



Redbud Reporter

Summer 2025

Meet Bonnie Dudley, Redbud's New District Director

What an honor it is to represent the Remarkable Redbuds as the 2025-27 District Director. For the past two years I had the opportunity to serve Redbud as Co-Director and feel that working with our immediate past Director, Kim Fair, and other past Directors who have been great mentors has helped prepare me to work with our clubs for the next two years.

For those who don't know me, I was born and raised in LaGrange, GA and attended LaGrange College where I earned a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. I retired from the Troup County School System after teaching 34 years. It was during my time at college that I met my husband, Steve, whom I was married to for 39 years before he passed away from an aggressive form of lung cancer. We raised two daughters, Shannon and Jennifer, who live in Georgia with their husbands and daughters. My three granddaughters, Sylvia, Mary and Helena, help keep me young and fairly up to date about how fast technology changes. There are times I feel I'm struggling to keep up with them.



I've been a member of Wisteria Garden Club since the 1980's and have learned so much about working in my yard and arranging flowers and have made lifelong friends. One of those garden club friends, Mary Beth, taught me how to make my first mass arrangement that would be placed on the center of the stage during a LaGrange College Graduation

ceremony. I wish I could tell you that we stood side by side on that stage creating a beautiful arrangement. Unfortunately, earlier that week Mary Beth's back went out and she instructed me as to where to place each flower while lying on the auditorium floor! It turned out okay and who would believe that experience gave me the confidence to start creating flower arrangements all by myself.

I've held every leadership position in Wisteria Garden Club and also in the Elms and Roses Garden Club Council. I became involved with Redbud District when Quill Duncan, a past District Director, called me one day and asked if Elms and Roses Council would chair the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser at Hills and Dales Estate and if I knew someone who would chair this event. Well one thing led to another and before you know it Quill and I were co-chairing that event and later went on to co-chair the 2024 State Convention. During that time Gale Thomas, also a past District Director, called me and asked if the Council would host Redbud's Annual District meeting and could I suggest a chairman for the event. I bet you can guess what happened after that persuasive conversation! I volunteered to serve as the chairman for that event. Never could I have imagined that a few years after meeting these two remarkable Redbud women I would be serving as the new District Director for Redbud!

Well, ready or not – here I come Redbud District Garden Clubs. Our clubs are our strength, and our members are a vital part of everything we do. When I think back and ask myself why I joined a garden club, in the beginning it was because my mama had been a member of Pine Needle Garden Club, and I

watched her make beautiful floral arrangements from flowers she grew in our yard. I wanted to be able to do that. I have learned that being in a garden club is so much more than making a flower arrangement. Our clubs support many philanthropic projects that not only impact our local communities but our district, state, and country. By working together and supporting each other, our District garden clubs continue to support those projects. The greatest benefit I have received from being in my garden club is the lifelong friends I've made along with the education and opportunities for personal growth!

We have an enthusiastic District Executive Committee including Co-Director Glenndolyn Hallman, Treasurer Rigby Duncan, Recording Secretary Sue Ellen Andrews, Corresponding Secretary Sandy Reed and myself. Our District Board is ready and willing to assist you and hear your ideas. There is much work for us to do.

Let's Dig In and Get Things Done: Beautify, Conserve, Educate.

Bonnie Dudley
Redbud District Director

New Basic Floral Design I Course

The Conyers Garden Club is pleased to sponsor a GCG Basic Floral Design I Course in Fall 2025. The classes for this course will be held 10 am – 2 pm on the following dates: August 13 and 27; September 3 and 17; and October 1, 2025 at the Conyers Presbyterian Church; 911 N. Main Street NW, Conyers, GA 30012. The registration fee for this course is \$125.

To register, please go to this link:
<https://forms.gle/mqX86TS3LGnZGfA7A>

For more details, please contact Gale D. Thomas at
galedthomas@gmail.com.

GCG Convention Highlights

The Garden Club of Georgia's 97th Annual Convention was held in Augusta on April 29 – 30, 2025. The theme of the convention was "Gather on the River with the Birds and the Bees and the Flowers and the Trees". Over 300 attendees gathered at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center to attend this convention, which was hosted by the Azalea District.

Floral designs created by members of each District were on display in the hallways outside the meeting rooms. The beautiful design created by Redbud's new District Director, Bonnie Dudley, is shown on the left below,



On Tuesday afternoon, we were treated to a "Designers Challenge". A representative of each District was challenged to create a design using the same selection of flowers and container. Redbud District was represented by Smoke Rise Morning Glories member Faye Long, shown with her design in the photo above on the right.

The annual awards banquet was held on Tuesday night. Prior to the banquet, District members gathered for group photos (left, bottom). During this time, incoming Redbud District Director Bonnie Dudley presented outgoing Director Kim Fair with a GCG Life Membership.

Redbud came away with a number of awards! Totals for our District were: Redbud District - 5; DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs - 5; Redbud District Clubs and Individuals - 41. Garden Club of Georgia awards won by Redbud are listed on the following pages. Congratulations to all our award winners!

GCG officers for the 2025-27 term were installed on Wednesday. They are, from left to right below: Assistant Treasurer Frank Mullins (Redbud); Treasurer Geri Shaw (Oleander); Recording Secretary Pamela Hendrix (Azalea); 4th Vice President Quill Duncan (Redbud); 3rd Vice President Linda Doiron (Dogwood); 2nd Vice President Gale Thomas (Redbud); 1st Vice President Bess Hartley (Magnolia); and President Diane Hunter (Dogwood and Redbud). Not pictured is Corresponding Secretary Michelle Culberson (Laurel) and Parliamentarian Trudy Rudert (Dogwood).



Redbud Clubs Win GCG Awards

Award #4 – Bird (medium club)	3 rd place –Green Thumb GC
Award #5 – Individual Club Standard Flower Show	1 st place – Designers Club
Award #7 – Special Achievement (small club)	2 nd place – Conyers GC
Award #8 – Conservation (medium club)	1 st place – Lullwater GC
Award #10 – Garden Therapy (small club)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #13 – Civic Improvement (small club)	2 nd place – Thomaston GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (under 20 members)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (20-29 members)	1 st place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
Award #16 – Yearbook (20-29 members)	2 nd place – Smoke Rise GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (45-69 members)	1 st place – Avon GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (70-99 members)	1 st place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (Council, 15 or more clubs)	1 st place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #19 – Horticulture Program (medium club)	2 nd place – Avon GC
Award #23 – Standard Flower Show Schedule (District)	1 st place – Redbud District
Award #23 – Standard Flower Show Schedule (Judges Study Club)	1 st place – Designers Club
Award #24 – Small Standard Flower Show Schedule	1 st place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
Award #24 – Small Standard Flower Show	1 st place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
Award #26 – Poem (for Adults by Adult)	3 rd place – Victoria Crosby, Smoke Rise GC
Award #26 – Poem (for Children by Adult)	1 st place – Carey Elder, Green Thumb GC
Award #26 – Poem (for Children by Adult)	2 nd place – Susan Turner, Conyers GC
Award #30 – District Standard Flower Show	1 st place – Redbud District
Award #31– Garden Club Council (15-25 clubs)	1 st place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #33 – Member Participation (small club)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #36 – Educational Exhibit Achievement	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #37 – Newsletter (large club)	1 st place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #37 –Newsletter (Council)	1 st place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #37 – Newsletter (District)	1 st place – Redbud District
Award #40 – Gardens for the Challenged (small club)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #40 – Gardens for the Challenged (Council)	1 st place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #43 – Litter/Recycle/Reclamation (medium club)	1 st place – Avon GC
Award #45 – Flower Show Staging (District)	1 st place – Redbud District
Award #46 – Public Relations (small club)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (small club)	1 st place – Conyers GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (medium club)	2 nd place – Avon GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (large club)	1 st place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #49 – Holiday Decorations (small club)	2 nd place – Thomaston GC
Award #49 – Holiday Decorations (medium club)	2 nd place – Green Thumb GC
Award #51 – Butterfly Conservation (individual)	1 st place – Karen Liebert, Avondale Estates
Award #53 – Website (medium club)	3 rd place – Lullwater GC
Award #53 – Website (large club)	1 st place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #53 – Website (Council)	2 nd place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #53 – Website (District)	1 st place – Redbud District

Award #53SM – Social Media (medium club)
Award #53SM – Social Media (large club)
Award #56 – National Garden Week (small club)
Award #56 – National Garden Week (medium club)
Award #56 – National Garden Week (medium club)
Award #56 – National Garden Week (large club)
Award #57 – Junior Activities (small club)
Award #60 – Garden Week in Georgia (small club)
Award #60 – Garden Week in Georgia (large club)

3rd place – Green Thumb GC
3rd place – Avondale Estates GC
1st place – Conyers GC
1st place – Avon GC
2nd place – Stonecrest GC
1st place – Avondale Estate GC
1st place – Conyers GC
1st place – Thomaston GC
2nd place – Avondale Estates GC



Left: Outgoing GCG President Lisa Hall presents a 1st place award to outgoing Redbud District Director Kim Fair
Middle: Outgoing Redbud District Director Kim Fair receives a GCG Life Membership certificate from incoming Redbud District Director Bonnie Dudley
Right: 2025-27 GCG President Diane Hunter

... and Deep South Awards ...

Award #3 – Public Relations Award (small club)
Award #5 – Litter Control (medium club)
Award #27A – Small Standard Flower Show Schedule
Award #27B – Standard Flower Show Schedule
Award #28 – Small Standard Flower Show Overall Winner
Award #31A – Yearbook (less than 20 members)
Award #31A – Yearbook (20-29 members)
Award #31A – Yearbook (45-69 members)
Award #31A – Yearbook (70-99 members)
Award #31B – Yearbook (Council)

1st place – Conyers GC
3rd place – Avon GC
1st place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
1st place – Redbud District
1st place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
HM – Conyers GC
HM – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
3rd place – Avon GC
3rd place – Avondale Estates GC
2nd place – DeKalb Federation of GC

. . . and NGC Awards

Certificate of Commendation/Rosette (first place winners in each size/category for each award):

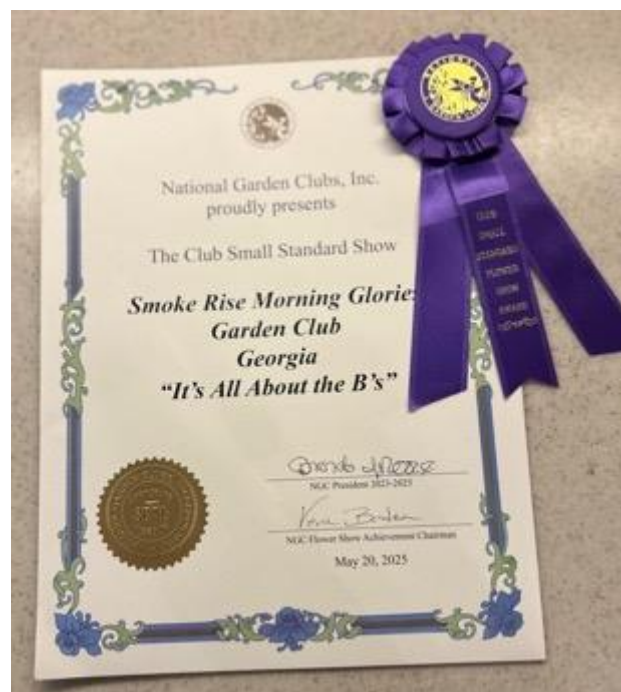
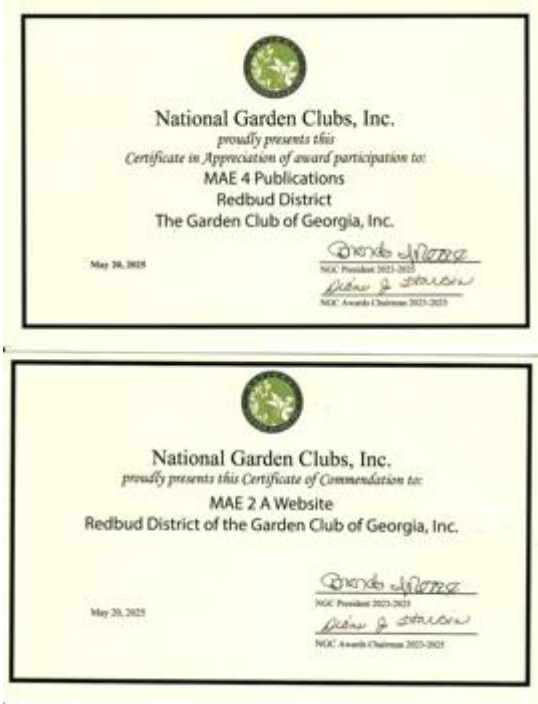
G-3 – Gardens for the Challenged	Conyers GC
MAE-3 – DVD/CD/FlashDrive/PowerPoint Program	Conyers GC
MAE-2 – Website	Redbud District

Certificate of Appreciation (application deemed excellent by the GCG Awards Committee and sent for consideration for an NGC Award):

FS-1 – Individual Standard Flower Show (21-49 members)	Designers Club
EC-1 – Conservation (medium club)	Lullwater GC
MAE-4 – Newsletter (large club)	Avondale Estates GC
MAE-4 – Newsletter (District)	Redbud District
MAE-5 – National Garden Week (small club)	Conyers GC
MAE-5 – National Garden Week (medium club)	Avon GC
MAE-5 – National Garden Week (large club)	Avondale Estates GC

Flower Show Rosette (for Flower Shows attaining a certain score)

FS-1 – Individual Standard Flower Show	Designers Club
FS-5 – Small Standard Flower Show	Smoke Rise Morning Glories
FS-11 – District Standard Flower Show	Redbud District

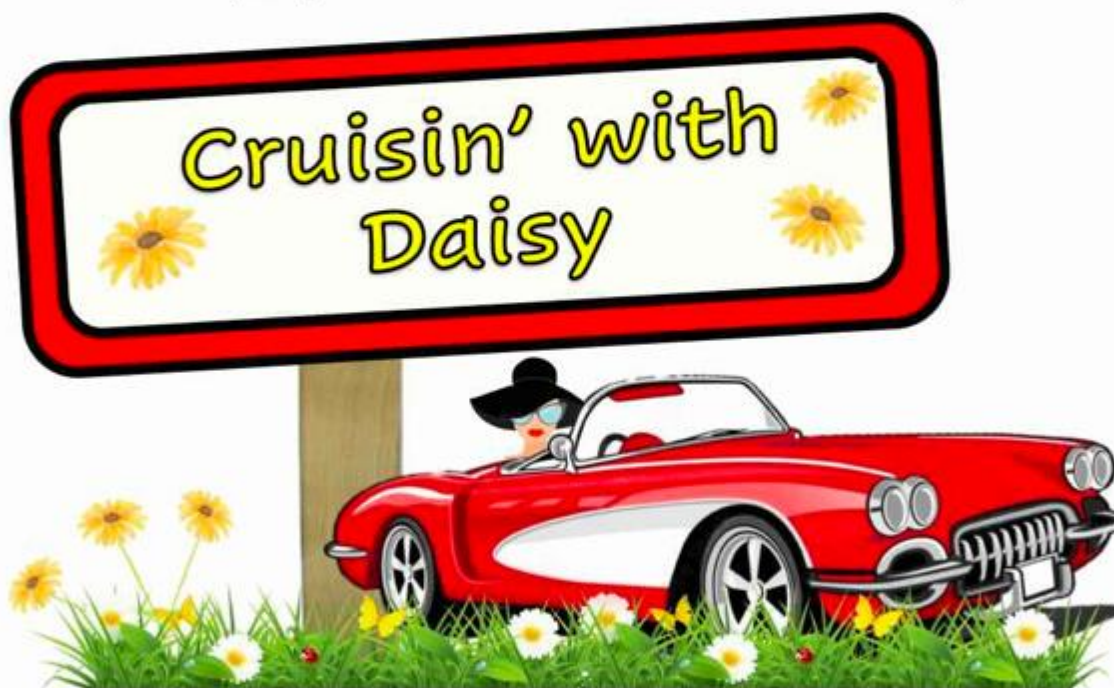


AN NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW
The 52nd Redbud District Standard Flower Show

PRESENTED BY REDBUD DISTRICT VII

First United Methodist Church of Tucker Family Activity Center
4315 Church Street, Tucker, GA 30084

Friday, September 12, 2025 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



Cruisin' With Daisy

On September 12-13, 2025, Daisy will join the Tucker *Cruise In* fun with her annual flower show. This year Daisy has relocated to the Activities Center of the First United Methodist Church of Tucker and she and all her friends are rearing to get moving as Daisy presents the Redbud District's 2025 Standard Flower Show, **Cruisin' with Daisy**. Anticipating over 300 horticulture entries, and 42 designs, Daisy managed to once again convince some of her faithful friends in Redbud to serve as her "roadies" for this flower show production.

Daisy has her pedal to the metal and is eager for every gardener in the District to have an opportunity to showcase his/her garden beauties. And this year's Horticulture Division is revving to go! Horticulture exhibits in the flower show are always interesting and educational while allowing us to see what our friends and neighbors across the District are growing. These entries also add ideas for new plants for our home gardens. This year, Daisy once again encourages you to look at your garden and consider which plants you would want to enter into this year's flower show. Based on Daisy's road trips, we anticipate cut plants arriving from all areas in the Redbud District, from Thomaston to Dunwoody and Decatur to Covington, as entries into the **Places to Go, Things to See Horticulture Division**. We hope that you will consider cutting a few of the lovely plants in your home garden as entries into Horticulture classes named for notable botanical locations in Georgia and elsewhere.

In advance of the flower show, Horticulture Entries Chairman Sandy Reed will post a video on the Redbud District website with helpful tips including how to properly prepare your entries for exhibiting. To assist you with properly identifying and submitting your horticulture entries, Sandy will be joined by her Co-Chairman Lynn Malone on the day of entry acceptance, September 11, 2025. If you need horticulture entry cards, please contact Sandy Reed at sandyreed17@gmail.com. Additionally, all clubs are asked to contact Quill Duncan (quillduncan@msn.com) to schedule an arrival time on September 11, 2025 for your club's horticulture deliveries.

The **Rev Up Your Engine Design Division** includes some old favorite designs. With titles like "Turn up your High Beams" for illuminary designs, "Check Your Rear View Mirror" for reflective design and "Fire All Cylinders" for tubular designs, our designers will have a great time showcasing their talents. With a title of "Roadside Sustenance", the table designs include traditional table setting for 1 ("Stop by the Diner"), Alfresco table for 2 ("Pull Over for a Picnic"), and exhibition tables ("Brake for Fast Food"). But Daisy and her friends have more surprises in store for you, including "A Short Trip" Section of petite designs with class titles of "Map It Out, Down the Road", and "Destination: Tucker Cruise-In".

This year’s **Botanical Arts Division *Picture This*** will allow photographers to showcase their best work in the Section “Enjoy the Ride”. If you are interested in submitting a design, please contact Diane Hunter at 404-992-7381 or drmchunter@yahoo.com.

Not to be outdone, the **Education Division *Highways and Byways*** will provide informative exhibits on the topics of the Department of Transportations’ Wildflower Project and the GCG Blue Star Markers program.

Volunteers are needed to assist with various tasks for the flower show. If you are interested in volunteering for the show, please contact: Ann Purr (a.purr@comcast.net) to serve as a clerk; Melanie Chastain (mchastain17@yahoo.com) to serve as a hostess; Janet McGinnis (jmcgi@bellsouth.net) or Gale D. Thomas (galedthomas@gmail.com) to assist with staging (set-up); or Quill Duncan (quillduncan@msn.com) to help with placement.

Flower Show Schedule of Events

September 8, 2025	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Properties delivery and show set up (including skirting tables and assembling signage)
September 11, 2025	10:00 am – 5:00 pm.	Horticulture, Design, Education, and Botanical Arts entries accepted
September 12, 2025	8:00 am – 9:00 am	Entries of cut perishable blooms and entries from out-of-town persons
	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Clerks training and review
	9:30 am – 10:00 am	Judges Morning Coffee
	10:00 am – 12:45 pm	Judging followed by Judges Luncheon
September 12, 2025	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Show open
September 13, 2025	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Show open
	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Show breakdown

Good News on Okefenokee

We have FANTASTIC news regarding the Okefenokee Swamp. The Conservation Fund, a nonprofit organization specializing in acquiring at-risk lands, announced that it has purchased property near the Okefenokee where Twin Pines, an Alabama-based company, had planned to mine. The move puts an immediate halt to this mining project that scientists and environmentalists feared could irreparably damage North America’s largest blackwater swamp.

But the fight is not over! We still must protect the rest of Trail Ridge from any other companies who wish to mine in the future. Please continue to write to your state legislators asking them to support the 5-year mining moratorium on Trail Ridge.

A full article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution can be found [here](#).



The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. Now open to residents of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida and Alabama, the project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference for pollinator conservation!

Interested in joining the count this year? Here's how:

1. Sign up for the [newsletter](#).
2. Prepare for the count days on August 22nd and 23rd
 - Download the printable [Counting Sheet](#)
 - Check out the [Insect Counting & Identification Guide](#)
 - Review the [Pollinator Census pamphlet](#)
3. Upload your counts to the [Pollinator Census webpage](#). The portal to upload counts will open early on August 22.

How do participants count?

You will be asked to choose a favorite pollinator plant – a plant from your garden that shows insect activity, for example – for counting. You should count and identify the insects that land on the flowers of that plant for 15 minutes. To make sure your counts are included in the database, visit the [Pollinator Census webpage](#) again after counting where you will find a pop-up prompting you to add your information.

Do I count every time an insect lands on a plant even though I know I've already counted that insect?

Yes! We are technically counting insect visits, not just the number of insects, so be sure to count each time any insect lands on your plant – regardless of whether it's been there before.

Can I participate more than once during the 2-day counting period?

Absolutely!

In Memoriam

Former Redbud District Director Alice Boyd passed away on June 6, 2025. Alice was a longtime member of both the Shenandoah Rose and Designers Garden Clubs.

Alice was born in New York, NY on July 26, 1926. She graduated from Furman University in 1948 with a B.A. in psychology and sociology. In 1958, she moved to Atlanta, where she became a devoted homemaker to four children. Known as a “professional volunteer”, she dedicated her life to community service and horticulture.

Alice served in numerous garden club leadership positions. She served on the Garden Club of Georgia Board of Directors for 28 years and was an active member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs for over 50 years. She served as Redbud District Director from 2009 – 2011.

Alice was a National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge and an American Rose Society Master Horticulture and Arrangement Judge. Her outstanding service to the American Rose Society earned her the prestigious Silver Honor Medal after 26 years of dedication to the society.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the scholarship fund of the Garden Club of Georgia.



DeKalb Federation Inducts Six Legends Club Members

The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs’ Legend Club began in 2017 as a way to recognize long term, dedicated members of its clubs who have reached the age of 90. We honor these amazing individuals at our May meeting each year. From 2017 to 2024, 33 amazing women became members of this club.

This year, six new members were inducted into the Legends Club. They are:

- Ruth Osborn – Avondale Estates Garden Club
- Martha Jackson – Avondale Estates Garden Club
- Kenny Newman – Avondale Estates Garden Club
- Sheila Biggs – Avondale Estates Garden Club
- Jeanne Lutz – Smoke Rise Garden Club
- Geri Burns – Smoke Rise Morning Glories

News from the Clubs

Avondale Estates GC Expands National Garden Week Celebration

Always looking for ways to grow member participation, the Avondale Estates Garden Club board added a Progressive Garden Tour and Lunch this year to its annual celebration of National Garden Week.

As in the past the club marked the occasion by collecting flowers from members' gardens and creating an arrangement to present at City Hall when the Mayor and Commissioners honor both the Avon Garden Club and the Avondale Estates Garden Club with a Proclamation about National Garden Week. Members are invited to the ceremony and have their picture taken with the proclamation and a National Garden Week banner.

This year, board members added a garden tour, inviting all members to spend the morning of June 5 touring four club members' gardens and having lunch together at member Karen Liebert's home. Not only did Karen plan and organize both events, she opened her home for the tour and hosted lunch afterwards.

The gardens on tour varied from a garden with an artist studio, a shade garden, a mature sunny garden to a new garden with a pretty shed and water feature.

The group of 26 members gathered at 10 am at club member Liz Gregory's garden, moved on to Susan Barton's garden, then to incoming president Julie Martinez's garden, and ended up at Karen's house to tour her garden and have lunch together.

Left: Past President Susan Barton was one of four Avondale Estate Garden Club members who opened their gardens to members for a tour June 5 as part of the club's National Garden Week observance.

Right: Club members gathered at the Avondale Estates Board of Commissioners meeting for the reading of the proclamation declaring National Garden Week.



Garden Clubs in Avondale Estates Join Forces at Blue Star Marker Commemoration

Every year, on the Friday before Memorial Day, the Avon Garden Club and the Avondale Estates Garden Club meet at the city's Blue Star Marker to honor members of the nation's military who gave their lives in service to this country.



The somber ceremony includes laying a wreath of fresh flowers beside the marker and planting flowers. In 2025, because of road construction in front of City Hall, noise from construction and plentiful orange traffic barrels made the commemoration louder, but no less somber. Members of both clubs gathered to remember and honor the men and women who died to defend and protect the United States.

Avondale Estates Garden Club President Patricia Calcagno (photo, right) read remarks, as did Avon Garden Club President Frank Mullins. They were joined by Avondale Estates City Commissioner Graham Reiney.



The ceremony in Avondale Estates is part of the Blue Star Memorial Project of the National Garden Club in which garden clubs around the country take part in similar ceremonies.

Conyers Garden Club Celebrates Garden Week in Georgia with a Garden Therapy Workday

In celebration of Garden Week in Georgia, Conyers Garden Club (CGC) held their last Garden Therapy session of the club year at the Olivia Haydel Senior Center in Conyers. For the “Kitchen Herb Garden” project, the CGC provided each of the 20 senior citizen participants with a container designed to hold three potted herbs (rosemary, thyme and lemon balm) and garden soil. Recipients of a 2024-2025 Garden Club of Georgia Garden Therapy grant, the CGC used the funds to cover the costs of the containers, potted herbs and potting soil.

Before the session began, eight members of the garden club were joined by a guest (and potential new member) to set up the workstations with containers and plants. To facilitate the planting activity, they also filled each container half-full of soil. Each club member then served as a monitor for the workstations to provide any assistance needed.

After brief instruction by Garden Therapy Chairman Gale Thomas on how to repot the provided herbs, the participants repotted their herbs into the provided containers. The garden club members assisted by adding more soil to the pots as needed. After repotting their herbs, the session participants watered their new container gardens and labeled the plants. Individual pictures were taken of each participant and his or her new herb garden.

This session was a success with the senior citizen members expressing their sincere thanks for their new container herb gardens and for all the garden club sponsored activities.



Conyers Garden Club Gets “Bee-zy” for National Garden Week

In celebration of National Garden Week (NGW), the Conyers Garden Club (CGC) sponsored a public program on Beekeeping on June 3, 2025 at the Rockdale County Extension Office.

Special guest Lisa Chester, Deputy Director of Public Relations, made a special presentation on behalf of Rockdale County Commission Chairwoman JaNice Van Ness. Ms. Chester also read a letter from Tuwanya Smith, County Commissioner and Executive Director of Keep Conyers-Rockdale Beautiful.



Both Ms. Van Ness and Ms. Smith acknowledged the CGC's work in the community and NGW and they extended offers of partnering with the garden club. CGC Co-President Kathy Williams accepted the letters on behalf of the club. A proclamation acknowledging the club's work and NGW from the City of Conyers was presented in the Mayor's absence by CGC 1st Vice President Jessica Warren.

For our program, guest speaker Danny Harvey, a member of the East Metro Beekeepers, presented information on the importance of pollinators to our food supply and gave a brief history of beekeeping from as early as 13,000 B.C.

With use of a PowerPoint presentation and his personal anecdotal stories, and tips from his over 10 years of beekeeping, Mr. Harvey kept the attendees engaged. He discussed the different roles of the bees in a hive, the basic terminology of beekeeping, suggestions for building a frame box, and the protective garments worn. Mr. Harvey passed around frames of honey for the attendees to view. He answered questions and offered advice to those interested in beginning beekeeping. Mr. Harvey also explained that local beekeepers will remove and relocate bee swarms for homeowners.

Don Hutcherson, also of East Metro Beekeepers, shared information about the beekeepers organization and extended an invitation to those present to attend one of the beekeepers meetings. After Mr. Harvey's presentation, Mr. Hutcherson engaged the attendees with a "pop quiz". The program was well received and after the program attendees stayed to ask both beekeepers additional questions.



Lullwater Garden Club Dedicates Blue Star By-Way Marker

Lullwater Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Lullwater Conservation Garden on June 14, 2025. The dedication ceremony was led by Lullwater Garden Club President Nan Loftis, who provided a brief history of Druid Hills subdivision, the club and the garden. GCG Blue Star Marker Chair Jan Thiese read the dedication and the marker was then unveiled. GCG President Diane Hunter was present for the dedication.



A Blue Star marker is a memorial that honors all men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It is a part of the Blue Star Memorial Highway system, which began as a way to recognize veterans of World War II. By-Ways Markers are mounted to a boulder or piece of granite and can be placed in civic gardens, parks and historic sites.

Lullwater Garden Club is located in Druid Hills, which is designated as a National Register of Historic Places site. It is known for being the last subdivision designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American Landscape Architecture.

Lullwater Garden Club was started in 1928 and is a charter member of the Garden Club of Georgia. In 1931, the Lullwater Conservation Garden was established when the Candler Family gave permission to Lullwater Garden Club members to

maintain a garden on a 5.25 acre of land located between Lullwater Parkway and Lullwater Road. It was originally known as the Lullwater Conservation Project.

In 1964, at a time when it was not typical for women to buy their own homes, Lullwater Garden Club purchased the land with the deed requirement that it remain a park or beautification area. Club members continue to maintain the park. More on the history of the club and garden can be found at <https://www.lullwaterconservationgarden.com>.



A plaque in the garden honors residents who served in the armed forces during war times.

Mountain Mums Celebrate Garden Week in Georgia

The Mountain Mums Garden Club truly blossomed during Garden Week in Georgia, celebrating with enthusiasm and community spirit.

The festivities commenced with Tucker Mayor Frank Auman presenting a Proclamation to President Sally Young. The proclamation lauded gardeners for their profound passion for nurturing the earth's beauty and resources, highlighting their dedication from planting seeds to cultivating thriving plants and harvesting bountiful results. It further underscored gardening's vital role in fostering a lifelong healthy lifestyle and effectively mitigating the stresses of daily life.



A highlight of the week was an exclusive event at the stunning Smoke Rise home of Randall Hudson and Stephen Harvey, who generously opened their exquisite outdoor garden to Mountain Mums Garden Club members. Under the soft glow of lit tiki torches, members leisurely sipped champagne and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, utterly captivated by the garden's lush splendor.



This private Eden is a masterpiece of design and nature, showcasing 44 evocative seasonal statues, a striking glass sculpture named "Shumhuly," and an astonishing botanical collection. Among its treasures are vibrant amaryllis, cheerful daffodils, stately gladioli, sweeping azaleas, fragrant roses, magnificent flowering trees, exotic hibiscus, elegant lilies, classic gardenias, stately camellias, and graceful Japanese maples. Adding to its charm, the property also nurtures a flourishing vegetable garden and a serene pond teeming with over 100 vibrant Koi.



Smoke Rise Morning Glories and the Georgia Regional Hospital Project

One of the most beneficial projects of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is garden therapy. Several clubs in Smoke Rise actively work with seniors in assisted living. In the case of the Smoke Rise Morning Glories, we work with the staff and patients at Georgia Regional Hospital in DeKalb County.

This facility is a mental health facility that houses patients in long term residential care, individuals in a skilled nursing unit and nursing home, as well as some day patients. The property is located on Panthersville Road and covers over thirty acres of land.

In June Morning Glories members and Master Gardeners Bonnie Pennington and Quill Duncan visited the hospital to advise Art Therapy Coordinator Mary Cochran on their summer gardening projects. Mary is also a Morning Glories member.

Patients plant, weed, water and harvest the fruits and vegetables in the large garden near the gym. One of the patients is a chef and he prepares the harvest for their enjoyment. The strawberry harvest was so prolific this year that they fed the staff and patients at a special event in early June with a huge bowl of freshly harvested strawberries. These photos show just some of the harvest that will be enjoyed by patients and staff – and maybe some birds!

Other locations across the campus have flowering pollinator and vegetable gardens that are tended by patients and staff. Garden club members cannot work directly with the patients but can offer suggestions on best practices, plant selection and plant care.

The project has received funding from the Morning Glories, DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Georgia for the last seven years.



Art Therapy project in hallway of Georgia Regional Hospital



Stonecrest Garden Club Hosts two National Garden Week Programs

On Monday, June 2, 2025, the Stonecrest Garden Club (SGC) hosted Abra Lee, Oakland Cemetery's Director of Horticulture, and Sheldon Fleming, City of Stonecrest Naturalist Coordinator, in a Panel Discussion on "The History & Legacy of Horticulture in the Black Community". Moderated by SGC Parliamentarian Deborah Fleming, the discussion covered the history of African Americans and the building of community and unity from slavery to independent family farms to urban gardening. Historical contributions of African Americans in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, soil science and other related areas were highlighted. The importance of being involved in various garden societies, organizations, and conservatories was stressed.

Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences. Included in the audience were several teenaged girls. After the session, Abra Lee took time to talk to this group of young women. The session was well received.



Scott Lange, Executive Director, and Marielle Kromis, Wildlife Care Technician II, introduced the attendees to several of the animals currently housed in the Center. In addition to answering questions from the attendees, Scott and Marielle told engaging anecdotal stories about current and previous "residents" of the Center. Although the stories were delightful and engaging, the real stars of the program were the animals who were introduced to the attendees. These included Boogie, the dancing farm owl, and Crow-a-deVille, a crow.



On Thursday, June 5, the SGC sponsored a program at The AWARE Wildlife Center where staff and volunteers work to rehabilitate injured and orphaned native Georgia wild animals. They also have programs designed to educate the public about peaceful coexistence with wildlife.



Wisteria Garden Club Supports Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden Week

Wisteria Garden Club of LaGrange celebrated Garden Week in Georgia by providing fresh plants for the planters at Wellstar West Georgia Hospice! Thanks to members Genie Sutton, Ann Blackwell, and Brenda Spradley along with the director of West Georgia Hospice.

For National Garden Week, Wisteria Garden Club created an educational display at LaGrange Memorial Library. The display had flower arrangements created from members' yards, information on programs the club supports and how to become a garden club member, and the latest NGC children's book, *My Green is Gone*. Elms and Roses Garden Club Council will be donating this book to Troup County's public libraries and public and private elementary schools.



Next to the display was a Community Seed Packet Library provided by the Master Gardeners of the Troup County Cooperative Extension Center along with soil testing bags. Pictured are members Bonnie Dudley and Ann Blackwell with the Director of Memorial Library.

