



Laurel Letters

Fall 2023



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*

Dear Laurels,

Where in the "Laurel World" have I been since May?

First of all, I have been on the phone a LOT! Your Laurel District Board has 32 positions filled by wonderful and capable volunteers from all over our district: Smyrna, Marietta, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Rome, Cartersville, Talking Rock, Emerson, Adairsville, Ellijay, Hiawassee, Ball Ground, Cleveland, Dunwoody, Flowery Branch, Dalton, Blairsville. Thank you to everyone who said "YES" to opportunity to be a part of this board!

Secondly, we have been meeting a LOT in the district to plan for what we hope will be the best two years ever. The Laurel District Executive Board met at the Marietta Educational Garden Center in June and the Sope Creek Garden Club invited me to their garden tour and to perform the installation of their officers. We actually enjoyed lunch outdoors.

The July Executive Board Meeting was beautifully hosted in Hiawassee by the Hiawassee Garden Club. They donated lunch and we made donations to their projects. What a great idea!

I represented Laurel District at the Friends of the State Botanical Garden Meeting in Athens at their meeting in July and then volunteered at the Children's Garden on a really HOT day that month. The Marietta Council of Garden Clubs hosted the Leadership and Awards Workshop for 51 attendees and it was "WOW"! Lisa Hall, our GCG President, and her team guided us through new ways to report on our accomplishments and to make applications for awards.

In August, Mikel Vann, our Cherokee Garden Library Liaison, and I attended an orientation and tour of the library followed by lunch at the Swan Coach House. How exciting it was to see some of our district's archived scrapbooks (read Mikel's article). Jill Denlea and Linda Hardie (Cumming Garden Club) made very nice arrangements for our Laurel District Board Meeting in Cumming at a 100 year old historic school building where we enjoyed lunch and reports from multiple board members highlighting their accomplishments to date.

Where in the district will I be next? The Flower Garden Club of Marietta is celebrating their 95th Anniversary on September 21st! I will be there. And, all during the summer, Lorelle LoCurto, Laurel District's Communication Coordinator, Sally Eubanks, Jennie Byers, Karen Hawkins (Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club) and I have been planning for the District Annual Meeting on October 24, 2023 in Ball Ground. When you get your invitation packet, please make your plans as early as you can! We want you there with us.

Keep cool and take advantage of all the chances to learn! Encourage your garden clubs with your participation.

Thanks to each of you,

Cheryl Briscoe

Laurel District Director 2023-25

Amicalola Garden Club

Ikebana Designs, Justice Garden Tour, and Lunch Highlight AGC May Meeting

On May 16, 2023, the Amicalola Garden Club held the last meeting before summer break. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Penny Prince. Mrs. Prince and Mrs. Anita Poole hosted the members of the club on the back porch. After a wonderful lunch was served, Ms. Diane Nelson, Master Gardener gave an interesting presentation of Japanese Ikebana flower arranging. Ms. Nelson brought the plant material so members could create their own arrangement.

Ms. Glenda Thompson provided an informative horticulture tip on conservation. Members had an opportunity to visit the *amazing gardens of Pat Justice* on Old Mill White Road. After a wonderful tour of the three landscaped acres, Ms. Justice shared many specimen plants with those attending.

A business meeting was conducted by President Linda Allred with focus of Tate Cemetery and Freedom Park. President Allred asked members to bring flowers and plants to be sold at the plant and yard sale being held by Marble Valley Friends on June 9th and 10th at the Old Tate Gym.

Members brought flower arrangements to be judged by members. The winners were *Linda Allred, Sue Weaver, and Glenda Thompson*. Congratulations to the winners.

Submitted by Fran Cathey
Amicalola Garden Club . Laurel District



CUMMING GARDEN CLUB

Creative and Inclusive: Cumming Garden Club Celebrates Garden Club Week, Brings in International Club Students and Sponsors

At Northside Forsyth Hospital: Celebrating Garden Club Week. Jill Denlea, President, Cumming Garden Club; Barbara Henry, Laura Fonseca, Shirley Puch, Cindy Bean and Selma Paul.



Linda Hardie, Cumming Garden Club, shares history of Poole's Mill covered bridge with Forsyth Central High School International Club students and their sponsors.

Forsyth Central international students assist with mulch for the Poole's Mill garden project.



Jill Denlea, President, Cumming Garden Club, shares winning award certificate with Monica Jarvis, International Club sponsor and students. Submitted by Linda Hardie

Jonquil Garden Club

Fair Oaks Renovations Wow **Jonquils On Heritage Tour**

On a sunny day in June Smyrna's Jonquil Garden Club members met at Fair Oaks, the beautiful historic home of the Marietta Educational Garden Center (MEGC), for a tour of its newly renovated interior and gardens. Our club is one of 20 area garden clubs that are members of the MEGC, which supports us by hosting monthly programs and providing leadership resources for new and established clubs.



Fair Oaks, located at the foot of Kennesaw Mountain, was built in 1850-1852 and saw the Civil War rage past its door—in fact, a cannonball lodged in a large oak tree in its front lawn! It is believed that Confederate General Joseph E Johnston may have used the home as his headquarters during the battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

The home was privately owned until the newly organized Marietta Council of Garden Clubs was granted deed to the property in 1966. Then began the long and arduous task of restoring the home and grounds. The house had been vacant for some time and severely vandalized, but dauntless garden club members spent hundreds of hours volunteering and conducting fund drives to restore the property.

Jonquil Garden Club 2



A modern kitchen was installed as the '60s era design had become outdated and was no longer functional for current needs. Other rooms needed a facelift as well, so for the past several years members once again rolled up their sleeves, determinedly raised funds, and this spring the renovation of the main floor of Fair Oaks was complete.

Our club was “wowed” by the gorgeous state-of-the-art kitchen and exquisitely designed and upgraded facilities! Brass fittings had been polished, furniture reupholstered, every detail thoughtfully and lovingly put in place to create a haven that both honors Fair Oaks’ heritage and creates a beautiful environment for modern day gatherings. The home is available to be rented for weddings and other special events, which helps support its upkeep.

The grounds are receiving the same tender loving care—a butterfly garden has been recently installed and planted, and as its shrubs, trees and perennials mature it promises to be a beautiful focal point for future events. We departed totally impressed and in awe of the six decades of hard work, perseverance and loving care that have been poured into Fair Oaks to create this local treasure!

By Heidi Hunt

Photos by Smiljana Barac



Magnolia Garden Club

Magnolias
Celebrate
National
Garden Club
Week at Red
Top Mountain
State Park with
Tours and
Special
Projects



The Magnolia Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week 2023 with a special project for Red Top Mountain State Park. The National Garden Week chairperson, Kathleen Clark, along with club president, Merrell Holden, led multiple activities at the park.

In the spring of 2023, club members including some from the Horticulture and Garden Therapy committee, walked the trail with a representative from the park near the new Visitor's Center and photographed easily visible native and pollinator plants along the path. Dee Anne Wyse identified the top ten plants and placed temporary markers at the park. Permanent markers were created for the plants with approval from the park.



Kathleen Clark and Quentin Holden

On June 9th, the Magnolia Garden Club met at the Visitor's Center and heard an informative presentation given by Park Ranger, Jamie Madden. Ms. Madden shared with us about the history of Red Top Mountain, its many lodging amenities, improvements recently made within the park, upcoming demonstrations and volunteer opportunities. After Ranger Madden's presentation, the group walked the trail, locating the native plants identified earlier, where permanent plaques were to be placed.



We ended our learning and service with a delicious BBQ lunch provided by the hospitality committee for our June special event. A follow up visit by Kathleen, Merrell, and Merrell's husband, Quentin, to install the permanent markers was met with many comments from visitors about the helpfulness and beauty of the improvements. With this encouraging positive feedback, the club is considering expanding the project next year.

Submitted by Jeanne Taylor with Kathleen Clark and Merrell Holden

From Shirley Andrews, Horticultural Concerns Chair, Laurel District, Magnolia Garden Club

As a child, one of my favorite activities was to play in the front yard, chasing butterflies. I loved walking through the blooming flowers, feeling the scratchy texture of plants against my bare legs, as I attempted to catch the butterflies. They were always elusive but not the 'lightning bugs.' Taking a pint mason jar and punching the lid full of holes, I would easily catch the flashing lights at dusk and store in my temporary shelter. It was so much fun to watch the blinking lights but as dark skies enveloped me, I would reluctantly open the jar and let them go..... until the next evening.

As a teenager, I was driving home from school one day and watched a plane diving close to the ground, spraying the cotton fields. I watched the acrobatic acts of the pilot in amazement as he flew over my head, across the road, and from one field to another. How was I do know he was spraying DDT, a deadly pesticide that would lead to the near extinction of America's symbolic bird – the Bald Eagle.

As an adult, I am now aware of many of the problems we Americans and Garden Lovers have created either unknowingly or willingly. I still love butterflies but now I know that while some cultivars will provide nectar, in order to sustain a population, I must have the host plant growing in my yard. For instance: Purple passion flower (*Passiflora Incarnata*) is native to Georgia and host to the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly. There are many more examples.

Thanks to the conservationists that began to notice the increase of invasive species, the decline of the Monarch, and the heavy loss of birds over the past several years. These conservationists and many non-profit groups have started the "Native Plant Movement."

One of the current well known conservationists is Doug Tallamy, co-founder of Homegrown National Park, where his belief is that each of us must do our part to turn our back yards into a national park. He sums up the native plant movement with this statement: "In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water."

Gardeners and garden lovers: We are called to a new mission, a mission to help restore the ecological balance we have tipped in the wrong direction. Each of us must do our part to create an environment friendly to pollinators, birds, wildlife.

There are many resources to be found to assist you in this endeavor. A good place to begin is with Doug Tallamy's book: *Bringing Nature Home*.

Shirley Andrews, August 2023

***From Mikel Vann,
Laurel District
Liaison
for
Cherokee Garden
Library***



Cheryl Briscoe and I had the pleasure of attending a Leadership Orientation at the Cherokee Garden Library on Thursday, August 16. It was hosted by Director, Staci Catron, and Board Chair, Blair Robbins.

We were provided historical garden materials to view including original carvings by Redoute and Besler. I was pleased to see the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs scrapbook from 1927 in the library as well as other artifacts that can be seen at the library. Staci welcomes donations of rare books and Club scrapbooks.

scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com

Financial contributions can be made at the GCG website

Lunch followed at the Swan Coach House.

Cherokee Garden Library 2



Staci Catron shares book cover for upcoming presentation: Landscapes of Exclusion



Wooden Book Cover
Circa 1927

Black in the Garden Exhibit is now at the library. Here is a synopsis.

The Gardens and Cultural Landscapes of Black America visual arts materials collection includes images of residential gardens, landscapes, farms, educational institutions, parks and green spaces, both urban and rural, created and used by Black Americans. These images provide details such as garden and campus design, plant choices, farming methods, and land use as well as social and economic conditions in Black communities. Funding is provided by the Carter Heyward Morris Acquisitions Endowment Fund of the Cherokee Garden Library.

Podcasts are available as well on the website. The library is free to visit but clubs and individuals need an appointment. Many treasures can be seen on a tour.

We hope you will join us on October 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm, for the Cherokee Garden Library Fall Program: Film and Panel

Discussion, *Landscape of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South*. We are all striving to grow and learn more each day. Staci will share an e-blast with you in September for this important event, so you may share it with your Club, your District, friends, and colleagues.

Historic Preservation Grant: It's Time to Get Your Grant Together !

The Historic Preservation Grant was due on August 1, 2023 and now it is time to start thinking about 2024 and where our communities might be able to utilize a grant to help preserve a historic location in the Laurel District area. It is never too early to start looking and gathering the information that will be needed to submit a grant to preserve part of Georgia's history. Grant up to \$3000 can be requested but matching dollars are required for whatever amount is requested. To date over \$213,000 has been rewarded throughout the state.

The goals of the Historic Landscape Preservation Grants are to:

Promote awareness of Georgia's historic landscapes and gardens

Encourage preservation of threatened historic landscapes and gardens

Provide seed money to assist organizations and communities in developing sound landscape preservation projects which provide public benefit

Provide financial support and professional expertise for research and documentation of the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative

Foster partnerships between non-profits, local governments, garden clubs, and other civic organizations in effort to create long-term relationships to preserve historic landscapes

Contact Carol Fey with questions – 678-656-3658

2023 Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser

2023 Historic Preservation Fundraiser hosted by the Magnolia District - Masee Lane Gardens

Join us November 4, 2023 for a special day at [Masee Lane Gardens](#) in Fort Valley, GA.

The nine acre garden holds one of the world's finest collections of camellias. The Garden began as the private garden of David C. Strother in the 1930s. Mr. Strother donated this land to the American Camellia Society for its headquarters in 1966.

Additional gardens of roses, daffodils, daylilies, chrysanthemums, azaleas, flowering trees, annuals and perennials provide year round beauty.



LAUREL DISTRICT 65TH ANNUAL MEETING



Bountiful and Beautiful



Tuesday, October 24, 2023
9:00am to 2:30pm

The Wheeler House Barn
510 Gilmer Ferry Road
Ball Ground, GA 30107

Featured Speaker: Ashley Frasca, WSB's Garden Expert
"The Beauty of Fall Gardening"

Garden Club Host: Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club
Karen Hawkins, President 2023
RSVP: By Thursday, October 12, 2023

See attached information to prepare for the meeting:

- Complete your reservation form and submit payment.
- Make hotel arrangements if you plan to overnight Monday before the meeting.
- Ask your club to provide a basket for the raffle or send a \$50.00 check made out to Laurel District. This is our fundraiser to help pay for the annual meeting. See suggestions for basket themes.
- State or District Chairpersons: reserve exhibit space using your registration form.
- Gather pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald pull-a-tab project; place them in a container that you don't need to be returned.



LAUREL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM 2023

Coffee: 9:00am
Meeting: 10:00am

Mail the completed registration form and check for \$45.00

(Payable to Laurel District) to:

Dee Anne Wyse
37 Waterside Drive
Emerson, GA 30121

Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 12, 2023

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

BADGE NAME PREFERENCE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

GARDEN CLUB AND CITY _____

DISTRICT _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

Please check all that apply to you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National GC Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCG President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Voting Delegate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCG Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former GCG President | <input type="checkbox"/> New Garden Club Member 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee at District Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council President of _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> GCG Life Member |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member |



HOTEL INFORMATION:

***Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

145 Park Center Drive
Canton, GA 30114
770-213-6880

*Recommended; Rooms blocked until 10/16/2023

Group Name: Laurel District Garden Club of Georgia
Use Code: LDG

Room Type: Double Queen

Rate: \$139.00 plus tax

Arrival Date: Monday, October 23, 2023

Check in: 3:00pm

Departure Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Check out: 11:00am

Breakfast included. 100% Smoke/vape free, and no pets allowed.

Individual cancellation policy: 24 hours advance notice.

The cutoff date for this rate is Monday, October 16, 2023.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

Canton Riverstone Parkway
120 Reinhardt College Parkway
Lot 192
Canton, GA
1-888-729-5616

Room Type: Double Queen

Rate: \$134.00 plus tax

Arrival Date: Monday, October 23, 2023

Check in: 3:00pm

Departure Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Check out: 11:00am

Breakfast included.

Individual cancellation policy: 24 hours advance notice.

DINING IN CANTON (Optional)

Restaurant for Night of October 23, 2023 – 6:30pm (“Dutch Treat”)

Local on North - Canton

170 North Street
Canton, GA 30114

Menu \$11.00 – \$38.00

Appetizers, Salads, Soup, Main Plates, Handhelds, Pizza & Desserts

Will you attend? ___Yes ___No





PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING:

Reserve Exhibit Space: State or District Chairs

If you wish to reserve exhibit space,
please email Jennie Byers at: jenniedbyers@aol.com

Memorial Service: All Laurel District Clubs

If a member of your club passed away since the 2022 Laurel District Annual Meeting,
please email or call Rene Lanier, Laurel District Chaplain at:

Rlanier111@gmail.com

770-713-0600

She will need to know the name and garden club of the deceased member.

Memorial information deadline: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

WHAT TO BRING:

RAFFLE BASKET

Each club should bring a raffle basket to the meeting worth \$50.00 or more. Be creative!
(We know you are!) If you have no one attending the meeting, we ask that you donate \$50.00 to the raffle
(checks made out to Laurel District). Each basket should have the content and value list completed
and attached to or within the basket.

Suggested themes are:

Christmas is Coming!	Plant for Pollinators
Feed the Laurel Birds	Herbs and Spices
Be Thankful for Thanksgiving	Grow Garden, Grow
Children's Gardening	All About Honey
New Year Celebration!	Wine and Cheese Party
Tailgate Time is Here!	Love the Butterflies
Golfer's Delight	Family Italian Dinner

BASKET NAME: _____

BASKET CONTENTS:

VALUE:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PULL TABS

Bring pull tabs in a container that you can lift and that you do not need to be returned.
There will be a designated area for you to donate your pull tabs.



A Little Bit About the City of Ball Ground

We are a city of 2,560 residents located in Cherokee County, Georgia — on the northern edge of metro Atlanta — nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Our quaint city is known for its historic main street characterized by unique shops and restaurants, numerous historic homes, and great recreation.

A marker in downtown Ball Ground, placed by the Georgia Historical Commission in 1953, states: “Two and one-half miles to the east, near the confluence of Long-Swamp Creek and the Etowah River, is the traditional site of the Battle of Taliwa, between the Cherokee and Creek Indians.” The Cherokees won and the Creeks had to move to below the Chattahoochee River.

Parks and Recreation facilities in Ball Ground include Calvin Farmer Park, City Park, Calvin Farmer Multi-Use Area, Lions Field, the Community Center Complex where fabulous fireworks are displayed for the Fourth of July, and the City Gym. Fifteen-acre Calvin Farmer Park

features two picnic pavilions, a playground, a duck pond, open fields, and wooded areas with a small stream running through the center, and a performance stage available for public use and concerts.

Perhaps where Ball Ground really shines is in its gardens. On the grounds of City Hall is Ball Ground Botanical Gardens, designed in 2015 by the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club. Antesa-Ga-Da means Ball Ground in the Cherokee language. The Garden is three-quarters of an acre featuring flowers, plants, trees, and shrubs — hundreds of plants blooming in all seasons. The garden includes an Entrance Garden, Welcome Garden, Cottage Garden, Native Plant Garden, Daylily Walk, Iris Bed, Children’s Garden, Bog Garden, Japanese Garden, Four Seasons Garden, Heirloom Garden, a Picnic Pavilion, Honorary and Memorial Brick Plaza, a stream running through the Garden and a Butterfly Garden that is on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. The Garden continues to grow and is in constant maintenance by the hard-working ladies and gentlemen of the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club with the support of the City of Ball Ground. Ball Ground’s claim to fame really belongs to Gibbs Gardens, one of the nation’s largest residential estate gardens.

Places to eat and drink: The Burger Bus, Ball Ground Tavern, Barrel House Coffee, Dominique’s Food Truck-Pizza, Dot’s Fine Wine & Craft, Feathers Edge Vineyards and Wildcat on a Wing Gift Shop, Frankfurt Doner & Meats — German Butcher & Sandwich Shop, Jill’s Cakes & Bakes, Scooped on Main — ice cream, Choate’s Barbecue, La Catrina — Mexican food, Lés BonTemps Louisiana Kitchen, Rock Solid Brewery and Lora Mae’s.

Shopping: Southern Oak Provisions, Sunshine Life, Molly and Margie’s, Perched — Unique Gifts and Fashion, Carma Vinyl & Vibes — vinyl records, Ball Ground Hounds — pet supply and gifts.

Come to see what Ball Ground has to offer!

From the Editor

Thank you all for sharing your club news, district projects, and plans.

Your photos (labeled, thank you) and informative writing make the pages come alive!

Enjoy all the beauties of this season.

Shirley

Laurel Letters Newsletter Deadlines

Winter Issue

Deadline - November 19

Emailed - December 15

Spring Issue

Deadline - February 25

Emailed - March 15

Summer Issue

Deadline - May 15

Emailed - June 1

Fall Issue

Deadline - August 25

Emailed - September 15

Send information to *Laurel Letters* Editor:

**Shirley Priest
sapriest2@aol.com**

