



Trent Woods Garden Club

March 2025

Welcome to March! I hope spring is here to stay!

As we step into the month of March, let's look at all the opportunities that we have to serve our club and community. This is the perfect time to start prepping your garden for the vibrant season ahead. I know absolutely nothing about growing vegetables, but here are some tips for those of you who do grow your own veggies. I am going to try to grow more vegetables this year. We'll see how successful I am. Any of you who have tips for me, they are always welcome. Here are some tips I found:

Garden Prep Tips

Soil Health: Test your soil's pH levels and add compost to enrich it.

Seed Starting: Begin sowing seeds indoors. Tomatoes, peppers, and marigolds are great choices!

Tool Maintenance: Sharpen and clean your tools to ensure they're ready for the busy season.

Upcoming Events

March 13th: Spring Seed Swap - Bring your extra seeds and swap them for new varieties! Please label with what seeds they are and who they are coming from. If you bring seeds, you may take home new seeds that you will always remember from one of our club members.

March 13th: Cathy Gresham will be our guest speaker. She will show us how to preserve our flower arrangements so they will last longer. Don't miss this insightful demonstration.

March 17th: Garden Therapy- location-Monarch- leader- Annette Daugherty- please sign up to help if you are available.

March 29th: We have our most important fundraiser for our scholarship fund. Our tea will be from 2-4 on Saturday.

Many of you have already volunteered to help with the tea. I hope others will step up to see if there is anything that they could do. Buy a ticket for yourself. If you can't attend, buy a ticket for a friend or neighbor who would enjoy coming but wouldn't spend the money on themselves. There's always a way each of us can help.

March is the perfect time to enjoy the cheerful blooms of daffodils. These sunny flowers are not only beautiful but also low maintenance. Plant them in well-drained soil and watch as they brighten up your garden. I learned recently that the syrupy substance that comes out of daffodil stems is poisonous to other flowers if used in an arrangement. To avoid this problem, put your daffodil flowers in a vase, separately. For about three hours. All the toxic substances will seep out and you can use these stems in arrangements with other flowers.

We love hearing from our members. Share your garden photos with Deb Tallman to add to our monthly newsletter. Let's grow together!

Happy Gardening!

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

March 13, 2025

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

“Extending Floral Life”

How to condition and prolong the life of commonly used flowers to build a design for an entrance table

Presented by

Kathy Gresham, Floral Designer
Floral Design Institute, and NGC Flower Show

Menu

1. Country Club Salad- Mixed baby field greens, Portobello mushrooms, gorgonzola cheese, red onion, sun-dried tomatoes, toasted walnuts and pine nuts tossed with balsamic vinaigrette and finished with a pesto drizzle

-or-

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

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by

Tuesday March 11th and indicate your choice to

judysboyd@embarqmail.com

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

Meeting only \$10.

Trent Woods Garden Club Presents a

Spring Tea

Saturday March 29, 2025 2-4 pm

at Broad St Christian Church,

802 Broad St., New Bern, NC

This event will include delicious savory and sweet nibbles, teas, lovely set tables, delightful raffle items and a wonderful afternoon with new and old friends.

TWGC is raising money for our scholarship fund

If you are interested in attending please contact either Rhona Beadle at rhonab451@gmail.com or Deb Tallman at Deborah_t_07760@yahoo.com

\$25.00 tickets are on a first come basis
cash or check only, TWGC is a 501c charitable organization

Raffle is cash only

Please arrive between 1-1:30pm, Tea service will begin at 2pm



You're Invited!

Thursday, April 17 2025 at 4 pm

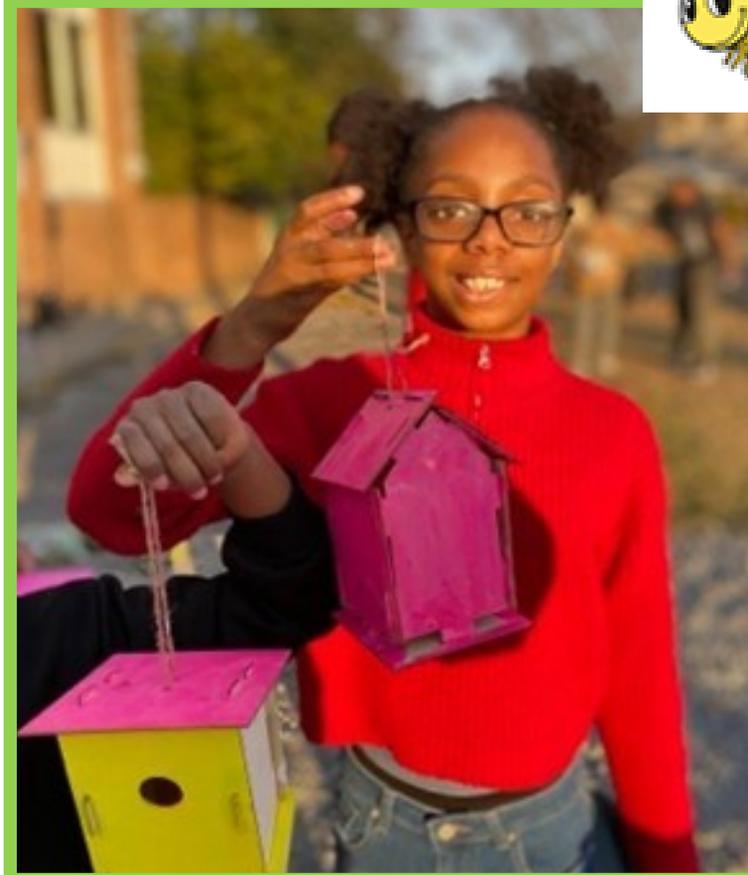
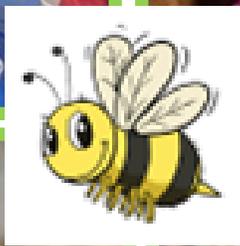
Rachel Tipton of Harborside Garden at 15495 NC-55 Bayboro
is hosting us again for our Annual Garden Event.

Rachel will share spring planting advice, how-to gardening strategies,
and offer us the first pick of her lovely annuals, perennials, scrubs,
and trees. And of course, she will serve us some delicious appetizers
and drinks.

Please contact Ann Hall so that she can give Rachel a head count, and
we can plan carpooling.

Garden Bees Youth Gardeners February 2025 by Karen Powers

After an unseasonable cold, snowy, and icy early February causing postponement of our scheduled February meeting, mother nature treated us to a spectacularly warm Tuesday to finally hold our meeting. The youth club eagerly hopped off the bus and immediately threw on their aprons and gloves. Half of the group started assembling their bird houses and then chose their colors to paint their constructed houses. The other half pulled up the recently picked broccoli plants and cleared the bed except for a few cabbage plants whose heads weren't quite large enough to pick. They then began planting potatoes into this bed. The two teams then switched positions. While the one group began building and painting their bird houses, the other group harvested the second crop of collards as well as the last of the radishes, carrots, and lettuce. They then finished planting the potatoes. The pulled plants were added to the compost pile and the remaining beds were cleared and prepared for spring plantings in March once the risk for frost is no more. Prior to heading home, they enjoyed eating the raw broccoli doused in Ranch Dressing. In addition to their proudly made bird houses, many of the members were excited to take home bags of collards, broccoli, radishes, and carrots to share with their families.





Bank of the Arts
February 2025 by Paula Hartman
“Love is in the Air”



TRENT WOODS GARDEN CLUB
PAULA HARTMAN

Garden Therapy February 2025

TWGC volunteers had a wonderful time visiting with the residents of HomePlace in February. Annette Dougherty was our coordinator for this fun activity. The residents created floral and pinecone arrangements with the assistance of our volunteers. Following a delicious snack of juice and homemade cookies, residents and volunteers enjoyed singing some favorite classic songs.



Induction

Let's all welcome our new members Sheila Kahramanian and Janet Jonah!



Garden Therapy Schedule 2025

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

Monthly Program February 2025

“Rotating Vegetable Crops”

A presentation about maintaining the Kitchen Garden at Tryon Palace

Presented by

David Hite from Tryon Palace



Seasonal Design February 2025

By Annette Daugherty



Seasonal Design Schedule

March –Ann Simpson

April –Karen Kimball

May—tbd

Black-faced Ibis



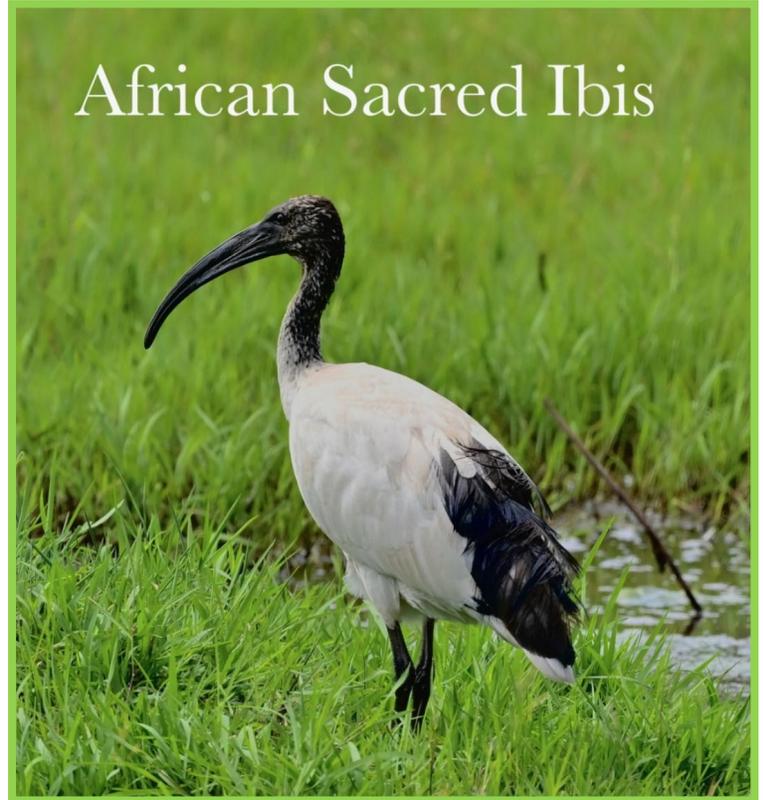
feed as a group, probing mud for food items, usually crustaceans. They are found in regions spanning across the globe, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The primary

March 2025 Bird of the Month

Ibis by Michael Creedon

Ibises are a group of long-legged wading birds inhabiting wetlands, forests and plains. Ibises all have long down curved bills, and usually

African Sacred Ibis



White-faced Ibis



Southern Bald Ibis



reason for their wide distribution is their unique ability to adapt to diverse ecosystems.

Its presence can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where the Sacred Ibis was revered as a symbol of the god

Thoth. Thoth took the form of an Ibis to guide the souls of the deceased to the afterlife. There are 29 living species, with colors ranging from white to gray and vibrant shades of red and blue. The

Hadada Ibis



Glossy Ibis



American White Ibis is predominant in the southeastern U.S., from Virginia to Texas.

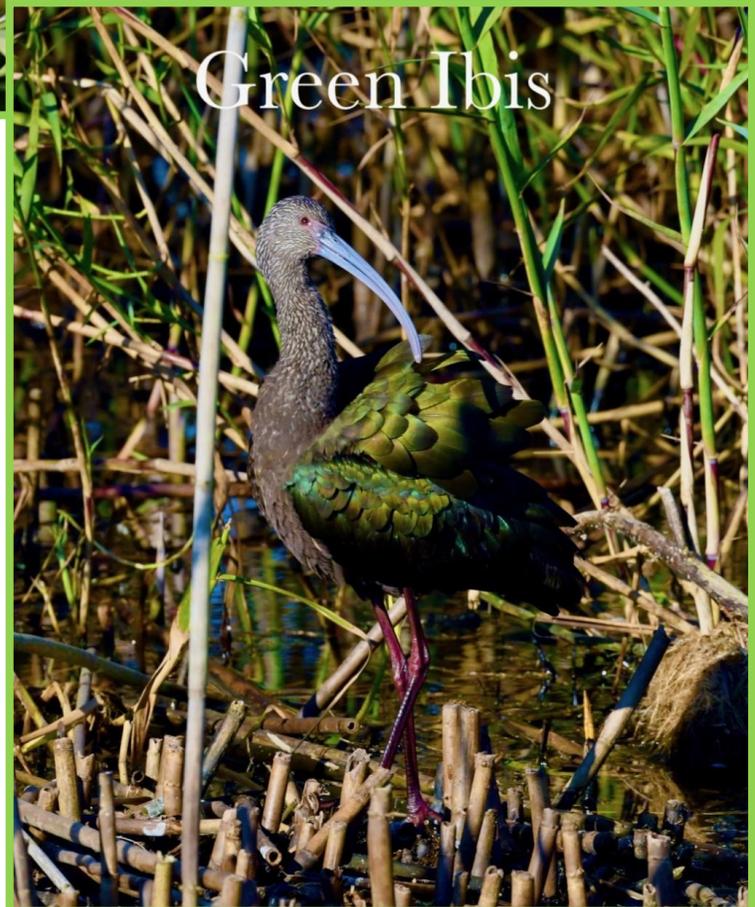
Australian Ibis



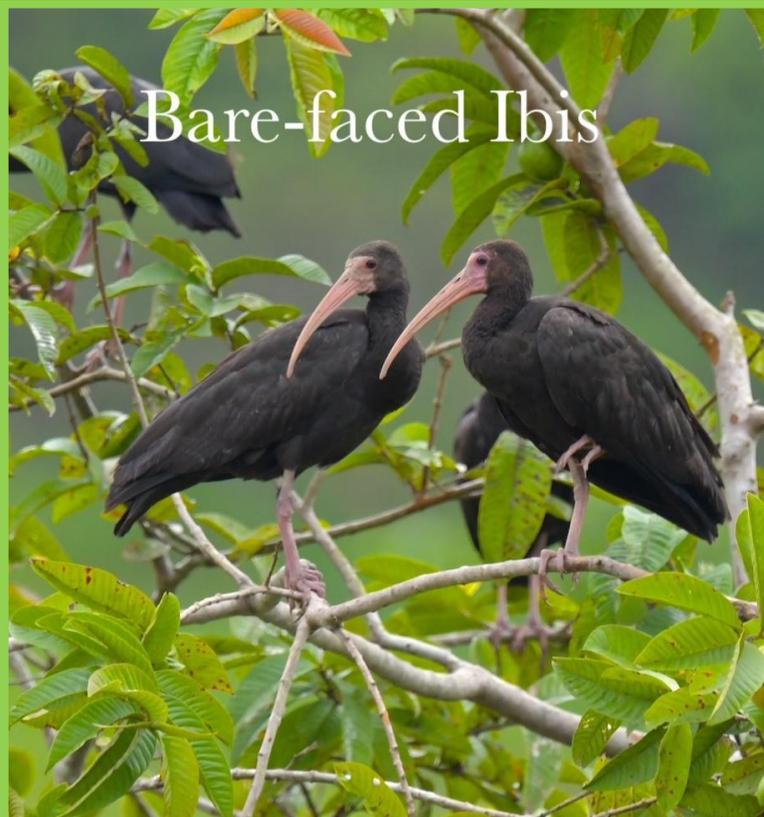
Ibises are monogamous, gathering in huge colonies, think 10,000 birds, near water in breeding season. Both sexes have identical plumage, although the male is significantly larger. Breeding success de-

pends on rainfall and water levels. Low water levels provide more muddy flats for food, high waters reduce that. Predators such as the Fish Crow, Grackles,

Green Ibis



Bare-faced Ibis



Hérons as well as opossums will steal anywhere from 10 to 75% of eggs and chicks.

Andean Ibis



White Ibis



An Ibis's day consists of 11 hours looking for food, 13 hours resting. Their life span is up to 20 years. While the preferred food is crustaceans, they are omnivorous. They will eat insects, i.e. grasshoppers, beetles and dragonflies, as well as plant material, such as seeds, fruits and vegetation. As previously mentioned, they are adaptable. Their wing-span ranges from 3 to 5 feet, enabling long distance flight to migrate.

A trip to the shore would give you an opportunity to see this special bird. They could be found in any field on the way, or any marshland near the sea. Enjoy!



Horticulture and Environmental Concerns March 2025

By Maureen Loomer

“A chorus of sparrows in summer is how I remember you”

—Michael Franks, American singer/
songwriter

Daffodil is March’s traditional birth flower. Jonquil refers to a variety of daffodil and both are frequently called narcissus which is the genus to which they belong (<https://www.almanac.com/content/march-birth-flower>).

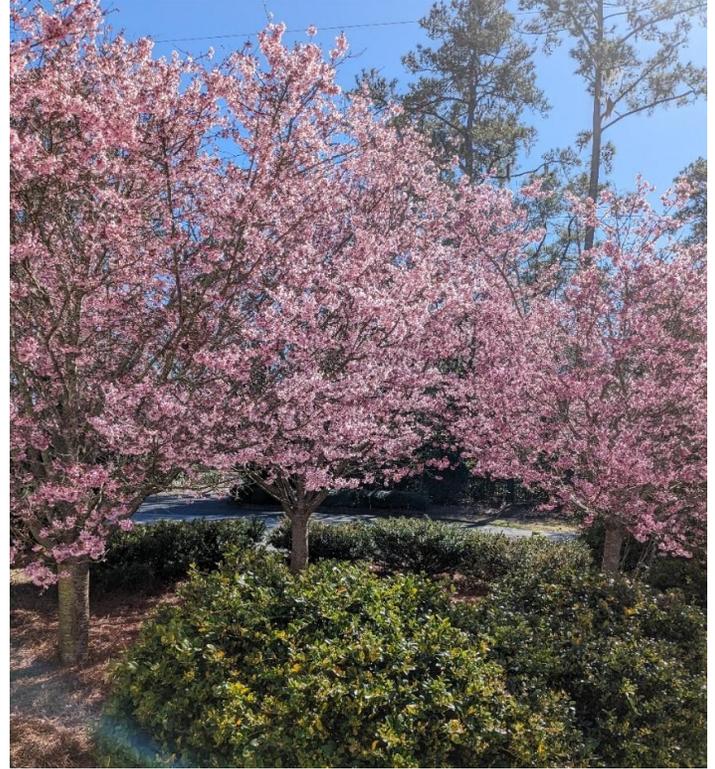
Like pansies, violets, and violas... oh my.

In Wales, legend says that those who see the first daffodil of the season will be

blessed with wealth in the coming year. Daffodils are also a traditional symbol of Wales and are often worn with the leek, especially on St. David’s Day (March 1), when the flowers often first appear.

To me leeks say “vichyssoise”. Imagine wearing a leek???

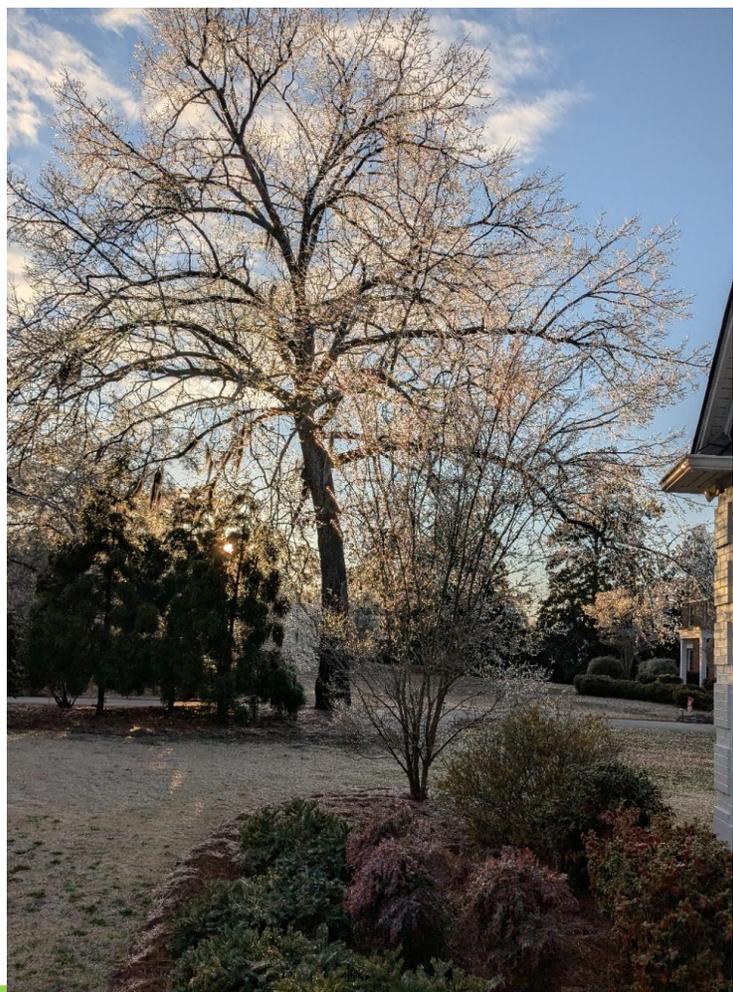
I’m glad to see the cherry trees that were blasted by last week’s ice storm have resumed their bloom. At least four varieties of cherries do very well here in eastern NC (<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/growing-cherry-trees>). Not only are the blossoms a cheerful sign of spring, they are also an important food source for pollinator insects AND birds attracted by the nectar (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/birds-and-cherry-blossom-trees.htm>). Later, birds will eat the fruits. My personal favorites are the Kwanson (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan') and the Yoshino (*Prunus x yedoensis*). I had both at my home in Goldsboro.



Horticulture and Environmental Concerns (continued)

The food supply dwindles for seed/fruit-eating animals during the cusp between winter and spring, so I'm not surprised at the increased traffic at the bird feeders. The five orioles (two boys, three girls) are still here, and I've seen white throated sparrows although I haven't heard them sing yet. We also have pine warblers and kinglets.

Someone recently told me I should worry about coyotes or raccoons being attracted to the food I put out. I pointed out that I use pepper-treated seed and suet. Birds are insensitive to the chemical "heat" of peppers that tend to repel mammals and are important to spreading the seeds of many capsicum species ([https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(02\)00637-2](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(02)00637-2)). Curious squirrels may sometimes sample my feeders but then run to the birdbath to wash their mouths out. Our next door neighbor has a beautiful fig tree that attracts deer, foxes, and coyotes in summer.



Several Trent Woods, River Bend, and other neighborhoods suffered electrical power outages during the last storm. Duke Power reported that some, if not all, outages were caused by trees or limbs damaging their equipment. We are grateful for their hard work to get the power on and keeping the power lines free of tree interference.

Please keep a thought for our neighbors in WNC still struggling with the fallout from Hurricane Helene and now, with wild-fires.

Until next time...

...in my garden

Doug Longhini has been busy. He built and installed this tuteur in Raye-Lynn's mediterranean garden area. Nicely done Doug!



Bulletin Board

Spring Tea

March 29, 2025

Tickets are \$25. per person

Reservations (with payment) open to TWGC members only 2/15 –3/1

Reservations will open to general public March 2nd.

Your check (made out to TWGC) or cash must be received by Rhona Beadle to hold your reservation.

We need floral designers, Please see Paula Hartman

Kitchen Aids, Please see Karen Powers

Thank you everyone! Let's make this fundraiser even better than last year!

Magic Bars

- Cooking spray
- **18** (2 sleeves) graham crackers, crushed
- **6 Tbsp.** unsalted butter, melted
- **1/4 cup** sugar
- **1** (14 oz) can condensed milk
- **1 1/2 cups** chocolate chips, such as semisweet, white or assorted, divided
- **1 1/2 cups** chopped nuts, such as pecans or walnuts, divided
- **2 cups** unsweetened coconut flakes

1 Directions

1. **Step 1** Preheat the oven to 350 °F. Grease a 9 x 9” baking dish with cooking spray, then line dish with parchment paper up and over the sides, with a slight overhang. Grease the parchment again.
2. **Step 2** In a medium bowl, mix the graham crackers, butter and sugar until the mixture resembles wet sand. Press the graham cracker mixture into the bottom of the prepared baking dish.
3. **Step 3** In an even layer, drizzle condensed milk over the crust, then top with half the chocolate chips and half the nuts. Add all of the coconut, then top with the remaining chips and nuts.

Step 4 Transfer the baking dish to the oven, and bake until the chocolate has melted and the crust has browned, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool. Cut into squares and serve.