

Petal Pusher



The
Landings
Garden
Club

Beautification, Conservation, Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:15 - 10:00 AM Meet & Greet

10:00 - 10:45 General Meeting

**10:45 - Program - Pat Hackney,
Friends of the Coastal Gardens**

Look for exciting Field Trip
information in next month's
issue...

President's Message

Good morning from The Hamptons!

For several years now, we have been fortunate to visit the beautiful Hamptons on Long Island, NY. Our son's birthday falls on July 6, and he has taken over the celebration of July 4th week, coinciding with the USA's festivities. What began as a week-long visit has now expanded into a full month. Life is indeed wonderful!

This marks my first official correspondence as President, and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve. Over the past few months, amidst our vacations, Vicki and I have been working on the transition, and I'd like to share a few updates.

Vicki's two years as President infused The Landings Garden Club with incredible energy. She is one of the most caring individuals I have ever encountered, and her enthusiasm for plants, gardening, and community was evident throughout the club. During her leadership, we experienced record attendance at meetings and events. Vicki will be a tough act to follow, but she will remain close by, continuing her contributions on the executive board as well as Awards Chair and coordinator of Whine (Wine) & Weeds.

After three years, Karyn Rohan has stepped down as Treasurer. I'm pleased to announce that Martha Nesmith has graciously accepted this position and has been approved by the executive board to serve as Treasurer for the 2025-2027 term. I want to extend my thanks to Karyn for her years of dedicated service and warmly welcome Martha into this role. The three of us have been working diligently to ensure a seamless transition.

The Vice President position is currently open. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please reach out to me. This is a long-term commitment, as the VP eventually transitions to President. If the duration is a concern, we can reassess and adjust the tenure as needed. It took me some time to commit, but now I'm truly excited about the possibilities ahead. We have so many talented members, so I encourage you to consider stepping up to serve as Vice President.

I would also like to welcome Beth Weathers as the Fundraising Committee Chair (previously known as Ways & Means). The executive board has been brainstorming various ideas to raise funds for our community projects. My vision is to create diverse fundraising opportunities where members can form sub-committees to support each project, ensuring that the responsibility doesn't rest solely on a few individuals. This is just a suggestion, and I look forward to seeing the innovative ideas Beth will bring to enhance this essential role.

President's Message continued on pg. 2...

Presidents Message cont...

Barbara Victor and Judy Painter have been hard at work organizing programs for our monthly meetings, and they are nearly finalized. It promises to be an informative and enjoyable year ahead!

We are also planning several Field Trips, so keep an eye out for more details. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to share.

Our first meeting is scheduled for September 22 at the Messiah Lutheran Church, with the wonderful Jen Johnson hosting our morning hospitality. Our guest speaker will be Pat Hackney from the Friends of the Coastal Gardens. This will be an exciting kickoff to our 2025-2026 year!

This summer, I have been analyzing and updating our website, which has proven to be more challenging than expected. While learning Yola, I discovered that over the years, members have posted duplicate information across various sections. I am dedicated to cleaning this up and ensuring easy access with straightforward navigation through the topics and links.

Additionally, I have been enhancing our social media presence. Our Facebook page, maintained by Diane Benson (thank you!), is currently linked to her personal account, so we need to establish it as an independent entity. We also need to update our Instagram account, as the current one does not offer free access. I'm collaborating with my son, who has a strong social media presence, to refine all aspects of our online engagement. In our effort to attract new members while keeping our current ones, it's essential that we are easily accessible and relevant in the realm of social media.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to serve as your president. You all make this garden club truly special. It's going to be a fantastic year!

Happy Gardening,
Gayle



Inspire to Grow Through Beautification, Preservation, Conservation, & Education

Please Take Note, Some Changes for The Landings Garden Club...

Mail Address Update

We have been using a PO Box at the main Mail Center on Eisenhower Drive. Excitingly, Gayle discovered that the Landings Association offers a mailbox for our club at no cost and with no annual fee...WOW, great job Gayle!

Our new address is:

*The Landings Garden Club
c/o The Landings Association
600 Landings Way South
Savannah, GA 31411*



Banking Update

We transitioned our banking needs from Truist Bank, Mall Blvd. branch to Chase Bank Skidaway Island
35 Meeting Street
Savannah, GA 31411



Please make a note of these changes for any future club mailings or banking needs

Horticulture: Hort Short

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz, Horticulture Chair



Did you know that there is an annual Pollinator Census held every August? This initiative, which began in 2017, originally included Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This year, Alabama will join, bringing the total to five southeastern states participating.

The project was initiated by Becky Griffin, UGA Project Coordinator, to assist teachers in identifying insects. Since then, it has broadened to encompass all areas of **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).

How to Participate

You don't need to be a student to join in! You can register at gsepc.org.

Here, you will find:

- Instructions for participation
- Counting sheets
- Identification sheets



To take part, simply select a blooming plant and count for 15 minutes sometime during the day on either August 22 or 23, the number of pollinators you see. I usually participate from indoors, as I can easily observe my pollinator garden from my dining room window. Each year, I choose a different plant, but I've noticed that salvias tend to attract the most activity in my garden.

I encourage you to explore the website and consider participating in this citizen science project, which contributes valuable data to UGA's insect database.

Happy Counting!

Meg Kettlitz, Horticulture Chair



**Volunteers
needed**

To assist with the following events:

The Landings Landlovers Opening Reception

September 15, Palmetto Ballroom / 5:30 - 7:00 pm

*Volunteers needed to assist with membership applications & table decorations

Skidaway Marine Science Day

October 11, UGA Marine Education Center & Aquarium / 10:00 - 3:00 pm

30 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah 31411

*We will be sharing a information table with Coastal Botanical Gardens

Our First "Done In A Day" Project - contact Gayle for more information at:
landingsgardenclub@gmail.com

Community Service

Submitted by Georgia Kluzier

Georgia Regional Hospital is truly grateful for the generous donations from this club. They sent me a lovely letter that I would like to share with you...



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

Georgia Regional Hospital | Savannah

To the Landings Garden Club,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Fakatupufo'ou Tangi, and I serve as the Volunteer Coordinator at Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah (GRHS). I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donations of hot cocoa, DVDs, CDs, and activity materials. Your support has truly made a positive impact on the individuals we serve. Thanks to your contribution of hot cocoa, we've been able to host "Hot Cocoa Wednesdays" during our weekly coffee hour. This has quickly become a favorite time for many of our patients, offering a comforting and enjoyable way to socialize and unwind. The DVDs you donated have expanded our entertainment options significantly, giving patients access to a wider variety of movies and shows than our existing collection could offer.

Additionally, the activity materials have supported a range of therapeutic and recreational programming—such as arts and crafts sessions, game nights, and structured group activities. These programs encourage creativity, social interaction, and skill development, all of which are vital to the healing and recovery process.

Our patients are always excited when new donations arrive. The anticipation and appreciation they show highlight how much your kindness means to them. Your generosity reminds them that they are not forgotten and that there are people in the community who care deeply about their well-being.

We are truly grateful for your support and hope to continue this meaningful relationship in the future. Donations like yours help us to provide enriching experiences and meet the everyday needs of our patients in ways that would not otherwise be possible.

If you have any questions or are interested in making additional donations, please feel free to contact me at fakatupufoou.tangi@dbhdd.ga.gov or (912) 661-3572. I would be happy to speak with you further. Thank you once again for your continued support and generosity.

Warm regards,

Fakatupufo'ou Tangi
Volunteer Coordinator
Georgia Regional Hospital Savannah
e mail: fakatupufoou.tangi@dbhdd.ga.gov
phone: (912) 661-3572

1915 Eisenhower Drive | Savannah, Georgia 31406 | 912.356.2045 | dbhdd.georgia.gov

Heartfelt Condolences

We offer our sincerest condolences to Jane Goltz and her family following the unexpected passing of her husband, Jim. Jane served as the President of The Landings Garden Club from 2019 to 2020, dedicating her time to a variety of committees. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Goltz family during this challenging time.



Furthermore, we wish to extend our sympathies to Vicky Kramer and her family on the loss of her husband. Vicky played a vital role in coordinating the Anderson Cancer Institute with our garden club to create the Serenity Garden, which continues to be cherished by many.

Serenity Gardens

Submitted by Martha Nesmith

The Serenity Garden is thriving with vibrant summer flowers that were planted in June. Although the weather has disrupted our gardening schedules, the rain has ultimately benefited the garden's growth. We have replaced the aging Snapdragons with colorful Impatiens, and the Salvia planted in late spring is looking fantastic. The Ivy in the decorative urns continues to gracefully wind around the trellises, filling in beautifully.

During our on-site work, we frequently observe staff members and patient's families enjoying the garden. The children particularly delight in watching the KOI fish and admiring the small garden statues placed by workers and families of patients. The Serenity Garden is truly a year-round treasure for everyone visiting and working at the Anderson Cancer Center.

Amanda and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, as well as those interested in joining this incredibly meaningful committee. We couldn't accomplish this work without the support of our amazing volunteers!



Sparrow Field



Submitted by Dawn Cordo

Volunteers dedicate every Friday morning for an hour to help this community treasure thrive. The pollinator berm at Sparrow Field has never looked better, thanks to the installation of weed block in areas prone to weeds.

We invite you to explore this natural habitat, for which the Landings Garden Club has received numerous awards and recognition for our ongoing maintenance efforts. If you have a passion for wildlife observation, Sparrow Field is home to a diverse array of visitors in all shapes and sizes. A special thank you to Fitz Clarke for capturing these beautiful photos of some of our wildlife guests.

We have a fantastic time while making a positive impact in our community. If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Dawn Cordo at cordodawn@gmail.com.



White Peacock Butterfly



Southern Leopard Frog



Great Blue Skimmer

Our "work party" gathers at 9:00 AM every Friday morning. You can find Sparrow Field off Bartram Road, directly across from Pettigrew Drive. Please note that parking is limited, so we encourage the use of golf carts. If you're unable to "play in the dirt," we also have two informational kiosks that require updates with details and images of the island's flora and fauna.

Skidaway Farm Project to Feed the Hungry

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz



We had a final warm season harvest in May. We harvested all of the Early Girl Tomatoes then removed the plants, weeded and covered the plot for summer. This will allow the soil to rest and be ready for our fall planting in late September.

Our May harvest was very successful resulting in:

- 21 lbs of tomatoes
- 2.5 lbs of sweet peppers
- 15 lbs of lettuce
- 2 lbs of radishes
- 2 lbs of cabbage

And, we did this all avoiding major pest issues or weather damage!



In September I will conduct a soil sample to make sure the soil does not need any amendments. We will plan to start our cool season planting in October.



There has been a change to the non-profit that our vegetables are donated to. This change occurred in May and all harvested vegetables are now going to the Union Mission Kitchen in downtown Savannah. They provide 700 meals a week and greatly appreciate our fresh produce.

If you are interested in assisting with ongoing activities at the garden at Skidaway Farms, please reach out to Meg Kettlitz.



More News from The Farm...

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz

Did you know that The Landings Garden Club helps to fund the Skidaway Farm Children's Garden? For years, Farmer Jayne and her dedicated team have been teaching children the art of growing their own vegetables. This year, they introduced peanuts to their garden plot and also hosted a talk by the farm's resident beekeeper.

If you have children or grandchildren residing in The Landings, they may find this experience delightful. For more details, visit skidawayfarms.com.



The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

This and That, Tidbits of Interest...

Club Evites, Please RSVP - YES or NO



Looking for something not so local?
Find happenings via: *ClipsGMGA*
(<https://georgiamastergardeners.org>)
Weekly calendar of gardening & botanical
events published by the
Georgia Master Gardeners Association
(GMGA)

Did you know that every second Saturday
the Master Gardeners have a booth at The
Forsyth Farmers Market? Come down with
your gardening questions or just stop by to
say hello and find more about what the
Master Gardener's do in our community



The June TWATL (Volume XLII, No. 46)
has a wonderful article
about Jayne Rogers and her love
for gardening, be sure to check it out!
"Sowing Hope In The Garden"



Sources for finding local Native Plants

*A Georgia Native Plants Guide - Tina M. Samuels
The Georgia Native Plant Society - gnps.org
Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health - Invasive.org
Georgia Invasive Species Council - gainvasivespeciescouncil.org



Mosquitos and No-see-ums...How to Keep Them in Check

Submitted by Joni Brownstein, one Skidaway Gardener to Another

Fun (or not so fun) Facts About Our Local Biters

As any Skidaway gardener will tell you, there are a lot of annoying insects on our beautiful island. Even on the hottest, muggiest days, we suit up in overalls, long sleeves, and bandanas — determined not to get bitten. Yet, as we peel off those sweaty layers, we still find new bites on our skin and fight the urge to scratch one more welt that somehow made it through the armor. Unfortunately, mosquito season is pretty much year-round. It runs from March through November, with peak activity from May to September due to the high heat and humidity. If temperatures stay below 50 degrees in winter, mosquito activity drops sharply — but mild winters often mean no real break.

Before we get into how to keep them away, let's meet a few of our most persistent biters:

Asian Tiger Mosquito



Recognizable by its black-and-white striped legs, the Asian tiger mosquito arrived in the U.S. in the 1980s via shipments of used tires that collected rainwater and mosquito eggs. It spread quickly and is now invasive across much of the Southeast, including Savannah. Unlike most mosquitoes, it feeds all day long. While disease transmission here is rare, it can carry dengue, chikungunya, and Zika.

This mosquito is most active from dusk till dawn, quietly feeding while people sleep. It can transmit West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and dog heartworm. It thrives in stagnant, organic-rich water like storm drains and ditches. The female is drawn to carbon dioxide and body odor, and its high-pitched buzz is often your only warning!

Southern House Mosquito



No-see-ums (Biting Midges)



These tiny gnats are most active at dawn and dusk — especially on humid, windless days. Like mosquitoes, only the females bite (they need blood to develop their eggs). Males feed solely on plant nectar.

How to Fight Back Without Dousing Everything in Chemicals

There's no silver bullet — but there's plenty we can do. These strategies help make your yard a lot less friendly to mosquitoes and gnats so you can better enjoy those summer nights:

Mosquito Dunks: For spots you can't drain - birdbaths, rain barrels, tucked away ponds. These donut-shaped tablets contain a naturally occurring bacteria that kills mosquito larvae but leaves fish, birds, pets, and pollinators alone. One dunk covers about 100 square feet and lasts about a month.



Garlic Spray: Crush a few garlic cloves and soak them in water overnight. Strain and mix with a gallon of water. Add a tiny bit of soap or mineral oil to help it stick to leaves. Lightly mist shrubs or porch rails (but avoid delicate flowers). The garlic smell fades quickly for us, but not for the mosquitoes.

Fight Back Mosquito Solutions, cont...

Grow a Little Protection: Plant lavender, lemongrass, marigolds, mint, basil, rosemary, catnip, or native beauty berry. Mosquitos dislike the scent. Tuck these near patios and walkways so you catch their fragrance when you walk by. Crushing a leaf releases more oils.

Keep Air Circulating: Mosquitos and gnats aren't strong fliers, so a simple porch fan can make a big difference. Tabletop battery-powered fans with soft blades and reflective strips also help - the movement and light confuse flying insects.



Call in the Backyard Allies: Birds, bats, and dragonflies all eat mosquitoes and gnats. Add a bird feeder or bat house if you can. A small pond can attract dragonflies - excellent natural pest control.

Chemical and Plant Based Repellents:

Sometimes we need to bring out the big guns: DEET works for both mosquitoes and gnats, and Picaridin is another solid option. Yard sprays and foggers knock bugs down fast, but can harm beneficial insects as well so use with caution.

Heat-Activated Repellent Devices:

Devices like Theracell emit a mosquito and gnat repelling vapor. No scent, no sticky skin. Most of these devices use allethrin (a version of natural insecticide from chrysanthemums). It protects the area around you without being sprayed on your skin or yard.



Plant Based Oils: Citronella (from lemongrass) helps mask scents that attract mosquitoes. Candles and torches are popular options. Lemon eucalyptus oil is another plant-based alternative. Most sprays use PMD (a refined version) to block mosquitoes from detecting human scent - particularly carbon dioxide and skin odors.

Do Mosquito Repellents Work on Gnats?

Sometimes, but not always. Many mosquito repellents also help reduce gnat bites, especially those containing DEET; Picardin; and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE/PMD)

But gnats, especially no-see-ums, are more stubborn than mosquitoes. They often bite through clothing and are harder to repel with scent alone.

Is There a Specific Gnat Repellent?

YES - look for products specifically marketed for no-see-ums, biting midges, or sandflies:

Picaridin-based sprays (Sawyer, Natrapel)

Avon Skin So Soft Bug Guard (surprisingly effective)

Permethrin-treated clothing (repels gnats, ticks, and mosquitoes)

Thermacell devices with allethrin (repel mosquitoes and gnats)



Here's to fewer bites and more breezy nights on our porches



The Landings Garden Club Mission

- To function as an educational organization interested in all phases of gardening and related subjects.
- To aid in the protection of forests, marshes, native plants, wildflowers and birds.
- To maintain membership in and coordinate club interests with those of The National Garden Clubs, Inc., The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and The Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.



The Landings Garden Club
Is a Federated Club and a proud member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
The Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

