



Redbud Reporter

Spring 2024

From the District Director

Spring Anew

As I write this report, it is not quite spring yet. Publication deadlines must allow time for all the publishing work to be done. Christmas magazine articles, they say, are written in July. I am thankful for all the magic that Sandy Reed accomplishes with her computer to produce the Redbud news so beautifully and efficiently.

So—this is the spring issue, but it's the middle of March and despite the nice warm day, it's too early to plant seeds or annuals. But the promise of spring is in the air—daffodils, cherry blossoms, forsythia, redbuds, and the beautiful brownish-red buds of red oaks are getting more apparent every day. I saw my first sulphur butterfly of the season. No dogwoods or azaleas yet, but I am confident they will appear.

I can't wait to get my hands dirty in the garden again—and I bet many of you feel the same. In my mind, I think of how I'm going to plant this here and prune that over there and I will control it all—make it to my liking. Then I'll just sit and enjoy looking at it from the porch with a glass of lemonade.

But nature really doesn't pay me much attention in the real world. Nature has a miraculous way of taking care of itself if left alone. Nature is amazingly resilient. *Nature is: Self-healing*—after a fire, plants from seeds blown in begin to grow on the forest floor. The animals come to eat these and leave more seeds behind. Example: My iteas are almost back to normal after the devastating freezes of last winter.

Resilient—I dug up a very large 'Sonic Boom' *Weiglia* from Zone 6b and transplanted it at my house in Zone 7b. It was a rough digout and many of its roots were disturbed. It has new growth now—I am hopeful! In spite of drought or floods most find a way to make it through.

Caretaking of others—We've heard how trees of the same species share nutrients and send each other "warnings". But new research reveals just how widespread and complex this system is. According to an article from the New York Botanical Garden, there is a symbiotic relationship between fungi and 90% of our plants. The fungi colonize the root system of the plant providing increased water and nutrient absorption and in return the plant provides the fungi with carbohydrates formed from photosynthesis. This process is complicated and research continues.



So, enjoy another “New Year” in the garden aka Spring, with all its lovely colors, shapes, sizes, textures, tastes, and smells. But as you bask in the warm air and lovely sunshine at your Egg Hunts and May Pole celebrations, don’t worry about your garden – Nature has that under control.

Redbud District has so many things to celebrate this year!

Don’t miss The Fabulous Convention in Peachtree City.



There are plenty of Anniversaries/Birthdays to be celebrated in 2024:

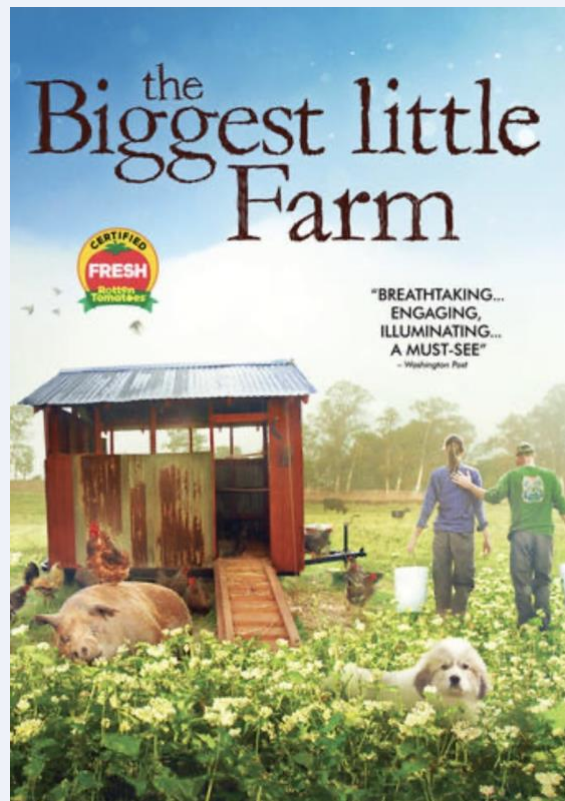
- Concord Garden Club – 100 years old
- Conyers Garden Club – 75 years old
- Shenandoah Rose GC – 60 years old
- Designers’ Club – 60 years old
- Smoky Bear Poster Contest – 80 years old

Thanks for all you do,
Kim Fair
Redbud District Director

I also want to recommend a movie to you – “The Biggest Little Farm”. It’s a wonderful documentary about life’s balance. A couple are followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate land they purchased begins to thrive and is transformed.

Right now, the movie is available on Max or can be rented on Amazon, Google, Apple and other streaming services. Here’s a link to the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfDTM4JxHl8>

-- Kim



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 an 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.

Pull and Save a Tab for Ronald McDonald

Ann Howell, the Ronald McDonald Pull Tab Chairman for the Garden Club of Georgia, has announced that the District collecting the most pull tabs for the year will be given an award at the State Convention in Peachtree City. Redbud District needs to win this so please let Glendolyn Hallman know how many tabs (by weight) your club or Council has collected during this year (April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024). This is an honor system. You don't have to have already delivered the tabs.

If you would like to bring your tabs to the convention, Glendolyn will collect them from you and deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta.

Contact Glendolyn Hallman, Ronald McDonald Pull Tab Chairman for Redbud District, at 770-630-5539 (cell); 770-491-7398 (home), Gkh44@aol.com.



Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail®

2024 Symposium & Native Plant Sale

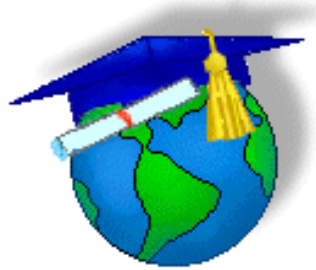
Plains, Georgia

Friday, May 3, 2024

The 2024 Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Symposium & Native Plant Sale will be held at the Plains Community Center in Plains, GA from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm on May 3. The symposium will honor Mrs. Carter's love for Monarch butterflies, pollinators and flowers. Speakers will focus on gardening tips, native plants, habitat for pollinators, and providing a healthy environment for all pollinators. In addition

to great speakers, there will be four plant vendors with 100's of beautiful plants. Plant experts will also be available to talk with you about your soil, plants and gardening questions.

You can register by mail for \$50.00 or online for \$55.00. For more information and registration form [click here](#).



Thank you for your Scholarship Support ~ You make the difference!

Susan Turner, Scholarship Chairman

glencree@bellsouth.net

Each contribution to scholarships for deserving Georgia students is significant
In its importance of our *GCG Mission of Education*.

With sincere thanks to all, we met and ***exceeded*** our goal to award \$85,000.00
to our students for their 2024-2025 year of study!

The *Remarkable Redbuds* supported Named Scholarships, Patrons of Scholarships, Honors and
Memorials, General Fund Contributions, Life Memberships and Dollars Educate Scholars.
Plant Societies based in Redbud District are also supporting our program.

Join us at the GCG Annual Convention, April 16-17 in Peachtree City to learn which District Director
will wear the Crown as *Queen of Scholarships!* Will Redbud win the *Triple Crown?*

Thank you for being a part of the future for a student who is seeking a life
that speaks to our own hearts.

These young people are dedicated to the same mission as
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. ~ *Beautification, Conservation & Education*.

A Legend Among Us—Honors for Tally Sweat

In late February, Redbud member Tally Sweat was awarded the Georgia Water Coalition’s first time ever Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also honored by Georgia House Resolution 1219 for her decades of outstanding dedication to public service.

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) Lifetime Achievement Award was presented during Capitol Conservation Day on February 27th at the State Capitol. Three people spoke about Tally’s commitment and work with GWC to keep Georgia’s waters clean and preserve the state’s environment. Many wonderful things were said about Tally that day. Here are just a few.

Tally has been an activist for Georgia’s environment since the 1950’s. The Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly became the State Butterfly with her help. As a Garden Club volunteer, she served on several GWC leadership committees and offered invaluable support with her steadfast wisdom and guidance. From 2011 – 2024 Tally was GCG Legislative Chairman and spoke often for Georgia’s amazing wilderness areas, wildlife, and plants.

Her friend Neil Herring, who is a lobbyist for the Sierra Club said, “the GWC would not be what it is today – a council of over 250 organizations working together to preserve Georgia’s resources and wildlife – without Tally’s leadership”. He also added that the Garden Clubs are the oldest conservation group in the state. Mike Worley, President of the GA Wildlife Federation, affirmed that Garden Club is one of the most effective partners to get things done at the Capitol.

A Resolution honoring Tally was read aloud on the floor of the House at the State Capitol listing her accomplishments and conveying gratitude for her service. It stated that Tally helped establish the Olmstead Linear Park Alliance which renovated and now manages the 45-acre Olmstead Linear Park in

the Druid Hills Community. In 1989 she was the Founding Board President of Park Pride, a nonprofit working with the Atlanta Community to increase greenspace and contribute to community health and well-being. The resolution recognized her work in The Garden Club of Georgia and garden clubs in Stone Mountain and Druid Hills.



This photo shows the bound copy of House Resolution 1219 with the gold seal of the State of Georgia House of Representatives, and a lovely photo of the House floor taken from the balcony. What a keepsake for Tally!

Tally met Dan Sweat when they both worked at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. They married in 1956, and Tally was an indomitable partner to Dan as he served as executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission and President of Central Atlanta Progress. In 2020, Central Atlanta Progress honored Tally for her decades of community service with the prestigious "Dan Sweat Award," renaming the award to the "Dan & Tally Sweat Award." Click the link on the next page to view video from that day.

Due to health issues, Tally was not able to travel to Atlanta to receive these honors in person. However, the GWC ceremony was a hybrid, so Tally could take it all in via ZOOM. Several days later, a group of friends from GWC traveled to Tally’s home in Pine Mountain to bring lunch and present both the award and a bound copy of the resolution to her. Tally was thrilled to receive both, and she very much enjoyed the visit. The award was a beautiful original glass sculpture of a wave – just perfect coming from the GA Water Coalition.

Tally is a true leader and treasure not only for GCG but also for the State of Georgia. Thank you, Tally!



Pictured standing behind Tally are Gina Rogers (Director-GA Water Coalition); Barbara Bourque (former GCG President); Chris Manganiello (Water Policy Director- Chattahoochee Riverkeeper); and Jennette Gayer (Director-Environment Georgia). They travelled to Pine Mountain to present Tally with the award and resolution.

You can watch the GWC Award Ceremony here. Great things are said about Tally and Garden Club. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqRPfTgnaQc>

Here is a video of the Central Atlanta Progress Award in 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usmfF5suJuM>

Great Backyard Bird Count Results are In

Final numbers in the 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) are in. It was a phenomenal year with more species of birds reported than ever before!

GBBC in a snapshot

- 7,920 species of birds identified
- 210 countries or subregions
- 384,416 eBird checklists
- 313,874 Merlin bird IDs
- 164,740 photos, videos and sounds added to Maccaulay Library
- 642,003 estimated global participants
- 385 reported community events

Many people ask, *what did people see in my area during GBBC?* While the global engagement is inspiring, it is fun to take a deeper dive into what local sightings reveal. [Use this step-by-step guide](#) to search your area for local submissions and bird sightings. How many birds were spotted in your region? Are the birds in your community similar to the birds others have seen? Use the local search tools to answer these questions and more.

Mark your calendars for next year’s count:
February 14 – 17, 2025

For more information, [click here](#)

Garden Club of Georgia Fundraiser 2024

The Garden Club of Georgia is proud to announce its 2024-2025 Fundraiser. We would like to introduce Flower Power to you. This company ships quality bulbs and seeds to the 48 states in the Continental US with 100% guarantee directly to you. Our website is open through May 15th! The Garden Club of Georgia would like to thank all for your support.

To view the catalog, click on the link below.

[Flower Power website](#)



Focus on Natives – Stokes' Aster

Looking for a new native perennial for your garden? Like blue or purple flowers? Have you considered Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*)?

Stokes' aster is an evergreen perennial that is native to the Southeastern U.S. It grows 1–2' tall and produces 1.5-2" fluffy flower heads with notched petals surrounding a center of feathery disk florets. Flowers may be blue, lavender or white. Bloom period is from early to mid-summer. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage flowering.

Plant Stokes' aster in a sunny to lightly shaded location in well-drained soil. While it isn't subject to any major disease or insect problems, it may not survive if planted in soil that stays wet in winter.

Selected cultivars are available. These include: 'Blue Danube', with 5" blue flowers; 'Bluestone', a dwarf plant with blue-purple flowers; 'Alba', a white flowered selection; 'Colorwheel', with flowers that transition from white to lavender to blue as they age; and 'Riptide', a compact plant that was selected for heat tolerance and has a long flowering season.

Stokes' aster's stiff stems and long-lasting flowers make excellent cut flowers that are easy to arrange. The blooms attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and the plant is deer resistant. Add in the periwinkle blue flowers and you've got a real winner of a plant!

Note: While you may see this plant listed as Stoke's aster, it was named for English physician and botanist Jonathan Stokes, so Stokes' aster is the correct name.





Introducing & Celebrating
Garden Week in Georgia!

The Third Week in April

April 21-27, 2024

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

*Promoting
Beautification...Conservation...Education*

DeKalb Federation Entertained by Beekeeper

Attendees at the March 28 meeting of The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs were treated to a very un-*bee*-lievably entertaining and informative presentation on “The Joys of Beekeeping” by beekeeper Virginia Webb.

Virginia demonstrated the roles of different types of honeybees by providing props to volunteer “bees”. Rigby Duncan guarded the hive keeping it safe. Glendolyn Hallman was a nurse bee who provided nourishment to Queen Bee Renie Faulkenberry. Christi Granger swept the hive to keep it immaculate, while Dee Montgomery fanned the hive to keep it from overheating and also made beeswax. Redbud District Director Kim Fair foraged for pollen. Finally, Frank Mullins served as a drone, a male bee without a stinger whose sole purpose in life is to mate with the queen bee and then die. New Avondale Estates member Cheryl Sims demonstrated some of the clothes typically worn by a beekeeper.

Virginia Webb and her late husband Carl have won numerous local, state, national, and international awards for their harvest over the years, including four gold medals for Best Honey in the World at the World Honey Show. Her farm in Clarkesville, Georgia, contains 225 hives, housing between 12 to 16 million bees and producing tons of delicious honey for customers worldwide. Virginia has been teaching beekeeping at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC for fifteen years.

Attendees were able to sample and purchase Virginia’s wildflower and sourwood honeys at the meeting. For more information on Virginia and her honey, go to <https://mtnhoney.com>.



News from the Clubs

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Mark Your Calendars Now for Spring Plant Sale April 20

Spring planting season is on its way, as is the Garden Club of Avondale Estates’ annual spring plant sale Saturday, April 20.

Featuring hundreds of native plants, herbs, flowering perennials, house plants, and more, the sale will be 10 am – 3 p.m. outside the Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive.

Started in 2021 when indoor fundraisers had to be cancelled, the plant sale was an immediate success and has grown each year. The sale coincides with Garden Week in Georgia, which is usually an ideal time for local gardeners to start digging in the dirt.

“We started in October, gathering plants to grow over the winter,” said Plant Sale Chair Deborah Levine. “We began again in earnest in February,

propagating plants and storing them in members’ garages to get ready for the sale.” Co-chairs are Ann Umbaugh, Susan Carney, and Peg Wyse.

A part of the sale that Ms. Levine especially enjoys is when parents bring their children to help pick out plants and to get them involved in gardening at a young age.

Garden club members, including three master gardeners, will be on site to assist customers.

The sale will be open rain or shine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Avondale Estates Garden Club Plant Sale
Saturday, April 20, 2024
10 am – 3 pm
Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive



Plants await customers at 2023 Avondale Estates GC Plant Sale

June 1 Tour Features Secret Gardens of Avondale Estates

Birds and butterflies abound behind the garden gates of homes in Avondale Estates, where lushly landscaped gardens are filled with flowering perennials, native plants, and plenty of pollinators.

These private gardens are normally off limits to the public. But once every two years, gardeners open their gates for one day during the Avondale Estates Garden Clubs' Secret Garden Tour.

Coming up Saturday, June 1, the biennial tour features five of the city's loveliest gardens, offering ideas for landscaping and a glorious array of plants and garden paths. Tour hours are 10 am – 3 pm.

Advance tickets for the Secret Garden Tour go on sale May 13, and continue through May 31. Day of tour tickets, if still available, will be for sale at the Gazebo beside Lake Avondale from 10 am – 1 pm.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$30 on the day of the tour. Advance tickets will be available at Finders Keepers Furnishings and Garage Door Studios in Avondale Estates and Intown Ace Hardware in Decatur as well as online at the club web site, avondaleestatesgardenclub.org.

Avondale Estates Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour Chair for 2024, Susan Stewart, is thrilled with the beautiful and unique gardens that will be on this year's tour. "Working on the tour has been a total joy," Mrs. Stewart said. "We very much appreciate all the work the homeowners are doing to get their gardens ready for the tour."

"One of the reasons I wanted to move to Avondale Estates was because the front gardens of so many homes were beautiful and so well-manicured. I could tell people here cared about their homes and neighborhood," she said.

After attending two previous Secret Garden Tours, Mrs. Stewart continues to praise Avondale Estates gardeners. On the tours, she said, "each garden was unique."

"The gardens tempted me to sit and relax for hours, with beautiful foliage and colorful plants. I was thrilled and so happy I had joined this garden club after moving here from Decatur in 2018. It is obvious Avondale Estates is a community of people who love beauty in nature and who desire sharing their love of the outdoors with neighbors."

Avondale Estates Garden Club Secret Garden Tour
Saturday, June 1, 2024

10 am – 3 pm

Tickets: \$20 in advance or \$30 day of tour

<https://avondaleestatesgardenclub.org>



Concord Garden Club Invites You to Their 100th Anniversary Celebration



Conyers Garden Club Turns 75

On February 13, 2024, the Conyers Garden Club celebrated 75 years of service to the Rockdale/Conyers Community. In recognition of this momentous occasion, recognitions and proclamations were received during the club's meeting from the Rockdale County Commissioners and the City of Conyers Mayor.

Immediately following the meeting, club members had a small and intimate luncheon at the nearby Thai restaurant where they were joined by former members and honored guests, Kim Fair, Redbud District Director, and Quill Duncan, DeKalb Federation President, for a luncheon and program. During the program, led by First V.P. Jessica Warren and Awards Chairman Susan Turner, previous club

presidents shared their favorite memories of their time in leadership. The program and luncheon were enjoyed by all.



Additionally, in recognition of Valentine's Day, club members presented boxes of cookies to various government and civic offices. The cookie treats were delivered or presented to the nine stations, the Mayor's Office, the County Commissioners Office, the local Piedmont Rockdale Hospital, Rockdale Sheriff's Office, and Conyers Police Station. Additional cookie treats were presented to the Nancy Guinn Memorial Library and the First Presbyterian Church, which hosts the club's monthly meetings. The February cookie deliveries are an annual activity of the club.



Green Thumb Garden Club Develops Bluebird Habitat



Green Thumb Garden Club partnered with the City Works Department to develop a Bluebird Habitat project at a newly formed community park in Thomaston, Ga.

The club purchased five cedar bluebird houses to be installed around the edge of a walking trail that surrounds a lake. Club members decided on the best location for the houses, while City Works department employees provided the poles and installed the houses.

Green Thumb Garden Club will be responsible for monitoring and cleaning the bird houses. This will be an ongoing project with the club adding more houses each year within this park and other parks throughout the city.

Mountain Mums Garden Club

Mountain Mums Celebrate 20th Anniversary

On November 14, 2023, the Mountain Mums Garden Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia celebrated its 20th anniversary at the beautiful “Waterfall House” owned by Susan and Joel Gilbert. More than 60 current and former members and spouses attended the lovely cocktail buffet.

Mountain Mums Garden Club was a spin-off of Morning Glories Garden Club 20 years ago when a group of young moms (mums!) formed its own club to meet during hours accommodating their busy family schedules. Mountain Mums currently has 26 active members and meets monthly during the calendar year.



Mountain Mums Honor Two New Life Members



Mountain Mums members Maureen Fraser, Colette Riefkohl, Mary Jacobson, Ann Purr and Kathy Rhinehart joined Co-President Gaye Auman (front row center) to celebrate Connie Henry (front row left) and Jean Weathers (front row right) as they received their Life Member pins at the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs Life Membership Meeting and Luncheon. William Henry (far left) and Ronnie Weathers (far right) also attended the festivities to honor their wives.

Old Town Sharpsburg Supports Penny Pines

When Penny Pines was first established by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service in 1954, each \$68 donation was used for planting 10 acres in pines. Later the tree species was modified to include hardwoods native to a region. Still later, the amount of land planted was modified. However the goal of Penny Pines to promote reforestation of damaged land areas continues. In the past 12 months, The Old Town Garden Club of Sharpsburg has donated three times to Penny Pines. (Thanks to Mary Denney for the historical information.)



Left to right: Megan Decker (Scholarship Chairman), Emily Wilbert (President) and, Rita Wilson (Penny Pines Chairman and Treasurer)

Shenandoah Rose Garden Club

On February 21, Shenandoah Rose Garden Club members attended the flower show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This biennial show featured horticulture, designs, botanical arts, education, and photography. A non-judged group of Ikebana designs was also on display.

Seven members attended the show and we had a great time! It was a beautiful day and the flower show specimens were amazing. The botanical arts entries, in particular, were stunning! It was hard to fathom the creativity and skill involved in making dresses, purses, jewelry, and other items out of flowers. Here are some of our favorite botanical arts entries.

SRGC member Dianne Smith won second place in the Cacti and Succulents section for her pencil plant



