

Trent Woods Garden Club

February 2020

Greetings, All! Hope you are all recovered from the Christmas holidays. Our January meeting was awesome with the participation of five of our members showing off their skills in floral design. Not only were the designs beautiful but each member implemented unique themes to parallel their creations! Thank you, D', for an inspiring program. Reflecting on this program, I believe that we have generated a unique program for our May luncheon. A hint: to coordinate art with flowers. Would you like to participate? Let us know!

Another opportunity for all of you floral designers is to create arrangements for the upcoming Taste of Coastal Carolina on March 10 which will be held at the New Bern History Center. We have participated in years past and has always been a fun project. It is the main fund raiser for Sound Rivers. Since one of our NGC's tenets is concern for the environment what better way to demonstrate this but by participating in this event. We will be asking for volunteers to create designs at our Feb. meeting.

And, most of all, we hope that you have sent in your pre-orders for the Herb Sale whose deadline is Feb. 15 so our grower has enough time to fill our wishes. As Ann Hall, co-chair for this event, said at our last meeting: less than 20 % of our own members order herbs. Take her advice and order one (or more) for a neighbor or new friend. The price for a 4 inch pot remains at \$3. Please check the order forms on line. Please note that in addition to culinary herbs, there are other herbs which might interest you. The funds we raise from this activity are used for our many projects including Scholarship fund, Garden therapy, Youth Gardeners, Wreaths Across America, Bishop Home, etc. Ask Ann or one of her committee to help you plan your herb garden or learn additional uses of herbs. We need full support from all of you to make this project a success.

Our programs of Garden Therapy and Youth Gardeners focused on birds this month by making feeders from pine cones. Next month, Garden Therapy will be at Homeplace, and the BEES' visit will be early, Feb. 12, to make Valentine arrangements. Check the yearbook and web for more information. It's all fun not only for the residents and children but also for us! The February program will feature Hadley Cheris from Tryon Palace when she will discuss the newly designed Pollinator Gardens. Hope to see you all there. Fondly, Paula

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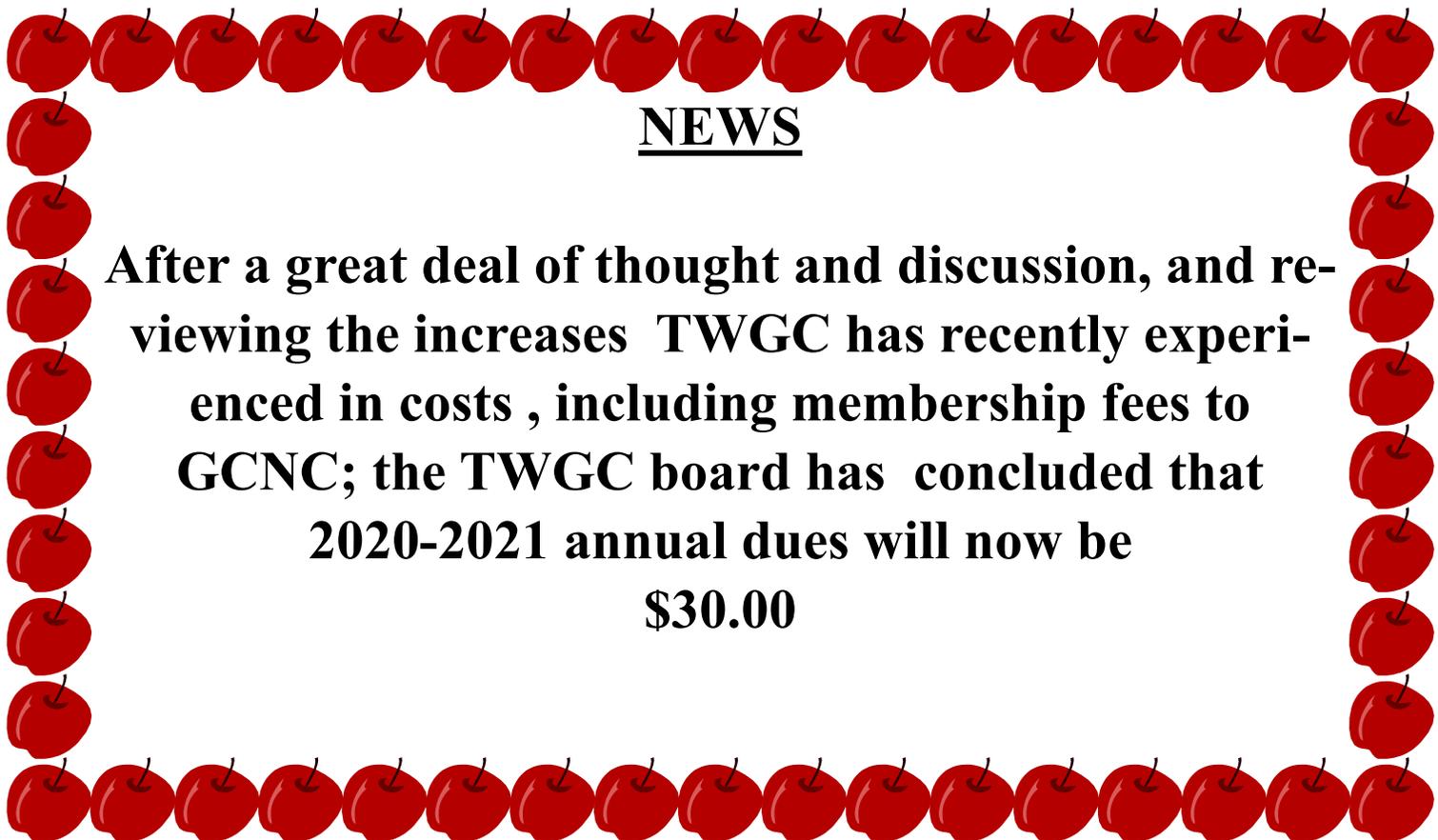
The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc



TWGC
Herb Sale Order Forms

Are Now Available on
www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

Due 2/15/2020!



NEWS

After a great deal of thought and discussion, and reviewing the increases TWGC has recently experienced in costs , including membership fees to GCNC; the TWGC board has concluded that 2020-2021 annual dues will now be \$30.00

Horticulture Corner-February

By Maureen Loomer

They say if there is a rosemary bush in the garden there is a strong woman in the house. --
-- *Briscoe White, thegrowers-exchange.com*

At the January meeting, VP Ann reminded us that the club's annual herb sale is fast-approaching and needs every member's support. She brought a sprig of rosemary to help us all get into a herbal mindset, so I am doing my bit to continue the momentum Ann started.

The pic here is from the large mulched bed in the most elevated portion of my back garden. From late spring through late fall, this area is dominated by a large old crape myrtle that keeps it shady. At the extreme edge is this rosemary "Arp" that I planted next about 10 years ago. As you can see, it is just coming into full bloom and looks brilliant next to the bright foliage of a dwarf nandina. As the Ag Extension <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/salvia-rosmarinus/> noted, it will bloom through early spring. Both plants thrive in the 6+hours of full sun made possible by the fact that the crape myrtle is bare in winter. "Arp" and "Hardy Hill" are cold-hardy upright cultivars most commonly planted in our area, along with "Prostratus" or creeping rosemary. Prostratus looks so pretty clambering over the rocks in my Wood-back the woody stems on finish blooming to discourage one plant you can't get the



The rosemary plants doing well except for those garden where I think the over-all yellowing. This checked the soil pH and ceptable slightly-acid continues after some dry bit of food in case there is a ones in the containers look the hydrology.

elsewhere in the garden are planted in the walled herb heavy rain has caused some area drains poorly. I found it to be in the ac-range. If the yellowing con-weather I will give them a nutrient problem. Since the good, I really suspect it is

If you have poor drainage then containers are the way to go with rosemary because, as with most herbs, soggy roots are deadly. A container planted with rosemary and companion plants with the same light/water/soil needs will give you much needed color in the winter, and can be easy-care all year long. Not to mention the lovely scent and culinary uses. Rosemary and olive oil: yum. Pass the bread, please.

Elsewhere in the garden, my bulbs (narcissus and crocus) started shooting up in the last two weeks but perhaps may be slowed by the cooler temps rolling in this week (January 26). I even have some alliums coming up. I'm not worried, these plants are tough.

Surprise, I have a pair of Baltimore Orioles that showed up in the last month! They are likely stragglers from southward migration that were attracted by my feeders and the fruit on my crape myrtles and holly plants, according to *Journey North* <https://journenorth.org/tm/oriole/News.html>. I hope they stay for a while. I'll keep the suet and mealworms coming! I haven't gotten a photo yet, but will keep trying.

I am looking for volunteers to present at our March meeting. If you are interested, or if you have ideas for this column, please shoot me an email. Until next month....

Youth Gardeners



Here are some photos of our recent visit on January 15, 2020 to our second grade class of Oaks Road Academy. We presented a lesson about birds specifically why they are important in our world and how to identify different birds by color, shape and size. The northern cardinal was emphasized as it is the state bird. Actually, the cardinal is the state bird of 8 other states. We taught that all birds need help in the winter to survive and so we had the BEES make birdfeeders from pinecones gathered from local forest areas, cemeteries and back yards. Lard was slathered onto the cone and then the cone was rolled in bird seed. The BEES really enjoyed this project as noted in these photos. We hung 4 feeders on a tree in the playground area so all the students could watch for visitors. Our students were given the assignment to keep a log as to which birds and how many came to their feeders. We will compare notes next meeting which is Feb. 12.



VOLUNTEER!

Even if you volunteered years ago-Please join us again

Please contact the committee chair and sign up for a couple of activities listed below

Bank of the Arts

Mary Ann Hudak

Bishop House

June Boyd

Floral Design

Ann Simpson

Tree Décor at CEMC

Gail McLamb

TW Christmas Parade

Jack and Debbie Durham

Ghost Walk

Jane Ferree

Awards

Frances Eder

Blue Star Memorial

Marcia Sproul

Youth Gardeners

Paula Hartman

Garden Therapy

Kathy Perretta

Seasonal Design

Gail Pethia

Trent Woods Parks

Sue Wyatt

Meals on Wheels

Carol Letellier

Environmental Concerns/ Conservation

Maureen Loomer

Local Events

February 2020

Feb 1 Clean Sweep (252) 633-1477

Feb 6 Evening Edition Orchids 101 at Pinecome Home and Garden- 631-5075

Feb 8 Bryce Lane at Cullman Performance Hall "Quilts and Gardens" 10:00 am at Tryon Palace

Feb 15 - DEADLINE for Preorder TWGC HERB SALE

Feb 15 Tom Glasgow at CC Extension Spring Pruning 10:00-11:30 am

Feb 15 Succulents in Terrariums at Pinecone 11:00am

Feb 18 - River Bend Organic Gardening Round Table 6:30pm reserve (252) 349-4000

Feb 29 Indoor Plants 101 at Pinecone 11:00am

Creating a Screen By Judi Lloyd

If you like your neighbors, but prefer a bit of privacy from their property, plant a hedge screen. When selecting plants, be sure to consider their mature size and growth habits, sun and soil needs and disease resistance. It's also important to consider using multiple species of plants so if one species succumbs to a disease you don't lose the entire hedge. This also creates a more visually pleasing interest in your landscape. The other consideration is how quickly you want your privacy as some plants are faster growing than others. But keep in mind that some of the fastest growing trees and shrubs can be weak wooded and short lived. Lastly, you want to select evergreen plants so you don't have the same privacy issue every winter. (Unless you plan on wintering in Florida every year.)

I spoke with Dr. Tom Glasgow at the County Extension Office and he gave me his recommendations for suitable plants for our area. I will list a few of them but you can get his complete list by contacting the extension office at 633-1477.

Cleyera (*Ternstroemia gymnanthera*) – Can grow well over 10 feet high and wide. Best located in shade to partial shade. New leaves are bronze to reddish. Excellent plant, and should be used more often for screening.

Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*) – Beautiful native holly growing up to 20-30 feet in the wild but usually smaller in the landscape. Foliage lacks the prominent spines or teeth of the American holly. Very nice fruit set in fall and winter. Very worthwhile and underused selection.

Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) – Native evergreen up to 40-50 feet tall; growth habit can vary from broad and spreading to narrow and upright. An extremely adaptable plant. Not for heavy shade or wet sites.

Foster and 'Savannah' Hollies (*Ilex x attenuata*) – Tree-form in growth habit, up to 25-35 feet and taller. Nice fruit set in the winter. Foster hollies have shinier green and narrower leaves as compared with 'Savannah'. Which is "best" is a matter of preference. Both are very worthwhile components in any large screen.

'Green Giant' Arborvitae (*Thuja x 'Green Giant'*) – Excellent deep green color, fast-growing to the height of 40-50 feet and with a distinctly symmetrical, almost conical form, 'Green Giant' appears to be an obvious alternative to the overused and problematic Leyland Cypress.

'Gulftide' Osmanthus (*Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Gulftide'*) – Slightly smaller in stature and with finer textured foliage. Fairly good shade tolerance, and in fact will probably perform better with some shade during the day.

Loropetalum (*Loropetalum chinense*) – Evergreen to semi-deciduous, a relative of the witch hazel with showy maroon/purple-leaf, pink-flowering cultivars. Flowers, occurring primarily in spring, are very fleecy or fringy in appearance. This is a very tough, adaptable shrub which can grow up to at least 15 feet high and wide. Probably better off with some shade during the day.

Oak Leaf Holly (*Ilex hybrid*) – Potential mature size of 20 feet with an 8-foot spread. Orange-red fruit through the winter. Densely arranged, dark green foliage. Excellent addition to SE landscapes.

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) – Native evergreen holly, developing into a large shrub or small tree. Female plants have very showy fruit during the winter. Tolerates sun or shade, but probably looks its best where it receives semi-shade all day or shade during the afternoon.

January Monthly Program

D' Stone Presenter. Arrangements by Ann Hall, Deb Tallman, Raye Lynn Longhini, Debbie Durham, and Rhona Beadle. Everyone enjoyed



the very different arrangements presented by each of our designers.



Inspired by:
Walks in the
Woods awaiting
Spring, Chinese
New Year, a Win-
ter Garden,
Spring, and Icy
January



Horticulture

Horticulture sample provided by Dolores Rayner



Specimen

Genus/Species: *Daphne odora*

Common: Winter Daphne

Character: Winter bloom, scented flowers.

Origin: China

Size: approximately 3' X 3'.

Lifespan: Short-lived (max. 6-8 years.)

Difficulty: Moderate

Collected by: Dolores Rayner

Source: Home garden

Requirements

Climate: Grows best in USDA Zones 7-8.

Soil: Requires excellent drainage. Needs porous soil with abundant organic matter. Plant 1-2 in above surface, mulch well. Transplants *poorly* once established.

Light/Temp: At least 3 hours of **light shade mid-day**. Good understory shrub tall trees.

Care: Water carefully during summer. Shrub fertilizer **AFTER** bloom. Prune carefully. Mottled leaves indicate viral infection.

Subspecies have solid (alba) or variegated leaf color. Cultivars include "Aureomarginata", which is hardier and more virus-resistant.

Bank of the Arts

Designer : Martha Schell

Theme:

Valentine Cards, Craven County Schools



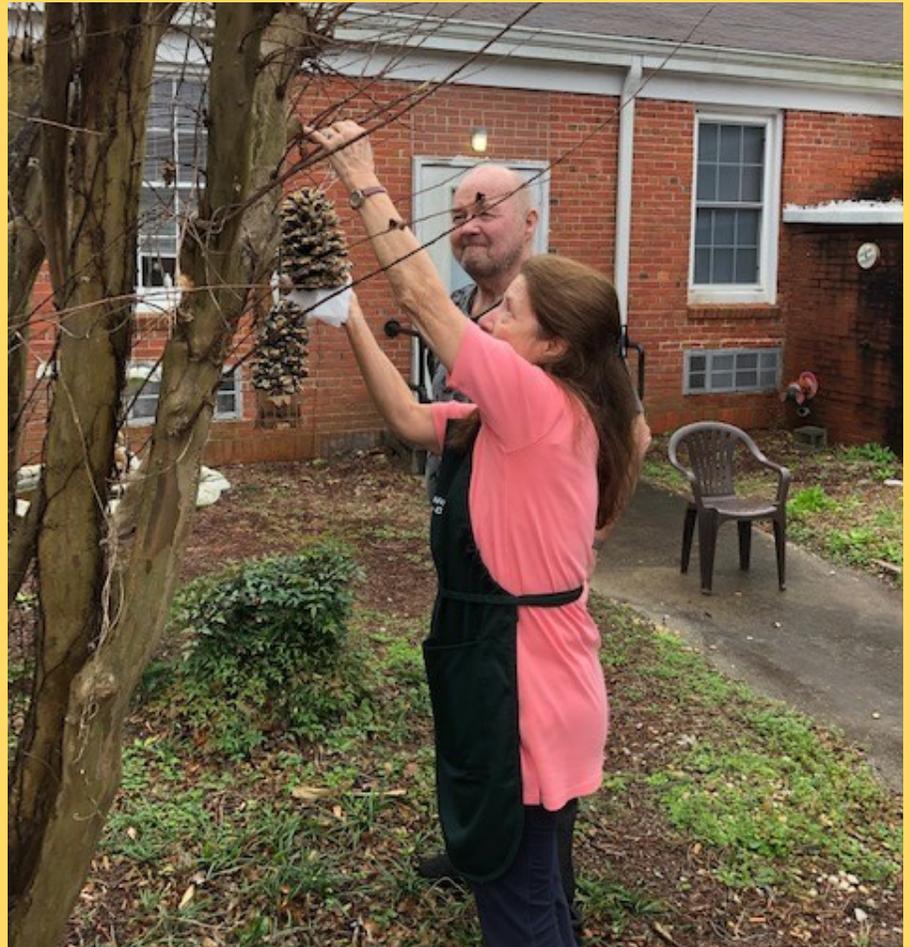
Garden Therapy



Monday January 13, 2020

Good Shepherd

Members of TWGC enjoyed helping Good Shepherd residents to create pine cone bird feeders. After they were all done, the bird seeders were hung outside. The bird feeders were hung where the birds could enjoy them and the residents could watch the action! The visit also included juice, cookies and a sing along!



Garden Therapy – Schedule 2019/2020

Chair: Kathy Perretta – krperretta@aol.com

516-652-6899

Monday, February 17, 2020 10am

Homeplace, 1309 McCarthy Blvd.

Marcia Sproul

Monday, March 16, 2020 10am

Monarch, 1320 Health Drive

Pinecone birdfeeders – Linda Nails

Monday, April 20, 2020 10am

River Point Crest , 2600 Old Cherry Point Road

Plant Vegetable Garden - Jack Durham



Bird of the Month

Belted Kingfisher

With its top-heavy physique, energetic flight, and piercing rattle, the Belted Kingfisher seems to have an air of self-importance as it patrols up and down rivers and shorelines. It nests in burrows along earthen banks and feeds almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish and crayfish with its heavy, straight bill. These ragged-crested birds are a powdery blue-gray; males have one blue band across the white breast, while females have a blue and a chestnut band.

Belted Kingfishers live mostly on a diet of fish including sticklebacks, mummichogs, trout, and stonerollers. They also eat crayfish and may eat other crustaceans, mollusks, insects, amphibians, reptiles, young birds, small mammals, and even berries. A kingfisher looks for prey from a perch that overhangs water, such as a bare branch, telephone wire, or pier piling. When it spots a fish or crayfish near the surface, it takes flight, dives with closed eyes, and grabs the prey in its bill with a pincer motion. Returning with its prize, it pounds the prey against the perch before swallowing it head first. It may also hover above the water instead of searching from a perch.

Belted Kingfishers spend most of the year alone until they pair up during the breeding season. Males (and occasionally females) establish territories, which usually conform to the shape of the stream or shoreline. Belted Kingfishers are monogamous within each breeding season but form new pairs every year. The male feeds the female while courting her. Both members of the pair vigorously defend their territory by chasing away intruders while giving loud rattle calls.

From Allaboutbirds.org

Perfect Sponge Cake



Ingredients:

5 eggs (room temp)

1/2 teaspoon Vanilla extract

3/4 Cup sugar

1 Cup flour

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1. Preheat Oven 350 degrees, grease 9 inch pan, place parchment paper round on bottom and grease parchment paper.
 2. Beat 5 eggs with sugar until three times the volume.
 3. Add Vanilla, mix until incorporated
 4. Using spatula, fold flour, by thirds, very gently, into eggs and sugar, Do not deflate eggs.
 5. Bake 30 min until toothpick comes out clean. Do not overbake.