

# Petal Pusher

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### General Meeting

**Monday, January 27, 2025**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**9:30 - 10:00 Meet & Greet**

**10:00 - 10:45 General Meeting**

**10:45 - Program - Kat Ericson,  
Savannah Tree Foundation**

### February Meeting - Field Trip

**Date for this meeting is TBD...**

**Meet at Messiah Lutheran Church**

**9:30 - 10:00 Meet & Greet**

**10:00 -10:45 General Meeting**

**10:45 - Program - Anita Poole**

**Private Camellia Garden Tour and  
Waxing Demonstration. We will  
carpool to the Harlander's home**



**The  
Landings  
Garden  
Club**

**Beautification, Conservation, Education**

### President's Message

**Happy New Year!**

What a delightful array of words to share with others! This new year holds countless possibilities for each of us to explore. As always, my list seems to grow longer.

I'm eager to experiment with new plants and flowers, along with different varieties of seeds to sow. At the Menke home, we need to create a landscape plan and submit it to the HOA for approval. Additionally, much of my garden fence requires a fresh coat of paint, and the playhouse door could use some sprucing up as well.

I am looking forward to the speakers at our meetings, as I always learn something new from their fascinating topics. Through all aspects, our club is dedicated to fulfilling our mission of Beautification, Conservation, and Education. I'm working on organizing a few more field trips and garden tours for everyone to enjoy. I'm thrilled to welcome new members and will miss those who are moving on. My goal is to continue growing our club's membership while preserving the energy and enthusiasm that greets me at every meeting. Each member plays a vital role in this journey. Without all of you, the Garden Club on Skidaway Island wouldn't exist. Thank you for your support.

This year, I'm excited about traveling to Canada, Scotland, England, and France. My must-see list includes castles, stately homes, and markets. I look forward to enjoying wonderful food, glasses of wine, a tipple of whiskey, and creating memories with family and friends. And, of course, many lovely gardens.

What are your goals and dreams for this year?

I hope everyone remembers to renew their membership by January 31. Please consider whether you would like to be an Active Member (\$40 per year) or an Inactive/Social Member (\$50 per year). Whichever you choose, please ensure your dues are submitted on time.

I'm looking forward to an incredible 2025 with our club, the best garden club around (yes, I may be a bit biased).

See you all soon,

Vicki

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



# Horticulture

## Submitted by Sue Hamlet

### Plant This, Not That!

Take a moment to glance at the cover of our club newsletter, where our motto proudly states "Beautification, Conservation, Education." Today's gardening goes beyond merely enhancing the visual appeal of our properties; conservation has become increasingly crucial due to the pressures of overdevelopment and climate change on our planet. We are being urged to incorporate native plants into our landscapes to support insects, birds, and other wildlife. Many invasive plants are favored for their hardiness and abundant flowering and fruiting, but these very traits contribute to their invasiveness. Here are some alternatives to consider instead of invasive species.

The Tree of Heaven, an invasive species from China, boasts a striking feathery appearance. It spreads rapidly, overshadowing native trees and shrubs, and serves as a host plant for the Spotted Lantern Fly, an invasive insect recently identified in Georgia. This pest poses a significant threat, damaging agricultural crops like peaches and grapes, as well as hardwood trees. Instead, consider planting black walnut or sumac trees, such as *Rhus glabra*.

Autumn Olive is a vibrant deciduous shrub from Asia that grows quickly, displacing native plants. Opt for native yaupon holly or *Viburnum nudum* instead. These native shrubs produce beautiful red fruits that attract wild birds without being overly aggressive.



*Viburnum nudum*

Ligustrum, or Chinese privet, is another prevalent invasive plant wreaking havoc in our natural spaces. A better choice would be native inkberry holly, which is evergreen and produces similar fruits, or consider native cherry laurel, *Prunus caroliniana*.

Nandina is a common invasive species across the Southeast. While its striking red berries are visually appealing, they are toxic, leading to bird fatalities from the cyanide-laced fruit. Instead, try planting winterberry holly.

Callery pear trees are notoriously invasive, displaying lovely white blossoms in spring followed by small, inedible fruit. Instead, consider planting a redbud tree for spring color or a black tupelo tree for stunning fall hues.



*Black Tupelo*

Japanese spirea spreads through seeds. You can either deadhead the flowers immediately after blooming or choose to plant *Clethra alnifolia*, also known as sweet pepperbush.

Avoid using English ivy and Chinese wisteria. Instead, consider planting American wisteria, along with Carolina jessamine, wild ginger (as ground cover), or native scarlet honeysuckle in place of English ivy.



*Canadian Wild Ginger*

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## Plant This, Not That!

Cogon grass, along with many exotic ornamental grasses, is highly invasive. Opt for one of our native grasses, such as northern sea oats, panic grass, or bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*).

This is not an exhaustive list of invasive plants in Georgia. I encourage you to research the plants you plan to use for landscaping and consider replacing any invasives with native species that benefit pollinators, herbivores, birds, and other local wildlife. You can find lists of native plants and sources for purchasing them at [www.coastalwildscapes.org](http://www.coastalwildscapes.org). I've had wonderful experiences at Victory Gardens in Savannah, where the staff is both knowledgeable and helpful. (Victory Gardens 2500 Tennessee Ave, Savannah 31404)

Together, we can make a positive impact on our environment! As you continue gardening, keep this quote from Douglas Tallamy in mind: "The choices we make as gardeners can profoundly impact the diversity of life in our yards, towns, and on our planet."



## Membership Submitted by Susan Mason

It's that time of year again to renew our Garden Club membership, and I am delighted to share that one-third of you have already renewed in December. Thank you to those who have taken this step!



Our next meeting is scheduled for January 27, and I hope to see the remaining two-thirds of you renew by then or soon after. If you can't attend the meeting on the 27th, please email me, and I will provide you with a membership form to fill out. You can send it back to me along with your check made out to The Landings Garden Club. My address is Susan Mason, 120 Waterway Drive, Savannah 31411.

Please remember that the annual dues for Active Members is \$40, while Inactive Members pay \$50. As an active member, your participation in committee activities and attendance at monthly meetings is expected. If you feel you cannot meet the requirements for active membership but still want to be involved in correspondence and general meetings, an inactive membership may be a better fit for you. We welcome everyone who embraces our club's motto: "Beautification, Conservation, and Education."



I am happy to announce we have three new members that joined within the last month. Please welcome Meg Combs, Winifred Howell, and Cathy Lowe. Look for their bio's in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.



## Attention All Gardeners....

**Are you open to showcasing your garden for a tour in 2025?**

**Do you have gardening insights to share or experiences with plants that didn't thrive?**

**Do you reside near a marsh or in a patio home?**

**We would be thrilled to explore your garden!**

**If you're interested in sharing your garden for a few hours this spring, please reach out to Meg Kettlitz.**



**Congratulations to Pat Barry and her team of Merry Minglers! First Place for their table top interpretation of a "Winter Wonderland"**

*Pictured left to right: Angela Devore, Elise Snight, Pat Barry, Kathy Sorvillo, Diane Gustafson*

## Skidaway Farms Submitted by Meg Kettlitz



As a result of the freezing temperatures, we unfortunately lost some purple kale and lettuce. However, these plants had already been harvested twice since their planting, so they have provided a good yield overall. Most of the broccoli is expected to be ready for harvest by mid-January, and the remaining kale should be ready for a third harvest as well.

*Happy 2025  
from The Farm!*



I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributes their time and effort to the farm. If you are interested in assisting with the garden at Skidaway Farms, please get in touch with Meg Kettlitz.

*Skidaway Farms is a remarkable initiative focused on tackling hunger within our community. All the produce grown and harvested from the Landings Garden Club plot is generously donated to the Social Apostolate of Savannah.*

# The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

## This and That, Tidbits of Interest...



### Look for Evites to CLUB EVENTS PLEASE RSVP - YES or NO

**Please Help!**  
**Refreshments are needed for the**  
**January Meeting**  
**Contact Beth Weathers if you are**  
**able to assist: 770-335-8337**

 **Non-migrating Monarch Butterflies in the Southeast...**  
**If you see a monarch between**  
**Nov - March, please report it to:**  
**[journey north.org](http://journeynorth.org)** 

 **Coming in February...**  
**Wine and Weeds are Back!**  
**Look for your Evite!** 



**Savannah Tree Foundation**  
**<https://savannahtree.org>**  
**Tree Plantings: 9:00 - 11:00 am**  
**January 18 - Laurel Grove Cemetery**  
**802 West Anderson St. Savannah, 31415**

**January 25 - Mother Matilda Beasley Park**  
**500 East Broad St. Savannah, 31401**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Marine Extension and  
Georgia Sea Grant



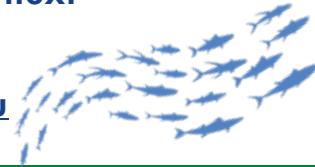
### UGA Aquarium Expansion

We're so close to securing \$10,000 in matching funds for the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium's expansion, but we can't do it without you. Your gift today will have twice the impact and help us:

- Double the aquarium's size with breathtaking views of the Skidaway River
- Create new, accessible learning spaces for hands-on education
- Add interactive exhibits, including a 3D live oak tree and a forest floor crawl.

Together, we can bring this exciting vision to life and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

To learn more and make a donation go to: [www.gacoast.uga.edu](http://www.gacoast.uga.edu)



# Save The Date...

To register for these events, go to the home page of the GCG website: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>

**For Garden Club members we are calling this  
The Year of Conventions!**

We hope you'll join us at one or all of these events.

**Click the pictures below to find out more about each convention.**



*Charms of the South*  
**Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**  
March 11-13, 2025  
Valdosta, GA  
Rainwater Conference Center

**Hosted by The Garden Club of Georgia!**

**Register by 2/17/25 to avoid late fees.**



*Gather on the River*  
**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**  
**97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
April 29-30, 2025  
Augusta, GA  
Riverfront Marriott

**Register by 4/18/25 to avoid late fees.**

Links to registration are on the GCG website home page. Scroll down to view.



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Annual Convention 2025**  
May 18-22, 2025  
North Charleston, SC  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport  
Hotel & Convention Center

**Register by 4/20/25 to avoid late fees.**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Submitted by Karyn Rohan

The Landings Garden Club JANUARY 2025 - Treasure's Report					
	Beginning Balance	Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Year to Date	
Operations:	\$7,382.09			\$6,489.92	
Ways & Means:	\$8,298.04			\$13,207.39	
				\$890.35	Grants
				<u>\$12,317.04</u>	Balance Available
				\$5,075.00	Holiday Bow Sales

## The Landings Garden Club, General Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2024

### Submitted by Phyllis Aaron, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 by President Vicki Menke. Vicki thanked Charlene Brown Carter for playing the piano during the social time. Vicki then asked if everyone had voted for the four tables presented for the "Merry Mingle." Vicki explained "Winter Wonderland" was the theme for this year's Merry Mingle.

We all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Vicki read the prayers.

Vicki asked if everyone had read the minutes that had been published and distributed by email in the December newsletter. There was one correction concerning the title of the Skidaway Farm Project which Meg is chair of and that the proceeds of the garden go to the Social Apostolate for their soup kitchen. The minutes were approved as corrected.

#### President's Report:

We did so much this past year, meeting all our goals. The members have really stepped up to accomplish so much.

#### Committee Reports:

Ways & Means: Susan Lilley, (the "bow lady") felt the bows had run their course. We made no new bows except for ones made with plaid ribbons which we had sold out last year. People are decorating their homes differently now. We have three more days of selling bows, today, tomorrow, and Thursday. She had mornings covered but still in need of people for the afternoon shifts (1-4).

Membership: Susan Mason explained that we are starting our membership drive today with hopes that we complete the drive before January 31, when dues are expected to be into the District. The descriptions of Club Committees have been rewritten and the description sheets are on the tables. All Committees are listed with the exception of the Container Gardens which are still in discussion.

## Pg. 2 LGC General Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2024

The difference between active and inactive membership was explained. It is important to show up when you promise.

It was suggested by Faye Clarke that we reach out to Thrive and the Marshes to see if they can transport interested residents to our meetings.

We had 7 guests today and they were introduced by Susan.

Susan asked that everyone sign in when they come to a meeting. There will be an award at the end of the year for those with the best attendance. The (purple) year book is given to all members when they join.

Name tags are \$9.00 and Susan will have them for you at the next meeting.

### Old Business:

Vicki asked that all pictures taken be sent to Gayle who will send them to Diane Benson for the facebook page.

We are working to improve our Web page. We have about \$200 to get it up and running. We think we found someone. It needs to be used on the smart phones.

We sold all our daffodil bulbs and made \$500 dollars. We had 1000 bulbs and they were bagged in about 20 minutes. It is a possible fund raiser for next year.

### New Business:

The Christmas bird count information is in the newsletter.

The lights at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens are lovely. There is to be a wedding at the Savannah Botanical Gardens off of Eisenhower Drive on January 4th and the place needs volunteers to help spruce it up. It could be a "Done in a Day" activity for some of you.

It was suggested that we have a table set up at meetings for people to bring in books and gardening equipment to share / exchange.

Vicki had each Merry Mingle contestant describe their interpretation of "Winter Wonderland" and tallied the votes for the winning table decor. Table #4 (Pat Barry) won. Vicki congratulated all the participants and said there would be a different theme next year.

Janet brought sun choke tubers to the meeting and explained a bit about them. Edith Teifeld, former member and president of the Garden Club has died.

The General Meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Barbara presented the program. Sabrelle Smith from Sandfly Floral Shop gave us ideas and tips for decorating for Christmas.



### **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 Savannah Area Council of 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.  
Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs

