



Trent Woods Garden Club

April 2024

.Dear Spring Gardeners,

I believe we can finally breathe a sigh of relief and know that Spring has really sprung! I know our first annual Spring Tea helped to set the mood and get us ready for this wonderful, pollen-filled season. I certainly hope that those of you who were there had as great a time as I had. When I looked out from the podium at the sea of brightly colored tables, flowers and clothes, I was truly impressed by all the hard work that had gone into putting this all together. I certainly hope those who couldn't attend this year will find a way to help next year so you can also share in the fun. There are so many people to thank that I am sure I will leave out someone. Please forgive me if I do. First and foremost, let me give a tremendous amount of credit to Deb Tallman and Rhona Beadle who co-chaired this big event. They worked many hours organizing and putting this all together. They put together a competent team of leaders and helpers to get everything done. Michele Rose did a great job of organizing the kitchen, who also went above and beyond to get the food and tea on each table and to keep more tea coming as we needed it. The kitchen crew was Karen Kimball, Karen Powers, and Marcia Sproul. Thanks so much! The hostesses all set beautiful tables some using china and silver that had been passed on from their grandmothers and great grandmothers. From what I hear, the guests enjoyed going around to each table and hearing the stories from each hostess. I won't try and remember all the hostesses at this point. Y'all all know who you are and how this couldn't have possibly been a success without all your design style and hard work. The tables were taken over the top with all the flower arrangements that were specifically designed to complement each table setting; thank you to Paula Hartman and her team for creating such lovely complementary arrangements. A very special thanks to Sue Wyatt and her husband, Bill, for getting the church for us to use and helping to get everything set up. A thanks goes to all the members who acquired items for the raffle and for those members who helped sell the raffle tickets and check everyone in the day of the tea. Thank you goes to Gail Evancho for finding us our very talented pianist. I'm sure I've left someone out- please forgive me. I'm almost certain we made our goal for 2 scholarships and then had some additional money. I didn't mention Jodie Horne Grubbs moving speech about how much our scholarships meant to her. It was very moving for all present.

On to more items. Ann Hall, Paula Hartman, and I will be attending the State Garden Club convention the first weekend in April at Lake Junaluska. I'm sure we will return with information to share with the club.

Our April program will be Mark Spafford from Tryon Palace. He will talk about NV perennials that will be offered at the Tryon Palace Plant Sale. I hope all will plan to attend.

See Y'all in April!

Raye Lynn Longhini, President TWGC

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

And

Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

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Trent Woods Garden Club Members' Meeting

April 11, 2024

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

NC Perennials available at the Heritage Plant Sale at Tryon Palace Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13

Presented by

Mike Spafford, Tryon Palace
Garden and Grounds Manager

Menu Selections

Cobb Salad – Crisp iceberg lettuce, hard boiled eggs, diced tomatoes, grilled chicken, scallions, avocado, Swiss and 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, mashed potatoes with chef's choice of vegetable

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by

Tuesday April 9th and indicate your choice judysboyd@embarqmail.com

Lunch cost \$25. due before start of meeting.

Meeting only \$10.

SPRING



TEA









Horticulture Corner-April 2024

By Maureen Loomer

Me again, you again, robin's egg blue again

Eagerly notice the crocuses-suddenly, Spring arrives

In the sky bluebird reconnaissance, phoebes dip straw in the mud-

Winter's done, hallelujah! All the clouds ungather and the sun shines through

--"Eighteen Aprils" by Michael Franks, American singer/songwriter

The crabapple and cherry trees have finished blooming, but not before we got to enjoy watching songbirds feeding on the petals. Cedar waxwings, cardinals, house and purple finches, mockingbirds, blue jays, evening grosbeaks, and goldfinches are a few of the species that feed on spring petals that may be a source of vitamins for them (<https://georgiawildlife.com/out-my-backdoor-dont-eat-my-spring-flowers>)

The Orioles are still visiting the feeders in my sister's and my backyard! We are hoping they will nest here although we are technically NOT in their nesting range. But then, the birds don't read. It gets very busy in the morning, late afternoon, and early evening when the bluebirds, house finches, cardinals, titmice, and cardinals are hitting the feeders. And so entertaining to see the Carolina wrens jostling for position with the blue jays. There was a juvenile Cooper's hawk perching on the fence yesterday, but we think there are too many trees to make him/her a danger to our songbirds. We are more concerned about our neighbors' free-roaming cats. The feeders and nest boxes are positioned to make it as difficult as possible for the cats to approach unseen, but predation by domestic cats is the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States and Canada. In the United States alone, outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year. Although this number may seem unbelievable, it represents the combined impact of tens of millions of outdoor cats. Each outdoor cat plays a part. (<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>)

The perennial garden has awakened and it's not a moment too soon as we already have a few butterflies and lots of bees. My sister spotted our first female Black Swallowtail heading for the cold frame where the bronze fennel has already grown waist high. I included a photo of the fothergilla that I fear will be finished blooming by the time of the next meeting. A member of the witch hazel family, this early-blooming native attracts pollinators with its white and green bottlebrush-like blooms. It would look stunning as a specimen in any garden. The herbs I brought with me from my old house have all come back very quickly, thanks to our mild winter. You may recall how sad I was that I could not bring my big old lavender, Anouk, with me to my current residence. Happily, I found Silver Anouk lavender in stock at Lowe's in New Bern so I grabbed one! This Spanish lavender is the only variety I have had consistent luck with. It really thrives in our hot summers. Lowe's has a lot of annuals in, as well as some vegetables and herbs. Pinecone Garden Center has LOTS of geraniums, veg, and herbs, in addition to perennials. Pinecone had some lovely dahlias, too.

If you get the Trent Woods Neighbors magazine, you will have seen a great photo of Marcia Sproul and Jack Durham who installed the Confederate Rose at Cottle Park donated by our club. Marcia and Sue Wyatt wrangle those of us who serve on the watering committee and they will be calling on us soon to clean and replant at the Town Park and the Blue Star Memorial. I've been hitting the weights at the gym, so I'm ready ladies! Until next time...

March 2024 Seasonal Design

By Ann Simpson



March 2024 Monthly Program

By “Compost “

a presentation on recycling and a new program

Presented by

Somer Peede

of Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority



Garden Therapy Schedule 2023-2024

Jeanne Garner – ag1law@aol.com

301-332-2591

Karen Kimball - karenkimball2@gmail.com

603-438-1839

Monday, April 15, 2024 10am Jeanne Garner 301-332-2591
River Point Crest, 2600 Old Cherry Point Road
Plant Vegetable Garden

Thank You

To everyone that helped make our first Annual Tea a success!!

TWGC Fundraising Committee

Gartered Trogon



Bird of the Month April 2024 Trogons by Michael Creedon

Trogon is a unique bird, having only one other member of the family, the Quetzal. The family contains 46 species and are residents of tropical rainforests worldwide. The word trogon is Greek for “nibbling”, as these birds gnaw holes in trees to make their nests. The greatest concentration of species is in the neotropics, that is pretty much all of the world south of our border.

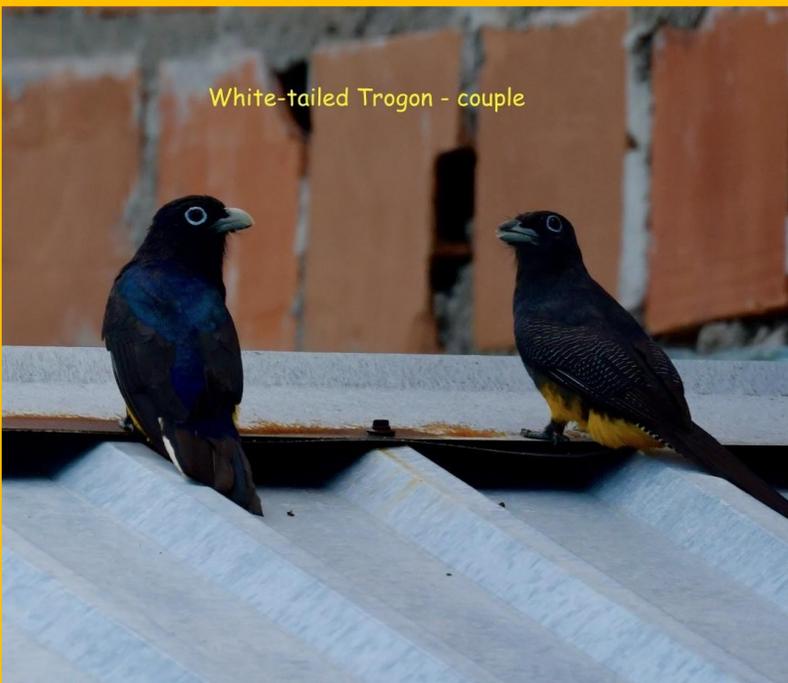
Here in the USA we have one species, the Elegant Trogon, found only in southern Arizona, if you are very lucky. They feed on insects and fruit, having broad bills and weak legs. They cannot turn around on a branch without the use of their wings. They are accomplished flyers, however rarely fly any dis-

tance. Almost all are non-migratory, with some species migrating up or down in elevation as the season and food sources change. They are also the only animal with a heterodactyl toe arrangement, with 2 toes forward, and 2 back. This toe arrangement has fairly well confirmed that trogons have no close rel-

Masked Trogon - male



White-tailed Trogon - couple



atives.

They are fairly uniform in appearance, compact bodies and long tails, (very long in the case of the Quetzals).

Resplendant Quetzal - male



Bird of the Month (continued)

Legs and feet are weak and short, unable to walk other than an occasional shuffle on a branch. Their bills are short, curved, and broad, with bristles at the base. The eye is ringed with colorful bare skin. The plumage of many is iridescent, with most New World species having green or deep blue upper parts. They have distinctive color feathers, with the male much brighter and more colorful. They are generally inactive, outside of infrequent feeding flights. They have been noted to keep their less brightly colored backs toward observers, while their heads can turn 180 degrees to keep a watch on the watcher.

Trogon's are territorial and monogamous. Nests are built in the sides of trees that must be strong enough not to collapse, but soft enough to be dug out. Laying between 2 and 4 eggs in an unlined nest, both parents incubate. Hatching after about 16 days, the chicks are blind and naked. They get their feathers quickly, 7 to 10 days, and are

ready to fledge in about 3 weeks.

Trogon's and Quetzals are considered to be “among the most beautiful of birds”, however are also reclusive and seldom seen. These two factors account for the WOW reactions when a birder actually finds one.

As you look at these photos, remember that these birds are always found deep in a rainforest, in the dark. We did get very lucky with the Cuban Trogon, found in some late light, which is an excellent example of what these birds truly look like. You may also note that every one of these birds is “Watching the Watcher.”

More photos on
www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

Collared Trogon - Male



Horticulture Share by Maureen Loomer

Crabapples

Genus/Species: Malus sp.

Habit: Shrub-small tree (15-30 ft H. 15-20 ft W). Short trunk. Medium growth rate.

Origin: North America, Europe, Turkey

Common Natives: Southern crabapple (*M. angustifolia*), American crabapple (*M. coronaria*), European or Forest crabapple (*M. sylvestris*).

M. hybrids bred for insect and disease resistance are popular landscape plants.

NC Region: Coastal, piedmont, mountains

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b

Early spring bloom, pink, lavender, red, white, depending on species/cultivar.

The native Southern crabapple native habitat is pine woodlands or mixed woods. Some states consider this native to be threatened or "of concern" due to losses of native habitats or inadequate reseeded.

Requirements: Light: Full sun-partial shade Soil Texture: Clay, loam (silt), sand. Soil Drainage: Good Drainage, moist-occasionally dry.

Wildlife Value: Nectar from flowers attracts native bees and honey bees. Fruits are a food source for birds as well as raccoons, rabbits, opossum, squirrel, and foxes. Branches provide cover and nesting sites for birds and small mammals.

TOXICITY NOTE: Fruit flesh is edible, but all apple flowers and seeds contain **cyanogenic glycosides**.

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/malus-hybrids/>

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook/th-3-75.pdf>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=maco5

