



## **TAG Talk April, 2026**

### **President's Message.....Sandy Stern**

Well, Spring has sprung, and before I had a chance to take my annual picture of the azaleas in my front yard, the blossoms came and went! Oh well, there's always next year.

The news of the month is that The Avid Gardeners have officially withdrawn from the Garden Club of South Carolina, and with that, the West Low Country District. We will continue adhering to our club's By-Laws and with all of our community projects, guest speaker programs and field trips. But we will not longer have GCSC restrictions. 71% of our members voted to discontinue our affiliation with GCSC,

With April being National Volunteer Month, I want to thank all of our members who have shown up and spent hours volunteering at the school garden, Memory Matters garden and the Plant it Pink Garden. You ROCK! Seemslike April is the busiest time of year for gardeners and our community is a more beautiful place due to your efforts.

Hope by now you have contacted Karen Hardwick regarding our carpooling to the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens on Friday, April 17. We will be meeting at 8:00 at the Plantation House and plan to depart at 8:30am. Looking forward to the trip.

The Programs Planning Committee is in the process of recruiting speakers and scheduling programs for the Fall. I you have any ideas for speakers or programs, please contact Rita Rivlin.

Thanks to Caroline Alderman, our Floral Arranging workshops have been a great success. The next one is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 1:00pm at Spring Lake Pavilion. Please let Karen Hardwick know you will be attending.

Information on our May meeting follows on the next page.

**Happy Spring !!**



## Coming in May.....Tea Party!.....Installation of Officers

Guest speaker: Victoria Bergensen will speak on *“The History of Tea and Tea Drinking.”*  
To be followed by a Tea Party (if you can help, contact Peg McCann).  
We will also be voting for and then installing new officers. Please attend.  
Bring a friend.



Also in May.....

## Plant and Seedling Exchange

May 15, 2026

Outside Spring Lake Pavilion following our meeting



If you have a plant or seedling you'd like to exchange, please donate them to our "Free to a Good Home" event. Exchange for some you'd like to try instead!

# Horticulture.....Karen Heaney

This month in the garden is showing great improvement! A few plants I thought did not survive the cold temperatures we endured this past winter are beginning to show growth! I hope you also had some come back as well. Be sure to clear away any dead branches and leaves from around your plants and fertilize. Applying a new layer of mulch can help to cut down on the weeds.

Annuals are in abundance at the nurseries, adding some amongst your perennials and bushes will continue to provide color in your yard through the warm season. There is an abundance of varieties of plants to choose from such as geraniums, petunias, begonias, impatiens, and butterfly pentas to name a few. Another idea might be to add an array of herbs to your garden and planters.



Growing herbs is a wonderful addition and adapt easily to any garden plan. Many grow successfully indoors or outdoors in patio containers, window boxes, hanging baskets, balconies, and baskets. A few pots of mixed essential herbs will provide fresh-snipped lively flavor for recipes all summer and winter long. The herbs that are home-grown are richer in flavor, aroma and strength in comparison to store bought herbs. They can also be easily dried – providing a big savings in cost and flavor.

Most herbs do not require fertilizer, so as not to limit the development of the oil in them, which is essential for flavor and aroma. Herbs require very little maintenance and have few pest or disease problems. You might consider growing them in pots, hanging baskets, or in the ground. Herbs provide lively flavor for recipes all year long. A few of my favorites are basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, parsley, lemon balm, lemon verbena, cilantro, nasturtium, to name a few!

Happy one!

Planting Every-



Jr. Gardeners

## The Butterfly Bunch



A picture is worth a thousand words, so here are photos of our Jr. Gardeners enjoying planting, weeding, watering and harvesting, as well as creating garden art.

The kale keeps growing, the snap peas were harvested, the peppers, strawberries, blueberries, and tomatoes are beginning to blossom, the irises and roses are blooming, but, the avocado tree has seen better days. (a replacement is on its way.) This week they planted a milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies.



The Jr. Gardeners work as a team, as each do their best to accomplish the many chores required in maintaining the Vegetable and Butterfly Gardens.

The children spread wildflower seeds in the Butterfly Garden, added more herbs to the herb bed and pruned plants throughout the courtyard. They are learning to distinguish between weeds and seedling plants and the importance of recycling and composting.

With the assistance of Melissa, Mary, Edna, Karen, Debbie and me, the children had fun gardening and creating colorful paper butterfly plate designs. They also learned how to grow from seed and each growing seedling.



ing colorful paper designs. They also took home a

## Plant it Pink Garden: Through the Years - 2010-2026

The **Plant-it-Pink Garden** was established by *The Avid Gardeners* in September 2010 and ever since has won First Place awards through the years from the National Garden Club, the Garden Club of South Carolina as well as the West Lowcountry Garden Club.

The idea for the garden was concocted during a long drive back from a GCSC meeting in upstate South Carolina. Sharon Jaunsem, Rosemary Kratz and Sandy Stern made plans to create a garden with pink-painted pots placed upside-down in a ribbon shape near the entrance of Hilton Head Hospital. Since being established, our PIP Garden stands as a symbol of inspiration and hope for women who visit the Breast Cancer Center for mammograms, tests, and treatment. It serves the community as a reminder of those who have survived, undergone treatment or succumbed to breast cancer.

The PIP Team, now under the direction of Rob and Janina Cushman, met on April 1st, to plan for cleaning, upgrading, painting pots and replanting pink cultivars. Volunteers showed up for 4 sessions this past week to clean the garden, wash the 6" pots, paint them, replace them and plant 50 pentas. The results are simply amazing.

We want to thank Bruno's Nursery for donating all of the penta plants this year, Thanks to all who continue to beautify our community and celebrate life !



## Memory Matters

The Memory Matters garden is back in bloom! Thanks to a generous discount from The Green Thumb nursery, and money left from last year's grant from the Island Beautification



Association, we were able to resurrect the lovely walled sensory garden at Memory Matters. Filled with colorful and scented annuals, perennials, and herbs, the clients have already been able to enjoy it. Many thanks to volunteers Mary Long, Karen Heaney, Sandy Stern, Maryanne Sweet and Carol Sevelowitz for making it happen.



**Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of the month. Email your document or pictures in Word format to:**

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