

SPRING 2024



Garden Gateways

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



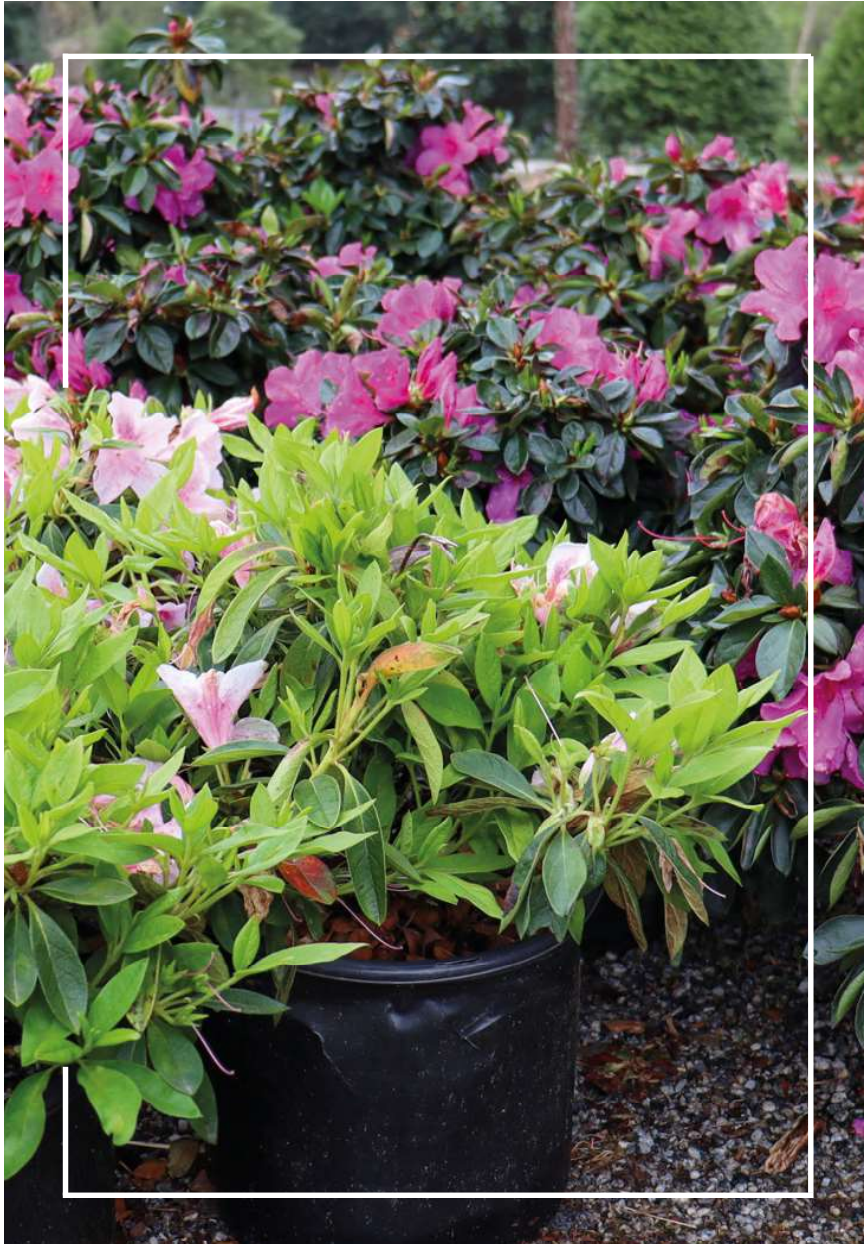
*Plants, Pollinators,
and You (Yes, YOU!)*
Dr. Bodie Pennisi

**LANDSCAPING
FOR
POLLINATORS**

*Remembering
Joy Stuart,
39th GCG President*

Volume 94 No 4

SPRING PLANT SALE



April 11
Friends preview sale 2-6 p.m.

April 12
2-6 p.m.

April 13
8 a.m.-2 p.m.

The spring plant sale is a great way to get wonderful plants, receive expert advice and support the garden. Staff from the horticulture and conservation departments will be at the plant sale, along with many Master Gardeners, to help answer gardening questions and make recommendations for your specific needs.

All proceeds from the April plant sale go directly to the operational costs of the horticulture department. With these profits we purchase new plants to add to our collections, order necessary supplies and hire part-time employees to help keep the gardens beautiful year-round.

Thursday, April 11 is the preview sale for Friends of the Garden members only. Member of the Friends of the Garden will receive a 10% discount and get to shop early.



**State Botanical Garden
of Georgia**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2450 S. Milledge Ave. Athens, Ga. 30605
706-542-1244
garden@uga.edu botgarden.uga.edu



**Garden Gateways is a publication of
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2450 S. Milledge Ave. • Athens, GA 30605-1674
706-227-5369

headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org
www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

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4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492



GCG PRESIDENT - Lisa Hall
Savannah, GA
PresidentGCG@gmail.com
*Plant America: Promoting
Beautification, Conservation and
Education*



NGC PRESIDENT - Brenda Moore
Oak Hill, WV
BMoore@gardenclub.org
Go Green-Plant America



DEEP SOUTH REGION DIRECTOR
Debby Cooper, Greenwood, MS
coopcooper@aol.com
*Decorate the Deep South with Floral
Accents*

GARDEN GATEWAYS STAFF:

Editor/Art Director: Stephanie Corley
240 Greenpeace Way, Martin, GA 30557-2711
gardengatewayseditor@gmail.com
Circulation Manager: Arianne Knowlton
State Headquarters
2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605-1674
headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org
706-227-5369

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On the Cover: The tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Official State Butterfly of Georgia

I hope that you are enjoying the start of spring! In the southern area of the state, it is usually perfect weather, 50-70 degrees! March, April and May are wonderful months to enjoy your own garden but, try and visit others when everything starts to bloom! Below is a photo of the beautiful Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands and a photo of Chris Adams and I there in April of 2022. She was leading a tour and we were visiting the area with friends and happened to meet. I frequently look back at the flower photos from that visit because they are so amazingly beautiful. Flowers make me happy! Visiting a garden makes me happy! My husband who currently plans all of our trips tries to include gardens. I have a coffee table size book called *The Gardener's Garden*. He actually looks through it for highly rated public gardens and uses it in planning our trips. In return, he also finds restaurants so he can be assured a good meal!

I think most of you gardeners would agree with me about the joy of gardening. I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to visit botanical gardens, participate in garden tours, and attend plant sales this spring! Be sure to check the calendar on the GCG website for events!

Lisa



Announcing 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 18th century's 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

The sun is strong this morning on my walk through the garden to clean up after a chilly and windy storm yesterday. One small misshapen hydrangea bloom still flutters staunchly above its battered yellowing leaves. This is winter in Georgia. The floating row covers and old sheets are prepared to protect plants at risk from freezing nights, but the inevitable loss of tender plants will leave holes in the garden after a hard winter.

Contemplating changes and additions to my garden this spring, I retreat to the library for some inspiration. The beautiful, glossy imagery of *Private Gardens of Georgia* by Polly McLeod Mattox and Helen Mattox Bost, invite me to study the many diverse gardens included. I wonder what is happening this spring in those verdant gardens across Georgia? What is happening inside your garden gate?

This spring, I am mindful of the effect any new plantings will have on the ecosystem of my small 2/3 acre space. We aspire to have beautiful gardens like those extraordinary private gardens in the aforementioned book. At the same time, I have concerns beyond beauty. Designing and maintaining an attractive spring garden is of paramount importance, but we need to be aware of the needs of insects, birds and all wildlife.



In *Private Gardens of Georgia*, owner Wendy Murray of Atlanta notes, "I used native plants, rhododendrons, laurels, and ferns, native perennials that would proliferate and spread...". In the 12 1/2 acre Columbus garden of Betsy Leebern, there are formal terraces with woodland trails aside and Betsy observes in the book, "I wanted to leave as much native as I could...". Let's hope all gardeners, like Wendy and Betsy, will be heeding the call to plant more natives with the goal of using the land with care and conservation.

So with that in mind, what plant material do you have room for this year? Early spring brings snowdrops, crocus, hyacinth, trout lilies and hellebores. I am charmed by the idea of a long swath of bluebells along a woodland path. There are also bleeding hearts, Columbine, fritillaria, foxglove, dwarf iris, birdsfoot violets, cross vine and native bulbs such as camassias to consider. The blush of a redbud tree could gently shade some of the spring ephemerals. Maybe a native dogwood or styrax could anchor a new planting of spring favorites. Native azaleas always herald the beginning of spring when the imagination is triggered by a reawakened earth.

I love to see the flocking of birds to a bottlebrush in bloom and the frenzy of pollinators in a magnolia blossom. The Carolina jessamine winding its way around and up a gate or trellis is the quintessential sign of spring, and one that nature loves. I imagine a spring garden beyond the charm of clipped hedges of boxwood or yaupon holly filled with tulips and daffodils. There is beauty in the order and formality of hedges and parterres, but keep in mind plants you can add to those spaces once the daffodils and tulips have faded. Adding native plants can create a dynamic ecosystem right inside those formal green structures. Explore

some of the choices available now that will work in your garden through summer.

When winter loosens her icy grip on Georgia gardens, the havoc of wind and frost may leave behind some unwanted holes in your garden design. The disappointment of losing plants is an opportunity to consider plants that will invite nature. As the greenhouse doors swing open this year and the horticultural treasures come to market, we will be shopping with fresh eyes for flora to replenish empty spots with beauty and with purpose.



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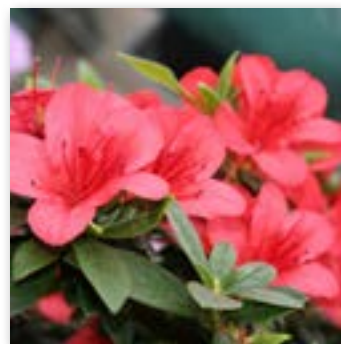
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Plants, Pollinators, and You (Yes, YOU!)

I think by now most of us are aware that loss of biodiversity is a real threat to the wonderful natural world around us. The more organisms we lose, the fewer benefits we reap – whether nutritious fruits and veggies, or dainty wildflowers springing up along mountain trails and streams. We are connected with all the living organisms around us, and it is incumbent on us to get to know as many of them as we can, and to learn how to protect them.

A few years back, my colleague Dr. Kris Braman from the Department of Entomology and I developed a college course, called Plants, Pollinators, and You. We wanted to imbue our students with the same passion that has driven us as scientists to study plants and insects and to find ways to protect them. Whether as teachers or homeowners, we can all do our part. (Good news – it's not hard at all, and it is fun and enjoyable!)

Plants and insects have a mutual relationship; plants depend on insects to produce their offspring, while insects depend on plants for food, shelter, and a place to find mates and lay eggs. Although this is a general statement, as many plants such as grasses and trees rely on wind to spread their pollen, numerous others require insects to help them achieve cross-pollination, leading to fruit and seed set. If you enjoy blueberries (who doesn't?!), then you should thank a bee for tirelessly working to make it happen.

Different plants use different insects (or birds or mammals) to help them achieve pollination, which is the transfer of male genetic material to the female egg. When those combine, a seed is formed, which is often encased in a tasty fruit wall. The seed is the future new plant, containing genetic material from both parents and ensuring a diverse genetic pool for the species.

Bees, butterflies and moths, flies, wasps, and beetles are all pollinating insects, moving pollen grains around and helping new baby plants form. However, there are several things to keep in mind. First, not all pollinators are created equally; bees do most of the heavy lifting (as it were) – they are uniquely equipped with

specialized hairs on their bodies to collect and move the pollen grains. Second, these insects perform other functions (in addition to pollination); some are natural enemies of pests (wasps are superb in that!) and perform biocontrol by either parasitizing or directly hunting and consuming pests. Third, these are large groups of insects, which display a truly incredible range of sizes and shapes; it is easy to spot the majestic monarch but the minute sweat bee may be easily overlooked. To make matters worse, while you and I pretty much look like humans from babyhood to adulthood, many insects look very, very different when they are “babies” compared to when they are adults. (think caterpillar and butterfly). Fifth, there are LOTS, and LOTS of insects – thousands upon thousands of species. (4,000 bee species in the US alone, about 500 in Georgia, and you don't want to know about the wasps!) Finally, different insects show up at different times of the year. The monarch butterfly is typically seen later in the summer than say, cabbage white. This is due to seasonality and the number of generations per year. Some bees are seen for only 3 weeks in the spring.

What do insects get from the plants? Nectar is the primary sweet reward – it is the Mountain Dew, the Red Bull, nature's energy drink, that provides sugar, vitamins, and minerals which power flight and enables insects to fly around and go about their business. Pollen is protein, so think food. While no adult butterfly could eat pollen (they just sip the nectar), bees, wasps, beetles, and baby spiders do consume pollen for their own needs. But the mother bee has more important uses. She must collect it to produce pollen bread which her babies will eat to become adults. Hence, the “fur,” specialized hairs and various pollen-carrying structures on her body (she's like a flying mop), which allow her to gather loads of pollen. Additionally, plants provide oils which some bees use to mix with the pollen, while others use almost exclusively to feed their young. And the male bees use the same oils to collect an odoriferous “bouquet” which they present



Monarch butterfly nectaring on swamp milkweed



Hoverfly nectaring on stonecrop



Southeastern blueberry bee male (a specialist bee) on blueberry

to the female bee in hopes of enticing her to mate. (If he has not gathered the right fragrances, she turns him down!).

Moving away from the flowers, leaves are an important food source for the caterpillars (called larva) of butterflies and moths; in fact, they are the only source. A swallowtail butterfly female lays her eggs on dill or fennel because the young caterpillars would only eat that type of plant.

While pretty much all pollinators would visit any flower with nectar, many female bees are rather picky and would only collect pollen from a few species of plants, in some cases a single species. These bees are called specialists, as opposed to generalist bees (bumblebees and honeybee) which accept a wide variety of flowers for both nectar and pollen.

Just like insects, plants entertain their suite of visitors when they are in bloom, which is typically about 3 weeks. Therefore, you should provide year-round bloom – spring, summer, fall, and winter. You may ask, why winter? On warm winter days, honey bees can be seen foraging, and it would be nice if your garden could host them. Trees bloom early and hungry bees start emerging to feast on their flowers.

By now you have gathered that in order to invite a wide variety of insects, you should plant a good many kinds of grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Each of these plants can serve as forage, flower resource, shelter, and generally a place to hang around.

We've talked about insect food but we should discuss nesting habitat next. Insects can rear their young on plants or on the ground. Most species of bees for example, nest in the ground, and exposed patches of bare soil serve as the perfect home for them. Sweat bees and other bees form large aggregations of tens and even hundreds of nests, some in human habitats such as lawns, playgrounds, embankments, and other exposed soil surfaces. Bee nests can be found under leaf litter in the forest, or in the soil under your deck. Other kinds of bees build their nests in hollow stems and twigs, also dead trees. There are bees that drill holes in prickly pear cactus, and those that use deserted snail shells. Some bees are picky in their choice of nest, while others would accept just about any hole of the right size. (including plastic straws and soft drink cans).



Parasitoid wasp ovipositing in stinkbug eggs

Butterflies need a nice rock to sun themselves, especially on cooler mornings. They also need a shallow depression to use as a drinking dish.

When you think of your garden as the best environment for pollinators, think of nature, and replicating the variety of plants, layers of vegetation, rock piles, soil, dead branches and deadfall, and all the various nooks and crannies that a little insect could use.

Last but not least, when you see aphids on your milkweed, do not reach for the pesticide bottle. Let nature take its course. Natural enemies like ladybeetles and parasitoid wasps will thin their ranks. And if they don't do enough, use strong water spray to dislodge the unwelcome visitors. Pesticides should be your last resort.

There are very few plants that I've met that I did not like, but if I were to make a list of the top 30 with pollinators in mind, these would be:

Perennials

Aster
Beebalm
Bluestem
Boneset
Coneflower
Goldenrod
Milkweed
Mountain mint
Salvia
Yarrow

Shrubs

Abelia
Blueberry
Oakleaf hydrangea
Beautyberry
Bottlebrush
Button bush
Clethra
Holly
Sweetspire
Viburnum

Trees

Catalpa
Cherry laurel
Cherry/plum
Maple
Mayhaw
Oak
Redbud
Sourwood
Tupelo
Willow



Mining bee female with pollen on maple bloom

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"!



Tuesday'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 and her talk will focus on floral design concepts.



Staci Catron hosts the first afternoon session is 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 is our second speaker. 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.



The second afternoon session will be offered by Moe Hemmings, 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 the Children's Garden. She pursued her master's degree in international education from the University of Leicester, UK. Her role at ABG 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.



Carleton Wood is our speaker for the second afternoon session. 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.



Abra Lee, Wednesday's keynote speaker at the luncheon, 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.

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! Please make your reservation today!



"Bloomin' in the Heart of Georgia"

96th Annual Convention of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Tentative Schedule of Events



Tuesday April 16, 2024

9:15am GCG Board Member Registration
9am-7pm Vendors: Aberdeen Pre-Function Area
9:30am-12pm General Registration
10-11:45am GCG Board Meeting; Auditorium
12-2pm Luncheon; Aberdeen Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Lynn Fronk "Floral Design for Fun:
A Demonstration"

Introduction of New Clubs; Basket Raffle and
Door Prizes

2-6pm General Registration

2:30-3:15pm Choice of two Workshops:

Staci Catron "Women Pioneers in Landscape Architecture
and Design in Georgia"; Auditorium

Jenny Cruse-Sanders "The Role of Botanical Gardens in
Conservation Efforts"; Abington Amphitheater

3:30-4:15pm Choice of two workshops:

Moe Hemmings "Community or Urban Gardening as an
Answer to Food Insecurity"; Auditorium

Carleton Wood "Great Trees for Southern Gardens";

Abington Amphitheater

5:30-6:30pm District Photos; Aberdeen Pre-Function Area

5:30- 7pm Cocktails and Conversations;
Aberdeen Pre- Function Area

7-10pm Awards Banquet; Aberdeen Ballroom
Basket Raffles and Door Prizes

Wednesday April 17, 2024

9-11:30am Registration

9:30-11:30am Business Meeting

Floral Tributes and Exhibits

12-2pm Luncheon; Guest Speaker: Abra Lee

"The History of the Role of Cemeteries in Southern
Gardening and Why We Need to Preserve Them"

2025 Convention Invitation, Azalea District
Raffle baskets, Cash Raffle, Door Prizes

2pm Adjournment

2:30 - 3:30pm Post Convention Designers' Challenge
Aberdeen Ballroom

THOMASVILLE GARDEN CLUB, INC. 103RD ANNUAL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

This Land We Love



Friday, April 26, 2024, 2 – 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thomasville Garden Center

1102 South Broad Street, Thomasville, GA 31792

2024 Convention Registration Form

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

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

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 \$ _____

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.**

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 and credit card payment available 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.

As the coordinator of the *Great Southeast Pollinator Census*, I have been involved in the creation of quite a few pollinator gardens. I have assisted in pollinator landscaping at schools, in communities, at private gardens, on small farms and in public spaces. These gardens combine beauty and science as pollinator spaces that are beautiful in themselves while attracting ecoservice-providing insects to our landscapes. Combining scientific research with my experience, I have discovered a few guidelines we can use to make the most effective pollinator gardens.



We know that bees find floral resources using a combination of chemical cues and physical cues. They will notice a flower garden first by the chemical cues, or fragrance, of the garden. This will bring the bees to the garden area. Then, the insects fine-tune their foraging route by the physical cues or the morphology of the flowers. How do we use this knowledge to create a successful pollinator garden? Many landscape design courses encourage us to plant flowers in groups of three to five of each type of plant. For pollinator gardening, I encourage you to think in groups of seven to nine.

A large group of plants emitting similar chemical cues will definitely attract a larger group of insects than one single plant. I have a stand of mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* spp.) on my property, approximately nine square feet. This group of plants attracts thousands of insects at any one time. On another side of the property is one lone mountain mint plant that hardly receives a visitor.

If you take time to look at the size and morphology of pollinating insects, you have noticed that bees and flies differ in size, shape, and the amount of hair on their bodies. Different pollinators are going to be more effective at pollinating different flower forms. A small leafcutter bee (*Megachilidae* spp.) is not going to be very effective at pollinating a passion flower (*Passiflora* spp.) with the plant's pollen-containing anthers high in the flower structure. However, an eastern carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) is perfect for pollinating a passion flower as the insect's large, hair thorax rubs against those tall anthers while the insect visits the plant. That same large carpenter bee tromping around on a small aster flower won't be very effective at gathering and distributing the pollen of that flower. Our pollinator gardens need to have flowers that differ in flower form, height, and color to take advantage of the diversity of pollinating insects. A tall bee balm (*Monarda* spp.) can be part of the same garden as a stand of nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum* spp.) when artfully combined.



To attract the most diversity of pollinators, our gardens need to have plants blooming as long in the season as possible. Many of our early spring bees, like orchard bees (*Osmia* spp.) and mining bees (*Andrena* spp.), will emerge looking for nutrition, hopefully in your garden. Early plant bloomers such as false rosemary (*Conradina* spp.) and blue indigo (*Baptisia* spp.) are additions to consider. Georgia is blessed with amazing fall native plants. Asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.), Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.), and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) prolong the season into late fall. As a bonus, these plants are also important nectar plants for migrating monarch butterflies. Of course, you will want to have plants blooming for the

Southeast Pollinator Census in August! Coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.), bee balm (*Monarda* spp.), and native sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.) put on a show in much of Georgia in August.

Putting this together, our gardens need to have a diversity of many plants that bloom throughout the season. We need to apply these principles with the limitations of our garden size and other practical matters. To reward your efforts, spend time in your garden with a lawn chair and a glass of sweet tea just enjoying the insect show!

New Life Members

Bess Hartley, Life Membership Chairman

New State Life Members

#2154 Claudia Collier
Honored by The Garden Club of Pooler
Oleander District

New National Life Members

#10695 Mary Ann Parks
Honored by Dogwood Garden Club
Magnolia District
#10699 Carolyn Culpepper
Honored by Bess Hartley, mother
Magnolia District

One of Rosalynn Carter's most enduring and living tributes is her butterfly trail that promotes and supports the monarch butterfly. It begins in her hometown of Plains, but it is more than a trail. It is a community effort co-founded by Annette Wise and the former first lady to build a habitat across Georgia lending support for the migration of monarch butterflies.

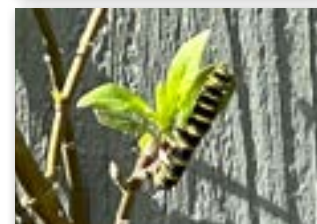
The monarch is one of the most widely recognized butterflies with its distinct orange, black and white wings. Its migration is one of nature's most spectacular events as it is the only butterfly known to make a 2-way migration like birds do. Their migration each year is a multigenerational effort; adults live from two to six weeks, and the fourth generation known as the "super generation" lives for nine months migrating south from across the eastern United States to Mexico. Interestingly, the knowledge of their migration path is not passed from each generation through a learning component, instead the butterflies use cues like magnetism and sunlight to navigate. Much of it is still a mystery, however we know that it takes only one generation to fly south to Mexico each year, and multiple generations to fly north.

Now is the time to become a part of the journey as the monarch begins to return to the US in March. The monarchs, sensing warmer temperatures and longer days, will begin laying the eggs of the next generation on milkweed, their host plant. Native milkweed is the best kind to plant along with nectar plants that serve as a food source for adult monarchs such as pentas, verbena, asters, zinnia, marigolds, sunflowers, black-eyed Susan, and Joe Pye weed to sustain them. Remember to supply reliable water for both plants and insects.

The citizen scientist's role in the migration effort is remarkable not only for the monarch, but for conservation of other insect species. Known as a flagship, the monarch is an insect that is so relatable to humans that it offers a pathway for us to raise awareness of the need for conservation and protection of all insects including monarchs in the environment. Their greatest threats are the loss of food sources and habitat; however, the monarch's popularity and awe-inspiring migration builds lifelong positive interest from us to protect their continued existence.

As an active pollinator, the monarch contributes to the health of our planet although it lags behind bees, wasps and flies. Pollinators as a whole account for one in every three bites of food that we eat. This spring enjoy the monarch journey by adding a butterfly garden and join the community of Rosalynn Carter's Butterfly Trail at:

rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org/. Photos depict a monarch generation (egg, caterpillar, and butterfly)



Thank you for making a difference with your support of Scholarships!

On behalf of the GCG Scholarships Committee, I share our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to our Scholarships program this past year. Our 2024-2025 students are grateful for the grants and encouragement provided to them by GCG members.

You can play a part in the future of a student who is seeking a life that speaks to our own hearts. As you plan your new budgets, please consider a contribution to Scholarships from your garden club, council, district or individually.

So many ways to support our Scholarship program.

- Named Scholarships and Patrons of Scholarships.
- Contributions for General Scholarships, Brown Thrasher & Cherokee Rose Funds.
- All the above may be given as an Honor or Memorial Contribution.
- Participation in the Dollars Educate Scholars Fundraiser
- Life Memberships
- Subscribing Memberships – Share the gift of Garden Gateways! Your \$25 is a great gift for family members, friends, speakers, prospective members, and others. Our GCG membership numbers assists us in receiving two annual NGC Scholarship grants.
- Invite our Plant Societies and Affiliate Members to join our Mission of Education.

Our grant recipients are dedicated to our mission of Beautification, Conservation & Education.

Sincerely, the GCG Scholarship Committee
Susan Turner, Chairman, glencree@bellsouth.net

Anita Allen,
Janet Carn
Carolyn Culpepper

Brenda Griner
Lisa Hall
Diane Hunter

Rosemary Maulden
Marianne McConnell
Geri Shaw



It is wonderful that so many of you have risen to the challenge of making your yards and neighborhoods more pollinator friendly. Planting native trees and shrubs and flowers of all kinds in large swaths will help stem the loss of our pollinators. Scientists have determined that 80% of our food must be pollinated. Most of this work is done by bugs, mostly bees. But, scientists have also recently determined that the number of bugs is in steep decline. Needing to eat, we need bugs. A census of bugs is more challenging than a census of birds. We do not really notice the absence of bugs or may be delighted to have fewer. We can see Fireflies or lightning bugs—how long has it been since your yard was full of their twinkling lights? What caused this demise? Count yourself successful if you get them back.



Pollinators are for the most part bugs of all kinds. We all think of honeybees, but they are not native to our hemisphere and are unable to pollinate many of our natives. Georgia is home to over 40 different Bumblebees. You might also find, ants, bats, butterflies, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, wasps even some small animals coming for the nectar. However, bugs, especially all sorts of bees, do the bulk of the pollination. Most commercial pollination is now done by honeybees. Not because they are more efficient but because they can be managed in hives holding 20,000 to 80,000 bees each. These are easily transportable to orchards or farms when the plants are in bloom. If you participated in the August 2023 Great

SE Pollinator Census sponsored by UGA, what pollinators did you see? Likely natives rather than honeybees. My granddaughters observing two different bushes saw tiny butterflies and small bumblebees.

Reproduction of all species requires fertilization. Animals are able to move to find an appropriate mate. Plants are rooted, stuck in place. How do they assure the healthy continuation of their species? Ginko trees, here with the dinosaurs, developed separate male and female trees. The male tree lofts a lot of pollen into the wind in hopes that it will find a female tree. The large equally old Southern Magnolia tree lures beetles with large open sturdy petalled flowers and spicy aroma. Beetles are still the pollinator of our magnolias.

Honeybee *Apis mellifera* evolved in Africa and moved into Europe and Asia. This species of bee has been managed in large hives for thousands of years. Not only do they pollinate many food plants but also create delicious honey. This very efficient pollinator was not available to the plants evolving in the Americas.

However, when Europeans came to the Americas, they brought the honeybee with them because in addition to pollination, they provided a delicious sweetener, and an antiseptic.

Plants native to the Americas all developed lures for the pollinators available to them. The native plants you likely use are blueberries, cocoa, corn, cranberries, cherries, cotton, melons, papaya, pawpaw, peppers, pineapple, potatoes, sunflowers, squashes, strawberries, and tomatoes. These plants use color, scents, or delicious nectar to lure pollinators.

Bumble bees, *Apis bombus*, pollinate many of our native plants. You will need them especially for your tomatoes, melons and peppers. They come in all sizes to fit different flowers. They are fatter than honeybees and buzz or vibrate to loosen the pollen. This method is called sonication. A bumblebee colony is no larger than 50 bees and lasts only one year. So, the few must do a lot of work. Be sure to plant attractive flowers near your vegetable garden if you are growing native vegetables. Leave some untidy spots under your shrubs, have water available and do not spray. Insecticides kill all insects.

Here are some fascinating facts about pollinators of other native plants. Pineapple is pollinated in the wild by hummingbirds. The next time you eat chocolate thank a mosquito. Cotton fields use rented honeybee hives for pollination, but recently scientists have determined that better results occur if butterflies are also present.

Hope you have already joined the call to plant for pollinators. This is the perfect time to start or increase the size of your plantings. Get ready for the 2024 Great SE Pollinator Census August 23-24th. Their web site has many suggestions for native plants to add to your garden. Become a citizen scientist and assist in this tabulation. I hope you are able to count a great many.



Remembering Joy Stuart - 39th President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. 2001-2003

Joy Stuart, former president of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and numerous gardening organizations, passed away on January 10 at the age of 86, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. A dedicated wife and mother of three children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, she was an active member of the Druid Hills Community. Her home was known to always be buzzing with activity for both children and adults. She was an elementary school teacher and retired to serve as a room mother at Fernbank Elementary for 10 years.

Later in life Joy turned from a full-time mother to her other passion, gardening. She was known to work tirelessly in her rose garden and was an active member of the American Rose Society. Locally she was known for her "rose bead necklaces" which she displayed at many gardening functions. She was an active member of the Lullwater Garden Club where she also served as president.

Mrs. Stuart was most proud of her involvement with The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. where she rose to the office of president in 2001. Her theme was, not surprisingly "Celebrate the Joy of Gardening". During her tenure, GCG enrolled 2,733 new members earning a NCG award. Life Memberships and Scholarships also increased under her leadership. Georgia students were awarded two \$3,500 NGC scholarships in 2002 and 2003, along with GCG scholarships; thus, students received a total of \$39,750 for her two years. Numerous awards were won from the Deep South and NGC. Additionally, GCG supported the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Project P.A.C.E. with a workshop demonstrating opposition to tree cutting along Georgia highway rights-of-way along with air pollution concerns and the privatization of water. Legislators were contacted and HB237 was defeated. GCG also partnered with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters in an anti-litter campaign. Georgia legislators passed HB1343, and 100+ members, friends, and Governor and Mrs. Sonny Perdue were deputized as anti-litter watchdogs.

After the attacks of 9-11, Joy oversaw an all-time national record for Blue Star and By-Way Markers installed, refurbished, or rededicated. GCG members planted Freedom Trees supporting NGC President's goal to plant two million trees. A donation of \$1,600 from Georgia members was sent to St. Louis to support the September 11 Memorial at NGC Headquarters.

Joy Stuart lived a life of dedicated service to her family and community, sharing her love of gardening with all she met. A memorial service was held on January 18 at the Swilley Chapel of Second-Ponce de León Baptist Church, Atlanta Georgia. A complete accounting of her presidency can be found at <https://70w341.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/History-of-The-Garden-Club-of-Georgia-Presidents-1.pdf>



Avon Garden Club Celebrates 70th Anniversary

What do tater tots, Corvettes and, the Avon Garden Club have in common? They all made their debuts in 1953. Fast forward 70 years and the Avon Garden Club (Redbud District) steadfastly endures (as do tater tots and Corvettes). In the early 1950's the nation was experiencing an era of post-war optimism and prosperity. People were moving to suburbs like Avondale Estates. In 1953 the Avon Garden Club was organized by 14 charter members for the purpose of stimulating interest in home gardening and beautifying the community. The Club celebrated its 70th Anniversary in imaginative and creative ways to honor the legacy left by the charter members. The Club's September meeting featured:

- Members dressed in 50's style attire.
- A humorous skit taking a look back against the backdrop of actual news as reported by fictional personalities; Ida Mae Cronkite, Babs Walters, Polly Dean and Trudy Spock.
- A retro luncheon while listening to Tony Bennett on a LP vinyl album.
- Members posed for pictures in a 50's Dream Kitchen.

The Club's December Holiday Party included:

- Members decked out in their best 50's party clothes.
- Decorations featuring shiny metallic trees and pastel and bright tropical colors.
- A vintage light green Plymouth parked outside the Avondale Lakehouse.
- Perry Como crooning holiday tunes from the vinyl LP album.
- A trivia contest geared to 1953 events.

The Avon Garden Club looks forward to continuing its 70th Anniversary celebration into 2024 adhering to its original purpose to stimulate interest in gardening and beautification of the community as well educating and encouraging environmentally friendly living.



Brenda Moore, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. wants to encourage members to make our gardens more than just beautiful. That's why she created the NGC Pollinator Garden Certification program. Our gardens can support birds, bees and other insects, and this program provides the incentive to take additional steps to make sure we're providing all the components to help pollinators thrive. We've created a checklist to make sure you have everything you need to support pollinators: Food and water sources and areas to raise young.

You probably already have several plants that provide pollen and nectar. But could you add a few native plants that are perhaps a better source of food? Could you add a shrub that has berries for wintertime nutrition? You don't have to install a pond, but what about a birdbath? Consider adding a heater for fresh water in the winter. Many of us have birdhouses in our gardens, but if not, a small, inconspicuous log or brush pile can provide a safe place for insects to nest.

In addition to providing food, water, and shelter, think about your gardening practices and what you can do better to support pollinators. Naturalists are encouraging us to "leave the leaves" in the fall for insects that overwinter in leaves, and to wait until spring for garden clean up since some insect larvae stay in hollow stems until spring. We all want to do what we can to support pollinators—their lives depend on us. By making a few tweaks to our gardens we can make them feel right at home!

Apply at <https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zl7pbyz17msloz/> to have your yard or perhaps a church or school garden recognized an NGC Certified Pollinator Garden! Once approved, you will have the option to order an NGC Certified Pollinator Garden Yard Sign!



All New For 2024

The Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms

April 20th and 21st, 2024



Tickets are now on sale! www.pineola.com/events

Tickets \$20 advance purchase - \$25 at the gate

Every Year is a New Design

If you thought last year was amazing, wait to see what the designers have dreamed up this year. The Flower Fantasy will be even better including more Vendors and Expert Speakers.

**Sponsored by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Presented By The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, GA**

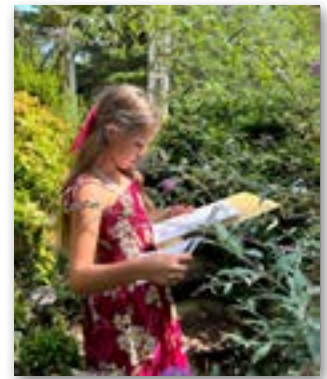
This Year's Inspiration

"Gardens Around The World"

Landscape for Pollinators Quiz

1. To best attract butterflies to your garden you need _____ plants to provide food for adult butterflies and _____ plants for female butterflies to use for egg-laying.
2. Planting for pollinators means having flowers blooming from early spring to late fall. This is known as _____ planting.
3. The most common bumble bee that we see in Georgia is the _____.
4. Bees use _____ and _____ cues to locate flowers.
5. True or False: Maple trees are important pollinator plants.
6. Bees are the most efficient insect pollinators. Give one reason why: _____
7. Many wasps are not only pollinators, but they are also _____ and can hunt insects that are pests in your vegetable garden.
8. _____ is the term for the benefits that insects, like pollinators, provide for our gardens.
9. True or False: Air pollution can affect a pollinator's ability to locate your garden. _____
10. The dates for the 2024 Great Southeast Pollinator Census are _____.

Gardening for Pollinators: The Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club partnered with the local elementary STEM academy to foster the love and support of pollinators. The club has developed a pollinator garden at the school, held pollinator information sessions, supported the local pollinator census at the botanical garden, and taught the students how to identify monarch butterfly eggs on plants at the garden. From the STEM academy: "While we were out recharging and enjoying time with our families this summer, one of the STEM academy's partners was rolling up their sleeves and creating a beautiful pollinator garden for our students. The garden, which was fully funded and created by the Ball Ground Garden Club, consists of colorful lantanas, which are a must have for a pollinator heaven. These plants attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds with their sweet nectar, attractive scent, bright color and flower form. The pollinator garden will provide an instrumental role in providing the students an avenue to investigate, explore and observe the importance of pollinators in gardening and conservation in the STEM enrichment laboratory."



A young enthusiast participating in the pollinator census.

2023 Third Annual Cannon Ball Classic was a Big Success!:

The Cannon Ball Classic annual fundraiser supporting Fair Oaks, our educational garden center in Laurel District, was enjoyed by all in September. It was a beautiful day for golf and fellowship at the City Club Marietta course where 80 golfers turned out to play golf and to win bragging rights and prizes. After enjoying a Martin's biscuit breakfast and buying raffle tickets and mulligans, the golfers took off in their carts for a fun day including lunch. Golf-themed and other amazing prizes were donated by Laurel District garden clubs and local businesses for the raffle. Trophies were awarded for first and second



Cheryl Briscoe, Kate Millholland, Susan Hall, Deanna Slone and Traci Guckian



teams, longest drive and closest to the pin (men's & women's). Members from multiple garden clubs planned, prepared and worked the tournament, and some garden club golfers played the course as well. This event is a wonderful way to raise money supporting Fair Oaks where gardening education is provided to the community by 21 Laurel District Clubs. It won't be long before the hardworking tournament committee is planning our 2024 golfing event, and we hope to count on our members and community to support us again!

Marshall Forest has been the scene of much activity in spite of the rain and cold weather. Many people stopped by to enjoy their lunch hours or to hike the Dorsey Trail for their daily exercise. During the summer, a City of Rome Planning Department intern performed an intensive study of the forest to determine its specific needs. Then, Director Mary Hardin Thornton along with Nature Conservancy's Katie Owen and Floyd County Trails Department's Julie Smith met with Caroline Alford, GCG's Marshall Forest chairperson, to discuss the findings.



After learning that the Nature Conservancy administers multi-million dollar grants, members of the team developed a plan to form a 501-c-3 non-profit for the forest. This status would allow the forest to receive future donations and to be eligible for small grant applications. This plan is in progress! Other Marshall Forest needs include: water flow redesign, raised trail installation, and wet weather bridge repair or replacement. Donations from garden clubs are needed to fund these projects! Plan your budget now to include a contribution of \$25 or more to receive a Deed of Gratitude Certificate. Tours of the forest are available to schedule by contacting Caroline Alford via email at caroboone@aol.com.



Feeding those that help to feed us! Honey Pond Garden Club: The city of Comer has taken steps to revive the city's landscaping to its former glory. With the city's approval, the Honey Pond Garden Club planted 13 pollinator trees in the downtown area supporting the club's mission to help protect pollinators. The trees were a big hit with the citizens, and the city council approved more areas to be planted, The Honey Pond Garden Club was awarded a grant from the Georgia Beekeepers Association License Plate Fund to create a pollinator garden around the Comer Travel Museum in downtown. Not only will this project provide a habitat for pollinators, but it will also educate visitors about their importance and encourage folks to plant their own pollinator gardens.



Pollinators are crucial to our food security. Over 80% of flowering plants need pollinators to produce seeds. When one strolls into the produce section of a grocery store and sees all those fruits and vegetables, one needs to thank a pollinator. Without them, our diets would be reduced to gruel: corn, rice, barley, and wheat. All the colors, varieties, and flavors would disappear. Due to pesticides, pollution, disease, invasives, climate change and especially habitat loss, pollinator diversity and abundance are in decline. Conservation of land is key to slow their decline. Recent research has shown cities are focusing on providing refuge for bees and other pollinators. This is why pollinator habitat in towns, like Comer, is important. We need their help and now they need ours!



The Sharon-Raytown Garden Club supports the Taliaferro Co. Senior Center: In the early spring of 2023 members of the SRGC built raised garden beds and set up multiple planters for flowers at the Center. The Taliaferro County Seniors meet 4 days during the week and assumed ownership of the beds and pollinator planters. We enjoyed talking with the seniors about the importance of pollination. They had fun with the project and appreciated the support from the SRGC members.

Spade and Trowel Garden Club's Pollinator Garden at Warren Road Elementary: The school's (PreK-5) pollinator garden was a recipient of a \$1,000 NGC 2021-23 Plant America Grant, an Augusta Council of Garden Clubs Grant, and a \$250 Espoma fertilizer grant to make it possible for students to "network with nature." It has been recognized by NGC as a Certified Pollinator Garden.

The garden has one bed for each grade, planted with pollinators and annuals in the shape of an arrow honoring the school's warrior mascot. The club painted six wooden benches for the students to observe and learn, installed irrigation, a garden sign, birdfeeders, bird bath, and 4 blue bird houses on poles that had 2 successful broods last summer. Plants include Hyssop, Rattlesnake Master, Rain Lily, Bee Balm, Mountain Mint, Lambs Ear, Lavender, Black-eyed Susan, Asters, Milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, Beauty Berry, Goldenrod, swamp sunflower, purple Coneflower, Sand Coreopsis, wild Bergamot, sunflowers, and zinnias. Shelter for the birds is provided by two peach trees and a beautiful oak. "The students would rather be in the garden than in the playground, they just love it," reports a kindergarten teacher.



Whine and Weed The Landings Garden Club started a new evening event last year called 'Whine and Weed'. This is a once-a-month event with a specific topic.

Most of the events were held at our beautiful Delegal Marina. Members bring appetizers and enjoy the sunset and learn more about native plants vs weeds, insects, raised garden beds, flower seeds and growing bulbs in the Coastal Plain. As the temperatures have lowered, we moved indoors to members' homes. We delighted to see their home gardens.

Our native plants vs weeds talk had live plants that we got to identify as either a weed or a native plant.



We all agreed that Dollar weed is definitely a weed. The insect talk included a discussion on the invasive yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*) that had unfortunately been discovered on our island. Our raised bed discussion included how to use coir (fiber from the outer husk of the coconut), as a peat moss alternative and when to sow flower seeds in zone 9. Our members are enjoying this less formal environment, and we plan to continue this popular event.



First Ladies of Georgia Camellia Garden

Dedication Members of the Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Garden Club braved the frigid temperatures on January 20th to attend the garden dedication ceremony at the historic Bonaventure Cemetery.

The new garden is located at the left side entrance of the cemetery and was developed by Master Gardener Liz Pasqual. With sponsorships from several Savannah area garden clubs, each planting honors a First Lady of Georgia. The Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Garden was proud to sponsor the Japonica Camellia in honor of First Lady Shirley Carver Miller.



The japonica camellia displays beautiful pink flowers that grow in clusters through winter and early spring. Each bloom usually lasts three to four weeks and grows two to five inches in size.

Pine Forest Garden Club, Baxley, participate in many community activities. Members were found weeding and planting the Retired Educator's Memorial Garden at the Appling Co. Board of Education with the Aggies Junior Garden Club. The Aggies regularly work with the PFGC with upkeep at the Memorial Garden. Other projects include maintaining planters at the Pavilion Nursing Home, the library pollinator garden, and Heritage Center. Members have also been involved with the judging of pumpkins at Altamaha Elementary, driving endless dirt roads for the perfect yard of the month, and delivering gift bags for veterans. Shown below are members of the PFGC and Junior Aggies at the Memorial Garden.



Eastman Garden Club Donates to Dodge Co. HS Butterfly Garden: The Eastman Garden Club members went to Dodge Co. HS to present a donation to the DCHS Garden Club. Funds will be used to purchase native plants and mulch to further the beautiful landscaping in their Butterfly Garden. Club advisors Lori Williams and Glennie Whitley had attended a meeting at Eastman Garden Club and shared history and photos of the Butterfly Garden. They are pictured receiving the check from EGC President Sharon Smith. Also pictured in the group are Superintendent Dr. Susan Long, Eastman and DCHS Garden Club members, and Principal Dr. Steve Greer.



Erin Garden Club of Dublin had a busy December! In a joint effort with the City of Dublin, Erin GC began revitalizing the City's approximate 3 acre Farmer Market! Club members identified 20 dead, old and overgrown trees and shrubs the City of Dublin workers removed. A large mound of 30 year old daffodil bulbs was dug up, separated and replanted by members throughout the market. The Club identified 20 new trees to be planted; the City helped to plant and water 11 of the trees. During this ongoing project Club members found time for fun and fellowship as they celebrated Christmas by bringing small arrangements to residents in an assisted living home.



Thomasville's Big Oak - Then and Now Rambler Rose Garden Club member Carol Singletary planted a seedling from the historic "Big Oak" in downtown Thomasville. The seedling was later transplanted to a beautiful spot on Pebble Hill Plantation outside Thomasville on Arbor Day in 2009. Carol gave a great program about the tree and the history of the Big Oak on the family's property. Thomasville Garden Club along with the City of Thomasville built a gazebo at the site of the Big Oak after the home was moved. Carol Singletary's Grandmother lived in the house and the center picture below, shows her mother and cousins playing in the tree.



Big Oak sapling today



Design Winner From the 2023 Perry Flower Show:

The Perry Flower Show, "Colors of Autumn," hosted by the Camellia and Magnolia Districts recognized a long list of award winners. Willie Maxwell, Flower Show Chair and Melody Smith, Co-Chair, and their many helpers developed an outstanding flower show. Faye Frazier won two blue ribbons in design! The photograph shown right, won her a Blue Ribbon, First Place award and the Tri- Color award. She also won a Blue Ribbon, First Place award in the Design Class 4, "Sharing The Bounty" which required a functional table for two.



Faye Frazier

What A Difference A Day Makes! On an outstanding day in December of 2023, the Blue Star Marker located on Highway 27 at the Naval Civil War Museum in Columbus got a wonderful face lift by restoration expert, Tom Stelling. The marker went from remarkably aged to youthful in the course of one day! The Columbus Council of Garden Clubs installed the Columbus, Georgia Blue Star Marker on November 28, 1978. May it now age slowly and gracefully for a good many years!



Christmas In The Valley 2023 The Fort Valley City Council requested the Magnolia Garden Club manage and complete a Christmas decorating project for their small town. After taking a detailed inventory of the current decorations, a \$50,000 budget was approved. MGC members felt using as much of the current inventory as possible and involving the community would keep costs down. Workshops of citizens and MGC members worked revamping wreaths, fluffing garland, unpacking new bows, and sorting old ornaments. Over 40 volunteers worked alongside the Fort Valley Public Works and Utilities staff. Old wreaths were given new life as Delise Knight, our talented lead designer, devised a way of zip-tying new garland on an old wreath to make a beautiful new wreath that will last the city another 10-12

years. The project included decorations for 12 different sites in the city along with lite angels that line the light posts through town. Additionally, the club donated 24 hanging baskets with white pansies. Also, a new display for children was created from restored items, a favorite area of the community. The biggest benefit has been the coming together of a community, making new lifetime friends, adding 5 new members to the Club and making our small community shine with the light of the true meaning of Christmas.



The Boxwood Garden Club held its second annual Gift Market in November 2023. The market was a big success and the members voted to donate 100% of the proceeds of the "Cash & Carry" room and partial proceeds from vendors who sold their wares at the market to the Shepherd Center Foundation Therapy Garden. Boxwood GC President Louise Geddes presented the donation check to Dean Melcher of the Shepherd Foundation.



The Roswell Garden Club members maintain a beautiful Pollinator Garden at the Smith Plantation Home. During this Holiday Season, we were very busy decorating 14 trees for the Holidays throughout Roswell, which included the entire Smith Plantation Home, the Adult Recreation Center and outside on the Square.



Indian Creek Garden Club maintains a small garden at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Buckhead. Due to the terrible freeze last winter, the garden lost some plants and shrubs, but they were able to revive the garden and plant a lovely butterfly bush and some perennials to attract birds, butterflies and bees. More pollinator plants and a birdhouse are planned for spring.



Jenelle's Garden Artistic Dogwood Garden Club member Jenelle Wilson has a way with the greens! Just take a peek at this colorful, thriving and delightful winter garden. Well done, Jenelle!



Green Thumb Garden Club members participated in the annual Veterans Day Observation at the Greatest Generation Memorial Park in Thomaston. Per tradition, the club placed a new wreath at the Blue Star Marker located at the park. The wreath was made by club member Debbie Gignilliat. The Blue Star Marker Restoration process was completed in December,.



At the November meeting, member Pam Whitaker presented a program on forcing branches indoors. She focused on spring flowering tree or shrub branches which included her favorite, flowering quince. Forsythia, witch hazel, pussy willow, eastern redbud, cherry, and red maple are some of the best for forcing indoors



At their December meeting, each year members donate boxes of diapers and baby wipes to the local pregnancy center. Clients of the center may receive these items at no charge.



Mountain Mums Celebrate 20th Anniversary.

In November, the Mountain Mums Garden Club of Stone Mountain celebrated their 20th Anniversary! But it was also a celebration for the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club who 'mothered' them into existence in more ways than one. In 2003, then Smoke Rise Morning Glories President Joyce Ray and member Marsha Pittard and others sponsored their daughters into starting their own club. Many of the Mountain Mums had four or more children at the time hence, the name—Mountain Mums.

Their 20th Anniversary Celebration Party was held on November 14 at the 'Waterfall House,' home of Susan and Joel Gilbert in Smoke Rise. Guests enjoyed a lovely buffet of hors d'oeuvres and tours of the gardens and home. Mountain Mum President Rita Maloof and other Mums outlined a brief history of their origination. It was a special celebration with many outpourings of sweet remembrance. It was rumored that Marsha Pittard who helped set up the bylaws for the new Club had to be nudged to go home. Our heritage, accomplishments, and longevity are to be celebrated. Several Redbud clubs have significant anniversaries in 2024 and we all love cake. GCG is in the process of recording club "start" dates so when the list comes out—let's use it to celebrate.



Pictured above are the celebration participants, to the right original Mums Susan Mojik and Marsha Pittard



Coming Up



March



Mar. 4 NGC Gardening School Course 3
1-5:00pm - Zoom. Information TBA

Mar. 5 NGC Gardening School Course 3
8am-5 pm - Zoom. Info TBA

Mar. 5 Camellia District Board Meeting;
8am - 5pm, Sunset Country Club,
Moultrie

Mar. 8 American Daffodil Society SE
Region Show; 12:30-4pm

Mar. 9 American Daffodil Society SE
Region Show; 9:30am - 1pm - Johns
Creek Baptist Church Family Life
Center, Alpharetta

Mar. 11 Fulton Federation Meeting
10:15am-12:30pm; Canterbury Court
3750 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta

Mar. 13-14 NGC Landscape Design
School Course 1; 8am-5pm; details at
www.gardenclub.org

Mar. 17 Georgia Questival-Spring
Family Festival; 1-5 pm, St. Botanical
Garden, Athens. Info at botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 19 Mountain Ivy Garden Club
30th Anniversary Garden Symposium;
9am-4pm - St. James Episcopal Church,
Clayton. Reg.@ 8am. \$50

Mar.19-20 – 2024 Deep South
Convention; Park Vista Hotel,
Gatlinburg, TN

Mar. 28 Augusta Council of Garden
Clubs 75th Anniversary 9:30am-3pm
Augusta Country Club, Augusta



April



Apr. 2-3 NGC Landscape Design
School Course 3; 8am - 5pm - details at
www.gardenclub.org

Apr. 5-7 Valdosta Flower Show;
2-7pm - Crescent Garden Center,
Valdosta

Apr. 8 Finance and Executive
Committee Meeting; 1:30pm - Zoom

Apr. 11-13 St. Botanical Garden Spring
Plant Sale; 2-6 pm. Apr. 13 - 8am-2pm.
St. Botanical Garden, Athens. Details at
botgarden.uga.edu

April 14-20 Garden Week in Georgia
April 16-17 GCG 2024 Annual
Convention

Crowne Plaza, Peachtree City
April 19-20 NOGS Tour of Hidden
Gardens; Green-Meldrim House,
Savannah

April 20-21 Flower Fantasy at Pineola
Farms; 10am-5pm Pineola Farms, Fort
Valley

April 26 Thomasville Garden Club, Inc.
103rd Annual Standard Flower Show;
2-5pm Thomasville Garden Center,
Thomasville. Details, call 706-491-5577

Apr. 27-28 Seedling Garden Club
Standard Flower Show 1pm - 3pm -
Fulford Edu. Ctr, East Georgia State
College, Swainsboro



May



May 3 Rosalynn Carter Butterfly
Trail Spring Symposium details at
rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org

May 5 Soque 7th Annual Garden
Extravaganza; 8am-4pm, Free
Admission White Co. Agri-Science Ctr,
Cleveland

May 11 7th Annual Ball Ground Garden
Club Plant Sale and Festival; 9am-3pm
Lg plant selection, Raffles; 30 Vendors

May 15 Fulton Federation Award
Luncheon; 10:30am - 2:00pm- Bellmere,
Johns Creek

May 17 Creating the Ultimate
Landscape Design; 9am-4:30 p.m. St.
Botanical Garden, Athens. Register. @
botgarden.uga.edu

May 18 Pond and Garden Tour
9am-4:00pm; Cartersville; Info on
Facebook; Magnolia GC, Sponsor

May 27 Blue Star Marker Memorial
Dedication; 8am - 5pm - Julian Knight
Park, Reynolds

May 29-30 NGC Landscape Design
School Course 4; 8am - 5pm Details:
gardenclub.org/landscape-design-



June



June 2-4 National Garden Clubs,
Inc. Annual Convention, Westin
Westminster, Westminster, Colorado

June 2-8 National Garden Week

June 18-21 GCG Newport Gardens and
Glitz Tour; Newport, Rhode Island

Answers to the Landscape for Pollinators Quiz

1. nectar, larval
2. succession
3. Eastern Bumblebee, *Bombus impatiens*
4. fragrance/chemical, visual
5. True
6. Several reasons: Their dietary need for pollen and nectar, their hairy bodies, their ability to locate floral resources, their ability to move around inside flowers, their pollen gathering apparatuses, and more!
7. predators
8. Ecoservices
9. True
10. August 23 & 24, 2024

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!



There's more to to read at
GARDENCLUBOFGEORGIA.ORG

Rosalynn Carter
Remembered

and

Don't Miss the Spring "Online Extras"

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

In addition to providing an ideal venue for receptions and formal dinners, the Terrace Room is the perfect setting for business meetings, conferences, and corporate retreats. The room offers state-of-the-art audio and video equipment, including an electronic projection screen and room-darkening capabilities for the purpose of media viewing.

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
Facilities Rental Office at 706-542-6467 or
sbgrent@uga.edu.
2450 S. Milledge Ave | Athens, Georgia 30605
www.botgarden.uga.edu



COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL

2024 NGC CONVENTION

June 02 - June 05, 2024
The Westin Westminster
Westminster, CO

