

JANUARY 2026



Petal Pusher

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

*To attend, register on-line:

www.landingsgardenclub.com

Buzz by Friday

Friday, January 30, 2026

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Gayle Ridgway's home

26 Delegal Road

BYOB and appetizer to share

*To attend, register on-line:

www.landingsgardenclub.com

February General Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2026

Messiah Lutheran Church

9:15 Meet and Greet

10:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:45 Program - Melaney Cross

Organic Skincare products harvested
from Melaney's Garden



THE LANDINGS
GARDEN CLUB

Beautification, Conservation, Education

President's Message

Believe it or not, we have entered a new year. Yes, 2025 has come and gone, and now we find ourselves in 2026. I remember once thinking that this year was light years away, unable to imagine what it would be like. Yet here we are, with the same routines, only now we feel those aches and pains when rising after sitting too long, or when twisting and turning in the garden, requiring slower, more controlled movements.

The Landings Garden Club proudly boasts 100 members, and we are truly grateful for each and every one of you.

We are a vibrant and active club with over 20 committees, each offering a unique approach to beautification, education, and conservation. It's rare to find such a multitude of committees; most clubs within the Garden Club of Georgia are significantly smaller. Within our ranks, we have some of the most dedicated individuals I know. I am continually amazed by the contributions and experiences of our members, as well as their commitment to the mission of The Landings Garden Club.

Our group is wonderfully diverse, representing people from all over the U.S. and beyond. As members engage through their committee activities, we share knowledge and insights with one another. There truly is a committee for everyone depending on their various physical abilities and interests.

As January unfolds, we focus on our MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—it's time to renew! Please keep an eye out for an email from Angie Stewart, our Membership Chair, with instructions on how to renew your membership. Annual dues are \$50 for active members and \$60 for inactive members. Don't forget to bring a check or cash to our next meeting on January 26, where we will be set up at the front entrance to assist you.

We encourage our members to remain engaged, as there is always something new to learn, all while having fun.

Welcome to the new year! We have so much planned and an abundance to be thankful for.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

All my best,
Gayle



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

Membership Dues R Due

Sign Up

It's Time to Renew your Garden Club Membership We Hope You'll Continue Growing With US in 2026

This year, you can conveniently renew your membership online! Simply visit the Garden Club homepage and click on the "Renew Online Here" button. You'll be able to fill out the membership form and select your preferred payment method.

Membership Dues are as follows:

- \$50 for Active Members
- \$60 for Inactive Members (Inactive members remain part of the club but are not obligated to serve on a committee.)

There are three simple ways to make your payment:

- Bring a check to the meeting on January 26
- Pay via Zelle
- Mail or tube a check to our Treasurer, Martha Nesmith

****Please make checks payable to The Landings Garden Club.**

We look forward to another wonderful year filled with friendship, learning, and gardening together!

LGC
Member



National Garden Club (NGC) News

Submitted by Lisa Hall, Immediate Past President, GCG



PLANT AMERICA:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Projects for 2025-2027

**The National Garden Club's theme for 2025-2027 Administration is:
PLANT AMERICA FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!**

NGC President Donna Donnelly is championing two significant projects:

- 1. Keep America Beautiful*
- 2. Remove Litter and Beautify Shared Spaces*

Additionally, President Donnelly encourages garden club members to plant red, white, and blue flowers in honor of America's 250th Birthday. The Garden Club of Georgia will be gathering photos of these patriotic gardens. Stay tuned for more details from the GCG PLANT AMERICA chairman, Nilsa Summey. Begin planning and planting your garden to celebrate our nation's Birthday throughout the year!



Sparrow Field

Submitted by Dawn Cordo



Although our volunteers are currently on a break, work at Sparrow Field continues. The Audubon Tallow Terrors, with assistance from the TLC Arborists, have tackled approximately 75 trees in the far-left corner of the field. Bartlett Tree Specialists were engaged to hedge and trim the verbenas and bottle brush, allowing more sunlight to reach the edge of the planting area. Invasive vines have been removed, and their roots treated. Additionally, the club arborist has taken down an unruly large palm.

The Audubon Tallow Terrors...



Our irrigation requirements have also been addressed. The shorter sprinkler heads have been replaced with taller ones, enhancing their visibility for volunteers and improving the efficiency of water distribution. This upgrade will also help maintain the stability of the wall. The top row of the wall has been reset and is expected to hold well. We plan to resume weeding in early spring, weather permitting. There is always plenty of work to be done at Sparrow Field and we welcome all volunteers!

Skidaway Farms

Submitted by Phyllis Aaron

My dedicated gardeners have been nurturing our winter crops, including cabbage, collards, broccoli, lettuce, and carrots, through the varying temperatures of the past few weeks. We covered the plants to shield them from the recent chill, and thankfully, everything has survived and is thriving.

We successfully harvested our first crop of lettuce, which weighed 14 pounds, alongside a large head of cabbage and 13 pounds of collard greens. Regrettably, the carrots were infested with worms, so we had to discard them. All of our harvest has been donated to the Savannah Union Mission to help prepare hot meals for those in need.

A heartfelt thank you to the Farm Team for their assistance with planting, weeding, and harvesting, especially to those who could join us at the last minute. A special shout-out goes to our master gardener, Jayne Rogers, who has been instrumental in teaching me the intricacies of managing the Farm plot.



Birds and Conservation

Submitted by Sue Hamlet

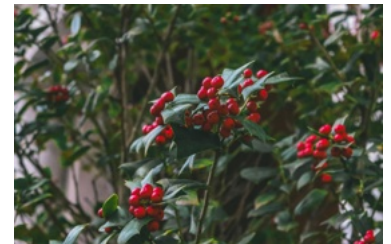
Native Plant Spotlight: Native Hollies

Native hollies come in various forms, ranging from towering trees to compact shrubs. Some serve as excellent hedges, while others stand out as striking accent plants. In the Southeast, three common varieties of hollies can be found: American, Yaupon, and Dahoon. These plants exhibit a range of leaf shapes and sizes, with growth forms that can vary from upright to weeping. All three types produce the glossy green leaves and red berries we often associate with “Christmas Holly.”

Holly trees are dioecious, meaning they have both male and female specimens. Only the female trees bear berries, which are a great food source for wildlife.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

This adaptable holly thrives in natural settings and can also be utilized as a landscape tree. This broad-leaved evergreen boasts a symmetrical, dense, and wide pyramidal shape. Its spiny, glossy evergreen leaves are beautifully complemented by clusters of red berries that persist through fall and winter. Additionally, the whitebark of these trees adds visual interest to their overall appearance.



Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Yaupon Holly comes in several cultivars, offering a variety of forms ranging from dwarf types that resemble boxwood to larger upright or weeping trees. The larger Yaupon Hollies can reach heights of 15 to 25 feet, with a similar width. In the landscape, these evergreens take about ten years to develop the distinctive vase shape they're known for.



Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)

Dahoon Holly is a sizable variety that can spread 8 to 12 feet and often reaches heights of 40 feet, although it is commonly seen at heights between 20 and 30 feet. The dark evergreen leaves range from 2 to 3 inches long, exhibiting a smooth, supple, and shiny texture with a few serrations near the tip. These trees produce a substantial number of berries that are favored by wildlife.



Incorporating native hollies as screens or accent plants supports our bird populations. They provide an abundant food source through their plentiful berries and offer shelter within their evergreen foliage. As you plan your landscape, be sure to consider these native hollies as beautiful enhancements for your garden.

Birds and Conservation

Submitted by Sue Hamlet

January Bird of the Month, A Bird of Many Names: *Yellow-rumped Warbler, also known as Myrtle Warbler or Butter Butt*

The Yellow-rumped Warbler, affectionately known as the Butter Butt, gets its nickname from the striking yellow patch on its rump, which serves as a distinctive field mark for both males and females. This captivating group of birds is divided into two subspecies: the western Audubon Warbler and our local Eastern variety, the Myrtle Warbler.

The name "Myrtle Warbler" originates from their remarkable ability to digest the waxy coating of wax myrtle and juniper berries, making them a common sight in these shrubs throughout the Southeast during winter. They breed in the northern mixed forests of the U.S. and Canada, primarily feeding on insects, before migrating to the southern U.S. from November to May, where their diet shifts to mainly berries and any active insects. Myrtle Warblers are known to visit feeders for dried fruit and suet, and like many berry enthusiasts, they enjoy a refreshing drink and a bird bath.

In our community, the Myrtle Warbler is a relatively large warbler, measuring about 5 to 6 inches in length with a sturdy body. During the breeding season, this beautiful bird showcases bold dark and white markings. In winter, when we spot them, their plumage is less vibrant. Females resemble males but display lighter yellow hues. Nonetheless, the signature Butter Butt is always visible! The presence of Yellow-rumped Warblers offers yet another compelling reason to plant native shrubs, such as wax myrtle and native holly, in your garden.



Decorating Committee

Submitted by Donna Slappy and Sally Dunphy

The entrance gates of our communitiy were beautifully decorated for the holidays!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who braved the chilly December mornings to help us spread holiday cheer by hanging decorations. The wreaths, garlands, and Christmas trees sparkled at night, creating a truly magical atmosphere.

A special thank you goes to Donna Slappy for her dedication in coordinating the designs and for purchasing the garlands, ribbons, trees, and wreaths. We also want to acknowledge Pat Barry and her team for their wonderful decorations. Additionally, we appreciate our helpers who provided the essential tools needed to complete our tasks and assisted in transporting everything. Great job, everyone!

The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

This and That, Tidbits of Interest...



Our New Website is Live

<https://www.landingsgardenclub.com>

All members are encouraged to log into the *Members Only* section located near the top right corner. To sign in type in all capital letters: TLGC2026

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



**Save the Date:
Savannah Camellia Festival
February 20-22
for more info.
www.savannahcamelliatrail.com**



Did you know...

**You can now register for the General Meeting as well as other Garden Club events on-line via our website:
www.landingsgardenclub.com**

Hospitality

Submitted by Jennifer Johnson

Hospitality is running smoothly. We have a fantastic team working together seamlessly. Our new system of organizing member contributions alphabetically for social hour proved effective in November. The Holiday Cookie Exchange was a tremendous success, with many members bringing delicious treats. A special thank you goes to Patsy Bowden for providing her beautiful china tea set, which created a stunning and festive table.

Contributions for General Meeting Social Hour

Members with the last names listed below are asked to bring goodies for the General Meeting Social Hour:

- **E - H: January 26 Meeting**
- **I - M: February 23 Meeting**
- **N - S: March 23 Meeting**
- **T - W: April 27 Meeting**

Jennifer will email members assigned for each month a week in advance, reminding them of their hospitality duties. If you know you will be unavailable to contribute during your assigned month, please inform Jennifer as soon as possible. This will allow her to arrange for someone to take over your responsibilities and reschedule your duty for another month.



A Note From the Corresponding Secretary...

Dear Club Members,

If you are aware of a fellow member who would appreciate a note from The Landings Garden Club to acknowledge a significant milestone in their life, kindly inform me and Gayle Ridgway. We would be happy to send them an appropriate card. You may reach out via email or leave a message with either of us.

*Thank you,
Barbra Martin*



A card was sent to Kathy and Nick Sorvillo (her husband) this week. Kathy fell while visiting family in Denver and is currently hospitalized.

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Martha Nesmith

TREASURER'S REPORT 12/2025					
		OPERATIONS		WAYS & MEANS	
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$8,067.63		\$9,804.88	
DEPOSITS		\$80.00		\$2,964.53	
SUBTOTAL		\$8,147.63		\$12,769.41	
EXPENDITURES		\$425.24		\$912.07	
ACCOUNT BALANCE		\$7,722.39		\$11,857.34	
MINUS RESERVES	*	\$2,500.00		\$890.35	Hesse School Grant \$390.35
					Arbor Day Grant \$500
AVAILABLE BALANCE		\$5,222.39		\$10,966.99	
* Funds from Savings Acct set up at Club inception. Must remain a reserve.					

The Georgia State, Sales Tax Return was submitted on January 2, 2026. Due to a small credit from the previous month, our total owed was only \$29.47. This amount will be the final liability unless we engage in further fundraising activities in the future. Exciting news: the \$350 fee collected from The Marshes for the wreath design class is not subject to tax.

The Landings Garden Club, General Membership Meeting Minutes: December 15, 2025

Submitted by Phyllis Aaron, Recording Secretary

Gayle called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

Welcome to all members. Introductions were made to new members and guests: Janis Jones, Terri Benson, Sally Eckerton, Emily Johanson, Sarah Lamade.

Pledge of Allegiance and Mindful Reflection were recited.

Motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2025 meeting was made by Barbra Victor and seconded by Anne Gardner. The meeting minutes are posted on the club website under Resources.

Barbara Martin, Corresponding Secretary, requested that if anyone knows of a member we should send a card to, please let her know.

The Treasurer's Report is posted in the Petal Pusher Newsletter as well as on the club website.

President's Report:

Gayle Ridgway, Angie Stewart, and Joni Brownstein have been working diligently on our website. The Website, <http://www.landingsgardenclub.com>, has a Members' Only section. To sign in, type in capital letters: **TLGC2026**

Committee Chair Reports:

Standing Committee Chair Reports: Posted in Petal Pusher Newsletter.

Hospitality Chair: Jen Johnson thanked her committee and everyone who brought cookies for the cookie swap. Each month she will assign, by alphabetical order who is to bring hospitality treats. January treats will be the responsibility of last names E through H. Jen will notify, those members whose turn it is to bring food to our meeting prior to each month so be on the look-out for your turn..

Fundraising Chair: Beth Weathers said we raised \$5,201.50 selling bows and we still have a few red ones left which we will sell for \$20 each. She thanked those women who made the bows and sold the bows.

Vicki Menke was in charge of the daffodil sales and we sold all of them. We intend to order much more for next year.

Holiday Wreath Making class at the Marshes was a big success. Anne Gardner, Diane Gustafson and Vicki Menke led the class. The people at the Marshes would like for us to come back for other holidays.

LGC Membership Meeting Minutes: December 15, 2025, pg. 2

Holiday Decorations: All have been installed and completed. We are waiting for TLA to let us know when to schedule the take-down and where the decorations are to be stored until next year. Sally Dunphy coordinated member helpers to put up and take down the decorations. Pat Barry and her crew did the Oakridge Gate, Moon River Gate House, and Marshview. Donna Slappy and her team did the Main Gate, Deer Creek Gate House, and the North Gate House.

Old Business:

We are waiting to hear from Sara Lucas who works at The Hesse School. They recently harvested white and sweet potatoes. There is still about \$390 left over from the original donation we made. Sara would like to use these funds to purchase a bird feeder with a camera. Any money remaining would go towards a gift card for birdseed to use in the feeder.

The By-laws are almost complete and will be ready to review in January, 2026. Policies and Procedures are being revised, with many details placed there from the By-laws. The By-laws should withstand time while policies and procedures are more fluid.

**We need a VP!

New Business:

Membership Chair is Angie Stewart. Dues for 2026 are due the first of the year. For working members, dues are \$50.00 and for inactive members \$60.00.

New name tags with refreshed logos are available for \$10

Sue Hamlet is the new chair of Birds and Conservation.

We are looking at fund raising opportunities for the Spring.

January "Buzz By" will be held on Friday night January 30th, at Gayle's home, 26 Delegal Road. Register to attend on-line: www.landingsgardenclub.com

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Victor, seconded by Martha Nesmith

Program: Holiday decorating - Demonstations and tricks for the holidays with Connie Ross from John David Florist.

The Christmas Cookie Swap was enjoyed by all!.



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.

