



Gulf Herb Society Coast Newsletter

May
2025

Mailing Only: 109 Grand Blvd • Mobile, AL 36607 • www.gulfcoastherbsociety.org

Rosemary for Remembrance DATES

- **June 24th.** GCHS Meeting at MBG (Social time begins 5:00pm following with the meeting at 5:45pm).
- **July 22nd.** GCHS Meeting at MBG (Social time begins 5:00pm following with the meeting at 5:45pm).
See calendar page at the end of the newsletter for complete details.

Thymely NOTES

[Click Here to find us on Facebook!](#) Read herb tips, recipes, and see pictures from our latest events.

- Please **volunteer** in the herb garden whenever you can. Contact Pat Ivie peivie@comcast.net, 334-315-5874 for info.
- A membership form is at the end of the Newsletter. Make checks payable to GCHS - \$25.00.

Did You KNOW

HERB OF THE MONTH: Garlic Chives- Great In the Garden, But...

davesgarden.com

We often choose plants for their attractive foliage or flowers, or because we like to cook with herbs, or because the plant is carefree, with one of these characteristics being our main goal. But some plants combine all these qualities nicely. One of these is Garlic Chives.

Usually sold as a culinary herb, – Years ago, I bought a small pot of garlic chives, (*Allium tuberosum*) at a local nursery in the herb section. The tag was encouraging; a hardiness listing of zones 3 through 9 meant they would be happy in my zone 7 garden. They like sun but aren't too picky about soil. I planted them in my herb bed, along with the more common round-leafed chives. That year, I helped myself to many trimmings of tender, flattened, oniony-garlicky tasting foliage. I used the snipped leaves anywhere I wanted a touch of onion taste and fresh green color, like in scrambled eggs or on baked potatoes. Later in summer, edible flower buds began to appear. I have seen chive flower buds sold in oriental produce displays. Indeed, "Chinese chives" is another name for this plant.

Garlic Chives is also a dependable ornamental plant. Actually, I find this *Allium* more vigorous than the

traditional purple-flowered chives, *Allium schoenoprasum*. New leaves continue to grow through the summer, forming a pretty grass-like clump.

This perennial herb expands slowly each year. After a few years, you may want to split your clump into several smaller ones. These robust plants will hardly notice. Just be prepared to use a sharp tool and a little muscle on the thickly matted roots. I use small clumps of Chinese chives as a garden border.



Garlic Chives

Little did I know when I first bought them, garlic chives is a dependable flowering plant. In late summer, the clump will send up flower stalks. You'll see stiff, tubular flower stalks growing taller than the flat leaves. Then tiny white star shaped florets open to form a 3 inch hemisphere. These starry white clusters stand above the arching foliage on 18-inch stems. I love these flowers appearing faithfully for me in August, a time of the summer when little else can endure the heat, much less flower. Even severe drought won't stop the blooms, although it could cause some yellowed leaf tips.

When the blooms have matured, faded and dried to a papery brown, they make a sturdy and striking dried flower. Leave them in the garden or cut them to put in a vase.

And beneficial insects love them too. – While I like the flowers of garlic chives, they are absolute ambrosia to many pollen and nectar eating insects we actually want to attract to our gardens. Who doesn't enjoy the sight of a butterfly or skipper sipping nectar? Various wasps, flies, and beetles also visit flowers like those of Chinese chives. The adults of many of these "beneficial insects" feed on the pollen of small flowers. Then they produce larvae which prey upon our tiny garden enemies. And bees that dine on your garlic chives will also pause to pollinate your vegetables,

helping guarantee a good crop.

What about that "but?" – But *Allium tuberosum* has one nasty habit. It self-sows, vigorously. Without some yearly maintenance, chives will sprout up all over your garden I learned the hard way when a grove of tiny garlic chive "saplings" greeted me one spring. Nobody wants more weeding to do! How do I cope? As the flowers fade, I bunch the juicy stalks together and cut them off above the leaves. That green seed goes in the trash can.

Left in place, the seedheads will become brown and papery, and split open to drop numerous black seeds. Of course, you can let those flowers mature. You'll get lots of seeds to share or plant elsewhere, and you can save the dried heads for winter interest in the garden or use in dried arrangements.

Garlic chives, Chinese chives, *Allium tuberosum*- this plant of many names and many uses is a good one to include in most gardens. Try them! I expect you'll want others to experience its herb-foliage-flower-beneficial insect attractant qualities just as I do. Just be sure to tell them about that "but."

7 Plants Wasps Hate But Bees Adore – For A Pollinator Garden That's Buzzing, Not Bothered gardeningknowhow.com

Create a bee-friendly, wasp-free garden with these smart planting choices that keep pests at bay while nurturing precious pollinators.

Most gardeners want to support pollinators, but not all pollinators are ideal garden companions. While both bees and wasps can sting, wasps tend to sting more readily and multiple times. Their stings can also be more painful. Yellowjackets are particularly aggressive and dangerous.

The best control measures are multi-pronged. Prevent wasps in your area by keeping the garden clean. Don't leave food out or let the recycling and garbage cans get messy. Use repellants, like peppermint oil, and hang specially designed wasp traps. If you find a wasp nest, consider hiring a professional to remove it.

It's also a good idea to make your garden more bee-friendly. Provide pollinator drinking stations by placing Bee Cups, available in the Gardening Know How Shop, around your garden, limit the use of harmful pesticides, and include a range of native plants in beds and borders. Visit our Pollinator Garden Shop for more ideas.

Plants that attract and support bees but deter wasps can also help you manage a tricky balance. While it's not a perfect solution, choosing plants wisely

can help you see more bees and fewer wasps while enjoying your garden. None of these are foolproof ways of deterring one insect and attracting the other, but they can help shift the balance.

1. Mint – Certain strong-smelling herbs deter wasps but don't seem to bother bees. These include mint. Peppermint oil can be a good deterrent, but you can also grow mint plants from seed. Peppermint and spearmint, both available in the Gardening Know How Shop, are great choices. The lesser-known pennyroyal is another good, fragrant herb.

Keep in mind that mint plants are aggressive growers. They will rapidly take over a bed if you plant them in the ground. For better control, grow mint in containers. Mint thrives in USDA hardiness zones 4 through 9 and is very easy to grow in full sun or even partial shade.

2. Lavender – Another herb with a potent aroma that wasps aren't crazy about, lavender is a draw for many bees. Once in bloom, you should see plenty of bees buzzing around and collecting nectar. Lavender in planters or beds around your seating area is a good way to manage wasps while attracting bees.

Lavender is easy to grow if you have a nice sunny spot for it. It thrives in full sun and hot, dry weather, making it an ideal summer patio plant. Phenomenal Lavender, from Burpee, is one of the hardiest varieties going. You can also grow lavender in beds or as low hedges and borders. The soil must drain very well, as it will not tolerate soggy roots.

3. Rosemary – Rosemary, like lavender, has a strong smell. The small blue flowers attract bees, but the aroma deters wasps. For extra potency, try one of the most aromatic varieties, such as Tuscan Blue Rosemary from Nature Hills. Where it's hardy (zones 8 to 11), you can use rosemary as an evergreen hedge. If your climate is too cold to support the herb year-round, grow rosemary in containers that you can place strategically to keep wasps away.

Rosemary thrives in the heat of summer. It loves full sun and tolerates dry soil and drought once established. The soil must drain very well. Soggy soil can quickly lead to root rot in rosemary.

4. Roman Chamomile – Roman chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*) has a fruitier aroma than German chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) and is easy to grow from seed. Both are fragrant herbs whose small, daisy-like flowers can be made into tea, but wasps are more likely to be deterred by the particular scent of Roman chamomile, available to buy

as seeds from Burpee.

Roman chamomile is a perennial evergreen hardy in zones 4 through 9. It grows lower to the ground than German chamomile and can be used as a low border, ground cover, or rock garden element.

5. Marigolds – Marigolds are a popular choice for summer annuals. Any gardener who has grown these cheerful little blooms knows how potently fragrant they are. Bees tend to appreciate them, while wasps are more likely to be deterred by the strong smell. As a bonus, marigolds also tend to repel rabbits and deer, so many gardeners plant them around vegetable beds.

Marigolds are easy to grow in summer in nearly every garden. There are so many lovely varieties to choose from, but French marigolds, such as Disco Mix in the Gardening Know How Shop, are best for warding off pests. Give them a sunny spot and soil that drains well but stays consistently moist. Deadhead the flowers as they fade to keep the blooms going all season.

6. Geraniums – Like marigolds, geraniums have a strong smell that not all insects appreciate. Their colorful flowers attract bees, while the aroma deters wasps. There are many types of geraniums, including flowers with that name that aren't actually true geraniums. All will help you deter wasps and attract bees, but the best choice is the most fragrant type: scented geraniums.

Scented geraniums include rose, peppermint, apple, and citron-scented types. This Citronella Geranium, from Fast Growing Trees, repels wasps and mosquitoes. The aroma is released when you touch

or gently crush the leaves, so do this when outside to keep wasps away. Scented geraniums are only perennials in the warmest climates. Plan to grow them as summer annuals in well-drained soil, full sun, and plenty of heat.

7. Eucalyptus – Eucalyptus has a strong and unique scent that wasps generally don't favor. Bees, however, are important pollinators of eucalyptus trees. Eucalyptus in the garden also repels mosquitoes, making it a great addition to enhance your enjoyment of the garden.

This evergreen tree is hardy in zones 8 through 11 and grows quickly, so you can save money by planting these Eucalyptus Seeds from the Gardening Know How Shop. It will grow well in most soils and tolerates drought, but needs full sun. Eucalyptus trees are toxic to humans and pets, so exercise caution when using them in your garden.

Myrtle's MUSINGS

- In our garden we found this fuzzy caterpillar on our thyme. Does anyone know what kind it is?
- Qjuana and Richard Cooney



“DILL”-ICIOUS Chive Pancake ~ spicetheplate.com

Serves: 3-4

- 1 bunch chives, clean, trim the ends and cut into 1-inch long strips
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 cup water
 - 2 eggs
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 tablespoon oil
 - 2 tablespoons soy sauce for dipping
1. Put flour and eggs in a container, slowly pour water into the container, keep stirring to make sure everything is mixed well.
 2. Toss in the salt into the batter and add the chives into the mixture, set aside.
 3. Spread the oil evenly onto a non-stick pan over medium heat, carefully pour about 1/3 of the mixture into the pan and create a round shape, cook for about 4-5 minutes each side and remove the pancake from the pan, continue the process until all the mixture is used.
 4. Dip in the soy sauce and enjoy.
- Notes: The amount of mixture could make about three 4-inch chive pancakes.

GCHS Officers 2024 – 2025

President ~ Beth Poates • President-Elect ~ Joy Harrison • Membership ~ Lydia Criswell
Hospitality ~ Priscilla Gold Darby • Treasurer ~ Annie Daniels • Historian ~ Vacant • Ways & Means ~ Alicia Davis
• Newsletter Editor ~ Qjuana & Richard Cooney

GULF COAST HERB SOCIETY Calendar of Activities 2025

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MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS Calendar for 2025

EVENTS/ SOCIAL (for more info [CLICK HERE!](#))

CLASSES (for more info & Registration [CLICK HERE!](#)).

Preschool Storytime: Tales and Trails in the Gardens. Thursdays 10:30am - 11:30am. Tales and Trails in the Gardens Preschool Storytime Returns! Tales and Trails preschool storytime returns to Mobile Botanical Gardens thanks to the generous support of the Lilian S. Woolford Charitable

Sketch Club in the Gardens. Fridays, 2-4pm. The Larkins Classroom OR at Magnolia Hill Studio. A casual sketch club experience with oversight from Derek Norman, botanical arts instructor. Cost: FREE for MBG Members, regular admission for nonmembers.

PRESENTATIONS (for more info [CLICK HERE!](#))

GCHS Food Team Duties

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| • Make sure kitchen tables and counters are clean | • Clean spills from floor | • If table and chairs are to be put up we will let you know - if not they can be left out | • Make sure all doors are locked |
| • No food left in fridge | • Take out garbage & place new - bags in cans bags are on to fridge | | • Thermostats must be left as you found them |
| • Pick any trash off floor | | | |

GCHS MINUTES - May 2025

The meeting was called to order on May 27, 2025, at 6pm in the Larkin's classroom by Beth Poates, President of the Gulf Coast Herb Society.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pat Ivie
Joy Sanders
Larry Liles
Debra Morrow
Mary Ann Tomberlin
Gudrun Russell
Annie Daniels
Lydia Criswell
Susan Abrams
Lisa Davis
Edna Harris new member

OLD BUSINESS

Beth Poates discussed the success of the 40th Anniversary of the Herb Society and Herb Day.

NEW BUSINESS

It is time to elect new GCHS Board members.

Some of the positions that were discussed:

President: Joy Sanders possible new president

Secretary: Lisa Davis possible new secretary

Membership Chair: Lydia Criswell Lydia would like a job description

Hospitality Chair: needed

Bed Upkeep Organizer

Discussions on bed upkeep:

1. No one showed up for work parties
2. Suggested to schedule 2 workdays a month. The third Sat of the month at 0800 and maybe one evening during the week.
3. Debra suggested having a google calendar where members can sign up to work and the particular work that needs to be done can be listed on the calendar.
4. Previously the beds were assigned to members, and the coordinator scheduled the work parties.
5. Annie suggested we need 2 planning parties for spring and fall, to replace lost plants..
6. The GCHS took care of the seven beds and the perimeter. Perimeter beds need a theme.
7. Beth will meet with Dr. Cindy for further suggestions.
8. Joy will contact Kitty Cooper from Cooper Farms to obtain ideas for the perimeter.

Pat volunteered to write a follow up for the nonmembers who attended Herb Day, to encourage them to attend a meeting and join. Lydia will set up a spreadsheet and Alicia can email the nonmembers.

Joy presented the Herb Study Journal. Each page of the journal is dedicated to a different herb and includes the common name, scientific name, location and date found. Medicinal and edible uses can be added to the page.

Please consider volunteering on the board or committees. June we will vote on the board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm

Minutes submitted by Lisa Davis



GULF COAST HERB SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member? Y N

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email _____ (to receive our Newsletter and updates)

Committees I am interested in: _____ Herb Garden _____ Membership _____ Herb Day

Yearly dues are \$25 and payable in August.

Please make check payable to GCHS and mail % Annie Daniels, 1355 Carson Rd W, Mobile, AL 36695

Or bring your check or cash to one of our meetings

Date _____ Amount \$ _____ Paid by Cash _____ or Check # _____

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Welcome to the Gulf Coast Herb Society! We meet at the Mobile Botanical Gardens from 5:30 to 7:00pm the fourth Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced in our newsletter, emails and Facebook.

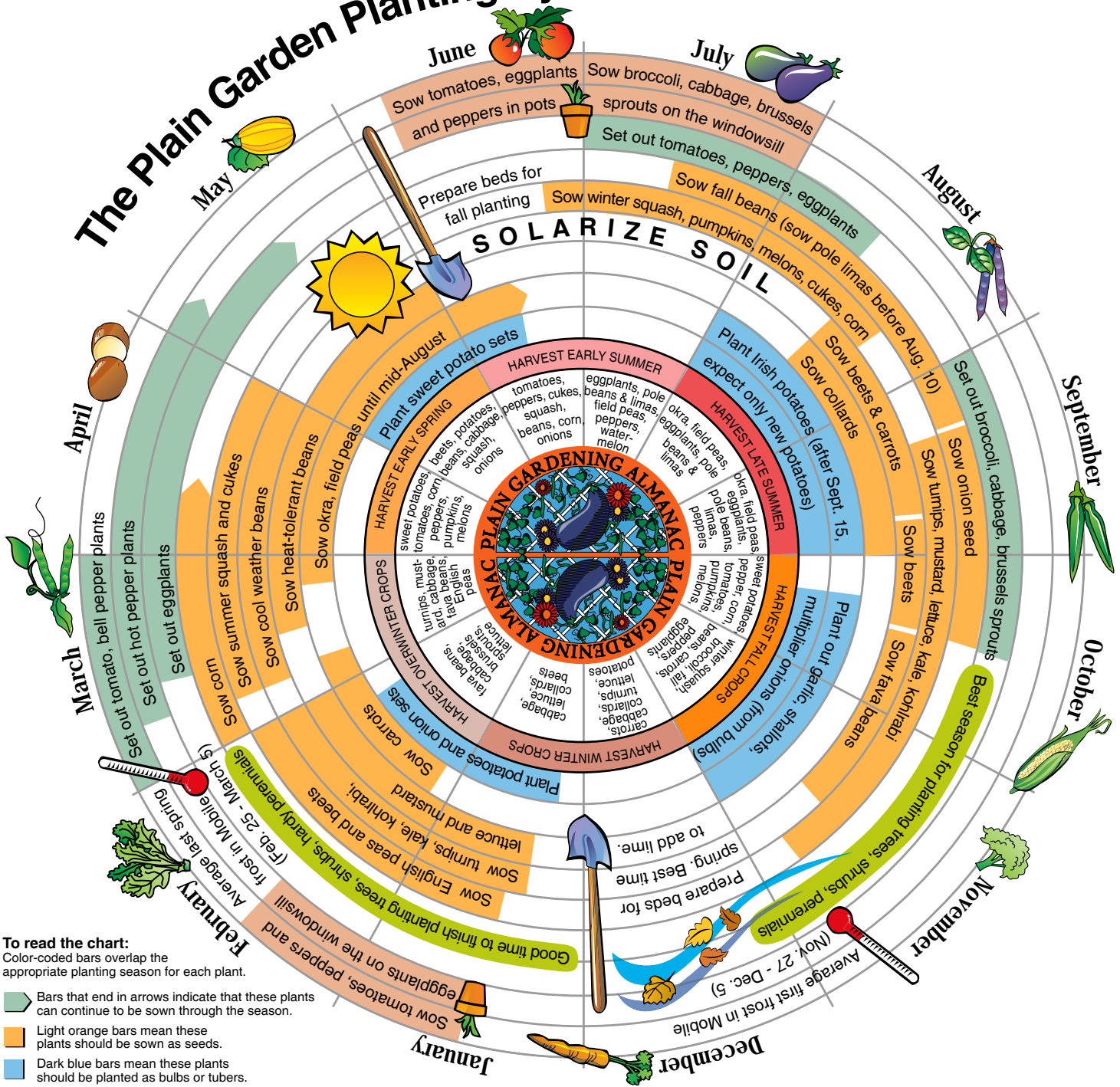
Refreshments are served at each meeting, it's optional to bring something to share.

Meetings start at 5:30p.m., program will follow, work days in Herb Garden TBA






Questions? Email Beth Poates at poates57@gmail.com or

Annie Daniels, at mbdmobile@aol.com.

Check out our website www.gulfcoastherbsociety.org Like us on Facebook!

[illegible]

Color-coded bars overlap the appropriate planting season for each plant.

-  Bars that end in arrows indicate that these plants can continue to be sown through the season.
-  Light orange bars mean these plants should be sown as seeds.
-  Dark blue bars mean these plants should be planted as bulbs or tubers.
-  Green bars mean these plants should be 6-inch-high transplants when put in the garden.
-  Brown bars indicate that these plants should be sown in pots in a cold frame or inside the house.