

All the Dirt Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2022

Hillsborough Garden Club

Sheri Castle to Speak

Sheri Castle is an award-winning professional food writer, recipe developer, cookbook author, public speaker, and raconteur. She will be the speaker for our first evening meeting of the year, October 13, at 5:30 p.m. (social at 5 p.m.)

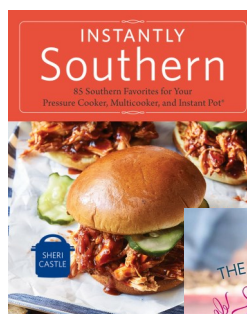
Sheri Castle will share how recipes reveal fascinating things about our lives, families, and communities. She'll have her books for purchase.



Castle hosts *The Key Ingredient*, a new cooking show on PBS NC, where she shares stories about local ingredients that bring her joy. Each show highlights a single ingredient and includes field trips to gardens, and cook-alongs with chefs in their home kitchens.

On the show, Castle guides viewers through some of her all-time favorite recipes designed for home cooks, peppered with her famous tips and hints. "We share stories, learn things, eat well, and laugh whenever we can -- they're all key ingredients to a wonderful time together."

Watch full episodes by clicking [here](#).



Calendar of Events

Club Meetings held at Hillsborough United Methodist Church, 130 W. Tryon Street.

**September 8, 2022 9:30 a.m. social
10 a.m. meeting**

Program: From the Ground Up

Bob Peoples will share tips for composting and vermiculture to help your garden from the ground up. Healthy plants are better able to withstand insect damage and extremes in weather. Members will share tips and tricks, what's worked and what hasn't.

October 8, 2022 OCMG PlantFest
1020 US HWY 70, 9 am - 2 pm

**October 13, 2022 5 p.m. social
5:30 p.m. meeting**

Program: How Recipes Tell Stories

Sheri Castle, host of *The Key Ingredient* on PBS NC, will share how recipes reveal fascinating things about our lives, families and communities.

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

Program: Holiday Decor

Alice Moore will discuss the influence of Queen Victoria and the Victorian age on gardening and floral decoration.

From the President

Greetings everyone! It's an exciting time of year for the Hillsborough Garden Club! We have a lot to look forward to while also taking a look back.

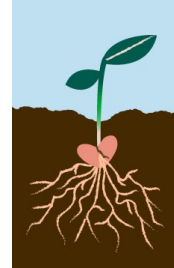
In 2025, we will celebrate 100 years as a club! We are one of the

oldest clubs in the state and no question one of the very best. An exploratory committee is looking at ways to celebrate, recognize and honor the history of the club. A formal committee will be formed this year... stayed tuned there is

much more on that to come.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to seeing you all at meetings, social gatherings, in the garden, and about town.

**Happy Gardening,
Tammy Dorfman**



Silk Flowers for VA Hospital

For "Blooms for Veterans", the chaplains at the VA Hospital in Durham were contacted. One of the chaplains suggested a permanent flower arrangement for the altar area of the chapel.

Potted plants have been used, but they tend to deteriorate too quickly. Club members Ann Burton and Kay Goad suggested, instead, a custom designed silk flower arrangement.

The results have far exceeded our expectations. The arrangement (at right) is a beautiful addition to the chapel, which should make HGC exceedingly proud.



Birdbath Making Class

We had two Pop-Up Birdbath-Making Classes in August for members. The classes were held at the home of Valerie Blettner.

For a \$10 cost, attendees made cement leaf-shaped bowls that are the perfect fit for the garden. The classes were publicized via email to club members.



The **Orange County Master Gardeners** will resume their monthly *Dig Deeper With Us* talks about gardening. On Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Orange County Library in Hillsborough, the topic will be "Biodiversity: Using Native Plants to Support Bees, Beneficial Insects, Butterflies and Birds." The Community Seed Library team will have free seed packets to give away. [More information here.](#)



Plant Facts: White Turtlehead

Chelone glabra

Plantaginaceae family
Native to US

This erect, clump-forming perennial with spikes of white or pink-tinged flowers blooms from late summer into fall. The 6-8 inch flower spikes bloom for up to 4 weeks. They open from bottom to top.

A bushy mound of dark green foliage stays handsome all season.

The plant grows 24-36 inches tall and 18-30 inches wide and slowly spreads by rhizomes.

The plant does well along stream banks, open woodlands, flood plains, and marshes.

Light requirement:

Part shade, part sun

Water Needs:

Average to high

Attracts: Butterflies and hummingbirds, host for the larvae of the native Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly

Animal resistant:

Bitter leaves resist deer and other animals

Managing Pests with Pollinators in Mind

A garden filled with flowers, birds, bees, and butterflies is a remarkable sight. Winged beauties add color, sound, and motion to our gardens. Plus, they help keep our gardens productive by pollinating plants and managing plant-damaging pests.

But what about those unwanted visitors to the garden? It is possible to have a beautiful garden while supporting the all-important pollinators.

Start with growing healthy plants. Avoid over-fertilization, especially with high nitrogen and fast release products that stimulate lush growth that is more susceptible to insect damage. Use low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizers that will not damage plants when the weather is hot and dry.

Invite songbirds to the landscape with a clean source of fresh water and plants that provide food and shelter.

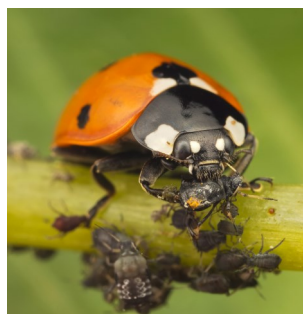
Include seedbearing plants, like Cosmos and coneflowers, as well as berry plants. The songbirds will repay you by eating many of the insects that feed upon your plants. Include the hummingbird's favorite flowers like columbine, Salvia, and Phlox. Then watch as these fast flyers feed upon aphids, mites, and mosquitoes.

Encourage beneficial insects to live and dine in your gardens. Blanket flower, Coreopsis, goldenrod, and other members of the aster family help bring in lady beetles, lacewings, and spiders. Grow hyssop to attract pirate bugs that eat thrips, spider mites, and leaf hoppers.

Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and other members of the mustard family attract parasites and predators of insect pests.

Watch for white rice-like spindles protruding from tomato hornworms, cutworms and various other insects in the garden. This is a sign that the Trichogramma wasp is helping you control these garden pests. These and other parasitoid wasps lay their eggs on or inside their hosts. When the egg hatches, the wasp larvae feed on the internal workings of the host insect or egg.

*Melinda Myers,
from the National
Gardener, Summer
2022*



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 club's activities were affected by the arrival of World War II. The last minutes recorded in April of 1942 show that the members had turned their attention to assisting in war efforts via the Red Cross. The club did not meet again until after the war.

The Hillsborough Garden Club was reorganized by Mrs. H.W. Moore on November 7, 1946. Flower shows were held frequently, and the club participated in town-wide and state-wide projects. Following Hills-

borough's Bicentennial in 1954, the club became influential in the creation of new Hillsborough cultural organizations.

1949 Awarded the "Purple Ribbon" for Flower Show and Spring Pilgrimage, entitled "Colonial Hillsboro"



1966 Voted to change its club flower to the Crepe Myrtle

1954 Participated in the town's Bicentennial through the Historic Home and Garden Tour

1955 Sponsored the formation of the Orange County Historical Museum

From 1970-1977 Planned the Carrie W. Spurgeon Garden at the Burwell School. The garden was dedicated in 1977 by the Hillsborough Historic Commission and the Hillsborough Garden Club.

