Greetings, All!

Thank you for making our first meeting of Trent Woods Garden Club a success. I hope you enjoyed Maureen's program on "Citizen Science." We are so fortunate to have so many talented and informative members in our club. This month we have Gail McLamb, Past President, who will provide ideas for holiday decorations. Although many of our activities have been cancelled and /or limited, the board continues to provide innovative alternatives. We were so pleased at how quickly the Seasonal Design sacks were chosen. We can't wait to see your creativity with these containers given to us by D'Stone. Meanwhile, our Beautification committee stays busy caring for the Trent Woods Town Parks, 160 nosegays for Meals on Wheels were created by our members, and Garden Therapy has a new theme, "Birthday Angels." Check Kathy Perretta's article to see how you can be part of this exciting new venture. Designs for exhibits at the Bank of the Arts are in full swing. The sale of garden gloves is doing very well. Christmas is coming so why not buy some gloves for gifts? Our Annual Herb Sale is being planned with Feb. 15 as deadline for orders. Check next month/s newsletter for order form. Our programs for the rest of the year are all set. Debbie Durham has worked diligently to bring us very unique themes. The Christmas Parade in Trent Woods is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 6. Who will lead us? Holly, the Trent Woods Town Clerk, will find us a golf cart or we can use a truck with a trailer to decorate for this event. We have magnetic signs already, and since we were honored by a Proclamation from the Town of Trent Woods for all we do for the community our presence at the parade is important and would continue this honor.

So, hope all of you are staying safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me or a board member. Don't forget to check the website and Facebook and please contribute photos of plants, designs and gardens to our sites. Let's see what you have been doing during this pandemic! Take care.

Fondly, Paula

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
And
Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

TWGC Executive Board 2020-2021

Paula Hartman,
President

1st Vice President, Ann G. Hall

2nd Vice President, Debbie Durham

Treasurer, Mary Florence

Recording Secretary, Marcia Sproul

Corresponding Secretary, June Boyd

Historian, Francis Eder

TWGC General Meeting

November 12, 2020

At New Bern Golf and Country Club

10:00 AM Social time

10:30 AM Meeting begins

Luncheon will be served, the choices are:

Grilled Chicken Salad

or

Turkey and Brie Sandwich

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation and indicate your choice at

judysboyd@embarqmail.com

Cost $18. due before start of meeting.

Gardening Gloves will be available for sale -$7/pair

Due to Covid, there will be reserved seating for anyone staying for lunch and temperatures will be checked .before entry.

Trent Woods honored TWGC with a Proclamation of Appreciation

(L to R) Marcia Sproul, Paula Hartman, Mayor Tyson and Kathy Perretta

Please Welcome New TWGC Members!

(L-R) Phyllis Carter, Arline North and May Boudreault

Welcome to TWGC Ladies!

Blue Star Markers

Marsha Sproul and Sue Wyatt along with their helper Bill Wyatt planted mum's at the Blue Star Marker for the fall season. Please ride by and see how beautiful the marker is in front and back.

Marsha and Sue at the Blue Star Marker in Trent Woods that is all ready for Fall!

Bill Wyatt and Marsha completing the other side!

Volunteers Needed!

Garden Therapy — please see Kathy Perretta! We will be able to deliver Birthday Angels and small arrangements to a Nursing home each month! Please contact Kathy for a full schedule of events going forward.

Due to Covid restrictions, we will not be visiting with our Second Grade Youth Gardeners until 2021. Circumstances may change so please regularly refer to our web site, Facebook page or the newsletter!

Seasonal Design — please see Gail Pethia

Bank of the Arts — please see Mary Ann Hudak

TW Christmas Parade— need chairperson, see Paula Hartman!

Bishop House — We will be limited to outdoor décor only. Please see June Boyd if you would like to help.

Wreaths Across America — will be held in November, please see Paula Hartman

Monthly Program

October 2020

Citizen Scientist by Maureen Loomer

Our own Maureen Loomer gave us an enthusiastic presentation about her experiences as a Citizen Scientist. A citizen scientist provides help completing various tasks to collect data. The Scientist oversees all the work completed and makes sure that proper procedures are followed. There are thousands of opportunities to be a data collecting citizen scientist– some even from your own home!

As a retired Scientist, Biology Professor, and with her Doctorate in Education, Maureen shared her reminisces of her travels and experiences when on expedition. She participated in two expeditions both coincidentally in Maine. On the most recent, Maureen realized that being in the middle of Acacia National Park, in an area that had not been visited in over 50 years was quite taxing! Add philanthropist to Maureen Loomer's list of accomplishments. Maureen has endowed, at the college she used to teach at, a scholarship for students that would like to participate as a citizen scientist.

Maureen Loomer's recommends the following organizations if you (or a loved one) are interested in participating:

SciStarter is an easily searchable database with links to hundreds of citizen science projects. https://scistarter.org/

Earthwatch is the international citizen science organization that I support as a donor as well as a former field volunteer.

https://earthwatch.org/

Journey North is an organization to which I submit monarch butterfly and hummingbird data. https://journeynorth.org/

Horticulture October 2020

Coreopsis tinctorial: Plains Coreopsis, Golden Tickseed, Goldenwave, Calliopsis
Asteraceae (Aster Family) **Native to**: North America

Duration: Though considered an annual, it may bloom two to three years before dying.

Size Class: 1-3 ft. **Bloom Color:** Yellow, Brown

Water Use: High
Light Requirement: Sun, Part Shade
Soil Description: Prefers moist, sandy soil.
Conditions Comments: *Coreopsis tinctoria* produces showy masses of red-highlighted yellow flowers. It does well in wildflower meadows and predominates in wet years.

Wildlife: Nectar-Bees Nectar-Butterflies, Nectar-insects, Seeds-Granivorous birds
Medicinal: Amerindians used root tea for diarrhea and as an emetic. Dried tops in a tea to strengthen blood. Boiled plant to make a drink for internal pains and bleeding. Was used for a source of yellow and red dyes.
Deer Resistance: High

Propagation Material: Clump Division, Seeds
Description: Seeds may be sown outside in late fall or the following spring without any cold treatment. Seedlings grow rapidly. This plant can be increased by separating outer rosettes from the clump in the fall.

Collected by Maureen Loomer (from her garden). **Reference**: wildflower.org

Trent Woods Blood Drive

December 2, 2020

Thank you for your support in October for our first Blood Drive here at Trent Wood Town Hall. We have scheduled another Drive for December 2, 2020 1:00-6:00pm. For every pint of blood donated The Blood Connection will be donating funds to Tryon Palace Foundation. Please mark your calendars and join us December 2. I will again be happy to sign up anyone for appointments closer to the date. Again, thank you for your support.

Holly Willis, Town Clerk

898 Chelsea Road

Trent Woods, NC 28562

townclerk@trentwoodsnc.org

252-637-9810 Phone

...in my garden

Night-blooming cereus is the common name referring to a large number of flowering ceroid cacti that bloom at night. The flowers are short lived, and some of these species, such as **Selenicereus grandiflorus**, bloom only once a year, for a single night. Shown in full flower aaaaaa9left) and in bud (right) from in Verna Kuyper's garden.

Gail McLamb's beautiful late summer garden

Garden Therapy

Carol Letellier delivering 160 floral arrangements to the Senior Services Activity Director Ellen Hargett and Hugh Kirkman from Housekeeping.

Working hard to create 160 floral offerings were: Lydia Ashe, Carol Letellier, Kathy Perretta, Mary Boudreault, Arline North, Eileen Griswold, Paula Hartman and Sue Wyatt.

Horticulture Corner-November

By Maureen Loomer

How beautifully leaves grow old! How full of light and color are their last days! – attrib. to John Burroughs, American author (1837-1921)

Unmistakable signs of autumn. The annual appearance of Baltimore Orioles at my feeders. Monarch butterflies at different stages of their journeys nectaring on my lantana and zinnias; some faded and tattered while others are fresh and vigorous. A mated pair of red shoulder hawks watching casually as I ran past Meadows Park. I wonder if the barred owls I heard last night know there was a "blue moon." Mars visible in the southern sky and the Orionid meteor shower.

One sign of autumn I will be GLAD to be rid of is political ads.

Maureen's Garden Report: The pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*) in the walled herb garden is turning green/gold and orange but has not bloomed. Planted three years ago, the plant has grown from a pint to about 4'x 4'. It is putting all its energy into growing branches and foliage and none into producing flowers. This is a little disappointing since this is part of my pollinator garden, but the leaves' scent is lovely. This plant is perennial in our area and a pretty easy keeper like all mint family members as long as it has decent drainage. It is useful for arrangements as well as for other uses https://florgeous.com/pineapple-sage/. This plant is very easily propagated from cuttings, and there are many cultivars available. You all know how much I love an American native plant, so enjoy this one! https://wimastergardener.org/article/pineapple-sage-salvia-elegans/

I love my yard service. The "boys" do a great job keeping my grass cut and beds mulched, although I prefer to groom my own shrubs. When there is a storm, they always come by to see if I need any help. That said, they DID pull out my dahlias last fall when they put down new pine straw (sob!). It was my fault since I should have cut the stems down to the ground when they died back. With the mild weather here in Zone 8a https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/

dahlias can overwinter in mulched ground https://www.thespruce.com/charlottes-plant-zone-583693. This should be good news for those of you from colder climes who worry about lifting tubers.

Speaking of colder climes, I promised Marcia Spruill that I would re-post information about growing peonies in our area. Some members have been frustrated with peonies that fail to bloom or to thrive. According to my research, it is critical to choose a strain/cultivar compatible with our mild winters. This site http://www.southernpeony.com/ is maintained by and for southern peony lovers. Our ag extension may also be helpful but do remember we are in Zone 8a https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/peonies-for-the-home-landscape.

Or you could follow the advice of *Southern Living*'s "Grumpy Gardener" who advises that if you want to grow peonies in the south, plan to dump ice cubes on them for a couple of months.

Garden Centers: I picked up some snapdragons, autumn fern, and dianthus at Pinecone, as well as some bronze fennel, rue, and Mexican tarragon. I want to put a small container herb garden on my front porch, which has a full southern exposure. I will cover it if we get really cold weather and put the plants in the ground when spring comes. NWS says warmer and wetter for us this winter. We'll see.

Horticulture Questions: I was intrigued by the request from model railroader Chuck Moody who uses autumn sedum to make trees for his models. Mine was a bust this year (perennial doesn't mean immortal), but I will plant more. I hope some of the membership could help Chuck out. Also, I am looking for members to help ME out by volunteering to present a specimen for one of our upcoming meetings.

Until next month…

There is a wonderful crop of apples now in the NC piedmont and sandhills. My mother, sister and I have been especially enjoying the Winecrisps and Arkansas Blacks available along with fall peaches like Autumn Glow.

That said, autumn is also a great time to enjoy pears in salads and desserts. My sister also makes this delicious "pizza" when our favorite red pear, StarkCrimson, is in the markets.

The simplicity of this recipe merits high-quality ingredients but my sister says ready-made pizza dough from Harris Teeter is a reasonable compromise. Maureen Loomer

Pear-Gouda Flatbread

Ingredients:

- About 1lb pizza dough
- 1 large StarkCrimson, Anjou, or Bartlett pear, cored and sliced thin (pears should be very firm, not soft)
- 1 cup shredded low-moisture mozzarella cheese
- ¾ cup shredded Gouda cheese

1 tablespoon olive oil

Preheat oven to 425F degrees. Roll out the dough on a floured surface and then stretch into a large rectangle on a greased sheet tray. Brush top of dough with olive oil and then scatter mozzarella cheese and Gouda on top, followed by the sliced pear. Bake for 10-15 minutes until golden.

A drizzle of heated fig or raspberry preserves is lovely on this.

Craven County Clean Sweep

Saturday November 7, 2020

What to expect when volunteering for a Sweep Event

Day of Event- meet at Craven County Administration Building, 406 Craven Street, 9:00am thru 10:00am

§Volunteers will receive safety vest, trash bags, grabber and gloves

§ Volunteer then signs up for a roadside to clean from a list generated by the committee or sign up for a roadside that has been bothering them. Make sure to add this roadside to the sign up list to ensure the committee has the information to give to NC DOT for bag pick up after the event.

§ Committee Members will forward any information about follow up cards and how to send them to the committee.

§ Head out to the roadside you signed up for.

§ Always wear the safety vest when on the roadside.

Helpful Hints

§ Take a couple bottles of water with you and maybe a light snack.

§ Make sure you have bug spray and sun block.

§ Have a light weight coat with you.

TWGC Monthly Programs 2020-2021

November 12

Holiday Decorating by Gail McLamb

December 10

Floral Arrangements Inspired by Art

January 14

Herbs by David Hite Head of the Kitchen Garden at Tryon Palace

February 11

Birds by Oliver Jarvis

March 11

Propagation by Amy Rose White

April 15

Medicinal Use of Plants by Maureen Loomer

May 13

TBD

TWGC is pleased to announce our newest fundraiser in support of our ongoing projects and scholarship fund!

Only $7 per pair, assorted colors and sizes!

Buy now for best selection!

Contact: Mary Florence mflorence@suddenlink.net or

Ann Hall annghall77@gmail.com

Bank of The Arts

October 2020

By Mary Florence

Bird of the Month
November 2020
Hooded Merganser by Michael Creedon

In North Carolina, we are blessed to have a minimum of 35 different species of ducks either residing or wintering here. Each has its own particular beauty, however one of the most striking species is the Hooded Merganser. It is one of 6 Merganser species, and the only one found only in North America.

All ducks are divided into 2 categories, Dippers or Divers. Dippers rotate 90 degrees, tails sticking skyward while they munch on bottom grasses. Divers do as the name implies, diving to various depths in search of food. The hooded Merganser is a small diving duck with a slender bill and a flamboyant head. “Hooded” is a bit of a misnomer, as both sexes have extravagant crests that can be raised or lowered, with the males black and white patterned crest in breeding plumage being unmistakable. The female displays her own elegant cinnamon crest.

This species is monogamous, and sexually dimorphic, each sporting differing plumage. They winter here, and should be arriving directly. They prefer small bodies of water, such as ponds, and small estuaries, however may be seen in larger rivers and impoundments. Preferring fresh water, they are also seen in brackish environments.

They nest in tree cavities, laying 7 to 15 eggs. Incubation begins after the last egg is laid, resulting in synchronous hatching. All hatchlings being the same size, they leave the nest after 24 hours, capable of diving and foraging on their own. They will stay with mom for a short while for warmth and protection. They will sometimes lay eggs in other hooded Merganser nests, with some nests having been found with up to 44 eggs in them. When ready, mom will check the ground, then call to the chicks. One by one they look out of the nest hole, and jump, sometimes up to 50’, fluttering to the ground. They then walk through the forest, up to miles before arriving at the nearest body of water.

Mergansers are our only duck that specializes in eating fish, giving their flesh a distinctive and generally accepted as “unpalatable” flavor. The result is that the greatest danger they face as a species is deforestation. No mature trees to nest in, no nests. The oldest recorded Hooded Merganser was 14 years old.

These photos were taken at the retention pond behind the mall.

Additional pictures on our web site

www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

How to salvage some of your herbs over the winter months

By Judi Lloyd

If treated properly, many herb plants will survive in the garden for a number of years. Others are sensitive to frost or severe cold weather and must be brought indoors, protected, or replanted each year. Annual herbs will be killed with the first hard frost in the fall. Remove dead plants in order to minimize overwintering insects and disease problems. Some frost sensitive herbs, such as basil and geranium, can be brought indoors for the winter. Take cuttings to root or pot the entire plant.

Many perennial herbs are winter hardy in all or parts of North Carolina and can be left in the garden. A few plants are marginally winter hardy; in a mild winter, they survive but may die during a severe winter. They can be brought indoors to overwinter. Unless they receive adequate light indoors they may drop some of their leaves.

After a severe winter, some outdoor plants such as rue, sage, thyme, and southernwood, may appear brown and dead. The leaves may simply be dehydrated or the plant may be dead almost to the ground. Scrape the bark of a few stems to determine the extent of damage. If the stem is green, delay pruning until after new growth begins.

Most herbs benefit from a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch during the growing season. Mulch is an adequate winter protection for herbs such as mint, chives, and fennel providing protection to minus 20°F. A winter mulch helps maintain uniform soil temperatures around the root system and provides protection against heaving cause by frequent freezing and thawing of the soil.

Lemon verbena and a few other perennial herbs are not reliably winter hardy. Extra winter protection can be provided by cutting plants back to within a couple inches of the ground after the first hard frost and covering the remaining stub with soil. Then cover the soil with a 4 - to 5-inch layer of mulch.

Harsh, drying winds can prove as fatal as cold temperatures to some of the less cold tolerant herbs. Wind breaks can aid the survival and appearance of herbs such as French tarragon, germander, English lavender, Roman chamomile, and winter savory. The more cold-sensitive herbs have a better chance of survival if grown in a protected location.

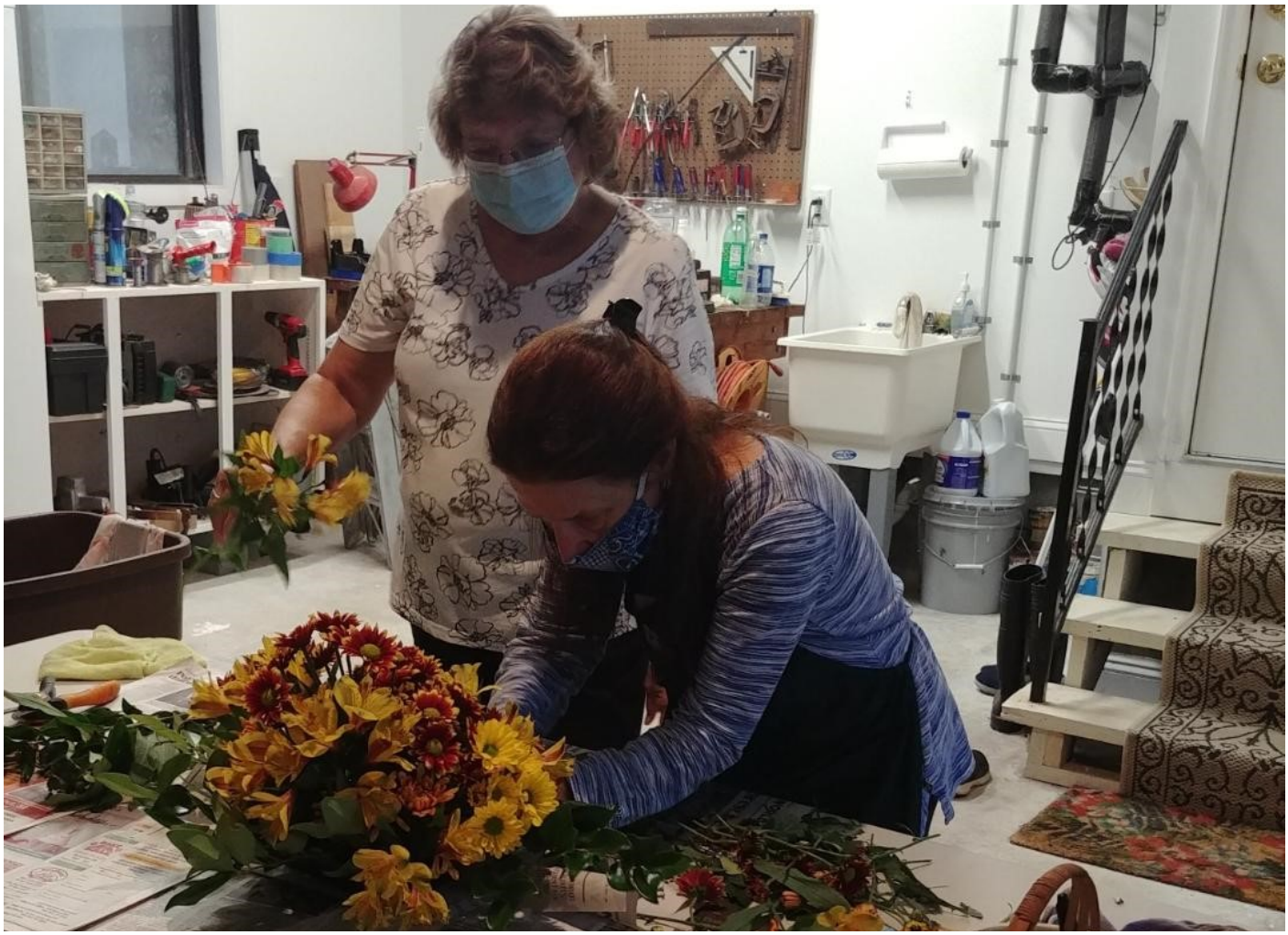
Other cultural practices that influence winter hardiness include: fertilization, pruning, soil drainage, and watering.

Herbs should not be fertilized after early August. Late summer applications of nitrogen fertilizer will promote new growth that may not have time to mature before frost. The herbs will remain actively growing instead of becoming acclimated for cold weather.

Avoid severe pruning in late fall since winter hardiness is reduced until the cuts have healed. Woody plants should not be severely pruned within 4 to 6 weeks of the first severe freeze.

Excessively wet soil or sites with standing water can decrease winter hardiness of some plants. This is especially true for Mediterranean plants such as rosemary, thymes, lavenders, and French tarragon that are adapted to dry climates.

Keep plants adequately watered during late summer and fall. Drought stressed plants are weaker and are often less cold hardy. Water during a dry winter, especially before a severe freeze.



TWGC Creates Autumnal Arrangement for Craven County Hospice

Trent Woods recently held a blood drive to benefit Craven County Hospice.

Marcia Sproul and Paula Hartman are shown creating the presentation arrangement for Trent Woods.

Thank You Jack and Debbie Durham!

Jack and Debbie Durham have provided an extra layer of protection for all TWGC Members with the purchase of an instant read thermometer.

Beginning at our November General Meeting, everyone will be checked for their temperature upon entering. This helps to ensure the safety of everyone. Many Thanks to Jack and Debbie for your thoughtful care of TWGC Members.

Seasonal Design
October 2020

Paula Hartman presented the first Seasonal Design of the new 2020-2021 year for TWGC. The container was donated from the collection of our very own D' Stone.

Spinach and Mushroom Quiche

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

8 ounces sliced fresh mixed wild mushrooms :\ cremini,

1 ½ cups thinly sliced sweet onion

1 tablespoon thinly sliced garlic

5 ounces fresh baby spinach (about 8 cups), coarsely

6 large eggs

¼ cup half-and-half

¼ cup whole milk

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

¼ teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves, plus more for garnish

¼ teaspoon ground pepper

1 ½ cups shredded Gruyère cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Coat a 9-inch pie pan with cooking spray; set aside.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat; swirl to coat the pan. Add mushrooms; cook, stirring occasionally, until browned and tender, about 8 minutes. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring often, until softened and tender, about 5 minutes. Add spinach; cook, tossing constantly, until wilted, 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

Whisk eggs, milk, half-and-half, mustard, thyme, salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Fold in the mushroom mixture and cheese. Spoon into the prepared pie pan. Bake until set and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes; slice. Garnish with thyme and serve.