



## TAG Talk September, 2025

### *President's Message.....Sandy Stern & Debbie Meeks*



Welcome Back Friends,

After a restful summer, we're sure you are all, like us, looking forward to a year of attending exciting programs, getting involved in some interesting activities, volunteering for community projects, visiting some beautiful gardens, and meeting up with old friends.

Our Board met over the summer to work on the budget, plan for our **September 19 Open House** and **Audubon Bird Identification** program, and discuss a few new projects.

A warm welcome to all TAG members who joined the club and our Board.

Since our 2025-26 Yearbooks will not be distributed until our first meeting in September, we've included two flyers with details of our upcoming meetings.

Hope to see you in September, and please bring a friend.

- Co-Presidents, Sandy Stern and Debbie Meeks



The Avid Gardeners

Invite HHP Residents to an

# OPEN HOUSE



**Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 9:30 am**  
***at Spring Lake Pavilion***

**Speaker: Kay Grinnell, President of HH Audubon**

Hilton Head Audubon works to promote the awareness and appreciation of nature, preserve and protect wildlife and natural ecosystems and to encourage responsible environmental stewardship.

***Program:***

***Lowcountry Bird Identification and Wildlife Friendly Habitats.***

**The meeting is *free* and open to all HHP residents.**

**Contact person: Sandy Stern 843-298-1036**





# Jr. Gardeners

Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,  
Melissa Olsen



Our Jr. Gardeners are back! Thirteen students in grades 3 - 5 gathered for the first time on Thursday, September 11 at 3:00 pm to meet The Avid Gardeners volunteers: Melissa, Mary, Karen, and Sandy, as well as the teacher-assigned, Grace Mowery in the school's courtyard.

After a quick snack, TAG members introduced themselves, spoke about club goals of having fun, and learning gardening skills, the lifecycle of butterflies, the names of flowering plants and vegetables, and developing a love of gardening.

Next, we had the children introduce themselves and tell us why they joined the garden club.

The children were introduced to the Butterfly Garden, the Korosi Vegetable Garden, the greenhouse and the fruit trees and plants in the courtyard that they will get to maintain. We showed them the rain barrel, the compost pile, the watering hoses and the gardening tools that they will be using and where their garden gloves and supplies are kept.

They got to spread out 3 bags of garden soil and 1 bag of Black Cow in the first vegetable bed and then planted pieces of potatoes buds in 2 rows.

Finally, we told them the Jr. Garden Club had received awards from the Garden Club of South Carolina over the years and we expect them to work hard so we can accomplish the same this year.

A special thanks to the TAG volunteers who showed up on Aug. 29 at 9 am to help clean up the gardens and get them ready for the children. Debbie Meeks, Karen Heaney, Mary Long, Karen Hardwick, and me.





# HORTICULTURE NOTES

*Karen Heaney*



If anyone has done any traveling on the roads this August you may have seen some of the many fields of beautiful Sunflowers blooming along the way! They are grown for beauty, for pollination services, as cut flowers, and in food plots to name a few uses! The scientific name for sunflowers is attributed to the Greek words helios, referring to the sun, and anthos meaning flower. Sunflowers produce flowers abundantly during the long hot summer days into fall. There are many varieties as well as a perennial one. Sunflowers exhibit a physiological condition known as heliotropism, in which the flowers follow the movement of the sun, from east to west across the sky!

As summer draws to an end, it is time to clean-up the garden. The summer heat and humidity has made it difficult to keep up with weeding, it's time to get a handle on our gardens! While many blooms have faded, there are a few we can look forward to in autumn. If you have mums, asters, pansies and some sedums they are yet to flower. Perennials such as Echinacea, Shasta daisies, rudbeckia, herbs will continue to bloom by dead heading the spent blooms. Divide and cut back perennials. If beds were too crowded this is a good time to dig and divide. There is still plenty of time left for them to establish a root system in new beds. It's also a good time to plant shrubs and trees. Root systems establish well in the fall, ready for next year's growing season.

This month 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. Although we have had a great deal of rainfall this August, September and October tend to be dry months here, you may need to water as rainfall may not be enough.

Continue to prune back your herbs so they don't go to seed. Use the fresh herb cuttings in salads and your favorite dishes. Any extra dry them in the microwave (or vegetable dryer if you happen to own one) and store them in jars to use in your daily cooking recipes.

*To Plant a Garden is Believe in Tomorrow – Audrey Hepburn*



## Plant It Pink.....Rob Cushman

The garden is looking good. Stay tuned for info on a work/planning session in September



## Membership.....Liz Van Alstyne

Welcome back to a very exciting year of wonderful and exciting meetings and planned outings for 2025-2026. As you know I have taken over Membership from our own Chris Thumm and I am very grateful for the opportunity to try to fill her shoes.

As we begin our new season, I am unfortunately unable to be at our first meeting on Friday. I am traveling and won't be back until Saturday. I have asked our Co-President, Debbie Meeks, to help with badges, sign in sheets for Members and Guests and also the raffle. Jane Alexander and MaryAnn Sweet will be distributing our new directories and asking you to sign an acknowledgment sheet that you received it so I will know who still needs a directory.

Enjoy your first meeting and the "Open House" see you all soon.



Liz



**Join us for a tour to:**

**Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park...**

*A true Cultural experience.*

It was America's first self governing community of formerly enslaved people.

It is a compelling illustration of the residents and their quest for education, self-reliance and inclusion as members of a free society

**\$10. fee per person**

**Meet: At the Plantation House**

**Time: 9:30 AM to join the carpool**

**Friday, October 17, 2025**

**Register to attend @ September 19th meeting**

**call or email Carolyn Schmidt (336) 509-2062/**

**[clschmidt146@gmail.com](mailto:clschmidt146@gmail.com)**

**After September 19th meeting**

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

Carol Sevelowitz  
[sevelcss@gmail.com](mailto:sevelcss@gmail.com)