



Trent Woods Garden Club

April 2021

Greetings, All!

What a lovely meeting we enjoyed last month. Thank you, Amy, for inspiring us to get going with our gardening tasks. Next month's program will be presented by another member, Maureen Loomer, dealing with herb pharmacology. The Herb Sale is a phenomenal success thanks to our co-chairs, Mary Florence and Ann G. Hall. Our major goal for April will be working on the Herb Sale on Monday, April 19, when the plants arrive at the Farmer's Market. Please contact Mary or Ann to volunteer to sort the herbs and/or deliver them to our many supporters.

We are looking forward to a very special May meeting with the Installation of the new board, the presentation of the Sharon Quill Scholarships and an unique Flower Exhibit. Please sign up with our Floral Design chair, Ann Simpson, to present Blooming Art - a design which will complement a piece of your art. We also are asking you all to wear your favorite spring hat to bring frivolity to this special day!

So, as usual, Trent Woods Garden Club continues to thrive. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to our next meeting as the world begins to open. 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

April 8, 2021

at New Bern Golf and Country Club

10:00 AM Social time

10:30 AM Meeting begins

Luncheon Choice

April 8, 2021

1. Oriental Chicken Salad - Shredded Napa Cabbage, Daikon Radish Sprout, Iceberg Lettuce, tossed with Teriyaki and Five Spice Chicken, Macadamia Nuts, Scallions, and Mandarin Oranges with Yuzu Ginger Vinaigrette and topped with Crisp Wonton Strips
2. Turkey & Brie – Shaved roasted turkey breast, apple-wood smoked bacon, creamy brie cheese & apricot preserves on toasted sourdough with a fruit cup

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.

Luncheon Choices

April 8, 2021

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May 13, 2021

1. Davis Cup Salad-Crisp Romaine lettuce with craisins, candied walnuts, strawberries and bleu cheese crumbles
2. Brie and Raspberry Chicken - Pan Seared Marinated Breast of Chicken served with Brie Cream Sauce and Raspberry Compote, Roasted Garlic Potato Puree and Shallot and Balsamic Haricot Verts

TWGC Monthly Programs

2020-2021

Don't miss our next meeting!

April 8

Herb Pharmacology my Maureen Loomer

May 13

Flower Show with Hat competition and induction of new 2021-2022 officers! Flower show sign up and theme will be available at the March Meeting!

March 2021 General Meeting Program

Propagation by Amy Rose White

Our own Amy Rose White treated us to a interesting program on propagation. Amy treated us to little tips and tricks she has learned over her years of professional gardening experiences. I know we all enjoyed her talk and were inspired by her passion for different propagation techniques.



TWGC March 2021 General Meeting





Seasonal Design March 2021

Three arrangements of kale, tongue fern, swiss chard, Lenten rose and bronze fennel. All three arrangements are in D'Stone vases

Arrangement by Laura Knox

Garden Therapy



TWGC members created 34 Floral arrangements, including 5 for the Birthday people if the month. We got together at Betty's house and great fun. We delivered the finished product to Monarch who will give them to their clients who come there daily and will deliver the others who live in group homes and still cannot go out

Our floral designers this month were Jan Cahoon, Maggie Ferrara, Betty Garrin, Gail McLamb and Kathy Perretta.



Garden Therapy March 2021



*Please Welcome
New TWGC
Members*

Maggie Ferrara

(l)

And

Jan Cahoon (r)



Volunteers Needed!

Herb Sale!!!!

Contact Ann Hall or Mary Frances need order pullers and drivers.

Garden Therapy — please see Kathy Perretta! We will be able to deliver Birthday Angels and small arrangements to a Nursing home each month!

April 19, 2021 Riverpoint Crest –plant vegetable garden

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be visiting with our Second Grade Youth Gardeners until schools re-open. 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

Getting Dirty By Maureen Loomer

Since I have been spending some time with soil recently, I wanted to share some general thoughts on soil preparation.

Evaluating and Planning: How I prepare containers, beds, or ground for a successful spring, summer, and fall depends on the light, hydrology, and chemical composition of the soil in each. For example, we had an extremely wet winter, and the acreage behind my property lost at least a dozen trees resulting in much more light and moisture in my woodland rock garden. I will be cultivating more sedges, rushes, and irises in this area.

Feeding Basics: Green plants use sunlight to “fix” atmospheric carbon they need for growth and energy and get hydrogen from water. Plant foods are primarily designed to replace or supplement the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium plants draw from their soil. Inorganic foods supply these chemicals in elemental form, supply nutrients to plants quickly but don’t benefit the soil. Organic foods contain organic compounds (carbon bonded to hydrogen and usually oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus) and nitrogenous animal wastes that benefit soil organisms that deposit other chemicals in the soil. I use both kinds of food in different situations. For example, I use liquid chemical food to supply annuals with a larger, more rapid infusion of N, P, and K.

Supplements and Amendments: Keep in mind that living organisms require limited temperature and pH ranges, and nutritional needs vary with their activity. Flowering plants and vegetables may require more nitrogen and different micronutrients that facilitate producing blooms, seeds, and fruits, but supplementation may have unintended consequences. Like humans, these needs are specific, and too much of any nutrient is as bad or worse than too little. For example, calcium deficiency is rare in plants, although it can cause blossom-end rot in tomatoes (https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/blossom_end_rot_tip_sheet). Too much calcium alters the soil pH and can be deadly.

Before using supplements and amendments, test your soil or have it tested by the Ag Extension, and check the reliability of information you may find online. For example, please enjoy washing, baking, and pulverizing your eggshells if you are trying to grow tomatoes in calcium-poor soil. However, eggshell is inorganic, so broken or whole shells will NOT “decompose” if you throw them in your garden. Bloodmeal is a great supplement for some needs, but unless it is mixed very well into your soil, the smell will attract scavengers to the garden. Coffee grounds can inhibit plant growth and acidify soil pH (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866716300103>),

Maureen’s Garden: I applied dry general-purpose inorganic food to my flowering shrubs as I do once every two or three years. These slow-release foods should be applied as soon as the shrubs become active. I applied mine as soon as the spirea started to leaf out. The shrubs should be fine until next year, although if they look like they need it, I can always do a mid-summer feeding. With our very hot summers, I rarely risk doing this since it could over-stress the plants. Although hollies typically don’t require feeding, I fed the ones I planted as a screen because they are in a wet area, and the heavy winter rains have diluted the soil nutrients.

I added 3 inches of new garden soil to my walled herb garden, which is actually a raised bed. The soil volume decreases over time so I add some every few years. I use garden soil for herbs, but I prefer to mix a soil conditioner into large and medium containers. Soil conditioner is richer than garden soil in organic compounds that benefit the microorganisms in the container soil as well as the plants. I think soil conditioner works as well as potting soil, but is better for nutrients. Since the nutrients are held in compounds like urea and uric acid, they are released more slowly.

If you have specific questions or problems you would like me to research or some wisdom to share, please let me know. I would love to address these in the Horticulture Corner, and I know we have some very experienced gardeners in the membership, as well as folks who are just getting started. I hope to hear from you soon!

Bank of the Arts

March 2021

Arrangement by
Barbara Mercer

St Patrick's Day
mums.



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, MAY 6 –A VISIT TO CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY

A special invitation from the Questors group of New Bern who oversee the Cedar Grove Cemetery has been extended to TWGC. This cemetery is the site of many 19th century gravestones and markers and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Sites. There are many unique statuary monuments. The Questors will conduct an hour long tour of this historic cemetery with costumed docents and then serve us a picnic lunch on the grounds. Please bring your own chair. All this is yours for a \$20 donation to the Questors. Please call Paula if you're interested.

Horticulture Corner-April 2021

By Maureen Loomer

Horticulture Corner-April

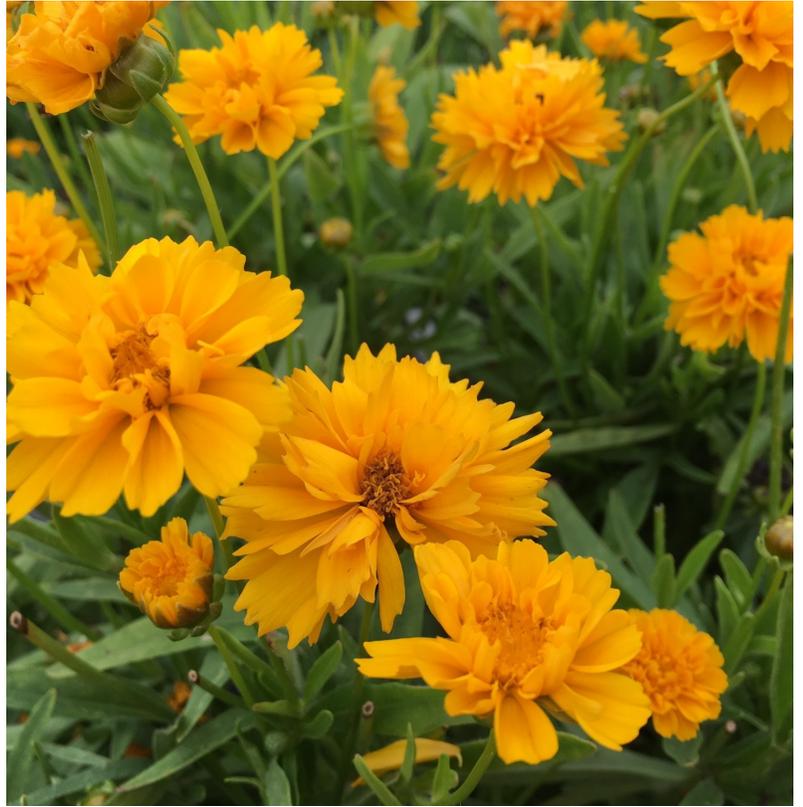
By Maureen Loomer

Every limpid brook is singing of the lure of April days; every piney glen is ringing

with the maddest roundelays. – Lucy Maud Montgomery, “Spring Song” (nd)

The goldfinches and house finches are back with a vengeance, joining my resident bluebirds, chickadees, and titmice. Keeping the feeders supplied is a challenge. Last week (March 24), I saw a horticulturist and a volunteer from Tryon Palace putting in annuals at the ticket office entrance. Tom Glasgow from the NC Ag Extension pointed out that the NWS expects a few more freezing nights, so be vigilant if you have anything tender coming up in unprotected areas.

Garden Centers: Pinecone, New Bern Garden, and Lowe’s have been getting lots of perennials and annuals. They even had geraniums. I hope that later I will find some coreopsis to replace what didn’t survive when I divided my blue flag irises. Tomatoes



are in, including heritage Cherokee Black at Pinecone. Everyone had landscape shrubs and small trees.

Magnolia Primer For New Residents: Speaking of trees, magnolia trees are ubiquitous in the south, and you will find many kinds in New Bern. Here is a great resource from *Southern Living* that I hope will demystify the different species for our newer members coming from other states. <https://www.southernliving.com/garden/trees/magnolia-flower-types>

Maureen’s Garden: The echinaceas, monardas, and guaras are sprouting, and spirea is leafing out quickly. If you need to feed, now is the time. I will discuss the details of how I handle feeding in my garden in a separate column in this month’s newsletter.

This column is intended to entertain and inform but not to dictate. My garden reflects my interests in wildlife and probably wouldn’t appeal to someone who wants blooming plants year-round or needs a more manicured appearance. I had the pleasure of representing TWGC in February when I was invited to speak to the Coastal Women’s



Forum on *Garden Planning*. One of the questions posed at the end of my presentation was from a lady who noted my rear garden's emphasis on southeastern native perennials. She asked if I was satisfied that much of my garden overwinters in a rather dreary state. This great question brought me back to my opening statement; each gardener needs to evaluate his/her needs and desires and then research and plan accordingly.

Praise for evergreens, INCLUDING "meatballs": That said, allow me to point out that native evergreen perennials ARE represented in my garden, including my beloved heucheras (coral bells). I have nine varieties in containers on my patio garden's "step-wall." Year-round color, pollinator-attracting, and no dead-heading. What's not to love? Other evergreen plants I suggest include native azalea, rhododendron, mountain laurel, and hollies. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (<https://www.fws.gov/>) has some great horticulture information specific to our area, and suggestions for landscaping <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pdfs/NativePlantsCoastalNC.pdf>



I have cultivated the native carex (sedges) and juncas (rushes) that entered my woodland garden from the rear wetlands area. These are evergreen, deer and rabbit resistant, and important to wetland ecology. They are gradually replacing much of the area left when Hurricane Florence took down most of my red maples. Some authorities would call these species "invasive," but that term can be relative and is usually applied to plants that out-compete others felt to be more desirable in some way. These plants co-exist nicely with the Stoke's asters, mountain mints, rosemarys, and a few other natives I planted between the rocks in the woodland garden. Photos will come later (when things have dried out a bit).

One native genus that I take steps to contain is smilex (thorny vines). The cat briar that erupts in my line of variegated Chinese privets does not harm the trees (and is favored for nesting by some birds), but since it makes pruning the privets difficult, I try to keep them cut down as much as I can. You can buy concentrated glyphosate spray to kill them, but it has to be used early in the season while the vines are still tender. I prefer to cut them.

Like many of you, I maintain ornamental evergreens like boxwood in my front garden because they harmonize with neighboring yards. They also provide food and shelter for birds and insects. A few weeks ago, I watched a female towhee snuggle down between two boxwoods trimmed into the round "meatball" shape I have heard some folks complain about. It pleased me greatly to see her and her mate protected from the icy wind as they scratched in the mulch for insects. Those boxwoods and the red bayberry shrubs will soon attract the tiny insects that provide hummingbirds with protein. So, long live "meatballs"!

Please email me with any suggestions for this column, as well as questions you would like me to research for you. Until next month...



Bird of the Month

April 2021

BOLO by Michael Creedon



Be On the Look Out!!! Bands of Masked Marauders are on their way. Your Mahonias, Cedars, Junipers, Hollies, Pyrocanthias and Yaupons are about to be stripped of every berry from every branch by flocks of “Lone Rangers”

Cedar Waxwings are social birds that you will likely see in flocks.

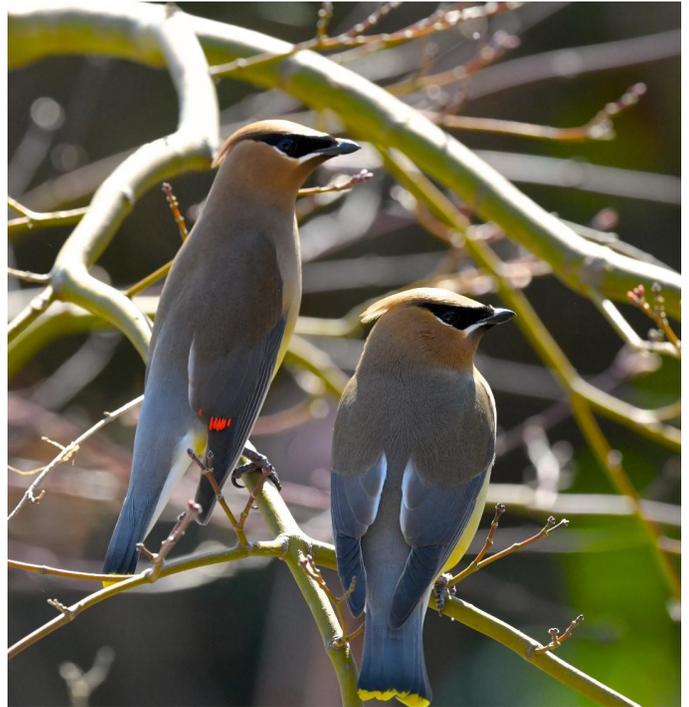
They sit in fruiting trees swallowing berries whole

or pluck them in mid-air with a brief fluttering hover. Cedar Waxwings are wanderers, and they may show up anywhere in southern Canada or the lower 48 States. While it is possible to see one or two in this area in winter, however they usually winter south of North Carolina.

In April, just as our berries are beginning to ripen, they will descend and spend as much time in your yard as it takes to eat every berry from every fruiting tree or shrub. Famously gregarious, Cedar Waxwings are all about

communi-
ty. They
share ber-

ries, they congregate at fruiting trees, they even occasionally over-imbibe. Then they are gone, on to the next victims yard.



The Cedar Waxwing is a medium-sized, sleek bird with a large head, short neck, and short, wide bill. Waxwings have a crest that often lies flat and droops over the back of the head. The wings are broad and pointed, like a starling's. The tail is fairly short and square-tipped. They are pale brown on the head and chest fading to soft gray on the wings. The belly is pale yellow, and the tail is gray with a bright yellow tip. The face has a narrow black mask neatly outlined in white. The red waxy tips which look as if they were dipped in sealing

Bird of the Month by Michael Creedon (cont)

wax, that was used from the 16th century to seal envelopes and documents, and often embedded within a royal of family crest, are not always easy to see. The first half of their name comes from their fondness for Cedar (or Juni-



per) berries.

Those tips are actually small appendages on the bird's secondaries, and they're composed of a red waxy secretion called astaxanthin- a carotenoid pigment. For years it was thought their purpose was to protect the feathers from wear and tear, but there is no evidence to support that. Instead, the current thought is they function as status symbols in mate selection. Those appendages increase in both number and size as a bird ages. Individuals with fewer, (0-5), are younger, and those with more, (up to 9), are older. Those with more tips tend to choose



others with more tips, and those birds nest earlier and raise more young than those with fewer tips. So it seems that those waxy red tips are important signals in choice of mates, and social organization - plumage enhancements that signal age, maturity and social status to other waxwings, especially during courtship.

Unlike most songbirds, they do not sing. Their voice is a high, thin short whistle and coming from a flock of birds, is unmistakable. Their digestive system is especially adapted to rapidly digest berries. They can ingest, process, and defecate the wastes of a berry in 16 minutes! In 1908 the Vermont Assembly passed a bill to allow farmers to shoot waxwings as they were considered crop pests. Opponents of the bill brought birds to the senate chamber and the bill was defeated as the birds were considered too pretty to kill. So enjoy the brief visit to your yard of one of our most beautiful, communal and hungry Avians.

**Additional photos are on our website
www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com**



News

April 2021

Blooming Art Show and Hat Contest

May 13, 2021

Show us your creative side! The Blooming Art Flower show will be held at our last meeting of the year on May 13th! Let your floral design be inspired by a work of art, be it a painting, sculpture, photo or whatever you have-in and around your own home. Make sure your art object is something you can bring with you and your inspired floral design. Please contact Ann Simpson to participate.

FYI

Please be aware that New Bern Golf and Country Club has a strict No Jeans policy.

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