



TAG Talk November, 2025

President's Message.....Sandy Stern

Have you noticed the outdoor temperatures of late? Well I have, and I'm sure your gardens, as well as mine, are reflecting the Fall season changes by adjusting the the shorter hours of daylight and cooler weather.

Fourteen members visited the Mitchellville Freedom Park on October 17 and had an enlightening experience. We all met at the Harriet Tubman statue (a travelling exhibit) where Amad Ward, the Executive Director of the park, first addressed our group. Then a tour guide, Nicolas, guided us around the premises and spoke of the historical significance of the park that was established in 1862. He also answered our questions about the folks who established the first self-governed Freedmen's Town in America. It was amazing to walk in the footsteps of the first Mitchellville residents.



Now, mark your calendars for our November 21st program, when our very own Flower Show judge, Jane Johnson, will be presenting "Floral Design Arranging 101". She will be demonstrating the basics of live floral arranging in preparation for our "Arts and Blooms" show next year. Come ready to learn and get inspired to create your own arrangements during the coming year.

November is a busy month for The Avid Gardeners as we decorate our 28 neighborhood signs as well as the Dolphin Head Rec Center for the holidays. You will, or have already received information via email regarding dates, times and meeting places for these activities. Hope you maveke time to volunteer again this year.

As November is a month we celebrate and give thanks and appreciation for our blessings, I am initiating a FOOD DRIVE to help those in need. Please bring a non perisha ble food item meeting ths week. I will deliver them it to DEEP WELL before the Thanksgiving holiday.



You are invited to an afternoon of
good food, camaraderie and fun!

TAG Holiday Luncheon and Trivia Game

When: Friday, December 5th, 12:30pm

Where: Frankie Bones Private Boardroom

What: Menu choice of entrée from the following:

Prime Dip Sandwich Grilled Salmon

Spaghetti Squash Primavera

Schwein Schnitzel or Greek Village Salad

*view entrée details on Frankie Bones
website

Carrot Cake for dessert

Cost: \$35.65 (includes tax and gratuity)

Members to pay directly at luncheon

Please arrive on time

RSVP: text Debbie Meeks by 11/26 to

706-825-0454

Jr. Gardeners



Jane Johnson, Sandy Stern,
Melissa Olsen

With the help of six active volunteers of the Avid Gardeners, the students of the HHISCA Jr. Gardeners Club have been busy this past month with all sorts of activities. Besides maintaining the five beds of herbs and vegetables, they were popping



Rosemary Parmesan popcorn, painting Halloween planters for air plants, making cinnamon ornaments for the school's holiday tree and creating Smoky Bear and Woodsy Owl posters and poems to submit to the Garden Club of South Carolina.



Thanks to Debbie Meeks, Mary Long, Karen Heaney, Jane Johnson and Edna Biederman, as well as to Ms. Grace Mowry, our teacher club coordinator.



Pajama Day at school found the kids taking home their Halloween planters.

PROGRAMS.....RITA RIVLIN

The Avid Gardeners surveyed our members at our end of year meeting to discover what type of programs interest them most and suggestions for the Programs Committee for this coming year. We received 18 questionnaires (which represents 33% of our membership) and these are the top six suggestions:

Gardening in your yard	83%
Garden Field Trips	83%
Caring for houseplants	83%
Native plants of the Lowcountry	66%
Flower Arranging	66%
Community Beautification	66%

If you have additional suggestions for future programs, please let us know! There will be index cards at the next meeting’s sign-in table.



These program changes were made after our Program & Membership Directory went to print. Please make note of them in your booklet so you don’t miss anything!

- February 20: Herbs and their Possibilities. *Speaker: Diane Morey Stewart*
- April 17: Field Trip to Coastal Botanical Gardens
- May 15: The History of Tea and Tea Drinking. *Speaker: Victoria Bergensen*
Followed by a Tea Party & Plant Swap

More details to follow



It's time to decorate Dolphin Head!

As one of our TAG community projects, we will again be decorating the Dolphin Head Clubhouse.

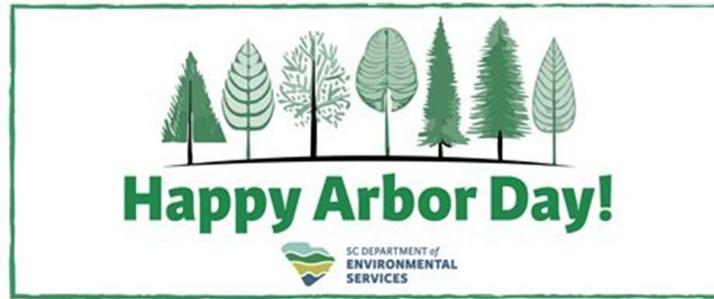
Tims for decorating will be:

Friday, November 21, 2PM to stage and set
the trees

Saturday, 9AM—3:PM to place lights and
ornaments

Sunday, noon, if necessary to finish up

Please contact Liz Van Alstyne, [315-342-1246](tel:315-342-1246) or lizmembership@gmail.com to let her know when you can help or with questions.



Did you know that South Carolina is the only state that celebrates Arbor Day in December? This is because it aligns with the planting season which runs from December through mid-March, according to the SC Department of Natural Resources.

The holiday celebrates the planting, care and preservation of trees. This annual holiday is not merely about planting new trees; it's also an opportunity to acknowledge the countless benefits they provide to ensure a healthy environment. This year we will celebrate it on December 5. We are encouraged to educate our youth and to plant a tree in our gardens or communities.

At the Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts, the Jr. Gardeners will be planting an avocado tree in the school's courtyard garden. Then each student will be given instructions on how to care for an avocado seed already starting to bloom. They will learn how to care for it at home until they can plant it in the ground in their own gardens.





The Hospitality committee needs your help! We all enjoy the coffee time refreshments at each of our monthly meetings. Volunteers are needed for January and February. It's a fun opportunity for you to take your turn, get involved, and get better acquainted with other members. And it's easy!

Please contact Claudia Hawn ([843-422-4193](tel:843-422-4193)) or Judy Cherry ([860-402-7647](tel:860-402-7647)) today to sign up. We appreciate it!



Christmas Bird Count



December 15

Hello fellow Avid Gardeners! Did you know that there's a great opportunity coming up on December 15 to do two things (at least) that we all love: Relaxing in nature – your own back yard or one of the many incredibly beautiful outdoor places on Hilton Head Island -- AND engaging in an activity that benefits our neighbors, our community, and Mother Nature herself.

“What’s that?!?” you ask. It’s this year’s Christmas Bird Count! – a once-a-year opportunity for birders, photographers, and people who love keeping track of things to do “Citizen Science” by counting our birds. You can count them in your back yard. You can listen for owls at night. You can be part of a team that counts birds from golf carts, on boats, or on walks through our beautiful public spaces (beaches, conservatories, parks, all of it). You don’t need to be an expert birder; all you need is at least 30 minutes of your time on Christmas Bird Count day (December 15).

If you’d like to be part of one of the top Christmas Bird Count “circles” in the whole US (really!) and you wouldn’t object to a short respite from your holiday to-do list, this Citizen Science project might be for you!

For more information, go to our website (www.theavidgardeners.org) or check out the Christmas Bird Count article in the December issue of Plantation Living magazine, or email Deb Sadlon at sadlondgb@gmail.com.



November meeting Friday 11/21, 9:30am
Spring Lake Pavilion

Mini Floral Arranging Class—Led by Jane Johnson, a GCSC certified Flower Show judge. Members will learn GCSC Flower Show guidelines. Teams will be formed to collaborate with the Hilton Head Plantation Art League to create arrangements for the TAG Arts & Blooms Show in March 2027

November 26—Deadline to RSVP for Holiday Luncheon



Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of the month. Email your document or pictures to: Carol Sevelowitz, sevelcss@gmail.com