



Laurel Letters

Summer 2023



From Cheryl Briscoe, District Director 2023-2025

Where in the world have I been since I was elected your new Laurel District Director? It's already been a privilege to represent our wonderful district everywhere I go!

In April, I installed new officers for Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Cherokee County Garden Club Council, and Rome Federation of Garden Clubs. The Marietta Council always has delicious food and a great program, the Cherokee County Council tea in the Ball Ground Botanical Garden was tasty and beautiful, and the Rome brunch was full of good food and fabulous flower arrangements! I was so happy to meet so many new garden club friends.

Along with 37 other Laurel District members, I attended the annual Garden Club of Georgia Convention at Stone Mountain. We learned, laughed and celebrated. Our new board was installed and I was installed with the other six District Directors; both were nice ceremonies. The programs were amazing, social events fun, and Laurel District received many awards. (More to come on that in October at our Laurel District Annual Meeting). The memorial service for our deceased members was lovely. Caroline Alford received a donation for the Marshall Forest in appreciation of her service as acting District Director for the remainder of 2023. Thank you for supporting the raffle sales; Laurel District received \$250.00 for our 2023-2024 budget because we sold enough tickets to qualify.

Where in the world will I be next? I want to attend as many of Laurel District events as I can schedule over the next two years, so please keep all of us informed by using Laurel Letters and our Laurel District website so we can support your efforts. We now have a new Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) website for you to use. Please visit:

www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Our district page is under construction and will be a great place for you to show how active we are in our communities. I plan to have a Communication Coordinator who will help you get your news out on our GCG website, a new Facebook page (FB), and other sites as needed. Additionally, please send the names of any of your garden club's deceased members during the year to our new Corresponding Secretary, Maye Suddath, maye.suddath@gmail.com, with names and addresses of family members we need to contact. I hope we don't have any! Also under construction is the new Laurel District Board. All our names and contacts will be published after July 1st when all positions will be filled. If you are interested in serving, please let me know! It would be a wonderful to serve with you.

Save the Dates:

Leadership and Awards Workshop, Thursday July 20, 2023 at the Marietta Educational Garden Center hosted by the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs. Registration coming soon!

Annual Laurel District Board Meeting, Tuesday October 24, 2023 in Ball Ground, GA hosted by the Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Cheryl

District Director
Cheryl Briscoe

Co-Director
Merrell Holden

Recording Secretary
Kathy Shiner

Corresponding Secretary
Maye Suddath

Treasurer
Dee Anne Wyse

Chaplain
Rene Lanier

Parliamentarian
Edna McClellan

Advisors
Caroline Alford,
Edna McClellan,
Marie Purser,
John Barnett

Convention News

New Laurel District Officers Installed, Laurels Well-represented

Welcome to Laurel District's New Officers:



Director: Cheryl Briscoe

Co-Director: Merrell Holden

Recording Secretary: Kathy Shiner

Corresponding Secretary: Maye Suddath

Treasurer: Dee Anne Wyse

Chaplain: Rene Lanier

Parliamentarian: Edna McClellan

Advisors: Caroline Alford, Edna McClellan, Marie Purser, John Barnett

*With appreciation and happy memories of those who served this past term:
Susan Stephens, Caroline Alford, Cheryl Briscoe, Sheelah Schreiber, Dee Anne
Wyse, Mickey Carlton, Edna McClellan, John Barnett, and Marie Purser.*



Laurel Attendees at State Convention in Stone Mountain-2023

Mikel Vann, Marietta Magnolia GC, former Marietta Council of Garden Clubs (MCGC) President

Deanna Slone, Marietta Daisies GC, current MCGC President

Cheryl Briscoe, LD Director 2023-2025 and

Kathryn Coffee, Marietta Daisies GC

Amicalola Garden Club

Amicalola Celebrates 88th Birthday with Luncheon at the Mulehouse, Enjoys Excellent Presentation



Hans Rueffert and assistant James Robertson display bromeliads and gift each club member with a “puff” to grow.

On March 22, 2023, members of the Amicalola Garden Club met at the Old MuleHouse Tavern to celebrate the 88th Year of existence of the club. An amazing lunch was served by Mulehouse staff.

Our speaker was Hans Rueffert, noted chef, author, and motivational speaker. Hans and his assistant, James Robertson, gave an inspiring presentation on growing and propagating bromeliads. Hans brought many examples and different species of bromeliads, also known as air plants. Hans presented each lady with a puff from one of his plants to encourage us to grow our own.

Our garden club will be celebrating Garden Week in Georgia April 17 through April 22, 2023. In honor of Garden Week, members will be placing floral arrangements at the Tate Post Office and Pickens County Library. Bird seeds will be delivered to Grandview Nursing Home, and members will be touring Gibbs Garden.

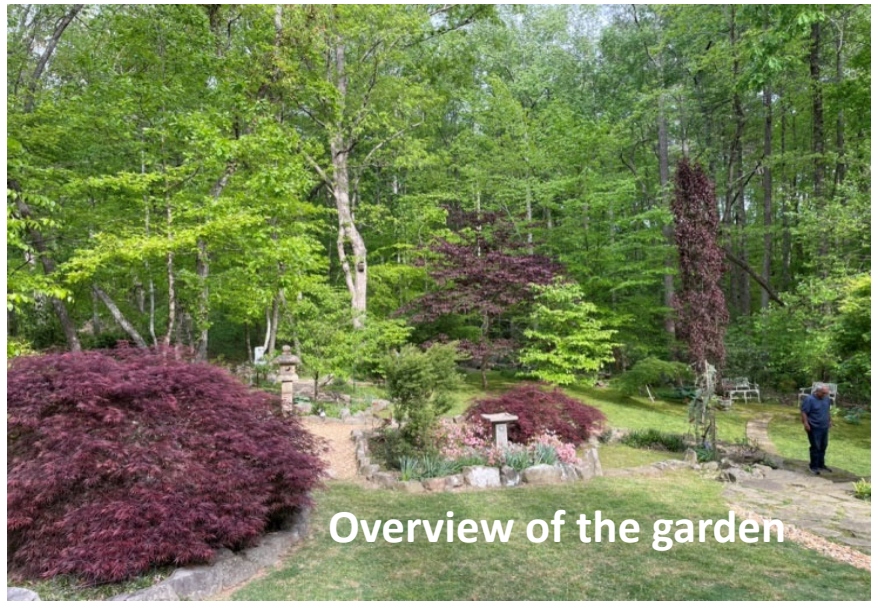
Submitted by Fran Cathay

BALL GROUND GARDEN CLUB

**Ball Ground Club Member
Hosts Garden Party to
Celebrate National Garden
Week: In the Garden with Judy**



On April 22 and 23, **Judy Dougherty** hosted an afternoon garden party at her home. The guests enjoyed the peacefulness of the expansive Japanese Garden that she has created over the past 10 years. Her love of Japanese gardens was passed down to her from her father who served in the military in Japan and subsequently developed a Japanese garden in each of their future homes in the USA. Judy has a one-ton Japanese lantern that he had shipped from Japan. Her garden is not only filled with Japanese maples of many varieties, hostas, mahonia, columbine, and azaleas, but also with many Japanese lanterns, statues, a ceremonial basin and a dry creek bed. We learned that everything in a Japanese garden must be developed in odd numbers – 3, 5, 7. Judy also developed and is the caretaker for the Japanese garden in our club's botanical garden in Ball Ground.



One-ton
lantern
imported
from Japan

McNorton Leads Ball Ground Planting Project for Seniors



On Wednesday May 3rd, **Patti McNorton**, a member of the Ball Ground Garden Club, led 22 participants from the Ball Ground Senior Center by instructing, planting, and enjoying some gardening stories with lots of laughs.

Together, we planted three large pots with a slender vertical grass, Wave petunias as the filler, and a graceful Needle Point Ivy to spill over in keeping with the “thriller, filler, and spiller” principle. Club members and seniors also planted a raised bed with a variety of herbs and yellow marigold companion plants. The audience enjoyed pinching and smelling the herbs as we ended the session with question and answer time. It was a great day with the Ball Ground Garden Club joining hands with the Senior Center to enjoy a creative project together.

Club members join in the creative and entertaining project.

Submitted by Sally Metz

Staci Canton Achieves National Recognition for Historic Preservation



Laurel District Liaison for the Cherokee Garden Library

By Mikel Vann

Director Staci L. Catron has been awarded the Garden Clubs of America 2023 National Medal of Historic Preservation. The award is given for outstanding work in the field of preservation and/or restoration of historic gardens or buildings of national importance.

The CGL has 34,000 books, manuscripts, seed catalogues, and landscape drawings. My own council, Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, has donated materials to the CGH.

The next speaker at the Library will be Dr. D.L. Henderson June 18 at 12:00 until 2:00. This will be a “Tea, Talk, and Sharing Session” and the topic is ROOTED: GARDENS AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF BLACK AMERICA. There is also a new digital collection of the program and photos online.

Dr. D L Henderson is a cemetery historian, genealogist, and preservationist whose research and writing focuses on the intersection of history, memory, and culture in African American life. She is a member of the Historic Oakland Foundation Board of Directors, the Historic South-View Foundation Board of Advisors, and the Historic Rural Churches of Georgia Advisory Board.

She has been awarded the Atlanta Urban Design Commission's Jenny D. Thurston Memorial Award to an Outstanding Preservation Professional, and she has been recognized by the Atlanta City Council for her contribution to the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture. She researches, lectures, and conducts tours on cemetery history and the art and architecture of South-View and Oakland cemeteries, two cities of the dead in Atlanta, Georgia.

Submitted by Mikel Vann

CHEROKEE COUNCIL

The Garden Clubs Council of Cherokee Hosts County Tea Party



In celebration of [Garden Week in Georgia](#), the Ball Ground Garden Club hosted a garden tea party for the Garden Clubs Council of Cherokee County. Four clubs in attendance were: Laurel, Sixes, Trayleetah and Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Clubs. The botanicals were beautifully presented and provided a glorious backdrop for the garden tea. There were 60 ladies and gentlemen in attendance. Members were decked out in their finest tea party hats.

A new leadership team for the Garden Club Council of Cherokee County was installed. They were President, Sharon Wilson (Ball Ground); Vice President, Jean Ray (Laurel); Secretary, Pam Maleski (Sixes); and Treasurer, Katy Van Hiel (Trayleetah). Pictured in the center below is Cheryl Briscoe, the new Laurel District Director.

Article by Sally Metz, Ball Ground Garden Club
Photos courtesy of Gary Conway, Ball Ground Garden Club



Karen Jordan of the Ball Ground Garden Club was presented with the *Distinguished Service Award* by the Garden Club of Georgia.



Mary Ellen Roos (Laurel) was presented a scholarship named after her for her long-time dedication.



*Sixes
Garden
Club*



*Trayleetah
Garden Club*



***Anyone for Tea? : A
resounding "Yes" by
Cherokee Council
Clubs in this perfect
setting.***

***Article by Sally Metz,
Ball Ground Garden
Club***

***Photos courtesy of
Gary Conway, Ball
Ground Garden Club***



Garden Club of Ellijay

Garden Club of Ellijay Celebrates *Garden Week in Georgia* with Maximum Spirit, Community Involvement, and Creativity



With Beautification and Education in mind, Garden Club of Ellijay planned an awesome GWIG for our community with our Chair, Julia Padgett and her Committee!

The Sequoyah Regional Library in Ellijay hosted the events. Marketing was extensive with Times Courier, the Library Site, Ellijay Facebook, GCE Facebook, Laurel District Facebook, and Proclamation of GWIG with Mayor William Hoyle at City Hall.

We launched into action with GCE photo displays, floral designs and educational boards, gorgeous potted plants, and re-potted the library's large front entrance containers most beautifully to welcome visitors.

Committee members gave Garden Tours of "THE DIG" -the library's recently refurbished garden designed and managed by the Master Gardeners, many of whom are GCE members.

For GWIG the *Youth Education Team* with June Harrison and Donna Houston presented a class at North Georgia Christian Academy about soil, and caring for 2 new raised beds, as part of the new sector for Junior Garden Club's "5 Senses Garden". The 26 Juniors planted Monarda, Phlox, Verbena, Achillea, Lavender, and many more herbs and flowers were placed by new birdbath and park bench. GCE's Downtown Pots were refurbished for GWIG with new flowers and plants, an on-going project for several years. Merchants, visitors, and home town folks truly enjoy a stroll downtown, stopping to enjoy the Pots! Two classes were taught for adults, by GCE members Donna Houston and Carol Harris. "Designing Outdoor Containers" and "Growing Veggies in Pots". Fun programs!! GCE members beautified an unsightly area in front of our local Food Pantry, much to the delight of the Volunteers. The Raffle was finale of GWIG. Pretty potted arrangements were awarded to participants. WOW!!!! What a Week!!!



Photos by June Harrison

ENOTAH GARDEN CLUB

Enotah Garden Club Holds Annual Fundraisers to Support Projects

The Enotah Garden Club in Young Harris is doing its annual fundraiser. To raise money so far this year, we have had a plant sale and a yard sale at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Our garden cart raffle is still ongoing until May 18th. It is full of items like a hummingbird feeder and food, a rake, bags of garden soil, a mini hoe & grubber, a pruning shear, pots, a garden flag, a rain gauge, and much more. The value is over \$100.

The organizations and garden areas that we support are Georgia Mountain Education and Research Center, the Dollars Educate Scholars - State Scholarship Fund, the Old Union Cemetery Foundation, Healing Hands, the Chestnut Foundation, Friends of the State Botanical Garden, Mountain True, Cupid Falls and Mayor's Park at Young Harris City Hall.

If you'd like to have a chance to win the garden cart by purchasing a raffle



Beth Connors, Helen Harvey, Carol Townsend, Dot Lashley, Tish Lashley and Michelle Updike.

ticket, you can contact Carol Townsend at 703-999-6009, text or call.

The Enotah Garden Club was established in 1941 and our motto is "Preserving and Nurturing our Enchanted Valley". We enjoy community in-

volvement and protecting our part of the world.

Pictured are just a few of our members that were available for a picture that day. The club meets once a month from September to May. The meetings include educational pic-

es, presentations by select individuals, and decorating days for Young Harris City Hall and the Young Harris Post Office. One of the meetings includes the Mayor of Young Harris attending and sharing information about current events in Young Harris.

Come and see what we are all about! Contact Carol Townsend if you'd like to become a member, call or text 703-999-6009 or send an email to enotahgardenclubyh@gmail.com. T(May10,F2)JH

Submitted by Helen Harvey,
EGC President

FLOWER GARDEN CLUB OF MARIETTA



Members of the Flower Garden Club of Marietta helped 140 students at the Lembeck Center in Marietta plant nasturtium seeds. The Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center serves 4-year olds in the Marietta School District with admission by lottery with special consideration for students who live in school zones where elementary school reading scores are below 50%.

Members also led in music and art activities and listened to a story about seeds. Club members have participated in this project for 3 years and it will be a continuing project in future years.

Jonquil Garden Club

Jonquils Host Successful Sales, Will Award Two Scholarships in 2023



The Smyrna Jonquil Garden Club held an in house plant auction at the April meeting and attendees bid on plants mostly brought from members' yards and gardens. The auction is an annual event and enjoyed by all.

Our 2023 annual Plant Sale fundraiser was held May 21 from 11-3 at the Smyrna Hand Market in the Smyrna Market Village. We featured our own perennials and annuals from our gardens. A dozen members met at Eva Tackett's home in April to dig out about 100 plants! These were sold at the plant sale and will go towards our scholarship fund.

We are very excited to report that our club has chosen two scholarship winners with the help of the Garden Club of Georgia. The Jonquil Garden Club has sent a check for \$2000.00 for the winner in care of Susan Turner, scholarship chair for The Garden Club of Georgia.

Submitted by Paula Cahill, President of JGC



Notes from Roy Harrow, Orchid Culturist and JGC Horticulture Chair:



Roy Harrow



The two kinds of orchids most offered in the big box stores are Paphs (paphiopedilums) and Phals (phalaenopsis). These will live in the conditions most of you have in your houses (65-85 degrees). Other orchids want more light, humidity and/or air movement. If your orchid hasn't bloomed since you acquired it, it probably isn't getting enough light or is due to temperature shift between day and night. Fertilizer, watering and air movement are different for each kind of orchid, so study up on the one you have. A great source for accurate free information is <https://www.aos.org/>.

Good luck, because once you get interested, it's like potato chips, you can't have just one. By Roy Harrow



MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB

Magnolias Celebrate Garden Week in GA by Serving Community

Garden Week in Georgia is very meaningful to Magnolia Garden Club. We look forward each year to planning projects to promote gardening. This year's theme was "Container Gardening."

Five years ago the club purchased two special raised flower boxes especially designed to be wheelchair friendly. They were donated to assisted living homes here in Cartersville. Each year we buy flowers and herbs and invite residents to come help with the planting. They love to be able to "play in the dirt" using gloves and trowels we provide. They often tell us how much they enjoy checking on the plants and the more able bodied ones will water when needed.



Jo Ann Dorsey, Chairman
Committee Members:

Merrell Holden, Kathleen Clark, Theresa Barger,
Jill Neely, Sharon Abernathy, Elaine Schwartz and Jeanne
Martin.

Since several activities were on planned for the library, committee members brought their own potted plants to decorate there. The library staff has books on gardening available in the lobby. We planned a demonstration one evening on the correct way to assemble a container garden using the "thriller, filler and spiller" technique. At the end, a drawing was held and one of the attendees was thrilled to win the lovely prize.

For many years we have purchased **books on gardening to donate to the public library and the book mobile**, choosing books related to our theme.



Hamilton Crossing Elementary School was the location for our next project. Our club sponsors a Junior Garden Club there so we took flowers and plants for two large pots near the entrance and several other pots in the courtyard. Children assisted in these plantings.

Since **Earth Day** was celebrated on Saturday of Garden Week, club members were asked to share plants from their gardens, particularly pollinator plants, to be given away at both entrances of the library. Also, we had a large amount of vegetable seed packets that were donated by Keep Bartow Beautiful to give away as well.

Giving away plants and vegetable seed was a hit and will serve as a constant reminder this summer of a very happy Garden Week in Georgia.

Submitted by Jo Ann Dorsey, Chairman
Committee Members:
Merrell Holden, Kathleen Clark, Theresa Barger,
Jill Neely, Sharon Abernathy, Elaine Schwartz and
Jeanne Martin.

Marietta Daisies Garden Club

Deanna Sloan, Co-founder of MDCG, Honored for Community Service and Leadership



*This spring, at the GCG State Convention the recipient of the **Garden Club of Georgia "Member Award of Honor"**, and the **Deep South Garden Clubs (Region) "Member Award of Honor"** awards were presented to Deanna Slone.*

She selflessly serves her community and beyond through many garden club leadership roles since co-founding the Marietta Daisies Garden Club in 2015.

Currently, she sits on Boards as Garden Club of Georgia Grand Gardener Chair, Laurel District Subscribing Member Chair, Marietta Council President, and has been the President of the Marietta Daisies Garden Club.

All while volunteering on local, district, and state levels, she finds time to actively participate in programs for these clubs.

Intrinsically, the National Garden Clubs recognizes all region winners with a national commendation! Congratulations, to Deanna! The Marietta Daisies are honored to have this mover and shaker as a member!



Submitted by
Melissa
Snyder
Marietta
Daisies
Garden Club
2022-2023
President

ROME FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB

Super Celebration in May: Rome Federated Celebrates Members for Achievements, Dedication to Club Service



The *Rome Federated Garden Clubs* celebrated *Day in May* at the Wilder Center. Officers for the 2023 -2024 officers were installed: President: Anita Brides; First Vice-President: Joy Puckett; Second Vice President: Donna Knighten; Third Vice-President: Cheryl Melton; Fourth Vice-President Joan Fellows; Treasurer: Caroline Alford; Recording Secretary: Susan Little; Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Donahue. Life members for the Federation we recognized are: **Cindy Smith, Sallee Smith, Renate Star, Nancy Thompson, Carolyn Tillman, Patti Causey, Steve Fellows, Dean Guinn, and Melissa Phillips.**

The Live Oak Award was present to John Barnett. The Live Oak award is the highest honor at RFGC. This Award is voted on by past RFGC presidents and given to a member that has not been president of RFGC, has served on the Executive Board for a minimum of five years and has actively supported the mission of the Rome Federated Garden Clubs.

Members from five clubs assisted in the planning and implementation Those clubs were: **Seven Hills**, founded in 1040 with Kathy Cooper and Susie Garrett co-presidents; **Townview**, founded in 1950, Melissa Phillips President; **Three Rivers**, Winnie Holland, President, founded in 1951; **Spade and Trowel**, founded in 1951, Donna Knighten, President; **Mountain View**, founded in 1952, Sallee Smith and Joan Fellows, Presidents; **Lavender View**, 1958, Peggy Carmers, President; **Four Seasons**, founded 1958 .

Of this wonderful Day in May, **Ruth Forester** and her hospitality committee provided an array of food and drink for the occasion. Ruth was recognized for her eight years of planning and orchestrating the Day in May. Submitted by Kathy Donahue



2023 Spring Flower Show School

**Flower
School
participants
display
their Petite
Floral
Designs:**

**Back to
School Date
is August 27**



The Flower Show School, sponsored by Laurel District, is an intensive, highly rewarding experience. The Horticulture curriculum covers more than just how plants grow. You'll discover how to select, groom, and exhibit your plant. You will be able to write a flower show schedule and critique exhibits.

Design sessions give you a handle on the Principles and Elements of Design. You'll get the tools you need to evaluate various NGC types like Creative Line, Creative Mass, Cascade, Multi-rhythmic, Table Designs and many more.

For flower show procedure, expect to gain enough knowledge to host your own show and to become an accredited flower show judge. You'll learn how to constructively critique design, horticulture, and educational exhibits.

All classes will be held at the Marietta Educational Garden Center in downtown Marietta on Kennesaw Avenue. Dates are as follows:

2022 1st Course: Aug. 21, 22, 23, 24

2023 2nd Course: April 23, 24, 25, 26

2023 3rd Course: Aug. 27, 28, 29, 30

2024 4th Course: Feb. 25, 26, 27, 28

Challenge yourself! If you've got an itch, scratch it at the first session, at least. You'll be getting more information as plans firm up in the next couple of months. In the meantime, if you need any questions answered, Anna Burns, anna.burns214@gmail.com, or Cookie Roland r_cookie@att.net, or Diane Hunter, drmchunter@yahoo.com will certainly try answer them. Edna McClellan is actively recruiting students and has her list started! If you are interested in attending, let her know at ednamae@ellijay.com. You will receive registration materials if we know you are thinking about coming. See you in Marietta!

Order Your Bulbs Now: Deadline is September 30, 2023



Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. Bulb Order Form

Name _____ Garden Club _____
Address _____ Phone _____



Daffodil Charm Offensive Blend
Two sweet-scented doubles in cream and soft yellow. Their fragrance will make you want to get down on all fours to take it in. Concerned about conduct unbecoming a gardener? Cut a few stems instead. *Introduced 2016*
Deer and Rodent Proof 6 bulbs for \$10.00



Falconet Daffodil
Sweetly scented, clear yellow flowers with orange cups are borne 3-7 on a stem. Since a bulb typically produces 4 stems, a planting of 25 bulbs can yield 450 flowers or more. That's a lot of fragrance. **Deer and Rodent Proof 6 bulbs for \$6.00**



Precocious Daffodil
Precocious is a great American-bred hybrid with the best pink color to date. It has won several prizes at the Keukenhof display garden in the Netherlands. And like most pink-cupped daffodils, it's also a strong grower. **Deer and Rodent Proof 6 bulbs for \$12.00**



Spanish Bluebells
A shade-tolerant plant that bears spikes of lightly fragrant, lavender-blue, bell-shaped flowers toward the end of the bulb season. Ideal for naturalizing below shade trees. Grows well North and South — California, too. Bulbs are extra large. **6 bulbs for \$6.00**



Best Red Tulip
Vivid poppy-red. A vigorous tulip of great substance and radiant color that is sure to attract attention from a distance. One of the best red landscape tulips. **6 bulbs for \$6.00**



Best Yellow Tulip
A rich golden yellow tulip, impressive both for the size of its flowers and their longevity. Best landscape tulip in its class. It can light up a garden, the entrance to a building, or an entire traffic median **6 bulbs for \$6.00**



Nir is one of the best paperwhites introduced to date. Its stems are shorter and therefore much less likely to flop than those of the standard issue; its flowers are larger and showier; and its sweet fragrance, while strong, is not overpowering. Paperwhites are for indoor growing only. **6 bulbs for \$12.00**

Mail Checks and order forms to Caroline Alford 7 Pine Valley Road SW, Rome, GA 30165

From the Editor

Hello, Laurels,

Thanks to all of you for making this issue so special. I am amazed at the creative and consistent community service projects your clubs are leading. It's no wonder that Laurels are being recognized everywhere.

Your dedication to all things garden club is worthy of emulation by others.

Please note the Fall Issue deadline : August 25. Please remember to send labeled photos along with articles.

Have a wonderful summer!

Shirley



Laurel Letters Newsletter

Summer Issue

Deadline – May 15

Emailed - June 1

Fall Issue

Deadline - August 25

Emailed - September 15

Winter Issue

Deadline - November 19

Emailed - December 15

Spring Issue

Deadline - February 25

Emailed - March 15

**Send information to
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