



Trent Woods Garden Club

December 2020

Greetings, All! Hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving however you spent it! These days are challenging, but we must stay strong and keep going to support each other! An interesting note is that there were hardly any flowers left at the stores on Wednesday which tells us that we can always find joy in simple pleasures. I hope that you are following some of the tips which Gail McLamb presented in her November Program, "Decorating for the Holidays."

Seasonal Design was done by Debbie Durham who commented that she had never done an arrangement in a low container. I'm sure that D' must be happy to know that we are still learning from her albeit from afar. The "Birthday Angels" made 20 designs in OUI jars for Croatan Village led by Gail at her home and delivered to the facility. Although we couldn't visit with the residents, I am sure that they felt our love in these gifts.

Our December events have also been changed. Since we cannot enter the Bishop Home to decorate, the Board voted to donate 4 more wreaths for Wreaths Across America. However, TWGC will festoon the gates at the Bishop House to bring joy to all who pass.

The Trent Woods Parade is on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2:00 pm. We will process in convertibles driven by June Boyd, Gail McLamb and Elizabeth Lassiter. Please attend and support our club. Our garden glove sale is going strong. What a thoughtful gift it could be for your family and neighbors. Please remember those members who are unable to be with us. A note or call would be most appreciated. Unfortunately the December meeting has been cancelled.

Have a peaceful, healthy and safe Christmas.

Fondly, Paula

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
And
Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

TWGC Executive Board 2020-2021

Paula Hartman,
President

1st Vice President, Ann G. Hall

2nd Vice President, Debbie Durham

Treasurer, Mary Florence

Recording Secretary, Marcia Sproul

Corresponding Secretary, June Boyd

Historian, Francis Eder

Cancelled

TWGC General Meeting

December 2020

At New Bern Golf and Country
Club

10:00 AM Social time

10:30 AM Meeting begins

Luncheon will be served, the
choices are:

CANCELLED

Please contact Judy Boyd to make
a reservation and indicate your
choice at

judysboyd@embarqmail.com

Cost \$18. due before start of meeting.

Gardening Gloves will be available
for sale -\$7/pair

Due to Covid, there will be reserved seating for
anyone staying for lunch and temperatures will
be checked .before entry.

Luncheon Choices

December 10, 2020

1. Grilled Chicken and Baby Spinach Salad - Fennel Cumin Dusted Grilled Chicken Breast over Baby Spinach, Julienne Tomato, Blackberries, Raspberries and Spicy Pecans and Mango Vinaigrette
2. Crab Melt – Southern crab cake, topped with sautéed spinach, melted brie cheese, bacon, Tobacco onions, lemon aioli on a toasted potato bun and served with a fruit cup

January 14, 2021

1. Cobb Salad – Crisp iceberg, hard boiled eggs, diced tomatoes, grilled chicken, scallions, avocado, Swiss & cheddar cheese, topped with apple-wood smoked bacon, with choice of dressing
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu-Chicken breast stuffed with Swiss cheese and ham topped with Dijon sauce with creamy mashed potatoes and Chef's choice of vegetable

February 11, 2021

1. Grilled Chicken Salad – Mixed greens topped with grilled chicken, cucumber, bacon bits, onions, tomatoes
2. Pecan Crusted Chicken with Mashed potatoes and Chef's Vegetable

March 11, 2021

1. Country Club Salad- Mixed baby field greens, Portobello mushrooms, gorgonzola cheese, red onion, sun-dried tomatoes, toasted walnuts and pine nuts tossed with balsamic vinaigrette and finished with a pesto dri2.
2. Ham and Swiss Quiche – Served with chilled asparagus & sliced marinated roma tomatoes and sliced fruit

April 8, 2021

1. Oriental Chicken Salad - Shredded Napa Cabbage, Diakon Radish Sprout, Iceberg Lettuce, tossed with Teriyaki and Five Spice Chicken, Macadamia Nuts, Scallions, and Mandarin Oranges with Yuzu Ginger Vinaigrette and topped with Crisp Wonton Strips
2. Turkey & Brie – Shaved roasted turkey breast, apple-wood smoked bacon, creamy brie cheese & apricot preserves on toasted sourdough with a fruit cup

May 13, 2021

1. Davis Cup Salad-Crisp Romaine lettuce with raisins, candied walnuts, strawberries and bleu cheese crumbles
2. Brie and Raspberry Chicken - Pan Seared Marinated Breast of Chicken served with Brie Cream Sauce and Raspberry Compote, Roasted Garlic Potato Puree and Shallot and Balsamic Haricot Verts

TWGC Monthly Programs

2020-2021

December 10

Floral Arrangements Inspired by Art

January 14

Herbs by David Hite Head of the Kitchen Garden at Tryon Palace

February 11

Birds by Oliver Jarvis

March 11

Propagation by Amy Rose White

April 15

Medicinal Use of Plants by Maureen Loomer

May 13

TBD



Garden Therapy

TWGC delivered 20 nosegay arrangements for residents with birthdays in November and the other residents and staff at Croatan Village.

...in my Garden

December 2020



Deb Tallman is marveling at her Knockout scented yellow roses— they keep going and going and going! The Confederate Rose planted from canes this spring has been a wonderful fall bloomer



Paula Hartman shared her Trumpet Vine that “Finally!” bloomed.

Volunteers Needed!

Garden Therapy — please see Kathy Perretta! We will be able to deliver Birthday Angels and small arrangements to a Nursing home each month!

December 2020 Brookdale

January 11, 2021 Good Shepard

February 15, 2021 Homeplace

March 15, 2021 Monarch

April 19, 2021 Riverpoint Crest –plant vegetable garden

Due to Covid restrictions, we will not be visiting with our Second Grade Youth Gardeners until 2021. Circumstances may change so please regularly refer to our web site, Facebook page or the newsletter!

Seasonal Design — please see Gail Pethia

Bank of the Arts — please see Mary Ann Hudak

TW Christmas Parade— need chairperson, see Paula Hartman!

Bishop House — We will be limited to outdoor décor only. Please see June Boyd if you would like to help.

Monthly Program November 2020



November's Program was presented by Gail McLamb. She showed us a variety of holiday designs that included table décor in the form of a wicker sled and reindeer to lanterns and floral arrangements. She also gave a wonderful bow tutorial. Last but not least, she introduced her friend, Rachel Deere who is a floral designer. Rachael showed us how a simple floral design can be fresh and interesting with the addition of simple natural elements such as bleached money plant.

More photos on our website www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com

Seasonal Design November 2020



Debbie Durham's first ever low arrangement presented in a in a D'Stone vase.
We all think she did a great job!

Seasonal Design
November 2020



Debbie Durham's second Seasonal Design in a D'Stone Vase!

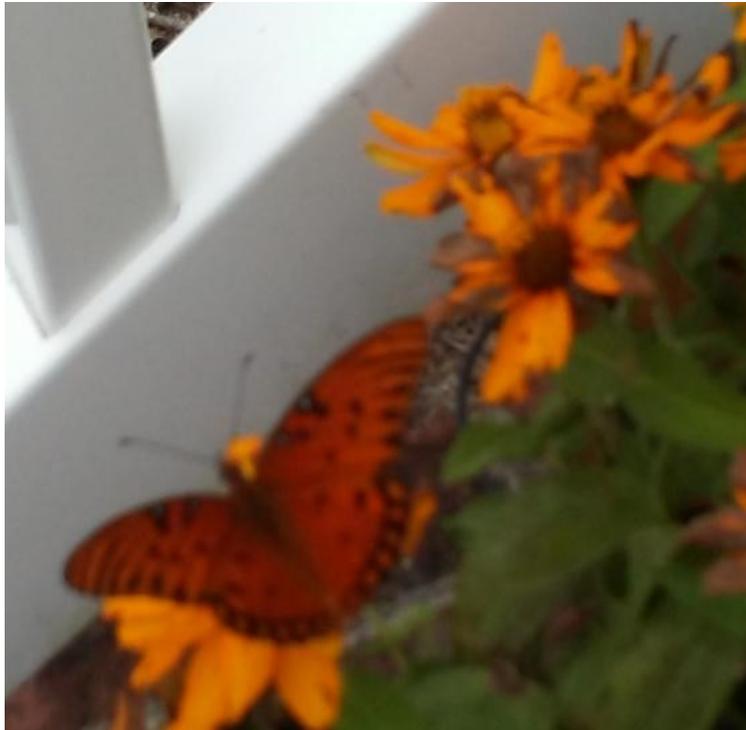
Horticulture Corner-December 2020

By Maureen Loomer

A chorus of sparrows in summer is how I remember you. The fire of maples in autumn is how I remember you. The silence of snowfall in winter is how I remember you.

-- Michael Franks on “Dragonfly Summer” (1993 album).

Runs in the autumn weather are my payoff for faithful running in summer’s heat and humidity. Trent Woods is a beautiful town and I want to “shout out” to the professionals who are bringing us sidewalks that make our outdoor time even better. They are friendly, courteous, and ever-vigilant for safety.



Sedum Envy: As a native Californian, I am embarrassed to say I am not a huge fan of succulents, but I make an exception for the sedums. Both native and naturalized species of autumn sedum (aka stonecrop) are tough, colorful features of the North Carolina perennial garden

(<https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/extgardener-remarkable-and-versatile-sedums/>).

I have kept the upright cultivar “Autumn Fire” for four years in my container garden. I also have several creeping cultivars that are less showy but keep weeds down and are great “fillers”. My mother, whose yard is blessed with better drainage than

mine has an upright in the ground. Flower heads form early in summer but the real show is from October through frost. You can cut them down after frost or just leave the flower heads for winter interest.

Horticulture Corner

(continued)

Please enjoy the photo I took at the entrance to Canterbury Park where an upright sedum (maybe “Autumn Joy”?) is planted with sedges and iris. The raised bed keeps the soil well-drained. Good drainage and mostly-sun to full sun are all these hardy plants require. Mine did not do well this year, but I bought some more Autumn Fire at Pinecone. *Fine Gardening* has a nice article on using the creeping varieties. I hope sedum envy is a lesser sin!



Garden Centers: I visited Pinecone and Lowe’s before Thanksgiving and found both in transition to Christmas Trees, cabbages, and kales. I snagged a rosemary from the bargain table at Lowe’s and some wallflowers at Pinecone. I’ll see what I can do with them. While at Pinecone I also grabbed a pineapple sage (full of blooms!), fern leaf lavender, and more bronze fennel.

Maureen’s Garden: The walled herb garden has endured two frosts now but only the basils have returned to their fathers. Rues, oreganos, and lavenders all still look good, and anise hyssop is blooming. I moved the pots of heucheras (coral bells) up close to the sun room. They are ever-green in a mild winter and I love their color. I have moved a few hardy herbs to the sunroom and will take photos next for next month.

Since it is December, I am concluding with a photo of a Christmas Cactus in my sunroom. Happy holidays to all! Please send any questions you would like me to research!

Until next month....



TWGC is pleased to announce our newest fundraiser in support of our ongoing projects and scholarship fund!



Only \$7 per pair, assorted colors and sizes!

Buy now for best selection!

Contact: Mary Florence mflorence@suddenlink.net or

Ann Hall annghall77@gmail.com

Bank of The Arts

November 2020 "Critters"

By Deb Tallman Mums, Roses, Babies Breath, and Alstroemeria



Bird of the Month
December 2020
Brown Thrasher by Michael Creedon



The Brown Thrasher gets no respect. Birders in the field, spotting some activity on the forest floor, eyes glued to binoculars focused on the tangled mess, finally spot their prey, only to say “It’s just a Thrasher”. In my eyes, the Brown Thrasher is a beautiful bird. Both long billed and long tailed, these shy birds are quite hardy.

Quite common in backyards, particularly those friendly to birds, with feeders, baths and lots of trees and shrubbery for nests. When you notice leaves being tossed around on the ground, and take a good look, you will probably spot a Thrasher. Boldly and beautifully patterned, predominantly a lovely red-brown, staring yellow eyes, with a severe expression due to their down curved bill. They are in the family of the Mocking-

bird and Catbirds. They are not sexually dimorphic, both sexes appearing identical.

Thrashers as a rule don’t visit feeders, however, absent any other birds there, and no visible threats, ie, us, they will occasionally visit to eye the offerings. They are omnivores, preferring to forage on the ground for fallen seed and berries, using their bill to dig in the soil for insects. They will also use their bill to crack open acorns. I have watched one many times using its bill to break a kernel of corn into tiny bites, until the entire kernel is gone.

They are accomplished vocalists, with a repertoire of over 1,000 different songs, the largest of any bird, imitating many other bird songs. Of eight thrasher species in the USA, they are the only Thrasher east of Texas. Generally monogamous, both mom and dad incubate the eggs, usually 4, and feed the young, and are very aggressive defenders of the nest, having been known to strike both people and dogs hard enough to draw blood. Chicks can leave the nest in as little as 9 days, fully feathered. Usually nesting in shrubby habitat, a popular hideout for nest predators. Predominant nest predators include snakes, birds of



prey and cats. They are the largest common host of the parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird, many times rejecting the cowbird eggs laid in their nest.

They, like many birds, will have at least two broods per season, sometimes three. The oldest recorded individual was 12 years.

In our area, they are year round neighbors, with berries, nuts and small fruits an important component of their winter diet.

These Brown Thrasher photos were taken in my back yard in River Bend. I have included photos of the Long Billed Thrasher, photo from Texas, and the Curve-billed Thrasher, photo from New Mexico

Additional pictures on our web site

www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com



Natural elements for holiday decorations

December 2020 by Judi Lloyd

A fresh Frasier fir wreath with nothing more than a bow works. In fact, it's stunning. A Christmas tree with twinkling lights and a few balls creates understated elegance. When it comes to table arrangements, the gardener in me takes over. I love using fresh greens from my landscape.

Is this the year for a live Christmas tree? NC has approximately 1,300 growers producing Frasier fir Christmas trees on an estimated 40,000 acres. The NC Frasier fir is the most popular Christmas tree in North America and is shipped into every state in the US and other points all over the world. Consider buying your live Christmas tree from the New Bern Civitans. Their tree lot will open on Friday, November 27th, 3931 MLK Jr. Blvd., US 17 across from Paula's Pizza

where they will be selling Christmas trees, wreaths and peanuts. Hours of operation will be: Friday-Sunday (Nov. 27-29) 9 am to 7 pm. Limited hours beginning Nov. 30th

Monday thru Friday 4 pm until 7 pm; Cash or check. Tree Prices - 6-7 ft. \$60; 7-8 ft. \$70; 8-9 ft. \$85; 10-11 ft. \$155. Wreath prices - Decorated \$40; Undecorated \$35 and \$5 discount with tree purchase. Due to COVID-19, they have ordered less trees than in the past. Trees will sell out early. Money raised from these sales goes to LOCAL charities such as RCS, Merci Clinic, Coastal Carolina Women's Shelter, Salvation Army, Special Olympics and many more.

Once inside, keep your Christmas, your live tree can for the birds. This is a great bucket full of damp sand, apples, leftover breads and then dipped in birdseed.

Container plantings aren't just creating a container display for the winter. Plants grown insulate their roots, so choose than here. We're zone 7. Get landscape plants for color or add early spring-blooming bulbs.



Christmas tree well-watered. After be moved outside and be redecorated project for kids. Anchor the tree in a Decorate it with strings of popcorn, pinecones covered with peanut butter

for the spring and summer. Consider using evergreens to keep some green in containers don't have the ground to plants that are hardy to two zones less creative and use the berries from

Forcing bulbs can bring spring's color to the dreary short days this time of year. The two most popular ones during the holidays are paperwhite narcissus and amaryllis. Paperwhites are the easiest of all bulbs to force. A shallow bowl with water and pebbles is all you need to have those wonderful sweet smelling blooms in no time. Amaryllis are also easy to force. Their large lily-like blooms generally last indoors for several weeks. The bigger the amaryllis (remember to check out Craven-mastergardener.org) bulb the better, as it will produce more than one stalk of blooms the first year. The smaller ones, while a little cheaper, will probably only produce one stalk. They like to be pot-bound, so choose a container that is only an inch or two bigger than the bulb. Make sure that the top third of the bulb is exposed and put the pot in bright, indirect light. Keep the soil moist but not wet. A thick flower stalk will shoot up and flat leaves will follow within two to eight weeks. Rotate the pot every few days so that the flower stalk gets consistent light on all sides (otherwise it will grow crooked). And, the best part is that where we live, you can plant it outside in the spring and it will come up every year after that with gorgeous blooms in your yard!

Enjoy the holiday season with some of these natural decorations.

Judi Lloyd lives in River Bend and can be reached at judilloyd@yahoo.com