

All the Dirt Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2024

Hillsborough Garden Club

Share the Blooms

By Tammy Dorfman

We will once again participate in Share the Blooms with Meals on Wheels Orange County. Twice a month Firefly Farm owner Cindy Stubbs invites volunteers



to glean flowers for arrangements for Meals on Wheels recipients.

Each time we meet we make approximately 125-150 small arrangements which are then delivered by MOW volunteers the next day. All of the supplies needed are provided: baskets and scissors for gleaning. The barn is fully set up for arranging. We do suggest you bring gloves and water.

Volunteers begin gleaning flowers from the lower field around 9 am. We pick for about 45 minutes and then head up to the barn to make arrangements. This process

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Calendar of Events

Social at 9:30 am, Meeting at 10 am

Thursday, Apr. 11, 2024, 10 am

Linda's Barn, Hillsborough

Program: Container Gardening

Linda Bell will share with us her special magic for creating the containers for which she is so well known.

Thursday, May 9, 2024 NO MEETING

Friday, May 10, 2024

Hillsborough Exchange Club

331 Exchange Park Lane

Workday for all Members

We will separate pants, create identification in-

formation, and organize the sale. We'll also vote on new Board members and review the budget.

Saturday, May 11, 9 am - 2 pm

Hillsborough Exchange Club

Plant Sale

Thursday, June 13, 5:30 pm

Hillsborough UMC

Program: Get Those Squirrels Out of Here and Pot Luck Supper

Enjoy a meal together as we hear a roundtable discussion on the best practices for addressing those pesky garden problems and critters we all experience.

Hillsborough Garden Club Plant Sale

Our bi-annual plant sale is coming up on Saturday, May 11th, from 9 AM-2 PM. This year it will be held at the Exchange Club of Hillsborough.

Asters, beardtongue, bee balm, coneflowers, goldenrod, milkweed, sunflowers, red buck-eye, witch hazel, pink muhly grass..... This short list is just a few of the over 2,000 native perennials, trees and shrubs, as well as annuals and vegetable starts, that will be available at the sale. We will also have large, colorful container

gardens and cut floral arrangements for sale.

All the plants we sell are being locally grown by several growers: Backyard Butterflies, Cedar Ridge High School, garden club members (all in Hillsborough), and Mellow Marsh (Pittsboro). We are proud to be offering a full range of plants that are native to the local area and provide food sources for bees, butterflies/caterpillars, birds, and other wildlife.

We will also be hosting a variety of local non-profit educational

organizations that will share information to help enhance our gardens and community, such as bee-keepers and worm composters.

We Need You! Come join the fun! We have an assortment of volunteer opportunities for set-up on Friday and the sale on Saturday. Friends and family are welcome to help, too!

We are so proud that all proceeds from the sale go back into the local community, used to fund scholarships and grants for community beautification projects, food growing activities, and a variety of grants and projects. The Hillsborough Garden Club has lots of exciting endeavors planned for the coming year!

For more information and a full list of plants for sale, visit <https://www.hillsboroughgardclubnc.org>.





Keystone Plants

Keystone plants are native plants critical to the food web and necessary for many wildlife species to complete their life cycle. Without keystone plants in the landscape, butterflies, native bees, and birds will not thrive. 96% of our terrestrial birds rely on insects supported by keystone plants.

Three of the best flowering perennials and keystone plants for our region are asters, goldenrods and sunflowers. We will be offering the following at our plant sale.

Aster, Short's - this keystone plant grows to about 3ft tall and does well in partial shade to shade, in medium to

medium dry soil. It attracts bees, butterflies and song birds. Flowers are blue and it blooms August to October.

Goldenrod, Showy - this keystone plant grows to about 5 feet and does well in full to partial sun. It grows in medium to dry soil and has the showiest of the goldenrod blooms. Flowers are yellow, and it blooms September to November. This Goldenrod is not aggressive like some in the genus. *Solidago speciosa* has a fibrous root system, not a rhizomatous one like Canada Goldenrod. It will spread slowly to form clumps but will not overwhelm small

areas like Stiff Goldenrod can.

Sunflower, Maximilian - With very showy flowers, Maximilian's Sunflower towers above surrounding vegetation when in bloom. Best suited for full sun in dry to medium conditions, this sunflower attracts a number of long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, butterflies, moths and songbirds. Maximilian's Sunflower is also one of the larval host plants of the Bordered Patch.

Share the Blooms Continued

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generally takes about an hour. We are generally done by 11:30 am.

The first pick date is Wednesday, May 15th, at 9 am. At this first meeting, we will be making larger arrangements for the MOW fundraiser that will be held the next evening.

This is truly a wonderful experience - sharing

flowers to brighten someone's day and spending a morning in a field of flowers and butterflies!

Email Tammy at tamdorf@aol.com if you

would like to volunteer or if you have questions.

Dates for this summer:

May 22,
June 5, 19, 26
July 17, 31
August 7, 21
September 4, 18

Firefly Farm
4911 Hunt Rd.
Hillsborough, NC



Spring 2024 Grant Awards

HGC President Tammy Dorfman has named the recipients of community grant awards: Historic Hillsborough Commission/Burwell School will receive \$750 to help refurbish the Carrie Waitt Spurgeon Historic Gardens. The Wendy Olsen Arboretum, Inc. will receive \$2,000 to develop an organizational infrastructure. The Hillsborough Community Garden will obtain \$1,421 to establish a seating area near the Riverwalk.

The Burwell School's 200-old gardens will be restored by volunteers under the direction of Master Gardener and HGC member Sharon Billings. Grant Funds will pay for several trees and plants. The refurbished gardens will be available to the public through educational programs.

Wendy Olsen Arboretum, located in West Hillsborough, is a level one certified arboretum focused on native and keystone plants. As a new nonprofit, they are seeking to grow and sustain their organization for the long term. On March 17, they held a seed exchange and plant swap and built bird-

houses to be sold at the HGC Plant Sale in May.

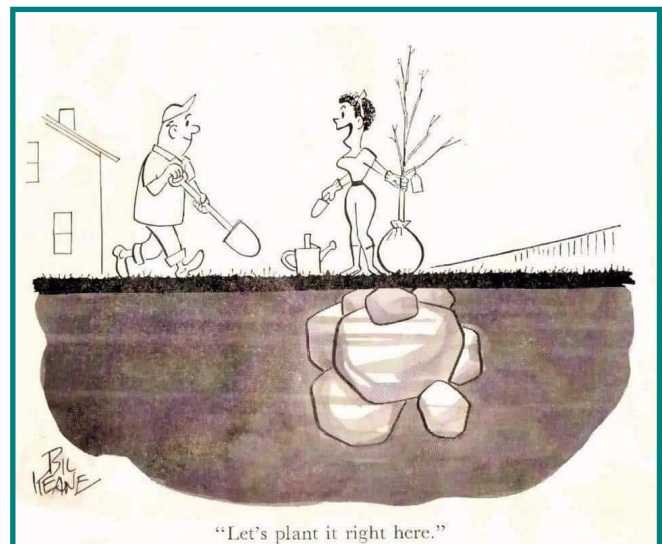
Last year the Hillsborough Community Garden provided 934 pounds of produce to food-insecure families in the Fairview and Cedar Grove communities. They need more volunteers. The Community Garden will create an area along the Riverwalk for visitors to learn about how they can help the garden.

Support for these grants comes from fund-raising activities by the HGC, such as the Spring Garden Tour and the Plant Sale. The next deadline for grant applications is September 15, 2024. www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org.

Philanthropy Committee members review all applications. Member Kristen Compton said, "Our members work hard to raise money to extend to the non-profit community for their own unique mission to improve our community's environment. I am so honored to be one of the people that works to raise the money and also to distribute it." Committee member Penny Rand stated that she regards Hillsborough as a place where one person can make a difference and

that "the Philanthropy Committee supports underserved populations."

Contact Co-chair Sarah Meadows via email at smeadows100@gmail.com on how you can get involved.



"Let's plant it right here."

Hedge(row)s Aren't Just for Old British Estates

In addition to its aesthetic value, a living fence can make a big difference in the wider ecology of your yard. It provides wildlife with a much-needed place to hide, nest, hunt and forage, which means installing one could promote biodiversity...

A dense hedgerow offers safe nesting habitat for birds and small mammals, not to mention the pollinators and beneficial insects they feed on.....Many food-producing plants lend themselves nicely to hedging, he says, and the fruits and nuts they yield can feed animals and humans alike.

"Some more well-known things — like hazelnuts, raspberries, elderberries, grapevines, crab apples and pecans — weave together really well into an edible hedge," Biggs says.....Even blueberries can be a great fencing choice....

If you're looking for a lower-to-the-ground option, McConnell also recommends considering an herbal hedge. English lavender is a

perennial that keeps its fragrant foliage year-round in many growing zones and flowers each spring. Or try rosemary. "It grows into a quintessential small hedge, and even just brushing against it fills the whole garden with fragrance," he says.....

"In a home garden setting, I love an edible hedge that has different things ready at different times," Biggs says. "In my own backyard, I have my row of currant and gooseberry bushes, and I kept looking at it and thinking, 'I'd like to punctuate that with plum trees.' And then I thought, 'How about some strawberries at the base?' You can come at it with the idea of grazing along the hedge a little bit this week, a little next week, for most of the year..."

One of the few drawbacks to a living fence is that it almost certainly won't go up in a day — or even in a year.... But once a hedge is established, it can last generations. In Cambridgeshire, England, a row of interlaced hawthorn called Judith's Hedge is

widely considered the oldest in the country, having marked a parish boundary there since the 11th century. It would be tough for a homeowner to find a modern fencing material that could last 900 years, McConnell says.

"Watching it grow is part of the joy," he adds. "You get a lot of satisfaction from watching these plants start out small and come to maturity as a strong fence that could live a very long time."

Excerpts from a Washington Post article by Kate Morgan, a freelance writer in Richland, Pa.

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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The Washington Post



Judith Hedge in Cambridgeshire

hedgerow

a hedge of wild shrubs and trees, typically bordering a road or field
a living fence



Hillsborough Garden Club

President: Tammy Dorfman
 Vice President: Bonnie Maddux
 Secretary: Sherry Appel
 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

History of the Club

In 1955, Mrs. Clarence Jones organized the Orange County Historical Museum with the Hillsborough Garden Club as the sponsoring organization.

By November of 1957, the Museum opened its doors. Garden Club members provided funds, materials, and equipment for the new

Museum. They also 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 and often stayed as a permanent member.

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.

In 1963, the first of many Arts, Crafts, and Flower Shows were held. The

Hillsborough Crafts Group was an outgrowth of these shows.

In 1966, the Garden Club votes to change its club flower to the Crepe Myrtle.



<https://openorangenc.org/>