

WINTER 2023-2024



Garden Gateways

The Official Publication of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



*Community
Wildlife Program*

**LANDSCAPING
FOR
WILDLIFE**

*A Garden for Bees
and Butterflies*

Volume 94 No 3

DISCOVER THE MAGIC

NOV. 22 - DEC. 30, 2023
select nights

Presented by the UGA Office of the President,
Winter WonderLights transforms the State Botanical Garden of
Georgia into a wonderland of twinkling lights and dazzling displays
complete with s'more roasting stations and a signature chocolate bar.

For more information, visit wonderlights.uga.edu

**WINTER
WONDERLIGHTS**



State Botanical Garden
of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

LEAF BLOWERS

blow away the top layers of your soil,
removing the organic matter and nutrients
that your plants need to survive.



For healthy soil and plants,
put down the leaf blower.

Source: Bee Friendly Gardening/FB

Garden Gateways is a publication of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

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Plant America: Promoting Beautification, Conservation and Education

Many events have taken place this fall; two large flower shows, seven annual district meetings, NGC courses, symposium and 4 blue star/ gold star marker dedications. Our membership is growing! We welcomed 3 new clubs in October! Seek out potential new members for your clubs! Offer subscribing memberships to garden club supporters, speakers and local officials. Remember: Membership is Key to GCG!

And now it is time for a short rest and then getting ready for Hanukkah, Christmas and New Years!

John and I are returning to Christmas markets in Germany and France as we enjoyed them last year. Then it is back to work. Bylaws will be reviewed, scholarships will be awarded, the north and south native plant symposiums will be held, more NGC classes and then into spring we will go! Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



Winter Market, Colmar France



Nilsa Summey, Bess Hartley, Lisa Hall, Diane Hunter, Marilyn McDonnell
Azalea District Meeting 2023



Announcing the The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s

TOUR OF NEWPORT, RI, AND THE NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW

JUNE 18-21, 2024

Join us for a visit to beautiful historic Newport, RI, founded in 1639 and said to be one of the most important port cities in the 18th century North American British Colonies. In addition to its colonial past, Newport is known for its rich sailing history, its opulent Gilded Age "summer cottages", and its magnificent coastal scenery. During our 4 day 3 night trip, we will tour the magnificent Ten Mile Drive; enjoy a cruise on Narragansett Bay; visit the opulent Gilded Age "summer cottages"; explore notable gardens such as Green Animals, Blithewold, and the Blue Garden; attend the Newport Flower Show; and more.



\$2,450 p/person, double occupancy
-Includes a \$100 donation GCG
\$1,050 Single Supplement

For detailed information and a tour brochure email maryannbryant1@gmail.com

A Garden for Bees and Butterflies

~ Laura C. Martin, Author

Although I enjoy being in my garden anytime, I love it best in the early morning, a time when I can sit quietly and watch the drama unfold in front of me. As sunlight touches the colorful flowers, I begin to sense a bit of movement, fluttering wings in one corner, a quiet buzz in another until suddenly the entire garden is alive with insects, butterflies, hummingbirds and even an occasional goldfinch who swoops down to pluck seeds off the purple coneflower. This, to me, is the purpose of a garden, to invite and share with whatever and whoever needs a bit of nectar or a beak full of seeds.



My front garden is a mixed border of shrubs, perennials, and annuals, providing layers of pollinator plants that bloom for much of the year and offer food and nesting sites for the neighborhood wildlife. It's an urban area, within the city limits of Atlanta, so fortunately my "wildlife" does not include deer, which can be so incredibly harmful to any landscape.

Instead, I have a myriad of native bees from tiny sweat bees to surprisingly large bumblebees. In addition, beetles and flies have also found my garden. But it's the butterflies that demand the most attention with their brilliant, iridescent colors and their constant motion. Fritillaries, swallowtails, skippers, admiral ladies, hairstreaks and monarchs are just a few of the butterflies that visit at one

time or another, depending on what's in bloom.

To serve the greatest number of pollinators, I have included plants that begin blooming in late February and some that last well into December. Native plants form the backbone of my garden and provide just the right kind of food and the right kind of nesting sites for the native pollinators in the area.

It's not just what I plant that is important to the health of the ecosystem but how I maintain my landscape. I use no chemicals on my yard. It doesn't seem fair, for example, to lure in butterflies with just the right host plant and then kill the caterpillars that are eating the leaves. Or, a more common example, to plant a wide variety of pollinator plants only to kill them by spraying for mosquitoes. Every action in our gardens has a consequence. We can no longer set our sights just on the beauty of our landscapes, we have to instead think of the bigger picture and consider the health of the entire system, from the microorganisms in the soil to the birds that nest in the tree tops.



It seems that the word has gotten out throughout the pollinator population that my garden is a good place to visit because over the years, the number of pollinators has increased dramatically. As a city gardener, I think that it is especially important for me to provide an oasis of pollinator plants. Pollinators, like grizzly bears or wolves, need corridors and pathways so that they can stay wild in an increasingly developed world.

For this reason, I encourage all my neighbors to plant flowers so that our street, our neighborhood, and our city becomes a welcomed pathway for food, protection, and nesting sites. But truly, the gift is not to the pollinators, but to us. What greater gift could nature bestow upon us than the sight of a garden – brilliant with color, alive with tiny winged creatures. We, as gardeners, are fortunate indeed.



Native plants for Georgia

Sun loving: Summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) Butterflyweed (*Aesclepias tuberosa*) New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*) Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)

Shade: Woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Eastern columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) Dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*) Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*) Blue mist flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

I am a Florida born gardener, Zone 9, and my mother nurtured my love of flowers through her career in a horticulture field. As I rounded that bend to retirement, Florida became too hot and crowded. The mountains were calling, and my husband and I answered. Imagine my surprise when this Zone 9 gardener moved to Zone 7. I didn't recognize anything, no tropicals, no year-round annuals. I was on a steep learning curve. To make matters worse my house backed up to a mountain.

Gardening on a vertical surface is not for the faint of heart! I needed a plan. Most normal people would have terraced the berm, but I didn't have the money for that kind of hardscaping and I didn't want to be climbing over the berm all the time. One of my goals was to use leaf color and texture instead of flowers. So, evergreens that bloom such as Azaleas and Rhododendron were chosen including seventeen Japanese Maples. I decided to create rooms or small gardens within the whole. By the back sitting deck, I used 2 different colors of Juniper, blue star and blue pacific. Golden spirea and red Japanese maples filled in with more color. Two Hosta gardens were added at either end and I chose lime green/yellow as the color I would carry across the entire garden. It brightens everything up and your eye follows the color from one end to the other.



Sunshine ligustrum, gold mound spirea, lime colored Hosta, yellow Japanese maples and yellow variegated arborvitae accomplished this. Lastly, I had to have flowers, so along the flagstone walk are daylily, Iris, peonies, hydrangeas, balloon flowers and a host of other perennials and annuals. These I can easily maintain at the ground level. During the fall months I replaced all my summer annuals with winter flowers; violas and pansies. A few special plants I would like to mention are Blue shadow Fothergilla; the blue leaves look fabulous with the lime Hosta. Flame Thrower Redbud, sets the yard on fire with its reds, oranges and yellows, bubblegum petunia, only one plant needed per hanging basket and tidbit limelight hydrangea, only growing 2.5 feet tall with beautiful panicle flowers.

As I sit on my deck this evening watching the bunnies come down from the woods

to munch on the grass and the squirrels trying to gather all the acorns their mouths will hold, I can tell you what every gardener would say. It's a labor of love.



New Life Members

New State Life Members

- #2148 Camille Mraz
Honored by Sea Oats Garden Club, Oleander
- #2149 Jan Lamke-Sandt
Honored by Magnolia Garden Club, Azalea
- #2150 Bettie Sander
Honored by Flower Garden Club of Marietta, Laurel
- #2151 Emily Harber
Honored by The Harbor Family & Commerce Garden Club, Laurel

- #2152 Genevieve Shirley
Honored by the Shirley Family & Commerce Garden Club, Laurel
- #2153 Stephanie Corley
Honored by Jim Corley, husband, Azalea

New National Life Members

- #10690 Genie McCook
Honored by J.R. McCook, Camellia

Gardening for Wildlife is now easier with container gardening. It means less weeding and more joy! Many ornamentals and most native plants of value to wildlife will grow in containers. As a rule, the larger the container the better, the soil does not dry out as quickly and they promote better root development. It is recommended that at least a 15-gallon container be used. As with all of the categories in the Community Wildlife Program, the design is education. Our new sixth category, Container Gardening for Wildlife, was introduced at the 2023 GCG Convention. The CWP, begun in the mid 1900's in Georgia, has now been adopted by National Garden Clubs this year. Suggestions to keep in mind: Most wild plants grow well in containers. Plants that struggle are those that have long roots. Not all ornamentals are wildlife-friendly. Many produce little or no nectar or the shape makes it difficult for pollinators to reach its pollen and nectar.

Sharing information with CWP helps to "share the knowledge" with all of us. Some plants are better than others for wildlife. Some ornamentals that work well in containers: Globe Amaranth, Butterfly Bush, Bronze Fennel, Lantana, Rosemary, Salvia, Verbena, and Zinnia. Natives that work well in containers: Golden Alexander, Black-eyed Susans, Bee-Balm, Tickseed, Blazing Star Liatris, and Scarlet Sage. Placing a few of these with your favorite plants can help wildlife! After you have planted your Container Garden for wildlife, enjoy nature and apply for certification.

When Winter Comes... The wildlife we enjoy in Spring, Summer and Autumn can be enjoyed in the Winter with a few additions. As with all our CWP Programs, the basic needs for backyard wildlife are the same: Food, Water and Shelter. Food can be difficult for much of our wildlife. Many insects, mammals and birds stay with us in winter. Seeds, worms and fruits are not available when the temperature is cold or freezing. This can be remedied with a little creativity. Purchased seeds or saved seeds should be continued, sliced fruit (even if it is slightly aged), peanut butter and jelly, and suet will help. Pine cones with string attached, covered in peanut butter, and rolled in seeds can be fun projects, especially for children. During the winter months, wildlife need a safe and warm place to escape the frigid temperatures, rain, snow, as well as a place to stay the night. Nesting boxes, brush piles, firewood stacked on a crisscross pattern, piles of stones, leaf litter and fallen tree limbs are sources of shelter. CWP has a certification for that also. All of the certifications in the Community Wildlife Program are intended to be learning tools for the care of wildlife in our communities. By completing these certification applications, one can learn to live in harmony with the wildlife whether our lives are spent in urban areas or those less populated. For an application for Container Gardening for Wildlife or more information visit: gardenclubofgeorgia.org/projects-programs-community-wildlife-project/ or jeanoshields7@gmail.com.



75th "Diamond" Anniversary Atlanta Camellia Show

On February 10-11, the N. GA Camellia Society (NGCS) will present its 75th Annual Camellia Show in Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG). Mrs. Deen Day Sanders will serve as Honorary Chair for one of the oldest and largest in the nation.

The Annual Atlanta Camellia Show will include blooms grown in the Metro Area and from around the State. In addition to showcasing beautiful antique and more current blooms, the show's information booth will offer insights to the public and camellia growers alike. All Camellia lovers are invited to participate & bring blooms.



Saturday, February 10th 1 pm – 5pm
Sunday February 21st 10 am – 5pm
Admission Free with ABG entry

A special note to those who wish to exhibit camellia blooms: Bloom intake opens at 8:00 AM in Day Hall and in place by 10:30. NGCS members will be available to help move blooms to Day Hall & provide advice if needed preparing blooms for exhibit.

Cash awards will be given for the best blooms.

Contact president@northgeorgiacamelliasociety.org for more information

GCG's 96th Annual Convention



"Bloomin' in the Heart of Georgia"

April 16-17, 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Peachtree City, Georgia

Redbud District cordially invites you to join us for a refreshing new take on our annual convention. First of all, you had a musical invitation with the "Y'All Come Band" and due to popular demand, the band will be performing for you at the convention. Secondly, we are offering a luncheon and keynote speaker on the day you arrive so we can all enjoy a delicious meal and speaker before we have a choice of four sessions on a variety of topics. Tuesday will feature a variety of vendors for some fun shopping experiences. That evening we will have district photo gatherings, a cash bar and a buffet dinner followed by our world-famous Awards Event. Wednesday begins with our business meeting followed by the luncheon with special guest National Garden Club President Brenda Moore. Following the convention's conclusion, we will offer for the first time a free Post Convention Seminar entitled "Designers' Challenge"!



Abra Lee

Tuesday's keynote speaker at the luncheon is Abra Lee who is the Director of Horticulture for the Historic Oakland Foundation. Abra, a graduate of Auburn with a degree in ornamental horticulture, is a public horticulturalist and historian. She is a national speaker, writer and owner of "Conquer the Soil," a platform that combines black garden history and current events to raise awareness of horticulture. Abra's book *Conquer the Soil: Black America and the Untold Stories of Our Country's Gardeners, Farmers and Growers* will be published by Timber Press.



Staci Catron

The afternoon will offer two concurrent sessions on four different topics. The first afternoon session features Staci Catron, Director of the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center and a dear friend of GCG. Her award-winning book with co-author Mary Ann Eaddy, *Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens*, photographs by James R. Lockhart, was published by University of Georgia Press (2018). As the library director, she specializes in the subject areas of American landscape history and historic preservation. She will focus on landscape architecture and design in Georgia.



Jenny Cruse-Sanders

The second speaker will be Jenny Cruse-Sanders, Director of the State Botanical Garden. Jenny has a M.S. and Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Georgia, and she completed her B.A. in Biology at Boston University. Until 2017 she served as the Vice President for Science and Conservation at the Atlanta Botanical Garden where she launched the Center for Southeastern Conservation. Jenny will be speaking on conservation issues.



Moe Hemmings

The second afternoon session will be offered by Moe Hemmings who is the Community Outreach Manager of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. With a degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech, Moe joined ABG and worked as a Senior Horticulturist with the Edible Gardens and with the Children's Garden. She pursued her master's degree in international education from the University of Leicester, UK. Moe returned to the Atlanta Botanical Garden as the Community Outreach Manager, a role that seeks to expand the garden's support of urban agriculture, environmental sustainability and community engagement around local food systems. She will offer insight into urban food insecurity issues.



Carleton Wood

Our other speaker for the second afternoon session will be Carleton Wood, Executive Director of Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange, GA. Prior to assuming his current role in 2002 he worked at the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, NC and Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in New Bern, NC. Carleton has a B.E.D.L.A. from North Carolina State University and a M.S. in horticulture from the University of Georgia. He is an active member of the Southern Garden History Society. His talk will be themed on trees for the Georgia garden.



Lynn Fronk

Wednesday's luncheon speaker is Lynn Fronk. Lynn is a National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge, Flower Show Schools Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She has taught in 42 States, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She has judged major flower shows in the United States such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and the Rhode Island State Flower Show. Lynn is a member of the Designer's Club. Lynn's talk will focus on floral design concepts.

The Post-Convention seminar carries that design theme forward with the excitement of a Designers' Challenge. One club member from each of the seven districts has been asked to create a design using the same materials within a specified time frame. Please register to attend this creative new event.

You don't want to miss this convention and please make your reservation today!

A Garden Club Of Georgia Event
THE FLOWER FANTASY AT PINEOLA FARMS
FEATURING GARDENS OF THE WORLD
April 20 – April 21, 2024
Hosted by the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, GA



Don't miss this unique opportunity to tour a historic home filled with beautiful floral installations inspired by gardens from around the world.

This is a chance to tour the gardens of this historic property full of spring color and shop with many of our vendors. Included are presentations from noted garden and horticultural experts.

Saturday, April 20th, 10am—4pm and
Sunday, April 21st, 1pm - 4pm in Fort Valley, GA.
Tickets are good for both days.

More information is available at
<https://www.pineola.com/events>. Tickets will be
available on-line January 1, 2024.

The Magnolia Garden Club feels education is key. We want to inspire our youth in all fields of horticulture, therefore all ticket proceeds will benefit the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund.

January is Official GCG Scholarship Month!



NOW is the time to support
SCHOLARSHIPS!

**2024 is just around the corner.
All contributions add up!**

Contributions to the General Fund, Patrons, Named Scholarships, Dollars Educate Scholars, Life Memberships, as well as designated income from Cherokee Rose and Brown Thrasher accounts add up to help deserving students. GCG has given over 1.2 million dollars from our Scholarship Program.

Don't delay in making your contribution! Students will soon be working to complete their applications. Colleges, Universities, and professors are sharing the opportunity of a grant from GCG. It all comes together in February when we review applications and tally your generous donations.

Thank you notes and letters continue to be received. Our students truly appreciate your commitment to their education in the garden and environmental fields to making their dreams and goals in life a reality.

Thank you for your continued support of Scholarships!

For more information, contact Susan Turner
770-922-4411 - glencree@bellsouth.net

2024 Convention Registration Form

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. • 96th Annual Convention
Bloomin' In the Heart of Georgia
April 16-17, 2024 • Crown Plaza Atlanta SW, Peachtree City

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Badge Name Preference _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Club Name _____ District _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ State President
- ☐ Member
- ☐ Guest
- ☐ Voting Delegate **
- ☐ My First GCG Convention
- ☐ Club President
- ☐ District Director
- ☐ District Board Member
- ☐ Council President
- ☐ Former State President
- ☐ State Board Member
- ☐ State Life Member
- ☐ Former Deep South Director
- ☐ Deep South Board Member
- ☐ Deep South Life Member
- ☐ Former National President
- ☐ National Board Member
- ☐ National Life Member

****All GCG Board Members, GCG Life Members and one member from each club are Voting Delegates; please check Voting Delegate box if applicable.**

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

☐ **PACKAGE PLAN** Includes Registration Fee, Tuesday Luncheon, Workshops, Awards Banquet, and Wednesday Luncheon and Post Convention Designers' Challenge.

PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL \$202 \$ _____

PART-TIME PLAN: No extra fee for workshops

☐ Tuesday Opening Luncheon \$49 \$ _____

☐ Tuesday Awards Banquet \$64 \$ _____

☐ Wednesday Luncheon \$49 \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE per day \$30 \$ _____

PART TIME PLAN TOTAL \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION COST \$ _____

Late Registration Fee (postmarked after March 31st) \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Special Dietary Needs:

Please Register for the Tuesday Workshops: (circle your choice per/session)

1st Session: Staci Catron **or** Jenny Cruse-Sanders

2nd Session: Moe Hemmings **or** Carleton Wood

Post Convention Designers' Challenge
(following Wednesday Luncheon)

☐ YES, I will attend

☐ NO, I am unable to attend

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2024

Make Check Payable to: **GCG 2024 CONVENTION**

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033

rigbyduncan113@gmail.com - 404-321-1733 (home) - 678-644-9502 (cell)

No Refunds After April 1, 2024 • Registration Fee Not Refundable - No registrations accepted after April 7th

On-line registration with credit card payment will be available in January at gardenclubofgeorgia.org.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW Peachtree City

201 Aberdeen Parkway, Peachtree City, GA 30269 (470) 390-5690

\$139.00++ per night for King or 2 Queen room

To register: Contact IHG Reservations at 1-877-227-6963 and provide the specific dates, the GROUP NAME:

Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Annual Conference 2024 and GROUP CODE: GCG

Reservation Deadline for Group Rate: March 16, 2024

If you require handicap access, first register using the phone number above. Once you have your reservation number, call the Crowne Plaza hotel front desk agents at 770 487-2666 and request a room on the second floor closest to the restaurant.

Georgia gardeners have much in common- a passionate love of flowers, plants and the natural world. What we do not all have in common is our USDA Plant Hardiness Zone. Our state includes areas ranging from Zone 6 to Zone 9, determined by the annual average minimum temperature. The American Horticultural Society developed a Heat Zone map measuring the annual average number of "heat days" (days exceeding 86 degrees). Both maps were developed to help gardeners understand which plants do well in their zone. We like to tease those boundaries, but growing a peony in Zone 8b is a lost cause. Trust me, I have tried. So, as the winter days shorten, and the chill begins, what is growing inside your Georgia garden gate?



If you planted your bulbs early, you might see some brave tips emerging such as crocus, snowdrops, and hyacinths. Gardeners on the coast might still be planting bulbs. There are many cool season annual flowers to adorn your planters and your garden such as pansies, snapdragons, dianthus and cyclamen. I like to pair one or two of those annuals with parsley or rosemary in a pretty container that I can bring indoors if frost threatens.

Perennials may not be showy in Winter, but this is the time to prepare the soil for perennial plantings. When did you last have your soil tested? This is a good time to find out what may be lacking. If you like growing from seed, start those that require a cold treatment such as coneflower, phlox, and columbine. A stroll through your winter garden on even the coldest day may inspire you to plan a new area with perennials in anticipation of Spring.



Many shrubs look their best now. Those with berries really shine. Winter honeysuckle, some tea olives such as *Osmanthus fragrans* 'Fudingzhu', sweet box, quince, mahonia and paperbush will adorn your yard in the cold months. Many native shrubs provide food and shelter for wildlife in addition to gracing your garden. The evergreens come into their own now without the competition of the deciduous trees. And while on the subject of trees and shrubs, can we agree that the camellia takes center stage in many Georgia gardens during the cold and blustery season? Our property did not have even one camellia, but many of our neighbors had mature camellias with stunning and varied blooms. Needless to say, I have since caught the camellia bug.

Early Winter is a great time to be on the lookout for camellias in bloom at your local nursery. To determine the shape and size and color that will work for you, you can also visit gardens that are showcasing the "Queen of the Garden". The American Camellia Society is headquartered in Fort Valley GA. Massee Lane Garden is the 9 acre botanical garden located at the headquarters and filled with an extensive variety of camellias. The Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden features the Judge Solomon Camellia Trail with one

of the finest collections in the United States. A visit to either of these with your camera and notebook in hand is a great education. If your garden is lackluster in the cold months, plan a visit to see how a camellia can brighten any space.

Georgia gardeners may live in different zones with seasonal differences, but neither extreme heat nor bitter cold will keep us out of the garden. Soaking in the sunshine on a cold and crisp day, or shivering in the breeze of a storm on the way, we are outside observing and communing with Nature every month, including Winter.

"On chance-mild days when an incandescent light falls on thin twigs, throwing their fine shadows across gravel walks, my garden seems more beautiful than ever," Elizabeth Lawrence, *Gardens in Winter*. As we approach 2024 and the Winter months, I hope you too are finding your garden more beautiful than ever, especially on chance-mild days.

Tales from the Okefenokee Swamp

~ Linda Dorion

The Okefenokee Swamp is a place of personal experiences and tall tales of wildlife encounters in the largest blackwater swamp in North America. Its most celebrated storyteller was a man named Lem Griffis, a Georgia swamper who entertained visitors to his fishing camp outside of Fargo. He was born in 1896 and lived his entire life in the swamp until his passing at age 72 after having reached legendary status. Lem specialized in the whopper, and one called "Odd Insects," as told to Kay L. Cothran: "See that honey a-sittin' up there on the shelf? Well, I crossed my bees with lightnin' bugs so they could see how t'work at night, an' they make a double crop o' honey every year." Good thing too, because have you ever wondered what happens to bees in the winter? Unlike other insects they don't go dormant. They stay in the hive and protect the queen clustered together in a ball, beating their flight muscles to generate heat and eating honey.

This winter you can help our wildlife to survive predators and cold weather. GCG has a program for creating a Winter Wildlife Wonderland in your own backyard because wildlife relies on our backyards more in the winter than any other time. The program emphasizes supplying sources of cover, water and food. Suggestions for implementation and certification as a backyard Winter Wildlife Wonderland is found at gardenclubofgeorgia.org/projects-programs-community-wildlife-project/

More from Lem and friends (Mother Earth News): Lem sent me to fetch water from the river. I came back right quick: "I ain't going down there! There's an alligator near the bank!" Lem said, "Has he got frost on one end and sweat on the other?" "No." "Then he ain't very big, is he?"



Create a Backyard Wildlife Habitat

~ Edna McClellan

The Community Wildlife Project (CWP) is a joint effort of GCG and the Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Division. Its purpose is to better manage non-game wildlife and plant habitats in rural urban and suburban communities. Suitable habitats for many species are declining, especially in urban and suburban areas. Wildlife is losing natural spaces to development. Wildlife need food, water, shelter, and places to raise young - each within an animal's home range.

Learn how to create a quality habitat for wildlife in your backyard. Even small habitat improvements can make a big difference for wildlife.

- ✂ Water - Clean water for drinking and bathing. If you do not have a natural source on your property, add a birdbath, puddle or small pond.
- ✂ Shelter/Places to raise young — Vegetation, dead trees and logs will provide shelter for many species of wildlife as nesting sites for birds. Some wildlife have specific requirements. Consider adding bird nesting boxes, bat houses, pollinator nesting boxes or brush or rock piles and tree cavities.
- ✂ Provide plants that attract Georgia wildlife. There are many plants that are not only pleasing to the eye but provide songbirds with valuable sources of food, like bachelor button, chickory, cockscomb, cosmos, four-o'clocks, petunia, verbena and zinnia. Some ornamentals that are frequented by hummingbirds are azalea, bee balm, begonia, canna, day lily, geranium, gladiolus, hibiscus, lantana, petunia, salvia and zinnia.
- ✂ Native trees, vines and shrubs of value as food plants for wildlife include black cherry, blueberry, elderberry, flowering dogwood, laurel oak, loblolly pine, mulberry, persimmon, prickly pear, redbud, serviceberry viburnum, Virginia creeper, wild plum willow oak and Yapon.

Check out the Community Wildlife Project section on the GCG website at gardenclubofgeorgia.org. There you will find an application to certify your backyard as a Wildlife Habitat. By creating a wildlife habitat in your backyard, you won't have to go far to enjoy nature and help wildlife thrive.



In Georgia, fall or early winter is Three Bears weather—not too hot, not too cold, just right. Get outside and enjoy the beauty of our state- the mountains to the sea and everything in-between. When was the last time you saw the Milky Way or a shooting star? Have you seen the leaf colors in North Georgia, or experienced a fall bird migration on the Georgia Colonial Coast Birding Trail? Let Nature nurture. Get away from the hustle and bustle, lights, and stresses of our urban areas. Use the resources of our state parks.

Our parks provide a variety of outdoor opportunities. Each has different monthly activities for all ages. Whatever you would like to learn or do—it will be there. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has developed four project challenges with check lists. At completion you earn a T-shirt for bragging rights. The challenges are Muddy Spokes (mountain biking trails), Park Paddlers (canoeing or kayaking), Tails on Trails (to include your dog on hikes) and Canyon Climbers (stairs and steep hikes—no climbing gear required). Some parks have horse trails for those looking for a new place to ride. Information about all the parks can be found at www.gadnr.org.

Next year consider Becoming an Outdoor Woman. B.O.W. is offered each November at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center near Mansfield. Charlie Elliott is a real treasure, centrally located in the state. This year among the offerings were fishing, shooting, hiking, how to grow mushrooms, nature photography, canoeing, even field dressing a deer. Neophyte to old hand, there is something for all to learn or improve. Let yourself become comfortable in nature. Build your confidence with a new skill or refresh one you have let slide. Perhaps a group from your garden club would enjoy a shared experience. Register early as spots in this program fill quickly.

There is also the choice of just walking in a woods. No classes required. The Japanese have coined the word Shinrin-yoku (roughly 'forest bathing') to describe just walking in a wooded area. Don't rush, relax. Focus on your senses. What do you hear, see, smell? Find a woodland path and allow yourself to be immersed. The nurturing quality of being in or seeing nature has been known for years. Many studies have validated the strange phenomena of faster healing in hospital rooms from which the patient can see nature. Sometimes we forget that mental as well as physical health is necessary for well-being. The trees and streams can put us on the right path. Once in the woodland there is no need to hurry. Give nature a chance to improve your physical and mental well-being. Our state parks are enticing. Visit one—be amazed and rejuvenated.



Flower Garden Club of Marietta Celebrates 95 Years

With flower bouquets, tea sandwiches and cake, and tables decorated with decade themed materials, the ladies of The Flower Garden Club of Marietta celebrated its 95th Anniversary in September. Rooms and porches were also decorated with vintage clothing and tools. The club was founded in 1928 and is one of the oldest clubs in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. President Maye Suddath welcomed the many guests who had come to share the big day including Mayor Steve "Thunder" Tumlin who read a proclamation proclaiming September 21st as The Flower Garden Club of Marietta Day. Lisa Hall, GCG's President, presented a certificate of achievement for its many years of promoting beautification, conservation, and education. Two special guests were recognized



as subscribing members: County Commissioner Keli Gambrill and florist K. Mike Whittle, and club member Bettie Sander was presented with a GCG Life Membership. The club has had a significant impact on the city of Marietta sponsoring eight new clubs and helping the Marietta Council to purchase the Benson Family antebellum home, Fair Oaks, the council's current home. Also in attendance were Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District Director, and Deanna Slone, President of the Marietta Council. Club members are involved in many community projects and have recently adopted Hayes Elementary School where they are establishing a garden. With a passion for all the beautiful things that God has made, club members have joyfully fulfilled their role and hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Pictured above are the members of the Flower Garden Club.



Fair Oaks

at the Marietta Educational Garden Center



Located near the historic Marietta Square, Fair Oaks (c. 1850) is the home of the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs with 21 area garden clubs and 600+ members.

This beautiful home is a sought-after venue for weddings, rehearsal dinners, anniversary parties, fundraisers and much more.



Mention this ad when contacting Fair Oaks and receive 10% off of an event rental.



www.mariettagardencenter.com

770-427-3494



Dollars Educate Scholars

Support your District and your Director in the
9th Annual Dollars Educate Scholars Fundraiser!

Members donating \$1.00 or more now thru January will make a **BIG** impact on Scholarships. \$3,959 was contributed in 2022-2023. Let's set a new record in 2023-24.

The winning District is determined by funds received and the percentage of district club participation.

It's easy to donate. Contributions are given through your garden club treasury. Your club writes one check to GCG along with the completed form below.



Will your District Director be crowned
Queen of Scholarships
at the GCG Annual Meeting
April 16-17, 2024?

For more information, contact Susan Turner
770-922-4411 - glencree@bellsouth.net

Dollars Educate Scholars - TRANSMITTAL FORM

Please complete the following information and mail with your clubs check for \$1.00 or more per member to Anita Allen, Assistant Treasurer, 381 McSwain Lane, Wray, GA 31798. Please write legibly.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC.**

Contributions received through January 2024 will count in this giving period.

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Club Representative & Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Club Number: _____ Number of Members: _____

100% Participation? Circle one Yes No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Home Grown National Park

By Larry Kirkland

During the 1950s and 1960s, one of my weekly tasks was to clean the bugs off the car windshield, the head lights, hood and grill. When we filled up at the service station an attendant would wash off the bugs on the windshield and yes, an attendant pumped gas for us. There were swarms of moths that would fly around the streetlights and the lights on the football field. We had yellow incandescent lights on the porch outside the entry doors to deter moths. Columbia County was a farming community with dairy, chicken, cattle and egg farms with a population of fewer than 14,000. The one-acre lot I grew up on had several trees that my brother and I built a fort under. There was a twenty-foot-tall holly that would be covered with red berries in winter, a pine thicket, Crepe Myrtles, Dogwoods, and tall Sycamores. It seemed like birds of many varieties were everywhere.

Today that farmland is covered by residential houses, office buildings, parking lots, commercial and industrial complexes, and thousands of miles of paved roads. This is typical of much of the area along the I-20, I-85, and I-75 corridors across the state. Our urban areas no longer have large clouds of moths around the streetlights and in most yards there are no longer lighting bugs to catch and put in jars. I no longer hear the chirping of crickets at dusk, or grasshoppers to watch. Where have all the insects gone? Their habitat has been replaced by human development.

Why is this important? Our World Depends on Invertebrates. The Xerces Society states: "One study found that the ecosystem services provided by insects are worth more than \$80 billion a year to the U.S. economy. If you like to eat good food you can thank an insect. If you like lots of birds in your yard and fish in your streams you should be concerned about insect decline."

The Good News is that There is Hope: Insects are resilient. Conservations, restoration, and management of habitat have been shown to produce positive outcomes for the insect population.

We Have the Solution to this Crisis: Convert lawns into diverse natural habitats. There are over 40 million acres of turf grass in the U.S. If every home, school, and local park converted at least 10% of their lawn into habitat, this would provide millions of acres for insects.

Grow native plants: Native plants typically provide more benefit to native insects than non-native species. Native plants have adapted to local climates and rainfall regimes and are often easier to maintain. Beautiful landscapes can be created with native perennials in patches of any size, even a pot can make a difference. With a little research you can choose a variety of plant textures and colors that grow in wet or dry conditions or any type of soil. You can create an almost weed free garden and reduce water usage. You are the artist. Your garden is the pallet. And the possibilities are infinite. Check out HomeGrownNationalPark.org and get on the map.

Larry Kirkland is a self-taught gardener. He has been a member of the Daylily Society, the Aiken Camellia Society, the Hydrangea Society, the Augusta Rose Society, a charter member of three garden clubs and a member of two garden clubs in the Azalea District. Larry also writes the Newsletter of Asclepias and More LLC.



Commerce Garden Club Celebrates 95 Years

The Commerce Garden Club hosted a 95th Anniversary Celebration in September. The Club was formed in September of 1928 in the home of Mrs. V.L. Davis. The Club became an official member of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. in November of 1929. The Club's Anniversary was celebrated at the historic Shankle House in Commerce, Georgia where guests were recognized, remembrances were shared, and Memorial Candles were lit. Special thanks and recognitions were given to two long-time members; Genny Shirley (a 67 year member) and Emily Harber (a 56 year member) by Club President Margaret Holifield. Both ladies received certificates of recognition, a potted violet, the Club flower, and GCG Life memberships from their families. The Commerce Garden Club members were presented with a souvenir program, a "thank you" container of various seeds, and cake decorated with the Club colors-green and violet.



(L-R) Genny Shirley, Margaret Holifield, Emily Harber

The 3rd Annual Fall Family Fun Day was a huge success! The Marietta Council of Garden Clubs was proudly represented by twelve of our clubs who gave their time and talent to ensure the families who attended had a fun and educational experience.

This year's theme was "All About Arachnids" and there were amazing activities, learning opportunities and games galore. Every child received a special spider-themed treat bag as well as a personalized pumpkin bucket. Our activities thrilled the families and included two spider lectures with live specimens, a "STEAM" Spiders Need a Home project, planting baby spider plants, vermicomposting, and bird feeder making. In addition, kids decorated



pumpkins, visited a petting zoo, had their faces painted and watched a balloon artist. An array of delicious treats and snacks were provided along with a variety of games with prizes made the day a success. Several kids were excited to win books and a big container of candy when their names were drawn.

The volunteers received lots of positive feedback from first-time attendees and those who attended last year. It was wonderful to watch entire families make fun memories at Fair Oaks! We are looking forward to next year!



N. Georgia State Fair Flower Show With two consecutive flower shows in two weeks, the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs along with the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County gathered their volunteers once more. The shows offer 265 classes of horticulture, as well as youth competition and three classes of design. A small army of volunteers are required to pull it off, from schedule prep, to painting of properties, set up, horticultural intake and placement, clerking, and judging. With a quick mid-week turnaround, the whole process begins again for the second show.



Week one of the flower show always results in an enormous number of vegetable entries – primarily varieties of peppers. This year was no exception with two large tables covered with green, yellow and red fruits, some mild and others viciously hot. Fortunately, no tasting is required to judge them. The gardeners who work at the shows particularly enjoy the first-time exhibitors. Many

of them bring a bottle or two with cut specimens and sometimes need help identifying them. The youth entrants are always ready to show off their horticultural skills as well. The entry process offers some educational opportunities. Some Latin is spoken, and species and genus are often discussed as well.

Award of Horticultural Excellence in the first show was awarded to a Dahlia and in the second show it was awarded to a Chamaecyparis obtusa. Five Awards of Merit were given each show, along with two Grower's Choice and two Arboreal ribbons and an award for Collector's Showcase. Youth Awards, Sweepstakes and special council awards were also earned. The Award of Design Excellence was won by Marci Wilcox, Garden Club of Ellijay, in show one, and Becky Groce, Chattooga Garden Club, in show two. Holly Walquist, Show Chair, offered her thanks "to all the judges and designers who traveled the long or short distances to help judge and do a design." Flower show dates for 2024 are September 19 & October 29, with judging scheduled for September 19th & 24th, 2024.



Union Point Garden Club Sponsors Wildlife Habitat Workshop

- How do you create a winter wildlife wonderland in your yard?
- How do you get your yard “certified” as a backyard habitat?
- How do you have a wildlife habitat with only a balcony for a yard?
- Why are nesting boxes important?

Union Point Garden Club sponsored a workshop on how to do exactly that! It's easier than you think! Terry Johnson, retired DNR agent, Terry Waithe, co-chairman of the Community Wildlife Program, and Melissa Hayes, from the Wildlife Resources Division of DNR talked to over 40 community members on the benefits and how to encourage butterflies and other pollinators to your outdoor space. Among other interesting bits of knowledge, we learned that zinnias don't have pollen, but the pollinator creatures enjoy them anyway for their protein. Deer can be a problem in this area. There are many pollinator plants that are also deer resistant. (Resistant, nothing is deer proof) We all like to see hummingbirds buzzing around. You could have your yard designated as a “Hummingbird Haven” if you have plants that encourage them to come to your yard. Although this is sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia, you do not need to be a member to have your yard designated as a backyard habitat. For more information contact Melissa Hayes at (478)957-4551 or Melissa.Hayes@dnr.ga.gov.



Iris Garden Club Expands Outdoor Classroom.



Newly constructed Aldo Leopold style benches were recently installed at Sawtooth Circle in the Wildlife Watch Outdoor Classroom at Washington-Wilkes Primary School in Washington. Iris Garden Club members Joe Smith, Ed Patton, and Scott Barnum built a total of 12 benches, making it possible to seat larger classes in this forested opening. Kindergarten through third grade use this area for classes in every subject, and the annual “No Child Left Inside” event in October initiated by the Iris Garden Club 10 years ago. This year local experts from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and the Wilkes County Farm Bureau will instruct students as they rotate among outdoor learning stations. The Wildlife Watch Outdoor Classroom was conceived 30-years ago by a team of Wilkes Co. educators and community leaders. The Iris Garden Club adopted it in 2012 and maintains its diverse and distinctive including a butterfly garden, rock garden, wetland garden, wildflower meadow, grape arbor, sitting area, soil station, amphitheater, gazebo, and entrance garden.

Pine Tree Garden Club Plant America Grant Update.

The Pine Tree GC and Hart County Historical Society partnered to give the surrounding landscape a much-needed facelift. A UGA Horticulture student designed a plan incorporating native shrubs, plants and trees. Bird houses will be erected giving blue birds a place to nest and raise families. A butterfly garden adorns the back of the property. This inspirational transformation could not have happened without the help of William O. Tucker, Inc. The crew donated their time to grade the property, bring in soil, mulch and they even installed a water system ensuring the new plants continue to grow and bloom. The Historical Society is located on E. Howell; a highly visible intersection. Once completed, PTGC members will have transformed a desolate area to a work of art showcasing the beauty of nature.



Parkersburg Garden Club. Mary Pat Murphy leads the Parkersburg Garden Club's effort developing a Pollinator Garden at Georgia Regional Hospital in Savannah. The current plants growing in the garden include American Elderberry, "Indian Shot" cannas, "Bandana of the Everglades" cannas, Native Butterfly Weed, Anise Hyssop, mixed iris, and Lance-leaf Coreopsis. The group plans to add a few low growers in a couple of weeks. The PGC GRH group meets monthly and as needed. We all agree if you spend your time chasing butterflies, they'll most likely fly way. If you spend your time making a beautiful garden, the butterflies will come to you. If they don't, you'll still have a beautiful garden! Those digging in the dirt include Mary Pat Murphy, Reverend Patti Davis, Linda Martin, Donn Vecchie-Campbell and Janie Sandefur.



Brooklet Garden Club members have been as busy as bees in their gardens, and community. Several of the members have concentrated heavily on adding native plants to their landscape to attract wildlife. We have introduced lily pad fountains and bird bath water features; bird boxes, and bird feeders have been installed to encourage wildlife to shelter in our gardens. Various trees, shrubs, and native plants have been selected specifically to attract and care for

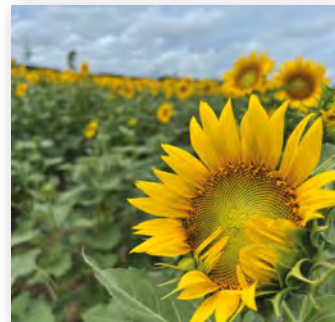


the animals, birds and even the insects that visit and nurture our gardens. These gardens are homes to a variety of songbirds, beautiful butterflies, moths, sweet little hummingbirds, lots of bees and wildlife to include



bunnies and even deer. Everything wildlife needs is readily available, food, water, shelter.

When the child of a speaker to the Brooklet Garden Club suffered serious injuries in an accident, members gathered sunflowers to be sold to support the family. Over a thousand dollars was raised in 2 days with help from our local FFA.



Brooklet Garden Club members and the Southeast Bulloch High School Future



Farmers of America Club helped teach students about all things "Peanut." The First grade students visited Farmer David Cromley at Kairos Farms and learned about the peanut plant's lifecycle and the many uses for peanuts. Everyone enjoyed making homemade peanut butter and cheering on their teachers in the peanut shelling competition. Congratulations to Ms. Valerie, the winner of the Golden Peanut!



Blossom Therapy Project-Greenbriar Garden Club in Warner Robins, took pride in bringing our love of gardening and flowers to two local assisted living facilities. The purpose of the project is to bring small tokens from our gardens to senior citizens. As envisioned by former VP, Linda Meade, this project entails creating small bouquets of cut flowers and foliage from member gardens in recycled 8-ounce water bottles. Over sixty small bouquets brightened resident's rooms at under-served assisted-living facilities. Colorful and unique tags were created telling the resident where their flowers came from and that they were thought of. Not only was it fun working with the flowers, but the camaraderie shared was priceless. However, the fun we had was nothing compared with the smiles and happiness those little flowers brought to so many. Their faces lit up and the thank you's were abundant.



A Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedication was held September 23rd in Thomasville. Joseph Kimler, from Boy Scout Troop 302, raised funds for the marker for his Eagle Scout project and was sponsored by Mary

Tomlinson and the Thomasville Garden Club Council, Inc. The dedication was a wonderful way to let Gold Star Families know that they are remembered and that their sacrifice and their loved one "Who Paid the Ultimate price while defending the United States of America" will not be forgotten.



Granada Garden Club visited Gentian Creek Preserve in Thomasville. The non-profit preserve was founded by Jerry and Marta Turner to offer educational programs focused on wildlife and conservation. The preserve currently offers programs for Thomas County School students in 3rd, 5th and 7th grades. Students can explore the property, view exhibits and use the microscope lab to view specimens. For more information about the preserve visit www.gentiancreek.com.



Eastman Garden Club partnered with local art teacher, Sandy Bland, and other community members to complete a beautiful mural project that depicts the history and future of Eastman.



Sumter County Federation-Wild Adventure Day The sun was shining and not a cloud in the sky, making it a perfect day for being outside to enjoy an adventure in nature. Thirteen children ages seven to twelve experienced an exciting day participating in Wild Adventure Day Camp sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. coordinated by Molly Kimler, Azalea District, along with the Sumter Federation of Garden Clubs, the Dogwood and Azalea Garden Clubs.

The children enjoyed a wide variety of nature experiences including a nature hike, building bird feeders, looking through microscopes at pond water, studying coloration of live snakes and having a snakeskin to take home.

Other activities included identifying leaves, planting a container garden and learning about how pollution travels in our waterways. Ada said, "I really liked it. I especially liked the What's Wiggling in the Water activity using the microscopes and I enjoyed building the bird feeders." At the end of the day the kids wrote a thank you note to the Dogwood and Azalea Garden Clubs and also described their favorite activity of the day. Based on the children's comments every activity was a hit! It was exhausting at times and took a lot of preparation, but it all fell into place beautifully. The planning committee was Faye Frazier, Donna Minich, Sherrell Bailey, Lisa Simpson, Joyce Carreker and Molly Kimbler. "Wild Adventure Day was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers from the Federated Garden Clubs and the support of the Garden Clubs of Georgia," said Lisa Simpson, Dogwood Garden Club.

Photo Left to Right Joyce Carreker, Chelsea Lopez, Sherrell Bailey, Paula Heath, Maxine Nessamar, Donna Minich, Mervin Brown, June Satterfield, Faye Frazier, Elizabeth Simpson-Podojil, Lisa Simpson, Mitzi Parker, and Molly Kimler.



The Annual Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser On November 4th, Magnolia District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. held its annual Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser at Massee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, Georgia. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all. Sam Wellborn, speaker of the day was entertaining, interesting, and told us all about the wonderful and beautiful "Camellia." Sam gave out a beautiful booklet, The Camellia: "The Queen of Winter Flowers."

Thank you to our Donors for your support and commitment to the Historic Landscape Preservation Grants. Because of your generosity we will be able to continue to preserve Georgia's valuable Garden Heritage. Donations from the 2023 fundraiser totaled \$5,545.

Historic Level - \$1,000 Lee and Mike Dunn; Magnolia District

Sponsor Level - \$200 Janice Cliett; Camellia Garden Club, Cuthbert; Peggy

Tucker; Dr. & Mrs. James R. Hagler (Kay); Butler Garden Club - Butler; Magnolia Garden Club, Ft. Valley

Partner Level - \$100 Daffodil Garden Club, Albany; Martha Price; Marilyn Aldridge; Azalea Garden Club, Cuthbert; Ann Howell; Beautiful View Garden Club, Buena Vista; Columbus Council of Garden Clubs; Rainbow Garden Club, Ellaville; Carol Reap; Nilsa Summey



Pam Hendrix, GCG HLP Chairman and Sam Wellborn, Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society





Feeding the Birds at Heritage Sandy Springs Park. Sandy Springs Garden Club members volunteer from September to May to feed the birds at Heritage Sandy Springs Park, home to the original spring that gave the city its name. Currently, they have two permanent, double-sided feeders and one hanging feeder; all squirrel resistant. Organizers clean the feeders each summer and keep a fresh stock of seed ready for the volunteers. There are 16-20 volunteers each year who sign up to refill our feeders each month as part of the annual budget for Sandy Springs Garden Club. (Pictured left is Julie Dangel, right Anne Sherwood)



Club Estates Garden Club contributed \$5000 to The Good Samaritan Health Center, a full service primary, dental and behavioral health care center. It sits in a food desert, meaning residents travel over a mile to a grocery store and they serve their neighbors through a one-acre farm and farmer's market 4 days a week. Our donation is being used to assist with planting their garden and their Bee Hives. Because of the generous donation, they were able to add and care for four new Bee Hives. This increase allowed them to double their production of honey this year, and it is expected to keep increasing! Once the newer Bee Hives make it through the winter, they will have a head start on production for next year.



The Iris Garden Club is embracing the Feed, Cover and Water. mantra this Fall. In September, the club launched a program series on "Urban Gardening" with a visit to Souper Farm where we learned the importance of not using chemical fertilizers or pesticides. In October we returned to Winn Park for our annual hands-on beautification project with this 93-year-old Iris working in the park tradition. This year, we made Urban Birdhouse/Feeders to not only grace Winn Park but to also beautify our own personal gardens. Pictured left to right: Jackie Hatch, Mary Glenn, Maxine Smith, Elizabeth Porter, Claudia Stimmel, Frances Richardson, Guest Betsy Givens, Jenny McClure

Pine Tree Garden Club installed a community butterfly garden at the Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta. Our efforts were supported with plants and soil by Saul Nursery, Inc. of Sandy Springs. Ronald McDonald staff watered during weekdays and club members then participated on weekends watering and maintenance to allow our garden to flourish and mature throughout the summer. A legend is planned for families and guests to learn and understand butterflies and the plants they thrive on. Pictured L-R: Mary Katherine Colbath, Gretchen Reese, Hilary Pitman, Jane Parker, Frances St John, Diane Norris, Lisa Feiber, Julie Altenbach, Leslie Roe and Rita McGregor



Spalding Garden Club has an ongoing project to feed and care for the birds in the John Ridley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve. These volunteers work tirelessly cleaning and replenishing the feeders on a regular basis all at Spalding's expense. Pictured: Pat Gianelloni, Katherine Coppedge, Julia McClanahan, Barbara Mehan, Marilyn Santa Maria, Barbara Groves, Judy Marston and Denise Porter



Redbuds are "Wild About Wildflowers" and our 62nd Annual District Meeting was celebrated in style at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. The theme of the event was wildflowers and our guest speaker was Felicity N. Davis Landscape Architect with the Georgia Department of Transportation. She is the manager of the GDOT Wildflower Project that we all enjoy as we travel Georgia's roadways. Hosted by the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, we had ninety-five registered attendees who enjoyed a catered luncheon, bidding on raffle baskets and the 50/50 cash raffle. GCG President Lisa Hall addressed



the assemblage and was joined by several officers on the GCG Executive Board. A special Awards Program was included recognizing many clubs for their activities and engagement in their communities.

The finale was a fun musical invitation to the GCG 2024 Convention to be held in Peachtree City, GA April 16-17. The "Y'All Come Band" was led by Director Kim Fair on ukulele with her husband Reuben on mandolin and Steve Duncan on guitar and vocals. Convention chairmen Bonnie Dudley and Quill Duncan joined in with our surprise guest, William Tucker! Much to the delight of the audience, William's voice added just that extra amount of fun to our

chant of "Y'all Come"!

Best in Class, Designer's Choice Award was won by Patsy Adams, a member of the Thomaston Spade and Trowel Garden Club, for the second time. She received a NGC Award of Design Excellence and the Mickie Holton Inspirational Award for her floral design at the 50th Redbud District Standard Flower Show, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, September 20-21, 2023.



What is Penny Pines? My Garden Club, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories, has many projects and irons in the fire—some of which have been ongoing for a very long time. The same is probably true for your club and it is certainly true at the District and State level. So, I was thinking it would be good to refresh our memories with some details and how to support some of the projects we don't hear much about. So, I asked our Penny Pines Chair, Glenda Stevens, to make a report at our Annual Meeting. I'd like to share a little of that report.



Penny Pines is a non-profit partnership between the NCG and the USDA Forest Service whose mission is to "sustain our national and urban forests." Forests damaged by fire or other natural disasters are replaced with indigenous trees using USDA labor. These plantings provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, beauty, and habitat for animals. Talk about Planting for Wildlife!

Penny Pines only accepts donations in the multiples of \$68 which will plant one acre of land with trees. Donations can be made in honor or memory of individuals. GCG will issue a certificate for every qualifying donation. We can rebuild our forests, one acre at a time. Donation forms and other info can be found on the NGC website at: gardenclub.org, look for Penny Pines under the Programs tab.

Kim Fair, Redbud District Director



Want to know more about what goes into the structure of a great landscape design?

In this second installment of a four-part series of Landscape Design 101, Suzanne Finger, our Landscape Design Newsletter Editor, explores the key ingredients to cooking up a landscape design with "Good Bones." To glean some savvy design tips and a few chuckles, visit

gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-publications/



Coming Up

December

Dec. 3 - 30 - Winter WonderLights

5:30pm - 9; State Botanical Garden, Athens
Details at botgarden.uga.edu

Dec. 3 - Christmas Tour of Homes

Green Acres Garden Club; Dublin, GA

January

Jan. 4 - 7 - WonderLights Disco Nights

5:30pm - 9; State Botanical Garden, Athens
Details at botgarden.uga.edu

Jan. 8 - Fulton Federation Meeting

10:15am - 12:30pm; Canterbury Court
3750 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta

Jan. 12 - January Friends First Friday

9am - 10:30; State Botanical Garden,
Details and Registration at botgarden.uga.edu

Jan. 17 - Dogwood Winter Board Meeting

10am - 1pm; Lost Corner Preserve, Sandy Springs

Jan. 24 - GCG Winter Board Meeting

1:30pm - 3; Zoom

Jan. 26 - Oleander Winter Board Meeting

10am - 2pm; time and location TBA

February

Feb. 2- February Friends; Orchid Madness

9am - 10:30; State Botanical Garden,
Details and Registration at botgarden.uga.edu

Feb. 3 - Quitman Camellia Show

1pm - 4; Brooks Co. Agricultural Ext., Quitman, GA

Feb. 4 - Quitman Camellia Show

1pm - 3 Brooks Co. Agricultural Ext., Quitman, GA

Feb. 15 - President's Report Due

President's Report of Garden Club Achievements
Reports may be filed electronically.

Feb. 15 - Magnolia Winter Board Meeting

8am - 5:00pm; Buena Vista - Details TBA

Feb. 20 - Azalea Winter Board Meeting

10am - 1pm; Louisville, GA

Feb. 22 - Laurel Winter Board Meeting

10am - 2pm; First Baptist Church Rome

Feb. 25 - Flower Show School Course IV

3pm; Marietta Educational Garden, Marietta

Feb. 28 - Flower Show School Course IV

11am; Marietta Educational Garden Center, Marietta

March

Mar. 11 - Fulton Federation Meeting

10:15am - 12:30pm; Canterbury Court
3750 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta

Mar. 19-20 - 2024 Deep South Convention

Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN

Landscape for Wildlife – How does your garden measure up?

1. Can you name one type of the following that visits your yard?
Invertebrate, Amphibian, Bird, Reptile
2. Name three things that attract animals to your yard:

3. All wildlife need _____, _____, and _____
4. Foragers are generally omnivores. Name one that you might see in your yard. _____
5. We should never feed any wildlife except for _____
6. How often should hummingbird feeders be changed and sanitized?
7. Some easy ways to provide water in the yard are ?

8. Shelter for animals can be provided with _____
9. It's best to passively manage wildlife and not use _____
10. Selecting a variety of plants means that your yard will provide sources of food _____

SCAN THE QR Code for answers!



Adapted with permission from The Georgia
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The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
State Headquarters
2450 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605-1674

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The Terrace Room

A unique ballroom-like space known for its elegant decor and tasteful appointments opens onto an expansive brick terrace overlooking a wooded area and landscaped garden. Its beauty and location distinguish it as one of the premier wedding reception sites in the area. The Terrace Room can seat up to 140 for dinner and larger numbers for lectures, receptions, and exhibitions, and includes a catering kitchen.

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An elevator and a staircase connect the upper and lower floors of the building. The lower level may also be accessed via the lower drive providing direct handicap access and permitting immediate access to the caterer's kitchen.

For rental information, contact The State Botanical Garden
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