



SEPTEMBER 2025

Petal Pusher

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

New Member Tea

Wednesday, October 1, 2025
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Gayle Ridgway's home
26 Delegal Road
Savannah, GA 31411
Look for an EVITE with details

Garden Tour

Monday, October 6, 2025
10:00 AM
Private Residence - Palmetto
Savannah, GA 31411
Look for an EVITE with details

Kick-Off Social:

Buzz by Friday

Friday, October 10, 2025
Faye Clark's Home
3 Ogeechee Ferry Lane
Savannah, GA 31411
This is an evening event - Look for
an EVITE with details

Plant Sale

Saturday, October 11, 2025
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Savannah Botanical Gardens
1388 Eisenhower Drive
Savannah, GA 31406



The
Landings
Garden
Club

Beautification. Conservation. Education.

President's Message

Welcome to early autumn!

The recent days have been absolutely beautiful, reminding me of the reasons we love living here. Many of us are returning to The Landings after our travels, while others enjoyed summer activities right here on the island. I am excited to invite everyone to our first meeting on September 22. Please join us at 9:15 for socializing and refreshments, with the meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. Our membership team will be at the entrance to greet you and assist with check-ins. And remember, you are always welcome to bring a guest who might consider joining our club.

To me, gardening is not just a hobby; it's a way of life, a passion, and my therapy. I have a special fondness for pollinator gardens. Wherever we've lived, we've been surrounded by swarms of butterflies, bees, and countless birds. We raised our boys in Massachusetts, practicing organic gardening, and now they share this love with their own families.

In our garden, we grew organic vegetables and became known for our legendary strawberry patch. Our youngest son had allergies, and thanks to organic gardening, he could enjoy a variety of produce, particularly strawberries. However, during our first harvest, he didn't like the taste of the strawberries straight from the garden. It took us a while to realize he was expecting them to taste like the chilled ones from the grocery store. My husband, being the great dad that he is, would go out each morning to pick fresh berries, placing them in a container covered with clear wrap and a rubber band before storing them in the refrigerator. Marshall had no idea they were from our garden and eagerly devoured them. It wasn't until years later that we shared this story, and he jokingly accused us of raising him with a lie. He now has his own organic garden and enjoys working in it with his two young children. The cycle continues!

I'm sure many of you have delightful stories of your own that you'd love to share with our members. It's essential to keep these traditions alive, filled with joyful moments, digging in the dirt, and sharing our knowledge. We have a wonderfully diverse, hardworking, and well-educated group, which makes our club truly special.

We will be distributing the yearbook at our first meeting. It's packed with activities listed by month, allowing you to plan ahead. Let's make this year engaging! While we work diligently in our committees, let's also take the time to socialize and reconnect with long-time members as well as those who have recently joined.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting, which coincidentally is the first day of fall!

Gayle

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



Horticulture: Hort Short

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz, Horticulture Chair

Raised Vegetable Beds

Fall in Maritime Georgia is a great time to plant a cool season garden. If you don't want to rent a plot at Skidaway Farms, you could plant in a raised vegetable bed in your yard.

Before starting this backyard project you will need to determine where your garden will receive the most autumnal sunlight and will be sheltered from the wind. You will also want to place it near a water spigot so you don't have to lug water around or add a drip irrigation line with a timer.

Another important factor to remember is that the raised bed must not be visible from the street nor your neighbor's yard. Refer to TLA by-laws **ARC 4.4** which prohibits vegetable gardens in front yards. **PPMS 5.A.5** states miscellaneous items, not limited to lawn equipment, construction material and equipment, recreational equipment, and toys, must be stored out of view of the street, golf course, or neighboring properties when not in use. You should double check with the TLA before placing your bed in its location in order to avoid any infractions.

Once you have decided on the location the next thing to do is to decide if you want to use metal, wood or weather-resistant materials. Metal will heat up quickly and will rust over time. The heat will impact the soil temperature and potentially damage the roots of the plants. Metal beds are usually placed directly on the ground with the bottom open to the ground soil. This allows for good drainage. This type of bed allows you to plant vegetables that have large root systems like brussel sprouts.

Wood and weather-resistant beds may be placed directly on the soil or may be placed on legs. Using untreated wood will mean that it will eventually rot whether or not it is touching the ground or on legs. When using a bed with legs, you should place them on pavers or some type of solid material.

Wood or weather-resistant beds come in various sizes. The ideal width is 2' which is the approximate reach of an adult without having to bend over. This is important so that you don't injure your back while tending your garden. It should be about 4' long and at least 27" high. The height is important as it will allow for a wheelchair or walker to sit under it. It also will allow the average height adult to garden without bending over.

The soil you choose to use is important. Do not use your ground soil. There are soil mixes available that are designed specifically for raised vegetable beds. These soils already have the proper nutrients to get started. In about 6 weeks you will need to add a fertilizer that is low in numbers (3-4-4) so that it doesn't damage the tender roots. In about another 6 weeks you will want to increase the fertilizer number to something like a 7-6-9 or an 8-8-8. The fertilizer numbers indicate nitrogen, phosphate and potassium.

In-ground bed
at Skidaway Farms



Raised Bed
Coastal GA Botanical Gardens



Raised Bed
Coastal GA Botanical Gardens



Hort Short, pg.2

Raised Vegetable Beds, continued...

Once your soil is in place, you can choose which vegetables to grow. If you are using a raised bed, you will want to check the final size of the vegetable before planting it. You don't want to plant large sized carrots that will burst out of a raised bed that is only 10" deep. A smaller variety would be better. The plant label identifies the plant's final dimensions as well as how far apart to plant each plant.

The diagram to the right shows a list of vegetables that are good to grow in a home garden and their planting dates. When planting, use the end range date as we live in zone 9a. For instance, it shows a date range of 8/15-10/1 for broccoli. So you should plant close to 10/1.

The final step is to decide if you want a deer fence. Double check with the TLA by-laws as permanent fencing must meet certain criteria. Temporary green mesh fencing is ok but may not keep the deer away from your vegetables.

Happy Fall Vegetable Gardening!



UGA Extension Plant Diagram
Skidaway Island is in Zone 9a

Fall vegetables to plant in Georgia

Vegetable	When to plant	Method of planting	Spacing between rows (in.)	Spacing within each row (in.)	Seed planting depth (in.)	Days from planting to harvest
Beets	Aug. 15–Oct. 1	Seeds	12–18	3–4	0.5–0.75	60–70
Broccoli	Aug. 15–Oct. 1	Transplants	18–30	16–20		70–80
Brussels sprouts	Aug. 30–Oct. 1	Transplants	10–30	16–20		90–100
Cabbage	Aug. 15–Oct. 1	Transplants	18–24	16–20		75–90
Chinese cabbage	Aug. 30–Oct. 1	Seeds or transplants	12–16	10–18	0.5	75–90
Carrots	Aug. 15–Sept. 15	Seeds	12–18	1–2	0.25	70–80
Cauliflower	Sept. 1–Oct. 1	Transplants	18–24	16–20		70–80
Collards	Aug. 15–Oct. 1	Seeds or transplants	30–36	18–24	0.5	75–85
Garlic	Sept. 1–Oct. 1	Bulbs	12	4	2	Early June
Kale	Aug. 15–Sept. 30	Transplants	24–36	18	0.25	50–65
Kohlrabi	Aug. 15–Sept. 1	Transplants	18–24	4–6		50–70
Leaf lettuces	Sept. 1–Oct. 15	Seeds or transplants	12–18	2–3	0.25	60–70
Leeks	Aug. 15–Sept. 1	Seeds or transplants	12–24	2–4	0.5	Late spring
Mustard	Aug. 15–Sept. 30	Seeds	12–18	2–3	0.5	40–50
Onions	Sept. 1–Oct. 1	Seed, sets, or transplants	12–18	4	0.25	Late spring
Radishes	Aug. 15–Oct. 15	Seeds	8–12	0.75–1	0.5	20–40
Rutabaga	Aug. 15–Sept. 30	Seeds	24–36	3–4	0.5	80–90
Spinach	Aug. 15–Sept. 30	Seeds	8–12	1–2	0.5	50–60
Swiss chard	Aug. 15–Sept. 1	Seeds	24–30	2–3	0.5	50–60



National Garden Club / Garden Club of Georgia Youth Poetry Contest 2025 Theme: Plant America For The Next 100 Years



Do you have a child or grandchild who has a flair for poetry but may not yet realize it? Encourage their creativity by entering them in the GCG / NGC Youth Poetry Contest! This contest aims to inspire our youth to articulate their imaginative thoughts through writing and is open to all children grades K-12, competing by grade level.

- Winning entries will be showcased in a digital poetry booklet that is print-ready. Our young poets will represent the Oleander District in this exciting challenge.
- Submission Deadline: All entries must be submitted by November 14. Send to Debra Fenn, Oleander District - P.O. Box 131, Odum, GA 31555.
- Announcement Dates: State winners will be revealed in April 2026, with national winners announced in May 2026.

For further details on contest rules and how to submit your young poet's entry, please visit the Garden Club of Georgia website at gardenclubofgeorgia.org. There, you'll find a link to the Youth Poetry Contest, where you can review the guidelines and access entry forms.



Serenity Gardens

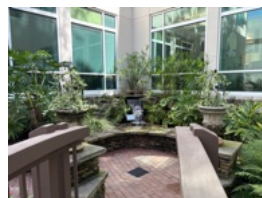
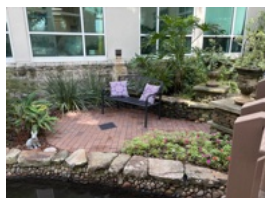
Submitted by Martha Nesmith & Amanda Dorman

Our Serenity Garden continues to thrive at the Anderson Cancer Center. The summer rains have greatly benefited the plants and shrubs. We plan to keep the vibrant impatiens in the ground until September and will assess them for fall replacement during our next visit.

We received wonderful feedback from the LGC Facebook post by Diane Benson. This post was shared on the Skidaway Island Neighborhood Chat by the Administrator, along with a link to the history of the Serenity Garden. How fortunate we are to have gained such exposure! For those who have yet to visit this tranquil space, we invite you to stop by and enjoy the soothing sounds of the waterfall and the beauty of the plantings.



Amanda and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers, as well as those who are interested in joining this incredibly meaningful committee. We could not achieve this work without the support of our amazing volunteers!



Skidaway Farm Project to Feed the Hungry

Submitted by Meg Kettlitz



We took the summer off this year. I checked our plot on a regular basis over the hot summer to ensure all was well. We have a few weeds that found a way to grow along the edge of our plot, but otherwise the plot looks ready to plant.

We will plant our Fall vegetable seedlings the first week of October. Fall vegetables grow best when air and soil temperatures are lower. The vegetables that we will plant should be ready to harvest around mid-November, just in time for Thanksgiving.

This year our produce will be donated to Savannah Union Mission. They provide 700 meals a week to hungry people and are very appreciative of our support as they don't often receive fresh produce.

The Skidaway Farm volunteers usually work on weekends so please consider this If you are interested in helping with ongoing activities. If you would like to sign up for this worthwhile project, please contact Meg Kettlitz.

This is a photo of our plot last November



Sparrow Field

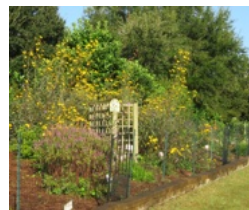
Submitted by Dawn Cordo



Sparrow Field welcomed several volunteers, including a few spouses, to participate in the Great Pollinator Census held on August 22. Despite the cloudy skies, we were treated to a delightful display from the pollinators! Eleven observers recorded sightings of bees, moths, butterflies, and more.

Thanks to the recent rainfall, the garden is flourishing! In just a few weeks, we anticipate the swamp sunflowers to burst into bloom, filling the garden with vibrant yellow flowers. The striking contrast of blue from the plumbago and purple from the petunias will create a stunning visual experience. The arrowroot in the pond is thriving, and the lantana is in full bloom. If you haven't visited Sparrow Field yet, now is the perfect time to witness the garden's breathtaking beauty.

We always have a wonderful time, learning as we work and making a positive impact in our community. If you're interested in joining our team, please contact Dawn Cordo at cordodawn@gmail.com.



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.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Sue Hamlet on being named the new Project Leader for the Sparrow Field Master Gardener Project. This is a well deserved promotion as Sue has been involved with Sparrow Field since 2014!



SAVANNAH BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE

Join us for the Savannah Botanical Garden's semi-annual plant sale on October 11, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event will feature:

- Plants available for purchase from a local nursery
- Beautiful plants cultivated by friends of the Botanical Garden
- An assortment of stunning daylilies from the Daylily Society

Additionally, camellia experts Ron and Belinda Jacobs will be present, along with Master Gardeners ready to answer all your gardening inquiries.



We would greatly appreciate any plants or ceramic pots you wish to donate for the sale. You can contact Nancy Rosenthal to arrange a pickup. She can be reached at: 912-844-0458.

Mark your calendars for October 11, and come out to support the Botanical Garden!

The Savannah Botanical Garden, located at 1388 Eisenhower Drive, welcomes visitors daily and is free to the public. It's a beautiful venue for capturing memorable photos, so don't forget to bring your camera!

Birds and Conservation



GA State Wildlife Action Plan

Georgia boasts an incredible variety of wildlife species and natural habitats, ranking among the most diverse regions in the nation for several taxonomic groups, including freshwater fishes, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, and plants.

The Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) serves as a comprehensive strategy aimed at conserving populations of native wildlife species and their essential habitats. This proactive approach seeks to protect these animals, plants, and ecosystems before they become increasingly rare and expensive to conserve or restore.

Notably, Georgia is one of the few states to implement a wildlife action plan, identifying over 1,000 species at risk, with forty percent of these being native plants. These native plants play a crucial role in supporting our local pollinators. For more information check out their website: georgiawildlife.com

The National Wildlife Federation - NWF.org



The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is dedicated to bringing together all Americans to guarantee the prosperity of both wildlife and humans in our swiftly evolving environment.

Their website serves as a valuable resource filled with information. Be sure to check out their blog at blog.NWF.org and take the quiz called "Which Native Tree Are You?"



Tropical Milkweed: Impact on Monarch Butterflies



Tropical milkweed can pose a threat to monarch butterflies by increasing the spread of the *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) parasite and potentially disrupting their migration patterns. Unlike native milkweed species, tropical milkweed does not die back in winter. While it serves as a food source, the prolonged blooming period allows OE spores to accumulate, resulting in decreased survival and reproductive rates for monarchs.

To support these beautiful butterflies, it is advisable to remove tropical milkweed and replace it with **native milkweed** species.

News Flash...Florida has officially classified *Asclepias curassavica* (tropical milkweed) as an invasive species. If you have this plant in your yard, it is advisable to remove it.

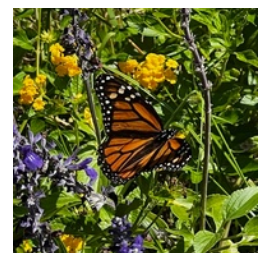
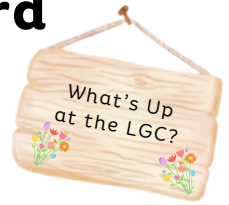


Photo courtesy of Gayle Ridgway

The Landings Garden Club - Community Board

This and That, Tidbits of Interest...

Club Evites, Please RSVP - YES or NO



Check out this class for a great way to refresh your gardening knowledge

GARDENING 101

September 20th to November 15th - Saturday 9-11am
UGA Extension Office - 17 Minus Avenue

Saturday, 09/20

Garden Preparation and Soils

Guest Speaker - Julie Thomas (MGEV)

Saturday, 09/27

Vegetable Gardening and Pests

Guest Speaker - Allen Rountree (MGEV)

Saturday, 10/04

Using Technology in the Garden

Guest Speaker - Heather Hale (MGEV)

Saturday, 10/11

Turf and Landscaping on the Coast

Guest Speaker - Anisha Cook (MGEV)

Saturday, 10/18

No class!

Saturday, 10/25

Native Plants and Pollinators & Watersheds

Guest Speakers - Rita Reams and Angela Holliman (MGEV)

Saturday, 11/11

Herb Gardening

Guest Speaker - Liz Pascual (MGEV)



Registration Info <https://forms.office.com/r/dpxJusfVus>

Save The Date
October 6 - 10:00 am
Private Residence Garden Tour
Look for an EVITE with details



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



To assist with the following events:

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 an information table with Coastal Botanical Gardens*

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

The Past and Future of American Gardening

Submitted by Joni Brownstein, one Skidaway Gardener to Another

Through the years, American gardens have mirrored the nation's values, challenges, and dreams. As garden designer Russell Page once observed, *"A garden is a reflection of its owner, a projection onto the ground of his tastes, habits, and dreams."* What we planted, and why tells a story not only of landscapes but of culture. Let's go back 100 years to see where we've been and where we're headed.



1920s - 1930s: From Estate Grandeur to Victory Gardens

In the Roaring Twenties, wealthy families showed off European-inspired estate gardens with clipped hedges, fountains, and manicured ornamentals. But the Great Depression quickly shifted the tone, and practicality took precedence over ornamentation. During WWII, "Victory Gardens" spread across the country - by 1943, out of necessity and patriotic duty, nearly 20 million American families grew vegetables and fruit at home.

1940s-1950s: The Suburban Lawn Takes Root

Once wartime rationing ended, Victory Gardens faded. Grocery stores were well stocked again, supermarkets spread rapidly, and convenience replaced the need to grow food at home. Meanwhile, the GI Bill and a suburban housing boom gave millions of families small yards of their own. The perfect green lawn became the ultimate symbol of success, supported by new fertilizers, sprinklers, and power mowers. Foundation shrubs like azaleas, junipers, and boxwood framed the new American dream.

1960s-1970s: Back to the Land

Then the counterculture era brought a wave of ecological awareness. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) exposed the dangers of pesticides like DDT, showing how chemical use threatened birds, pollinators, and even human health. Her book reshaped public perception of gardening and farming, sparking environmental activism and laying the groundwork for the organic movement. The creation of Earth Day in 1970 sparked a surge in environmental consciousness, directly feeding interest in home gardening and edible landscaping. Families turned to organic gardening, compost piles, and backyard vegetables. Native plants and wildflowers - once seen as weeds - began to find a place in designed landscapes.

2000s-2010s: Toward Sustainability

As droughts and climate concerns rose, sustainability became mainstream. High-profile wake-up calls - from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 to recurring water scarcity in the American West, and later Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* - pushed sustainability and climate awareness into the gardening mainstream. Xeriscaping, rain gardens, and pollinator habitats became widely adopted. Homeowners began mixing edibles with ornamentals - blueberry hedges, basil in flower beds. Community gardens and urban farms flourished in cities, restoring a sense of collective purpose.



The Past and Future of American Gardening, pg. 2

2020s: Gardening for Wellness and Resilience

The 2020s have brought a dramatic shift in how Americans view their gardens. The COVID-19 pandemic was a major turning point: as people faced lockdowns and food supply concerns, seed companies saw record-breaking sales, and home gardens became both therapy and insurance against uncertainty. At the same time, younger generations drove the houseplant renaissance, turning monstera, fiddle leaf figs, and hoyas into icons of self-care and interior design. Beyond aesthetics, scientific research confirmed what gardeners long knew: time in nature reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, and strengthens emotional resilience. Hospitals, senior living centers, and rehab programs increasingly incorporated horticultural therapy. Layered on this was a growing sense of climate anxiety, which encouraged people to see gardens as tools of adaptation. Rain capture, pollinator support, shade creation, and food production became ways of participating in resilience at home. All of this was supported by a broader cultural shift toward wellness, a multi-trillion-dollar industry in which gardens now play a central role from organic food to herbal remedies and restorative outdoor spaces.

Looking Forward: The Next Era

Looking ahead, gardens will increasingly be designed with wellness and resilience at their core. More landscapes will include intentional areas for meditation, quiet reflection, and sensory experiences built around fragrance, texture, and the sound of water. Edible and therapeutic plants - from lavender and chamomile to echinacea and lemon balm - will become staples in ornamental beds, blurring the line between beauty and function. On the resilience side, raised vegetable beds, rain barrels, pollinator strips, and even small-scale food forests will find their way into backyards, while balconies and patios will be designed to serve multiple purposes as sanctuaries, pantries, and ecosystems. At the community level seed libraries, neighborhood food gardens and shared tool sheds will emerge as hubs of collective resilience. And as technology continues to advance, it will blend seamlessly with nature: apps that track plant health, AI-driven garden planners, and smart irrigation systems will work alongside compost piles, mulching, and succession planting. The result will be a future garden that is not simply a backdrop, but a living system designed to support human wellbeing while adapting ecological realities.

A Living Tradition

The gardens of tomorrow can be places of great beauty where food, habitat, health, and hope grow together. This says something quite powerful about American culture. Today's focus on ecology and resilience reflects a culture that is learning to adapt, value limits, and embrace responsibility. Gardening in America is not just about landscapes - it's a reflection of national identity, shifting from displays of wealth and uniformity to expressions of responsibility, adaptability, and hope. Whether your joy comes from pruning roses, planting pollinator beds, or tending a row of tomatoes, you're part of this living story. Our yards remind us that even as times change, the act of cultivating life remains constant,



Take the time to dig in the dirt and nurture a garden that reflects your personal tastes, habits, and dreams.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Martha Nesmith

TREASURER'S REPORT 08/29/2025					
TRANSFERRED ACCOUNTS TO CHASE BANK 06/24/2025		OPERATIONS		WAYS & MEANS	
DEPOSITS:					
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$5,000.00		\$8,000.00	
FROM TRUIST ACCTS					
FINAL DEPOSITS FROM		\$4,152.33		\$741.00	
TRUIST ACCTS					
SUBTOTAL		\$9,152.33		\$8,741.00	
EXPENDITURES		\$237.60		\$78.64	
BALANCE IN ACCOUNT		\$8,914.73		\$8,662.36	
MINUS RESERVES	*	\$2,500.00		\$890.35	Hesse School Grant \$390.35
					Arbor Day Grant \$500
AVAILABLE BALANCE		\$6,414.73		\$7,772.01	
* Funds fr Savings Acct set up at Club inception. Must remain a reserve.					



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.

