

By Jean McDanal

## PKS Garden Club begins 45th year with Year of the Tree

Co-presidents Michelle Powers and Lisa Park called the first meeting of our 45th year to order on Wednesday, September 11. After welcoming guests and members, the program was turned over to club members Sheryl Woodbury and Martha Edwards, who gave a presentation on pine beetle infestation.

Pine Knoll Shores suffered a similar loss of loblolly pines in 1997 following Hurricanes Fran and Bertha. The trees then, as now, had become stressed because of too much water and salt, followed by a summer drought.

There are two kinds of beetles, the black turpentine beetle and the southern pine beetle. The only one affecting us is the southern pine beetle, and the infestation is across the coastal plain, not just in our immediate area.

Our Community Appearance Committee (CAC) has been doing an outstanding job helping homeowners identify those pines that are affected. It is usually apparent when a tree has completely died. The only way to stem the infestation is to remove the trees completely. Photos were passed around that showed the sawdust that is often found at the base of a diseased tree and the sap "popcorn" found on the bark. They suggested replacing the trees with a different specimen of pine, the longleaf pine. It was also suggested that shrubs, trees and flowers that survived Dorian be sprayed down with water to remove the salt.

Club member JoAnn Shallcross began our meeting segment From the Potting Shed with tips, tools and tasks related to late summer and early fall gardening. She gave some wonderful gardening hints that will be put to good use by the members. Just a few of her tips:

- WD-40 with silicone can be used as a water barrier to protect gardening tools and also used on new outdoor furniture sections to prevent rust.
- Benadryl will help prevent poison ivy.
- If there is a problem with moles, use eggshells or Irish Spring soap in their

First Vice-President Kathy Blowers informed members of the trip to Tryon Palace on October 9. We will be leaving town hall at 9:30 a.m. and carpooling.

Members brought in goodies to fill two baskets decorated in red, white and blue that were given to our EMS, firefighters and police as a thank you for all they do for Pine Knoll Shores. As our meeting was held on the 18th anniversary of 9/11, we felt it would be a way to honor those who lost their lives that day and the first responders that are still suffering.

Other announcements included that the club will once again be selling Christmas wreaths. Orders must be in by November 4, with a distribution date of December 4. It was also announced that the District 11 meeting of 26 garden clubs will be held in Southport on Tuesday, October 8.

Members voted to have a Veterans Day ceremony at our Blue Star Memorial

on November 11. Following the ceremony there will be a wine and cheese reception at town hall.

The next meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club will be our trip to Tryon Palace on October 9.

Please visit us on Facebook at PineKnollShoresGardenClub. If you have questions or need information, please email PKSGardenClub@gmail.com. We welcome guests to our meetings, so come grow with us.

In Memoriam

Margaret Joan Godumski

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