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2021

HESSIE MORRAH GARDEN CLUB
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Hessie's Garden

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Please Note

Underlined phrases
throughout the newsletter,
when clicked on, will take you
to the featured website.

The January Issue

LOOK WHAT'S SPROUTING!

*No need to RSVP, January's
Program is an "at home
edition" with The Preservation
Society of Charleston*

SOW BEAUTIFUL

*Devotional: Matthew 12: 13-21
Gifts*

WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?

*Bloody Mary's: Farm fresh
recipe using local and seasonal
ingredients*

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Checklist for January

BLOOMS FAR & WIDE

Post-isolation travel inspiration

GROUNDSKEEPING

Tending to HMGC business



Poinsettias

NOTE FROM YOUR GROUNDSKEEPERS

**“Find Courage. What starts here
changes the world.”**

[University of Texas via William H. McRaven](#)

“Plants are central to our well-being, not only as food, but also as key components of our cultures, religions, and medicines. We get physical and mental nourishment from plants, they are central to our societies”. As we reflect on the challenges of 2020, I encourage you to “Make Space for Growth” in 2021.

(continued...)



What's In Your Garden?

It's just not a Charleston brunch without a bevy of bloodies. Local iterations vary, from a country ham-garnished version at Husk to a golden yellow tomato drink topped with grilled baby corn at Millers All Day. In fact, Charleston loves Bloody Marys so much, the city has spawned at least four local Bloody Mary mix purveyors all using local ingredients!

Fat and Juicy - Vine-ripened boldness of 'fat and juicy' tomatoes and signature mix of roasted vegetable purees, fresh horseradish, celery, garlic, and sultry smoky heat

Natural Blonde - Valencia Gold and Carolina Gold Tomatoes, a green hot sauce, sweet-hot pickle juice, and with a few more secret ingredients. Gluten Free, low sodium and only 20 calories per serving

Holy Smoke - Hearty rich tomato, robust bold spice, a zippy tang, and savory smoke. 100% natural, gluten-free, MSG-free, and preservative-free

Charleston Mix - Unique blend of habanero mash, apple-cider vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, and spices. All-natural ingredients and absolutely no gluten, MSG, or high-fructose corn syrup

Scroll to Page 7 of newsletter for a [recipe from The Darling Oyster Bar.](#)

Note from your Groundskeepers continued...

US Navy Admiral William H. McRaven, one of the most decorated US commanders, delivers one of the best motivational speeches you will ever hear, offering life and business lessons.

"Life is a struggle and the potential for failure is ever present, but those who live in fear of failure, or hardship, or embarrassment will never achieve their potential. Without pushing your limits, without occasionally sliding down the rope headfirst, without daring greatly, you will never know what is truly possible in your life." "Start each day with a task completed. Find someone to help you through life. Respect everyone. Know that life is not fair and that you will fail often. But if you take some risks, step up when the times are toughest, face down the bullies, lift up the downtrodden and never, ever give up – if you do these things, then the next generation and the generations that follow will live in a world far better than the one we have today." [Click here to listen](#)

For the well being of our members, HMGC will cancel January-March meetings and revisit a chance to gather in April or May. Until we meet again, we hope Volume Five of HESSIE'S GARDEN will inspire you to find courage, make your bed and make space for growth. We remain committed to our Club Objectives: to inspire an appreciation for God's world, to provide fellowship among garden club friends, and to improve and beautify our own surroundings.

Respectfully yours,
Katie Bolt and Katy Glenn Smith

VIRTUAL JANUARY MEETING

Welcome HMGC members to the “Home Edition” January Program, with The Preservation Society of Charleston

Founded in 1920 by Susan Pringle Frost, the Preservation Society of Charleston is the oldest grassroots preservation organization in America. The Society is more resilient than ever as it enters its second century of recognizing, protecting, and advocating for the Lowcountry’s historic places, while serving as a strong advocacy leader for citizens concerned about preserving Charleston’s distinctive character, quality of life, and diverse neighborhoods. For more information on the Preservation Society of Charleston, please click [here](#).



LOOK WHAT’S SPROUTING!

The Preservation Society of Charleston Fall 2020 Virtual Tours

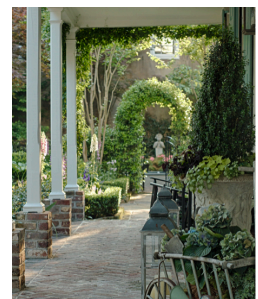


For more than four decades, the Preservation Society of Charleston’s Fall Tours have been a regular feature of autumn, offering a chance to tour grand historic homes and gardens.

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Preservation Society of Charleston to bring their Fall 2020 Virtual Tours Program (of private homes and gardens) to you, available now through January 31, 2021.



View the many virtual tours of private houses and gardens seldom open to the public. Take a virtual step inside a classic Charleston single house, a townhouse along Rainbow Row, and one of the many mechanics' houses and dependencies in the city. Tours include houses in the midst of a restoration and houses that have been meticulously restored and will be guided by professional preservationists, historians, and architects.



EXCLUSIVE GARDEN CLUB OFFER As a HMGC member, you'll receive a discount on the bundle of all four virtual tours! Apply code **GARDENCLUB** to receive 50% off at checkout. These virtual tours are available to rent now through January 31. The virtual tour bundle of all four tours is available for a 30-day period, once rented. Renters have full control over the playback and are able to play, pause, and rewind as they wish. Watch each video as often as you'd like within the 30-day period. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH A SNEAK PEEK AND PURCHASE](#)

This virtual program is supported by The Joanna Foundation and South Carolina Humanities. Visit preservationsociety.org for more information.

DEVOTIONAL

Gifts | *Matthew 14: 13-21*

We received exciting news in December that we could deliver poinsettias to the 15 patients who were in-patients at the Hospice House as well as a foyer basket. With much gratitude, the baskets were promptly delivered by Donna Stroud. Amen! We have missed the opportunity to serve this year, so this was a fitting end to 2020!



For years, we've given and received poinsettias in gestures of kindness during the Christmas season. They're just so fittingly festive, with their mix of red and green leaves. What's more, they're relatively inexpensive and thoughtful at the same time. Did you ever wonder where that custom came from?

Poinsettias are native to Central America, and were used by the Aztecs in a number of ways, to dye clothes, make cosmetics, and create medicine to cure fevers. The plant was discovered in 1828 by [John \(Joel\) Poinsett](#). He sent some Poinsettia plants back to South Carolina and began to grow them, thus the name. One of Poinsett's friends, Robert Buist, began growing and selling them commercially. In 2002, Congress named December 12 National Poinsettia Day. In the years since Poinsett brought the plants to the United States, poinsettias became known for their symbolism as well as their beauty. The shape of the plant's flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Magi to the Christ Child. The red color reminds us of Christ's Blood, shed for our salvation. Some poinsettias have white leaves, which remind us of Christ's purity. Green symbolizes life and hope. Best of all is the old Mexican legend about how the poinsettia and Christmas became connected in the first place. Here's how it goes.

The Miracle of the Poinsettia, *The deeper meanings behind the lovely Christmas plant*

Once, there was a poor Mexican girl named Pepita who had no present to give the Baby Jesus at Christmas Eve Mass. As Pepita walked, sadly, to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. "Pepita," he said. "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy." Still not knowing what she could give, Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a bouquet. Having only this small present to give Jesus made Pepita embarrassed. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had told her. Feeling a bit better, she knelt down and laid the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Amazingly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that Christmas Eve forward, the bright red poinsettia flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."



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Devotional continued...

Like, Pepita, when you are feeling as though you really have nothing to offer - or at least not the something you'd hoped to have. If you surrender your smallness to our Lord, all you need is a decent try, even if a handful of roadside weeds. Legend or not, know that Pedro's words are true.



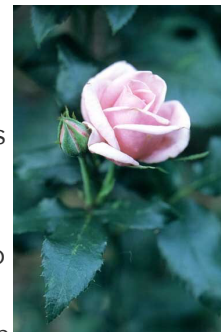
Even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy. God knows your limitations -- and most of all, He knows your heart. Never forget also that God is able to take even the smallest gift and multiply it. Do you remember the boy who offered his lunch to Jesus -- only five small loaves and two fish? Matthew 14:13-21 No one else had brought anything -- but in Jesus' hands that boy's lunch fed the whole crowd. God will do the same with our gifts. - Marge Fenelon

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

January Checklist

Planting/Digging:

- As long as you can easily work the soil, get planting those bare-root trees and shrubs as well as [bare-root roses](#)
- If you haven't already, fill in bare spots with cool-season annuals (those annuals that thrive when temperatures are seldom lower than 35 and seldom higher than 80 or 85 F), such as pansies and snapdragons.
- Sow cool-season crops, such as peas, lettuces, and spinach. Keep harvesting to encourage more production. Talk to your local garden center or experiment with planting seedlings versus seed. With very early planting, seed germination can be iffy.



Pruning:

- [Roses](#)- Prune deciduous fruit trees and also prune roses. Also spray them with horticultural oil to prevent insect problems later.
- [Trees](#) and [Shrubs](#)- Prune trees and prune shrubs. Be careful with flowering trees and shrubs -- you don't want to trim off developing buds! And don't trim off frost damage yet until all danger of frost is passed. With oaks and walnuts in the South, prune only between December 1 - February 1 or July 1 - October 1 to prevent wilt disease.
- Evergreens now if you like. You can prune them

anytime this spring until May or so.

- Deadhead camellia blossoms and pick up fallen blossoms to prevent disease problems.

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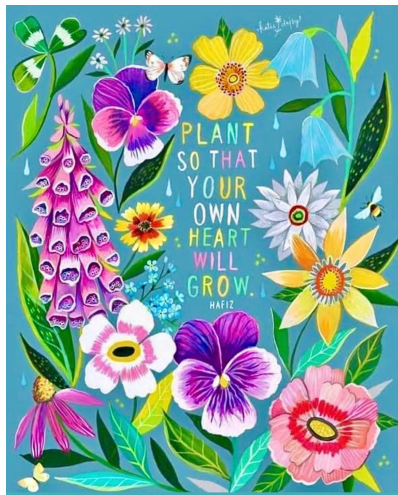
January Checklist continued...

Lawn Care:

- ❑ [Lawn Fertilizer Calculator](#)- Fertilize cool-season lawns, that is, lawns planted with ryegrass, bluegrass, and fescue. Try our handy lawn fertilizer calculator so you know exactly how much to buy and apply. You can also fertilize your lawn organically by spreading 1/4- to 1/2-inch compost on the lawn or using one of the organic lawn fertilizers now available at some more progressive garden centers.
- ❑ If necessary, dethatch warm-season lawns once they have started to grow.

Garden Planning and Landscaping

- ❑ While you're doing your [garden planning](#), check out the entire section on garden planning and landscaping at BHG.com. It covers everything from assessing your landscape needs to putting it down on paper to choosing the best plants for you.
- ❑ If you haven't already, start a garden journal or file. Tuck into it names of plants you like, magazine pictures, plant labels and seeds, and anything else that suits your fancy. If you're feeling crafty, make your own journal.



(continued...)

GREEN LINKS

Helpful Sites and Sources

Please email [HMGC](#) for prayer request or to have a note of condolence sent or call Katie Bolt, 864-275-5690.

To access [HMGC Website](#) please email [HMGC](#) for password.

[US Navy Admiral William H. McRaven Motivational Speech](#)

[Charleston's Best Bloody Mary's](#)

[Preservation Society of Charleston Fall Tours](#)

[Virtual Charleston Gateway Walk](#)

[Explore The Gateway Walk](#)

The Garden Club of Charleston's first civic project and the dream of Mrs. C. P. McGowan, president from 1928 to 1930, after visiting a peaceful garden in Paris.

January Checklist continued...

Cold Weather Strategy - Tending Your Tools:

- ❑ Clean up and fix up before plants really get growing. Rake and dispose of leaves, pull obvious weeds, spruce up hand tools and power tools.
- ❑ Take the lawn mower in for a tune-up and blade sharpening or do it yourself. Be sure to change the oil and clean or replace the filter. The blade should be sharpened three or four times a year, so a great tip is to keep an extra mower blade so you can always have one on hand while the other is at the shop or lying around your workbench.



Sources:

Sources: Clemson University Extension Service

Robert Polomski; Month-by-Month Gardening in the Carolinas Francis Worthington, The Piedmont Gardener; [Better Homes and Gardens](#)

What's In Your Garden? (continued...)

The Captain Bloody Mary Darling Oyster Bar, Charleston SC

No brunch is complete in Charleston without a Bloody Mary on the side! Before The Darling's The Captain Bloody Mary hits the table, it's gone through four stations, getting accessorized with a hush puppy, a king crab claw, a lobster claw, and two pickled shrimp. A seafood tower—minus the, well, tower—it's a conversation starter, to say the least. "It's been a huge success," says bar manager Dan Williams, who agrees that The Captain's audacity speaks to the seriousness with which Charlestonians approach their Bloody Marys.



COOK TIME: 1 minute **PREP TIME:** 5 minutes **YIELD:** 1

INGREDIENTS: 1.5 ounces of vodka, 4 ounces of your favorite Charleston born Bloody Mary mix, more is optional

FOR THE GARNISH: 1 lobster claw, 1 king crab leg, 2 pickled or fresh shrimp, 1 celery stalk, 2 olives, 1 hushpuppy, 2 olives, 1 lime wedge

PREPARATION: Fill a highball glass with ice and add in the vodka and the Bloody Mary mix. Stir thoroughly to combine. Add some extra hot sauce or Worcestershire sauce, if desired. Make sure to leave plenty of room for the garnishes.

To build the drink, add in the larger items, like the celery stalk and crab leg first, then decorate with the shrimp, olives and lobster claw.

Serve immediately and enjoy!



BLOOMS FAR & WIDE

Inspiration for post-isolation travel

Visit: South Carolina Gardens

[Discover Scenic Gardens of South Carolina](#)

South Carolina is home to many unique gardens, located all over the state. From the beautiful South Carolina Botanical Garden on the grounds of Clemson University to the majestic Swan Lake Iris Gardens in Sumter to the famously gorgeous Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, discover why these South Carolina gardens are a must-see for anyone visiting the Palmetto State.



Mountains - [South Carolina Botanical Gardens](#), Clemson SC - The South Carolina Botanical Garden is a diverse 295 acres of natural landscapes, display gardens, and miles of streams and nature trails. Together with distinguished education and outreach programs, a nationally recognized nature-based sculpture collection, and the Bob Campbell Geology Museum, the SCBG is a premier site for experiencing nature and culture. The South Carolina Botanical Garden is home to an official American Hosta Society Display Garden, a 70-acre arboretum, miles of nature trails and streams, a butterfly garden, wildflower meadow and fern and bog gardens. The Garden is also home to over 400 varieties of camellias, as well as an extensive collection of hollies, hydrangeas, magnolias and native plants. Visit the Garden today to find a place "where nature and culture meet."

(continued...)

Blooms Far and Wide continued...



Midlands - [Swan Lake Iris Gardens](#),

Sumter SC - The black waters of Swan Lake form a setting for Iris Gardens. The lake is dotted with colorful islands, wildlife is abundant and it is the only public park in the US to feature all eight swan species. The 150-acre garden also is home to some of the nation's most intensive plantings of Japanese iris, which bloom yearly from mid to late May through the beginning of June.

The garden also boasts many

other floral attractions, including colorful camellias, azaleas, day lilies, and Japanese magnolias. A Braille Trail enables the sight-impaired to enjoy the scents and sensations of the gardens, and visitors can enjoy the sights and scents of our Chocolate and Butterfly Gardens. Swan Walk helps birdwatchers to identify the eight swan species individual. The Heath Garden also features the towering masterpiece, "Recovery," by renowned sculptor Grainger McKoy. The annual Sumter Iris Festival is celebrated on Memorial Day weekend.

Coastal and Islands - [Brookgreen Gardens](#) - Murrells Inlet, SC - Set on a 300-acre parcel in the heart of a 9,100-acre preserve along the South Carolina coast, Brookgreen Gardens is a beautiful sculpture garden with a wildlife sanctuary, creek excursions, back road tours and seasonal events. Comprised of four former rice plantations, Brookgreen was the first public sculpture garden built in the U.S. The garden was opened to the public in 1931 by its founders Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington. Mrs. Huntington's works are featured along with other prominent American sculptors. There's so much to explore! From pontoon boat cruises and overland excursions on the Trekker to engaging animal programs and a butterfly house - there is always something new and exciting at Brookgreen Gardens. This National Historic Landmark is home to the only accredited zoo on the Carolina's coast and the most significant figurative sculpture collections in the United States.



GROUNDSKEEPING

Tending to HMGC Business

HMGC Executive Board 2020-21

Katie Bolt & Katy Smith - Co-Presidents

Elizabeth Stewart - First Vice-President, Program Chair

Mary Claytor Johnston & Lauren McCrary - Co-Second Presidents, Membership Chair

Marshall Johnson - Recording Secretary

Carrie Moore - Corresponding Secretary

Ann Clarke - Treasurer

Jennifer Eley - Historian

Cece Burnett and Michelle York - Co-Horticulture

Guests Welcome: We have had 3 members resign in good standing and multiple members go Associate. We have plenty of open positions for membership. As we will not host January and February activities, as a manner of engagement, please feel free to forward the newsletter to potential new members. Please email Mary Claytor Johnston with guest name.

Please Submit Dues: \$45 for Associates, \$60 for Active. Please make checks out to HMGC and mail to Ann Clarke at 11 Augusta Court Greenville SC 29605 or send via Venmo, @Ann-Clarke-2

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Make Space For Growth!

