

# Trent Woods Garden Club

## December 2024

Happy Holidays!

If y'all are like me gardening is the last thing on your minds with, what I consider, this frigid weather! I know a lot of you are used to the cold, as I used to be, but I moved to New Bern to get away from the cold. I guess that hasn't completely been successful! I think most of you probably agree.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you wearing your holiday finery at our general meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Ann Hall has put together an interesting program. A group of members will present ideas on how to throw two different holiday parties. We will start with invitations and go through the entire process. You will go home with recipes for eight different appetizers, a sample invitation, and ideas about setting your tables. We also will be offering our monthly drawing that will include the two floral arrangements and six or eight hostess gifts you may use for yourself or give as you attend holiday parties. I think it will be fun to see all the creativity that our club members have to share as well as get some concrete ideas and gifts to take home. Be sure to bring extra money for our "opportunity drawing"!

Garden Therapy will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Brookdale. Karen Kimball is working on a new activity for this group and I'm sure she could use as much help as possible. Every time we try something new there is a learning curve and the more hands-on deck makes it easier. I hope we will have a good turnout. There will be a sign-up sheet at the general meeting.

Our fundraiser chairs are diligently working on our Spring Tea which will be on March 29<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure more information will be coming soon. Let's not forget our Holland bulb fundraiser. The more we spend the larger percentage that we earn.

My brain must be frozen this morning because that seems to be all I can think of to say right now!

For those who may not be able to attend the meeting, enjoy your holidays! All be blessed!

Raye Lynn Longhini, President

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

And

Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

*TWGC Executive Board 2024-25*

Raye Lynn Longhini

President

1st Vice President, Debbie Durham

2nd Vice President, Ann G. Hall

Recording Secretary, Marcia Sproul

Treasurer, Rhona Beadle

Corresponding Secretary, Gail McLamb

Historian, Kathleen Marty

# TWGC 2024-2025 Standing Chairs

Awards Chair-Paula Hartman – paulamhartman1947@gmail.com 252-670-3233

Beautification and Civic Development Chair- Sue Wyatt – swyatt@suddenlink.net 252-636-0278

Communications Chair-Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com 732-539-8846

Environmental Concerns/Conservation Chair- Maureen Loomer – bee27534@aol.com 252- 638-5502

Finance Chair- Rhona Beadle - rhonab451@gmail.com 862-266-7888

Floral Design Chair – Ann Simpson simpsonann@suddenlink.net

Fundraising Chairs- Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com 732-539-8846 and Rhona Beadle-rhonab451@gmail.com 862-266-7888

Garden Therapy Chair- Karen Kimball Karenkimball1@gmail.com (603)438-1839

Horticulture Chair-Maureen Loomer– bee27534@aol.com 252-638-5502

Hospitality/Liaison with New Bern Golf & Country Club Chair- Judy Boyd – judysboyd@embarqmail.com 252-638-6597

Memorials Chair- Frances Eder – minfrances@gmail.com 252-634-4114

Parliamentarian/By-Laws Chair-Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com 732-539-8846

Photographer Chair-Kathleen Marty - martykathleen558@gmail.com 207-350-6031

Seasonal Design Chair—Mary Florence mflorence@suddenlink.net

Scholarship, Sharon D. Quill Chair-Karen Powers – kpowers913@gmail.com 585-797-8209

Service Recognition Award Chair– Paula Hartman paulamhartman1947@gmail.com

Yearbook Chair-Judy Lott – judylott@netzero.com 252-665-1352

Youth Gardeners Chair– Karen Powers kpowers913@gmail.com

# Trent Woods Garden Club Members' Meeting

## **December 12, 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**

“Holiday Cocktail Party Ideas”

Holiday and New Years Eve Decorated Tables, Hostess Gift ideas, Recipes, Music, and more!

### **Presented by**

Rhona Beadle, Deb Tallman, Ann Hall, Raye Lynn Longhini, Gale Evancho, Paula Hartman, Debbie Durham, Sue Wyatt, Karen Powers, and Marcia Sproul

### **Menu**

- 1. Chicken California Cobb- Romaine lettuce, tomato, cucumber, blue cheese crumbles, bacon, avocado and butter ranch dressing**  
or
- 2. Boursin Stuffed Airline Chicken Breasts herbed jus, wild rice with chef's choice of vegetable**

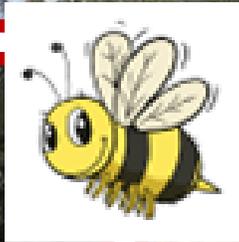
Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by  
Tuesday December 10th and indicate your choice to

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

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

Meeting only \$10.

The Garden Bees spent the first part of a crisp November afternoon inspecting their flourishing fall plantings. Under the direction of Ann Hall, Sue Wyatt, Sheila Kahramanian, and Karen Powers the club members broke up into teams to construct three spectacular scarecrows. The two gentleman scarecrows were clad in plaid shirts, jeans, suspenders, and straw hats. The lady scarecrow was radiant in a brilliant pink blouse, denim skirt, apron, and straw hat embellished with bright pink flowers. After the scarecrows were firmly set amongst the fall crops, the group harvested the radishes that they planted during their previous meeting. They all tasted their home grown produce, but not surprisingly, most of them were not fans. The collards, broccoli, winter squash, and cabbage will be ready for harvesting in the next several weeks and will hopefully fare better. After enjoying some treats, they departed for home with miniature scarecrows in hand to decorate potted plants at home.



Bank of the Arts

November 2024 by Deb Tallman

Theme “Coastal”, *A summer day at the beach, Poms, Gypsophilia, and Baby’s Breath*



Bank of the Arts 2024-2025 Schedule

December– Rhona Beadle

January-Jan Cahoon & Mary Ann Keffenberger

February– Paula Hartman

March-Debbie Durham

April-

May-

Please contact Gail McLamb to complete this list!

## Garden Therapy November 2024

TWGC volunteers were at Ridge (Croatan) in November, spreading cheer, cookies and juice and creating lovely fall wreaths for the residents to enjoy.



## **Garden Therapy Schedule 2024-2025**

Monday, December 16, 2024 10am – Pinecone Arrangements  
Brookdale, 1336 S. Glenburnie Road Karen Kimball 603-438-1839

Monday, January 13, 2025 10am – Pinecone Bird Feeders Golden  
Heights, 603 West Street Paula Hartman 252-670-3233

Monday, February 17, 2025 10am – Pinecone Arrangements Homeplace,  
1309 McCarthy Blvd Annette Daugherty 252-671-7112

Monday, March 17, 2025 10am – Pinecone Bird Feeders Monarch, 1320  
Health Drive Dawn Staats 215-577-4576

Monday, April 14, 2025 10am – Plant Vegetable Garden River Point  
Crest, 2600 Old Cherry Point Road Karen Kimball 603-438-1839

## Seasonal Design November 2024 by Elizabeth Lassiter



### Seasonal Design Schedule

December– Rhona Beadle & Deb Tallman

January– Judy Lott

February - Annette Daugherty

March –Ann Simpson

April –Karen Kimball

May—tbd

## Monthly Program November 2024

TWGC members had the pleasure of seeing and hearing New Bern in Bloom part 2 by our own Amy Rose White. Her delightful presentation follows her on her walks through New Bern and her beautiful photos of the flora that surrounds us!



As you may know, TWGC members have a great many interests. Our own Maureen Loomer, has become a board member at Lost Meadows Mule Refuge. Shown here is Maureen with Suds.



## Eastern Plantain-eater



Bird of the Month

December 2024 by Michael Creedon

## Turaco

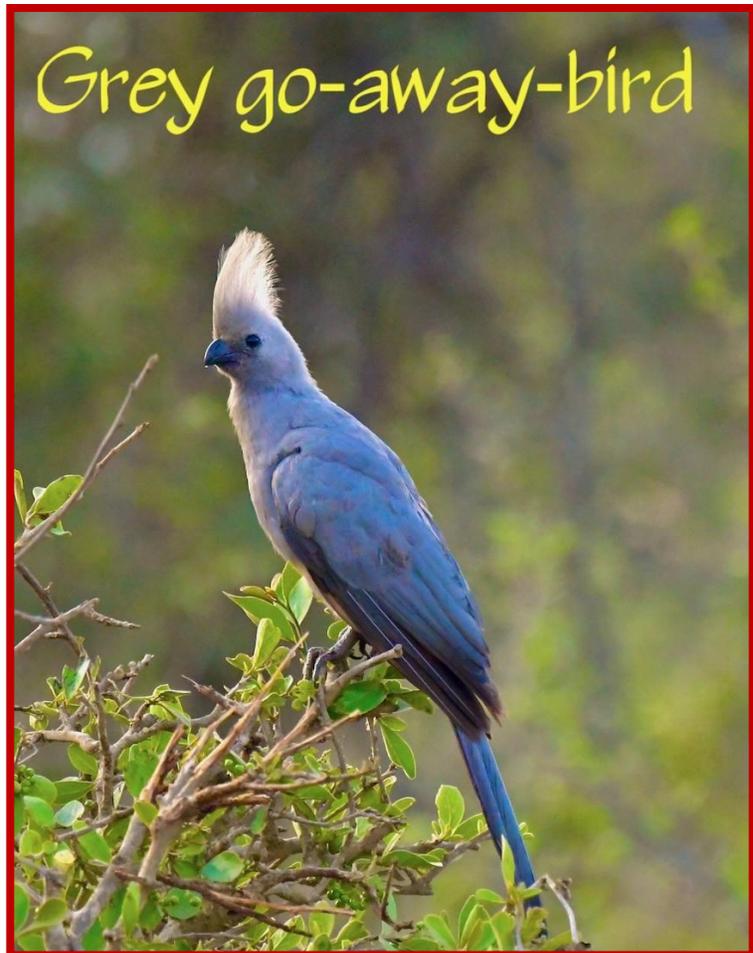
Turacos are a family of birds' endemic to sub-Saharan Africa. The family name, Musophagidae, translates to “banana eaters”, even though they rarely ever eat a banana. It also includes go-away-birds and Plantain eaters. This family often have prominent crests and long tails, called Louries by local Africans. Turacos are noted for peculiar and unique pigments giving them remarkably bright green and red iridescent feathers.

Musophagidae are one of the very few bird family's endemic to Africa, with Turacos having 23 species.

All species are frugivorous, but they also eat leaves, buds and flowers. Figs are an important element of their diet. They have rounded wings, long tails and strong legs, making them poor fliers, but excellent runners. They spend their time entirely in trees, in search of fruit.



## Grey go-away-bird



They are gregarious and non-migratory, moving in family groups of up to 10. Many species are noisy, which is how the go-away-birds received their name.



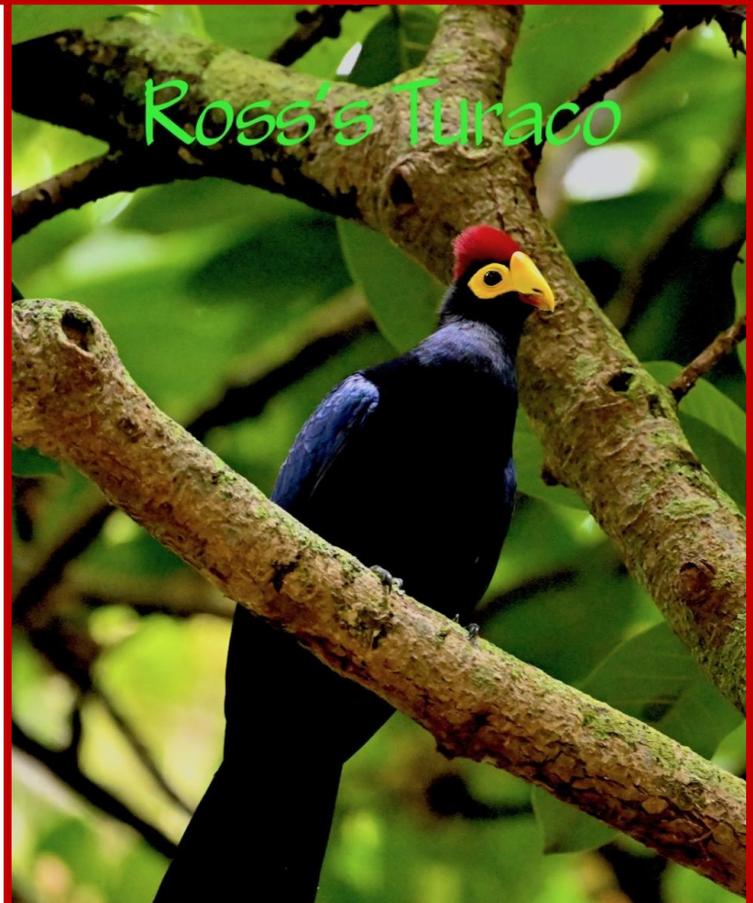
## Bird of the Month continued

Most are medium sized birds, length ranging from 16 to 30 inches. Weak flyers, but strong climbers, they move nimbly on branches and through vegetation. Juveniles are able to clamber about at an early age, and have claws on their wings to help them climb.

They form monogamous pairs, bonding for life, and build large stick nests in trees, laying 2 to 3 eggs. Young hatch after incubating 16 to 30 days, with thick down and open eyes. They fledge between 4 and 6 weeks, becoming sexually mature in one

year. The plumage of go-away and plantain eaters is mainly grey. Turacos on the other hand are brightly colored birds, mainly blue, green or purple.

They live to an age of 15 to 20 years in the wild, but in captivity they are long-lived, easily reaching 37 years. Due to their extensive range and relatively large population, they do not meet the definition of threatened. Their main threats are habitat loss, hybridization, trade and hunting. While eagles, owls,



falcons and chimpanzees are the most common predator, humans are the most dangerous. They have been hunted for centuries for food and tribal wear.

# **Bulletin Board**

## **Garden Therapy**

Please contact Karen Kimball to volunteer for Garden Therapy!

## **Seasonal Design**

Please contact Mary Florence to sign up!

## **Bank of the Arts**

Please contact Gail McLamb to sign up!

## **Beautification**

Please contact Sue Wyatt to volunteer!

## **Garden Bees**

Please contact Karen Powers to donate old garden tools for the kids to use and volunteer!

## **Spring Tea**

Will be held March 29, 2025

## Horticulture Corner-December 2024

By Maureen Loomer

*If I could only have you near To breathe a sigh or two  
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love On this winter night with you  
And to be once again with you*

-- "Song for a Winter's Night" --Gordon Lightfoot, Canadian Singer/Songwriter

With December, we finish another season of colorful annuals and tender herbs while our woody herbs (looking at YOU, lavenders and rosemary's!) may rest a bit. I love nothing better than to see blooms on an old rosemary plant on a crisp winter afternoon. And rubbing my hands on the foliage is pure refreshment. Our garden centers usually carry rosemary groomed as miniature Christmas trees, which are very nice to have indoors. Marcia Sproul and I have been known to run into each other prowling the aisles of Lowe's Garden Center to snatch the "on sale" rosemary's in January. Don't be afraid to put one in a sunny garden spot since here in zone 8, perennials can be planted any time the soil is workable.

Planting in the late fall or spring allows plants to establish roots before the summer heat, which can help them survive summer heat and drought. In addition to perennials, you can also plant cold-resistant flowers like pansies, violas, winter iris, jasmine, primrose, snowdrops, and (Paula Hartman's favorite!) Lenten rose. <https://carolinacoastalgardens.com/blog/best-time-to-plant-flowers>  
<https://landartsolutions.com/2022/12/01/december-gardening-tips-for-north-carolina/>

You can also plant leafy greens like lettuce, cabbage, kale, spinach, carrots, beets, collard greens, and turnips. <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/New+Bern%2C+North+Carolina/> My father was a native eastern Carolina boy who swore that collards were not worth cooking until they had been hit by frost. I agree with him, but my favorite greens include pointy-headed (also called Shark-head) cabbage and spinach (sorry, kale. I just never developed the taste.).

Our Farmer's Market is a great resource for winter veg. And I do mean ALL winter (usually only hindered by heavy rain). Shout out to Stephen who grows great spinach and baby turnips, and to Andy, who has the BEST Bok Choy I have EVER tasted. If you think you don't like this Chinese Cabbage, please buy some of Andy's and try a little stir-fry with sesame seed oil. You won't regret it! <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/218619/easy-bok-choy/>

While I'm speaking of food, please remember those who may be struggling with hunger and support the charity of your choice. My personal favorites are the Salvation Army and ENC Food Bank. Until next time...

## How do I protect my landscape plants over the cold winter months?

*By Judi Lloyd*

We cannot get complacent about the very mild winters we've enjoyed for the past few years. But, if you've been here in eastern North Carolina for more than just these last warm winters, you know that we can get some wildly cold and icy surprise weather! Luckily for us gardeners, our plants are tough. Perennials store most of their energy at or below the soil, allowing them to bounce back when Mother Nature throws us a curve ball. The plants we often see damaged when temperatures drop into the teens are those in the *butia capitata* family (common names: butia palm, pindo palm, jelly palm); also, sago palm (which is not actually a palm) and oleander.

Here are a few suggestions to help your marginally hardy plants or plants in active growth survive and recover from freezing temperatures:

The most often used solution is to cover plants with old blankets or frost cover fabric. A sheet of plastic over the blanket will add extra protection by holding the warm air underneath. The covers should go over the plants and all the way down to the ground because the heat you are trying to keep in is in the soil. Just don't let the plastic come in contact with the plant's leaves or it can freeze them.

Pile leaves around your perennial plants. A thick blanket of leaves will help protect marginally hardy perennials.

You may have heard people using ice to insulate plants. This is done by spraying them with water; and supposedly they will be insulated at 32 degrees inside the ice coating. This is actually a more complex process than it sounds and it is best that you do not try this in your home garden. It is used most often with horticultural crops.

You will need patience as your plants recover. It may take from 3-6 weeks before you see new growth. If in doubt, give them more time. If you think they are really gone, lift them with a shovel. If the crown under the soil is soft and mushy, it's finished. If you can see fleshy, healthy roots or new growth, then replant.

Happy Holidays and enjoy whatever time you get to spend outside!

## Smoked Salmon Poke Bites by [www.brit.com](http://www.brit.com)

### Ingredients:

- Seasoned rice crackers
- 1 cup cooked sushi or jasmine rice
- Pickled cucumbers (see below)
- 4 ounces smoked salmon, cut into small sizes
- Sliced avocado
- Pickled ginger
- Finely diced red onion
- Sesame oil, for drizzling

Soy sauce or coconut aminos, for drizzling

### Pickled Cucumbers:

- 1 large cucumber
- 2 teaspoons rice vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar

### Directions:

1. Using a vegetable peeler, thinly peel cucumber into strips, excluding the seed center.
2. To pickle the cucumbers, add sliced cucumber into a small bowl along with rice vinegar and sugar, and toss to coat. Let marinate for at least ten minutes.
3. To layer the bites, gently add a spoonful of cooked rice to the top of the cracker. Next, add pickled cucumbers folded on top, then a piece of smoked salmon, sliced avocado, and pickled ginger, and top with diced red onion. Continue until all crackers are layered.
4. For extra flavor, drizzle a small amount of sesame oil and soy sauce on top of each layered bite.

Pro tip: Toss any extra ingredients into a bowl to make a poke bowl you can enjoy for lunch!