

All the Dirt, and More

Volume 4, Issue 3

Fall 2025

Newsletter of the Hillsborough Garden Club

Kick Off the New Club Year in Bloom!

Learn how to transform a simple grocery store bouquet into a glamorous centerpiece! Morgan Moylan, HGC member and owner/designer of **West**



Queen Floral Studio, will guide us in combining store-bought blooms with treasures from our own gardens to create stunning arrangements.

This hands-on workshop is part of our **Third Annual Fall Flower Fling**. Bring along flowers, greenery, grasses, or other cuttings from your garden, plus a vase and garden scissors. Nothing blooming? Dried seed heads can make a fun and unexpected addition to any arrangement.



After Morgan's inspiring demonstration, we'll head to the **Flower Bar** to design our own show-stopping arrangements.

Calendar of Events

Social Time at 9:30 am, Meeting at 10 am
Location at Hillsborough UMC unless otherwise stated

Thursday, Sept. 11
Hillsborough UMC
Program: From Grocery Store to Glamorous

Morgan Moylan, HGC member and floral designer, will show us how to make a grocery store bouquet into a glamorous centerpiece.
Bring flowers, greenery, seed heads and a vase!

Sunday, Oct. 7, 4:30 Cocktails
5:30 Dinner
100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
The Barn at Union Grove
1052 Lily Pad Ln., Chapel Hill
Tickets: \$50 on sale through Sept. 11

Thursday, Oct. 11
Program: Making Peonies the Star of the Garden

Diana Reynolds-DeBree, HGC member and peony farm owner, will share tips for successful growing and propagating of peonies, just in time for your fall planting.

Thursday, Nov. 13
Program: Trading Fine Dining for Flower Beds: A Story of Flavor, Flair and Sustainability

Karel Leemkuil, HGC member and Dutch-born chef turned flower farmer, will share some of his story as a global Executive Chef, as well as how he traded fine dining for flower beds, growing specialty blooms using sustainable methods rooted in quality and creativity.

Tree of Heaven...Not so Heavenly

A tree of heaven was discovered at the Hillsborough United Methodist Church, located just off the northeast side of the parking lot. Why is this news? Let's learn more about this tree.

The tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is not just a destructive invasive species; it plays a significant role in the spread of another highly damaging invader: the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). This insect, native to Asia, was first detected in the US in 2014. It has since spread rapidly, threatening agriculture, forestry, and landscapes across multiple states. In June 2022, the first established population in NC was confirmed in Forsyth County.

The relationship between the spotted lanternfly and the tree of heaven is crucial. While the insect feeds on over 70 plant species, including grapevines, maples, and various fruit trees, it has a strong preference for the tree of heaven. Adult lanternflies often gather in large numbers on these trees, using them for both feeding and egg-laying. This makes *Ailanthus* an important "sentinel plant" for monitoring new infestations. Since

tree of heaven is commonly found along roadsides and vacant lots, it often serves as a convenient host that facilitates the pest's spread into new areas.

As tree of heaven is a preferred host, landowners are encouraged to monitor these trees closely for signs of the spotted lanternfly. Typical indicators include clusters of eggs laid in mud-like masses on trunks, the presence of nymphs in spring and summer, or large congregations of adults from late summer into fall.

If you encounter a suspected spotted lanternfly, take a clear photo, record the location, and immediately report it to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Rapid reporting is crucial because early detection offers the best chance to slow its spread.

Addressing this dual problem requires managing both the insect and its preferred host. Reducing the abundance of tree of heaven on properties—through careful removal combined with herbicide treatments—can make landscapes less attractive to spotted lanternflies. However, eradication is

challenging due to the tree's ability to resprout from its roots, so persistence and integrated control strategies are necessary.

Together, the tree of heaven and the spotted lanternfly form a destructive partnership that threatens ecosystems, agriculture, and communities across NC. Awareness, vigilance, and early reporting remain the most effective tools for slowing their spread and protecting native plants, crops, and urban landscapes.

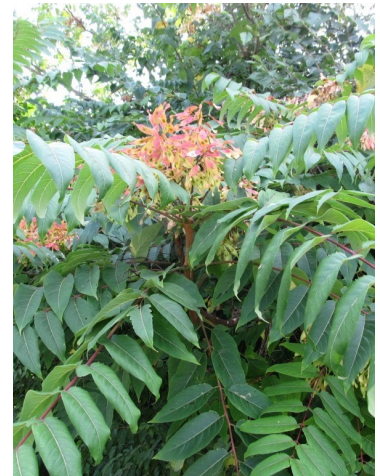
Ecological Concerns

The tree produces chemicals (notably ailanthone) that inhibit the germination and growth of nearby plants.

It provides minimal habitat or food benefit for most native insects and birds in NC.

Management Challenges

Cutting often stimulates vigorous root suckering, so mechanical removal without follow-up can worsen infestations. Successful eradication requires integrated methods (cutting followed by herbicide treatment, or repeated cutting combined with root management).



Tree of Heaven



Spotted Lanternfly



PlantFest October 11

The Extension Master Gardener volunteers of Orange County will hold PlantFest on Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Blackwood Farm Park, 4215 NC-86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (new location!).

You'll find a big plant sale and garden festival, with kids' activities, gardening exhibits and

information, a nature-themed art sale, free seeds, tool sharpening, food trucks, music and more! The plant sale will offer many native plants, including some that are hard to find at local nurseries. A plant list will be posted on the PlantFest website in September.

Bring a wagon or cart, if you like, to hold your plants - there will be a safe holding area where you can "park" your plants while you get your car or wander the Festival.

Learn more at www.PlantFestNC.org



Area Plant Sales

Knotty by Nature Native Plant Sale

Sats. Sept. 13 - Nov. 1
10 am - 4 pm
5911 Mt. Hermon
Church Rd, Durham

Briggs Ave Garden Fall Festival and Plant Sale

Sat. Sept. 13
10 am - 2 pm
1314 S. Briggs Ave.,
Durham
All Plants \$3

Flowers by Carolina 4th Annual Native Plant Sale

Sept. 13-14
10 am - 4 pm
5902 Swepsonville-
Saxapahaw Rd,
Saxapahaw

Fall Native Plant Sale

Thurs. Sept. 25
4-6 pm
Durham Co. Cooperative Extension Center
721 Foster St, Durham

Fall Plant Sale & Market

Sept. 26 & 27
10 am-3 pm
NC Arboretum
100 Frederick Law
Olmsted Way
Asheville

NC Botanical Garden Sale

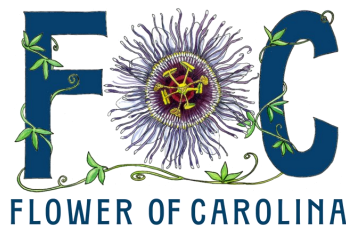
Sat. Sept 27
9 am - 1 pm
751 Laurel Hill Rd,
Chapel Hill

Backyard Butterflies Sale

Oct. 4, 12-5 pm
1507 US 70A East
Hillsborough

Orange County Master Gardener PlantFest

Sat. Oct. 11
9 am - 3 pm
Blackwood Farm Park
4218 NC 88, Chapel Hill



"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all." –Stanley Horowitz

2025 Andrea Lewis Scholarship Recipients

This year we gave three \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Orange County schools and an additional \$1,000 scholarship to an Alamance Community College student from Orange County. The awards were presented in May at the high schools by HGC members.

Max Saunders, the son of Sarah and Garth Saunders, graduated from Orange High School and will be attending UNC Asheville. He plans to major in Biology with a focus on botany. Max wrote in his vision that he hopes to increase the

“sustainability of agricultural practices through breeding resistant and stable strains of plants, or protecting the natural environment and maintaining national nature preserves.”

Kathryn Romska graduated from Cedar Ridge High and plans to attend Elon University, majoring in Political Science. She hopes to attend law school and focus on agricultural and environmental law.

Salie Olson, the daughter of Matthew and Amy Olson graduated from Eno Valley Academy and will attend NC State. She

plans to study biology and is interested in understanding and addressing environmental issues such as human effects on ecosystems and biodiversity.

Itzel Martinez is the Alamance Community College scholarship recipient. She graduated from Cedar Ridge High. Itzel works as the Landscape Supervisor for the Town of Elon and enjoys “bringing my landscape designs to life, helping to beautify the town, and create spaces that bring joy to the community.” Itzel continues to live in Hillsborough



Bonnie Maddox presenting award to Kathryn Romska at Cedar Ridge High School



Itzel Martinez in the Solar Greenhouse at ACC

Resource Conservation Workshop

For the past three years, the Hillsborough Garden Club has sponsored a student to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU in June. **Savannah Durham**, the daughter of Brian and Erin Durham, is a rising junior at Orange High School. She along with two Chapel Hill students experienced a week of hands-on projects and learning.

The students shared about their experiences

during that week to the August meeting of the Orange County Soil and Conservation Board.

Savannah is interested in a career in agriculture science and is active in the FFA at her high school. For her Supervised Agriculture Experience, she has been working at a golf course and seeing how land and water are best managed.

The RCW introduces students to several

fields related to resource conservation and has been a fixture at NCSU since the 1960s. Each day they examine a different field, from forestry to animal and industrial land use to plant pathology.



Erin, Savannah and Brian Durham



Savannah giving her presentation



Crate-Grown Tulips

Tulips are one of spring's brightest highlights, and nothing beats bringing them indoors for fresh bouquets. Unfortunately, squirrels often get the bulbs before they can even peek through the soil.

Here's how you can grow tulips in crates and harvest them for the longest-lasting arrangements.

Materials You'll Need

- Plastic crates (at least 10 inches deep)
- Garden soil (Daddy Pete's or FoxFarm are excellent choices)
- Tulip bulbs (75–80 per crate)
- Chicken wire or fencing

Tip: Crates came from a local Latin supermarket, where they're often discarded after deliveries.

Step-by-Step Planting

1. Add 3–4 inches of soil to the crate.
2. Place bulbs in rows, as close as possible but not touching.

3. Cover with 5–6 inches of soil.
4. Lay chicken wire or fencing over the top to keep critters out.
5. Place crates outdoors in a sunny spot—they'll stay outside all winter and spring.
6. Water occasionally if rain or snow is sparse.
7. You can add a piece of cardboard to the bottom of the crate to hold the soil in, but it's not necessary.

Harvesting & Storing

- **When to harvest:** For the longest vase life, pick blooms just as they begin showing color. Fully opened blooms won't last as long.
- **How to harvest:** Pull gently to remove the tulip with its bulb intact. If needed, loosen the soil with a trowel knife.
- **Why keep the bulb?** It helps extend bloom life until arranging.
- **Storing:** Rinse dirt from the bulbs and store tulips flat in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

If refrigerated tulips look limp, cut off the bulb and place the stems in cool water. Within a few hours, they'll perk up—and by the next morning, they'll be fully hydrated.

Arranging

When you're ready to make your bouquet, cut the stem just above the bulb. This gives you the longest possible stem for your arrangement.

When to Plant

Tulips need a 12–15 week chilling period. In my garden, I plant around December 6th and start harvesting blooms in mid March.

Replanting

Crate-grown tulips are typically "one-and-done." You can try replanting the bulbs, but most won't produce again as reliably.

With this method, you'll outsmart the squirrels and have a steady supply of tulips ready for spring arrangements!

Have you paid your dues for the 2025-26 year?

Checks for \$35 made out to the HGC can be sent to

*P.O. Box 216
Hillsborough, NC 27278*

Or

Pay online on the [HGC website](#).

Or

Pay in-person at the September meeting.

Hillsborough Garden Club

President: Tammy Dorfman
Vice President: Bonnie Maddux
Secretary: Adrienne Scurtu
Treasurer: Kristen Compton
Newsletter Editor: Lynn Odom

Club Motto: To preserve what is good. To grow what is good. To display what is good.

Conservation Pledge: I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet Earth and promise to promote education, so that we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife.

Affiliate of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. and National Garden Club, Inc.



www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org

Club Members can access Member Portal: est1925

Centennial Dinner Celebration October 7, 2025

Union Grove Barn
1052 Lily Pad Lane
Chapel Hill, NC

Cocktails at 4:40 pm

Dinner at 5:30 pm

Tickets: \$50

Reserve your seat by September 11

Send check to HGC

P.O. Box 216

Hillsborough, NC 27278

Or

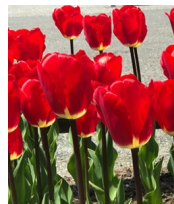
Pay at September Meeting

Fall Bulb Sale

The HGC bulb sale is underway offering lawn bulbs, allium, paper whites, amaryllis and tulips. Garden club members will get a 10% discount on orders made before **9/26**.

The last day to order will be **10/9**. Please share with family and friends!!

Additional info will be sent in an email shortly and will be available at the September meeting



Lawn Bulbs