



TAG Talk
October, 2024

President's Message...Carol Sevelowitz

Better late than never, they say. So, with profuse apologies for its tardiness, here is October's TAG Talk. Entirely my fault, delayed due to illness. It's still worth reading, as there is a good deal of information within. Some, of course is old news, but I understand from those who attended Friday's meeting that Jackie Emery's talk was very informative and well received. Also, heard today that the bow making workshop, held at Dolphin Head, was very productive and fun. I'm sure next week's decoupage oyster shells will be equally rewarding. It's a wonderful way to get together for a hands-on project and socializing all in one. Looking ahead, November and December promise to provide several opportunities for enjoying the spirit of the season. Don't forget to sign up with Karen Hardwick for the Pecan Farm trip and to contact Liz Van Alstyne to volunteer to help with the Dolphin Head decorating project.

Keep the witches and goblins at bay and enjoy a safe and happy Halloween !!





October 18th Meeting

Some Like It Hot

Spring Lake Pavilion 9:30 am

Our very own Jackie Emery, a Master Gardener, will speak about plants that thrive in Hilton Head's hot summer heat.



The Butterfly Bunch

Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,
Melissa Olsen



The Butterfly Bunch will hold their first meeting of the year this week. Since we will be planting fall gardens we will stress the importance of green in our world. The National Garden Club's book "Where is My Green" will introduce our dependence on plants in our world. We're looking forward to another year of learning and fun with the kids at HHI School for Creative Arts.

The Jr. Garden Club meets on Thursday afternoons. To join the fun, please contact Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern or Melissa Olsen.

Plant It Pink.....Rob & Janina Cushman

Hurricane Helene paid a visit to the Plant it Pink garden but all is well.



The new night light really draws attention to the sign as well.



Garden Chores for October *Plant*

Fall is THE best time for planting in the South.

Annuals

Plant winter annuals, such as: Snapdragons, Pansies & Violas, Dianthus, pink & white Ornamental Cabbage varieties, Kale, and bronze-leaved Mustard 'Miz America' to add some color to your garden.

Bulbs: Don't forget to order your spring bulbs now for the best selection. They get planted after Thanksgiving. Remember to order your Amaryllis now for the holidays. They can be planted in the garden after the holidays.

Perennials

Spring and summer blooming perennials can be planted now. Remember, whereas winter is the biggest challenge for plants in colder climates, heat and humidity are the biggest challenge for them in the South! Planting now allows the roots to grow and spread through the winter months, and gives plants a head-start in the spring.

This is also the best time to divide perennials. Move that plant that got too much or 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

Now is the time to over-seed your lawn, if you are interested in doing that. Personally, I am a big fan. There is nothing cheerier for me in winter than a spring green lawn. It lifts my mood! Overseeding with the wrong variety can hurt warm-season grass because emerging blades will compete with the existing turf for nutrients, sunlight, and moisture. Annual Ryegrass however is easy to establish and thrives in both shade and sunshine. Just make sure the seed does not dry out. Watering for just 5 minutes, 3x a day ensures the seed stays moist. Depending on the temperature you should see results in about a week.

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 pine straw or (uncolored) pine mini nuggets. Pine nuggets make a fine soil amendment. 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). It is better to selectively supplement with hand-watering where and when needed.

Blooming Now

Above (with Monarch butterfly): Evergreen, long-blooming, tropical, Cape Honey Suckle, Tecomarría Capensis, is a true butterfly and hummingbird magnet. Drought tolerant, this plant is also deer and rabbit resistant.

Other October bloomers: Curcuma (nearing its end), Plumbago, Strelitzia Regina, Gaura 'Belleza Dark Pink' Wandflower (will bloom throughout the entire winter!). Although not technically blooming, Neoregelia bromelia can add some color to your garden year round. They come in a variety of colors (and patterns) and are easy to propagate (they form pups=baby plants), and can be overwintered in a cold frame or in your garage.

Camelia Sasanqua (Autumn Camelias) are starting to bloom now. Try low growing 'Bonanza' as a foundation planting.

Happy Gardening!

Jacqueline



TAG Community Project Holiday Decorations for Dolphin Head



It's only October, but the holidays are fast approaching. The planning committee for decorating the Dolphin Head Clubhouse has devised a plan, and now we need all of you to help implement it.

Three Workshops of no more than 10 people each will be held to create some of the decorations. Please sign up for at least one of them (see below) by phone or email to Liz Van Alstyne (elizzy1106@aol.com). Then, on November 18 and 19, join in to do the actual decorating at the Dolphin Head clubhouse.

MATERIALS NEEDED

7-9 foot (preferably 9') **lighted** Christmas Tree

This can be donated or a loan for just this year (if you're not decorating 2024)

40 or more clean oyster or large clam shells or other clean shells...any size.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

All workshops to be held at **Dolphin Head clubhouse**.

1. **Bow Making...Monday, October 21st, 9-12 Dolphin Head**
Learn how to make professional looking bows the easy way
2. **Decoupage Ornaments...Tuesday, October 29th, 9-12**
Learn how to make decoupage shell ornaments
3. **Floral Picks and Bows ...Monday, November 11th, 9-12**
Learn how to make floral picks and designer bows.

Sign Up for the Workshops and/or the installation
By phone or email to Liz (elizzy1106@aol.com)



Coming in November

Nov 15, 2024

Field Trip!!

Brickyard Point Pecan Farm

Lady's Island

We will carpool to Lady's Island for a guided tour by Jim Rathbun at the pecan farm to learn about growing and harvesting pecans. Established in 1968, this farm produces pecans, persimmons, pomegranates and a variety of citrus. Some items will be available for purchase with cash or check.

Carpoolers will meet at the Plantation House parking lot at 8:45am. Please contact Karen Hardwick (404-808-2334 or hardwick.karen@gmail.com) to let her know if you will attend and if you are able to drive or will need a ride.



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