



LAUREL LETTERS

WINTER | 2024-25

Dear Laurels,

The Garden Club of Georgia is to Host the Deep South Convention 2025

Lisa Hall, GCG President, recently emailed all club presidents about the Deep South Convention coming to Valdosta March 11-13, 2025. She stated, "We are part of a six-state region, The Deep South. Every six years, it is our turn to host the regional convention."

There will be meals with speakers as well as afternoon presentations. Also, this convention will feature a Tri-Refresher, which includes speakers and tours for continuing education for one of the three NGC Schools: Gardening Studies, Environmental Studies, or Landscape Design. You may attend these lectures and tours even if you are not in need of credit hours. Flower Show featuring Petite Designs.

The topics speakers will cover include Georgia-grown items such as blueberries and olives. Local camellia grower Mark Crawford, who hybridized the First Lady Camellias, will be on hand with plants and information. Becky Griffin, who manages the SE Pollinator Count, will be a featured speaker. Tours of Historic Mill Pond Plantation, The Crescent Gardens, and Grand Bay Wetlands conservation area will be available, as space allows.



Laurel District Director Cheryl Briscoe has started her second year of service.

Our own Lynn Fronk will close out the convention with one of her superb design programs. Every District is involved in the planning and orchestrating of this event! Laurel District's responsibility is to provide:

- "pages" for each of the State Presidents and for the Convention Director, Debby Cooper,
- a floral design arrangement for one of the State Presidents (I drew Tennessee), and
- two raffle baskets

I have three "pages" already: Michelle Culberson (GC of Ellijay), Deanna Slone (Marietta Daisies), and Karen Hawkins (Ball Ground GC), but I need four more! Edna McClellan (Creative Study and GC of Ellijay) volunteered to provide the arrangement for us. I just learned we needed the two baskets, so let me know if your club can provide them: ctgb15@gmail.com.

I hope you can go to this convention. It sounds like fun to me!

Cheryl Briscoe

LAUREL DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Plant America: Grow Members, Clubs and Gardens

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HARDINESS ZONES FOR GEORGIA

LAUREL DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

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gardenclubofgeorgia.org/laurel-district-page

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Edna McClellan
Marie Purser
John Barnett

COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER

Lorelle LoCurto



*Mark
YOUR
Calendar!*

FEBRUARY 14-17, 2025
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
www.birdcount.org

For Garden Club Members, we are calling this...

THE YEAR OF CONVENTIONS!

We hope you'll join us at one or all of these events.

CHARMS OF THE SOUTH
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
62nd Annual Convention
March 11-13, 2025
Valdosta, GA
Rainwater Conference Center
Hosted by The Garden Club of Georgia!

[Register by 2/17/25 to avoid late fees.
Links to registration are on the GCG website home page. Scroll down to view.]

GATHER ON THE RIVER
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
97th Annual Convention
April 29-30, 2025
Augusta, GA
Riverfront Marriott

[Register by 4/18/25 to avoid late fees.]

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL CONVENTION 2025**
May 18-22, 2025
North Charleston, SC
Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston
Airport Hotel & Convention Center

[Register by 4/20/25 to avoid late fees.]

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP

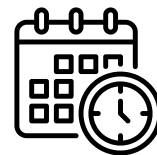
Here's the link to a great gift idea:
[Subscribing Membership Gift](#)

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Please submit all LAUREL LETTER
NEWSLETTER articles and
photographs to
lauredistrictofGCG@gmail.com

SUBJECT: LAUREL LETTERS | CLUB

PHOTOS: PLEASE SUBMIT
ORIGINAL/HIGH-RESOLUTION
PHOTOS WITH CAPTIONS NAMING
PEOPLE, IF POSSIBLE. IF ALL ELSE
FAILS, SEND PICTURES OF YOUR
GARDEN/FLOWERS



DEADLINES

FALL ISSUE

Deadline | August 25
Emailed | September 15

WINTER ISSUE

Deadline | November 19
Emailed | December 15

SPRING ISSUE

Deadline | February 25
Emailed | March 15

SUMMER ISSUE

Deadline | May 15
Emailed | June 1



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION FUNDRAISER 2024



LAUREL DISTRICT HOSTS ANNUAL
HLP FOR GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA



WHAT A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY THE 111 PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION (HLP) GRANT FUNDRAISING EVENT ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND! THIS EVENT, HOSTED BY LAUREL DISTRICT, WAS HELD AT THE MARIETTA EDUCATIONAL GARDEN CENTER (MEGC) "FAIR OAKS" HOME ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND.



Historic Landscape Preservation, con't..

After Laurel District Director Cheryl Briscoe welcomed all guests, Boy Scout Troop 287 members presented the American flag and led the guests in the pledge of allegiance. Cheryl then introduced Marietta City Councilman Andy Morris, who welcomed everyone on behalf of the city. Special guest Lisa Hall, GCG President, welcomed all guests as well.

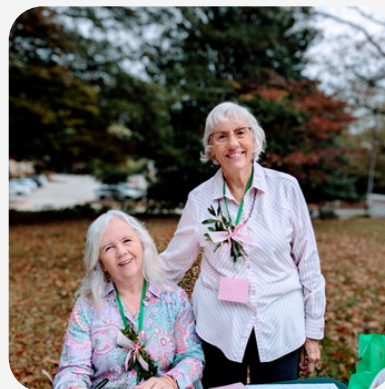
Pam Hendrix, GCG HLP Fund Chairman, announced the grant recipients for 2022-2023 across the state. Two local recipients were MEGC for our gardens and property improvements and the Marietta Daisies Garden Club for the Alice Birney Memorial Rose Garden. Each of them received \$3000 to be used as specified in their grant applications. A total of six grants were awarded.

Special Guest Marie Barnes, Former First Lady of Georgia, spoke with guests about the Sydney Smith Camellia Garden, which features camellias honoring or memorializing the last ten First Ladies of Georgia.

Trevor Beemon, Executive Director of Cobb Landmarks, and Paul Pugliese, Bartow County Extension Agent, presented two informative programs. The Iris Society and the Day Lily Society also shared information about garden plantings. 'Plein Air' artists worked during the day outdoors and incorporated the landscape into their creations. Laurel District merchandise and raffle tickets for donated baskets were for sale.

After the scheduled programs, guests were invited to visit the Civil War-era home with docents on hand to share interesting history about the home and to walk around the grounds to enjoy Fair Oaks' gardens.

Carol Fey, Marietta Daisies GC, headed a committee of twelve who planned and worked the event with many volunteers from across the district. They deserve a big thank you for making this day possible! All proceeds went to fund the GCG Historic Landscape Preservation Fund for next year. Grant applications are on the GCG website.



LAUREL DISTRICT NEWS



JONQUIL GARDEN CLUB RECEIVES 2023 AWARD



Members of Jonquil Garden Club belatedly received their 2023 Standard of Excellence Award at their November meeting. Paula Cahill, 2023 President, and current President Michele Cox were pleased to accept the award from Cheryl Briscoe, who announced they had 32 checks on their report! The members were glad to be recognized for their hard work. They had a full agenda plus a speaker and were happy to celebrate their success together at their regular meeting spot, Smyrna Public Library, on Monday, November 18th.



GARDEN CLUB OF ELLIJAY CELEBRATING THE SEASON



Garden Club of Ellijay members enjoyed a fabulous Christmas luncheon at Chateau Meichtry. Chef Steve prepared an incredible meal, and everyone had fun playing Madeleine's trivia game. Thanks to our wonderful committee for making it so festive and memorable.



NORTH COBB GARDEN WARRIORS ENJOY HOLIDAY CHEER



In early December, the North Cobb Garden Warriors members enjoyed a holiday social evening away from their high school campus. The Fair Oaks (Marietta Educational Garden Center) front parlor provided the perfect space for teachers and staff gardeners to unwind, enjoy being together, and enjoy holiday treats. That weekend, the Gladiolus gals enjoyed the Marietta Pilgrimage Tour. They will start the year helping the NCHS Greenhouse Gang gear up for their Mother's Day Public Plant Sale.





SOQUE GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS



SGC Board Members, front - left to right: Judy Vickoren, Gail Greear, Elizabeth Ormsbee | Back row- Victoria Chandler & Linda Mobley



On Dec 13th, the Cleveland, GA Soque Garden Club members enjoyed this joyous time of the year by using a Nature theme to enhance all the tables. We were serenaded while dining our fabulous food. Games were played, and some members were awarded either a poinsettia or an amaryllis for their choice of holiday attire. In addition, everyone brought in a sweater to donate to North Carolina for people affected by Hurricane Helene.



NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE GANG - A SEASON OF SERVICE



The Fall Season has been busy tending to our raised beds behind our greenhouse, and our student members are also busy supporting programs in our community. Some of the highlights include:

- “Bulb-bombing” beautification around the campus
- Submitting multiple flowers and foliage to the North Georgia State Fair Flower Show -- Ribbons!!
- Decorating and providing a floral fountain focal for our Homecoming Dance
- Purchasing pansies from the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs and planting them around the campus
- Partnering with Cobb Water to pull privet and fill a truck bed with the invasive species located within Leone Hall Price Park
- Sponsoring a Trick or Treat around the Meadow event at Leone Hall Price Park, donating more than 200 seed packets (from homegrown/propagated flowers) and candy to children in the community.
- Participating in a Trunk or Treat for the NCHS National Honors Society.
- Providing harvested seeds to the attendees of the Laurel District Meeting (hope you enjoyed!)
- Showcasing our Warriorponics and Greenhouse Gang Clubs in the Baker Elementary School STEAM Night, providing a Hydroponics lesson in addition to teaching more than 200 students how to make their own terrarium.

Citlali Vilo, President | Sue Aughey, Sponsor
North Cobb High School Greenhouse Gang
susan.aughey@cobbk12.org

NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE GANG -- A SEASON OF SERVICE



NCHS Greenhouse Gang volunteered to pull privet at Cobb County Leone Hall Price Park



NCHS Greenhouse Gang Special Needs Transition students strengthened their functional skills by clearing the baseball field of fallen pinecones and donating them to the Sope Creek Garden Club for their Council Fall Festival event.



NCHS Greenhouse Gang sponsors Trick or Treat through the Meadow, donating candy and harvested seed packets.



Baker Elementary STEM Night benefited from the NCHS Greenhouse Gang/Warriorponics club.



Greenhouse Gang members submitted specimens of plants/flowers grown from seed. We were very proud of the recognition.



MARIETTA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS



ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

FAMILY FUN DAY 2024



Close to 200 guests attended the annual Fall Family Fun Day on Sunday, Oct. 27th, from 1 pm to 4 pm at Fair Oaks, home of the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs in Marietta. The theme this year was “Owls”. Grandparents, boys, and girls of all ages came to hear Bea with the Chattahoochee Nature Center talk about feathered friends and to see a rescued barred owl. The children filled owl planters with plants and tried to eat donuts on strings without using their hands, got their faces painted, made owls out of pine cones, met the friendly barn animals with Crickets Petting Zoo and so much more.

Each fall, around Halloween, garden club members of the Council create activities designed around a theme that allows them to educate children about nature. Children are given Trick or Treat buckets so they can carry their crafts home with them. Each garden club that participates provides a game, craft, or snacks! Families in the community look forward to coming back each year. Members of the council and their families do, too! This activity brings some people who are not garden club members to Fair Oaks and gives them a chance to see the value of garden clubs in our community.



FAIR OAKS



GEORGIA'S FIRST LADY CAMELLIAS ARE AT THE GARDEN CENTER

The Marietta Educational Garden Center at 505 Kennesaw Avenue, Marietta, received in the spring of 2024 an entire set of ten camellias named after the last ten First Ladies who have lived in the Governor's Mansion. The camellias are propagated and sold exclusively as a set from Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, Georgia (www.lochlaurelnursery.com). The nursery is owned and operated by plant scientist Mark Crawford. The idea began when the William D. Smith family established the Sydney Cobb Smith Camellia Garden in memory of their mother. Mrs. Smith was a true Southern lady, and the committee felt a camellia garden would be a fitting way to honor her memory. When the Trustees heard about the First Lady Collection, they immediately began to contact the nursery.

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to honor Georgia's First Ladies here at the Garden Center and look forward to welcoming visitors to see our camellia garden," says Kathy Young, Marietta Educational Garden Center, Inc. Board of Trustees Chair. Plans were made for delivery, and as of last week, Marty Kemp, Sandra Deal, Mary Perdue, Marie Barnes, Shirley Miller, Elizabeth Harris, Mary Beth Busbee, Rosalynn Carter, Virginia Maddox, and Betty Foy Sanders were planted in the Sydney Smith Garden.

The idea was suggested by First Lady Sandra Deal midway through her husband, Governor Nathan Deal's two terms of office. A camellia had been named for Betty Foy Sanders some years back. The Tifton Garden Club initiated a movement to name one for Mrs. Deal. Upon receiving her honor, Mrs. Deal felt that each First Lady who had lived in the Mansion should have one named for her. She contacted Mark Crawford, Loch Laurel Nursery's nursery owner in Valdosta, Georgia. He began identifying new seedlings from the japonica species that would be appropriate to create a new variety for each First Lady who had lived in the Governor's Mansion on West Paces Ferry Road. A set of the First Ladies can be seen at the Governor's Mansion and at the First Baptist Church in Gainesville, Georgia. As for now, there are only two full sets of First Lady Camellias in Cobb – the ones at the Marietta Educational Garden Center and at the home of Mrs. Robert Bowden.

The Garden Center grounds are always open for strolling and viewing of their special gardens, many sponsored by various garden clubs in the county.



Annual Merry Mingle

Chilly Enchantment



"The Merry Mingle luncheon sponsored by the Marietta Daisies was, once again, a huge hit during the holidays! This sold-out event is a Christmas gift to the community each year. Delicious food and delightful door prizes were icing on the cake for all who attended in a beautiful winter wonderland setting. A different garden club decorated each table in the Marietta Council of Garden Clubs. Guests vote on their favorites, and a winner is declared. Competition is keen! To make this event even more memorable, guests brought gifts to donate to two Marietta-based charities. What a good way to end 2024!"



Thank you to Marietta Daisies Giselle Stone, Beverly Childs, and their wonderful committee for creating an enchanting holiday event. Katryn Taylor explained how to build a centerpiece using glass dishes collected from thrift stores and estate sales.



MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB OF CARTERSVILLE

Our Christmas Brunch

Magnolias hosted a beautiful and tasty brunch at Cartersville Country Club on Friday, December 13th, without a hitch: no bad luck was seen there! Each club member generously donated a toy for the Toys for Tots program. Richard Goodson, President of Bartow County Toys for Tots program, presented a plaque of appreciation to Merrell Holden, outgoing Magnolia GC President.

Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District Director, installed the new officers to begin service in 2025. She presented each of them with a personalized birdhouse Christmas ornament and compared their office characteristics to Georgia backyard birds' characteristics.

New officers are: Vicki Jones, President; Dee Anne Wyse, 1st Vice-President; Leann McNeil, 2nd Vice-President; Teri Allison, Secretary; Jan Shepherd, Treasurer. After the event, Paule Ann and Thomas Cece invited all guests to tour their amazingly decorated home in Adairsville. That, too, was a special treat!

All guests enjoyed being together to celebrate the season, welcome the new officers and especially to contribute to the children in need in Bartow County. What a great way to wrap up the Garden Club 2024 year!



Richard Goodson presented an appreciation plaque to outgoing Magnolia GC President, Merrell Holden.



Magnolia Garden Club celebrates the Season.



Left to right: Officers: Dee Anne Wyse, Leann McNeil, Jan Shepherd, Teri Allison, Vicki Jones and Laurel Director: Cheryl Briscoe

HARDINESS ZONES FOR GEORGIA

