



# Cape Fear Garden Club

## CLIPPINGS news & updates

May 2020 | Issue 9

### President's Message

Garden Club Member,

We will not be able to have our May Luncheon but hope to have an installation of officers at the September meeting however, the new officers will take their positions as of June 01, 2020. We are fortunate to have them step up and take leadership positions, as they all bring a different skill, or “flower to our beautiful bouquet.” They were a joy to work with this year and their guidance muchly appreciated and needed.



As we come to the close of our fiscal year and have time to reflect on the accomplishments of our club through your hard work and dedication, and to celebrate those achievements to name a few: Battery Island Cleanup, Empie Park pollinator garden, tree plantings throughout our city with the collaboration of the Cape Fear Tree Alliance and the City of Wilmington, a children’s pollinator garden at J.C. Roe School, arts and crafts with Elderhaus attendees, members from different committees working together in the Parnell Garden to showcase their wonderful habitat for wildlife and encourage tour visitors to be “Stewards of the Earth,” not to mention members developing friendships, knowledge of local resources, getting some exercise and just having fun together.

The fall Soiree’ was a tremendous success, it was enjoyable and raised a significant amount of funds for our Endowment. Then there are those working in the background on our website and electronic communications which has been crucial this year, with the many improvements, and guidance to move us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

New members were treated to a coffee hour and time to get to know more about our club, the Christmas Tea held in the beautiful home of Beth Moore was exquisitely decorated and the food and punch delicious.

With thirty committees we can be proud of our many accomplishments. Thank you for everything you do for the Cape Fear Garden Club and for our community. There are so many things to thank you all for and if I have left off a thank you, please know it is an oversight.

Little did I know that circumstances would change after the first of the year, when

Thanking before you at our last meeting in February, I actually thought I would get through the remainder of the year unscathed....

Then came the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, a pandemic which has shaken our country and our world. After a year plus of planning and working on our coveted Azalea Garden Tour we had to cancel due to social distancing and the pandemic, and postpone our annual Bird Island Cruise, both of which have a loyal and dedicated following. Not only are these events fun and educational, but they raise funds for worthy causes; grants to local non-profits, funding for our general budget to be able to accomplish the many projects that our committees work on, and to help fund those that protect the thousands of migrating birds that rely on our coastal community for safe nesting areas.

Thank you to those that voted recently, so that we can at least fund the scholarships to Cape Fear Community College, UNC-Wilmington, and the standing grant to the N.C. Audubon Society this fall. Hopefully, there will be some funds remaining but that will not be known until after June 01, 2020. The Garden Tour Disbursement Committee will have this information for you with recommendations at the September meeting.

The Garden Tour Disbursement grants awarded in October make it one of our most rewarding meetings because we get to hear from those that receive funds and how much it means to them and those that they serve. One of the most touching statements from a grant recipient was last year from Major Craddick with the Salvation Army.

*“A neighborhood lady approached him one day and asked if she could plant flowers in an old planter that was not in use and he agreed, however, he thought why flowers when we have so many people here that are without homes and don’t know where their next meal is coming from?” She planted and tended the flowers and people started gathering around the flower bed and he asked one why and the response was: “This gives us hope that we will someday have our own flower garden.” Major Craddick said it changed his heart.*

We touch countless people in so many different and meaningful ways.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the President of Cape Fear Garden Club this past year. I appreciate the support and guidance and encouragement throughout the year with your kind words, emails, and cards, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Rebecca

*Rebecca Philpott*  
*President - Cape Fear Garden Club 2019-2020*  
*“Stewards of the Earth”*  
*910.452.9844 Home*  
*910.352.3886 cell/text*  
*[raphilpott25@gmail.com](mailto:raphilpott25@gmail.com)*

Your Opinion Matters

Looking for your suggestions for 2020/21 General Meeting  
Program/Speakers

Please call or email Meredith, Linda or Sherry of your thoughts and suggestions for topics and/or speakers that you would like to include in the Cape Fear Garden Club's 2020/2021 general meeting program.

Meredith Lewis [meredithlewis05@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlewis05@gmail.com) 910-547-8212

Linda Snider [snidersnc@gmail.com](mailto:snidersnc@gmail.com) 910-620-3756

Sherry O'Daniell [sherrydaniell@gmail.com](mailto:sherrydaniell@gmail.com) 910-538-9747

## May Luncheon also Cancelled



I was so looking forward, as I know you were also, to our annual May luncheon.

Who doesn't love dining among the beautiful floral arrangements that the *Flower Arranging Committee* always creates, reflecting on our past year as we gaze upon the wonderful photos supplied by the *Photography Committee* and are so elegantly showcased by our projectionist.

Fine dining, sipping on Champaign and engaging in conversation was not to be as protecting our fellow members and community from the Covid-19 virus became our top concern.

Our President, Rebecca Philpott has showed superior leadership in dealing with the many issues that have arisen within the Cape Fear Garden Club as the result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. There was no playbook or precedence for Rebecca to refer to for advice, so she relied on her fellow garden members to get through this trying year.

Together the Cape Fear Garden Club has advanced forward and I want to thank members that helped in various ways to ease some of the stress that we all felt as we sought out answers to how best to go forward. Forward we will go with plans (Plan "B") for officers to be recognized at the September CFGC meeting held at the Cape Fear Country Club. Be on the lookout for a Plan "C" during these unprecedented times.

We heartfelt thanks also to the Cape Fear Country Club who didn't penalize us for canceling our meetings and luncheon.

*Together we will prevail.*

All my best,

Sherry O'Daniell

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of CFGC.

## 2020 Disbursement Committee Report

Under ordinary circumstances, the Disbursements Committee would ask non-profits in New Hanover County to submit applications for

## Grant Disbursements from the 2020 Azalea Garden Tour.

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 virus, the Azalea Garden Tour was cancelled causing a disruption in our funding to local non-profits this year.



Because of the generosity of folks in the community and the CFGC, the standing grants were honored. Many people who purchased tickets early for the garden tour converted their pre-event ticket into a donation to CFGC. This donated money was used to allow the funding of North Carolina Audubon Society and scholarships for the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College. Funds will be disbursed at the October 2020 General Meeting.

On Sunday, May 24, 2020 please look for an article in the Your Voice section of the StarNews regarding the affect Covid-19 had on the 2020 Azalea Garden Tour and Disbursements to non-profits. The article was written by Barbara Downing. As the article states, we are all looking forward to the 2021 Azalea Garden Tour.

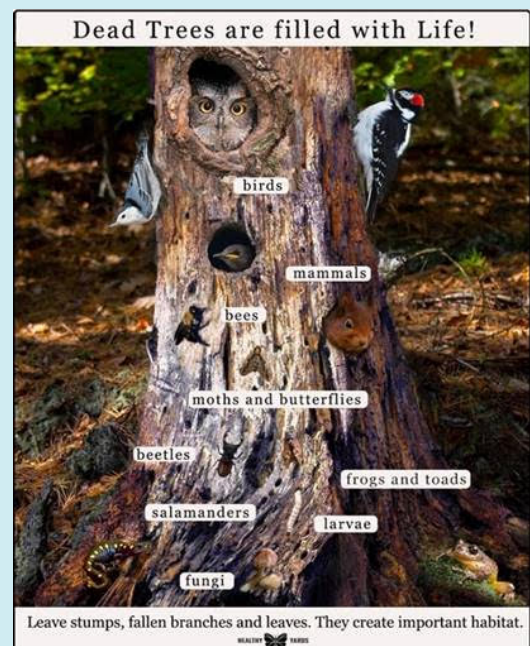
Signa Stalvey  
Chair, Disbursement Committee

## National Garden Clubs - Landscape Design School

## Want some Excitement this Summer?

Sponsored by the Garden Club of North Carolina  
For more information, contact Linda McLendon, [McLendonL@aol.com](mailto:McLendonL@aol.com)  
Course 1 - June 8-9, 2020  
Course 2 - August 10-11, 2020  
Course 3 - October 12-13, 2020  
Events to be held at J. C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC

The Garden Club of North Carolina's Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2020 at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC.  
<https://gardenclubofnc.org/>





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Garden Therapy Committee will NOT meet in May.  
They will reassemble in October

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## Battery Island Bird Cruise Rescheduled

The Cape Fear Garden Club has over a 20-year relationship working closely with Audubon NC's Coastal Office and biologists to maintain safe habitats for the migratory birds and specifically the islands where they nest located in the Lower Cape Fear River.

Battery Island is considered a "Globally Important Bird Area" because of the large numbers of White Ibis that nest on the island each spring.



The Battery Island Committee of the Cape Fear Garden Club supports Audubon NC with scheduled clean ups on Battery Island in the Spring before nesting season begins and the Fall after the nesting season is complete. Our main concern is to remove the debris that floats onto the island from the Cape Fear River. The most critical debris to remove from the island is fishing line (monofilament) because of the danger of entanglement of Brown Pelicans and other water birds.

Twelve members of the Battery Island Committee went by boat to the island on November 2, 2019, with Lindsay Addison, Audubon NC's Coastal Biologist, Anna Parot, Audubon's Biology Technician, and her fiancée Stephen and daughter Kyra. The Battery Island Committee traveled to Southport, NC and met the Audubon staff who trailered two boats to the Southport Marina and took committee members to the island by boat. Battery Island is a federally-protected habitat and no one is allowed to be on the island unless they are with the appropriate Audubon or government official.

The clean-up was extremely successful as the Battery Island Committee members collected 420# of debris. After removal of this debris from the island by boat, we loaded up the debris into the Audubon pickup truck. Our committee members enjoyed a lunch afterwards at Oliver's Restaurant on the waterway with the Audubon staff.

The Audubon biologists took the collected debris to the landfill the following Monday. Our March 2020 clean-up of Battery Island was cancelled just days before because of the official stay at home orders issued by the Governor of North Carolina at the recommendation of the Center for Disease Controls protocols Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **CRUISE TO THE BIRD ISLANDS OF THE LOWER CAPE FEAR RIVER .**

The educational cruise and fundraiser has taken place annually since 1996. The cruise was initially planned for May 17, 2020 aboard the HENRIETTA riverboat, however the date was changed and the cruise postponed until August 16, 2020 because of the public health emergency for COVID-19.

The Battery Island Committee members do all of the detailed planning & coordination for the cruise. The cruise is generally planned in May during nesting season on a Sunday afternoon. Committee member involvement includes ticket sales, coordinating the boarding of the river boat, greeting guests and speakers, 50/50 raffle ticket sales, creating & selling notecards, photography, and distributing box lunches.

The cruise is an educational opportunity for the public. We are pleased to have the following two experts share their knowledge and experience with us and narrate the cruise and viewing.

- Dr. James Parnell, Professor Emeritus of UNCW and North Carolina's top ornithologist.
- Lindsay Addison, Audubon North Carolina's Coastal Biologist speaks describing her work to monitor the nesting colonies on the six bird islands in the Cape Fear River including Battery Island.

All expenses for the bird cruise are funded by ticket sales and donations with the profit from the cruise donated to Audubon NC's Coast Office supporting the work of the Audubon biologist on the Cape Fear River islands.

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## 2020/2021 Cape Fear Garden Club Yearbook



Help us produce an accurate Yearbook....Please inform the Registrar and Yearbook Committee of any changes to your contact information for the 2020-21 Yearbook.

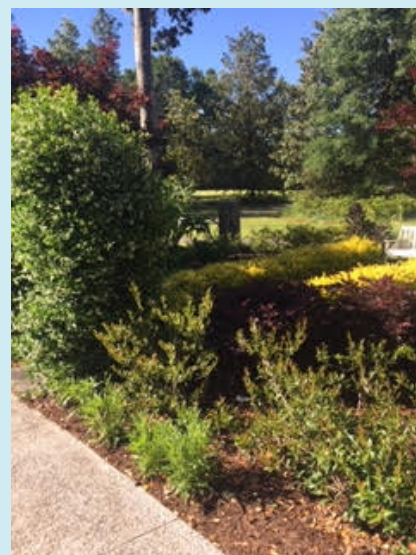
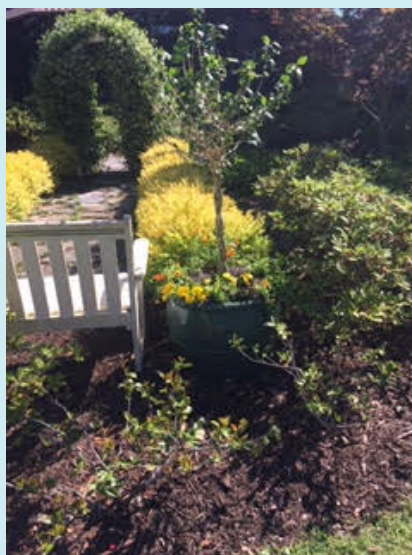
In addition please let us know if your garden has received Wildlife Certification or you have a new Life Membership that should be added to the list of Life Memberships.

WANTED - The Yearbook Committee is looking for a few good photos featuring Committee Projects...Garden Club members in action... Please submit photos suitable for publication to Penny Allison at [pjandmark@bellsouth.net](mailto:pjandmark@bellsouth.net)

please contact:  
Penny Allison, [pjandmark@bellsouth.net](mailto:pjandmark@bellsouth.net) 910-686-0888

## AIRLIE SHOWCASE GARDEN

Airlie Showcase Garden has survived the shut down. It needs a good trim and some weeding but is otherwise in good shape. We are ever so slow starting to weed it again.



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## GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Our committee chose to help the Parnells as they showcased their wonderful habitat for wildlife in the 2020 Garden Tour. The Parnell's live what they advocate for... and that is the preservation of our natural habitat.

They have carved out a charming garden filled with pollinator flowers, hostas, ferns, azaleas and other lovely plants surrounded by mature trees. Trees that provide shade and keep their home cooler during our hot summer months, trees that provide homes for wildlife, clean the air, drink up excess water following storms, slow the winds of those storms, and they add such beauty to our earth. They are truly "Stewards of the Earth". What a meaningful message for visitors.

We were able to transform the dog kennel into a patio and small sunroom setup that may help visitors with ideas for gardening in small places. We secured some children's artwork from Bradley Creek Elem. We plan to display the nature scenes in some quiet areas along the walking trail. We were honored with some volunteer services from Colby, New Hanover High School National Honor Society Student. Colby helped us move some bricks and heavier planters. Many thanks to him.

Our efforts were rewarded with an article in the March 2020 "Intracoastal Living" magazine. This project would not have happened without the support of Gardening for Wildlife, Birds and Butterflies, Conservation committees, and the many individuals who came out to help.

We look forward to more good times gardening with our fellow garden club members and keeping those wonderful memories we created to help us until we can be back together again.



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## BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES COMMITTEE

What a tough ending for our committee's year! All three of our projects were to culminate in March and April. We had six gorgeous metal signs to be displayed in the Parnells' garden during the garden tour. We used Birds and Butterfly Photos from the Private Collection of Frances; husband, and had them printed on aluminum signs. After the tour, we had planned to use them in a pollinator garden at JC Roe Center.

Our main project was to establish a pollinator garden at JC Roe Center. This last spring, we worked closely with the school getting plans approved. The Bluebird trail was to be on the school grounds, and their art classes were in the process of painting the birdhouses.

The good news is that all three project may hopefully be rescheduled and completed next year.

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### May 2020 Report

#### **Sympathy messages sent:**

Family of Lucille Whedbee  
Emeritus Member, who passed on May 3, 2020

#### **Get Well Cards sent:**

Carolyn Augustine, Emeritus Member  
Linda Snider, Active Member  
Mary Kathryn Turner, Active Member

### 2019-2020 Summary



Deceased Emeritus Members:  
Elma Porter Bowden, May 28, 2019  
Vivian Fisher Gardner, June 7, 2019  
Jean Moore, September 17, 2019  
Lucille Whedbee, May 3, 2020

Deceased Associate Members:  
Sherry Weaver, May 24, 2019  
Muriel Pearson, February 24, 2020

Deceased Members:  
Lorraine Oppenheimer, Former member, June 16, 2019  
J. D. Causey, Honorary Member, September 4, 2019

Please send sympathy and get well information to Lannie Kirby, Corresponding Secretary at [Lnnkirb@aol.com](mailto:Lnnkirb@aol.com)



### 10% Member Discount at Johnson Nursery

Individually members will receive a 10% discount on every purchase from Johnson's nursery after they register with Johnson's Nursery to be included on their email list in which the member will receive multiple emails from Johnson Nursery each week during the busy season.

The Garden Center at Johnson Nursery | 910-285-1944 | [Johnson Nursery](http://JohnsonNursery.com)



Cape Fear Garden Club | [www.capefeargardenclub.org](http://www.capefeargardenclub.org)

Deadline for submissions for Septemer Newsletter is September 4th  
Send all submissions to [clippingscfcg@gmail.com](mailto:clippingscfcg@gmail.com)

