson

8.....Nancy Renner

Belated Birthday wishes:

June: Joyce Prange, Mary Ellen Phillips, Melissa Olsen, Sally Price

July: Judy Cherry, Rosemary Kratz, Jane Murphy, Terri Wright,  
Mary Ann Sweet

August: Barbara Holmes, George Westerfield, Karen Heaney,  
Sharon Jaunsem

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

Condolences to Sarah Jebo whose husband, Jerry, passed away in August. Sarah was a long time member of TAG and past president. She is now a resident of Florida. You can reach Sarah at:

2187 Perseus Cove, Oviedo, FL 32765  
 24myrtlebank@gmail.com  
 843-422-1514



Membership Directory corrections, additions, changes:

- ⇒ Sandy Stern mobile phone 843-298-1036
- ⇒ Committee Chairs: Holiday Decorations, Mary Long
- ⇒ Pat Rapp email: phrapp56@gmail.com

Additional changes will be posted in TAG Talk when received.

**“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” —Audrey Hepburn**

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