

All the Dirt Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Winter 2022

Hillsborough Garden Club

Planter Decorations

Happy Holidays! We kicked off the holidays by decorating planters all about town! Our lead elf, Adrienne Scurtu, and her helpers Penny, Rachel, Robbie, Sharon, Val and Tammy began the day at the Chamber of Commerce, hopped over to the Historical Museum and finished up at the Hillsborough Visitors Center.

A HGC team effort, all of the materials came from club members and generous friends. During the week,

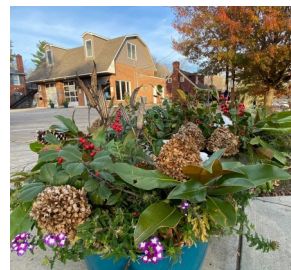


members cut and gathered trimmings from their yards. Some even came from a member's farm in Virginia!

Here are some of the materials used:

- ◇ Eastern red cedar
- ◇ Pine limbs and pine cones
- ◇ Magnolia leaves and seed pods
- ◇ American holly
- ◇ Nellie stevens holly
- ◇ Muhly grass
- ◇ Maiden grass
- ◇ Tea olive
- ◇ Rosemary
- ◇ Okra seed pods
- ◇ Juniper and more

We decorated 15 planters on November 27th for \$0. That's right!! ZERO!!!



Calendar of Events

**Sat., January 14, 2022 9:30 a.m. social
10 a.m. meeting**

**Orange County Cooperative Ext. Office,
1020 US Highway 70 West**

**Program: Winter Sowing to Jump Start
you Garden**

Tammy Dorfman will demonstrate planting seeds in mini-greenhouses by using recycled plastic containers. The containers are left outside for seeds to germinate at their own pace.

**Thurs., February 9, 2022 9:30 a.m. social
10 a.m. meeting**

Program: The Eno River - Our Treasure

Audrey Vaughn of the Eno River Association will share the critical ecological, historical and cultural importance of the Eno River and how the river supplies us with drinking water and recreational activities. Learn how we can engage in and support river conservation efforts.

Burwell School

HGC members gathered on December 6 to decorate Burwell School. Greenery and natural materials were donated by Tammy Dorfman, Val Blettner, Alice Moore, Kristen Compton, Barb Guidos, Sarah Meadows and Dolly Hunnell. Additional materials were leftover from planter decorating and donated by Penny Rand and the Burwell site itself.

"Santa Carole Ann" Pastore led the garland team on the front porch. It was a fun, hands-on learning experience for several members who had never made garland.

A northern pine base is embellished with magnolia, holly, cypress, juniper and pine cones. The staircase railings are garnished with large magnolia branches arranged in a lacy pattern. Swags decorate the backs of all rocking chairs. Members made arrangements in metal tubs near the benches. Two topiaries flank the front doors. It all adds up to a merry entrance!

Linda Petrick led the group of wreath makers in the old school building. Seven wreaths were made incorporating holly, ivy, cypress, pine, pine cones and red

ribbon on grapevine bases. These beautiful creations are visible on the front doors, back doors, side door, school door and gate.

Tammy decorated several planters. She included two pine cone topiaries hand made by Carolyn Bass.

Thanks to all of the dedicated members who came out- Pat O'Reilly, Linda Petrick, Bonnie Maddux, Diff Whitmore, Barb Guidos, Kathie Brown, Ann Burton, Pip Merrick, Sue Waters, Alice Bohlen, Carole Ann, Dolly and Tammy.

Everyone passing Burwell this season will agree it has never looked more festive!



Committee Connection

Like many of our committees pre-covid, the Hillsborough Garden Club's Garden Therapy group had been active visiting Soltys Place. Soltys Place provides care and support for individuals who are over the age of 18 and benefit from supportive, structured, and monitored daytime engagement opportunities.

Individuals enrolled in the program are given the opportunity to socialize, create and maintain relationships, and engage in meaning-

ful hobbies and activities. Their medical conditions are monitored so that they retain independent living skills.

Once a month for about one hour, the committee would share a simple activity with participants and provide beneficial social interaction. We focus on garden related activities. The Garden Therapy committee would also tend to the courtyard garden.

Families and caregivers can feel at ease, knowing their loved one has a safe and enjoyable place to go so that they can continue

to work and/or receive respite. It's also an enjoyable way for garden club members to offer assistance and support for our community.

The Garden Therapy committee has also provided plants for the Durham Veterans in the "Blooms for Veterans" program.

We'd love to get this committee up and running again. Please contact Tammy at tamdorf@aol.com or Ann Sebasan if you are interested in learning more.



<https://soltysadultday.org>

Plant Facts: Native Red Twig Dogwood



Cornus sericea
Cornaceae family
Native to US

A multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub, the red twig dogwood grows to a height and width of 6 to 9 feet. Its showy red stems provide great winter interest. The brightest color occurs on new stem growth, so prune the plant back in early spring to stimulate more growth.

The shrub grows vigorously and spreads by underground stems to form a colony. Its spreading roots can help prevent erosion.

Dense clusters of flat-topped, creamy-white flowers appear in early summer. White berries last into the fall and are a food source for songbirds. The leaves turn shades of orange or red, fading to purple in the fall. Once they

drop, the showy bright stems and twigs are very conspicuous in the winter months.

Light requirement:
Full sun to part shade

Water Needs:
Prefers moist soil

Attracts: Pollinators, host for the larvae of Spring Azure butterfly, songbirds, small mammals

Animal resistant:
Deer

Recipes from Past Meeting

Many of you asked for the recipes for the delicious chocolates that Val shared at the November meeting. Here you go!

Easy Chocolate Bark

- ◆ 12 oz. chocolate chips or chopped chocolate
- ◆ 3/4 cup raw nuts or seeds
- ◆ 1/4 cup dried fruit or cranberries

Preheat oven to 350°. Toast the nuts/seeds on a rimmed baking sheet about 6 to 9 minutes. Transfer nuts and chop them.

Melt chocolate 30-sec. increments, stirring after each one. Don't overdo it. Chocolate is

done when it's about 90% melted—keep stirring off the heat.

Cover baking sheet with parchment paper. Use a silicone spatula to spread chocolate evenly over the center area (it won't reach the edges).

Sprinkle nuts and dried fruit evenly over the chocolate. Lightly press the toppings into the chocolate.

<https://bit.ly/3VdNQnb>

Turtles

- ◆ 8 oz. pecan halves
- ◆ 25 caramel squares, unwrapped
- ◆ 1/4 cup cream or half-and-half, divided
- ◆ 16 oz. chopped chocolate, melted

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Place 5 to 6 pecans in a pile. Microwave the caramels and half of the cream. Heat on high to melt. Stir the mixture every 30 seconds.

Add 1 tbsp. caramel to the top of each pecan pile; set aside. Melt 8 oz. chocolate in microwave, about 1 minute on high. Heat in 15-second increments until chocolate can be stirred smooth.

Add about 2 tbsp chocolate to the top of each pecan pile by dolloping it on top and letting it fall down the sides.

<https://bit.ly/3TRxwYf>



Hillsborough Garden Club

President: Tammy Dorfman
 Vice President: Ann Sebesan
 Secretary: Sherry Appel
 Treasurer: Beverly DeMao
 Layout 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

History of the Club

The Hillsborough Garden Club was influential in preserving Hillsborough's history following the town's Bicentennial.

The first historical preservation effort came in 1939 with a leaflet entitled "Hillsboro 1754-1939". The leaflet was produced by the Historical Committee of the Garden Club, led by Mrs. J.S. Spurgeon.

Orange County Historical Museum

During the Bicentennial, the idea for the creation of an Orange County Historical Museum came after Mr.

Strudwick displayed several historical objects in the Old Courthouse. The first mention of the "Hillsboro Museum Project" came in 1955 when Mrs. Clarence Jones organized a committee to create the Orange County Historical Museum.

In 1956, members of the Club heard proposals for a museum, and the Museum Committee looked for financial support, a location, and volunteers to run the Museum. In 1957, the Orange County Commissioners approved the use of the second floor of the 1845 Courthouse and appropriated

\$250 toward the Museum.

The Museum opened in November of 1957 with the Garden Club as its sponsoring organization. Garden Club members provided funds and served as volunteers until a Curator was hired in 1959.

In the beginning, members of the Museum Board were elected by the Garden Club from its membership. Later, each current President of the Garden Club was invited to serve ex-officio on the Board.

Though the Museum is now operated by the Historical Foundation of Hillsborough and Orange County, the Garden Club still shows its support of the Museum.