



# Laurel Letters

## SPRING 2024



**District Director**  
*Cheryl Briscoe*

**Co-Director**  
*Merrell Holden*

**Recording Secretary**  
*Kathy Shiner*

**Corresponding Secretary**  
*Maye Suddath*

**Treasurer**  
*Dee Anne Wyse*

**Chaplain**  
*Rene Lanier*

**Parliamentarian**  
*Edna McClellan*

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

Dear Laurels,

It is hard to believe we are entering SPRING! How wonderful! I loved traveling to see many of you during the cold months but will not be sorry to get past the cold, blustery and wet weather. Where in the "Laurel World" did I visit since we talked last?

In September, I represented our district at the Friends of the State Botanical Gardens in Athens one day and the next day at the Garden Club of Georgia Board Meeting. It was great to hear about the accomplishments since last spring and good to learn about the upcoming plans. We toured the Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum located on the same property. What a spectacular field trip for your club if you have not been! Next was the monthly Marietta Council of Garden Club Meeting where I had the opportunity to interact with up to 21 club representatives and share district information with them. Also that month, The Flower Garden Club of Marietta hosted its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration where I was in great company: Lisa Hall, our GCG President, and the Mayor of Marietta, Steve Tumlin, each spoke. The North Georgia Fair Flower Show was held the last two weeks in September, so I volunteered to paint display stands to help them get ready at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. We had fun!

October was crazy! I mean CRAZY. Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club and I continued to prepare for the Laurel District Annual Meeting in Ball Ground. I then left them alone while I drove out of the district to attend five other district annual meetings in Americus, Macon, Jesup, Atlanta, Augusta. When it was time for Laurel's meeting, I got COVID, so I missed it! Well, I listened on the phone but it was not the same as being there with you all. I was so sad. But the meeting was capably handled by our Co-Director, Merrell Holden and our Parliamentarian and Advisor, Edna McClellan. (Thank you again.)

In November, Carol Fey, Chair of the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser 2024, met with me and her committee to continue planning for the event in Marietta at Fair Oaks. It's our turn, Laurels, every seven years, so be sure to add money in your club budget to contribute to the fundraiser. Back to Athens, I attended the Friends of the State Botanical Gardens again and visited with Arianne Knowlton, the GCG Headquarters House Office Manager. She does a great job!

December was a good "at home" month with only Awards Judging and Christmas celebrations. (CONTINUED)

## Director's Page 2

In January of our new year, I spoke two different garden club meetings: Trayletaah and Commerce Garden Clubs, about the history and hierarchy of our garden club organizations. I loved meeting the members and visiting in their part of the district...it is so pretty there in Canton and Commerce! And at one more Friends of the State Botanical Garden Meeting in Athens, it was great to see the gardens at a different time of the year and hear the success of the "Winter WonderLights" event. Don't miss it next year!

And lastly, in February, I enjoyed meeting with our Laurel District Board in Rome (see article) and additional planning with the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fundraiser Event committee. Whew! Come on good weather!

Keep warm and take advantage of all the chances to learn! Encourage your garden clubs with your participation. Please make your plans to attend the annual GCG convention as early as you can! We want you there with us.

Thanks to each of you,

Cheryl Briscoe

Laurel District Director 2023-25



**You Don't Want to Miss This!**

**Please join us for these events coming soon!**

**The 96<sup>th</sup> Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Convention  
April 16 & 17, Peachtree City Crowne Plaza**

**Registration and hotel information can be found at the link below.**

<https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/gcg-state-convention-2024/>

**Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Symposium  
2024 Spring Symposium: A Tribute to Rosalynn Carter and her love of  
flowers and pollinators**

**Please use the link below for information**

<https://rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org/events/2024-rosalynn-carter-butterfly-trail-spring-symposium/>

# Laurel District Board Winter Meeting: Your Board

## Hard at Work!



### **Laurel District Executive Board**

**Dee Anne Wyse**,  
Treasurer; **Edna  
McClellan**,  
Parliamentarian and  
Advisor; **Cheryl  
Briscoe**, District  
Director; **Kathy Shiner**,  
Corresponding Secretary  
Back row,: **Merrell  
Holden**, Co-Director;  
**Marie Purser**. Advisor

***Rome Federation of Garden Clubs*** hosted the Laurel District Board Meeting beautifully on Thursday February 22, 2024 at their charming clubhouse in Rome. **Anita Bridges**, their Federation President, welcomed the board members with a bright and cheery honeybee theme! Board members reported on their respective areas of responsibility allowing us to learn and to plan for the coming months. Several “Save the Date” announcements were made regarding garden club plant sales and garden tours events (see this issue of Laurel Letters). Please also add to your calendars:

**The Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) Annual Convention: Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Peachtree City**

**Laurel District Annual Meeting: Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> at Marietta Country Club in Kennesaw**

**The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fundraiser: November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fair Oaks – Marietta Educational Garden Center**

The move of the “President’s Reports” to an online entry using a “Jotform” was deemed a success with feedback on suggestions for improvement next year.

The rollout of Membership 365, our new online program for entering club member information and creating an invoice for club dues to GCG, was discussed and is planned for Presidents and Treasurers in March with training! Be on the lookout for an email via Constant Contact from GCG.

***Thanks to Rome Federation*** for treating the Laurel District Board to a delightful day!

# Historic Landscape Preservation

**Honoring the Past Leading the Present ~ Protecting the Future**

**November 2, 2024, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

**Registration: 9:00-9:30 am Programs: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm with a break  
for lunch Fair Oaks – Marietta Educational Garden Center  
505 Kennesaw Avenue Marietta, GA 30064**

## **SHARING STORIES WORTH KNOWING**

**The Historic Landscape Preservation Committee is pleased to  
announce this year's fundraiser event is hosted by the Laurel District  
of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. All proceeds will be donated to the  
Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund.**

**Cost: \$45 with checks made payable to The Garden Club of Georgia,  
Inc. Mail checks to: Edna McClellan 180 Pacer Court, #9044 Ellijay, GA  
30540-9305 Questions? Please contact Carol Fey (678) 656-3658 or  
[cfey@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfey@bellsouth.net)**

# Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc

## Marietta Council Explores Purposeful, Fun Getting-to-Know- You Events



It's a party!

Council members enjoy Valentine's Tea with Lorelei Clapper at MCEG

**Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. has been on a mission to get to know each other better. This year, we've explored different ways to do that.**

**In the fall, as a group, we visited Atlanta Botanical Gardens, shared lunch and admired the fabulous scarecrows exhibited.**

**At Christmas, our group toured the Georgia Governor's Mansion where we saw beautiful Christmas trees provided by Georgia businesses representing the world that comes here to our state for trade.**

## Marietta Council 2



In February, we enjoyed a Valentine's Day Tea and "Show and Tell". We learned if you truly want to get to know people, ask them bring an item of importance with them to share with a group. At our meeting, such sweet sentiments were shared! And, we learned about various teas made from various garden herbs and edible flowers.



**Deanna Slone**: President  
Marietta Council

**A Special Tea and A Valentine's Tree**-Let's give them something to talk about!

In addition, at each council meeting, three club members share their favorite snacks with the group. We call it, "**Chip, Chip, Hooray!**" Each participant receives a floral chip clip and a bag of chips.

We are all enjoying these different ways of learning about each other and sharing field trips. It makes our meetings fun and special as we get to know each other!



# Ball Ground Garden Club

## 7th Annual Ball Ground Garden Club



## PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL

**Saturday, May 11th**  
**9 AM - 3PM**



215 Valley Street  
Ball Ground, GA

### Free Event

The Plant Sale & Festival is located at the famous Ball Ground Botanical Garden.

- Large supply and selection of plants
- Raffles
- 30 local vendors (food, drink, shopping)



For more information and updates about the event visit our website [www.ballgroundgardenclub.com](http://www.ballgroundgardenclub.com)

# Ellijay Garden Club



## Plant & Garden SALE

Saturday, May 18, 2024  
8:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Lions Club Pavilion  
Rain or Shine

Huge Selection of Perennials  
Shrubs - Herbs  
Drought Tolerant Plants  
Container Gardens  
From some of the best gardens  
in Gilmer County

### Plus Great Raffle Items!



The Garden Club  
of Ellijay

Lions Club Pavilion  
1729 S. Main St.  
(Hwy. 5 south of town)  
Ellijay, GA



# JONQUIL GARDEN CLUB

## **Jonquils Welcome New Officers, Rose Guerra, and Plant Gifts at FEB Meeting**

The Jonquil Garden Club announced three new officers: **President - Michele Cox;** **Secretary, Lucille Zapotochny;** **Treasurer, Susan Austin.,** and **Kelly Clark, Parliamentarian,** who is replacing Meg Perry, who has retired.

The Jonquils began the new year with an informative program about bats in relation to gardening. Presented by Rose Guerra, the members felt they had learned a great deal about bats and expressed a greater appreciation of the role of bats in the Georgia environment

Also, Jonquils held their annual Plant Exchange, which is always a fun time for the members. Everyone brings an indoor or outdoor plant or flower to exchange, and all go home with something exciting for their home or garden.

Jonquil Garden Club members appreciate all the efforts of our outgoing **President, Paula Cahill,** who did an outstanding job leading the club in 2023.



**JGC Sensory Garden Team Kicks Off the Year with Garden Workday, Planning Session**



***Great Team:***  
Kim and Noel Byrne, Diane Marchi, Gerhard Braunberger, Judy Bost, Heidi Hunt, Janis Jones, Jean Hanson, Shirley Priest, Fran Eastland. Kelly Clark, Beth Moore Williams, and Debbie Deluca not pictured.



Ten JGC members met on Feb 12, 2024. to “wake up the garden,” despite gale force winds, and then met with KSB Assistant Director Eloise Holland at the local coffee shop to discuss plans for the year. Jonquils will receive their annual budget from Keep Smyrna Beautiful and City Parks and Recreation that funds the garden. New umbrellas and a new banner will be installed. The team also discussed new plant needs, recording of hours for KSB, and financial reimbursement procedure. Renovated in 2018 by the club team, the Sensory Garden, a terrace garden that appeals to all senses, is located within Smyrna Community Center complex and remains a continuous JGC project where the team works monthly. The SG is used for gardening education and enjoyment for all of Smyrna..



# Magnolia Garden Club

## The Magnolia Garden Club Reaches Out to Young and Older

Following their February 9, 2024, monthly meeting, Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville members pitched in to complete a project planned and headed up by the Garden Therapy committee, led by Sheryll Sproull and Dee Anne Wyse.

The committee, prepared with all needed supplies, divided into groups with leaders at each table to assist and direct other members in completing gorgeous arrangements destined for local retirement communities. Many members cut and brought greenery from their own gardens, while other supplies such as containers, flowers, foam, plastic table covers, and decorative picks were purchased by the committee.

Magnolia members delivered the “poofs” to local establishments where smiling faces were the reward for a well-done teamwork project.

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Vicki Jones: Pond and Garden Tour chair with Sheryll Sproull, Garden Therapy chair.



**Magnolia's Garden Therapy Project**  
**Brings Smiles to Local Residents and**  
**Staff**



Recipients of the 'poofs' created at the [Magnolia Garden Club](#) - [Cartersville meeting on Feb. 9th](#) included [Maple Ridge](#), [The Highlands](#), [Brookside Senior Living](#), [Burnt Hickory Residences](#), [Tiger Lily Estates](#), [Star Crest](#), [Cartersville Center for Nursing](#), [Manor Lake](#), [Fite Living Center](#)

## MAGNOLIA 3



Meanwhile, the Youth Education Committee, led by **Shirley Andrews**, was busy initiating an outreach program at the local Cartersville Public Library. Thomas Shalin, long-term Youth Services Coordinator of the Library, graciously welcomed and scheduled Magnolias for three consecutive monthly events.

The first program kicked off on Valentine's Day with member **Jeanne Taylor** demonstrating the art of flower arrangement to 20 young want-to-be florists. Jeanne brought beautiful white chrysanthemums, long-stemmed red roses, and tiny baby's breath. Other members of the committee contributed greenery cut from their gardens.

It was time for the fun to begin. Happy children ages five to seven were filled with awe as they held flowers and greenery in their hands, and with the help of both parents and committee members transformed these into arrangements fit for a queen.

The library staff was extremely thankful for the outreach and posted many photos on their Facebook website <https://www.facebook.com/BartowLibraryGA/>

The hearts of the Youth Committee were overflowing as the young ladies and gentlemen walked out proudly displaying their creations.

--Shirley Andrews, Publicity/Articles.

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**Save the Date for 2024**

**Pond and Garden Tour in Cartersville:**



Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville will host its annual Pond and Garden Tour from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Several private host gardens in Bartow County will be open for public touring. Search for: “Pond and Garden Tour – Cartersville” on Facebook for information available April 1st on upcoming ticketing and host locations. Plein Air artists and musicians will be on site at most gardens. \$15 pre-sale tickets will be available in-person from Magnolia Garden Club members, at specific businesses in Cartersville, and online at “Eventbrite” titled: 2024 Pond and Garden Tour “Art in the Garden” Cartersville.

Sponsorships and ticket sales are used to support Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden Week activities, The Garden Club of Georgia Programs, Therapeutic Community Garden Projects, Horticulture Projects including caring for Laura’s Garden at Roselawn Museum and “Plant It Pink for Cancer Awareness” at The Hope Center, grants to High School Horticulture Programs in Bartow County, Youth Garden Clubs and Youth Education Programs in the Bartow County Library System. Funds help to honor Veterans with our Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Bartow County Courthouse and Veteran’s Day Special Celebrations. Your support directly impacts education, conservation, restoration, and preservation in our community.

**EVERYONE LOVES A GARDEN! Hope to see you all there.**

--Vicki Jones, Pond and Garden Tour Chairperson.

--Merrell Holden, Club President.

--Anne Coultas, Publicity Chair

## “INDIAN TRAIL TREES”



**Community Education Program -*Everyone is Welcome***

**Where: Rome Civic Center, Jackson Hill**

**Who: DAN ROPER, Presenter**

**When: March 21, 2024**

**Refreshments: 9:30 a.m.**

**Program: 10:00 a.m.**

**Sponsored by The Rome Federated Garden Clubs**

## *From the Editor*

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the newsletter for the Spring Edition.

Your club projects and plans are worthy to be shared and emulated.

Happy Spring!

Thank you,  
Shirley Priest



# *Laurel Letters* **Newsletter**

## *Summer Issue*

**Deadline - May 15**

**Emailed - June 1**

## *Fall Issue*

**Deadline - August 25**

**Emailed - September 15**

## *Winter Issue*

**Deadline - November 19**

**Emailed - December 15**

## *Spring Issue*

**Deadline - February 25**

**Emailed - March 15**

**Send information to *Laurel Letters* Editor:**

**Shirley Priest**

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