



Trent Woods Garden Club

April 2022

Greetings fellow TWGC members,

Happy Spring everyone!

Aside from the unseasonable cold weather we have been having the last week or so, I have been tickled pink to see the tulips bloom, the trees budding out, and other spring and summer plants emerging after their winter rest.

This month our very own Amy Rose-White will be taking us on a virtual tour of the Botanical Gardens. I hope you will all be there!

The Craven County Hospice has requested TWGC to provide centerpieces for their breakfast fundraiser on May 10. Please get in touch with me if you would like to help. Speaking of help, we will be distributing the herbs from the herb sale on April 18th, please see Mary Florence or Ann Hall if you can help.

We have re-started the TWGC Service Award this year! Please go to the website www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com for instructions on how to nominate a TWGC member that has worked tirelessly for TWGC, and please don't forget some of our more seasoned members that are past presidents and officers.

Just a reminder to wear your best Spring Bonnet to our *May* general meeting!

Spring is here!

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 Monthly General Meeting

April 14, 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

“Some of my Best Friends are Plants”

Botanical Adventures

Amy will share her love of botanicals with a power point presentation of a virtual Tour of Botanical Gardens

Presented by

Amy Rose-White
TWGC Member

Menu Selections

Cobb Salad – Crisp iceberg, hard boiled eggs, diced tomatoes, grilled chicken, scallions, avocado, Swiss & cheddar cheese, topped with apple-wood smoked bacon, with choice of dressing

OR

Chicken Cordon Bleu - Chicken breast stuffed with Swiss cheese and ham topped with Dijon sauce with creamy mashed potatoes and Chef's choice of vegetable

Please contact Judy Boyd at judyboyd@embarqmail.com by
Tuesday April 12, 2022 to reserve your luncheon choice.

Lunch cost \$25- due before meeting

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

Garden Therapy March 2022

TWGC created small arrangements that they delivered to Monarch



Garden Therapy Schedule 2021-2022

Many Thanks to Jeanne Miller for accepting the Garden Therapy Chair!

Contact Jeanne Miller – kidmiddlejeanne@yahoo.com or 631-335-7848

April 18, 2022 10am

River Point Crest , 2600 Old Cherry Point Road

Just a little share from Laura Knox's Camellia Garden



Welcome TWGC New Members!



Donna Schultz (returning member)
1352 Pine Valley Drive
New Bern NC 28562
Tel: 252-259-0707
dschultz1951@gmail.com

Joanne Orluk
420 Isabelle Street,
New Bern, NC 28560
781-632-7687
joanneorluk@gmail.com



Robin Nolan
404 Lilliput Drive
New Bern NC 28562
330-606-6548
kevmom1992@yahoo.com



How do I prune my crape myrtle?

By Judi Lloyd

A: Two words: very little. Many gardeners and maintenance companies prune the trees with what is commonly termed “crape murder” or “crape maiming”. This is the practice of cutting back the tree to the main stem each year leaving knobs or “fists”. This practice is at the very least unnecessary and at the most potentially harmful to the tree. The reason to prune a crape myrtle is to maintain its natural shape and to produce strong branches to hold up the large blooms. Drastic pruning doesn’t accomplish either of these goals. What harsh pruning does is lead to a “witch’s broom” effect that that is no longer in proportion and is so dense it does not allow good air flow and necessary sunlight to penetrate the center of the tree. The spindle-like small branches also get overburdened with the large flowers and are predisposed to breakage. As if this wasn’t enough, it also increases susceptibility to pests and diseases and creates wounds on your tree that do not heal well. There is no solid horticultural argument for heavy topping of these beautiful trees.

The right time to prune a crape myrtle is late winter. First, remove any suckers coming from the base of the tree. You can also prune any cross branches, branches that rub and those small branches growing inward toward the center of the tree. These unwanted branches are best removed before they get thicker than a pencil. Remove side branches up to 4-5 feet if you want a more upright look. If you want, you can remove the seed heads but it is not necessary. Nature will take care of them and it reduces your workload. Plus, if you have a 20+ foot tree it becomes very impractical. There are many good videos on the Internet that will demonstrate the best practices on how to prune your crape myrtle. Try the following Missouri Extension video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzzNaId-XjE>

So, what if you inherited a previously topped crape myrtle when you bought your house? There are ways to rehabilitate it. One way is to cut the branch beneath the knobs and keep one new sprout as a new trunk. As other sprouts spring up, pinch them off. This may take a couple of years to create a nice new structure but it is worth it. Auburn University college of agriculture in Alabama has a crape myrtle recovery program that demonstrates ways to properly maintain and prune crape myrtles and bring them back to a healthy beauty after over pruning has occurred.

If you feel the tree needs to be topped because it is too tall, you are dealing with the wrong cultivar in the wrong place. It might be best to start over with a more suitable sized crape myrtle. There are several beautiful cultivars with different growing habits. You can choose a small dwarf that is 3-5 feet or a taller tree that can grow 10-30 feet. You can also choose the color of the flowers from white, pink, magenta, lavender or bright red. Bark colors from light brown, gray and to cinnamon also bring interest to your garden. Have fun researching what tree will work best in your landscape. Start with the NCSU article at: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/crapemyrtles-for-north-carolina>



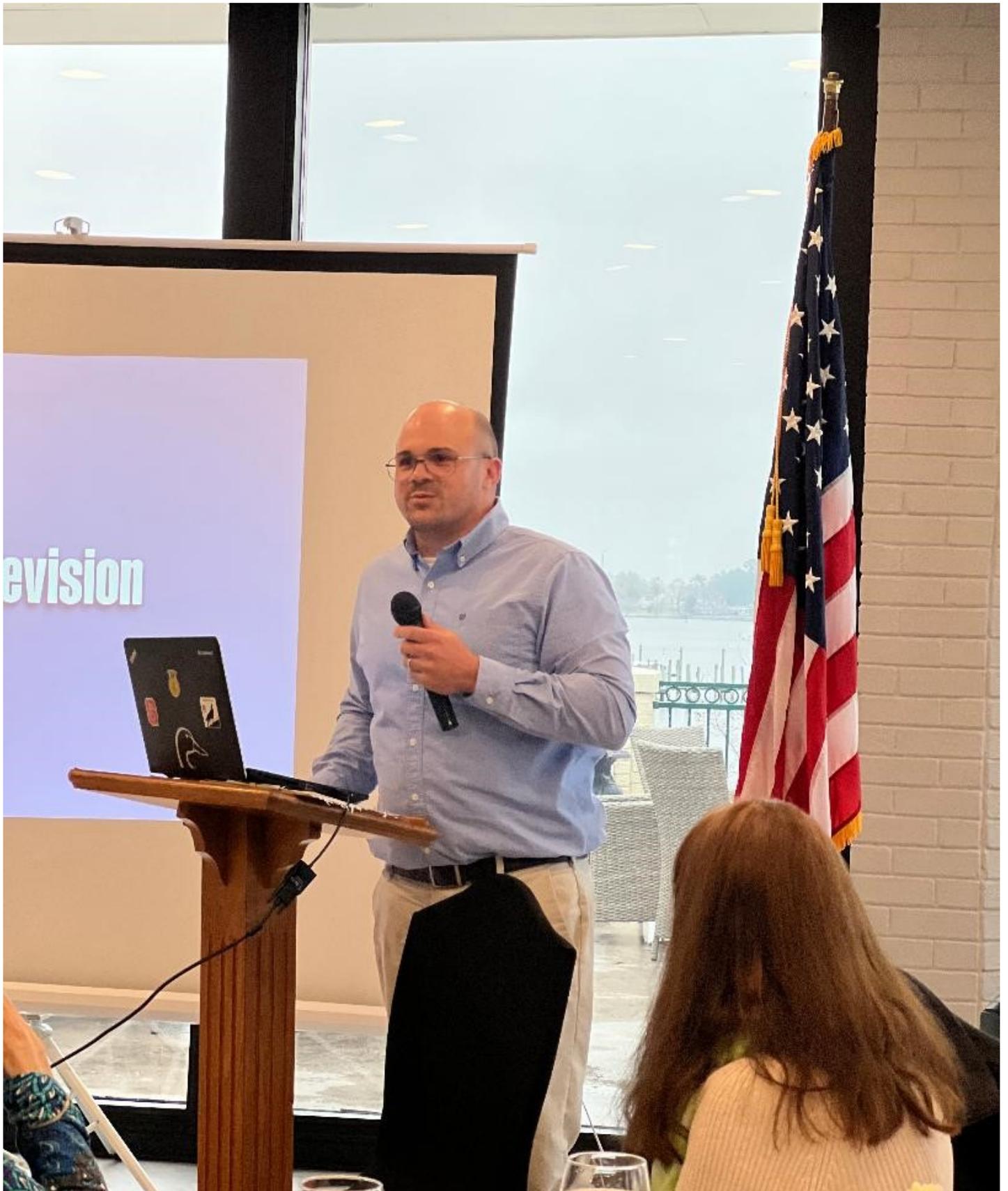
Bank of the Arts March 2022

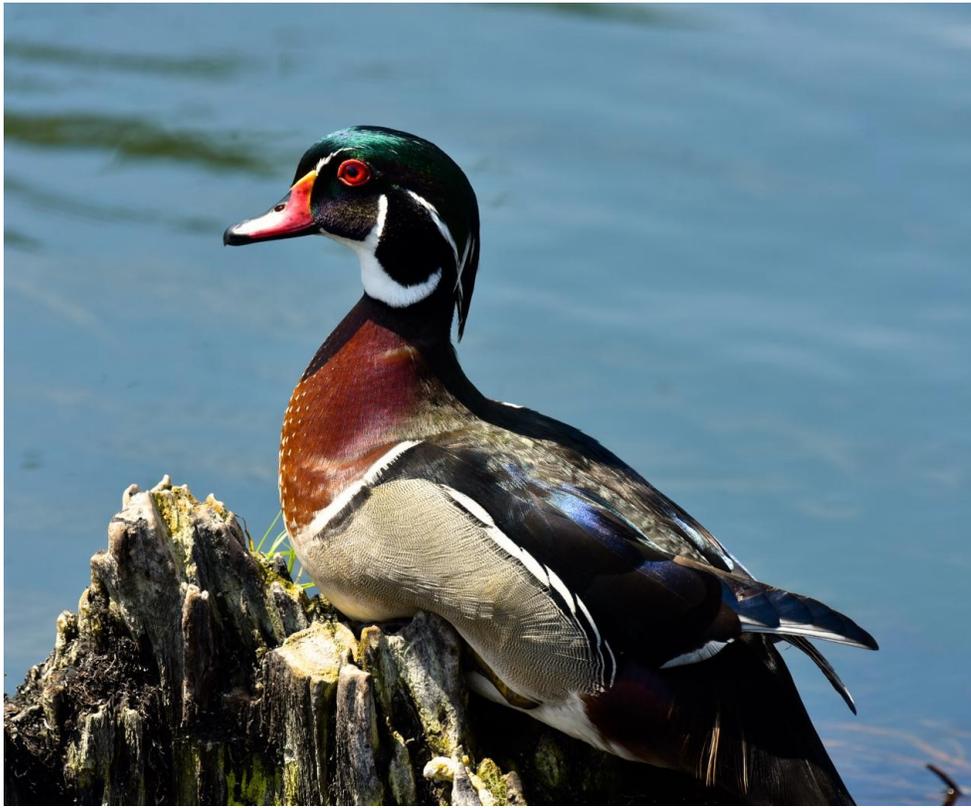
Theme "All Portraits" Lilies and dusty miller arrangement by Deb Tallman



Monthly Program March 2022

William Shaw gave a presentation “Sowing Seeds for Future Generations”
Mr. Shaw is the Horticulture teacher at West Craven HS





Bird of the Month

**Bird of the Month
Wood Ducks
by Michael Creedon**

Imagine sitting on your back porch as the sun is just coming up, watching the birds awakening and flitting about. Then, to your amazement, you see a pair of large birds fly into and perch in the large cypress tree in your yard. As you evaluate, they weren't crows, or hawks or ospreys, they looked like ducks.

Ducks flying into and perching in trees, that's a new one.

That is what happened to me last spring around this time. Those ducks were a pair of Wood Ducks, also known as Carolina Ducks. These ducks are year-round residents here, however usually found in forest ponds and swamps, away from back yards, unless you live on water. They are one of the few ducks in the world, and the only one in the USA having long toes with claws, allowing them to perch in trees.



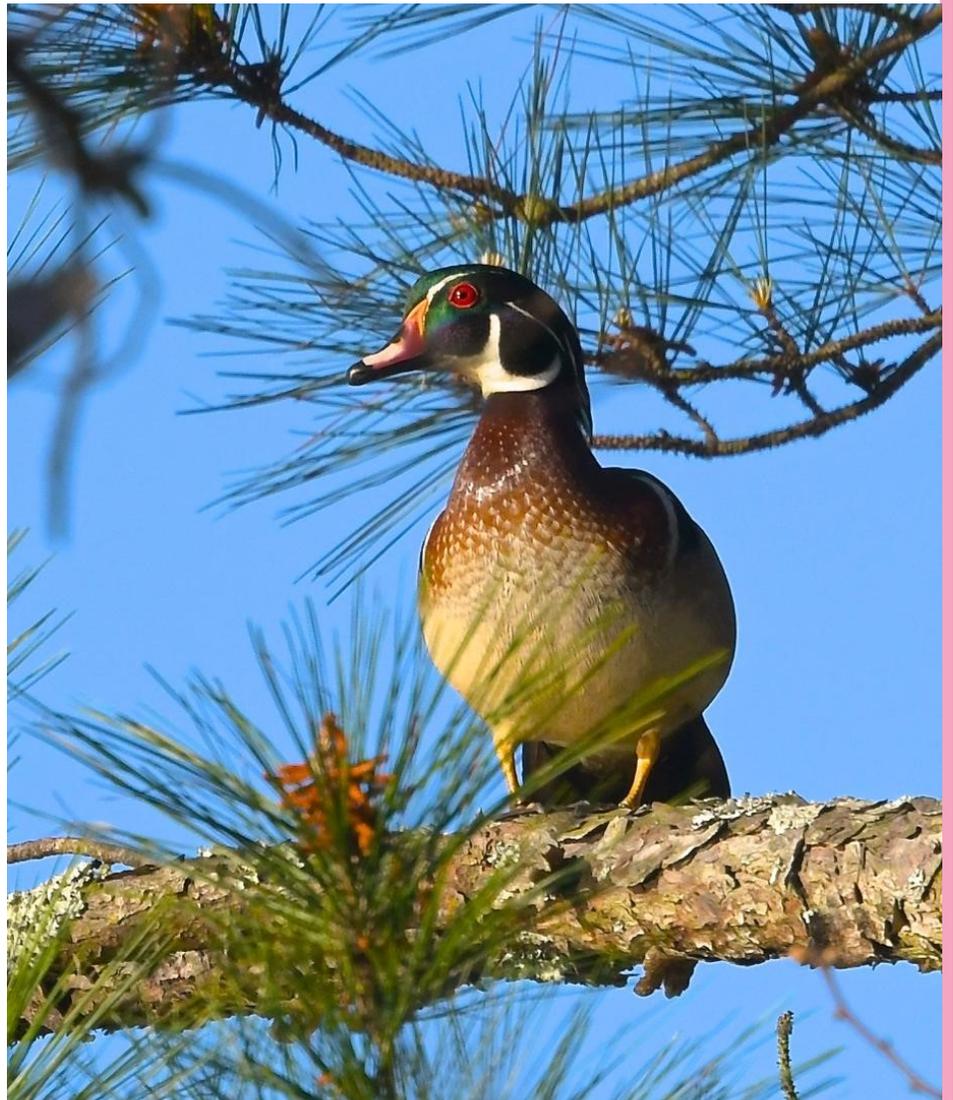
The stunning multicolored iridescent plumage of the male is proof of Darwin's theories. The female will seek out the most brilliantly colored male to mate with, in the expectation that her young will have that plumage and be successful in carrying on her genes.



As a result, the males have become, over time, even more stunning examples of this hypothesis. This plumage is only seen during courting and mating seasons, the rest of the year they molt into gray feathers with some blue on their wings.

In late winter courting begins. The males are seriously monogamous, but only for one breeding season. In April, they nest in tree cavities near water, the female laying between 7 and 15 eggs. They incubate for 30 days, and the day after they hatch, the chicks climb up to the nest opening and jump. The mother calls them, leads them to water, but does not help in any

way. They are immediately ready to swim and find their own food. They are dippers, not divers, and are omnivorous, eating marsh grass, seeds, acorns, berries, and insects. As dippers, their legs are centered under their body, making walking across the forest floor an equal option to feed. At one time they were so abundant and widespread, they were in consideration as our National symbol. However, the population was in a sharp decline in the late 19th century, due to market hunting, primarily for their plumage for the European woman's hat trade, as well as meat. Some compare the flavor to prime rib, a very tasty bird. By the early 20th century, they had all but disappeared. However, with the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, their population began to slowly

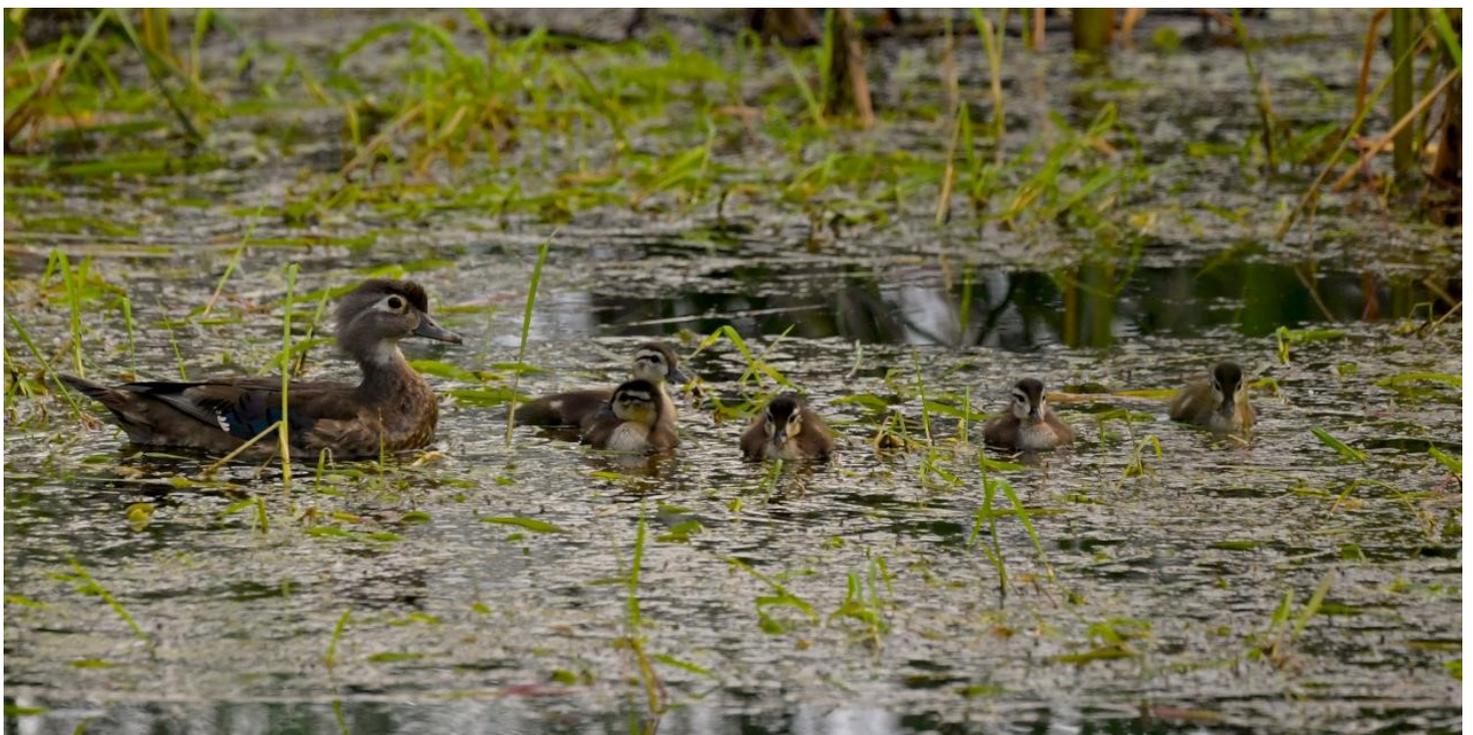
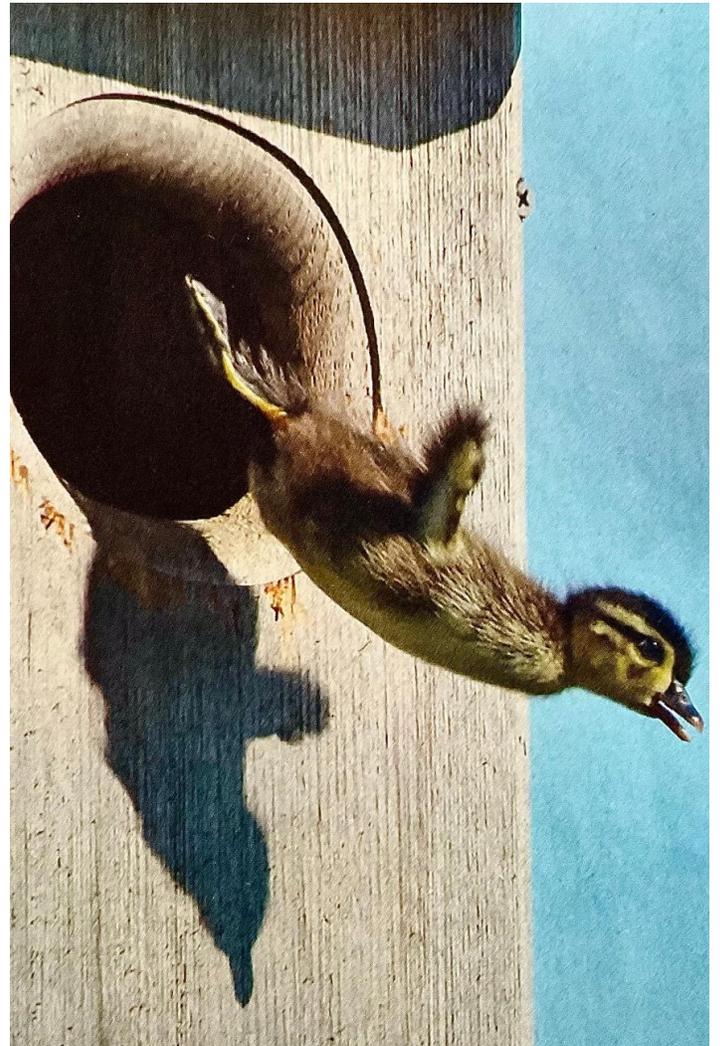


During open waterfowl season, hunters are permitted two of these birds. It is the second most hunted duck in North America, after the mallard. The average life span is 3 to 4 years, the longest recorded was 15 years in the wild. Within 2 weeks, 85 to 90% of the chicks are dead, primarily through predation. Owls, foxes, raccoons, even snakes will take their share. Wood Ducks are diurnal, sleeping on the water, except the female while nesting. They are social animals, often congregating in the evenings.

So, it is that time of year. Keep a sharp eye for unusual birds flying into your trees, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Most of these photos were taken in my backyard. The chick was in last month's Birds and Blooms and seemed very appropriate to this month's bird.

(additional photos are on our website)
www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com



Seasonal Design March 2022

By Cathy McAlister



Horticulture Corner-April 2022

By Maureen Loomer

"It is not enough that yearly, down this hill, April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers." —Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), American poet

White-throated sparrows have replaced the dark-eyed juncos in my yard, and my bluebird box is occupied. The lone hummingbird I saw at my mother's house was likely a male scouting out the territory. Ruby-throated is the only species that nests in our area and the females should be following the males into the area in the next two weeks. Fellow bird lover and former TWGC member Cindy Robinson alerted me to a great website <https://www.234birds.org/>.

Running/walking in Trent Woods: The Ag Extension and Forestry Services will start offering a bounty on Bradford Pear trees this month <https://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/03/nc-bradford-pear-bounty/?src=rss>. Paula Hartman reports that her hellebore (Lenten rose), gifted by her cousin in Chapel Hill, has never bloomed so beautifully. These winter-spring bloomers thrive in sheltered partially-shaded areas. Our winter had the not-too-cold-or-wet conditions they love.

Carolina Jessamine is another evergreen that produces yellow trumpet-shaped blooms in our area from late winter until April. You may see this vine supported on fences or mailboxes.

What's "up" in Dr. Mo's garden? The spirea I pruned by 1/3 last fall has leafed out nicely. I hope for a great bloom in the next two months. All things herbal are going gang-busters, especially in the shed, walled, and milkweed gardens where the plants are somewhat sheltered. The white sage is evergreen, and the bronze fennel never died back once the swallowtails were gone. Mints and ornamental onions are all up, and the garlic chives will need harvesting this week to keep them blooming. Although the fern leaf lavender did not survive, my favorite lavender, Anouk, is in full bloom. More stems popped out of what I feared was frost-burn, and I will have to move the Mexican mint marigold that has shared Anouk's raised bed since I transplanted them last year. The common rue is also in full bloom and already hosting lots of bumblebees.





Horticulture Corner (continued)

Work to do! The last week has primarily been devoted to prepping the beds and containers for the soil amendments and mulch I have stored up. Although April 3 is considered the last frost date for us, I will wait a week or so to transplant some Stoke's asters to the woodland garden from the patio containers they have out-grown. If the mild conditions continue for the next week or two, I will give Anouk a haircut of not more than six inches. Anouk is about seven years old and not woody enough for me to chance anything more drastic. I will do the same for the common rue. I have compost to mix into the beds and new potting soil for the containers, so plenty to keep me busy.

It's Tick Season! There are ticks where there are deer, mice, birds, or other vertebrates. They prefer dark, moist, warm areas, and I have already encountered them while trimming back ornamental grasses in the woodland garden. To avoid harming pollinators, I treat my skin and clothing with REPEL products which I have found effective even during EarthWatch

field research in Maine. I will try some of the new environmentally-friendly yard sprays and report my findings. The CDC https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html and *Prevention* magazine <https://www.prevention.com/health/a22095155/best-tick-repellents/> have good info on this topic.

Member questions: Sue Wyatt asked at the March 10 meeting for help identifying an evergreen shrub in her yard with lavender blooms. The PictureThis! app she used identified it as *Buddleia lindleyana*, but Sue says she has been told it is NOT a butterfly bush. The tiny tubular blooms appear to be on arching pannicles. I am familiar with *buddleia* as a deciduous shrub with narrow leaves and summer blooms that dissolve into LOTS of seeds by fall. Plant Delights says that *B. lindleyana* is the much lesser-known *Weeping Butterfly Bush* and is very different from the *B. davidii* *Butterfly Bush* that we have seen for many years. However, they emphasize that this species is dormant in the winter and should not bloom so early. Wendy from Pinecone Garden Center agreed. Of course, the plant may not have read the literature. I will continue to research this question.

Garden centers etc.: Pinecone has some hellebores left, and the centers are full of spring plants. I found Rattlesnake Master to add to my pollinator collection when I met native plant grower Karen Mulcahey (Facebook@AbovetheBriary) at the Home and Garden Show.

Until next time...

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