



# Cape Fear Garden Club

## CLIPPINGS

### news & updates

December 2023 | Issue 4

## President's Message

### GENERAL MEETING: January 24, 2024

#### Cape Fear Country Club

9:15 - 9:30 a.m.

Horticulture Judging

9:30 a.m.

Hospitality & Social Period

10:00 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order

#### Devotional:

Frances Parnell

#### Program: "Wake Up Winter with Wildlife"

Presenter: Gardening for  
Wildlife Committee,  
featuring Natalie Bohorquez  
from the NC Wildlife  
Federation

Refreshment Table

Arrangement:

Kiplyn Duffy

Horticulture Theme:  
Camellias and Early Bulbs  
and Native plants

Day Clerks: Morgan  
Chapman

Judges: Marcia Doering,  
Barbara Howard or Karen  
Root.

Azalea Garden Tour Tickets  
go on sale!  
Sign up to be a Garden sitter.

Dear CFGC  
Member,

I am back in  
my  
hometown of  
Shelbyville,  
Illinois. I  
took the first  
plane out  
after our



November General Meeting. My dad had a stroke on November 6th. I had to get released from the doctor and complete the therapy on my wrist before I could make the trip. That said, it is very cold up here and so strange to be alone in the house I grew up in until I married Brad.

My dad is doing well but is experiencing some paralysis in his left leg. He is receiving therapy four times a week, and he gives me my marching orders daily, ha!

I want to share the best story of scattering some kindness and commitment. You all know I committed to be an educator years ago when I decided to become a teacher. I got to serve in many different capacities throughout my career. My dad joined the Navy after school, and upon his return home, he went to work for the same company as his father and uncles as a crane operator in construction.

Two years ago, we attended a ceremony with him where he was given a gold watch and a 75-year pin as a member of the Operators Local 965 out of Springfield. He was committed to his job but loved

2024-2025 Committee  
Selection begins



Tree made in November  
Workshop



Beautiful arrangement at  
CFGC Christmas Tea at  
Teresa Hill's home.

building and woodworking. He built two houses that I know of and additions to several others.

His two-car garage held my mother's car on her side; there was nothing but woodworking tools on his side of the space. There were saws, planers, routers, drills, sanders, blades, belts, and things, I don't have any idea what they were for, but he knew, and those tools were dear to him. He was supposed to sell them.....and you guessed it.....this never happened.

So, here I am faced with dealing with life and how to get his new car in the garage with his lifelong collection of tools, right where the car should be.

I convinced my dad that he could benefit the youth in my hometown by donating those tools and equipment to the shop's vocational education program at my high school. Amazingly, he agreed and told me to get out there to that high school and talk to someone.

This past Tuesday, I did just that, and on Thursday, the principal, five students, and the head of maintenance for the school district pulled into the driveway. What took my dad 72 years to collect only took those students 42 minutes to load on the flat trailer.

With smiles on all their faces, the lifelong gathering of tools was about to be scattered in the shop area of my former high school, so I hugged those kids and told them, "Merry Christmas!"

I took my dad a strawberry milkshake from the Dairy Queen and visited him at the facility. He was so proud of this accomplishment, and those tools will live on in the lives of the young students.

I wish each of you a fascinating and wonderful holiday!

Fondly,

***Deb***

**Debbie Reid**

President

Cape Fear Garden Club 2023-2024

## New Officer and Proposed By-Law Amendment Proposals

The below motion was approved by the membership at the November General Membership Meeting.

### **MOTION**

The Membership Committee and the Battery Island Committee make a motion to invite Jill Peleuses, owner of the Wild Bird and Garden Store at Hanover Center, and Lindsay Addison, Coastal Biologist with the AUDUBON North Carolina, to become Honorary Members of the CFGC for their outstanding service to the Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc.

The rationale: Both Jill Peleuses and Lindsay Addison fulfill objectives of the garden club by providing non-profit, philanthropic and educational opportunities for our members and the public. They encourage environmental improvement through protection and conservation of native trees, plants and birds. Tickets for the Battery Island cruises, and the Azalea Garden Tour are available for purchase at the Wild Bird and Garden Store.

The below motion was approved by the membership at the November General Membership Meeting.

### **MOTION**

The By-Law Review Committee and Azalea Garden Tour Committee move that the position of the Azalea Garden Tour Treasurer should become an officer of the Club.

**The below By-Laws Amendment Proposal was read for the first time and will be read again at the January Meeting and voted on by the General Membership.**

### **BY-LAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**

#### **Article IV – Officers. Page 60.**

##### **Section 1**

The officers of The Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

**Change: The officers of The Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc. shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Azalea Garden Tour Treasurer.**

**Azalea Garden Tour Treasurer is added as a Club officer. The below changes in both By-Laws and Policies and Procedures are due to the above change.**

##### **Section 2**

All Officers shall be elected at the February meeting for a term of one year. No officer shall be eligible to hold the same office for more than one term except the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

**Change: The slate of officers shall be presented at the February meeting for a term of one year and voted on at the March meeting. No officer shall be eligible to hold the same office for more than one term except the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Azalea Garden Tour Treasurer.**

[Linda Snider](#), Reporting for the By-Laws Review Committee and the Membership Committee

**Cape Fear Garden Club Christmas Tea  
at the Home of Teresa Hill**



Photos thanks to Annie Anthony

## Gardening for Wildlife

**GREAT NEWS!** We have submitted our application to the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and paid the fee to begin the process of working to have the City of Wilmington Wildlife Certified by 2025!

This means that ALL members of the Cape Fear Garden Club will need to work together and all committees collaboratively to reach this goal. We encourage you to look at your neighborhood to see how you can accomplish the requirements to have your “neck of the woods” certified! It’s very easy to do so please check out this link: [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) If you need help with the “tech aspect” of applying for certification, please contact Becky Hardy or one of our other Committee members.

Our GFW Committee will present the January General Meeting program featuring Natalie Bohorquez from the NC Wildlife Federation. She will be speaking to us about city-wide certification and how you can help! We hope to also touch on how to winterize your garden with some helpful tips!

Our next GFW Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 11th at 4 pm at the home of Delores Hawes, 214 Quail Ridge Road.

[Becky Hardy](#)



## Workshops & Special Events

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

I hope you will attend upcoming fun and informative workshops and programs for the club in 2024.

The season is here again; let us raise a loving cup, Peace on earth, and goodwill to men, and make them do the washing and cleaning for us again.



[Sandy Cyphers](#)

2nd Vice President

## Special Events at Johnson's Nursery

The Amazing Special Events Committee was honored to provide the opportunity for CFGC members and their families to kick off the holiday season at the Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina's Southern Lights event on November 29, 2023. \

This one-of-a-kind holiday light experience was held at Johnson's Nursery in Willard, NC. Johnson's Nursery partnered with The Gardens of SENC and Patriot Illumination and made this event truly magical!

The chilly temperatures did not stop us from enjoying many fun activities such as wood-fired pizza, a s'more bar over a fire pit to warm their mittens, along with a wine tasting and a little Christmas market! We also were able to learn how to make live Christmas wreathes and Christmas ornaments using greenery, pinecones and pine needles.



Even though it was very cold night...the bright JOY we all were able to experience being together and making new memories made this event a success in every way! Merry Christmas!

[Bobby Jean Harvey](#) and [Beth Trice](#)



## Horticultural Minute

### "Blue Tree" for the Blue Room At the White House

For the 15th year, a Fraser fir from North Carolina is the official tree for The White House. In October, White House officials selected a 19-foot tree. It was shipped to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 15. The tree stands from floor to ceiling, filling the Blue Room, and the room's chandelier is removed to accommodate the tree's full height.

The combination of form, needle retention, dark blue-green color, pleasant scent, and excellent shipping characteristics has led to Fraser fir being one of the most popular Christmas tree species. It has been used as the official Christmas tree for the White House more than any other species.

A potential Blue Room tree, which can take up to 24 years to grow, must have a diameter of nearly 12 feet to be the center of the room. Proportions are important. The tree can't be too wide or too narrow. It must be very symmetrical and very full. It needs sturdy ornament-ready branches, and in the Blue Room, it must be strong enough to hold up to 3,000 ornaments and strands of lights, which get their power from the chandelier's power source in the ceiling. Hundreds of gallons of water keep the tree fresh and exude the scent of Christmas.

The Fraser fir grows naturally only at elevations above 4,500 feet in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Its highest native habitat is Mt. Mitchell, NC (6,684 feet), the highest U.S. point east of the Mississippi. The tree was named for the Scottish botanist John Fraser (1750-1811). North Carolina produces most Fraser fir Christmas trees sold commercially since the late 1940s.

Again, in 2024, the 16<sup>th</sup> Tar Heel tree will be honored as the Official White House Christmas Tree.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**

[Marcia Doering](#), Retired Certified Arborist, International Society of Arboriculture



## Gather, Grow, Give Campaign

This is a friendly reminder that our annual “Gather, Grow, Give” campaign is underway throughout December. You can donate easily, safely, and securely at the link below.

These campaigns will always be optional, so members should feel no pressure to participate since we all feel it from many directions in our daily lives. However, for those of you who would like to join in this year’s season of giving to take advantage of tax deductions for charitable donations, please consider supporting our club.



Please Join me in donating to the Centennial celebration on the horizon for 2024. I had an idea recently to make my 2023 donation to the Club for \$100 this year - to signify our club’s 100 years of supporting our community.

Since we now can designate our donations to several specific areas – one of them being the Centennial Committee – I plan to designate a portion of my \$100 donation to the Centennial Committee and another portion to another area.

**Join me in this challenge, and please see how many members we can find who would like to give \$100 to Celebrate 100 years!**

I have heard from several of you already, so I am guessing there is some interest in this challenge! If the results are significant, I will be glad to report back in 2024 what the outcome of year-end giving was for the Club, the Centennial Committee, and the other designated areas.

Happy Holidays to each of you and thanks, in advance for supporting the Gather, Grow, Give campaign!

[Meg Davenport](#) and [Meredith Lewis](#)

[Make Your Donation Safely and](#)

[Mail In Donation Form](#)

## Civic Improvements

Cape Fear Garden Club members joined forces with the New Hanover County Parks Conservancy staff to plant 100 long-leaf pine trees on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. This tree planting is just one of many Centennial Celebrations that will be occurring during the next 15 months as the Cape Fear Garden Club prepares to celebrate 100 years in Wilmington. These 100 young trees will help replenish the tree canopy in New Hanover County. The Long Leaf Pine is our state tree and Long Leaf Park is a showcase for these beauties!

### Cathy Poulos



## Garden Therapy at Elderhaus

Our monthly visit to Elderhaus was on Monday, December 4. Together, committee members and volunteers made light work of the annual creation of live green arrangements in Christmas mugs. Various types of greenery included pine, cedar, podocarpus, rosemary, and eucalyptus and a variety of beautiful holiday mugs, colorful balls, red bows, and berries finished off with super cute name tags tied to mug handles.

Nine of 24 committee members teamed with five volunteers to assist and enjoy time with the 34 Elderhaus clients. The participants loved selecting and arranging the greens. We had a “jolly old time,” singing Christmas carols and smiling with the folks at Elderhaus!

Many thanks to those who attended clipped greens and/or donated time, supplies, or mugs!

Sincerely,

Wendy Giannini King and **Sherrel Bunn**, Garden Therapy Co-Chairs





[View the Winter 2023 Issue of The National Gardener](#)



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

Submissions for Clipping must be received no later than two weeks before the general meeting. Send all 2023-2024 submissions to [clippingscfgc@gmail.com](mailto:clippingscfgc@gmail.com)



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