

Trent Woods Garden Club

May 2020

Greetings, All! Happy Earth Day – the 50th Year! As I said on a recent pod cast with **New Bern Now**, to me and I hope, our club, Every Day is Earth Day!

How? Trent Woods Garden Club continues to support issues of sustainability, conservation and the environment in all of our activities. We accomplish this through our monthly programs , in our work with the 2nd graders at Oaks Road Academy and in our community outreach through Garden Therapy, Meals on Wheels nose-gays, River keeper, Craven County Hospice, Trent Woods parks and Blue Star Marker grounds maintenance. Our Herb Sale was a fund raiser to help with all of these projects, but also it supports our Scholarship program. We sold local herbs not only to our members, but to the community to promote home and community gardening for food, beauty and environmental issues (to attract pollinators, to escape mosquitoes). The Herb Committee led by Mary Florence and Ann G. Hall did an outstanding job from the management of the orders through filling and delivery while maintaining social distance. What a feat!!! Thank you! Earth Day is also discussed with our Garden BEES and Woodsy Owl. His motto is “Lend a Hand, Care for the Land.” Our world is precious and the children are the gardeners of tomorrow. They need to be caretakers of the world by following simple guidelines of not littering, turning off lights when leaving the room, and bringing these messages home to their families and neighbors.

We thank you all for your support in of our efforts to recycle, reuse and reduce . Thanks to all who are sharing seeds and plants. We will be back together soon so please continue to grow succulents, save OUI jars and happy gardening!

We can also continue the challenge of making designs from your gardens. At this point, we should have lots of greens to choose from.

Take care and stay safe. Fondly, Paula

Trent Woods Garden Club 2019-2020 Executive Board

President Paula Hartman

First Vice President	Ann G. Hall	Second Vice President	Debbie Durham
Recording Secretary	Marcia Sproul	Corresponding Secretary	June Boyd
Treasurer	Mary Florence	Historian	D’ Stone

www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

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PS from Paula

News re: May Meeting

As you may have realized, there will not be a meeting in May. The good news is that the Scholarship committee led by Raye Lynn Longhini will be announcing very shortly the winner of the \$1000 Sharon Quill scholarship. We will try to go “tech” and see if we can facetime the winner. Stay tuned.

Unfortunately, the presentation of the Service Recognition Award will be postponed until next year which gives us all more time to make nominations and send them to D’ Stone.

The program for May was being chaired by Mary Jo Echinger. We so looked forward to viewing all the “Blooming Art” designs. However, Mary Jo has offered to present this for the September meeting.

Thank you Raye Lynn, D’ and Mary Jo for your attention to these projects. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Again, please take care and stay safe. Have fun in your gardens and please send some photos of your projects and designs to Deb Tallman

Deborah_t_07760@yahoo.com

If you need anything, please let me know. Fondly, Paula

Here are the canes of Confederate roses given to Paula by Gail Krielow, former TWGC president. What a great example of Earth Day and PLANT AMERICA, a project of the National Garden Club to promote planting trees for beauty and environmental benefits. Plus isn't it nice to get cuttings from a friend to plant in your own garden!



Herb Sale Round Up!



The Trent Woods Garden Club managed to deliver 750 herbs for our major fund raiser of the year. We managed to raise a profit of \$1300. for our scholarship fund. Many many thanks to Mary Florence and Ann Hall for their countless hours of hard work. In years past, our friends and family members would meet at the New Bern Farmers Market to pick up their orders. Because of the pandemic, a small contingent of members met to unload and sort the herbs to go to their new homes. The next day, a few members picked up the filled orders and delivered them all over Craven and Carteret counties. All the while observing the six-foot rule, face and hand covering! TWGC would like to thank everyone that participated in sorting and delivery including: Tom Hartman, Bill Wyatt and Jim Florence. A special thank you to New Bern Farmers Market for opening the building for us. This concerted effort allowed for us to support our scholarship fund again this year.



Yard Greens Design Challenge



So, how to be creative and remain home? Have a Yard Greens Design Challenge, of course! Our own Paula Hartman, President of TWGC led the charge with azaleas, Angela Marchesi created an exotic arrangement from her Florida yard and Judy Lott was able to capture the last Camellia blossom from her lovely garden.



Horticulture Corner-May 2020

By Maureen Loomer

May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool, misty mornings gently burned away with a warming spring sun, followed by breezy afternoons and chilly nights. The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin. - Peter Loewer



April this year has been typical of most the 30 years I have lived in eastern North Carolina, and (at least at my house) there have been no killing freezes to damage petunias I put on the patio or the violas on the front porch. In the walled herb garden the mints, achillea, alliums, and thymes are doing well. The Joe Pye weed is slow, but coming along. The potted rosemary plants that were yellowing over the late winter responded nicely to a feeding with Peter's Plant Food. In the milkweed garden, the rue is blooming and milkweeds shooting up.

I needed to water the French/Spanish lavender (*lavandula stoechas*) which is blooming prolifically. This will be the fifth year that I have had the variety "Anouk" in a large planter behind the walled herb garden. This lavender is evergreen in my herb garden which is protected by some tall background trees. Because it needs good drainage (rare in my yard), I must keep it in a container. I cut a few fresh stems to use as filler in an arrangement, but otherwise keep it just to please the pollinators. It will bloom well into June if I deadhead and keep any dead stems trimmed away.

Monrovia (<https://growbeautifully.monrovia.com/when-to-prune-lavender/>) advises gentle pruning in August. The new variety "Phenomenal" is growing slowly but appears to be doing well. It is in a container next to "Anouk".

The deer came through and ate ALL my guaras (wand flowers) in the woodland garden! All our local garden centers advertise them as deer resistant as do several online sources. Since these were left alone in the summer when I put them in, I thought they were okay, but did more research this month after the deer invasion. I found a source that indicates guara may actually attract at least SOME deer (<https://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=600>). Oh well, live and learn. I do hope they grow back because as I sit on my bench under the maples, the blossoms nod in the summer breeze in such a soothing way. The deer trampled (but did not nibble) the nearby columbines, mountain mints, crested iris, or Stoke's asters. They will be fine.

One pair of bluebirds is raising a brood in the woodland garden nest box, and another is nesting in the trees next door. They, and many of the other woodland species are emptying my feeders daily. I put out suet and seed treated with hot pepper to discourage the squirrels and raccoons. The American beautyberry and Carolina allspice I planted in the fall have come back and are leafing out. I hope for bountiful berries that the bluebirds will enjoy. I found a very nice site on planting for bluebirds and other native birds at <http://www.sialis.org/plants.htm>.

The Stay-at-Home Order has all of us keeping close to home and, hopefully, reflecting on little pleasures to be found there—sometimes ones we may not have appreciated before. After the wonderful presentation from Hadley Cheris of Tryon Palace Gardens, I decided to really appreciate the flowering plants that nourish the pollinators closest to the ground in March and April. In this photo, you see that the woodland garden is enjoying a bounty of blue anemones, yellow oxalis, white clover, and even some fleabane. One woman's weed is another woman's wildflower! Until we meet again....



Easter Inspirations

Easter provided special inspiration to a few of our members. Even though large groups were not hosted, lovely flower decorations were created in honor of the holiday. Easter pansy favors are by Mary Boudreault and Paula Hartman's table hosted chrysanthemums and bronze fennel.





TWGC Member sends Easter Cards to Veterans

Our very own Kathy Perretta had a very special project during the pandemic— writing and sending Easter cards to Veterans at Kinston Veterans Home. Knowing that visitors were restricted during the pandemic, Kathy and her friends decided that Veterans may be feeling even more isolated. The group met at the New Bern Elks club and utilized the outdoor area for their project. Maintaining social distancing guidelines in addition to face masks and gloves, the small group wrote to 100 veterans at the home. Plastic Easter eggs were donated for the staff to fill as a treat.

What do all those letters on the fertilizer package mean and how do I know which one to use?

By Judi Lloyd

While a lack of proper soil nutrients can lead to poor growth, other environmental factors may be an underlying contributor. Those include inadequate sunlight, soil compaction, poor drainage, insects or diseases. Before deciding that fertilizer is the answer, determine why plants are growing poorly, then correct the factors contributing to poor growth. Fertilizer may help, but only after other problems are corrected.

Applying too much fertilizer, or routinely applying unneeded fertilizer can be a wasteful investment and pollute the environment. It can also hinder the plant's ability to take up nutrients or create toxicity, depending on the nutrient.

The most reliable way to select an appropriate fertilizer grade is to have your soil tested. This cannot be stressed enough! The soil test report will recommend a fertilizer grade appropriate for the intended crop. The report is accompanied by a management note that provides guidelines for supplementing nitrogen for lawn and garden crops. A soil test kit can be picked up at the Cooperative Extension Office (when it reopens 633-1477). Now, let's "decode" what the symbols on the fertilizer bags mean. N is for nitrogen, which helps plants to produce healthy green foliage. P is for phosphorus, promoting healthy flowers, vegetables and roots. K (I know this doesn't make sense) is for potassium, which helps plants to resist disease. BTW, these letters are always in this order on the package. The NPK numbers give you the relative proportions of those nutrients by weight. So, a balanced 10-10-10 or something with a tad more nitrogen, such as 12-5-7, is a good way to cover all plants to simplify your life and your shed. But, read the instructions so you end up putting the right amount on your plants. Specialty fertilizers (for camellias, roses, tomatoes, etc.) might be better for promoting foliage, flowers or vegetables. For annuals, your best bet is probably a quick-release, water-soluble one. An all-purpose fertilizer with balanced nutrients, such as a 10-10-10 formulation will work for you. But be careful because if overused they may burn plants' roots and foliage.

For shrubs and perennials, you will need a slow-release fertilizer, although they don't need much extra nutrients to thrive. The nutrients in these fertilizers are released over months, so the plants are getting a steady stream of food. Whether you choose a manufactured or organic slow-released fertilizer is not as important as one that is easy to spread and store, fits your budget and can be found locally.

Don't be too concerned about micronutrients in fertilizers; but if you check the label on most all-purpose bags, you'll find that most contain micronutrients (iron, copper, chlorine, zinc, boron, molybdenum and manganese).

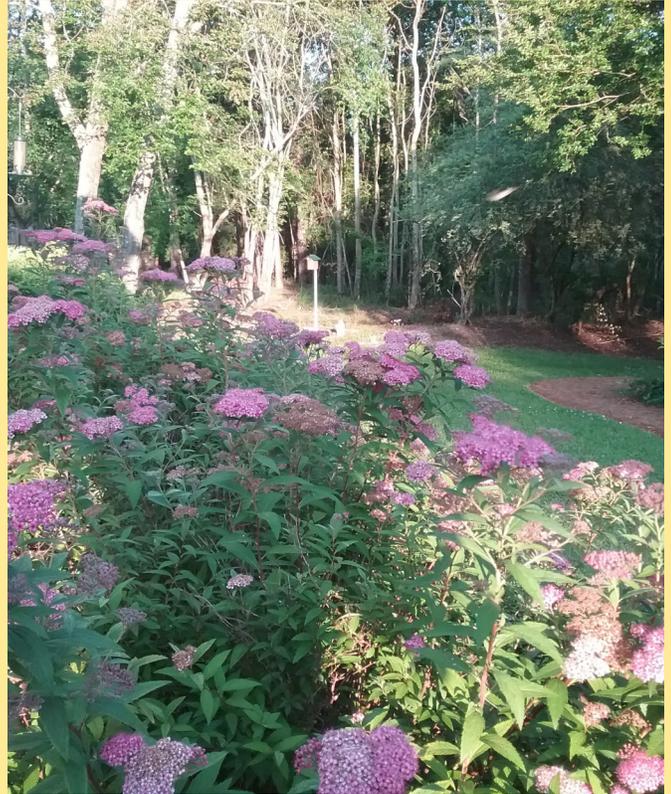
Horticulture Specimen for May: Japanese Spirea "Neon Flash"

Order: Rosales
Family: Rosaceae
Genus: Spiraea
Species: *S. japonica*

Spireas are native to most of the northern hemisphere including North America where they are called meadow-sweets. The cultivar in my yard is an Asian variety popularly grown in eastern North Carolina gardens where a deer-resistant, drought-tolerant, easy-keeping shrub is desired. Mine grows beautifully in my back garden (northern exposure) bordering the patio. It gets a good 6+ hours of full sun in summer. I water only if there is extended hot dry weather. I watered it twice last summer.

Benefits: In addition to tolerating our weather and being ignored by deer, this shrub is a butterfly/hummingbird magnet that rivals lantana. It typically starts blooming in late April and is in full bloom by late May. If I shear off the dead flowers, it will rebloom again in June and has, in some years, even bloomed a third time. I feed it once a year.

It grows up to 4X4 feet if left alone, but I keep it trimmed to encourage bloom and then cut it down to between 2 and 3 feet in October. This photo is from May 2019



National Garden Clubs to Host a Virtual Flower Show!

Go To

www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

For additional information and sign up forms

Bird of the Month –Warblers by Michael Creedon

If you ask a birder on the street what they like about warblers, you will not get answers about sweet songs or fantastic behaviors. What you will hear is an overwhelming response about diversity and color. Warblers are the birder's version of a box of chocolates. Each one is different, about the same size, some you like more than others, but, really, would you refuse any of the chocolates in the



box? Unlikely! A perfect spring morning and a tree lit up with 10 or so warbler species, some yellow, others orange or even black and gray or green and black is what we imagine when we contemplate warblers. May is the prime warbler month.

The most common warbler, seen in our area until spring, is the Yellow-rumped Warbler, commonly referred to as a “Butter Butt”. If you have suet feeders out, you will see this bird. There are 2 subspecies, the Myrtle seen in our area, and the Audubon seen elsewhere.



My favorite is the Prothonotary Warbler. The Prothonotary Warbler got its name from the bright yellow robes worn by papal clerks, known as prothonotaries, in the Roman Catholic church. Prothonotaries are one of the few warblers that nest in cavities instead of trees and bushes. They will even nest in bird houses properly placed near water. They feed on insects on the thickets that grow near water. When you hear one singing, it will get your attention. Listen in the next few weeks, and you may get lucky.





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

Louisa's Cake

By Jennifer Wagner

Ingredients

9 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
3 large eggs
1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 pinch salt
1 cup fresh ricotta
Zest of 1 lemon
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 apple, peeled and grated (should yield about 1 cup)
Confectioners' sugar for serving

Directions

Heat the oven to 400° F. Butter and flour a 9- or 10-inch springform pan.

Cream the butter and sugar in a standing mixer until light and fluffy.

On the lowest speed, add the eggs one at a time.

Slowly add the flour, salt, ricotta, lemon zest, baking powder, and apple.

Scrape the batter into the prepared pan, smooth the top and bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until the cake is golden brown and the sides start to pull away from the pan.

Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Turn the cake out of the pan and cool completely on the rack. Sift confectioners' sugar over the top or serve with your favorite seasonal fruit.
(think strawberries and rhubarb)