



Garden Gateways

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



*Jane Hurt Yarn
- Portrait of a
Legacy*

**For the Love
of Nature:
How We Make
Conservation a
Priority**

*97 Years of
Conservation
Efforts*

The Deen Day Sanders Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Lecture 2025

Flora Danica:

235 Years of Art, History and Royal Connections
featuring Jamie Lago

Wednesday, April 16, 11 a.m.

State Botanical Garden of Georgia
2450 S. Milledge Ave. Athens, GA 30605

Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/2025lecture>
or botgarden.uga.edu



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

State Botanical Garden of Georgia



*Thank you for your gifts to Scholarships
The part you play is significant for Georgia students!*

As this is being written, your GCG Scholarship Committee is in anticipation of your contributions and the students' applications. We trust all will again come together with your generous gifts. Our 2025-2026 students are so appreciative for grants provided to them by GCG.

As you plan your new budgets, please consider a contribution to Scholarships from your garden club, council, district or individually. Invite our Plant Societies and Affiliate Members to join our Mission of Education.

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 – Comes with a great gift of *Garden Gateways!* Share with family, friends, speaker gifts, prospective members and others. Our membership standing assists GCG in receiving two NGC Scholarship grants.

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

We thank you again for the commitment you make to the success of a young person who is truly thankful for our support.

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



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

2450 S. Milledge Ave. • Athens, GA 30605-1674
706-227-5369

headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org
www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

281 Clubs • 17 Councils • 9,549 Members
Honorary Life President - Deen Day Sanders
Member - National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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
2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605-1674
headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org
706-227-5369

FINAL EDITORIAL DEADLINES:

Summer Issue (Jun. - Jul. - Aug.)..... Apr 15
Fall Issue (Sep. - Oct. - Nov.) Jul 15
Winter Issue (Dec. - Jan. - Feb.) Oct 15
Spring Issue (Mar. - Apr. - May) Jan 15

Subscription Rates:

Member's Subscription:
(included in State Dues of \$10.00) \$ 3.08
Non-Member Subscription (Per Year) ... \$13.00
Single Copy..... \$ 3.50

*Garden Gateways (ISSN0279-3032), USPS 808880,
is published quarterly by The Garden Club of Georgia,
Inc.. Non-Profit Organization postage paid at Athens,
GA and additional post offices.*

CONTENTS

- 2 Greetings Friends ...
- 3 Inside Your Garden Gate
- 4 Jane Hurt Yarn – Portrait of a Legacy
- 5 Protecting the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge
- 5 New Life Members
- 6 GCG's 97th Annual Convention
- 7 2025 Convention Registration Form
- 8 Environmentally Yours
- 9 Roadside Beautification Wildflower Project
- 10 97 Years of Conservation Efforts
- 12 GCG'S Role in the Georgia Water Coalition
- 14 District Digs
 - 14 Laurel District 1
 - 15 Azalea District 2
 - 16 Oleander District 3
 - 17 Camellia District 4
 - 18 Magnolia District 5
 - 19 Dogwood District 6
 - 20 Redbud District 7



ADVERTISE IN GARDEN GATEWAYS

**Do you know a business who would like to reach the 9,000+
Garden Gateways readers?**

Contact Stephanie Corley at gardengatewayseditor@gmail.com or
Bess Hartley at besshartley@gmail.com

On the Cover: Georgia designated the azalea as the official state wildflower in 1979 and amended in 2013 to specify native azaleas (Rhododendron sp.), collectively, as Georgia's state wildflower symbol. Blooming from March through August, native azaleas are dazzling wildflowers ranging in color from white to yellow, orange, scarlet, crimson, and intermediate shades and blotches.

Greetings Friends...

~ Lisa Hall, GCG President

Wow, what crazy winter weather in Georgia. Who would have expected 2-3 inches of snow in metro Atlanta, Savannah and much of South Georgia? Brutally cold for the entire state. Some plants will be happier, some not so much. I hope you, your family, friends and acquaintances enjoyed the holiday amaryllis. We did very well on that fundraiser! Thank you all very much. A photo of mine is shown



here. The other photo is from a visit to The Thyssen Museum in Madrid. I am standing next to a painting by an American Impressionist Carl Frederick Frieseke, which depicts a woman strolling through a beautiful garden. Spring will be here soon so we can enjoy all of the activities available to us and hopefully a stroll through a garden or two. Take a look at the last page of this edition to see where you might want to visit or participate in a gardening activity or lecture.



2025, The Year of Conventions is here! Hopefully, some of you will be enjoying the March 2025 Deep South Convention in Valdosta. Then our annual GCG convention in Augusta, April 29-30. You can still register until April 18. And completing the trifecta is the NGC convention this year held close by in North Charleston, South Carolina,

May 18-22. Please check out the GCG website for details on all of these events;

www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org. I hope to see you there!

Best regards,

Lisa

Thomasville Garden Club, Inc.

104th Annual Standard Flower Show

Tea
Time
Classics



Friday, April 25, 2025

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thomasville Garden Center

1102 South Broad Street

Thomasville, GA 31792

Elizabeth Lawrence wrote in her book, *Southern Garden*, "The special charm of a Southern spring is in its earliness; it is as long drawn out as it is sweet." Early in 2025, as I peered through my garden gate, frozen shut with iciness, I wondered if the special charm of this Southern spring would be the surprises Mother Nature had in store for us.

In that same book is a section entitled, "Spring Comes in February." That brings a chuckle because Mother Nature wagged her snowy finger at us mere mortal gardeners this year. So, you were in the midst of prepping your garden beds for that sweet long Spring, and she dumped snow on your hard work



and blasted an arctic air mass to keep the snow cover for days and days. A Northern gardener would salute her and say thank you for that snow cover, as it protected the roots of beloved plants like a warm woolen blanket. Here in the South, the snow was met with a prayer to protect all the subtropical and half hearty perennials. Nature has the last say, and Spring will arrive when she says.

Inside my garden gate, in February, I hoped that this uncharacteristic snow fall and freeze would not impact the glory days of Spring. Once the snow had melted and you returned to walking and surveying your garden, the plans you dreamt of in December and January could commence. The Garden Centers fill up with tempting new varieties and splendid colors. Spring fever strikes so we fill up our wagons with a promise to find a place for all the fresh beauty. But the reality is, if you made a plan and you succumbed to desire at the nursery, you are unloading your car with trays full of beautiful plants and nowhere do they fit in your plan.

When this happens (I admit it is a transgression I am guilty of almost every year) I pot up containers with the orphans and move them around the garden and along paths and walkways looking for the right sun exposure and the spot where they will enhance and not detract. The longer I garden, the kinder I try to be with my



decisions and my mistakes. To fret about that flat of orange geraniums that appealed but now looks quite out of place beside the line of misty grayish lavender, defeats the purpose of finding joy in the garden. I know there are gardeners whose hearts sing when perfection is found in perfectly sculpted hedges and the geometry of well arranged beds. I once felt that same satisfaction. These days I have relaxed my criticism and find my thrill comes when I find the clues that I am in sync with Nature, rather than my own imposed command to create the perfect landscape.

Many seasons have passed, and my garden philosophy has evolved. I still enjoy a stroll through a garden with perfect proportions and manicured precision. Even something so extreme as parterre de broderie in the gardens of Versailles delights. But the pleasure found in touring private gardens where a sense of the gardener's hand and vision is apparent, even if imperfect, is more inspiring. The earliest gardens of Versailles boasted of taming the natural world. Four centuries later, our regard for the natural world impacts every decision we make as gardeners. Rather than thinking of Nature as something to be tamed, the effort to protect and preserve should be foremost. When I open the garden gate this Spring, I hope to find joy in making a pretty garden while respecting Mother Nature, no matter what she throws at us. We need to work in harmony with nature to preserve what can be too easy to take for granted.

Jane Hurt Yarn - Portrait of a Legacy

~ Suzanne Finger

The framed portrait of a lovely woman in a yellow dress with a pleasant smile greets visitors to the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center at Tallulah Gorge State Park. The plaque under the painting reads "Jane Hurt Yarn, 1924-1995," and includes a William Wordsworth quote, "Nature never did betray the heart that loved her." One can infer quickly that the lady in the painting significantly contributed to environmental conservation. The magnitude of what she left behind is not so readily apparent, nor is the great store of tenacity and wit masked behind her lovely smile.



help to pass his new legislation. Jane jumped into the fight with thundering results. She rallied over 20,000 members of the Garden Club of Georgia to spring into action and petition Governor Lester Maddox. The Governor signed the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act in 1970, which remains in effect today. Jane played a key role in protecting many of Georgia's barrier islands, even to the point of purchasing Egg Island, an island positioned at the mouth of the Altamaha River, to protect it. She was named Atlanta's Woman of the Year in 1970, and *Harper's Bazaar* named her one of "100 Women in

Touch With Our Times" in 1971.

Jane Hurt was born in Greenville, South Carolina, and raised on a farm in rural Alabama. She attended Converse College in South Carolina, where she met her husband, Charles Yarn. It wasn't until Charles opened his medical practice in Atlanta that this famous Georgian settled in Georgia. In fact, the mother of three didn't enter the conservation world until after a family trip to Africa in 1967. Something in the wilds of Africa ignited a flame in Jane for caring for the earth, and the energy from that flame fueled her passion into action. Former Governor Zell Miller once said, "No other single individual has done as much for conservation in Georgia as Jane Yarn."

Yarn's influence spread quickly beyond state affairs and onto the national stage during Jimmy Carter's Presidency. She supported Jimmy Carter's campaign for president and was consequently appointed by him to serve as a Council for Environmental Quality member from 1975 until 1981. During this time, she influenced the president to approve the designation of three national marine sanctuaries, which doubled the current number in 1981. One of those sanctuaries was Gray's Reef off the coast of Georgia, east of St. Catherine's Island.

Upon returning from Africa, Jane spent the next year studying environmental issues in her home state of Georgia, then strategically decided to focus on doing what she could to protect the fragile ecosystem of the coastal marshes and barrier islands. She gained positions on the boards of both the Georgia chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Georgia Conservancy. She founded Georgia's first full-time environmental lobbying organization and successfully organized Georgia landowners to fight developers eyeing Georgia's Cumberland Island for development like that on Hilton Head Island.



Georgia Senator Reid Harris crafted the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act in 1969 after recognizing the current controls in place for surface mining would not protect Georgia's coast from an impending push from a large mining company. He knew the company's intention to mine phosphate from the coastal areas would have devastating effects. Jane Yarn's charm and sharp wit proved to be successful in the political and social front on environmental issues, delighting environmentalists and frightening those whose agendas were threatened by environmental regulations. She was gaining notoriety as a powerhouse in that arena, and Senator Harris needed

Jane was a member of the Habersham Garden Club and accolades beyond her work in Washington could fill volumes. The next time you look out over our beautiful coastal marshes, enjoy the pristine beaches of our golden isles, or visit the portrait of the lovely lady in the yellow dress at Tallulah Gorge, I hope you will not only know why the Georgia Department of Natural Resources named the Interpretive Center in her honor, but are inspired by the breadth of influence one garden clubber can have.

Local Efforts Support National Spotlight to Protect the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge

Two exciting and recent developments to protect the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge have garnered national and international attention. Local efforts and support have amplified the significance of conservation efforts of America's largest blackwater swamp.

The first development is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently finalized plans to expand the swamp area to include an additional 22,000 acres. This got an enthusiastic reception with about 30,000 generally supportive comments during a 55-day public comment period.

The expansion will help conservation efforts by giving the federal government the ability to negotiate with current owners of the land to either sell their property or establish a conservation easement. It is expected that this critical development will protect the Okefenokee from mining of titanium oxide by Twin Pines Mineral Company, who is seeking state permits to mine along the southeastern edge.

The second development is an international nod to the protection of the Okefenokee as it has recently been nominated to join UNESCO's World Heritage List. If chosen, the refuge will join more than 1200 cultural and natural sites around the world, including the Grand Canyon, Great Wall of China, Taj Mahal and Galapagos Islands. It will be the first U.S. Wildlife Refuge to earn the designation recognizing its unparalleled natural and cultural significance. It also recognizes those that have stewarded this land for generations, including local communities, tribes and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees.



The UNESCO nomination confirms (what locals have been saying for years) that the Okefenokee is one of the most important ecosystems in the world. One of the reasons is that it is the source of two rivers, the St. Mary's River that flows into the Atlantic, and the Suwannee River that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It is the largest refuge east of the Mississippi River with more than 350,000 acres of designated wilderness and is known for its nighttime skies free of light pollution,

its mirror-like blackwater streams, and its deep reserves of carbon storing peat. It has more than 400,000 visitors annually and is a haven for wildlife including 234 species of birds, 64 species of reptiles and 50 species of mammals.

Thanks to all of the GCG members who continue to support local legislation and other refuge conservation efforts. When a local issue such as this gains national attention, it often serves as a reflection of concerns that resonate beyond our community, and into a national (and international) conversation, capturing our conservation efforts on a larger scale and now prompting additional action on behalf of the refuge and its inhabitants.



New Life Members

- 2163 Bonnie Dudley**
Redbud District
- 2164 Yonna Bailey**
Oleander District
Honored by Martha Cobb
- 2165 Judd Oylar**
Dogwood District
Honored by Rose Garden Club
- 2166 Rebecca Panetta**
Laurel District
Honored by Dogwood Garden Club

Bess Hartley, Life Membership Chairman

- 2167 Elaine Burress**
Azalea District
Honored by Gateways Garden Club
- 2168 Michelle Culberson**
Laurel District
Honored by Garden Club of Ellijay
- 2169 Bonnie Pennington**
Redbud District
Honored by Brooke, Kyle, Penn and Libby Parris

GCG's 97th Annual Convention

Gather on the River

With the Birds & the Bees and the Flowers & the Trees

The Azalea District cordially invites you to learn more about the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees. On Tuesday vendors will be set up for a fun shopping experience before gathering to enjoy a delicious luncheon and keynote speaker Stan Byrdy. Be Active! Breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon give you more opportunities to learn about the birds & the flowers. Immediately following you can enjoy the art displays and visit the gift shop at the Morris Museum of Art for (\$5 admission-\$3 senior). Travel down to the end of Riverwalk and see the Bonnie McClain Perennial Garden, sponsored and maintained by clubs of the Augusta Council. That evening we will have district photos, a cash bar, and a fine evening dinner with speaker Owen Navarre. Then celebrate your District at our world-famous Awards Event. On Wednesday morning following the business meeting, we will conclude the convention with our installation luncheon and speaker Mark Albertin.



Stan Byrdy

A veteran of 46 years in television and media, Stan Byrdy is an author, journalist, and Augusta historian. Stan began a TV career in 1978 as a sports anchor and reporter while attending college in Ohio. He came to Augusta in 1985 and served as Sports Director at WJBF-TV and NBC Augusta. His documentary, *Augusta's Master Plan*, was nominated for an Emmy in 2010. Byrdy's work has appeared on CNN, ESPN, The Weather Channel, PBS, and ABC affiliates nationwide. Stan is also the author of four books, *Augusta and Aiken in Golf's Golden Age*, (2002), *The Augusta National Golf Club*, (2005), and *Against All Odds*, (2019). His latest, *The Brilliance of Berckmans*, is set for release in 2025 and is the topic of his presentation.



Vera Stewart

Vera Stewart is a nationally recognized TV personality, two-time cookbook author, and entrepreneur whose career in the food and hospitality industries spans four decades. Vera graduated from UGA with a degree in Home Economics education in 1974. Vera launched her career in the 1980s, with ventures that include a bakery, café, and a mail order business for her signature cakes and casseroles. She currently has the syndicated "The VeryVera Show" in the 13th season, the "VeryVera Cooking Camp" in its 21st year, and "VERA," a hospitality service at the Masters tournament. With a passion for Southern dishes passed down through generations, her business endeavors have inspired people all over the nation to create memories in the kitchen.



Glen, Gail & Maggie Hendry

Glen Hendry serves on the board of directors for the South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS), heads up the Trails Committee and has been a life-time member since 2010. Glen & Gail monitor the Hitchcock Woods trails in Aiken, SC consisting of 86 bluebird nestboxes and 12 screech owl boxes. Glen does the statistical reporting for the SCBS including supplying the data to the Cornell Nest Watch program. Glen received a B.S. in Geology in 1976 from The Pennsylvania State University. He met his wife, Gail, in an underground uranium mine in New Mexico where Gail was a miner (drilling, packing dynamite, and blasting the rocks). Gail received her degree as an RN from Augusta College in 1994. Both are now retired but working harder than ever!!



Owen Navarre

Owen Navarre is a native of Augusta, where he got his passion for wildlife, hunting and fishing with his family. Owen started his botanical work in 2021 at the Augusta National nursery pruning their famous azalea bushes. While in college, he performed a deer deterrent study at the Savannah River Ecology Lab. In 2023, he began as a researcher at Phinizy Center for Water Sciences working to study and restore the Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies in the Savannah River. Owen graduated from Augusta University with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2024 and is looking to further his career in Wildlife Biology.



Mark Albertin

Mark Albertin moved from Wisconsin to Georgia in 1986 and has loved his transplanted home as if it were his birthplace. Mark has had a camera around his neck since he was a teenager, eventually starting his own darkroom and working at a private photo studio through college. He has an associate's degree in printing and publishing. Since 1999 he focused on documentaries, many of which have aired on PBS or screened at film festivals across the country. Since 2016, he has gone back to his roots as a photographer, starting Albertin Film Photography and opening a community darkroom where he teaches the craft and creates large fine art prints. His first book, *Along the Fall Line* (2024), contains photographs taken around Georgia and South Carolina. His 2nd book, on the Okefenokee swamp, will be released this Spring.

2025 Convention Registration Form

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. • 97th Annual Convention

Gather on the River

April 29-30, 2025 • Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center

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, Breakout Sessions, Awards Banquet, and Wednesday Luncheon.

PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL \$190 \$ _____

PART-TIME PLAN: No extra fee for workshops

Tuesday Opening Luncheon \$45 \$ _____

Tuesday Awards Banquet \$60 \$ _____

Wednesday Luncheon \$45 \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE per day \$30 \$ _____

PART TIME PLAN TOTAL \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION COST \$ _____

Late Registration Fee (postmarked after April 18th) \$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:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 18, 2025

Make Check Payable to: **GCG 2025 CONVENTION**

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Jan Stewart; 722 Nancy Gunn Circle SE, Crawfordville, GA 30631

For more information contact janlamerle50@gmail.com or call 706.401.8560

No refunds after April 10, 2025 - Registration fee not refundable

No registrations accepted after April 18th

On-line registration with credit card payment is available at gardenclubofgeorgia.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center, 2 Tenth Street, Augusta, GA

\$175 per night for King or 2 Queen room

Book your reservation at gardencluborgeorgia.org

or call the Augusta Marriott at 706-722-8900 and ask for The Garden Club of Georgia Conference rate

Reservation Deadline for Group Rate: April 7, 2025

Water is the elixir of life to our planet. ‘Every Drop Counts.’ Does it seem lately there is often too much? Streams, especially urban streams, are eroding at a frightening pace. Flooding occurs in previously dry places. The problem is not that Mother Nature has changed but that the new environment built by man has disrupted her centuries old ways. Our properties are designed to shed water quickly from your down spouts to the driveway; then to the street and its storm drains. Streets are often flooded and the sewers and streams overwhelmed.

When there were woodlands and meadows, rain made its way to streams in a more leisurely manner. Soils were hydrated, plants grew longer roots, and stream banks were not imperiled. Help Mother Nature. Find ways to slow the flow of water from your property.

Capture a bit of the water rushing off your roof. Georgia allows rainwater harvesting, but only for use on outdoor plants. Rain barrels and cisterns are not new ideas. They have been used for centuries to provide water in times of drought. Reviving this practice could ease the need to use well water or municipal water for your outdoor needs. Georgia has adequate average rainfall; however in the summer of 2024 on my property, June was hot and dry, July was one of wettest on record, then August again dry. The average of the three months was normal rainfall. But my plants were not happy. We all need ways to water when the rains are slow to come. Roll out some barrels of your own. Save yourself money and decrease stress on your well water or municipal water systems. Rain barrel workshops are sometimes available from the Department of Natural Resources or perhaps your garden club might sponsor one. Get ready for the ups and downs of rain this summer.



To further slow the water running off your property, consider installing a rain garden. This is a shallow purposely built area to hold water for a day or two—no longer. This

is not a retention pond, most of which have become heavens for mosquitos and algae. If you already have a low area, excavate about six inches and add mulch and plants. The water should percolate into the surrounding soil, hydrating your trees and shrubs and encouraging deeper roots. Assess your property. Where does the rain run—position your new rain garden in this

path. Choosing plants appropriate for this new rain garden is critical. Professors Kraus and Spafford from North Carolina State University have carefully trialed plants to determine the best ones for this special planting in our region. Their book, *Rain Gardening in the South*, has an extensive list of just the plants you need. All suggested plants were chosen because they can handle standing in water for a day or two and are easily available to the homeowner. Choose wisely and you will have a useful and beautiful addition to your property. Also, you will have done a bit to slow the rush of water to the street and streams.



Depending on your property you might find a dry stream bed both attractive and useful. Rocks in a shallow ditch will slow and control the direction of the water when there is excessive rainfall. If you have an area that is showing erosion from water run off, a dry stream bed will slow the flow and allow the water to hydrate your property before it runs off.

Next look at the hardscapes you already have or are considering installing. There are ‘green’ parking solutions. The Environmental Protection Agency has a resource guide for more nature based solutions to parking. Many are easily adapted to one’s home when you need additional parking. Large stepping stones imbedded in smaller stones or gravel are a nice alternative to concrete sidewalks. Mulched seating areas can work as well as paved patios. As you slow the flow from your property you are also hydrating your own land. Think outside the box. There are many projects that enhance your property and are water wise.

When assessing what you might do to help slow the water running off your property, think Capture some, Contain some and Control the flow of some. All your efforts will do a bit to slow the runoff. Remember Dr. Suess’s elephant Horton—every little bit does make a difference. Mother Nature, our streams and aquifers will thank you.

Roadside Beautification Wildflower Project

~ Kathryn Litton

The Roadside Wildflower Project was started in 1974 when Mrs. Virginia Hand Calloway of Calloway Gardens, then chairperson of the Birds and Wildflowers Committee of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG), spearheaded a movement to plant and protect wildflowers on our Georgia roadsides. Then GCG in partnership with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) began a program to provide funds to support, protect and enhance the roadside wildflowers with seeding of annuals and perennials.

Chris DeGrace of GDOT Dept. of Architecture oversees the program and tells me the State is planning to plant 25 acres of Cosmos in each of the seven Road Districts this summer. In recent years, bulb plantings brought early blooms to roadsides before the other plants flower. In 2025 an additional 30,000 daffodil bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulb Company are planned in the fall for each roadside district once funding is procured. This will make



a total of 210,000 bulbs statewide, a repeat of the 2024 numbers. Poppies have been planted in past years which re-seed and come back in a number of locations to bring bright red summer color. Check out all the wildflowers currently in use (right).

Clubs and districts are encouraged to make donations to this project. Honorariums can also be made in the name of a specific person. Sizeable

donations from GCG are given special recognition by GDOT. You can find more information and make donations through

www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org/Projects&Programs

Please consider making a donation from your club to help keep this special program going!

-Kathryn Litton, Chairman,
Kathlitt336@windstream.net

PERENNIALS

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Bur-Marigold/ Tickseed (*Bidens aristosa*)
Clasping Coneflower (*Rudbeckia amplexicaulis*)
Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*)
Drummond Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)
Golden Wave Coreopsis (*Coreopsis basalis*)
Indian Blanket/ Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
Lemon Mint (*Monarda citriodora*)
Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnaris*)
Narrow-leaved Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
Perennial Gaillardia (*Gaillardia aristata*)
Plains Coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)
Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnaris*)
Showy Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)
Threadleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora*)
Tickseed/Lance-leaved Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

WARM SEASON ANNUALS

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus* & *Cosmos sulphureus*)

COOL SEASON ANNUALS

Corn Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

DAFFODILS

Narcissus 'Carlton'
Narcissus 'Ice Follies'
Narcissus x odorus 'Linnaeus' (*Campernellii*)
Narcissus 'Double Smiles'



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) has been active in conservation efforts for over 95 years. Our efforts reflect the commitment and hard work of both our leaders and members to create and maintain a sustainable healthy environment, now and for the future.

As early as the 1920s, GCG was working to reduce the number of billboards on our state highways, as well as increasing the plantings of trees for highway beautification in the 1930s. Anti-littering efforts began in the 1940s with a Keep Georgia Beautiful and Clean movement.

The 1950s brought the introduction of the Department of Transportation collaboration for the wildflowers project, bird protection efforts and bird sanctuaries. GCG began to offer scholarships in environmental studies. Support of legislative efforts for the control of billboards and anti-littering were evident in the work of the GCG. Other supported legislation included bills to protect Georgia rivers and coastal marshes and estuaries. This was also the start of the GCG Land Trust Project, with the designation of the Marshall Forest as the first recipient. These efforts were the background for the underwriting of a state botanical garden and we were one of the early participants supporting both underwriting and active fundraising. Educational efforts for public school students began with the development of a supplemental GA Department of Education accepted environmental education curriculum "People and Their Environment" (PATE). We continued to be active with legislative issues, including the passages of Coastal Marshlands Protection Act in 1970 and legislation to protect Sea Oats, Wildflowers, Flood Plain Control and Groundwater Use. GCG embarked upon a successful statewide project "Bringing the Bluebirds Back to Georgia" and work to develop legislative funding of state park nature trails. It is during this time that GCG accepted a donation of 8.3 acres of the historic Woodmanston Plantation.



Ossabaw Island

In the 1980s, GCG supported an "Acres for Wildlife Program" and 154,428 acres were committed to the project. Successful 1980 and 1981 Arbor Day plantings included 16,000 dogwood seedlings. GCG became a charter member of State Botanical Gardens

and supported the 1985 General Assembly official establishment of Garden Week in Georgia. Educational programs included environmental study workshops for students and member workshops for conservation, nature study, and hazardous ways.

State Parks and Public Lands Enhancement grants were provided to encourage state parks to use wildflowers and native plants. This is also the time frame when GCG designated Georgia's 1st National Natural Landmark, The Marshall Forest, as a Land Trust Project of GCG, and transferred ownership of Woodmanston Plantation to the LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation as the 2nd Land Trust Program Project.



Focus in the 1990s included a solid waste management workshop to over 500 GA City and County officials and the publication of Georgia Power's funded "Hazardous Household Products." Additionally, in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Community Wildlife Project was developed and GCG began grants for projects at state parks or historical sites listed on the DNR website. We also launched the Historic Landscape Program fundraising to support restoration of Georgia's historic, non-profit landscapes and gardens. This was also the beginning of our work leading to petitions to cease mining efforts in the Okefenokee Swamp.

The turn of the century brought more active participation and support of ongoing legislative issues including the passage of the wildflower license tag, with part of tag fees placed in the Roadside Beautification fund. Our conservation efforts were recognized in 2002 when GCG was the first organization to be recognized as "Distinguished Conservationist of the Year." Major recycling efforts included "Ban the Bag," efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags in grocery stores, encouraging use of composting bins and introduction of "Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse" as a school-based project.

We continued to impact legislations as GCG Position Papers in 2003-04 were written and later revised showing support of conservation issues including Responsible Litter Control and Waste Reduction; Historic Preservation; Preservation of Endangered Wildlife; Clean Air; Water as a Public Resource; Public Lands/Greenspace; GCG Supports Billboard Control, Scenic Quality, Scenic Byways, and Enhancement Programs (revised in 2016 to Environmentally Responsible Transportation Legislation). To support and demonstrate the importance of community based watershed protection, "Forging Leadership in our Watersheds," grants were offered to clubs sponsoring restoration and preservation to the ecological balance

of Georgia's watersheds. A letter writing campaign to oppose Army Corps of Engineer granting permission to Twin Pines Minerals to operate a heavy mineral sand mine adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife refuge was instituted.



The Historic Home and Garden Pilgrimage Tour, a joint effort with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to support the Historic Garden Grant Program (later called the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant) began during this decade. Educational opportunities included native plant seminars/symposiums, and the Wild and Wonderful Experience Camp, an environmental education camp for Youth.

The 2010s saw continued work of previous years, with the addition of promoting pollinator garden development and protection projects. GCG joined Georgia Water Coalition and supported legislation to

regulate coal ash pollution. Parks and Public Lands 2017 Project and the "Paint Our Park State Parks Yellow" project supported daffodil plantings in state parks. GCG joined other organizations to support the publication of *Seeking Eden* with proceeds from book sales going to the James E. Cothran Historic Landscape Preservation Endowment Fund.

Now into the early years of 2020s, the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. continues its work in the area of conservation, including beautification and education projects. In the last four years, we have added more Community Wildlife Project joint efforts with DNR on Wildlife Conservation to include numerous ways homeowners support, care, and protect wildlife via Backyard Habitat Certifications. We supported the Passage of SB123 mandating charges for coal ash disposal, and we continue to monitor and be vigilant on the issues surrounding the Okefenokee Swamp. We recognize that our work is not done, and GCG continues to stay alert and focused on impending legislation and issues impacting our immediate communities, our state and our environment.

Every Garden Club Anniversary Is Reason To Celebrate!

Below are the landmark anniversaries of our clubs from

January through May 2025.

Congratulations to all for your fine work promoting beautification, conservation and education!

Laurel District 1

- 95th - Chattooga Garden Club, Summerville
Founded May, 1930
- 90th - Amicalola Garden Club, Tate
Founded March, 1935
- 75th - Sequoyah Hills Garden Club, Calhoun
Founded May, 1950

Azalea District 2

- 85th - Junior Ladies Garden Club, Athens
Founded April, 1940
- 85th - Watkinsville Garden Club, Watkinsville
Founded February, 1940
- 70th - Athens Garden Club, Athens
Founded February, 1955
- 70th - Spade and Trowel Garden Club, Augusta
Founded May, 1955
- 70th - Pine Needle Garden Club, Thomson
Founded January, 1955
- 65th - Gray Garden Club, Gray
Founded February, 1960
- 60th - Boxwood Garden Club, Madison
Founded March, 1965
- 60th - Magnolia Garden Club, Madison
Founded April, 1965

Oleander District 3

- 85th - Screven County Garden Club, Sylvania
Founded March, 1940
- 50th - Hamilton Plantation Garden Club, St Simons
Founded January, 1975

Camellia District 4

- 95th - Cherokee Garden Club, Moultrie
Founded March, 1930
- 90th - Porterfield Garden Club, Macon
Founded February, 1935
- 65th - Dogwood Garden Club, Rochelle
Founded February, 1960

Magnolia District 5

- 85th - Palmyra Heights Garden Club, Albany
Founded January, 1940

Dogwood District 6

- 90th - Magnolia Garden Club, Atlanta
Founded May, 1935
- 85th - Sandy Springs Garden Club, Sandy Springs
Founded January, 1940

Redbud District 7

- 55th - Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club, Stone Mountain, Founded March, 1970

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) – what is it?

The GWC is a coalition of more than 250 organizations that work together on this stated mission: **“to protect and care for Georgia’s surface water and groundwater resources, which are essential for sustaining economic prosperity, providing clean and abundant drinking water, preserving diverse aquatic habitats for wildlife and recreation, strengthening property values, and protecting the quality of life for current and future generations.”** What a mouthful!



For over 20 years this group has been successfully fighting for clean water for our citizens. When Tally Sweat became our Legislative Chairman in 2011, she worked to get The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) to become part of the Leadership Team of the Water Coalition – made up of all the River Keepers throughout our state and several other environmental groups. These people provide the knowledge base and legal expertise to guide the Coalition in their fight for clean water. GCG’s role in this Leadership group is twofold: (1) to bring forth opinions from our members and (2) to educate our members on the issues and rally them when action is required to contact their legislators. GCG has over 9500 members, and when we all raise our voices, they hear us under the Gold Dome in Atlanta.

Recent campaigns have included:

- **Fighting for proper coal ash disposal** in lined pits rather than dumping in unlined areas near rivers and streams where toxic chemicals can leach into the soil and ground water.
- **Protect the Okefenokee Swamp** - Opposing mining along Trail Ridge, the eastern border of the swamp. Mining could reduce the water level in the swamp, drying out the peat, thus resulting in high risk of fires. Wildlife would be threatened, and surrounding forests might burn. Despite largescale support, legislation did not pass to Protect the Swamp. The fight continues.
- **The Plastics Committee** is opposing a plastics incineration plant in Thomaston, Upson County, similar to what was rejected in Macon several years ago. Recycling plastic sounds wonderful, but this pyrolysis process generates significant pollution, risks fire hazard, and would result in tons of plastic being hauled into the area with only a small portion of it being used. The rest would need to be placed in a landfill.
- **Opposing the spreading of ‘soil amendments’** that are really chunky waste products from chicken processing plants which yield horrid stench for their neighbors and fly infested air.
- **Opposing large scale CAFOS** (concentrated animal feeding operations) The enormous amounts of animal waste from CAFOs present a risk to water quality and aquatic ecosystems as a result of manure mismanagement issues.



The Georgia Water Coalition’s **Clean 13 Report** highlights extraordinary efforts on the part of businesses, industries, local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals to protect the water and natural resources of Georgia. We ask for you to nominate those organizations who are doing it RIGHT. This report is published in odd years.



The Georgia Water Coalition’s **Dirty Dozen Report** highlights the politics, policies and issues that threaten the health of Georgia’s water and the wellbeing of Georgians. The Dirty Dozen is not a list of the state’s “most polluted places.” Instead, the report is a call to action for Georgia’s leaders and its citizens to solve ongoing pollution problems. This report is now published in even years.

-- Barbara Bourque, Legislative Chairman



Capitol Conservation Day is held at the Capitol each year during the legislative session. We ask our members to come and have breakfast at a nearby church, learn about the issues, and meet their legislators.

Treasured memories deserve custom ornaments

Take the stress out of **YOUR** holiday gift giving by sending us photos, Christmas cards, invitations or birth announcements from all your family and friends and check off your 2025 Christmas gift list months in advance!




Mini Many Memories
 minimanymemories.com
 @minimanymemories · (404) 275-8299



The most thoughtful gift
 preserving memories and special occasions
 GCA Annual Meeting Vendor in Ponte Vedra



Three Rivers Garden Club of Rome 75th Anniversary was celebrated at their November meeting. Members came dressed "as they would have dressed to attend a meeting in 1949." Meeting attire included many flower-decked hats, suits and dresses, heels, and gloves. One member displayed pearls and a fur stole! Early yearbooks and flower show catalogs were displayed for viewing. Photos were taken and refreshments of floral decorated cupcakes arranged in a "75" were enjoyed.

Seven Hills Garden Club in Rome celebrates their 100th Anniversary! Founded in 1924, they are the oldest garden club in Rome and the third oldest garden club in Georgia. A spectacular party at the Rome-Floyd County Library in November was attended by garden club members along with local dignitaries and friends of the club. Food, drinks, club displays, gorgeous floral arrangements and speakers were enjoyed along with tours of the lovely gated library garden. Seven Hills Garden Club announced that their beautifully maintained garden, called the Outdoor Reading Room, established by the club in 1987, will be undergoing improvements. A fundraiser for a brick paver walkway honoring special teachers, baptisms, graduations, etc., can be supported by calling 706-767-0605. For its 100th year, the club will be meeting in locations that are all at least 100 years old!



Historic Landscape Preservation 2024 Fundraiser What a great time was had by the 111 attending the GCG Historic Landscape Preservation (HLP) Grant Fund Raising Event in November! Hosted by Laurel District, the setting was "Fair Oaks," home of the Marietta Educational Garden Center (MEGC).

Guests were welcomed by Laurel District Director Cheryl Briscoe, Marietta City Councilman, Andy Morris (pictured left), special guest Lisa Hall, GCG President, and BSA Troop 287 (pictured right) who led the guests in the pledge of allegiance. Pam Hendrix, GCG HLP Fund Chairman, announced the six grant recipients for 2023-2024 across the state. Two local recipients received \$3000 to be used as specified in their grant applications for their historic properties.



The program included a variety of activities and speakers, and guests were invited to visit the Civil War era home with garden club docents on hand. 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 and for raising a grand total of \$9,850. Congratulations!



Rose & Dahlia Garden Club in Athens participated in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) program. We



sponsored and placed wreaths on the grave markers of veterans buried at Oconee Hill Cemetery. Though WAA is a fifteen-year-old national program to remember the fallen that includes Arlington National Cemetery, 2024 was the first year at the Athens cemetery. Adjacent to the University of Georgia campus and established in 1856, Oconee Hill Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rose & Dahlia enthusiastically volunteered for the program as a part of our commitment to historic landscape preservation and programs. The beautiful and rolling terrain of the cemetery, and fortunately fabulous December weather, contributed to an amazing couple of days helping to honor those who served our community and country.



Azalea District Officers for 2025-2027 were nominated and duly elected by the voting membership present at the Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting in Gray. District Director Jan Stewart, Co Director Carol Reap, Treasurer Pam Hendricks, Assistant Treasurer Sherley Selman and Recording Secretary Stephanie Corley were installed at the February Winter Board of Directors Meeting in Crawfordville. Our new Azalea District Director will be installed with the other new District Directors at the GCG State Convention in April.



Pictured (Front -L-R) Pam Hendricks, Jan Stewart (Back L-R) Stephanie Corley, Carol Reap

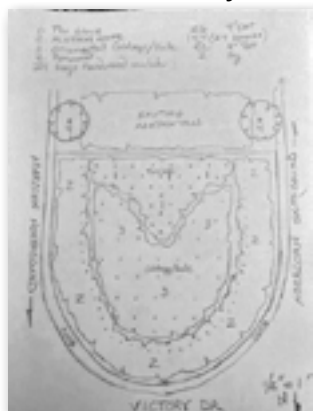
The Augusta Council is sponsoring a Basic Design Class put together by Council President Beth Wiseman. The class started a month late due to Hurricane Helene, but we are off and running now with our wonderful teacher Lynn Fronk, Master Designer. We are having a wonderful experience and learning a great deal. The class continues through February and March.



Pictures are from Our January class on Table Designs.



Savannah's Beauty is our Duty, the theme of the Ardsley Park / Chatham



Crescent Garden Club. This year, we are pleased to announce that we have joined the City of Savannah's Adopt-a-Spot Program to create Ardsley's Garden Gate – Victory. This 320 sq.ft. area is located in the median at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Victory Drive in Savannah. The project was introduced by longtime member, Judy Miller, Project Committee Chair. The committee gained knowledge of the irrigation system, which was key to the success of this new initiative. With permission from the City of Savannah, they teamed up with their neighborhood association and developed a plan.



The team began remediating the soil in September and in November, planted two 5-gallon boxwoods, 24 Osaka Pink Cabbages and 48 White Alyssums. Now Ardsley's Garden Gate–Victory, positioned between the iconic Spanish style pillars at a key entrance, serves as a beautiful gateway into the historic Ardsley Park neighborhood.

The Garden Club of Savannah's Blue Star Memorial ceremony was held on the grounds of the Tiny Homes for



Veterans community. The Tiny Homes are part of the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless (CSAH) project where a community of small homes serve veterans and where they can receive support and services needed to return to healthy and productive lives in the community. The Tiny Homes Community was the perfect location for a Blue Star Memorial Marker as a reminder to the residents that their service is appreciated and remembered. The connection between the Tiny Homes program and gardening can best be described as one of nurturing and planting seeds of hope and seeing it bloom into fruition. More

than 50 guests attended the official ceremony including many dignitaries: Savannah Mayor Van Johnson, Congressman Buddy Carter, Jennifer Dulong, Executive Director of CSAH, and Garden Club of Savannah President, Cindy Meyer, Janice Thiese, GCG Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman, and GCG President Elect, Diane Hunter . May the marker be a reminder to our veterans they are not forgotten and like the redbud tree, they will plant new roots and thrive once more.

Saving our Savannah Botanical Garden There is movement in the garden on a cold December day. The Garden Club of Savannah, Pooler, Wilmington Island, Windsor Forest and Wymberly garden clubs participated in a volunteer work day. A December wedding was all it took to bring these clubs together to weed and mulch. We were thinking this is what the founders intended as this free garden came alive with laughter and a contest to see who could get the longest dollar weed runner.



Green Acres Garden Club of Dublin spent the Christmas Season supporting their community.

- The Second Annual Tree of Hope event was held at Fairview Park Hospital. The evening involved a tree lighting, carols, and a toy drive for Kids Cup, Inc., a resource for children and families in need.
- Their annual Christmas party was on December 4. To celebrate the season together, the club furnished 60 hygiene care kits to East Dublin Dayspring Worship Center.
 - Garden Therapy was hosted by the club at the Dublinair Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home where residents enjoyed a time of caroling and refreshments.
 - The January guest speaker was Robbie Wilkes, the Ag teacher at NW Laurens Elementary. In 2022, Elementary Agricultural Education was added to teach children to explore plants in a school garden they tend on campus.



Erin Garden Club of Dublin, Inc. was so appreciative to be selected as one of twelve community service organizations to receive a Morris Bank Community Foundation's 12 Days of Christmas \$2,000 Grant. The funds will be used in the long range project of revitalizing approximately six acres, including the Market on Madison and Railroad Park. Work began in November of 2024 and continues, as the project has expanded. A Landscape Architect has given her time, knowledge and talents in providing drawings to connect all three blocks to appear as one large area. A local construction company has volunteered their time and equipment to completely clean and prepare the 40' x 120' ditch for new plantings. Erin Garden Club is anxious to continue working with the City of Dublin, removing the old and continue planting new trees, shrubbery and flowers!



Emerald Garden Club Kicks off its 2025 Garden Therapy Program at Dublinair Healthcare Center. Residents enjoy Paper White Bulb Planter Flower Blooms during a game activity at the center along with the club's Garden Therapy Committee Members Linda Hay, Mae Kornegay and Rosalyn Sinkfield.



Conservation of the Trinity Pool and Garden at Oak Grove Cemetery The Early Bloomers Garden Club received a grant from the "Community on My Mind Fund" to help clean up and revitalize the Trinity Pool and Garden at Oak Grove Cemetery in Americus. Established around 1859, Oak Grove is one of the State's oldest active cemeteries and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Trinity Pool and Garden are located prominently within the oldest section of the cemetery. The pool is similar in shape to the Trinity or Irish knot, with a fountain in the center surrounded by rock walls covered in fig ivy.

The garden had become neglected and was in desperate need of a good cleanup to remove weeds, dead bushes, and trees. With clean-up compete, the members took over to restore the garden to a glorious and serene place. The transformation of the garden was beautiful and so rewarding. Because of the hard work the Early Bloomers put in, the Trinity Pool and Garden is once again a quiet, serene place for visitors to sit and enjoy its beauty.



The Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert celebrated its 75th Anniversary in November, with a luncheon and program at Andrew College. Members welcomed guests from numerous garden clubs in Georgia. Carolyn Culpepper, Magnolia District Chaplain, provided the devotional. Featured speaker was Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director who recognized Camellia Garden Club as the 2023 1st Place Outstanding Garden Club of the

Year. On display were yearbooks, minutes, and scrapbooks dating from 1949 when the club was formed. Special recognition was given to those present who have been members of the Camellia Garden Club for over twenty-five years: Patricia Goodman, Annette Nichols, and Brenda Rice; and those who have been members over fifty years: Allene Boyett, Evelyn Hester, Bobbie Liggett, and Pat Prescott.



Rainbow Garden Club (RGC) joined forces with several entities in Schley County to create its annual fall display. Schley County Family Connections received funds from the Ferst Foundation to promote reading in Schley County and every child from birth to age five will receive a free book each month. The FFA class built a wooden frame in which RGC members placed chrysanthemums and watered the mums almost daily during the hot, dry fall season. A local artist painted and installed signage for the fall display. A newspaper box was donated, painted, and housed age-appropriate books for children. Children could select books to read from the box and return the books for others to read. RGC believes in not only planting seeds in gardens but also believes in planting "seeds" for literacy.



Spade and Trowel Garden Club Celebrates 75 Years.



Pine Center Garden Club's 70th Anniversary

The ladies hosted a Breast Cancer Fundraiser to support Bosom Buddies Charities and all of the ladies wearing a pink cowboy hat are Breast Cancer Survivors. Their members exhibit strength and endurance with 70 years as a Garden Club and many years as breast cancer survivors.



Town and Country Garden Club : Conservation

issues in the gardening world often center around preserving biodiversity, reducing water usage, and minimizing the impact of harmful chemicals on the environment. Habitat loss has reduced spaces for pollinators like bees and butterflies, which are essential for many plants to thrive. A couple of the ways gardeners can play a key role in conservation are by planting native species (see photos of my Native Azalea, Black-eyed Susan, beebaum, Spigelia) and by creating pollinator-friendly habitats, i.e., butterfly gardens and hummingbird gardens.

Water conservation is also critical. By mulching, catching rainwater, and creating areas in your yard or garden that need little or no water irrigation, you can play an important role in conservation. Here's a thought for your spring 2025 garden - plan ahead and brainstorm on simple ways to contribute to the conservation effort! - Linda Schuppener



Artistic Dogwood Garden Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a Flower Show and High Tea in August at the Georgia International Conference Center.



Cherokee Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Atlanta Cherokee Library in November.



The Mountain Mums were excited to start back their horticulture therapy projects with our lovely ladies at Atria Park Senior Living. The October project was a gnome scarecrow. We had a full group of 12 ladies and 6 Mums. This project was more of a challenge than usual, so all the helping hands were needed. The gnome body consisted of a large yogurt container covered in scrap fabric. The residents had to make a raffia beard, add the scarecrow branch arms and hat and shoes. Individual dried hydrangea flowers were used to decorate their gnome hats. Recycled items were incorporated and of course, items from nature (always the challenge!). The ladies did a fabulous job, and every gnome was so adorable and full of personality!



Our November project was decorating longleaf pinecone Christmas trees. The pinecones were painted white and set in their stands ready for creative decorating. We provided a star topper, pompoms, miniature pinecones, and a pipe cleaner candy cane garland for each participant. We had a full group, 12 ladies and 8 Mums. All of the ladies thoroughly enjoyed designing and decorating their trees. Everyone took their time and thoughtfully placed the decorations carefully on their trees. They all commented on how much they loved their colorful and cheerful trees. We genuinely enjoy working with all of them and are looking forward to our next project in January!



Shenandoah Rose Garden Club members celebrated their 60th Anniversary in November with a formal tea at the home of member Barbara Adam. Each member contributed homemade savory dishes of pimento cheese and chicken salad sandwiches; English scones from "Taste of Britain" in Norcross; cheese straws; an assortment of miniature desserts from Alons Bakery; petit fours from Publix; and cloth napkins. One member prepared an assortment of teas for attendees to try, while another created a lovely Ikebana floral design. Nine out of ten members were in attendance at the tea. DeKalb Federation President Quill Duncan attended as our special guest. It was a lovely event enjoyed by all!

In Memorium: Mildred "Mickie" Bloodworth Holton passed away on January 10, 2025 at 100 years old. She was very involved in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG), as an emeritus member of the GCG Board for many years. She served as Dekalb Federation President 1992-1993, Dogwood District Director 1999-2001 and Redbud District Director 2007-2009. She was a member of the Leafmore Hills Garden Club as well as a master flower show judge. Her memorial was held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at H. M. Patterson and Son-Oglethorpe Hill. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Smile Train or The American Legion. We will miss Mickie and remain thankful for her longstanding service to GCG.



Coming Up



March



- Mar. 4 - 2025 Capitol Conservation Day at the State Capitol**
8am - 5pm; Georgia State Capitol, Details TBA
- Mar. 5 - Native Plant Symposium**
9am - 3:30pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens
\$65 Lunch included Register at gardenclubofgeorgia.org
- Mar. 6 - Nature Ramblers**
Thursdays weekly; 9 - 10:30am; Shade Garden Arbor, St. Botanical Garden, Athens, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 7 - Friends First Friday, Who Is Oconee Joe?**
9- 10:30am; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom
\$12 general admission - \$10 for members
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 8 - Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests of Georgia**
9am - 1pm; Classroom 2, State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 11 - 13 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention 2025**
10am - 5pm; Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta, GA
Registration required
- Mar. 12 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants**
Virtual Lecture - Zoom, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 14 - Friends of the Garden Annual Meeting**
5:30pm - 8pm; Visitor Center & Conservatory, State Botanical Garden, Athens, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 14 - Mar. Full Moon Hike**
8pm - 9:30pm; Visitor Center Front Fountain, St. Botanical Garden, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 16 - Georgia Questival**
1 - 5pm; State Botanical Garden, Athens, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 19 - Basic Design Course I**
10am - 3pm; Conyers Presbyterian Church, Conyers
- Mar. 22 - Managing Invasive Plants**
9am - 1pm; Gaskins Forest Education Center, State Botanical Garden, Athens, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 26 - Creating the Ultimate Landscape Design**
9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, State Botanical Garden, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 27 - Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia**
1 - 5pm; Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Mar. 29 - Soils of the Georgia Piedmont and Beyond**
9am - 1pm; Classroom 2 St. Botanical Garden Visitor Center
See botgarden.uga.edu for details



April



- Apr. 4 - Friends First Friday UGA's Horticulture Farm**
9am - 10:30am; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. \$12 general admission - \$10 for members
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 5 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants**
10am - 12pm - 1pm - 3pm Virtual Lecture - Zoom
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 7 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants**
6 - 8pm Plant Taxonomy: Virtual Lecture - Zoom
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 8 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants**
6pm - 7pm - Virtual Lecture - Zoom
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 11 - Planning for Pollinators: Their Biology and Habitat Requirements**
9am - 12pm; Virtual Lecture - Zoom, See botgarden.uga.edu
- Apr. 11 - Mountain Ivy Garden Club 2nd Annual Garden Symposium**
8am - 5pm; Rabun County Civic Ctr, Clayton.
Tickets & Info; Nancy @ 706-982-0539

- Apr. 12- Ardeley Park Chatham Crescent Annual Tour of Homes and Gardens**
10am - 1pm; Ardsley Park, Savannah.
\$50.tickets@ www.eventbrite.com/.../2025-ardsley-park-chatham
- Apr. 12 - Full Moon Hike**
8 - 9:30pm; Visitor Center Front Fountain, St. Botanical Garden,
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 16 - The Deen Day Sanders Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Lecture Series**
11am - 1pm; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 16 - Basic Design Course I**
10am - 3pm; Conyers Presbyterian Church, Conyers
- Apr. 16 Cherokee Garden Club Garden Tour** of 5 beautiful privately owned gardens in Buckhead (Atlanta). Details/tickets @ cherokeegardenclub.com
- Apr. 18-19 - Spring Plant Sale**
2 - 6pm; State Botanical Garden Horticulture Complex, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 20 - 26 - Garden Week in Georgia 2025**
- Apr. 25 - 26 - NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens**
Green-Meldrim House Savannah
- Apr. 26 - Alpharetta Garden Club Plant Sale**
9am - 3pm; Historic Mansell House and Gardens, Alpharetta
- Apr. 26 - Entomology for Gardeners**
9am - 1pm; Virtual Lecture - Zoom, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 23 - Designing the Environmentally Responsive Landscape**
9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, St. Botanical Garden, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- Apr. 29-30 - GCG 97th Annual Convention 2025**
Riverfront Marriott, Augusta, GA



May



- May 2 - 2025 Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Spring Symposium and Native Plant Sale**
8am - 5pm; Plains Community Center, Plains, \$65
- May 3 - Soque Garden Club's 8th Annual Garden Extravaganza**
8am - 4pm; White Co Agri-Science Center, Cleveland
- May 7 - Cherokee Garden Library, Celebrating 50 Years & Growing**
7 - 10pm; Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, \$150
- May 8 - Ethnobotany of Native Plants: Through the Eyes of Native Americans;** 9am - 1pm; Medicine Bow Wilderness School,
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- May 10 - Ball Ground Garden Club 8th Annual Plant Sale and Garden Festival**
9am - 3pm; Ball Ground 215 Valley Street, Ball Ground, Georgia
- May 12 - Full Moon Hike**
8 - 9:30pm; Visitor Center, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- May 17 - Pond and Garden Tour, Magnolia Garden Club in Cartersville**
9am - 4pm; For information: text or call Vicki Jones 770-547-3228
- May 17 - Monarchs Across Georgia - 2025 Pollinator Symposium**
9am - 3pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens, \$85
- May 18 - Native Ferns of the Georgia Piedmont**
1 - 5pm; Classroom 2, St. Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- May 18 - 22 - National Garden Club Annual Convention 2025**
Embassy Suites North Charleston, South Carolina
- May 21 - Basic Design Course I**
10am - 3pm; Conyers Presbyterian, Conyers
- May 21 - Planting Design for the Sustainable Landscape**
9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, St. Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens, See botgarden.uga.edu for details
- May 31 - Introduction to Graminoid ID**
9am - 1pm; Classroom 2, St. Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens
See botgarden.uga.edu for details

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 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



Save the Date! **2025 National Garden Clubs Annual Convention**

May 18th-22nd, 2025
The Embassy Suites Hotel
North Charleston, South Carolina