

October Scuttlebutt

What's all the buzz about?

At the September 13 Lake and Hills Garden Club meeting, members were treated to a return visit from Ray Hiler, a member of the Oconee County Beekeepers Association. The club was so enthralled with Ray's presentation last year, he was invited back to share more of his knowledge and expertise with the group. Ray discussed the importance of honey bees including the ecological and economic benefits of this specific bee culture. It is estimated that this species of bee pollinates \$15 billion worth of food crops annually in the US which make them vital to our economy and survival. 2018 saw the largest decline in the honey bee population. While pesticides contribute to their demise, Varroa mites are by far their number one enemy. Ray talked about the proper management of these colonies by beekeepers as well as what we can do to encourage growth of this vital population in our neighborhood.

Let's Go Out and Learn

LHGC members were also busy in September traveling to Table Rock Tea Company where they toured the greenhouse, grounds and processing areas. Attendees learned about dried herbal, spice and tea products. After learning and leaving with their treasured purchases, the group reconvened at The Coyote Café for a group lunch.

Come One, Call All

Finalizing plans and volunteers for the Annual Auction and Luncheon on October 28th will be the headline at the October 11 LHGC meeting. Peggy Gates will also demonstrate how several of the live herb centerpieces were created. The final menu for our event themed "As Rosemary is to the Spirit so is Lavender to the Soul" is:

Sparkling Lavender Lemonade (non-alcoholic) or
Sparkling Lavender Lemonade with Rosemary and Lavender Infused Spirits (alcoholic)
Rosemary Roasted Red Pepper and Asparagus Bisque
Rosemary Roasted Chicken with craisens, nuts, mandarin oranges and feta cheese over mixed greens
with lavender champagne vinaigrette,
Bread with Herb butter
Lemon Lavender Coconut Cake
Coffee and tea

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by contacting Karen Pfaff at 630-452-2914 or kpffaff01@sbcglobal.net. The luncheon includes a silent auction and multiple raffle baskets valued at \$300 and above. All members of the community are invited to join in the fun!

A Wreath on Every Front Door

Donna LeBGrün, owner of City Seed at The Station in Anderson, will join the November meeting to demonstrate creative and innovative ways to design wreaths and other holiday florals. There will be a hands-on workshop immediately following the meeting so members can create unique decorations for their holiday doorways.

Monthly Meeting

Join us for our next meeting on Friday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m. (arrive at 11:15 for social time) at the Club. Remember to call the Club at 864-944-2151 for your lunch reservation. New members are always welcomed.



Ray Hiler provided informative details to LHGC members regarding honey bees and their habits.



Peggy Gates displays various centerpieces and containers while explaining how the centerpieces were designed.