



LAUREL LETTERS

SPRING | 2025

Dear Laurels,

I am amazed that the two years of my term have flown by; my last duty as Laurel District Director will be at the GCG Convention in Augusta. You voted in a very capable new Director, Merrell Holden, current President of the Magnolia Garden Club in Cartersville. I have a lot to share with her!

I am getting ready to attend The Deep South Convention in Valdosta; I am taking two baskets you helped fund for the raffle. Seven of us are preparing to serve as President's Pages, and Edna McClellan has the flower arrangement ready to honor the Tennessee GC President. Reflecting on the past two years, I have so many wonderful memories!

Just this year, I traveled over 2,000 miles throughout Georgia, meeting some of the nicest people you could imagine! I spoke at seven garden club meetings, installed officers for five clubs, attended a Blue Star/Gold Star Marker dedication, anniversary celebrations, and six other GCG District Meetings, to name a few.



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

I had the wonderful support of a dynamic Laurel Board, your clubs, councils, and my husband, Greg. Thank you to all who helped in any way. It is a journey that needs friends and family to navigate.

My last responsibility as Laurel District Director is to attend the GCG Convention in Augusta on April 29, 2025. I hope as many of you as possible will attend. It is going to be great!

Next term, I will serve as Laurel District Board Parliamentarian and an Advisor, so I will continue to be part of the fun! Additionally, I will be Chair of the Board of Trustees for Fair Oaks, home of the Marietta Educational Garden Center, I will serve on the Board of Trustees for the GCG Headquarters Home in Athens, and I will be Chairman of the GCG Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund. I need your continued support as I take on these new roles.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the Laurel District. YOU ARE THE VERY BEST!

Cheryl Briscoe

LAUREL DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Plant America: Grow Members, Clubs and Gardens

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LAUREL DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

lauredistrictofgcg@gmail.com
gardenclubofgeorgia.org/laurel-district-page

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Cheryl Briscoe

CO-DIRECTOR

Merrell Holden

RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy Shiner

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Maye Suddath

TREASURER

Dee Anne Wyse

CHAPLAIN

Rene Lanier

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Edna McClellan

ADVISORS

Caroline Alford
Edna McClellan
Marie Purser
John Barnett

COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER

Lorelle LoCurto



LAUREL LETTERS NEWSLETTER



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.

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 (jpg, png files) PHOTOS with captions naming people (this can be listed separately in your word document. Do not embed the photos within your text document.

SUMMER CLUB CHALLENGE

We challenge EACH Laurel District Club to send us, at minimum, ONE blurb or photo of a special project that you have initiated this year. What makes your club special? We want to know!



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



GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA: 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2028



REGARDLESS OF THE AGE OF YOUR GARDEN CLUB, IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING FOR THE 100TH GCG ANNIVERSARY IN 2028. THE STATE COMMITTEE IS HOLDING ZOOM MEETINGS CURRENTLY TO GET A HEAD START ON WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTURY!

We are forming ideas about how your district and your club can participate. These are just a few:

1. Send historic photos to Cheryl Briscoe to be featured in a presentation at a celebration at the State level.
2. Identify a project in honor of 100 years of service to our district and Georgia.
3. Plan a celebration featuring the history of The Garden Club of Georgia in your city, county, and/or district.
4. Work with the libraries (city, county, college, university) in your city or county to feature the 100-year history of The Garden Club of Georgia.
5. Plan a visit to the Cherokee Garden Library to see their GCG display of 100 years of history through scrapbooks donated by garden clubs.

Please email any ideas you have for Laurel District Clubs and Councils to:

Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District 100th Celebration Chairman

Ctgb15@gmail.com

She cannot wait to hear your ideas!

State Committee: Chairman, Barbara Bourque; Co-Chairman, Carol Reap; Lisa Hall, State President; Diane Hunter, President-Elect; Bess Hartley, 2nd VP; Camille Greeley, Pam Hendrix, Sara Lanier, Gale Thomas, Susan Turner, and Beth Wiseman



LAUREL DISTRICT NEWS

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE: LEADERSHIP 2025-2027

We are grateful for the leadership of all Laurel District Garden Clubs and all levels of our garden club organizations for the 2023-2025 years. Thank you to all who participated and are ready to pass the torches to the new leadership!

Below is the leadership information you will need for the 2025-2027 terms. Please add this information to your yearbooks.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

2025-2027 President: Donna Donnelly

Website: <https://gardenclub.org/>

Theme: PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!



DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS

2025-2027 Director: Denise Thorne

Website: <https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/>

Theme: Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and Bees.



GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

2025-2027 President: Diane Hunter

Website: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>

Theme: Tending the Heart of Georgia: Creating Community through Beautification, Conservation, and Education.



LAUREL DISTRICT OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

2025-2027 Director: Merrell Holden

Webpage: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/laurel-district-page/>

Theme: Let's get out there and have fun!

Merrell Holden will be inducted as the new Laurel District Director at the GCG convention on April 29, 2025. She will provide the list of committee chairmen to you as soon as it is available.

Congratulations to our new leaders! Take time to get to know them, and let them know they have your support.

Cheryl Briscoe

Laurel District Director 2023-2025

LAUREL DISTRICT NEWS



GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA IN NORTH GEORGIA

May 3 in Cleveland, GA

THE 8TH ANNUAL GE IN CLEVELAND, GA, WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THAT DATE! YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

The Soque Garden Club is getting ready for the 8th Annual Garden Extravaganza (GE) Plant and Garden Sale to take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 8 am to 4 pm at the White County Ag Center in Cleveland. There will be a variety of vendors there, from native plants, bonsais, azaleas, herbs, plus there will be garden antiques, a veteran's art program, and whimsical crochet items for the kids (and adults).

FREE ADMISSION – RAFFLES – FOOD AVAILABLE

The funds raised from this event are used to make positive impacts on our community. Our focus is to support the advancement of horticultural education, encourage home and civic beautification and protect native plants and all natural resources.

LeeAnn Childress



SOPE CREEK GARDEN CLUB BIENNIAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 26th, 2025

9am – 3pm

Temple Kol Emeth

1415 Old Canton Road, Marietta, GA

Featuring more than 400 plants and trees!

The sale also features an opportunity drawing, Mother's Day baskets, and a Garden Faire Boutique.

Join us anytime from 9am to 3pm. Rain or Shine.

Plenty of parking, with help loading your car.

Victoria Rixey

Vice-President

Sope Creek Garden Club

Sale

ENOTAH GARDEN CLUB - YOUNG HARRIS



PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF CUPID FALLS

*"It is a great place
to go for a quiet walk
and enjoy the solitude."*

Trip Advisor

The little city of Young Harris lies at the foot of Georgia's highest peak in Brasstown Valley, an area within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The area is often referred to as enchanting for many reasons, but probably first and foremost is our Cupid Falls.

Cupid Falls is a 13-acre park with trails, a boardwalk, two pavilions, restrooms, a rain garden, and a beautiful waterfall. The waterfall is 10 to 15 feet high, and the trails could take 10 to 20 minutes to walk. Most of the trails are easy and level. If needed, you can also view the Falls from the car.

Following the Cherokee land lottery in 1832, the white settlers poured into the area to mine for gold and farm the available land. One pioneer settler was John Bryson (1800-1874), who acquired sizeable holdings in Brasstown Valley. It was he, no doubt, who built the first grist mill in the community to grind the corn into cornmeal. Later, in 1892, after the college's founding, J. D. Cooley, a miller, moved to the area. He constructed the cement dam at the top of the falls and built a flume to route the water to the mill, a good distance away

Around the 1930s, with the availability of commercial milling products in grocery stores, the Mill operations ended, and the Mill was torn down around 1950.

For nearly two centuries, Cupid Falls and Corn Creek have been a family and kid-friendly recreation area. Remembering earlier times before modern technology of televisions, cell phones, and the internet, residents fondly remember the Cupid Falls area as their neighborhood playground.

Continued on next page

Enotah Garden Club, con't.

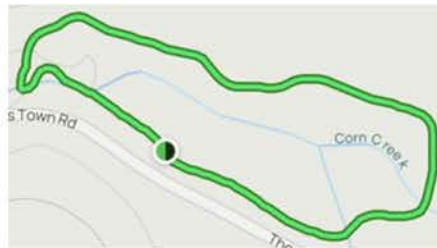
As for the Young Harris College students, it is a beautiful setting for "Cupiding", the appeal of seclusion and natural surroundings. It is unknown how Cupid Falls got its name, but it seems appropriate that it started with the Young Harris College students.

The Enotah Garden Club takes great pride in supporting the City of Young Harris by helping maintain the Cupid Falls recreation area. The Enotah Garden Club actively promoted the concept of and in 2024, sponsored the installation of a new bridge to connect the trails. For more information about our club, contact us at enotahgardenclubyh@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at Enotah Garden Club YH.

The Mountain Beautification and Revitalization Association completed the construction. Cupid Falls also receives support from students at Young Harris College and the Towns/Union Master Gardeners. Visit youngharrisga.net for more information.

To get to Cupid Falls, take Maple Street in Young Harris and continue through the Young Harris College campus. The road became Thomas Town Road. When parking at the first lot on the left, turn left towards picnic tables to take the short walk to the falls. View the signage on the way to learn the history of the Corn Creek Preserve and how to create a rain garden. This is an easy walk that is great for kids. Leashed Pet friendly.

Coordinates: 34.9350125, -83.8403023



PLANTS- ART- MUSIC- FOOD TRUCKS

Enchanted
**SPRING
FLING**

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
11 AM - 3 PM
DOWNTOWN YOUNG HARRIS

MAIN STREET
YOUNG HARRIS
30582

Mama's Concierge SERVICES

VENDOR & SPONSOR INFO:
www.mamasconciergeservices.com &
www.youngharrisga.net

ENGLISH LAUREL GARDEN CLUB

Flowers and Sunshine



The January meeting of the English Laurel Garden Club at Fair Oaks provided fun, fellowship, and facts about conifers for all who attended. Fun and fellowship for members included mingling and catching up with each other and sharing “breakfast in the night” for dinner that very cold night!

For more fun, each garden club member made fresh flower and greenery arrangements. Karen Callaway and Mary Trippe supplied the vases and flowers with greenery for everyone to make three arrangements to donate to the Gaines Park Senior Living facility in Kennesaw.

Club members delivered the arrangements with cheerful message cards to each resident the next day. They were received with joy. Remembering people who are not able to get out in the community also brought joy to club members!



Karen Callaway, Co-President, helped prepare garden club members for the fun project!



MOUNTAIN VIEW GARDEN CLUB SUPPORTS YOUTH GARDENING

YOUTH GARDENING

With the partnership of Berry College volunteers, the Mountain View Garden Club in Rome, GA, made kaleidoscopes with the children. The kids were amazed at the different colors and designs their crystals made! What a great science and art lesson for these young people! Here are pictures of children having a fun time making their very own kaleidoscopes.

GARDEN THERAPY

Mountain View is in the process of finishing up the Easter bags for Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center. This spring, we continue our education about pollinators and “good bugs” for these youngsters by focusing on ladybugs. Each child will receive a stuffed ladybug, honeybee, or caterpillar, a pair of spring socks, a container of Play Dough, a softball size inflatable ladybug ball, a ladybug Easter egg with a Peppermint Patty, and the older children will get a craft kit to make a paper ladybug to hang in their room at home. In addition, the club has purchased several books about ladybugs, fiction and nonfiction, for teachers to share information with students, and a fun Ladybug coloring book with enough pictures for all the students to get one to color. We will deliver these bags the first of April for the children to have by Easter this year.



The collection of books about ladybugs given to teachers to read and share with students and Ladybug-themed gift bags donated for each student.

BONSAI EXPERT INTRODUCES HIS ART TO NCHS GREENHOUSE GANG



Henry Wu, MD presented a PowerPoint on the practice of bonsai, including styles, species, and care. He also brought several bonsai trees from his collection to show the NCHS Greenhouse Gang various species and styles. He presented a workshop showing student gardeners how to put cuttings in pots with bonsai soil and gave them instructions on watering. Every student got to take home their own bonsai tree.

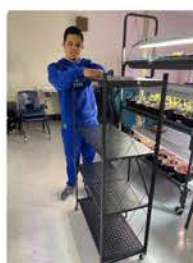


Dr. Wu first started keeping bonsai as a medical student in Boston, when he brought home a Serissa bonsai he got from a vendor at flower show. After a few unsuccessful attempts to keep his bonsai alive indoors, he gave up Bonsai for several years until he came to Atlanta, where the local bonsai community revived his interest. He now keeps over 100 trees, and studies with bonsai master Kenji Miyata in McDonough Georgia. Bonsai keeping runs deep in Henry's family, as his great-grandfather had a large collection in Taiwan. In his day job, Dr. Wu is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Distinguished Physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University. He also serves as the director of the Emory TravelWell Center, Emory's center dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and surveillance of infections related to travel and migration.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORTS GREENHOUSE INITIATIVES

Many hands make light work is how the saying goes, and it takes many hands to manage the huge production of the North Cobb High School Mother's Day Plant Sale and the many initiatives of the NC Warrior's Greenhouse Gang. This is why they benefit from the partnership of their Special Needs classes, especially the school's two Transition Program classes. A Transition Program is an opportunity for students with special needs to gain additional independence training and work/job-related skills. It is designed for students ages 18-21.

"With the limitations of our greenhouse and the need for constant plant attention this time of year, we gain valuable support from our students with disabilities," says Sue Aughey, Greenhouse Gang sponsor. "They are our lifeline," While general education students are taking rigorous classes, our Transition students are learning life and employment skills. They keep our greenhouse clean, set up stations for planting, water plants as needed, weed and help sell. It is a great collaboration.





BEAUTY IN JANUARY

BRIDAL WREATH GARDEN CLUB MEETING

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T HAVE LUSCIOUS FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN JANUARY?

Katharine Turner, hostess, and her sister, Carolyn Corr, decorated her home and each luncheon table for their garden club with a lovely arrangement to set the mood for a great meeting!

To start the new garden club year with an eye to spring, Mickey Gazaway spoke to the club about container gardening. Mickey is a celebrity in Marietta; she appeared many times on Walter Reeve's Saturday morning radio show. Mickey has an extensive garden at her home and is a garden club member. Now a grandmother, she can tend her own garden and share her talents with other gardeners. Recently, the day before hosting her garden club at home, the groundhogs decided to feast on everything in her garden!

Bridal Wreath is one of the oldest clubs in Marietta with an outstanding legacy. The current members revitalized the club in memory of the founders and are active in supporting the Laurel District.



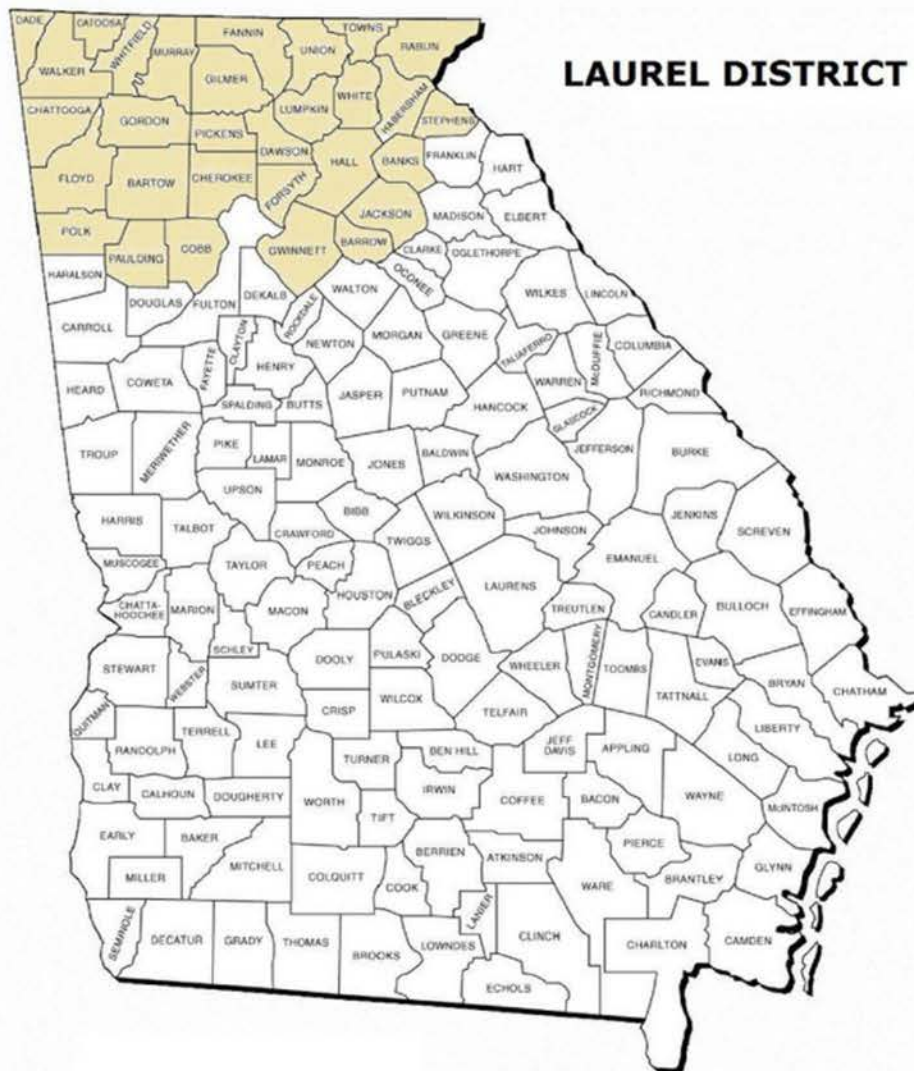


LAUREL DISTRICT

EVENTS



The following pages, in addition to the calendar items, are wonderful events happening in our district. Please be sure to share this newsletter and the ones with your membership. Find an event that is convenient to your schedule. Find an event that may not be so close, but could be a wonderful field trip for your club. Make new friends. Learn new ideas. Grow.





MARIETTA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

DESTINATION:

Marietta

AN EVENT VENUE
OPEN HOUSE
JOIN US
10AM TO 2PM

SATURDAY

22
MARCH

FAIR OAKS (C. 1850)
AT THE MARIETTA
EDUCATIONAL
GARDEN CENTER

TOURS OF THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS
STAGED FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
PLUS LOCAL FLORAL, CONFECTION, PHOTOGRAPHY AND MORE

505 KENNESAW AVE, MARIETTA, GA 30060
MARIETTAGARDENCENTER.COM



Celebrate Spring

A Garden Symposium

Expert Speakers • Demonstrations • Raffles • Door Prizes • Garden Market • Vendors

ALL TICKETS SOLD IN ADVANCE

April 11, 2025 • 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

Rabun County Civic Center • 201 W. Savannah Street • Downtown Clayton, Ga.

Tickets \$75 • Price Includes Lunch

Speakers

Brannen Basham
Spriggly's Beescaping
*Native Bees and the
Habitat They Require*

Scott Beuerlein
Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden
*Favorite Plants
from Favorite Gardens*

Adam Bigelow
Bigelow's Botanical
Excursions
*Native Plants
in the Landscape*

Erin Getzelman
Director of Sustainability
Engagement
Georgia Tech
*Sustainability in
the Landscape*



FOR TICKETS

Contact Nancy at 706-982-0539 or visit us
on Facebook Mountain Ivy Garden Club

All proceeds go to MIGC's Scholarship
Fund Providing Scholarships for
Rabun County High School Students



DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

SPRING FLING

**70TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**SPEAKER: SUSAN MEYERS
MONARCHS ACROSS GEORGIA**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
10:00 A.M.
SILENT AUCTION AND BRUNCH**

**800 LAWRENCEVILLE HWY
LAWRENCEVILLE 30046**

DOGWOODGCPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM



NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL

GREENHOUSE GANG

MEMBER OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA



PLANT SALE

Weather Permitting



WED, MAY 7TH - FRI, MAY 9TH:

3:30-5:30PM

SAT, MAY 10:

9AM-1PM



WHAT: ORCHIDS, FLOWERS, VEGGIES, SUCCULENTS, HERBS, HANGING BASKETS, NATIVE PLANTS, POLLINATORS, CERAMIC FLOWERPOTS (FEATURING NCHS CERAMIC ARTS), AND WOODEN PLANTER BOXES (PROFESSIONALLY CRAFTED BY NCHS CONSTRUCTION CLASSES)

WHEN: WED- FRI: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
SATURDAY: 9AM - 1PM
(FEATURING OUR ABLE WARRIORS' LEMONADE STAND!)

WHERE: NCHS FRONT OF SCHOOL (BETWEEN FRONT OFFICE AND AUDITORIUM)
NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL
3400 OLD HWY 41 N.
KENNESAW, GA 30144

**SPONSORED BY NCHS GREENHOUSE GANG | NCHS TRANSITION PROGRAM
WE ACCEPT: CASH, CHECKS, CC, MYPAYMENTSPLUS**

8th Annual Ball Ground Garden Club

PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL



Saturday May 10th
9:00 to 3:00pm



FREE EVENT



The Festival is located at
the famous Ball Ground
Botanical Garden:
Large supply and selection
of plants,
Guided tours of our
Botanical Garden,
Raffles,
40 local vendors (food,
drink, shopping)

**215 Valley Street
Ball Ground, GA**

Cobb County Daylily Society

Welcomes you to the Wonderful World
of Daylilies and Invites you to visit
at one of our Club Events.

CLUB EVENTS

Five Meetings a Year

Spring Daylily Sale

June Daylily Show & Sale

**First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave NW
Marietta, GA 30064
Room 256
2:00pm - 4:00pm**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.cobbdaylily.com

