



TAG TALK

November 2024

President's Message.....Carol Sevelowitz

Well, there's no frost on the pumpkin here, but there's no denying that holiday anticipation is ramping up. Turkeys, pumpkins and cranberries fill the grocery shelves and garlands, twinkle lights and inflatable Santas are popping up everywhere. In our gardens, petunias and impatiens are being replaced by pansies, snapdragons and ornamental cabbages.

Here, at the Avid Gardeners, we'll be visiting a pecan farm this Friday and, under the guidance of Caroline Alderman and MaryAnn Snyder, we've been creating beautiful holiday decorations for the Dolphin Head Clubhouse, which is our newest community project. Hopefully, you'll all get to enjoy the fruits of your labors on December 7 at our holiday luncheon (details inside these pages). Then there's the annual Plantation sign decorating, being coordinated by a new chairperson, Mary Long. Details and sign assignments have gone out for decorating prior to Thanksgiving.

And don't forget the annual POA Volunteer Holiday party, to which we will all be invited.

All in all, we can look forward to a busy and productive holiday season...minus the frost ❄️.

Carol 🌻



Friday, November 15
Field Trip:
Pecan Farm—Brickyard Point Farms on Lady's Island
Meet at Plantation House parking lot **8:45** am
for carpooling. Depart at 9:00
Tour starts at 10:00
Details below.



If you have not signed up for the tour, please contact Karen Hardwick at hardwick.karen@gmail.com or call/text at 404-808-2334

Bring cash or check if you wish to make a purchase.
Pecans are \$15 a bag. Grapefruit will also be available.

Wear appropriate shoes for walking. There will be golf carts for those that are less mobile.

The farm is approximately a one hour drive from here. GPS address:
240 Johnson Landing Road, Beaufort (Lady's Island) 703-915-5208

Tour lasts an hour to an hour and a half.

(We could use two more drivers if anyone else is willing to drive.)



The dates for decorating the Dolphin Head Recreation Building are listed below.

Participation by **all** members is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated. You do not have to commit to a full day of helping but any amount of time you *can* give will be very helpful.

Please contact Liz VanAlstyne to let her know when you can make it.
315-342-1246 or elizzy1106@aol.com

Monday 12/2 12:30 till 4:30
Tuesday 12/3 9:00 till 4:30
Wednesday 12/4 9:00 till 4:30

The additional finish-up day for all our projects that was added (November 18) is **NOT** needed. Please disregard the previous request for assistance on that date. Thank you.



HOSTESSES NEEDED

for January and February TAG meetings

Please contact: Claudia Hawn 843-422-4193
claudihawn@roadrunner.com

OR

Judy Cherry 860-402-7647 jim3326@aol.com

November



Garden Chores for November

❖ *Plant*

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 plant them. A low nitrogen vertilizer 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 you can cover your bulbs with wire mesh.

Annuals

Winter annuals, such as: Snapdragons, Pansies & Violas, Dianthus, pink & white Ornamental Cabage varieties, Kale, and bronze-leaved 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 ammendment. 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). The Greenery turns irrigation off now for the next 3 months in those landscapes that they manage. It is better to selectively supplement with handwatering where and when needed on the occasional hot day.

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!). Camellia sasanqua 'White Doves' ('Mine-No-Yuki') is a lovely white variety.

Cape Honeysuckle

The latest additions to our garden are a fiery orange Tecomaria *capensis* (Cape Honeysuckle) and a yellow Tecoma (Tecoma stans) pictured above. It was 'love at first sight'. We could not resist! They are currently the stars of our polinator garden. Especially the orange version nicely complement our green Japanese maple which is now turning shades of orange to match. Strelitia (Bird of Paradise) is still blooming at well.

Happy Gardening!

Jacqueline



TAG HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Saturday, December 7, 2024
12:00-2:00
Dolphin Head Recreational
Building

This holiday luncheon has been arranged by The Avid Gardeners board and planning team for the enjoyment of our members. The location will be decorated by all of us! The club will cover the cost of table settings, gratuity, and room setup and breakdown, and any other miscellaneous costs, but each member attending will pay for the lunch. The holiday menu is detailed below.

Please signup and pay by Friday, **November 22, 2024**. Here are three options to sign up. Write a check for \$30 made out to **The Avid Gardeners**,

Mail it to Rita Rivlin, at 5 Golden Hind Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Give Rita Rivlin a call at 703-599-6272 and drop the check off at her house .

Give a check to Jane Johnson when you go to the Pecan Farm on Friday, November 15.

Private Chef Antonio Albano's Menu

Beverages:

- **Water** (with lemon slices)
- **Holiday Punch** (cranberry and orange juice blend with a hint of winter spices, sliced fruit, and sparkling water)
- **Coffee & Tea Station** (hot coffee and an assortment of teas)

Warm Main Dish:

- **Herb-Roasted Chicken with Pan Jus** Tender, oven-roasted chicken thighs seasoned with fresh herbs and served with a light, flavorful pan jus.

Sides:

- **Seasonal Roasted Vegetables & Fingerling Potatoes** An assortment of lightly roasted seasonal vegetables and fingerling potatoes tossed in olive oil, garlic, and herbs.
- **Garden Salad** Mixed greens with cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, shredded carrots, and a simple vinaigrette dressing.

Desserts:

- **Assorted Holiday Cookies** A mix of festive holiday-themed cookies, including spiced gingerbread and sugar cookies, perfect for a sweet end to the meal.
- **Mini Petit Fours** Bite-sized cakes with seasonal flavors like cranberry-orange and almond, beautifully decorated to add a festive touch.

Pricing Breakdown:

Menu: \$30.00 per person (includes food, beverages, setup, equipment, professional server, and cleanup)

Junior Gardeners.....Sandy Stern, Jane Johnson



The students at the Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts have been busy this fall season with planting flowers in the Butterfly Garden and vegetables in the raised beds. A special thanks to the six TAG volunteers (Jane, Debbie, Melissa, Karen, Beth and Sandy) who come on a regular basis to assist the students in grades 3-5 tend to the gardens. Once again, we have Mr. Mark Sadler assigned as our club teacher, and he has a wealth of knowledge in gardening that he shares with the kids and provides great back-up for our garden projects.

The good news is that the Greenhouse has finally been repaired so the children are able to work on the tables indoors in inclement weather, planting seeds and working on garden-related projects.

On Halloween, Jane Johnson demonstrated how to create a small floral arrangement and each child was able to make their own and take it home. A miniature scarecrow was added to each.

(See group photo with fall arrangements.)



MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

November

- 6.....Liz VanAlstyne
- 9.....Lori Schmidt
- 14.....Nancy Combs
- 25.....Carol Vivona

December

- 27.....Marlene Brush

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

Reminder: Holiday Sign Decorating

Pick Up supplies at the Plantation House on

Nov 20 Wednesday 10:00—12

Nov 20 Wednesday—Nov 27 Wednesday **Decorate** Sign

January 1 - Monday—January 6, Monday **Remove** your wonderful decorations

January 7 Tuesday **Return** All decorations to the Plantation House 10:00-12

Any questions, contact Mary Long 973-229-2090
marylong25@gmail.com

**“Early to bed and early to rise, work like a dog, and fertilize”
Robert Frost**

Christine Thumm
thumms@aol.com
843-415-6809



Carol Sevelowitz
sevelcss@gmail.com
843-715-2248

