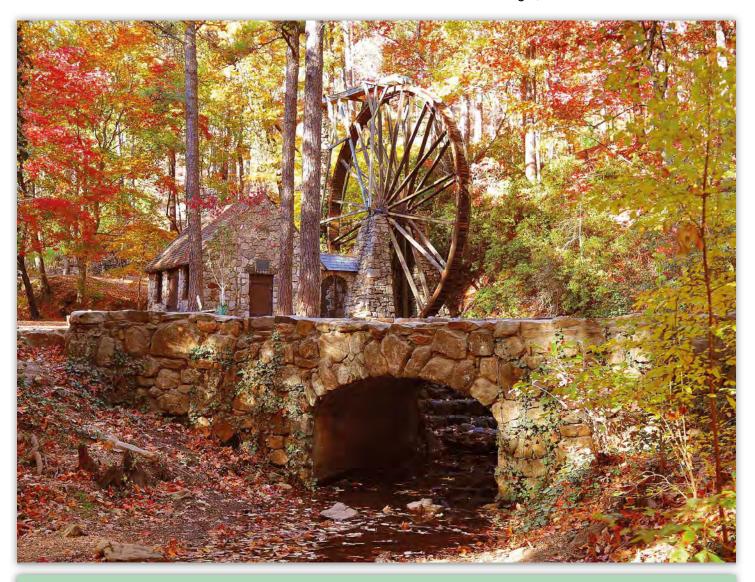


Garden Gateways

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



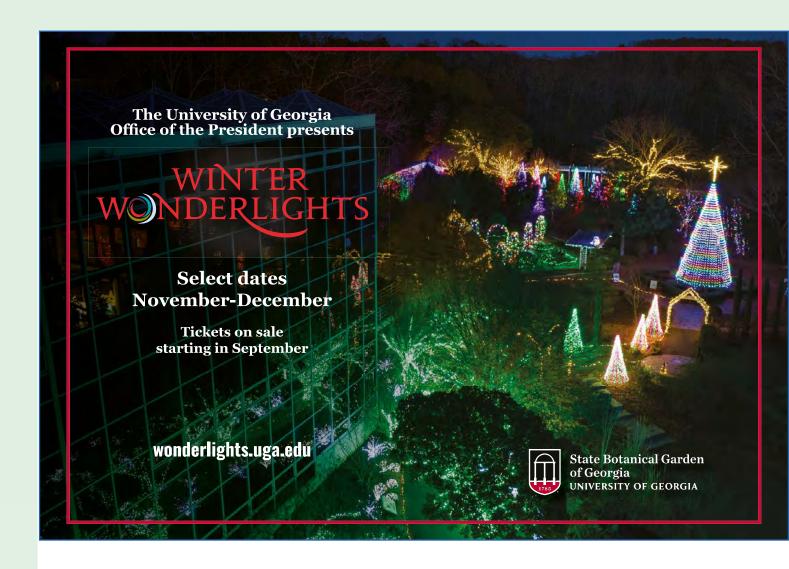
Land of the Trembling Earth

An Okefenokee Update Gardening Activity
Handouts for
Students

The Modern Garden Club

Growing together in the social age

Volume 96 No 2



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. - 1928 to 2028

"Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education"

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b.bourque@comcast.net 404-374-2828
See the GCG Website for details and the donation form



Pin Artwork created by Samantha Lund, Lily Garden Club, Valdosta

Join us at the many planned events during 2028 to celebrate our centennial.



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

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headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org 271 Clubs • 17 Councils • 9,307 Members Honorary Life President - Deen Day Sanders Member - National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492



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Big Canoe, GA
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Tending the Heart of Georgia: Creating
Community through Beautification,
Conservation and Education



NGC PRESIDENT - Donna Donnelly Elloree, SC

dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org
PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 Years!



DEEP SOUTH REGION DIRECTOR

Denise Thorne, Watertown, TN denise@tec63.com
Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and Bees

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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

The start of a new term is always hectic with fall just around the corner and tons of preparation for projects and programs from the club level and up to the mother-ship, the Garden Club of Georgia.

This issue of Garden Gateways focuses on our youth community. Our clubs are inspiring and educating the next generation of GCG members. Conyers Garden Club has its Bluebells youth club many of whom are children of former Bluebells! Garden Club of Ellijay provides regular programs on everything from vegetables to pollinators. And, don't forget our NGC 2024 Overall Community Garden Winner, the Flower Garden Club of Marietta, who built not only pollinator gardens but an outdoor classroom at Hayes Elementary School, as well.

None of these projects would go anywhere without dedicated leadership. While you're doing great work with youth, we'll take on continuing education for our grown-up club members. Our series of Leadership and Awards workshops were just the start. Sixty-five percent



of attendees surveyed were first time participants. Thanks to your peripatetic executive officers and Awards Chairman – Bess Hartley, Gale Thomas, Quill Duncan, Linda Doiron, Frank Mullins, and Diana Malone—attendees got a great overview of how GCG works and how to be better officers. Our first continuing ed efforts, organized by our Finance Team, are a series of Zoom sessions for District Treasurers and Club Treasurers. We'll also be scheduling sessions on Member365, the Website, building membership, program ideas, and much more.

Members have come up to me and offered their support. So, now, we ask you to volunteer! We have a real need to build a team of content providers for our social media and website efforts. Reaching potential new members where they are in the new media landscape is vital to moving this organization forward. A few Zoomsavvy folks to help us schedule and monitor Zoom sessions would help immensely. To help with content, contact Linda Doiron, 3rd VP, in charge of Communication. Make sure you read her article in this issue for all opportunities.

Thanks to all who answered our Convention Survey. Gale Thomas and her team along with Magnolia District Convention Chairman Kay Hagler will have more workshop opportunities along with some great speakers. This is what you said you wanted. Plan now on attending the event at the Crowne Plaza in Peachtree City on April 1, 2 and 3 (optional).

The GCG family welcomes a new club, Peachtree Corners Garden Club, to our family. Thanks to Leanne Penman, New Club Support Chairman and the Membership team headed by Quill Duncan, 4th VP. Let's all welcome them by following them on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/Peachtree-Corners-Garden-Club/61577611141785/

You can see we are off to races! My personal plea... open your email!

Tending the Heart of Georgia,

Calling All Judges and Designers!



The North Georgia State Fair Flower Shows will be from Sept. 18th to the 29th, 2025. We heed state judges to help judge our shows and individuals to enter floral designs in the Design Sections. The theme for the flower show is still be determined. The dates of judging are Thur., Sept. 18 and Wed. Sept. 24 from 11:30-4pm at Jim Miller Park in Marietta.

<u>Designers</u>: To sign up, contact Holly Walquist at 770-424-4664 or email hollywalquist@icloud.com.

<u>Judges</u>: To sign up, contact Jo Ann Dorsey at 770-382-7829 or email jadorsey39@aim.com.

For additional information contact Holly Walquist at 770-424-4664 or email hollywalquist@

Icloud.com. The schedules for the 1st and 2nd shows are available on the website:

https://www.northgeorgiastatefair.com/non-commercial-flower-show.

Hope to see you at the Flower Show this year!

3

Our hillside garden in CT grew on a deeply sloping terrain. At the bottom of the slope was a flat sunny plot of rich land that bordered a pond and waterway flowing to a small waterfall. Raised beds were built there to create 6 large vegetable plots. The first year we planted asparagus, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, beans, spinach, squash, cucumbers, peas, carrots, Swiss chard, and herbs. The next year, one of those beds was given over to dahlias. And that was the beginning of a fascination with this wide ranging tuber that produces a seemingly limitless variety of colors, forms and styles.

According to the plans recorded in my garden journal each year, the vegetables quickly gave way to the dahlias. From the 5 raised beds of dahlias, some made the move with us to Georgia, but none survived. There were occasional successes but the trials with deer and the intense heat of Southern summers did not spur this gardener to continue ordering more dahlia tubers. The collection of books on dahlias were relegated to the bottom shelf.

Then, this past June I tagged along with a fellow Master Gardener on a tour planned by the Coastal Master Gardener Association to the most amazing Coffee Bluff garden of Patrick Prokop featuring day lilies and dahlias. Have you ever found yourself twirling among your flowers? Maybe that's just me, but it has happened. I could barely contain myself in Patrick's garden; every visitor seemed enchanted. So, I am up for the challenge to grow more dahlias after a visit to Patrick's back yard paradise.



Patrick was kind enough to offer suggestions for all that have found dahlias difficult to grow in the Deep South. He says, " At our Latitude (32°N) it is beneficial to plant dahlias in areas that receive morning sun and afternoon shade." That is important advice for me, because my sunny

border areas do not offer afternoon shade, so I will find a new area. Also, I will plant the tuber deeply because as with all of my flowering plants, in direct sun, the earth really bakes the first inches of soil during a scorching summer, and the dahlia tubers do not appreciate baking.

Patrick further advises, "The soil should be loose, rich in organic material, and have good drainage. They love bone meal, (rich in phosphorus), and potassium, but keep the nitrogen levels low. Excessive nitrogen will

result in tall, lush, green growth with a low abundance of flowers. Water deeply a few times a week during dry periods." During the tour, visitors were shown how Patrick mixes the soil with additives for the raised



beds. If you are living in an area with excessive clay content in your garden soil, be advised that dahlias will not be happy. Raised beds or containers filled with a lighter soil mix may be the preferred method.

Patrick says, "In coastal Georgia, it is not necessary to dig up the tubers for the winter; however, care should be taken to avoid prolonged periods of cold, damp conditions, which could lead to tuber rot. In areas where winter temperatures drop below the lower 20s, it is necessary to dig the tubers in the fall and store them in a cool dry environment."

From my own past experience, the "mother" tuber initially planted and left in the ground will subsequently produce new tubers from which new flower stalks will emerge the following growing season. While the mother tuber may produce a flowering stalk the next year, she will eventually either rot or stop producing eyes from which all growth begins. Leaving her in the ground will sap energy from the new younger tubers, so it is a good practice to dig up and divide your tubers occasionally. This is also a good way to encourage fellow gardeners by sharing those extra tubers. But be warned, dahlias are addictive. It is hard to have just one. The many varieties are captivating: Decorative, Collerette, Cactus, Semi-cactus, Pompon, Ball, Anemone, Waterlily and Single-flowered. And even a 10th group - Miscellaneous, for those strange dahlias that defy categorization.

You may find some lovely potted dahlias to purchase at your local garden center, but the widest selection will be found mail order. Old House Dahlias in Tillamook, OR has a great selection available in February 2026. Another source is Swan House Dahlias in Canby, OR, a family owned business for almost 100 years. They are accepting orders now for Spring 2026. You can be sure I will be growing dahlias again inside my garden gate! When the fresh green growth in your garden gives way to the muted colors of fall, the dahlias will continue to shock and delight with their brilliant wide ranging colors. Their long blooming period, from June to October and possibly beyond, make this a worthy addition to be grown inside your garden gate.

The Modern Garden Club

Growing Together in the Social Age









This year we begin an exciting new chapter that allows us to share our passion for gardening with a wider audience. Through platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Substack, we can highlight our events, celebrate member achievements and exchange ideas instantly with each other.

Our social media mission is probably familiar to youto cultivate beauty, conservation and education through a lifelong love of gardening. Through social media we extend our educational reach to connect with gardeners of all ages and skill levels to provide continuous learning, creativity and friendship.

We will tend to the hearts of Georgia by posting tips, techniques and green wisdom from the thousands of creative minds of our members. It's like a potluck of plant knowledge – everyone brings something to grow on.

We invite all members to join in, follow us, tag us and share your garden moments with a modern day reach.

Facebook- @TheGardenClubofGeorgia,Inc. – Like and follow us on Facebook, and don't forget to tag us in your garden posts. We love to see what our members are growing.

~ Linda Doiron, 3rd Vice-President-Communications and Connections

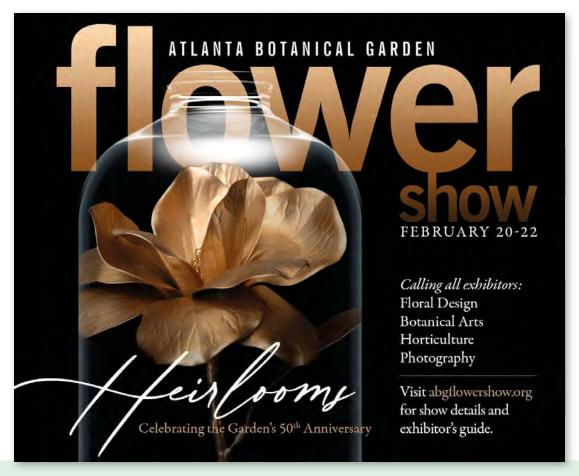
Instagram-@Gardenclubofgeorgia-Follow us on Instagram for great content including, "Where's Diane," as our president Diane Hunter goes about her duties and garden adventures (equal parts laughter and leadership).

YouTube-@TheGardenClubofGeorgia-Head over to YouTube to find education and inspiration from our members with easy-to-follow videos.

Substack- substack.com/@GCGgarden- Substack is like a digital garden journal. It's one beautiful place to plant, grow and share everything we know. We will publish newsletters, articles, blogs, updates and tips all in one easy-to- access space.

Do you want to know when we need content and what kind we're looking for? We've created a content calendar to help guide us, but we can't do it without you. Your photos, event updates, gardening tips and creative ideas are important to us. If you want to be added to our list of content creators, send us an e-mail and we'll add you to the list. We won't bury you with email requests (remember a sunflower- always reaching out and sometimes ignored), but if you send your request to be added as a content creator, or send us your photos, videos and articles to GCGSocialMediaStars@gmail.com, we will grow this together.

Stay tuned for updates and calls for content as we spread our roots, tending to the hearts of Georgia gardeners, near and far.



5

Student Scholarships Grant Awards 2025

GCG provided \$90,000 in grants to 15 students for the 2025-2026 academic term. We are thankful to all who have contributed to the GCG Scholarship Program.

We received 36 Named Scholarships totaling \$56,660. In addition, we granted \$33,340 through Patrons of Scholarships, General Fund contributions, along with interest & dividend income from Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose Investment Accounts.

Congratulations to our students on their many achievements. We send our very best wishes as they continue their studies and move into their careers.

Laurel District

The Laurel District Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2016, this year is presented in honor of Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District Director 2023-2025.

The Garden Club of Ellijay Scholarship; \$2,000 Est. in 2022 to honor the service of the club to their community.

The James M. (Jim) Grimes Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2023, given in memory by his family.

The Jody Hunter Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2023 & given in his memory by Diane Hunter.

Azalea District

The Azalea District Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2025 in memory of Linda Harris

The Greensboro Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. by The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. In honor of the 2024 Club of the Year.

The Ladies' Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2018 in honor of the club and members.

Oleander District

The Oleander District Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2014 in honor of its clubs and members.

The Lisa Hall Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2024, to honor Sara Lanier for her many years of service to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. with special appreciation in taking on the role of Advisor for the 2023-2025 term.

The Hamilton Plantation Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2024 in honor of the club and members.

The Landings Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2014, this year in honor of Pat Barry.

The David L. Shaw Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2022 by Geri Shaw in memory of her husband.

Camellia District

The Camellia District Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2011 in honor of the Camellia District Directors. The Barbara Jones Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2023, given in loving memory of her husband, Lynn L. Jones. The Thomasville Garden Club, Inc. Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2024, this year honors Mary Carol McCall, Camellia District Director 2023-2025, for her unwavering support of her Club, Council and District members.

Magnolia District

The Magnolia District Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2025 in honor of Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director 2023-2025

The Magnolia Garden Club Scholarship; \$11,160 Est. in 2022, to honor the club and members.

Dogwood District

The Dogwood District Scholarship; \$2,000 Est. in 2016 in honor of its clubs and members.

The Ama-Kanasta Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2011 by its members in honor of the club.

The Club Estates Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2022 to honor their members and many years of service to the community.

The Garnett Hanna Cobb Scholarship; \$5,000 Est. in 2013 by Jane Whiteman and Terry Waith; continued by Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Cobb in memory of his mother, a founding member of fifty years in the Sandy Springs Garden Club

The James R. Cothran Landscape Architecture Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2011 in tribute to his memory by Lee & Michael Dunn.

The Mrs. Sammie S. Flaherty Scholarship; \$1,500 Est. in 2008 by Nancy Moses in loving memory of her mother, a Life Member and Former President of Hilltop Garden Club

The Stanley D. Moses Scholarship; \$1,500 Est. in Stan's honor in 2014 and in loving memory in 2020 by Nancy Moses.

The Norcross Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2019, in honor of the clubs and members.

The Deen Day Sanders Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in honor of Deen by her friends and family.

The James R. Sanders, Jr. Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2024 in his memory by the GCG State Board of Directors & Membership. The Bettye Trankina Scholarship; \$2,500 Est. in 2023 by Alpharetta Garden Club in her honor.

Redbud District

The Redbud District Scholarship; \$1,000
Est. in 2021 honoring Redbud District clubs and councils

The Avondale Estates Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2022 in honor of the club and their members.

The Victoria L. Cooper Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2024 in honor of a deserving Horticulture student.

The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.; \$1.000

Est. in 2020 in honor of their clubs and members.

The Sharon R. Denney Horticulture Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2020 in tribute to his memory by Mary W. Denney.

The Dunwoody Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000 Est. in 2020, this year is given in honor of Maria Richmond.

The Jody Hunter Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2023 & given in his memory by Diane Hunter.

The Jim and Lorraine Loftis Scholarship; 1,000 Est. in 2018 by Nanette Loftis in loving memory of her parents.

Patrons of Scholarship - May 2024 - April 2025

With appreciation for donations of \$200 or more to help us reach our Scholarship goal!

Laurel District

The Commerce Garden Club Fleur de Lis Garden Club Carolyn Hawkins in Honor of Deen Day Sanders Magnolia Garden Club Seven Hills Garden Club

Azalea District

Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. Cherokee Rose Garden Club Nancy Hart Garden Club Pine Tree Garden Club Spade and Trowel Garden Club

Oleander District

Garden Club of Savannah Sprig- N- Dig Garden Club

Camellia District

Erin Garden Club Greenbriar Garden Club Killarney Queen Garden Club Killarney Queen Garden Club in Honor of Mary Tomlinson Lady Banks Garden Club Rambler Rose Garden Club

Magnolia District

Martha & Phillip Price in Memory of Jane Whiteman & in Honor of Terry Waith

Dogwood District

Alpharetta Garden Club
Ama Kanasta Garden Club
Bellmere Garden Club in Honor of
Deen Day Sanders
Druid Hills Garden Club
Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs
in Honor of BJ Crabtree
Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs
in Honor of Trudy Rudert.
Indian Creek Garden Club
Magnolia Garden Club in Honor of
Lucinda Whitehead
Northwood Garden Club

Primrose Garden Club
Norcross Garden Club in Memory of
Barbara Johnson
Norcross Garden Club in Memory of
Jill Swenson
The Rose Garden Club
Roswell Garden Club in Honor of
Roswell Garden Club Members
Sandy Springs Garden Club
Spade & Trowel Garden Club
Town & Country Garden Club

Redbud District

Avon Garden Club
Rosa Capps in her Memory from
Garden Club & Family Friends.
The Designers Club
Rigby & Jack Duncan
Lullwater Garden Club
Susan Turner

Friends of GCG

Georgia Iris Society Greg Lowery

Please visit our website and read of our students Scholarship grants awarded in 2025. Scholarship information is found under the Member Resources tab.

https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-scholarships/

New Life Members

Bess Hartley, Life Membership Chairman

New State Life Members

#2204 Penny Daniels, Camellia #2205 Linda Dorian, Dogwood #2206 Madeline Chandler, Laurel #2207 Margaret Holifield, Laurel

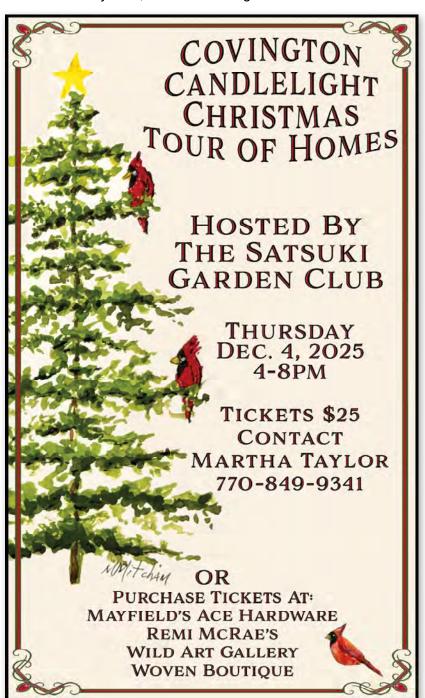
New Deep South Life Members

Linda Dorian, Dogwood

New National Life Members

#10768 Quill Duncan #10770 Tommie Elaine Shattuck #10776 Jan Stewart #10778 Diane Hunter #10782 Joni Thompson Caroline Silcox, 44th President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. died May 14, 2025 after suffering from congestive heart failure. Caroline grew up in Gainesville, Georgia. After graduating from Agnes Scott College with a degree in vocal performance and a minor in political science, she married her husband Hal, moved back to Gainesville and taught American History at Gainesville Junior High School. Eventually, with two growing children she decided to leave the teaching profession and started her work as a volunteer.

Her love of flower arranging developed during work with the First United Methodist Church flower guild. Caroline became a Master Flower Show Judge and American Daffodil Society Judge and was a member of the Creative Study Club, the North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges





and the Georgia Daffodil

Society. Also during this time she started her own business, Designs Beautiful in 1989 creating arrangements for weddings, funerals and other events. Caroline chaired two Flower Show Schools, one Symposium as well as joining the Board of Directors of The Garden Club of Georgia first as Laurel District Director, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Trustees Chairman, First Vice President and finally President 2011-2013.

During Caroline's term as President with the theme, "Our Garden of Georgia," GCG maintained 410 clubs and 11.877 members. Continued sale of the GCG calendar, life memberships and donations funded college scholarships of \$127,000 over the two year term. Two successful conventions were held in Macon, 2012 and Marietta, 2013 as well as the Deep South convention in Savannah in 2013. Twenty-seven NGC schools were held during the term. GCG added 14 newly accredited NGC Flower Show Judges. Native plant symposia were held at The State Botanical Garden as well as the UGA Tifton campus. Many NGC awards were received by Georgia members and clubs during the two year term.

Caroline's goal was for all members to make a difference for beautification, conservation and education in their clubs, district and communities in Georgia. Many special projects enveloped this idea including promoting "Garden Week In Georgia," community connections with projects emphasizing tree canopies and green space, water sources and community gardens. A celebration of life was held for Caroline on June 28, 2025 in Gainesville.

The Land of the Trembling Earth

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Okefenokee, the largest blackwater swamp in North America, as a National Wildlife Refuge. He was concerned that logging would destroy this special place. He and many others were concerned that we would lose more migratory birds. No one wanted a repeat of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. Water is the swamp. Two rivers begin their course there, Suwannee and St. Mary's. Additionally, the Floridian Aquifer System runs underneath. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was created to make sure all Wildlife Refuges continue to support these special habitats.

Trail Ridge is a large sand dune created thousands of years ago when the ocean was further inland, creating the edge of the Okefenokee. These dunes contain

titanium dioxide, a plentiful mineral that is very useful. DuPont first attempted to mine adjacent to the swamp in the 1990s. But, after much public opposition, it gave the 16,000 acres it planned to mine to the Conservation Fund. It has now become part of the official refuge. Recently, Twin **Pines Mineral Mining** Company (TPMC) planned to once again mine the sands of Trail Ridae.

Despite the voices of hundreds

of thousands of Georgians, warnings from scientists at University of Georgia (UGA) and USFWS, and many conservation groups, the Georgia EPD gave TMPC a temporary permit as they had not paid the bond money. The Georgia legislature was unable to decide on a course of action. It seemed that the second attempt to mine the sands would succeed. The drag line operation of Twin Pines would require 1.44 million gallons of water each day. Scientists from both UGA and the USFWS feared that the removal of this much water each day from the aguifer would cause significant depletion of the water levels to the Okefenokee and the Suwannee and St. Mary's rivers. There would also likely be a reduction in the amount of water available from the Floridian Aguifer. The aguifer provides wonderful pure water for human use in Georgia and especially in Florida. Replenishment of the aquifer is not well understood. If the Okefenokee water levels fall, will the then dry peat bogs become blazing uncontrollable fires as has happened during times of drought?

Were you among the hundreds of thousands who reached out to state representatives or the EPD regarding the proposed mining of sand dunes near the Okefenokee? Rest assured your efforts were not in vain. After years of debate and determination, a solution was reached to prevent TPMC from mining the Trail Ridge. The company agreed to a \$60 million sale of its land and mineral rights, made possible by a coalition of conservationists including The Conservation Fund, the James M. Cox Foundation, and the Holdfast Collective. But this outcome would not have been possible without the voices and advocacy of people like you. Your involvement made a real difference in protecting the Land of the Shaking Earth.

The Okefenokee has been recognized internationally

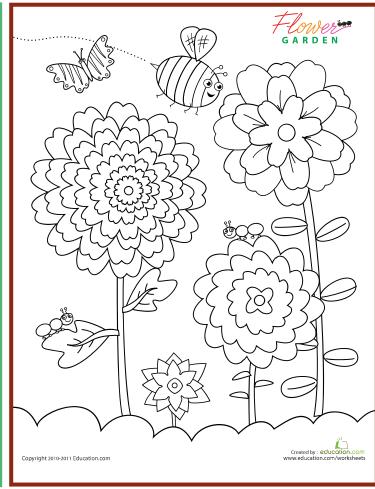
for its uniqueness. The Stephan Foster State Park on the western edge of the Okefenokee was certified as an official Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park in 2016. The park staff worked to perfect the lighting within the park to adhere to the strict requirements for the designation. Now you can see the Milky Waycan you see that in your backyard? Astronomy



programs are routinely given. Go and see the world before electricity ended night. Currently, a UNESCO World Heritage Site application for the Okefenokee has made the tentative list for inclusion in the 2026 committee vote. Former Governor Sonny Perdue has requested that the Secretary of the Interior, Douglas Burgum, add his request to the bid for inclusion in the 2026 committee vote. Worldwide recognition of the uniqueness and value to the world would make it a destination not to be missed.

Many thanks to all who made the effort to save our Land of the Trembling Earth. Now you need to visit. What wonders might you experience? Perhaps the springtime bellows of alligators searching for a mate? The Milky Way? Woodpeckers? Cranes or turtles? Walking on shifting peat bogs? There is also the silence and darkness, which we normally do not have in our noisy well lit urban areas. Go-you will be surprised, refreshed and at peace.









Bugs and Blooms Bingo



https://bingobaker.com/





ODE TO THE BUTTERFLY

The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly is Georgia's state butterfly. You may have seen these beautiful butterflies flying around your home or local park.

To celebrate this insect, create a three line haiku poem. Remember the first and third lines should have five syllables, and the second line should have seven syllables.

Cute Insects Rock Painting Art & Craft For Kids This fun DIY project adds a charming touch to outdoor decor. Using simple materials, kids and adults can design beautiful floral patterns on rocks, enhancing your garden's beauty and encouraging creativity.







ww.kidsartiicrart.com

Make a Recycled Bird Feeder



- 1. Gather the materials. You will need an empty Milk Carton, a bamboo skewer, dowel or chopstick, scissors, ribbon, and birdseed. You can also paint the feeder with nontoxic paint.
- 2. Cut an opening in the milk carton. You will want it to start about an inch from the bottom.
- 3. When that is done poke a hole under that for the dowel/chopstick and one on the opposite side of the carton.
- 4. Poke the dowel through.
- 5. Poke a hole in the top of the carton for the ribbon that will be used to hang the feeder. Thread the ribbon through and knot it, you can use twine or string too, I am just using what I had available.
- 6. Fill with bird seed.
- 7. Hang it outside and wait for the birds... I am still waiting, but I am hoping we see some soon!

www.notimeforflashcards.com

WORD SEARCH

Education.com

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Southern Magnolia Blackeyed Susan Coneflower

Butterfly Bush Red Buckeye Sugar Maple

Passionflower Red Cedar Duranta

Lantana Salvia Cassia

Milkweed Aster Snapdragon

Bee Balm Yarrow Herbs

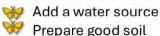


Make Your Own Garden to Attract Pollinators!!

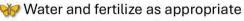


Start with a pot/container if you don't have room for a ground garden
Select a location that receives 6 hours or more of sunlight each day

W Choose a location with structures/barriers to reduce wind



Plant host, nectar, and shelter native plants





Eliminate/reduce chemical use



... for Garden Gateways or Social Media



A great garden photo starts with these tips and tricks, a steady hand and a good eye. Here's how to make your faces and flowers shine for print (Garden Gateways, newsletters) or digital media (Facebook, Instagram, Substack).

• Use the Rule of Thirds – don't center everything. Instead imagine a 3x3 grid and place the subject where the lines intersect. Some phones have a grid option that you can turn on to frame your photos. (For I-phone- Settings; Camera; Grid (under Composition); turn it on by toggling to green).

- Use natural light early morning or late afternoon is best.
- Tap to focus especially on faces or flowers.
- Avoid zooming get closer instead.
- Try new angles low, overhead, or from the side.
 Try turning your phone upside down before taking a picture.

Print Quality Basics

Low resolution images look blurry. (Most Iphones are set to the highest resolution automatically.)

- Always take and save photos with your phone in "original or actual" size. (I-phones do this automatically.)
- Avoid screenshots they lose quality.
- Use your camera's highest quality setting.

Sending/Transfer Photos the Right Way

- Name your files clearly.
- "Attach" original photos in emails don't
 "paste" them in the body of the email. If Gmail
 automatically defaults to an "inline" image, then
 use these instructions to change the inline photo
 to an attachment. (I-phone- tap on the picture,
 and it will give you options to "select all"; "format";
 "send as an attachment".)
- Save and transfer in "actual size" format. Don't compress.
- Avoid sending by text- images will be compressed.
- Use Google Drive or Dropbox for large files.
- Don't send blurry, dark, or over-filtered images.

Before You Hit Send - Quick Checklist

- ✓ In focus and well-lit?
- Original or actual size (high resolution)?
- ✓ Original file (not a screenshot)?
- ✓ Named properly and ready to share?
- ✓ Include who, what, where, when in your email or caption?

Keep it natural, sharp, and clear – your photos tell the story!

Remember, submit your Garden Gateways or newsletter articles to your District Director. Specific guidelines can be found at

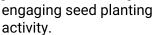
gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-publications/





North Cobb High School's Greenhouse Gang—an inclusive, 60+ member student garden club sponsored by the North Cobb Warriors Staff Club—is cultivating more than just plants as they prepare for the 2025–26 school year. "The fruits of their labor will be on full display when students return this fall," said club sponsor Sue Aughey. Raised beds across campus are already brimming with marigolds, zinnias, herbs, tomatoes, and more—evidence of a thriving garden and growing community. This year, the Greenhouse Gang will also supply fresh produce to North Cobb's Culinary Arts program, strengthening the farm-to-table connection on campus.

Soque Garden Club was asked by the Cleveland Library to plan an activity for the library's summer adult program on Wednesdays. Kelly Wooten and Audrey Ruccio put together an interesting and



Kelly and Audrey provided GROW Honey Bee Habitat kits to every participant to help them learn the



best way to plant seeds. Audrey gave tips and instructions on how to plant seeds successfully and Kelly went over the important benefits of pollinators. Everyone went home with planted seeds in their kits and

some seedlings that Audrey brought for them. Attendees will watch their plants grow and then transplant to appropriate locations. After some time, they will have beautiful flowers for the bees to continue the pollinating process to help feed the world.

Sequoyah Garden Club celebrated 75 years on May 13th. They met at the lovely home of Tonya Craig. Jean Lewis, the longest standing member, shared scrapbooks, yearbooks and photos of the history of the club.

They dressed in fashions popular of the 1950's showing how the original members dressed for regular meetings. This club gives annual scholarships to area high school graduates who plan to continue their education in the horticulture field.







The Rose & Dahlia Garden Club (RDGC) Youth Outreach program is the Growing Seeds Club. An afterschool program designed to introduce 3rd - 5th grade students at Downtown Academy, a small private school in Athens, to the rewards of gardening and a greater appreciation for the environment.

Monthly meetings have a unique theme; for example April's theme was "April Showers Bring May Flowers." The final meeting of the '24-'25 school year explored the wonderful world of flower arranging. RDGC member volunteers shared how an emphasis on "Focal, Filler, Foliage, and Form" could be key to beautiful floral creations. Students also learned the names of various flowers and greenery and then created Teacher Appreciation vases to share with their Downtown Academy faculty and staff.

Greenbrier Garden Club members gathered on the morning of Friday, April 25, at a guiet section of the History Walk on the Augusta University (AU) Summerville Campus to donate and plant a tree. The tree, a young red maple, is the first to be planted on the Summerville Campus since Hurricane Helene struck the area.

For the members of the garden club, many of whom have deep ties to the university and the city, it made perfect sense to donate and plant this tree at AU. "It was really sad to see how many trees were down around this area after the storm. To be able to replant one of those trees at a place that means so much to so many of us, it was a real



honor," said Julie Dent, who was a member of the first class of AU's legacy institution.

Linda Wier has been a member of the garden club since the early 1970s, and she recognized the importance of planting the tree somewhere it would be taken care of so more people can enjoy it for years to come. The garden club was aided in their search for the perfect tree by AU's new director of landscaping and grounds, Anna Lacey.

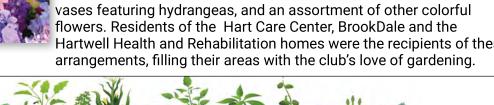
Pine Tree Garden Club (PTGC) Celebrated National Garden Club Week



PTGC members created bouquets of flowers. During the June picnic, members browsed their gardens and cut flowers meant to inspire and bring vibrant color to residents of Hart County's long term care facilities.

Members created over 50

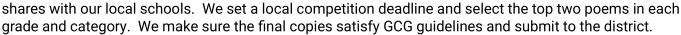
flowers. Residents of the Hart Care Center, BrookDale and the Hartwell Health and Rehabilitation homes were the recipients of these arrangements, filling their areas with the club's love of gardening.





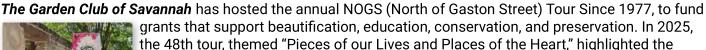
Oleander Hits Gold! For the past several years the Oleander District Clubs have been actively pursuing greater participation in youth awards and contests. We contact school personnel, advertise in local newspapers, and email individuals who can help spread the word and information. As a result, we have been successful in having GCG, Deep South, and national winners for several years.

This year's theme is "Plant America for the Next 100 Years". Youth in Grades K-12 compete by grade level in one of three categories: General education, Special Education, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). When the Georgia Youth Poetry Contest Flyer and Guidelines are distributed, Oleander



For this year, Oleander District poetry submissions are due on or before Friday, November 14th to: Debra Fenn, P. O. Box 131, Odum, GA 31555

Check the NGC Website for the new Poster Information.

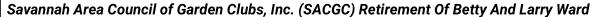


the 48th tour, themed "Pieces of our Lives and Places of the Heart," highlighted the connection between gardens and quilts, drawing 1,500 visitors from 48 states.

The tour celebrated Savannah's hidden gardens and raised \$50,000, funding 15 horticultural projects. GCS also provides annual support to three ongoing partners: Massie Heritage Center, Ronald McDonald House, and Savannah Botanical Gardens & Farmhouse. Since 2022, the tour has generated over \$70,000 annually for horticultural grants.

Grants, typically \$500-\$5,000, act as seed money and encourage collaboration and first-time applicants. Projects like the Tybee Marine Science dune garden exemplify the club's commitment to community improvement and environmental education.

The success of the tour stems from the dedication of GCS members, volunteers, and partners, who ensure the event supports both the beauty and health of Savannah's green spaces and its residents.



It was a sunny day at Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. when Betty Ward's Retirement Event took place. Betty was surprised when she walked towards the Wedding Pavilion and passed a serenading musician! At the Pavilion, she was shown an attached plaque: "The Betty Ward Pavilion". Council members toasted and shared memories of her many years of dedicated service as Secretary and Wedding Planner!

Betty brought much needed funds to our Council for upkeep of Farmhouse and Botanical Garden!



Thank you Betty and Larry for your many years of devoted service and for your unwavering love of SACGC, Inc. Farmhouse and Botanical Garden!





Camellia District Youth Program Winners

This year four schools and one Youth Organization participated in the Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl Program, Youth Poetry Program, and the Youth Sculpture Program. The schools participating were: Cross Creek Elementary School, Thomasville, sponsored by Briarcliff Garden Club-Thomasville; Thomasville Christian School, Thomasville, sponsored by Briarcliff Garden Club-Thomasville; G.E.A.R. Gifted Center, Moultrie sponsored by Magnolia Garden Club-Moultrie; Odom Elementary School, Moultrie, sponsored by Cherokee Garden Club-Moultrie; and Vashti Center, Thomasville, sponsored by Lady Banks-Thomasville. Overall there were 20 District



Cross Creek Elementary Winners

winners, 7 Poetry winners from GCG, one at Deep South and one at NGC. GCG awarded two Sculpture awards, Deep South and NGC each presented one. Congratulations to our winners and all the participants.

Pluck A Duck A very special fundraiser and kick-off event for Special Olympics of Georgia was held at The Garden Center of Valdosta (aka The Crescent) on June 12th. The Greater Valdosta and Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, Jesse's Eats and Treats, Special Olympics and The Crescent partnered to kick off this annual fundraiser Pluck a Duck for Special Olympics. The Georgia State Games for Special Olympics will be held in Valdosta in October of this year.

Special Athletes, local and state dignitaries and, of course, the Ducks were a special part of the evening. Over \$1,000 was raised for this unique and exceptional program.

Holly Garden Club of our Valdosta council provided the "ducky" decorations, and Jesse's Eats and Treats provided the



food and beverages. Even the fountain in the gardens of The Crescent was taken over by "the ducks." The Garden Center of Valdosta was honored and proud to be a part of this program and fun event which enhances the lives of so many exceptional young people. We will be providing support during the upcoming State Games in October in various capacities.

Town & Country Garden Club of Valdosta took on a community service project with a



local assisted living home, The Orchard. We purchased soil, mulch, flowers, and provided our sweat equity, some planters, and used our skills and tools to augment the basic landscaping in the courtyard of one of the residential areas.

We scouted the area first, checked on the availability of sprinkler systems, how often they run, and set a date for our members to plant and spruce up the area. The residents are so happy with the cheery, colorful plants we added.





Azalea Garden Club of Columbus Celebrates Gardening Week in Georgia As part of the Gardening Week in Georgia celebrations and our Plant America Jordan Vocational High School (JVHS) Courtyard Garden initiative, members of the Azalea Garden Club partnered with JVHS alumni and students to restore and revitalize the school's courtyard flower beds. Together, we cleared overgrown ground cover and shrubs, tackled weed and stump removal, removed aging landscape fabric and pavers, and reshaped the bed outlines to breathe new life into the space.

The saying "Teamwork makes the dream work" truly captured the spirit of this collaboration. Students brought humor and lightheartedness to the grueling task at hand, turning it into a productive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. A highlight of the project was planting a native fringe tree (Chionanthus virginicus) in the courtyard—with enthusiastic participation from the students. The tree, affectionately named Carmen in honor of the school's crimson and gray colors, now stands as a living symbol

of growth, renewal, and school pride. Azalea Garden Club members and JVHS alumni will rotate watering and caring for Carmen throughout the season to ensure she thrives.

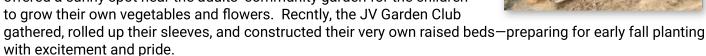
Sowing Seeds of Joy: Stewart/Webster Bee Beautiful Garden Club Launches JV Garden Club for Youth



In Stewart and Webster Counties, where fertile soil meets deep community roots, the Stewart/Webster Bee Beautiful Garden Club is cultivating more than just flowers and vegetables—we're growing future gardeners! Our newly established Junior Garden Club, affectionately called the JV Garden Club, is thriving with more than 20 enthusiastic members, ages 8 to 16.

Led with care and creativity by volunteers Brandy Duncan and Stephanie Cobb, the JV Garden Club meets each month. Over just four sessions, these young gardeners have already begun to sprout strong.

Thanks to generous community support, the children have been able to dig in—literally! With donations of "Seed Money, " needed supplies, and a even copy of *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* to every child, introducing them to the wonder of gardening through story. The City of Richland offered a sunny spot near the adults' community garden for the children to grow their own vegetables and flowers. Recntly, the JV Garden Club



We're incredibly proud of our JV gardeners, and we thank all who have supported them. Together, we're proving that when you give kids a little dirt, a few seeds, and a lot of encouragement, they grow more than plants—they grow confidence, connection, and curiosity. The formation of the JV Bee Beautiful Garden Club is not only a milestone for our Stewart/Webster Club but a reflection of something deeply needed in our gardening communities: a bridge between generations.

Stay tuned—our JV Garden Club is just getting started!



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Ama-Kanasta Raises Scholarship Money With Fun And Fashion!

Ama-Kanasta Garden Club in Douglasville raised over \$11,000 for Garden Club of Georgia



scholarships and community projects at the "Petals & Poses" fashion show on April 17 at Sunset Hills Country Club. Ama-Kanasta members and friends modeled the stylish fashions and sassy shoes and accessories which were provided by Dillard's at Arbor Place Mall.

Since 2011, Ama-Kanasta has funded a \$1,000 named scholarship for GCG. In addition, the club has sponsored scholarships for local students pursuing a horticulture-related field.



Ivy Garden Club Celebrates Their 85th Anniversary Surrounded By Flowers And Friends!



It was a very special April 15th for the Ivy Garden Club members as they celebrated their 85th Anniversary with a delicious brunch at the Piedmont Driving Club. Lucy Hunter from North Wales, UK who is an award winning landscape and floral designer as well as an author & fine artist, entertained

and educated the Ivy ladies with spectacular organic seasonal flower arranging. The Ivy Garden Club Scrapbooks from the Cherokee History Center documenting the 85 years



of floral endeavors, community service, and friendships were on display for all to reminisce and admire.

After gardening with the students at the Hillside Children's Facility, the Ivy Garden Club ended its 85th year with a flower show. Each committee was given a decade to create a floral arrangement from a tune of that era. Much fun was had by all!

Camellia Garden Club celebrates their 85th Anniversary in style!

On Saturday, May 3rd, members of the Camellia Garden Club gathered to celebrate "Cheers to 85 Years!" We were honored to have Barbara Bourque, Former Garden Club of Georgia President and currently the Dogwood District Parliamentarian; Christy Novellas, Dogwood District Director; and Monica Bozonier, Immediate Former Dogwood District Director in attendance for our celebration.

Founded in 1940 and originally based in Atlanta, club members now live in the metro area and surrounding suburbs. "Together We Grow," our motto, is the basis for all our initiatives including



civic beautification at the Chastain Horse Park, garden therapy with residents of St. Anne's Terrace, and conservation emphasis with Trees Atlanta and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. In 2005 and in 2017-2018, we funded restoration and participated in the beautification of the "Boy With a Swan" statue at the Atlanta History Center. With a rich history of dedication to the environment and serving others, we look forward to the next 85 years!





The Bluebells Youth Garden Club, sponsored by Conyers GC, embarked on a journey through the oceans of the world. Each girl was given a small photo book to be used as an album for her crafts and studies on sea life.

They cut out shell shapes,

coloring and identifying the marine life that lived within each shell. The artwork was glued in their scrapbook with the inhabitant's name and something about that creature. They also created beautiful art by gluing a large scallop shell to a canvas frame they painted..

Lullwater Garden Club

(LGC) dedicated a
Blue Star Memorial
By-Way Marker in the
Lullwater Conservation
Garden on June 14th.
The ceremony was led
by LGC President Nan
Loftis, who provided a
brief history of the Druid



Hills subdivision, the club, and the garden. GCG Blue Star Marker Chair Jan Thiese read the dedication, and the marker was unveiled. GCG President Diane Hunter was present for the dedication.

LGC was founded in 1928 and is a founding member of The Garden Club of Georgia. In 1931, the Lullwater Conservation Garden was created when the Candler Family granted permission to LGC members to maintain a 5.25 acre garden between Lullwater Parkway and Lullwater Road. Club members continue to maintain the park.



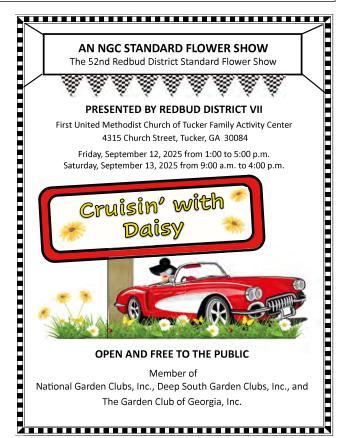
The Designers Club Attended the GCG Flower Show Symposium
Pictured L-R back row – Susan Turner, Emily Levitt, Ruthellen Anderson,
Maidee Spencer, Marci Wilcox, Diane Hunter, Mary Ann Bryant &
Gale D. Thomas; Front row – Barbara Crank, Bettye Trankina,
Lynn Fronk, Janet McGinnis & Joy Zaidan.

Youth Garden Club Members Dig in and Get a Garden

Planted What could be more fun than digging in the dirt? The Green Thumbs Youth Garden Club at Clearview Elementary in LaGrange got summer



veggies in place from Wisteria Garden Club's Youth Club chairman, Ann Blackwell, member Amy Davis, and leader Tracy Peterson. Wisteria offers support including handson supervision, providing needed supplies, tools, and gift cards for future needs. The children were shown how to prepare the beds and how to plant tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash, cucumbers, watermelon and collards. Everything has been producing except the collards which unfortunately were devoured by bugs. It was a great hands-on learning experience and has produced a good harvest.





Coming Up



🕨 September 🐧



Sept. 5 - Welcome to the Heritage Garden

9 - 10:30am; St. Botanical Garden Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom, Athens See botgarden. uga.edu

Sept. 10 - GCG Fall Board Meeting 9am - 4pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens

Sept. 12 - Redbud District Standard Flower Show

1pm - 5pm; First United Methodist Church of Tucker Family Activity, Tucker

Sept. 13 - Redbud District Standard Flower Show

9am - 4pm; First United Methodist Church of Tucker Family Activity, Tucker

Sept. 13 - Fall Wildflowers of the Georgia Piedmont

9am - 1pm; State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens See botgarden. uga.edu

Sept. 14 - 35th Annual Insectival 12 - 4pm; St. Botanical Garden,

Athens See botgarden.uga.edu

Sept. 15 - Club Treasurers' Workshops

10am - 12pm & 1 - 3pm; Invitations will be sent to club treasurers who need to attend this event.

Sept. 16 - Sunflower Concert Series -The 80's Walkmen

7 - 9pm; Flower Garden Lawn, St. Botanical Garden, Athens See botgarden.uga.edu

Sept. 17 - Creating the Ultimate Landscape Design

9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, St. Botanical Garden, Athens See botgarden.uga.edu

Sept. 24 - Club Treasurers' Workshops

3 - 5pm & 7 - 9pm; Invitations will be sent to club treasurers who need to attend this event.

Sept. 27 - Plants We Love to Hate: Identifying and Controlling Non-native **Invasive Pest Plants**

9am - 3pm; Visitor Center & Conservatory Adult Classroom, St. Botanical Garden, Athens See botgarden.uga.edu

Sept. 28 - Teamaking and Tea Spilling: The Story of Yaupon Holly, Georgia's Native Beverage Plant

2 - 3pm: State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Classroom 2, Athens See botgarden.uga.edu

Sept. 29 - Fall Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia

9am - 1pm; Davidson-Arabia Mtn. Nature Preserve, Stonecrest, GA See botgarden.uga.edu



October



Oct. 2 - 14th Annual Native Plant Sale

2 - 6pm: Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga. edu

Oct. 3 - Breeding Plants for a Crowded Market

9 - 10:30am: Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga. edu

Oct. 3 - 5 - Camellia and Magnolia **Districts Flower Show**

8am - 5pm; GA National Fairground and Agricenter, Perry

Oct. 3 - 14th Annual Native Plant Sale

2 - 6pm; Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga. edu

Oct. 4 - 14th Annual Native Plant Sale

9am - 2pm; Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga. edu

Oct. 8 - Magnolia District Fall Meeting

9am - 2pm; Green Island Country Club, Columbus

Oct. 8 - Designing the Environmentally Responsive Landscape; a Nature Inspired Approach

9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Oct. 9 - Oleander District Annual Fall Meeting

9am - 2pm; College Place Methodist Church, Brunswick

Oct. 14 - Camellia District Fall Meeting 9am - 2pm; First Baptist Church Family Center, Dublin

Oct. 15 - Redbud District Fall Meeting

9am - 2pm; First Baptist Church Family Life Building, Griffin

Oct. 15 - Basic Botany: Fundamentals of Plant Biology

8am - 5pm; Virtual Lecture, Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

Oct. 16 - Azalea District Fall Meeting 9am - 2pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens

Oct. 18 - Warm-Season Grasses of the Georgia Piedmont

9am - 1pm; Visitor Center & Conservatory Adult Classroom, St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Oct. 21 - Dogwood District Fall Meeting

9am - 2pm; Details TBA

Oct. 22 - Laurel District Fall Meeting

9am - 2pm; Coosa Country Club, Rome

Oct. 22 - Tree Risk Workshop

6 - 7pm; Virtual Lecture, Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

Oct 25 - We Are Nature's Best Home with Speaker Doug Tellamy

3pm; Dunwoody High School, Dunwoody. Free Admission with registration; dunwoodygardenclub. com

Oct. 25 - Grow Your Own Prairie in North Georgia

9am - 1pm; Visitor Center, Classroom 2 St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Oct. 29 - Planting Design for the Sustainable Lanscape

9am - 4:30pm: Gardenside Room. St. Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu



November



Nov. 8 - Basic Botany: Fundamentals of Plant Biology

10am - 12pm & 1 - 3pm; Virtual Lecture, Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

Nov. 12 - Fundamentals of Plant **Bioloay**

6 – 7pm; Virtual Lecture, Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

Nov. 15 - Invasive Plant Control Strategies, Techniques, Tips, Tricks and Tools!

9am - 1pm; Virtual Lecture, Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

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 The State Botanical Garden Facilities Rental Office at 706-542-6467or sbgrent@uga.edu.

2450 S. Milledge Ave I Athens, Georgia 30605 www.botgarden.uga.edu









EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!! DID YOUR CLUB WIN AN AWARD?

The 2024 Awards presented at the 2025 GCG Convention are now available at

GARDENCLUBOFGEORGIA.ORG