



TAG Talk October, 2025

Presidents' Message

Welcome back to members who extended their summer by taking a September vacation. And a cordial welcome to our newest members who joined recently. Sure hope you are ready to tackle the activities, events, and programs in the upcoming year.

Congratulations to all who contributed to a hugely successful OPEN HOUSE on September 19. There were 72 residents in attendance who came to listen to the President of the Hilton Head Audubon, Kay Grinnell, whose Power Point presentation on Identifying Lowcountry Birds was very informative and engaging.

We would also like to thank three members for their contributions to the garden club, namely Nadine Korosi, Lori Schmidt and Chris Thumm, who donated their financial support, garden books, garden tools and equipment. The students at HHISCA appreciate it.

Are you ready for our field trip to Mitchelville Freedom Park on Friday, October 17? Members will be meeting at the Plantation House at 9:15 am. Make sure you have paid your \$10 fee. If not, please contact Carolyn Schmidt. You can also drive to the park before 10:00 am on your own.

We are an active garden club, so PLEASE consider volunteering for one of our many committees. We are also a talented group and when we work together we can accomplish so much.

Enjoy your gardening in these cooler temps.

Sandy Stern



October Meeting, Friday, October 17

Guided Tour of Mitchelville Freedom Park

Meet at the Plantation House to carpool, or drive to the park on your own for a docent led tour of the park. Tour begins at 10:00am. \$10 fee. Contact Carolyn Schmidt to add your name to the group.



Membership.....Liz Van Alstyne

*Our September “Open House” meeting with Kay Grinnell from HHI Audubon as guest speaker was a wonderful gathering of our Members and of the HHP Community. I am very happy to announce that two of our guests joined **The Avid Gardeners** that day. Please welcome new members Donna Dae and Deirdre Mos!! We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and on the field trips throughout the year. Please add them to your Directory.*

Donna Dae

4 Leatherwood Court

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609-290-5508



Deirdre Mos

15 Hickory Forest Dr

FINY07@aol.com

631-338-9278



*Also, on behalf of Membership and the Board I would like to take this time to thank Dede Bethke for opening her home on October 3rd for the new members **Meet and Greet** luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce ourselves and discuss the club's Committees and Community projects that we are involved in throughout the year. Thanks Dede!!*

Jr. Gardeners



Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,
Melissa Olsen

The fourteen students who make up HHISCA's Jr. Garden Club have been busy in the past couple of months cleaning out the five vegetable beds, adding soil and compost, and planting vegetable seeds, cuttings, and seedlings. As they water, weed and prune the plants, they watch them grow.



The children planted 6 herb plants, (sweet mint, curly parsley, sage, basil, cilantro and peppermint) and added them to the rosemary already growing in the herbs bed. They learned about the history of rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) and followed a recipe for 'Rosemary Parmesan Popcorn.' They enjoyed air-popping the corn seeds and adding rosemary, butter and parmesan cheese for flavoring.



The students have started designing 'Smokey Bear' posters to submit to the GCSC's poster contest, meant to educate the public and promote wildfire prevention.



PLANT-IT-PINK GARDEN

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and as such it is an opportunity to remind women of the importance of scheduling an annual mammography. It also is a time to honor those who have survived and those who passed fighting the good fight.

We all know someone who has been touched by this cancer and the good news is that there have been great strides in finding treatments and cures. So let's celebrate by making sure we maintain our Plant-it-Pink Garden in good shape.



Rob and Janina Cushman continue to oversee the garden and call in volunteers to clean it up, weed, prune, plant, fertilize and remove some diseased plants. On September 23rd a group of TAG members spent hours sprucing up the garden and making plans on how to refurbish it in the spring.



The Pentas flourished in the center of the ribbon. One Loropetalum had to be transplanted and a Rose bush was removed. The pink Lantana in the small round garden are doing well. The clay pots will need to be repainted after the winter. That will require a group of volunteers to step once again and help with this project.

At our November meeting, please sign up to join the crew that maintains this beautiful garden.



HORTICULTURE NOTES

Karen Heaney



Fall is upon us and our garden landscapes are beginning to change as the days are getting cooler and yet there are beautiful shades of yellows, oranges and reds beginning to appear as many of our native plants provide autumn colors with their leaves.

This is the best time to add to your garden. Both spring and summer blooming perennials can be planted now. Planting now allows the roots to grow and spread through the winter months and gives plants a head start in the spring.

Local nurseries have many native varieties available for perennials as well as trees, shrubs and grasses. You may want to add something new to your landscape. Hydrangeas are well suited to most areas in the garden as they tolerate both sun and shade. They fit well in shrub borders or as single specimen plants. Big leaf hydrangeas thrive when protected by a wall to shelter them from Winter weather. Healthy, moist, rich soil is essential for this plant to grow large, lush blooms. Use plenty of mulch with shredded pine bark to prepare for Winter.

This is also the best time to divide perennials. Move that plant that got too much/too little sun to a new location or just divide perennials that have gotten too large.

Continue to spread a layer of mulch over your planting beds. Mulching is the best way to add organic matter to our 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 stems of trees and shrubs.

We have had a great deal of rain and with cool damp nights, watch out for mildew. You should consider reducing your irrigation settings for your planting beds. Treat with a fungicide as needed.

Camelia Sasanqua (Autumn Camelias) are starting to bloom now. If you aren't lucky to have one in your yard you may want to visit Honey Horn on Hilton Head soon to see what's blooming.

Happy Gardening!!!!



Save these dates

Friday, November 21, 22, 23: Decorate the Dolphin Head Cluhouse

As least year, the same trees and ornaments, plus some new additions. Contact Liz Van Alstyne if you can help.



Tuesday, November 18: Pick up lights for Holiday signs

This is a tentative date. Stay tuned for upcoming email info on groups and times to pick up your neighborhood sign decorating materials.



Friday, December 5: TAG Holiday Luncheon:

12:30 pm luncheon and holiday trivia at Frankie Bones. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER MEETING 9:30AM SPRING LAKE



Miniature Floral Arranging Class. Led by Jane Johnson, members will learn Garden Club of South Carolina Flower Show guidelines. Teams will be formed to collaborate with the Hilton Head Plantation Art League to create arrangements for the TAG Arts &



WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN !!

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

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