



# Trent Woods Garden Club

## January 2022

Happy New Year to you all!

I have been noticing a pop up of weeds and some Ferber Daisies that have decided to bloom with all the unseasonably warm weather we have been experiencing lately. We will just have to appreciate what Mother Nature throws at us this year.

I am very glad that everyone who attended the December General Meeting had the opportunity to discuss the lunch increase and new service fee instituted by NBG&CC. When you really sit down and think about all NBG&CC provides us with (linens, staff, audio visual equipment, set-up and clean-up to name a few) it becomes a great deal more understandable why they felt the need to increase their fees. So I do hope that more of you will stay for lunch or perhaps take your lunch with you.

We had a wonderful time at Brookdale with the residents. Each resident made two coffee mug arrangements-one to keep and one to share! We had delicious cookies and juice and everybody had fun during the sing a long. We are still in need of a new Garden Therapy Chair, please see me to learn more. I can honestly attest that we volunteers get as much out of participating as the residents we visit.

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

# TWGC General Meeting

January 13, 2022

## 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**

**Reminder: NBG&CC has increased the lunch and room fee to \$25. per person and added a \$10 per person room fee if you do not stay for lunch.**

### Program

#### “Get Happy Using Herbs”

David will show us the many ways to use herbs in everyday living in this power point presentation

Presented by

David Huge  
Tryon Palace

### Menu Selections

**Davis Cup Salad with Chicken** - Crisp Romaine lettuce with Craisins, candied walnuts, strawberries, bleu cheese crumbles and shredded chicken

*OR*

**Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup** – American cheese grilled between white bread and served with creamy tomato basil soup

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by

Tuesday Jan 11th and indicate your choice at

[judysboyd@embarqmail.com](mailto:judysboyd@embarqmail.com)

Lunch cost \$25- due before meeting

\$10 if you are not staying for lunch- due before meeting

# Trent Woods Christmas Parade

A grand time was had by all at the 2021 Trent Woods Christmas Parade. Thank you to all who participated and helped out.



**Rhona Beadle and Maureen Boomer having a fun day!**

**Elizabeth Lassiter and her husband were there to represent TWGC in style!**

## 2021 Trent Woods Christmas Parade



Paula Hartman, Frances Eder, Deb Tallman with TWGC Ambassador Monty Tallman



TWGC President Gail McLamb and Maggie Ferrara enjoying a beautiful day and parade.

# Garden Therapy December 2021

TWGC volunteers visited Brookdale Nursing Home in December. Each of the residents created two coffee cup arrangements on to keep and one to share.



# Garden Therapy December 2021

After the hard work of creating arrangements everyone enjoyed homemade cookies and juice.



## Garden Therapy Schedule 2021-2022

Contact Kathy Perretta – [krperretta@aol.com](mailto:krperretta@aol.com) 252-633-3665

*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

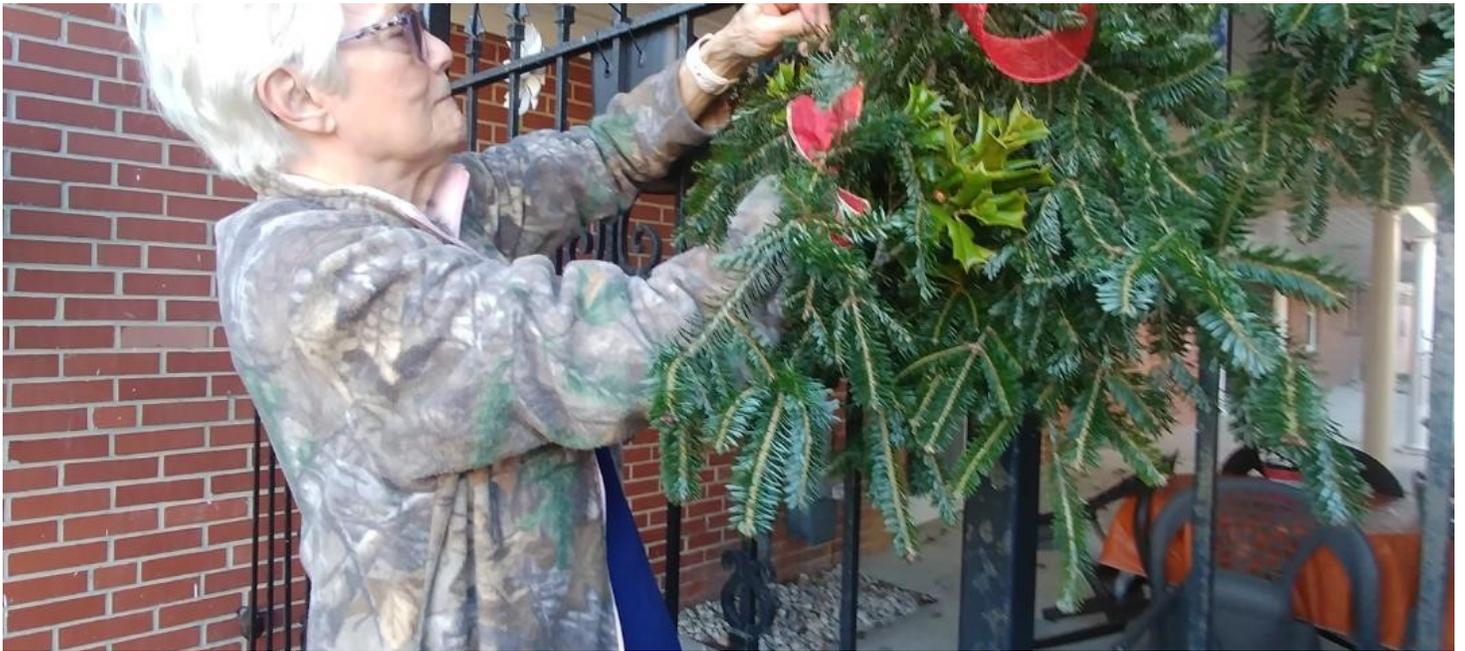
*April 18, 2022 10am*

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.

# Bishop House

Paula Hartman and Frances Eder decorated the front door and gates at Bishop House this year. Due to Covid concerns we were not able to decorate inside. Instead, TWGC purchased small poinsettia's for all the residents to enjoy in their apartments.



# Winter care of house plants

*By Judi Lloyd*

Everyone needs a little R and R, and for houseplants winter is the time to get it. Daylight is dramatically reduced, the air is dry, and temperatures are cool — not the perfect growing conditions. Follow these tips to keep your houseplants in shape through the winter.

## Watering

Remember these words: neglect with respect. Simply put, most houseplants don't need as much water during the winter season. Once a week, test the moisture level (if the soil is dry at a 2-inch depth the plant needs water). Water thoroughly and allow the water to drain completely. If any excess water after an hour or so, dump it out. Obviously, there are certain plants that prefer being moist at all times. If you don't know what your plants require, do some Googling.

## Fertilization

Houseplants, like people, need food to perform, especially when they are actively growing. Spring and summer are necessary feeding months; however, during the winter, feeding is not necessary. If you do fertilize, do it sparingly. Dilute the fertilizer by 50 percent or more. Once you see the plant setting new growth (typically in late February or March) you may start feeding again.



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## Keeping the plants clean

Winter is a great time to do some housecleaning on your plants. Removing accumulated dust and debris helps the plant breathe and look good. Also, a good cleaning will help wash away unwanted pests. A simple bubble bath by hand is all it takes. Be sure the water is tepid and use a very diluted solution of liquid dishwashing soap and water. Place the plant in a sink and sponge off the leaves with the warm soapy water. Finish by wiping the leaves once more with clean water. You can place larger plants in the shower to sponge off the leaves. Then use the showerhead to rinse the leaves! Allow the plant to drain thoroughly before returning it to its original location.

## Other tips:

Most houseplants prefer daytime temperatures of 65° to 75°F, and night temperatures of 60° to 65°F. Keep houseplants away from cold drafts, vents, and radiators. Watch that foliage doesn't touch windows. Many houseplants prefer a humidity level of 40 to 50 percent. Humidifiers are an option for increasing humidity in your home. Contrary to popular belief, misting houseplants does not raise humidity. Fill a large saucer with gravel and add water to raise the humidity around the plant. (Be sure the bottom of the pot is not sitting in water.) Don't repot in winter. Wait until new growth appears in the spring.

## Seasonal Design December 2021

This month's seasonal designs were created and donated to TWGC by our friend and favorite designer Rachael Tipton from Harbourside Gardens.



## Monthly Program December 2021

Rachael Tipton from Harbourside Gardens showed us her process in creating Holiday arrangements and mantle pieces.



# January Bird of the Month

## Snow Geese

By Michael Creedon



Some of you may remember last January we visited Pungo Lake, part of the Pocosin Lakes NWR to see the Tundra Swans. This January we revisit Pungo Lake, this time to see the 100,000 +/- Snow Geese that spend their winters here.

You will note I say Snow Geese, not Snow Goose, as you will never see just one. Snow Geese are very gregarious, flocking together in the many thousands.

Pungo Lake itself does not support aquatic growth, and is used by the Swans and Geese as a safe overnight roost. At sun up they fly out together,



all 100,000 + to forage in the fields surrounding the lake. As you stop to watch, the flock drop from the sky like snow flakes, until they are all peacefully feeding on the mowed crops provided by the wildlife folks. Then, 10, 15 or 20 minutes later, for no discernible reason, en mass, the entire flock of 100,000+ birds take to the sky. It really is something to see, and hear. They are not quiet birds as they ascend into the skies.

## Bird of the Month (cont.)



Snow Geese breed on the Arctic tundra, thus their name. They are slightly larger than your average duck, weighing in at between 5 and 9 pounds. They spend half the year migrating between nesting and wintering sites. They are all white with black wing tips, and a black line along their bills, called a “Grin Patch”. There is also a dark morph called a Blue.

Long term bonds are formed in their second year, but not breeding until their third. Females have a strong tendency to breed where they were hatched. Nests are built in the tundra, 3 to 5 eggs, hatching in 3 weeks. The chicks leave the

nest within hours of hatching. 6 to 7 weeks later they are flying, joining their parents and friends on their southerly migration.

The population of this North American bird is over 5 million, and growing. The growth of the flock has presented problems for many tundra areas where they nest, and hunting seasons, methods, bag limits have all been increased, but have yet to control their growth.

If you look at a map of where these birds winter, you will see that we are very lucky to have this winter population within an easy reach of home. Not many in the USA can say that. Another reason to take a nice winter drive up to Pungo Lake. You will be amazed. More Photo's from Mike on our website [www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com](http://www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com)



## Horticulture Corner-January 2022

By Maureen Loomer

*“And Winter slumbering in the open air, wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring ...”*

— Samuel Taylor Coleridge

**Garden chores:** I join *Southern Living's* “Grumpy Gardener” as a believer in raking up dead leaves from my lawn. I add the leaves to the berm between my back garden and the wetland behind. This mulching protects the berm, discourages briars, and provides shelter for insects, amphibians, and birds.

My mother had me plant more narcissus, ranunculus, and hyacinths in her garden in late October. As I pointed out at the December meeting, our mild winters accommodate planting into January. Spring bulbs and rhizomes planted until the end of January will have time to set a root system before flowering after any planted in fall but before the hot weather starts. This might be a great strategy for extending the season for some of your spring favorites.

The woody varieties in my herb garden (germander, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano, and lavender) are evergreen, and both the rue and the bronze fennel are still green; sheltered by the shed garden. Those of you thinking ahead to the TWGC herb sale might want to consider that these (as well as bays, marjoram, and some mints) are winter-hardy. They will retreat with a hard freeze, but will come back (and even flower) during mild days. As always, please remember to plant with good drainage and appropriate sun exposure in mind.

Evergreens are only one source of winter interest in the garden. I brought you some seed pods from one of my garden favorites this month. These can be left in the garden or harvested for arrangements indoors.

**Running and Walking in Trent Woods:** Peer-reviewed studies find that the average American gains about 1.5 lbs during the holidays, and it is believed that failure to lose that weight year-to-year is a major contributor to cumulative weight gained through middle and old age. I hope you are enjoying the mild weather that allows us to enjoy the outdoors pretty much year-round. Please take advantage of our parks and sidewalks to indulge in some bird-watching, dog-walking, and other healthful activities.

**Garden Center Report:** My visits to Lowe's and Pinecone revealed that both had sold out of Christmas trees before mid-month. Pinecone had a large selection of annuals and perennials for planting now. I purchased calendulas and snapdragons to brighten up the patio garden and pansies for the front porch. I was pleased to find both honeybees and sulfur butterflies nectaring on them on some of our warm days.

Of course, I reluctantly purchased poinsettias to join my old Christmas cacti. As much as I enjoy their brief gaudy show, it is always sad to have to mulch them in January. My Christmas cacti, at least, survive happily in the sunroom.

**Would you like to be interviewed for Meet the Gardener?**

**I am looking for volunteers! Interviews can be conducted by telephone or face-to-face at the volunteer's convenience. If interested, please email me at [bee27534@aol.com](mailto:bee27534@aol.com).**



Until next month...

# Horticulture

## By Maureen Loomer

### WINTER INTEREST: THE IRIS AFTERMATH

**Common name:** blue flag iris (seed pods). *Probably* southern.

**Genus/species:** *Iris virginica* (northern) and *var. shrevei* (southern)

**Origin:** Native to the U.S.

**Character:** Clump-forming perennial with light-green foliage. Dark blue blooms appear in mid-late spring. It grows two to four feet tall and is well-suited for massing in front of shrubs or as a spiky accent plant. Attracts pollinators and is deer-resistant.

**Requirements:** Prefers full sun to part shade and will not bloom well if it has more shade than sun. It grows best in moist soils that are not too heavy but will tolerate some brief flooding early in the season and moderate dryness in late summer.

**Propagation:** Seeding and rhizomes.

**Bare roots can be purchased in spring and fall. Potted trays available May/June (Prairie Moon Nursery).**

It can be confused with the Eurasian Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*), which reaches four feet in height and will not grow in water.

The yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is considered invasive in some parts of North America because its rapid spread

allows it to out-compete native species, but it can still be an attractive part of the wetland garden when controlled (maybe in a container, even sunk in a water garden).



# 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 Gatzky 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