



Trent Woods Garden Club

December 2021

Happy Holidays to All!

TWGC will again be participating in the Trent Woods Christmas parade on December 5th. Come out and see us driving in all the convertibles. It's a fun afternoon for everyone and it's great to support the town of Trent Woods!

I want to thank Raye Lynn Longhini for standing in for me last month. I heard so many compliments on the great job you did Raye Lynn, Thank You again!

Last month we had an informative program by Cathy McAlister and Rachael Tipton on the incredible changes they made to the front of Cathy's house. Everything from the hardscaping, a dramatic fountain and new flower beds were done with a great deal of thought and artistry. Rachel will be back for our next meeting on December 9th and she will be giving us a hands on demonstration of making Christmas decorations out of greenery and plants.

We are so sorry that Arline North has decided to move to Pennsylvania to be near her family and we will miss her. This leaves an opening for a Garden Therapy Chair. This year is all scheduled and planned, it would just require calling to remind everyone that signed up. Won't You consider chairing this very worthwhile endeavor?

Love and Holiday Wishes to All,

Gail xoxo

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

And

Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

TWGC Executive Board 2021-2022

Gail McLamb,

President

1st Vice President, Rhona Beadle

2nd Vice President, Raye Lynn Longhini

Recording Secretary, Deb Tallman

Treasurer, Mary Florence

Corresponding Secretary, Ann G. Hall

Historian, Marcia Sproul

December 9, 2021

New Bern Golf & Country Club

4301 Country Club Road, New Bern, NC 28562

10:00 am – Coffee and Social

10:30 – Meeting and Program

12 Noon - Lunch

Program

“Deck the Halls”

Rachel will demonstrate how to make Holiday Decorations (wreaths, centerpieces, swags) with garden plants and greenery

Presented by

Rachel Tipton Owner/Horticulturist
Harbourside Garden

Menu Selections

Grilled Chicken and Baby Spinach Salad - Fennel Cumin

Dusted Grilled Chicken Breast over Baby Spinach, Julienne Tomato, Blackberries, Raspberries and Spicy Pecans and Mango Vinaigrette
OR

Crab Melt – Southern crab cake, topped with sautéed spinach, melted brie cheese, bacon, Tobacco onions, lemon Aioli on a toasted potato bun and served with a fruit cup

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by

Tuesday Dec 7th and indicate your choice at

judyboyd@embarqmail.com

Cost \$18. due before start of meeting.

Garden Therapy November 2021

TWGC volunteers visited residents at Croatan Village. The volunteers assisted the residents in creating small floral arrangements that they kept to brighten their rooms. There was a great deal of laughter, a sing a long and cookies and juice.



Garden Therapy Schedule 2021-2022

Contact Kathy Perretta – krperretta@aol.com 252-633-3665

December 13, 2021 10am

Brookdale, 1336 S. Glenburnie Road

Monday, January 17, 2022 10am

Good Shepherd, 603 West Street

February 14, 2022 10am

Homeplace, 1309 McCarthy Blvd.

March 14, 2022 10am

Monarch, 1320 Health Drive

April 18, 2022 10am

River Point Crest , 2600 Old Cherry Point Road

We are in need of a new Garden Therapy Chairperson. This year is all scheduled, it would just require you to call everyone as a reminder. Please contact anyone on TWGC board if you would be willing to help.



Here is a wonderful tip from our own Carol Letellier: your used k-cups can be cleaned and used as a seed starter or for rooting cuttings. They already have a drainage hole and all you need is your growing medium and seeds or cuttings. As your plants grow they can be transferred into a larger pot or directly into the garden! Thanks Carol!

Seasonal Design

November 2021



Thank you Laura Knox for the lovely arrangement of camellias from your garden
and Thank you Rhona Beadle for the “Weeders Digest” magazines

Amaryllis are the royalty of all the indoor blooming bulbs

By Judi Lloyd

The classic Christmas flower, amaryllis provide dazzling displays for holiday decorations, gifts and much needed color throughout the colder months when we do not have much color.

Few bulbs are easier to grow than amaryllis and few bloom with greater exuberance and beauty. Just plant the bulb in good potting soil, water regularly and provide bright, indirect light. A support stake is handy for keeping the blooms upright, but little else is required. Most varieties will begin blooming six to eight weeks after planting; some can take as long as ten weeks, if the bulbs are large.

Plant the bulb, pointed-end-up, in potting mix (never in soil from your garden). Pack the soil gently around the bulb so approximately one-third of the bulb remains above the soil line.

Place the pot in a spot light. Water sparingly until you see about 2" of new growth. From then on, water regularly. As the plant grows, turn the pot periodically to keep the flower stalks growing straight. Flower buds will appear at the top of each stalk, followed by dramatic floral display. The blooms will last longer if you keep them out of direct sunlight.

Some amaryllis bulbs sprout leaves first, and then the flower stalk emerges a little later. Others send up the flower stalk first, followed by the leaves. You should see the flower stalk peeking up between the leaves soon.



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The stored bulb contains all the "food" your amaryllis needs to sprout and bloom, so it will not need any fertilizer.

How many flower stalks your bulb produces depends on the variety of amaryllis, and the quality and size of the bulb. In general, the larger the bulb (for the particular variety) the more flower stalks you'll get. When it comes to amaryllis bulbs, bigger is better.

As individual flowers begin to fade, you can carefully snip them off. Once all flowers on a flower stalk have faded, cut the stem back to within a few inches of the bulb.

How lucky are those of us in Eastern NC! We can force amaryllis bulbs to bloom indoors for the holidays and then plant them outdoors to enjoy forever. Amaryllis means to *sparkle* in Greek.

You can order this holiday sparkler from Craven County Master Gardeners Fall Bulb Sale. Just click this link: <https://www.cravenmastergardener.com>

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December Bird of the Month

Turtle Doves

By Michael Creedon



My True Love gave to me.... 2 Turtle Doves.... Okay, the Mourning Dove is not technically a Turtle Dove. The true Turtle Dove is found throughout most of Europe, but not for long. It's numbers have declined precipitously in recent decades.

Not our Mourning Dove. Every year 20 million (and up to 40 to 70 million) are harvested by

hunters, leaving a balance of over 475 million. The Mourning Dove is also known as the American Mourning Dove, the Rain Dove, Carolina Pigeon, and lastly as the Carolina Turtle Dove, the first name given



this bird by English naturalists in 1731. It appears as the Carolina Turtle-dove on plate 286 of Audubon's Birds of America. There are over 300 species of doves in the world, 12 of which live in the US.

Found throughout North America, Each of us have witnessed this graceful small-headed dove foraging in their backyard. They are actually collecting seeds, storing them in their esophagus until full, then fly to a safe perch to digest them.

The mournful cooing of the Mourning Dove is one of our most familiar bird sounds. Some folks confuse their sound with an owl, but owls for the most part are silent in the daytime.



Bird of the Month (cont.)



The origin of the name is derived from the sound the native Americans attributed to the bird, “howe, howe.” This is also the sound they used when chanting over their dead at funeral events.

Their numbers are increasing as they adapt effortlessly to human settlement. They also help themselves by raising up to 6 broods per year.

Most nests are in trees, clutch size is always 2 eggs. Both parents incubate, the male from morning to afternoon, the female the rest of the day and at night. Devoted parents, the nest is never left unattended. Incubation lasts 2 weeks, the chicks called squabs. Both parents feed the squabs doves milk for the first 3 to 4 days, then seeds with milk. Fledging occurs at about 14 days, staying nearby to be fed by their parents. They are monogamous, only finding new partners when necessary.

While they appear quite clumsy strutting across your yard, when startled they will make an

astoundingly fast ascent, dodging left and right, flying very fast on powerful wingbeats, clocked as fast as 55 mph.

The oldest known Mourning Dove was over 30 years old when it was shot in Florida. So on Christmas morning look out in your backyard and enjoy the scene of our “Turtle Doves” foraging for their holiday meal. These photos were all taken in my backyard.



Horticulture Corner-November/December 2021

By Maureen Loomer

*“Through autumn’s golden gown we used to kick our way. You always loved this time of year.”—
Justin Hayward (“Forever Autumn”)*

Running and Walking in Trent Woods: Wild grapes and cat claw vine compete with maples, oak, and other trees for a great color show. I have seen some of the prettiest colors in both pistache and crape myrtle. The American beautyberries are fast losing their fruit to mockingbirds and bluebirds, and if you get out early enough, you will hear barred owls and red shoulder hawks.



Still Blooming on November 20:

Despite a little scattered frost, my skyscraper salvia and guara are still blooming. I have also been pleased to find bees and butterflies nectaring on the pineapple sage, Mexican mint marigold, and fern leaf lavender. I have let the basil go to seed and will make one last harvest before Thanksgiving.

Garden chores:

After three days of digging and chopping, I managed to remove about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Siberian irises in my so-called cutting garden. Since the space’s soil turned out to be only about ten inches deep, I will need to find another place to put the guara and the salvia. I will let you know what I decide to do.

MEET THE GARDENER: Deborah Tallman

GARDENING HISTORY: Despite deep family roots and love for blue water sailing, Superstorm Sandy convinced the Tallmans that New Jersey was not the place for their retirement. The new

Horticulture Corner-November/December 2021 (continued)

By Maureen Loomer

build they found in Havelock's Mitchell Harbour community filled the couple's location and space requirements and now presents Deb with benefits and challenges since her husband's passing. Deb and several of her neighbors joined TWGC after Havelock's garden club disbanded. Deb's talent has since blessed TWGC through her stellar work creating the club's website and newsletter.



GARDENING IDENTITY/INSPIRATION:

I identify Deb as an Eclectic Collector Gardener. Her career as an international business consultant with a degree from the University of Delaware developed tastes in cuisine, art, and history shared with her husband. Just as the house blends curated art and collectibles, the front and back gardens reflect an eye for the unique, and Deb will buy a plant because it appeals to her and worry about where to put it later. Still, she successfully combines specimen plants (many from heritage plant sales) and yard art with garden-center landscape plants to generate a harmonious front/side garden.

GARDEN CHALLENGES AND PROJECTS:

The property's soil is the typical clay and sand found in tobacco country, and the only shade comes from the house itself. Deb has compartmentalized the back garden with a central specimen rose bed and galvanized steel planters against the house for culinary herbs. Deb is currently working on a white garden bed placed along her recently-installed wrought iron fencing. The effect of all white plants against the black fence will be striking, and Deb is developing a plan for plants with compatible soil needs and tolerance for the full-sun

exposure. Also in the planning stage is an apple tree espalier possibly using a Braeburn cultivar.

GARDENING ACHIEVEMENTS/ DISAPPOINTMENTS: Deb started with a blank slate and has patiently experimented with what will and will not work in her gardens. Her future ambitions include finding a lavender that will thrive somewhere in her garden.

Until Next Month...

November 2021 Monthly Program

Our own Cathy McAlister and Rachel Tipton of Harbourside Garden gave us a step by step presentation of the front yard transformation at Cathy's home. The addition of hardscaping, fabulous fountain and new gardens made for a dramatic change. We were all encouraged to move plants that may not be thriving, but could be in a new location.



The attention to detail, including the heights and widths of matured plants and proportions was educational.

NC Audubon Happenings

Calling all Citizen Scientists!

- The Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Dec 14, 2021 - Jan 5, 2022
- The Great Backyard Bird Count: Feb. 18 - 21, 2022
- The North Carolina Bird Atlas: any time! The atlas is the newest community science project and unique because you can do it while also participating in all of the other events. Additional information available at:

www.nc.audubon.org/events

November Horticulture Specimen

Common Name: Mexican Mint Marigold, Sweet Mace, Texas Tarragon

Genus/Species: *Tagetes lucida*

Character: Aromatic green foliage. Clusters of small golden yellow flowerheads 1/2 inch across and have 3 to 5 golden-yellow ray florets. Flowers appear in August and September, and dead-heading will prolong flowering.

Flowers are used to make tea. Leaves are used fresh or dried in soups and sauces. Frequently used to replace French tarragon, the flavor is similar to anise. Can be propagated by seed.

Attracts butterflies and songbirds. Resistant to deer and drought.

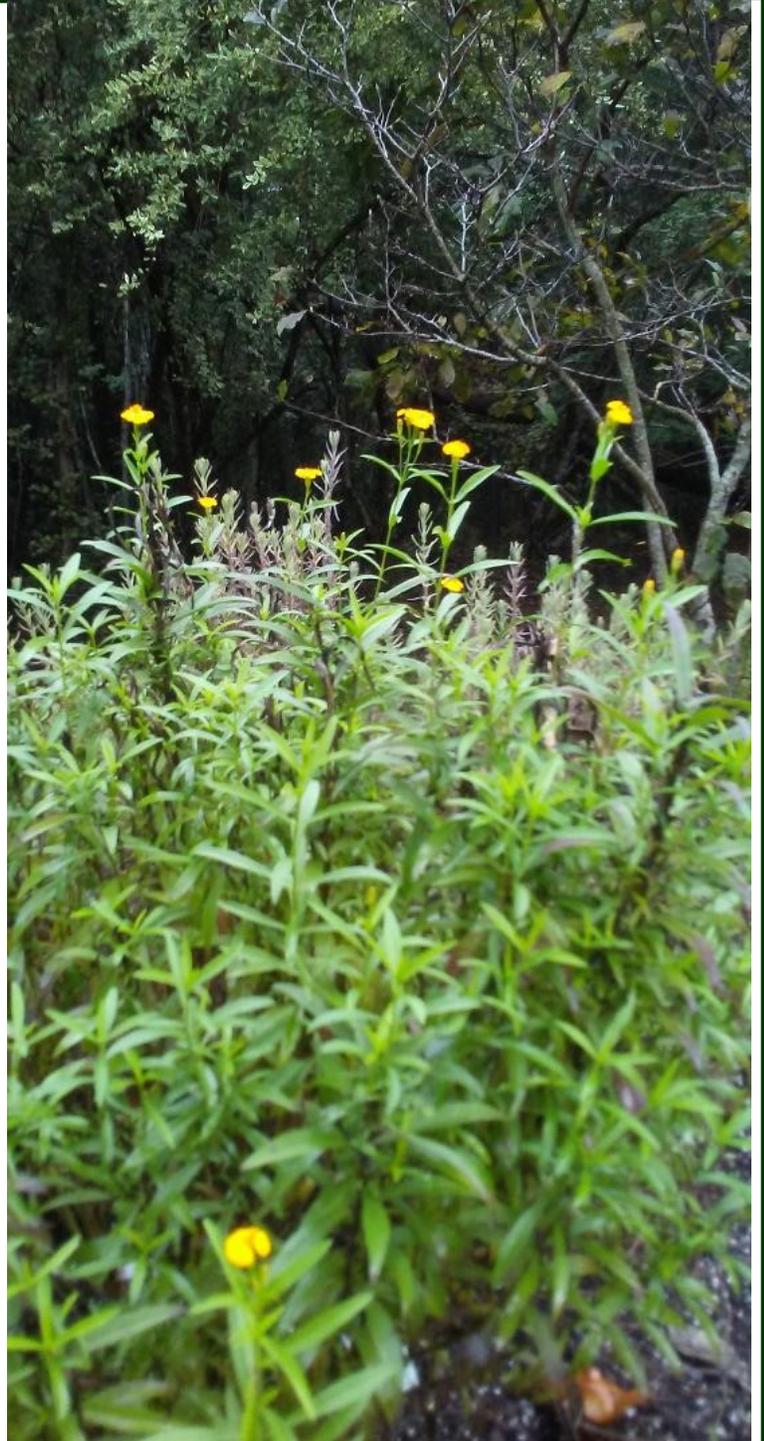
Origin: Central and South America. Naturalized to Texas and the Southwest.

Size: Averages 18" w X 30" h

Lifespan: Long-lived perennial in zone 8 and higher.

Requirements: Plant in full sun in light, well-drained soils. It tolerates most soil types, including clay.

Photographed in her garden by: Maureen Loomer



November Horticulture Specimen (part 2)

Genus, Species: *Lavandula multifida*

Common: Fernleaf Lavender, Egyptian Lavender, California Lavender, French Lace

Native to: Southern Mediterranean (Spain, Sicily, Canary Islands, North Africa etc.)

Zone: 8-10

Size: up to 2ftX2ft

Bloom: Dark blue-violet on 6 in stems, June through September.

Foliage: Evergreen, may turn copper in winter

Conditions:

Sun: Full sun to part shade,
Water: Dry to medium. **Hardy** to 15°F. **Full sun and well-drained soils are especially important.** Cool, moist conditions often lead to root rot and stem rot. Remove faded flowers to promote continued bloom and maintain plant appearance. Prune to shape in spring after new leaves appear. **This species differs from most other species of lavender by having much better tolerance for summer heat and humidity and by preferring moister soils with some organic enrichment**

Propagation: Plants are fast growing and may be grown as annuals with seeds started indoors in spring 6-8 weeks before last spring frost date.

Wildlife: Nectar-Bees, Butterflies. **Deer/Rabbit Resistance:** High
Collected by Maureen Loomer (from her garden).

Reference: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>



Trent Woods Garden Club Awards

GCNC Awards 2021-2022

First Place

Year Book

GCNC Awards 2020-2021

First Place

National Garden Week

Asheville Garden Club Garden Therapy

Alta Kornegay Garden Therapy

Pat Olejar Holiday Decoration

Sylvia Gatzy Award

Ruth Yarbrough Publicity Press Book

Website Award

Publications Award

Mary Jane Knight Youth Program

Second Place

Club of the Year

Peggy Polak for Youth Education