BENSON MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

3RD Quarter- 2023
Pat Mercer

Patricia (Pat) Ann Oliver Mercer was born in Nashville, TN. She worked for the State of Tennessee in various administrative roles, including secretary to the Captain of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Pat visited a cousin in Atlanta and decided to stay. Pat can be described as a "lifelong learner." Once she's interested in something, she researches and studies it and learns as much about the subject as possible. She is indeed a "Renaissance Woman."

While attending a soap stone carving class at church, Pat met Edward Mercer and the rest is history; they have been married for 48 years. Pat and Ed owned and ran a successful Diamond Saw Works franchise until retiring in 2003.

Pat is an environmentalist and conservationist. She is passionate about the environment and maintaining the earth's natural beauty and natural animal habitats. It is no surprise she loves gardening, hiking, and volunteering. And she is an excellent cook! Her passion is reflected in the incredible volunteer work she has been engaged in:

- Camp Counselor with the Unitarian Church in Virginia for 30 years during the summer, Leading Nature hikes and Back Packing class.
- Teaching Wild Edible and Backpack classes at local community colleges.
- Over 12 years with the Georgia Aquarium working on numerous initiatives:
  - Marineland Dolphin Center
  - Sea Turtle Nesting on Jekyll Island
  - Right whale Research Project – Flagler Beach
  - Whale shark Research Project
  - Wounded Warrior Dive Program

She is a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society, the Herb Society of America, the Dahlia Society of Georgia, and the Georgia Perennial Plant Society.
a little bit of body text

Pat joined the Benson Center about 10 years ago and remains a very active participant. She has taken craft classes, water and land fitness classes, Mahjong, Bocce, and she rarely misses a workshop. To anyone considering joining the center, Pat says "You've got to come. There's so much to do! You've got to get your butt up and move."

PIROZHKI ARE COOKED IN OVEN
Pat Oliver Took Charge of the Pastries