



## TAG TALK

Summer 2025 issue



### *President's Message*

Hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful Lowcountry summer, with graduations, family reunions, vacations, or simply relaxing by the pool, gardening, visiting our beaches and parks, and reading a good book.

As Debbie and I take over the helm of this great club, we want you to know that we are working toward setting achievable goals for the next two years, by providing fantastic programs, increasing membership and promoting collaboration with other local garden clubs.

But first, we want to give a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing President, Carol Sevelowitz, and congrats to our garden club's new officers:

Co-Presidents, Sandy Stern and Debbie Meeks

V.P. of Membership, Liz Van Alstyne,

V.P. of Programs, Rita Rivlin,

Secretary, Melissa Olsen

Co-Treasurers, Lori Schmidt and Ann McCan

Also, thanks to our many volunteers who continue to help out during the summer months with maintaining our club's gardens at Plant-it-Pink, Memory Matters, and the School for the Creative Arts.

A special shout out to Lori Schmidt for publishing our annual Directory; and to Liz Van Alstyne for organizing our successful July 4th Cookie Sale fundraiser along with the volunteers who baked the goodies and those who sold them.

For those who attended our June 6th Social at Dolphin Head Rec. Center, we had a fabulous time; enjoying members' delicious potluck dishes, a yummy TAG cake, live entertainment by Peyton Dobbs, a gorgeous view of the Sound and lots of camaraderie among friends.

A reminder to please complete the TAG Planning Questionnaire on the next page

See y'all on Sept. 19th at our Open House Meeting. Please bring a friend.

The program: Bird Identification by H H Audubon Birder Kay Grinnell.

Enjoy the summer. Co-Presidents, Sandy Stern & Debbie Meeks

## TAG Planning Questionnaire



Please help the TAG Planning Team select programs that will be interesting for all of our members by completing this survey. Please return this to Karen Hardwick, 15 High Bush Drive. Or bring it to September's meeting.

Please rate these topics in order of your areas of interest with 10=Most Interesting to 1=Least interesting. 0 for no interest.

- Gardening in your Yard \_\_\_\_\_
- House Plants \_\_\_\_\_
- Orchids \_\_\_\_\_
- Flower arranging \_\_\_\_\_
- Miniature Fairy Gardens \_\_\_\_\_
- Native Plants \_\_\_\_\_
- Terrariums \_\_\_\_\_
- Make a garden flag \_\_\_\_\_
- Field Trips to Gardens \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Beautification \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any  
 suggestions for speakers? \_\_\_\_\_  
 suggestions for programs? \_\_\_\_\_  
 suggestions for field trips? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most you would pay for a field trip? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours would you travel for a one day group field trip? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you join a field trip on a weekend? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you join a field trip that included an overnight? \_\_\_\_\_

If speakers were scheduled for an evening or a weekend, would you be able to join? \_\_\_\_\_

If field trips are planned on a weekend day, would you join? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark each project that you interested in helping with next year:

- ☐ School garden
- ☐ Watering the Memory Matters garden over the summer and a refresh in the Fall and Spring
- ☐ Plant It Pink garden in front of the hospital
- ☐ A planting at the Gullah Museum (TBD)
- ☐ A Garden Club display at the local library
- ☐ Your ideas for new projects

## School Gardens Summer Update

The gardens at the HHI School for Creative Arts presented The Avid Gardeners with a big challenge this summer. We were initially told we would not have access to the courtyard vegetable and butterfly gardens because the school was closed during summer due to the interior being painted.



Well, members did not take NO for an answer and insisted on being allowed access to the outdoor areas to water and maintain our plants. We succeeded. But now, this too became an issue, when dealing with extreme hot temperatures and knowing our flowers, shrubs, fruit trees, and vegetables would require more water than usual. So, we set up a schedule for our team of volunteers to water the gardens daily until Eureka!



We realized that the gardens had an irrigation system already in place.

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A huge 'THANK YOU' to Melissa, Debbie, Karen, Mary and her husband Dave who all made sure the roses got pruned, the weeds were whacked, the green beans, tomatoes, blueberries and kale were harvested, the workbench was cleaned, the wasp nests washed away, the leaves were mulched, the greenhouse was cleaned up, the tool and supply closets got organized, the Korosi Vegetable and Herb Garden sign was hung up, and yes, the plants including the lemon, fig, peach, lime and grapefruit trees, were watered.

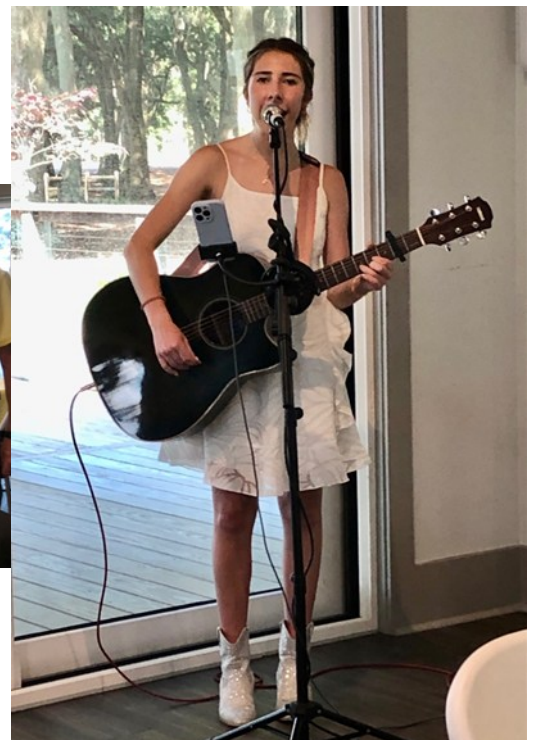
A special Shout Out to Tim Drake at The Greenery for providing many of the new plants in the school's courtyard gardens.



Photo of Debbie Meeks' granddaughter, Hallie, who helped to water and pick our blueberries and then assisted in baking a delicious blueberry cobbler.



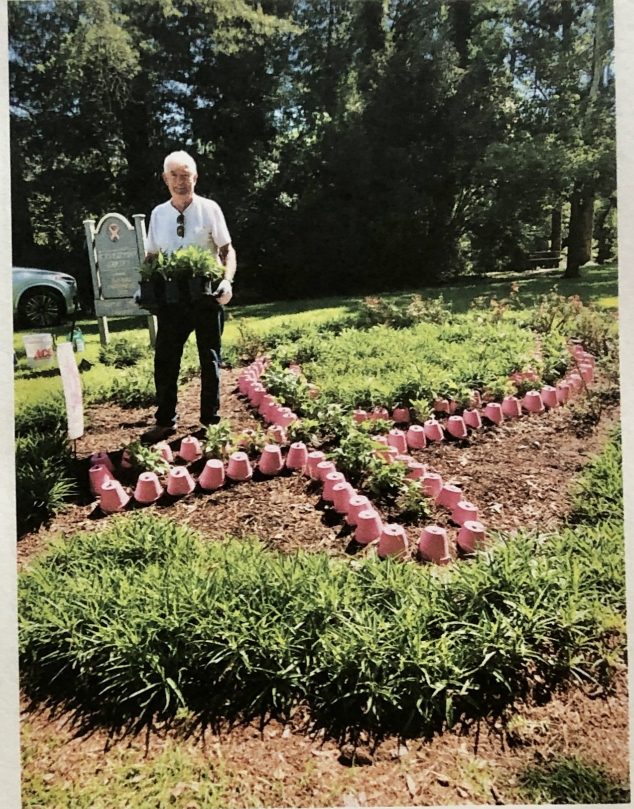
The Avid Gardeners held a Summer Social at Dolphin Head Rec. Center on June 6th. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun with, delicious potluck dishes, yummy cake, raffle prizes, live entertainment, great views, and lots of camaraderie among friends.





## Photos of The Avid Gardeners' PLANT-IT-PINK GARDEN in 2024

**Volunteers planting 50 new pink penta plants and knockout roses in 2024, testing the new irrigation system, before and after photos of our winter frosts, and painting the sign.**





## The Avid Gardeners' Restoration Project at Memory Matter - 2025

A very heartfelt 'Thank You' to the ***Island Beautification Association*** for their generous donation of \$500 toward the restoration of the backyard garden at Memory Matters. The garden club purchased plants and flowers at the Green Thumb at a 50% discount, and as of June 2025 have spent \$400 for the garden.

An extra special thanks to **George Westerfield** a member of TAG for his approval of the grant funds.

*The Avid Gardeners* who worked on the design and plantings of over 20 flowers and vegetables and continue to maintain the garden include: Carol Sevelowitz, Chris Thumm, Mary Long, MaryAnn Sweet, and Jean Smith. Bravo ladies for creating an amazing oasis for relaxation, garden therapy and camaraderie for Memory Matters clients.

Below are photos of the beautiful gardens with some clients enjoying the garden setting.







Carol Sevelowitz Chairs the TAG Committee on this restoration project and her team of volunteers work with Ginny Underwood at Memory Matters to coordinate their efforts.

Hope you enjoyed this special issue  
of a summer TAG Talk.



See y'all in September