

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025

HOLIDAY EDITION



Petal Pusher

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:15 Meet and Greet

10:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:45 Program - Holiday Decorating

Tips and Tricks

Connie Ross from John Davis Florist

December Nights & Holiday Lights

Saturday, December 6 - Wednesday, December 24, 2025

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Georgia Coastal Botancial Gardens

2 Canebrake Road

Savannah, GA 31419

January General Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2026

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:15 Meet and Greet

10:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:45 Program - John McEllen

Design and preservation of gardens throughout historic Savannah

Buzz by Friday

Friday, January 30, 2026

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Gayle Ridgway's home

26 Delegal Road

BYOB and appetizer to share



Beautification, Conservation, Education

President's Message

Happy Holidays!

As I write this message on the Sunday morning following Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the cooler months that lie ahead. While we cherish the spring, summer, and fall that Savannah is renowned for, we eagerly anticipate the chill in the air that allows us to don our cozy sweaters and scarves. There are still gardens to tend and pesky yard work to tackle. It's interesting how the holiday season often coincides with cooler weather, prompting us to indulge in hot cocoa, coffee, and tea. We travel to visit family and friends, filling our homes with the voices and joy of company. For some, the season brings a peaceful time with close friends to share in holiday cheer, while for others, it can be a poignant reminder of those who are no longer with us. Let's keep them in our thoughts.

With our kids staying in New York, we decided to embrace creativity and host a Mediterranean Thanksgiving. This would have never gone over with our kids. They are attached to tradition and no matter how old they get, holidays must be the same as they had growing up.

We kept our gathering intimate, inviting a few friends from outside The Landings. Everyone contributed to the menu, and we prepared a lamb roast on our new (old) Green Egg, given to us by dear friends. Instead of slow cooking, we butterflied the lamb and marinated it with fresh herbs from my garden, complemented by Woodpecker Trail Olive Oil, using a mortar and pestle for the rub. Alongside, we grilled large tomatoes topped with cheese, peppers, and green beans. I served these over a whipped feta recipe from an old friend in Boston. Everything was delicious, and with these straightforward recipes, we were able to relax and enjoy our time together. We also had ample face time with our grandkids, whom we miss so much.

A heartfelt thanks to all the Garden Club members who have been busy selling holiday bows and decorating our neighborhood for everyone to enjoy. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 9:30 a.m., with the program commencing at 10:00 a.m. Connie Ross from John Davis Florist continuing his tradition demonstrating to us how to decorate for the holidays.

Let's embrace the festive spirit for our December meeting, and don't forget our Cookie Swap (each member is asked to bring one dozen cookies to share). I look forward to celebrating with all of you!

Stay safe and enjoy the holiday season,
Gayle

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



Fund Raising Submitted by Beth Weathers

Exciting Updates on Our Fundraising Efforts

Holiday Bow Sales

I am delighted to share that the Holiday Bows for a Cause fundraiser has been a tremendous success! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed by making and selling bows at the Village Walk center. Barbara Martin enthusiastically shared the theme "A Bow on Every Mailbox" with the Landings Real Estate Team, resulting in a significant portion of bows being sold as gifts for new homeowners. With this achievement, we aspire to continue holiday bow sales an annual tradition.



Daffodil Bulb Sales

The Daffodil Bulb sales have proven to be so popular that we are sold out of our current order for this year. Vicki Menke is busy sorting and bagging the bulbs for distribution, so if you ordered and haven't received your order, please check with Vicki.

Sempre Avanti
Daffodil



Wreath-Making Event

Our holiday wreath-making event at The Marshes was well-attended, and everyone had a fantastic time! They have already invited us back for future events. A big thank you to Anne Gardener, Vicki Menke, and Diane Gustafson for leading this project and contributing to its success!



National Garden Club (NGC) News Submitted by Lisa Hall, Immediate Past President, GCG



Environmental School Coming in January

Through our state garden club organizations, the National Garden Clubs (NGC) provides a range of educational programs, including gardening, landscape design, environmental studies, and flower show schools. On January 29 and 30, The Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) will kick off the first of four classes in the environmental school.

This year, classes will be conducted via Zoom, making it easy for everyone to participate. It's a fantastic chance to attend lectures from some of our state's leading experts in the field, all from the comfort of your kitchen table or couch. You can join for enjoyment, or if you're interested in enhancing your learning experience, you can choose to become a "consultant."

Further details will soon be available on the GCG website:

[www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org](<http://www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org>).

Additionally, you can find more information about the NGC school and the consultant program on their site: [www.gardenclub.org](<http://www.gardenclub.org>).

Serenity Garden

Submitted by Martha Nesmith & Amanda Dorman

Fall has arrived, signaling the perfect opportunity to remove old plants and introduce new ones. Our team planted vibrant Snapdragons, which thrived last winter, and we're optimistic for their success this year as well.



A few ivy plants in the urns had unfortunately perished, so we replaced them and ensured they received ample watering. We conducted some fall pruning and performed general garden maintenance, leaving the garden looking beautiful. While we were saddened to trim back the purple Salvia, we anticipate their strong comeback in the spring. Now, if only we could prevent the Live Oak from shedding leaves everywhere!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers who generously share their time and gardening expertise to nurture the Serenity Garden at the Anderson Cancer Institute, located on the Memorial Hospital Campus. This tranquil garden provides comfort and a serene environment for patients, their families, visitors, and staff. The garden is easily accessible and welcomes anyone who wishes to enjoy its beauty. If you haven't had the chance yet, we encourage you to visit the Serenity Garden.

Skidaway Farms

Submitted by Phyllis Aaron

The women who volunteer at Skidaway Farm are incredibly dedicated and hardworking. Over the past few months, our team has collaborated to share responsibilities, taking turns to oversee our crops and check for weeds. I'm pleased to share that the garden is flourishing!

In mid-October, we planted both red and green lettuce, red and green cabbage, along with broccoli and collards. Additionally, we scattered carrot seeds in one section, and I'm thrilled to report that the seedlings are thriving. Last week, we gathered to harvest our heads of lettuce, and after weighing the produce, we had an impressive 14 pounds to donate to the Savannah Union Mission!



In the photo above, (pictured left to right) Karen Rohan, Phyllis Aaron, Missy Goulard, and Sharon Filardo proudly holding our first harvest. Farmer Jayne generously provided us with Little Gem and Romaine lettuce seedlings, which were planted just before Thanksgiving. Even during holiday weeks, the dedicated women on this committee care for our crops to guarantee a successful yield. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously contributed their time to help our garden flourish.

Birds and Conservation

Submitted by Sue Hamlet

Leave the Leaves for Wildlife



We all appreciate the appearance of a tidy yard and garden. But cleaning too much removes habitat for some of our favorite butterflies and moths, as well as native bees, toads, turtles and salamanders. These animals, as well as songbirds rely on leaf litter for food and shelter. In addition, bagged yard waste makes up 7.2% of our nations solid waste. That's 10 million tons of organic matter going into land fills that could be used as natural fertilizer and habitat.

How do we go about leaving the leaves, without looking messy and killing the turf? Don't leave them on lawns, sidewalks, or driveways. Rake the leaves into garden beds and around native trees where they will suppress weeds and provide natural fertilizer while providing habitat for overwintering moths and butterflies, and food for songbirds. Make your intentional leaf layer 3-5 inches thick and then water it down so it doesn't blow away. To do even more, you can cut down perennials stems only to about 18 inches to provide homes for native bees who burrow into the hollow stems and lay their eggs. You should however always remove plant debris from plants that were diseased or other plants that are spreading aggressively. By using a lighter touch and balanced approach in fall clean up, you can have a healthy and attractive garden that supports birds and pollinators while improving soil life this winter.



Here are a few examples of invertebrates that thrive thanks to leafy debris:

- Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies camouflage their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves.
- Bumble bees establish their nests in underground cavities, trees, or brush piles.
- Yellow-spotted millipede juveniles consume humus, the nutrient-rich organic layer of decomposed plants and animal matter found at the forest floor's surface.

Sparrow Field

Submitted by Dawn Cordo



Our regular Friday work events are taking a break, much like our plants. Many flowers have gone to seed, some have been trimmed back, while others remain for the birds to snack on during the winter months. Maintenance will continue as needed, with plans to resume in early spring.

There are still a few vibrant blossoms lingering, so we invite you to stop by and appreciate the beauty of wildlife during this season.

Birds and Conservation

Sue Hamlet

Bird of the Month: Pine Warbler

What's that vibrant yellow bird? Is it a goldfinch? No, goldfinches are not yellow in winter. Instead, it's our year-round resident, the pine warbler. As their name indicates, pine warblers are primarily found in and around pine trees. Like most warblers, they consume about 99% insects, which they glean from the treetops. They seldom visit bird feeders for suet or peanuts. However, the one in this image visits my feeder for sunflower chips and peanuts.

These birds measure around 5 inches in length, featuring an olive-colored back, a yellow breast and sides, and faint dark streaks down the flanks, along with two white wing bars. Their white eye circles are incomplete. Females are less vibrant, displaying a more muted olive tone but still possess the two wing bars. So, if you spot a flash of yellow at the top of a pine tree, think Pine Warbler!



Project Feeder Watch



If you love birdwatching, you can contribute to citizen science by gathering data through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch. This initiative transforms your passion for feeding birds into meaningful scientific discoveries. Running from November to April, the project surveys the birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community spaces, and other locations across North America.

Participation is entirely flexible: you decide where to count, when to do it, and how much time you want to spend observing.

This type of research is crucial for scientists monitoring trends in common bird populations. Your observations provide valuable insights into the lives of backyard birds and help track avian numbers over time. The annual participation fee is \$18.00, but if you sign up through Wild Birds Unlimited before January 26, 2026, you can enjoy a 50% discount, reducing the cost to just \$9.00.

When You Join Feeder Watch, You Will Receive:

- Tools to track and learn about your birds via their website or mobile app.
- A year-end summary highlighting winter bird activity.
- A double-sided poster of eastern common feeder birds (optional).
- A Feeder Watch calendar (optional).
- Digital access to the Cornell Lab's Living Bird magazine.

Project Feeder Watch welcomes participants of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Sign up today and become part of this vital citizen science project!



To learn more and to sign up:
<https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview>

The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

This and That, Tidbits of Interest...



New Year's Reminder...

Membership Renewal Starts January 1, 2026

Active Members \$50 and Inactive Members \$60

All dues must be paid by the February meeting (2/23/26)

Our New Website is Live, Hooray!

Visit us at: <https://www.landingsgardenclub.com>



All members are encouraged to log into the **Members Only** section located near the top right corner. Look for an email from the club with our new password for all members to sign-in (this is the same log-in format previously used).

We are in the process of uploading documents, so for now, please focus on signing into the members-only section. This week, we will be posting meeting minutes, and member lists. The Petal Pusher is available under the resources tab.

If anyone encounters difficulties or is unsure how to navigate the site, please join us at the December meeting at 9:15 AM. Angie Stewart and Gayle Ridgway will be available to assist anyone needing help with the website sign-up process.

Check out these Markets for Family Fun and Holiday Finds...

Forsyth Farmers Market
Forsyth Park
Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Savannah Christmas Market
Plant Riverside District
Open daily 10:00 am - 8:00 pm pm



DECEMBER MEETING... HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE

Don't forget to bring your favorite holiday cookies to share with everyone! Each member is requested to bring one dozen (12) cookies to exchange with others. Containers will be available for you to scoop your favorite selections. Feel free to bring additional cookies, but if everyone contributes just a dozen, we'll have plenty left over to even treat Santa and his elves! Please remember to bring your own coffee cup to help reduce the waste that ends up in our landfills.

We look forward to a Yummy exchange!





From Gayles Kitchen

Gayle Ridgway



Whipped Feta With Vegetables

Feta Cheese:

- 8 ounces of high-quality Feta cheese
- 1 cup of whole milk “full-fat” Greek yogurt
- Juice of 1 lemon (3 tablespoons)
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced or crushed



Vegetables:

- 1 cup of salted pistachios, chopped
- 2 tablespoons of everything bagel spice
- 1 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of cumin
- A bag of fresh green beans or a medley of vegetables (such as tomatoes, grilled peppers, asparagus, etc.)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of salted butter



Prepare the Vegetables:

- Steam or grill your choice of vegetables and set them aside.
- Combine the chopped pistachios with the bagel spice, cinnamon, and cumin. Remember to keep $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of pistachios plain.

Cook the Vegetables:

- In a frying pan, melt $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of butter until it becomes slightly browned and fragrant. Add the vegetables and stir-fry for about 5 minutes.

Make the Feta Mixture:

- In a food processor, combine all the ingredients listed under Feta and pulse for 3 minutes until creamy.
- Transfer to a platter and layer the sautéed vegetables on top of the feta mixture.
- Add the remaining plain pistachios beside the vegetables.

Optional Garnish:

For an extra touch, consider garnishing with pomegranate seeds, dollops of chunky cranberry sauce, or a sprinkle of lemon zest for added flavor!



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Martha Nesmith

| TREASURER'S REPORT 10/2025 | | | | |
|--|---|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | | OPERATIONS | WAYS & MEANS | |
| BEGINNING BALANCE | | \$9,214.68 | \$8,076.62 | |
| DEPOSITS | | \$170.00 | \$980.50 | |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$9,384.68 | \$9,057.12 | |
| EXPENDITURES | | \$701.05 | \$1,726.10 | |
| ACCOUNT BALANCE | | \$8,683.63 | \$7,331.02 | |
| MINUS RESERVES | * | \$2,500.00 | \$890.35 | Hesse School Grant \$390.35 |
| | | | | Arbor Day Grant \$500 |
| AVAILABLE BALANCE | | \$6,183.63 | \$6,440.67 | |
| * Funds fr Savings Acct set up at Club inception. Must remain a reserve. | | | | |

| TREASURER'S REPORT 11/2025 | | | | |
|--|---|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | | OPERATIONS | WAYS & MEANS | |
| BEGINNING BALANCE | | \$8,683.63 | \$7,331.02 | |
| DEPOSITS | | \$109.00 | \$3,969.83 | |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$8,792.63 | \$11,300.85 | |
| EXPENDITURES | | \$701.05 | \$1,726.10 | |
| ACCOUNT BALANCE | | \$8,067.63 | \$9,804.88 | |
| MINUS RESERVES | * | \$2,500.00 | \$890.35 | Hesse School Grant \$390.35 |
| | | | | Arbor Day Grant \$500 |
| AVAILABLE BALANCE | | \$5,567.63 | \$8,914.53 | |
| * Funds fr Savings Acct set up at Club inception. Must remain a reserve. | | | | |

There are a number of outstanding checks at month end.
Bulb sale proceeds not yet received / deposited.

The Landings Garden Club, General Membership Meeting Minutes: **November 17, 2025**

Submitted by Phyllis Aaron, Recording Secretary

Gayle welcomed all Members and acknowledged our newest member, Francine Wright. She also introduced our guests, Nancy Thomas and Mary Ellen Fox.

Gayle called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mindfulness Reflection was said. Angie Stewart moved that the minutes from October 27, 2025 that were sent to all members via email, be approved and Leslee Bowler seconded them.

President's Report:

Gayle reported the Website: <https://www.landingsgardenclub.com/>, is up and running. Members will have a private site. A password will be distributed for all members to log-in.

The by-laws as well as the membership list will be on the new website.

Woodpecker Trail Olive Farm Nov 13, 8:00 - 4:00 with lunch at Folsom's Farmhouse was very successful. Everyone who went had a great time. Tracy and Curtis were very informative.

Committee Chair Reports:

Awards Chair: Vicki Menke turned in all award application documents to the GCG. We need to wait until the annual GCG meeting in May to find out who won.

Hospitality Chair: Thank you, Jen Johnson. Jen thanked the food providers and her team. People will be assigned by alphabetical order to bring food to the meetings. Jen will let you know when it is your turn.

Fundraising Chair: Beth Weathers wanted to thank all those who made bows and all those who are selling them. We only have 3 more days left to sell. Facebook posts have been getting many hits.

Vicki Menke is in charge of the daffodil bulbs sale, which we are now sold out (30 bulbs were spoiled & Vicki addressing with this with the supplier). Thanks to Dawn Cordo who communicated this sale to the Audubon organization and they purchased a lot of the bulbs.

Holiday decorations: Sally Dunphy is coordinating member helpers to put up and take down decorations. Pat Barry is doing the Oakridge Gate, Moon River Gate House, and Marsh View Landings. Donna Slappy is in charge of the Main Gate, Deer Creek Gate House, North Gate House. They could use some help putting up the decorations and taking them down after Christmas.

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Old Business:

Hesse School- we are working with Sarah Lucas, our teacher contact, to determine the best use of leftover allocated funds for this project.

Lisa Hall and Gayle Ridgway are working on the Bylaws which are in various stages of revision.

The Standing Rules are also being reviewed for updates and we will be changing the name to Policies and Procedures, which is in line with the GCG. Anne Gardner, Dawn Cordo, and Gayle Ridgway are working on updating these rules after which it will go to the membership to vote on it.

We Still NEED a VICE PRESIDENT! Hoping to find one by the spring.

New Business:

Wreaths at the Marshes: There was a Christmas Wreath making event at the Marshes with Anne Gardner, Diane Gustafson, and Vicki Menke. Everyone had a lot of fun and they would like to do something similar in the spring.

Annual dues are being raised from \$40 to \$50 for active members (\$60- inactive). A vote was taken at the meeting and it passed unanimously. The new dues price will go into effect January 1, 2026.

The December meeting will feature Connie Ross from John Davis florist with holiday decorations as well as a cookie swap (1 dozen).

The raffle was held and Marybeth Krovisky won the holiday planter.

Move to adjourn the meeting by Anne Gardner and second by Sally Dunphy at 10:35 am.

Program: Eric Swanson, Advocacy Education Coordinator, 100 Miles Organization - Protecting Georgia's Coast Through Advocacy, Education, and Community Engagement.



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.

