

More Around Town

Beach Nuptials—The beach in Emerald Isle was the setting January 31 for the wedding of Reggie Colomb, general manager of the Country Club of the Crystal Coast, and Dr. Katrina Conrad, OB, GYN, who conducts a private practice, Crystal Coast Care for Women, in Morehead City. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and are now back hard at work. They make their home in Brandywine Bay.

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Veterans Take Note – The goings on at the North Carolina Maritime Museum's watercraft center in Beaufort Friday, March 6, should be of particular interest to World War II veterans. At 2 p.m. that day a restored LCVP (Landing Craft

Vehicle/Personnel) will be ceremonially handed over to representatives of the First Division (Big Red One) Museum in Wheaton, Illinois. Popularly known as a Higgins Boat, after the designer, the craft was restored by volunteers at the watercraft center after being discovered in Normandy. Though more than 23,000 Higgins Boats were produced during the war, few have survived into the 21st Century. This one is particularly notable since it is made of mahogany. Most were made of plywood. The LCVP, based on boats designed for operating in swamps and marshes, could ferry ashore at nine knots 36 combat equipped soldiers or 8,000 pounds of cargo.

PKS Garden Club

By Clare Winslow

Gwendy Womble, horticulturist with the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, presented an interesting and educational lecture at the garden club meeting February 11 about wetland vegetation and plants suitable for a bog garden, a subject about which most members were unfamiliar. She stressed how vitally important wetlands are for a healthy planet since they are the primary method for filtering water as well as providing a habitat for water-loving birds and many wild animals. Three varieties of wetlands were described. Marshes containing herbaceous plants, sedentary, fresh or brackish water, sedges, needle rush and grass plants. Swamps have similar features, but also have a heavy canopy of trees overhead. Bogs feature poor acidic soil and very poor drainage. The wetland garden at the aquarium takes the runoff from the parking lot.

To plant your own bog garden, dig several feet down in the soil and add heaps of peat moss to hold the rainwater; then add humus and wet footed (water loving) plants like the carnivorous Venus fly trap, the pitcher plant, and native or hybrid sundews, yaupon,

elephant ears and alacasia, which all love wet areas. Some additional water-loving plants to consider are: four inch swamp milkweed, iris-like sweet flag, late blooming seven inch ironweed, silver blooming rattlesnake mantle, brilliant red cardinal flower, needle rush, joe pye weed, deciduous elderberry shrub, purple pickerel weed, white top sedge, wonderfully scented salt tolerant summer sweet and lizard tail which can live entirely in water.

Carteret County has a variety of trees and plants that thrive in our wet areas and don't even mind our salty air: the sable minor palm and dwarf palmetto, red maple, bald cypress, black gum, river birch, sycamore and titi, a small 25 foot tree with great white blooms. Plants here that thrive in wet salty conditions include arrowhead (even submerged!), blue fly iris, cinnamon fern, southern arrowhead,

Headline News – *Shoreline* editor Bill White has his thumbs stuck in his vest and is beaming proudly from ear to ear after learning that his granddaughter, Regan White of Charlotte, captured second place in a national headline writing competition sponsored annually by the Suburban Newspapers of America, the nation's largest trade organization promoting excellence in community newspapers. A graduate of Charlotte Latin School and Yale University, where she took her bachelor's degree in three years, Regan is editor of the *Charlotte Weekly*, flagship publication of a group of five (soon-to-be-six) weeklies that serve the Queen City and surrounding area. Her winning entry headlined a story about an election involving two candidates named Justin Burr and Ken Furr. Wrote Regan: "Voters concur: It's Burr over Furr."

native scarlet cuccinens hibiscus, button bush, with its white fuzzy round blooms, spice bush and marshmallow (in the hibiscus family and grows in brackish water). All this wetland information was enthusiastically received by the members and stimulated unique ideas for their approaching spring projects, perhaps including a backyard bog garden.

During the business meeting, Second Vice President Helvi Larson reminded

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members that a ceremony on Arbor Day March 18 will be held at Garner Park and trees will be planted in memory of deceased members Lola Council and Helen Granger. To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the garden club a picnic will be held at the home of First Vice President Lois Jean O'Keefe on May 13. Kay Howe's "didjanos" for the day included stringing cheerios and draping the string over a tree branch for a midwinter bird treat, placing used

dryer sheets or coffee filters at the bottom of a clay pot, and placing birdseed under an outdoor flower pot for the curious adventurous birds to discover. Sheryl Woodbury's hint was a reminder that robins and cedar wax wings are back. In setting out bird baths for them, be sure your bath has a rough unglazed surface for their easy purchase and contains water no more than two inches deep!

Guests and visitors are always welcome to attend meetings of the club, held every second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at town hall.



Speaker Gwendy Womble (center) with Lois Jean O'Keefe and Carol McVitty.