

By Deb Frisby

Summer vacation: not in a garden

Summer is making its way to the coast. The air, even with the breezes, is warming. The gardens are thriving. Garden Club members are getting ready for the summer break from business meetings.

On May 11, club members had a luncheon and held the last business meeting until September at the Coral Bay Club in Atlantic Beach and installed the new club officers: Susan King, president; Linda Langheld and Gina Harris, first vice presidents; Stacy Bagley, second vice president; Sylvia Brodman, treasurer; Jean McDanal, recording secretary; and Jennifer Bryan, corresponding secretary.

Despite having no summer business meetings, club members still meet regularly to tend the nine town gardens located along Highway 58 at Oakleaf Drive, Mimosa Boulevard, Dogwood Circle (East and West), Arborvitae Drive, and Pine Knoll Boulevard.

The Blue Star Memorial marker on the corner of Highway 58 and Pine Knoll Boulevard has a garden, and there is a year-old butterfly garden on Arborvitae Drive. Lisa Park and Ilene Karlsson have turned the butterfly garden into a delightful haven, complete with a butterfly house.



The butterfly garden planted last year on Arborvitae Drive is thriving.—Photo by Deb Frisby

Turning off of 58 onto Pine Knoll Boulevard, one can find the Roosevelt gardens on the corners of Roosevelt Boulevard. Check out the new hydrangeas and black-eyed Susans there and head on to see the Hereth Memorial Garden in front of town hall at 100 Municipal Circle. Pine Knoll Shores is not only a Tree City but is also a garden spot.

The Garden Club does more than tend the town's gardens. The club supported the Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) annual fundraising events with a garden-themed basket, assembled by member Kim Elliot, that was added to

the silent auction items. Online bidding opened on May 7 and continued until final bids were accepted at the KT4W Gala on May 14.

In the garden. Summer also means lots of fresh local fruit (especially Bogue Sound watermelons, strawberries and blueberries), or you can grow fruit yourself and incorporate the plants into your garden. Blueberry bushes are an attractive and delicious option. The rabbiteye varieties that are most adaptable to the coastal climate in North Carolina should be ripening in mid-June. The NC Cooperative extension website has useful information about growing blueberries.

Blueberry bushes are good landscape plants. They make attractive hedges and can also be cluster or single specimen plantings. They have delicate white or pink flowers in the spring, blueberries in summer, and add red and yellow foliage to the fall garden. It is often possible to grow blueberries without the use of insecticides or fungicides, and mature rabbiteye varieties can produce up to 25 pounds of fruit per plant. Proper fertilizing is vital (specific instructions per variety can be found in the leaflet titled "Growing Blueberries in the Home Garden" at content.ces.ncsu.edu). Care must be taken to protect the harvest from birds. Plastic or cloth netting draped over the bushes while the fruit is ripening is the only practical method of control. The flavor of the rabbiteye varieties improves if berries are picked every 10 days. Eat them fresh from the bush, or they are easily frozen to enjoy later.



Outgoing Garden Club President Gina Harris (left) good-naturedly hands off the job to incoming President Susan King as Martha Edwards looks on.

— Photo by Deb Miner



**PKS YARD WASTE
PICK-UP DATES**
June 14, 21



**PKS RECYCLE
DATES**

"A" Week: June 6, 20
"B" Week: June 13, 27

Please place recyclables and trash out on Sunday night to ensure pickup.

Please clearly mark recycling containers to ensure that recycling is not picked up by the trash truck. Stickers for this purpose are available at town hall. Contact Charles Rocci at town hall at 247-4353, ext. 13, or clerk@townofpks.com with questions.