



Garden Gateways

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



*Rain Gardens:
One form of
Bio-Retention*

**Recycling:
A Promise to Future
Generations**

*The Tree that
Owns Itself*

A close-up photograph of several pink orchids with white centers and yellow stamens, set against a blurred green background.

Orchid Madness

Events throughout
February

For more
information, visit
botgarden.uga.edu



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

A poster for the Atlanta Botanical Garden flower show. It features a large, golden flower inside a glass bell jar. The text 'flower show' is in large, bold, golden letters, with 'ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN' above it and 'FEBRUARY 20-22' below it. The word 'Heirlooms' is written in a cursive script at the bottom left, with 'Celebrating the Garden's 50th Anniversary' below it. On the right, there is a list of categories and a website for more information.

flower show

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

FEBRUARY 20-22

Calling all exhibitors:
Floral Design
Botanical Arts
Horticulture
Photography

Visit abgflowershow.org
for show details and
exhibitor's guide.

Heirlooms
Celebrating the Garden's 50th Anniversary



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

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277 Clubs • 17 Councils • 9,251 Members

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



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PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 Years!



DEEP SOUTH REGION DIRECTOR

Denise Thorne, Watertown, TN

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*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

Are you confused and confounded by your community's recycling landscape? You are not alone. This issue of Garden Gateways is meant to highlight our clubs' efforts along with ways you can be thoughtful stewards of our environment. We've been recycling for years, and it seems that each year the coding system gets more complicated.

When my family started recycling, we'd make a monthly trek to the DeKalb Farmers Market and dutifully sort our glass by color, our magazines, our cardboard, our metal cans, and our plastics. My son loved crashing bottles. Then, the county took over; it was breeze – single stream. We started using paper bags and reusable cloth bags.



The rising cost of recycling and limited use of some materials changed the items we could recycle. Here in Pickens County, we can only recycle #1 (clear) and #2 (natural and colored) plastics, and glass. We can recycle cardboard, paper and paperboard and some metal. No more composting for me – Bears! Only some grocery stores take plastic bags. It hurts my soul that we don't recycle #5 plastics (medicine bottles, dog food containers) and Styrofoam. I'm sure your communities have many of the same issues.

But what can we do? The answer, as much as you can. First, cut down on purchasing items not packaged in materials your county recycles. Second, reuse or eliminate plastic shopping bags. Third, find multiple uses for the things you can't easily recycle.

And to do that, we all need to share our ideas. Make jump ropes for school kids or bath mats from plastic bags. Make Eco bricks out of bottles. Collect 200 pounds of plastic bottle tops to recycle into park benches. The Azalea District's Pull-a-tab chairman Ann Wright created pop top collectors out of glass jars killing two birds with one stone! Let's get all your projects to Martha Price, our new Smart Recycling and Community Clean-Up chairman. She'll send out the best ideas to all of us. And don't forget to sign up for the Greatest American Cleanup!



NGC Environmental School Coming in January



Through our state garden club organizations, National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) is offering Gardening, Landscape Design, Environmental and Flower Show Schools. January 29th and 30th, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) will hold the first of four classes of the Environmental School. This will be held on Zoom! It is a great opportunity to hear lectures from some of our state's experts in the field without travelling any farther than your kitchen table or couch! You can attend for fun and as a learning opportunity or become a "Consultant."

Information will be available on the GCG website soon:

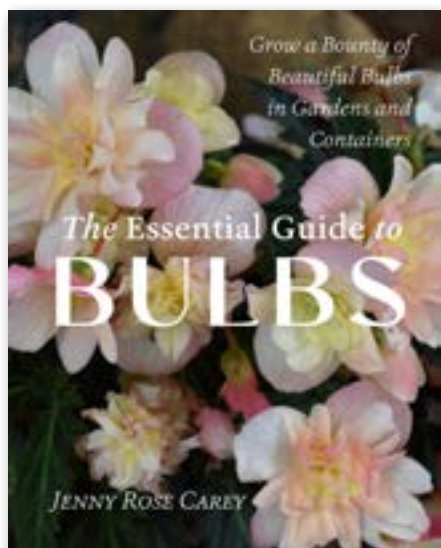
gardenclubofgeorgia.org. You can find out more information about the NGC School and Consultant program on their website: gardenclub.org.

Hyacinths and Hellebores, Darling!

The winter sun is low on the horizon, casting long shadows inside my garden gate. The mottled colors of the crepe myrtle bark and the remaining pod heads at the end of long, bending branches are Nature's bouquet. Arching grasses sway in a chilly breeze, and their movement captures my attention. The beauty of the winter landscape reminds us not to forget the garden from December through February.

Perhaps you have put the beds inside your garden gate to rest. Tired and spent annuals have been removed, leaving bare earth. Open ground is an invitation to inveterate gardeners to plant something beneath. Maybe that rich soil with good drainage could accept some new bulbs, and early Winter is still not too late in many parts of Georgia to plant some bulbs.

A new book, *The Essential Guide to Bulbs* by Jenny Rose Carey, has just been published, and if you don't want to buy and plant some new bulbs after reading her book, you probably have a bias against bulbs. Jenny Rose is a celebrated author, teacher, historian, and true gardener. Reading through the chapters feels like a walk through her garden as she describes bulbs, both fall-planted and spring-planted. (See her and her garden through her Instagram @northviewgarden.) The requirements for planting and maintenance are detailed, and the resulting blooms are richly photographed. Design ideas from her vast knowledge and her personal garden experience will inspire new



ways and uses for bulbs of all kinds. About the species *Hyacinthus*, the author writes, "I always include hyacinths in my spring garden designs for their heady scent. I grow hyacinths in small groupings located a foot or two back from a path to a side door, in a position where we can see and smell them often." She adds, "To

look great when grown in pots. Combine them with small-scale daffodils, Hellebores (Lenten or Christmas rose), and cool-season annuals like *Bellis perennis* (English daisy).

Speaking of Hellebores....

While some think of hellebores as a bulb, they are actually rhizomes whose flowers appear in late winter or early spring. They are available in white, pink, purple, yellow, and green, and many have attractive spots and veining on their saucer-like petals. Thriving in full shade or part shade, they are the perfect plant for shaded areas among naturalized bulbs such as bluebells, snowdrops, or blue grape hyacinth. The sturdy, shiny leaves of the hellebores are evergreen and give year-round interest to your shaded areas, whether among bulbs or in a herbaceous border.

I consider the hellebore quintessentially English. A small point of interest that endears the hellebore to me is the fact that King Charles chose the hellebore as a blossom for his coronation, and it adorned his buttonhole on his wedding day. Helleborus has long symbolized serenity and peace. We can all use some tranquility in our lives, which the garden affords, even in winter. This sturdy plant, which withstands harsh winter winds and air, deserves a place inside our garden gate as a reminder to seek peace and serenity.

Imagine over 9,000 members of the Garden Club of Georgia expecting or searching for tranquil moments in their gardens this winter, whether it be in their own garden or a public garden that awaits a visit. Maybe some of us are adding even more bulbs to the cold earth, anticipating a rebirth in Spring. Happy digging!

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Caption: "Repeating colors throughout a flower bed is a great way to coordinate the look, as seen here in this late spring planting at Chanticleer in Wayne, Pennsylvania."

Credit: Jenny Rose Carey

Photo credit line: "Taken from *The Essential Guide to Bulbs*©" Copyright 2025 by Jenny Rose Carey, photograph by the author. Published by Timber Press, Portland, OR. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved."



In every community there are stories that take root and keep on growing. In Athens, GA there is such a tale of a man, a tree, and a promise strong enough to outlive both of them. The legend is revealed in 1890 when the earliest known print source is a front-page article in the Athens Weekly Banner titled "A Tree in Athens Which Owns Itself- Deeded To It Years Ago" (August 12, 1890). It quotes a deed attributed to Col. William H. Jackson:

"For and in consideration of the great love I bear this tree and the great desire I have for its protection for all time, I convey entire possession of itself and all land within eight feet of the tree on all sides."

The tree was thought to be more than 100 years old at the time it was deeded to itself, circa 1832. It is a white oak (*Quercus alba*) located at the corner of South Finley and Dearing Streets in Athens. The tree pays no taxes and is protected today by our own Junior Ladies Garden Club of Athens, secure in its own enclosure.

When Colonel Jackson deeded the land to the Great Oak in Athens, he gave a living promise. His wish was that the tree might endure beyond his lifetime. This simple act acknowledged nature's way in what we might call "The Art of Living Twice." Each time we recycle, repurpose or reuse, we practice the same art by taking what has served in its time, and inviting it to continue to live.

The Garden Club of Athens understood this when they transformed a fallen piece of the historic oak into a wooden gavel and block which was then presented to the Garden Club of Georgia in 1932. It was encircled with a silver band and engraved with the names of the state presidents, ensuring that purpose and reuse would carry into leadership.



Earlier in 1906, erosion had become apparent at the base of the tree and George Foster Peabody paid to have new soil and a chain barricade supported by eight granite posts placed around the tree. But by 1942, the Great Oak was still



deteriorating with root rot, internal decay, and soil erosion around the base. It collapsed on October 9, 1942, and was estimated at the time to be over 100 feet tall and somewhere between 150 to 400 years old. Some sources say the collapse was a sudden lightning strike or a wind event, but it had already been weakened by disease and decay.

Almost immediately, discussions began of replacing the tree and within a very short period of time the Junior Ladies Garden Club of Athens began preparing a successor. Members gathered acorns from the fallen tree and planted dozens of seedlings, nurturing each sprout with a promise of renewal. The

club, with the help of Roy Bowden from UGA's College of Agriculture and UGA horticulturalists, selected a robust five-foot-tall sapling, grown from the original tree's acorns, and thriving in Captain Jack Watson's yard for transplantation. On December 4, 1946, they returned the new life of the Great Oak to its rightful place at the same location binding the past to future. At that time, the Junior Ladies Garden Club committed to maintaining the site and nearly eighty years later, they still do so today.



As Meghan Garrard, the current president of the Junior Ladies Garden Club, explains, the new Great Oak, sometimes known as "The Son of the Tree That Owns Itself," grows in the middle of a cobblestone road. You can see part of the Athens downtown skyline from the tree's location. Each year the Junior Misses gather not merely to tidy up, but to give new life to the Great Oak. It's a lesson in stewardship of how through renewal, we preserve not only the life of a tree by cleaning its debris, but we honor the promise of Colonel Jackson from so long ago, the quiet grace of living twice.

New Life Members

**Bess Hartley, 1st Vice President and
Life Membership Chairman**

#2208 Rudene Studdard
Honored by Commerce Four Seasons Garden Club
Laurel District

#2209 Cynthia Newbury
Honored by Commerce Four Seasons Garden Club
Laurel District

**This year GEORGIA won the award for the most National Life Memberships than any other state
AND the award for the most Deep South Life Memberships.**

Let's keep winning!

See <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-life-membership/>

The 2025-27 Leadership and Awards Workshops

The 2025–2027 Biennial Leadership and Awards Workshops took place during June and July. Led by Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) President Diane Hunter, the team included 1st VP Bess Hartley, 2nd VP Gale D. Thomas, 3rd VP Linda Doiron, 4th VP Quill Duncan, Assistant Treasurer Frank Mullins, and Awards Chairman Diana Malone. Four districts paired up for joint sessions, resulting in five workshops across the state.

The workshops were organized with each presenter covering an assigned topic; awards, communication, membership, organization tips for club presidents, educational opportunities, and the duties of club treasurer. Videos of each workshop are available on the GCG YouTube channel. For more information, see gardenclubofgeorgia.org/leadership-and-awards-wkshp/



(L-R) Diana Malone, Quill Duncan, Bess Hartley, Diane Hunter, Gale Thomas, Frank Mullins, and Linda Doiron

Thank you for continuing to sponsor our Scholarship Students.
Grants awarded by GCG change lives!

On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee, I share our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to our Scholarship program this past year.

All contributions are significant in their importance to this GCG Mission of Education.

- Named Scholarships Contributors
- Patrons of Scholarships
- The General Scholarship Fund
- Dollars Educate Scholars Fundraiser
- Contributions to Brown Thrasher & Cherokee Rose Fund
- Life Memberships



The Scholarship Committee meets annually in February to award our deserving students their scholarships. We continue to accept contributions for this giving period, including Dollars Educate Scholars. You can play a part in the future of a student who is seeking a life that speaks to our own hearts. We thank you again for the commitment you bring in the success of a young person dedicated to the same mission as

GCG's, Beautification, Conservation & Education. With sincere thanks to all, Susan Turner, Chairman.

Diane Hunter
Bess Hartley
Janet Carn

Carolyn Culpepper
Brenda Griner
Rosemary Maulden

Marianne McConnel
Frank Mullins
Geri Shaw



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Attention all District Directors are encouraged to help their clubs develop programs promoting the use of recycled materials.

The district that does the most to support recycling will be recognized.

Please provide a written report on your accomplishments to Martha Price at philmarprice@gmail.com. Send your reports as soon as possible. Thanks!

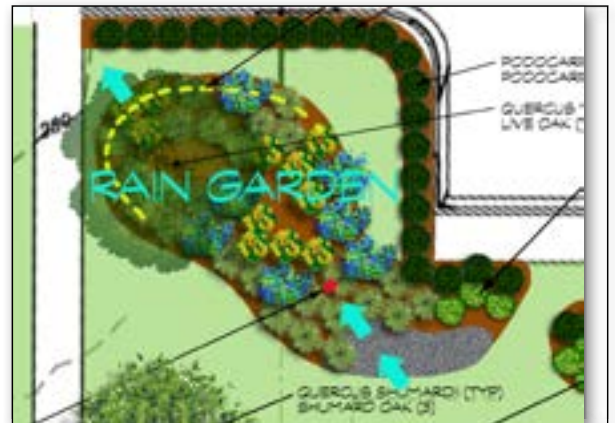
Rain Gardens: One form of Bio-Retention

~ Suzanne H. Finger, RLA

My husband remembers nothing but corn fields across the street from his home, just outside of Frederick, Maryland. On a recent visit, we found the area hardly recognizable with dense housing developments as far as you could see. Many of you may have similar memories of an area that was once farmland or undeveloped land that is now covered with buildings and pavement. As our cities and communities continue to expand, we are becoming more aware of the importance of responsible stormwater management, and that it's not just municipalities that can make a difference.

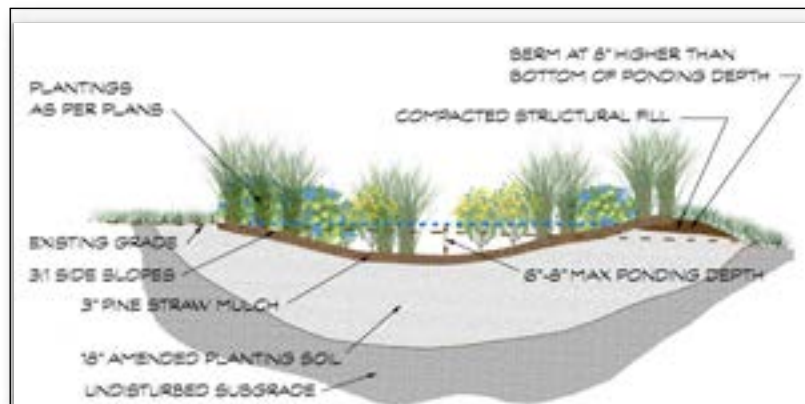
Increased flash flooding and pollution typically result from the overdevelopment of an area and inadequate stormwater management. The more buildings and pavement that cover the ground, the less opportunity rainwater has to infiltrate the soil and the faster it moves across these surfaces to lower lying areas. The fast-moving water causes erosion and pollution by picking up more pollutants on its way to our rivers and streams. Most instances of flash flooding, especially in urban areas, are not due to increased volumes of rainfall, but the increased speed at which the rainfall reaches the low points, overwhelming municipal stormwater systems. This three-fold problem of increased flash flooding, erosion, and pollutants is managed by providing opportunities for the water to slow down and filter into the soil as it would have before the development.

There are many methods to do this that you may recognize. Municipalities use zoning codes to limit the percentage of impervious area you are allowed to have on your property. Also, municipal building codes usually require new commercial developments to provide stormwater detention facilities, such as the large, sometimes unsightly fenced detention ponds that are commonplace. Thankfully, a more environmentally friendly trend in stormwater management is becoming increasingly popular. This method, known as bio-retention, can be executed on a large, commercial scale or a small, residential one. By incorporating a rain garden (a bio-retention method) into your landscape, you can help shoulder a small part of the stormwater management needed for your area in an environmentally responsible way.



A rain garden is essentially a planted, low-lying area or swale designed to hold or slow water runoff during a rain event, allowing the water to filter through the plant material and then the soil. The design incorporates a berm at the lowest point of the garden to create a barrier that slows the water to a point where it can penetrate the soil. The plant material selected for a rain garden can handle both wet and dry conditions and serves as an extra filter for the stormwater running through it. It is an excellent opportunity to incorporate native plants into your garden, such as muhly grass or swamp sunflower.

By incorporating a rain garden on your property, you will contribute to your community by reducing the burden on municipal stormwater systems and minimizing water pollution as it returns to the natural groundwater cycle. Many people mistakenly believe that rain gardens are unattractive, continuously wet areas that breed



mosquitoes. However, rain gardens are designed to hold water for no longer than 24 hours, which inhibits mosquito development. Rain gardens can easily be designed to be attractive and colorful additions to your overall landscape design.

There are many resources available to help you locate, size, and design your own rain garden. The two links below are a great starting point.

[cwc_raingardenbrochure.pdf](#)

[Rain Gardens in Home Landscapes](#)



11th Annual Dollars Educate Scholars

January is the deadline for Scholarship Donations! Let's wrap up this giving period with the GCG Scholarship month!

Members donating \$1.00 or more now through January will make a **BIG** impact on Scholarships.

It's easy to donate. Contributions are given through your garden club treasury. Your club writes one check to GCG along with the completed form to:

GCG Asst. Treasurer, Frank Mullins

1184 Dunwick Dr. Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Support your District and your Director in the Dollars Educate Scholars fundraiser!

The winning District will be determined by total funds and the % of district/club participation.



Join the fun at the GCG Annual Convention, April 2-3, 2026 where we will once again crown **The Queen of Scholarships!**

Dollars Educate Scholars - TRANSMITTAL FORM

Please complete the following information and mail with your club's check for \$1.00 or more per member to

GCG Asst. Treasurer, Frank Mullins

1184 Dunwick Dr. Avondale Estates, GA 30002

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. or GCG

Please write legibly. Contributions received through January 2026 count in this giving period.

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Club Representative & Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Club Number: _____ Number of Members: _____

100% Participation? Circle one Yes No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

For more information, contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman 770-922-4411 - glencree@bellsouth.net

Erin Garden Club

invites you to the



Touring Historic Homes, Churches, and more in Dublin, Georgia

Saturday, March 28, 2026

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HOSTED BY THE CAMELLIA DISTRICT TO BENEFIT THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION GRANT.

Beautification-Conservation-Education—the founding precepts of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. established nearly 100 years ago. As Georgia's population has transitioned from largely rural to mostly urban, these precepts are more relevant. Each president of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has adhered to these guidelines but tailored her goals to the needs of her time.



Keeping Georgia Beautiful is an ongoing challenge. Litter continues to be an expensive problem that is hard to solve. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) spends at least \$10 million each year to remove and properly discard the trash along the roadways. Kudos to any garden club adopting a portion of a roadway. Virginia Callaway, Wildflower Chairman in 1974, conceived a new method to both fight litter and beautify our roadways. This GCG program, coordinated with GDOT, uses large roadside plantings of wildflowers to bring beauty to the traveler. This program, now named Roadside Beautification, has become even more important. GCG continues to provide funds for the project. Funding now also comes from the sale of wildflower license plates. Data collected by DOT has found that where there are swaths of wildflowers in bloom there is significantly less trash.

Keeping our rivers alive and clean is also a challenge. The Department of Natural Resources began an annual fall river clean up in 1992. It is now called Rivers Alive; over 800,000 pounds of garbage was hauled out of rivers this year. Many of our garden clubs participate often by providing water and food for the many volunteers. In 2000, Patricia White as part of the GCG effort to help clean the waterways, organized and led workshops on the importance of watersheds and how to scientifically determine the health of watersheds. Now each large river system has its own River Keeper. It takes the work of many to keep eyes on the rivers and properly alert the state to problems. The GCG goal for our waterways is that they be fishable, drinkable and swimmable. Concerted effort by many is making this possible. Consider 'adopting

a stream' in your neighborhood to keep it clean and monitor its health. If everyone remembered to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle there would be no need to spend money on picking up discarded refuse.

Apart from your garden club group activities, your own choices make a difference. Remember Dr. Suess's Horton—"One person, no matter how small." When we all do a little bit together it is quite a lot. Remember the old Driving Diet. Our cars, especially our gas-powered ones, pollute both the air and the waterways. So, each time you consolidate your trips, take a neighbor to a meeting or even walk, you are helping. Remember Ban the Bag? When you take cloth bags to the marketplace you are helping.

More recently we have come to realize that our suburban yards, large lawns, and extensive use of non-native shrubs have deprived our birds and pollinators of food and habitat.

Our yards are beautiful but are they also GREEN? Survey your yard. Could you make the lawn area a bit smaller? Could you plant to reduce runoff? If you add new plants, consider natives. Remember to leave a



little mess under some shrubs. Could you use another Tree? Plant a Tree is not just a national project it is also your individual choice. Many trees are hosts for pollinator larvae. Be sure to choose one that will thrive in your area and fit in your space. If all your plantings provide for pollinators, reduce runoff, help clean the air and provide us with the oxygen we need, the environment will be improved. Every effort helps make our state more beautiful.

Professor Harold Brown wrote *The Greening of Georgia* to make known the enormous strides Georgia made in the 20th century. Our population grew from 4 million mostly rural to more than 11 million mostly urban. Growth brought prosperity and problems. This enormous change has required a huge adjustment. More roads, more buildings, proper sewage treatment, more electricity and water needs.

Providing green spaces for humans and animals is an ongoing challenge. If we all do our best, Georgia will be both Beautiful and Green.

Join Us for the 98th Annual Convention!

GCG Celebrates America

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Peachtree City, GA.

Let's Gather Together! The Magnolia District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) invites you to GCG's 98th Annual Convention as "GCG Celebrates America." The Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center offers the perfect setting for the three days of information, fun, shopping, and fellowship. It has gorgeous outdoor scenery, beautiful lakes, and relaxing accommodations.

On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2026, there will be great workshops, an awards celebration, and featured speakers to educate members. There will be a raffle for entertainment and a variety of interesting vendors for shopping. Enjoy the beautiful floral designs by the districts plus learn about the educational exhibits which focus on GCG's programs.

Our first speaker, Dr. Jaap de Roode, will be featured during the opening session of the Convention on Wednesday, April 1st at 10am so don't be late to check in and start the adventure. Lunch will be on your own followed by an afternoon workshop presented by Suzanne Finger. That evening there will be a district photo gathering, a cash bar and a buffet dinner followed by the Awards Event. Thursday, April 2nd will begin with the business meeting, workshops, and speakers Dr. Sheri Dorn, Joe Cook, Katherine Kennedy, and Dr. Emily Coffey. The evening speaker will be Dorinda Dallmeyer.

This year we will feature two fee-based workshops featuring two of GCG's floral designers, Anna Burns on Wednesday, April 1st and Lynn Fronk on Friday, April 3rd. Space for these sessions is limited to the first 20 registrants, so get your registrations in early!

Rest, relaxation, friendships, education, celebration, and shopping! What a great time you will have if you come! You do not want to miss this convention! *Put it on your calendar today! Invite a friend!*

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Jaap de Roode studied biology at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands and obtained his PhD in evolutionary biology from the University of Edinburgh. He is currently the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, where he studies parasites of monarch butterflies and honeybees. He directs the Infectious Diseases Across Scales Training Program. He will provide an overview of monarch biology, and the research on how parasites infect monarchs and interfere with their migration. Following this, he will discuss how other animals use medicine, and how planting native gardens can help pollinators and our pets find the medicine they need.



Hailing from Thomasville, Suzanne Finger is a Landscape Architect with over 30 years of experience creating meaningful outdoor spaces for her clients. From intimate Charleston courtyard gardens to major Universities up and down the East Coast, Suzanne's extensive plant knowledge and diverse background in master planning, building programming, and planting design have helped shape the landscape in her community and beyond. Suzanne is the author of GCG's popular four-part Landscape Design Newsletter and a member of the Garden Gateways Editorial Board.



Dr. Sheri Dorn joined University of Georgia's Department of Horticulture in August as an Assistant Professor specializing in Sociohorticulture and Horticultural Therapy after thirteen years as UGA's Extension Horticulturist for Consumer Ornamentals and Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program State Coordinator. In her new role at UGA, Sheri is creating a horticultural therapy program for both undergraduate and graduate study. Sheri's research centers on the relationship between people and plants, including therapeutic horticulture benefits for persons with dementia and their care partners, as well the utilization of horticulture-based citizen science for social engagement.



Dr. Emily Coffey serves as the Director of Conservation & Research at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where she leads a team dedicated to the preservation of rare and endangered plant and amphibian species. Since joining the Garden in 2017, Dr. Coffey has overseen groundbreaking research and conservation initiatives, including the Southeastern Center for Conservation; fostering collaboration among plant conservationists across the Southeast. Prior to her current role, she was a biology faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Dr. Coffey holds a PhD and MSc from the University of Oxford, and a BSc in Biology from the University of Missouri. Her academic and professional journey reflects a deep commitment to biodiversity and ecological stewardship.



Katherine Kennedy is the Executive Director of Concrete Jungle, a nonprofit dedicated to serving food-insecure communities across Georgia. The organization's impact is made possible through the collective efforts of its volunteers, donors, tree and orchard owners, farmers, and partner organizations. Before joining Concrete Jungle, Katherine served as the Gardens Manager at the Lionheart School, where she developed horticultural and occupational therapy programs for students with autism and related challenges. She earned her B.A. from UGA. Katherine's expertise and unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship have been vital in transforming neglected urban spaces into vibrant community gardens through Concrete Jungle's mission.



Joe Cook, photographer and writer, is a 1988 graduate of Berry College. Between 1996 and 2016, he served in with the Coosa River Basin Initiative/Upper Coosa Riverkeeper, including serving as executive director and riverkeeper. Since 2005, he has worked with Georgia Rivers as Paddle Georgia Coordinator, organizing and leading paddle trips on Georgia's rivers. He has travelled thousands of miles on Georgia's rivers and studied and reported extensively on water resource issues in Georgia since 1994. He is the author of Georgia Rivers' River User's Guide series, including guidebooks covering the Etowah, Chattahoochee, Broad, Flint, Oconee and Ocmulgee rivers. His work is also featured in Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail, Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains and River Song-A Journey Down the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers.



Dorinda Dallmeyer, Director, Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, holds B.S. and M.S. in geology and a J.D. from the UGA. After a long career in research and teaching at UGA, she retired as director of its Environmental Ethics Certificate Program. Currently she serves as president of the Bartram Trail Conference. A devoted naturalist and writer, Dorinda received the 2005 Phillip D. Reed Memorial Award for Outstanding Writing about the Southern Environment. Her books include "Bartram's Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South." The anthology pairs William Bartram's classic from 1791 with essays by seventeen modern-day southern nature writers. She also has served as editor and contributor to other anthologies focusing on Southern environmental history. Her most recent project is the award-winning documentary "Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels," which premiered in 2020 on public television stations across the United States.

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

This workshop features Anna Burns demonstrating the techniques to create easy and beautiful mass designs. Fee \$50



Anna Burns, of Griffin, is recognized as a NGC Master Flower Show Judge and serves as a Flower Show Schools Design Provisional Instructor and instructs GCG's Basic Design. A member of Creative Study Club and N. Ga Council of Flower Show Judges, Anna is actively involved with the Org. of Floral Art Designers and Ikebana International Middle Ga. Chapter. She studies Sogetsu Ikebana under Ilse Beunen of Belgium. Her book "Guide to the New Petite-Floral Design 12" and Under," is featured on the NGC Flower Show School Recommended Reading List. Anna Burns's floral designs are showcased in the NGC Vision of Beauty calendars, as well as in CFAA's Design Dimensions and the Assembly of Flower Arrangers publication.

Registrants for this workshop will learn design techniques for utilizing a provided metal sculpture that measures approximately 3'h and 14"w. Fee \$50



Lynn Fronk is a NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Flower Show Schools Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She has taught in 42 States, and six countries. She has judged major flower shows such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and the Rhode Island State Flower Show. She is a member of the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee serving as Symposium Chairman for 2025-2027. She is also the 2025-2027 Symposium Chairman for GCG and a member of the Designers Club and the N. Ga. Council of Flower Show Judges, Stonehedge Garden Club, Creative Arrangers of the Americas, and the National Flower Arranger Guild. She is the author of "Merry Christmas from My House to Yours," a small booklet on using natural materials for holiday designs. And she has several designs featured in Designing by Types.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. • 98th Annual Convention

GCG Celebrates America

April 1-3, 2026 • Crowne Plaza SW Peachtree City Hotel & Convention Center

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Badge Name Preference _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Club Name _____ District _____

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REGISTER:

BASIC PACKAGE PLAN Includes Registration Fee, Wednesday Awards Banquet, Thursday Luncheon, Thursday Dinner, and Breakout Sessions.

PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL \$230 \$ _____

PART-TIME PLAN: No extra fee for breakout sessions

☐ Wednesday Awards Banquet..... \$65 \$ _____

☐ Thursday Luncheon \$50 \$ _____

☐ Thursday Dinner \$65 \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE (per day) \$40 \$ _____

PART TIME PLAN TOTAL \$ _____

ADD-ONS (Optional Meals & Workshops)

☐ Floral Design Workshop I, Wednesday, April 1 \$50 \$ _____

☐ Floral Design Workshop II, Friday, April 3 \$50 \$ _____

☐ Breakfast Buffet Wednesday, April 1 \$38 \$ _____

☐ Breakfast Buffet Thursday, April 2 \$38 \$ _____

☐ Breakfast Buffet Friday, April 3 \$38 \$ _____

ADD-ON TOTAL \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION COST \$ _____

Late Registration Fee (postmarked March 1st and later) \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ State President
- ☐ Member
- ☐ Guest
- ☐ Voting Delegate **
- ☐ My First GCG Convention
- ☐ Club President
- ☐ District Director
- ☐ District Board Member
- ☐ Council President
- ☐ Former State President
- ☐ State Board Member
- ☐ State Life Member
- ☐ Former Deep South Director
- ☐ Deep South Board Member
- ☐ Deep South Life Member
- ☐ Former National President
- ☐ National Board Member
- ☐ National Life Member
- ☐ Emeritus Member

****All GCG Board Members, GCG Life Members and one member from each club are Voting Delegates; please check Voting Delegate box if applicable.**

Special Dietary Needs:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 14, 2026

Make Check Payable to: **GCG 2026 CONVENTION**

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hills Lane, Decatur, GA 30033

For more information contact rigbyduncan@gmail.com or 678.644.9502 (cell)

No registration or refunds after March 14, 2026 - Registration fee not refundable.

On-line registration with credit card payment will be available in January at gardenclubofgeorgia.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Crowne Plaza SW Peachtree City, 201 Aberdeen Pkwy., Peachtree City, GA 30269

\$139 per night (plus taxes and fees) for King or 2 Queen room

For reservations, contact IHG Reservations at 877-22706963

Group Name: Garden Club of GA 2026 Annual Conference **Group Code:** XCU

Group rate available for March 31 - April 3, 2026

Reservation Deadline for Group Rate: March 1, 2026

What is Compost? Food waste is the single largest source of landfill trash in the U.S., according to the EPA. About 1/4 of the 'waste' in modern landfills could have been composted and returned to the soil as a beneficial soil amendment. Many people think biodegradable products will break down in landfills, but they don't. Buried in a sealed, airless environment, organics release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. While the landfill captures some methane for electricity, it doesn't solve the problem of wasted food, especially in a community where one in five people struggle with food insecurity. By composting, you help save landfill space for only those items that don't have a better final resting place



Compost is made when food scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials break down with the help of microbes, worms, and fungi. The result is dark, fertile soil that gardeners and farmers can use. Making compost usually takes a few weeks to a year, depending on the system.

What Can You Compost? Rule of thumb: If it was once alive, it can usually be composted.

- ✂ **Yes:** Fruit and veggie scraps, yard trimmings, paper, cardboard, coffee grounds, eggshells, leaves, sawdust. Chop scraps and yard materials for faster composting. To prevent fruit flies: freeze scraps, cover bins with paper, or sprinkle baking soda to reduce smells.
- ✂ **No:** Meat, oils, diseased plants, or chemical-contaminated materials that can cause pests, smells, or toxins.

Setting Up a Compost Bin or Pile: You can buy or build a bin. The key is balancing "**browns**" and "**greens**." Aim for about 1-part browns to 2-parts greens. Too many greens cause smells; too many browns slow the process.

- ✂ **Browns** (carbon-rich): Dry, woody materials like dry leaves, cardboard, sawdust.
- ✂ **Greens** (nitrogen-rich): Moist, colorful scraps like fruits, veggies, grass clippings, and coffee grounds.

Maintaining Compost: Chop materials into smaller pieces to speed decomposition and turn with a shovel or fork every few days to add oxygen. The mixture should be damp, like a wrung-out sponge. Heat (between 115°F–180°F) is needed to break down materials properly. Covering your compost bin helps retain heat and deters unwanted visitors.

Commercially Available Compost

The Athens-Clarke County Landfill (ACC) is home to a commercial composting facility. ACC processes over 15,000 tons of materials annually making compost more accessible and affordable for businesses and residents. As a part of the US Composting Council and Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program, staff carefully monitor the process to ensure safe, high-quality compost that meets strict standards. For more information see accgov.com/1350/Composting.



Bottom line: Composting reduces waste, cuts pollution, and creates free fertilizer for healthier soil and plants. Composting at home is easy, but for those without the available space, compost can be obtained from many locations in Georgia. Find a location near you by contacting your local government.

Source: Foodprint.org; ACCgov.com/1350/Composting

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Now available at Walmart!



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Everything happens for a reason.

Last year the Soque Garden Club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Alina Barrs, a creative hardworking horticulture student at North Georgia Technical College. Also last year, the club received a \$300 sponsor donation from Ben Lucas, proprietor of the Yonah Coffee Co. in Helen, and Yonah Coffee & Café



After

in Demorest. This donation helped support the club's primary fund raiser, Garden Extravaganza (GE) event held each year in May. However, he offered an additional \$200 if the Club would help redesign an unsightly old landscape in downtown Helen. The club gladly accepted that project.

This is where "everything happens for a reason" comes into the picture. Club members were already busy with a variety of projects so we convinced our talented scholarship winner Alina to work with Ben on the design and plant material suggestions. Not only did this help Ben, but it also helped Alina who hopes to have her own landscaping business. What a difference! Eventually a couple of trellises will be installed for some evergreen flowering vines Alina planted.



Before

The Ball Ground Garden Club participated in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census. On Friday, we visited 3rd-5th grade classes at the Ball Ground Stem Academy teaching about pollinators and counted pollinators on the school grounds. The children were very enthusiastic and had a great time. On Saturday, members Theresa Dorfling and Cindy and Mike Lloyd hosted a pollinator census in our city's botanical garden. The community participated in the count and learned pollinators' place in a balanced garden ecosystem. Mike demonstrated how to build a carpenter bee habitat which protects bee larvae from the elements thereby promoting growth and prolonged health of the garden. Due to a rainy day on Saturday, we invited participants back for a butterfly release on Sunday which added another layer of pollinators into the garden. All three days were well attended. A second release later the following week included butterflies which members, Jean Deese and Cindy and Mike Lloyd, had collected as caterpillars and nurtured.



Students participate in the Pollinator Census

The Flower Garden Club was awarded \$100 and a Certificate of Merit for Community Gardens from National Garden Clubs, Inc. The club also received a GCG 1st Place Award for Civic Improvement and a Certificate of Achievement for Community Action from the Deep South Region. The Club created a school garden at Hayes Elementary School in Cobb County financed with member donations and a Plant America Grant. The Marietta Metro Rotary Club, local businesses and individuals donated and worked together to transform an unsightly area in the front side of the school into a thriving garden with plants, a birdhouse, a picnic table and an outdoor classroom. Planning began in 2023 and in spring of 2024, dozens of plants and the outdoor classroom were installed. Spring of 2025 has been exciting as we have seen the fruits of our labor. Work on the garden continues with club members providing plant care as well as coordinating other efforts to improve the site.



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director!

Iris Garden Club welcomed members back with a vibrant, fun flower show in September, held during the club's first meeting of the year. The featured design classes, tapestry, mass, and line, offered a stunning display of creativity and floral artistry. Participants included students who had recently completed the GCG's Basic Design Course, taught by Barbara Horner. Their arrangements reflected newly acquired skills and a fresh enthusiasm for floral design. Judges Betty Jackson, Jan Burch, and Karen Oliver, all NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judges from South Carolina, provided thoughtful "glow" and "grow" comments, offering both praise and constructive feedback. Members were impressed by the imaginative entries, especially those created by those who had just completed the design course. The event was a joyful experience, and many designers left inspired to enter future flower shows.



Milledgeville Garden Club members gathered for a "Welcome Back Luncheon" to share food, fellowship and plans for the upcoming year to beautify our friendly hometown. Hostesses for the event were Kathy Chandler, Betti Hodges, Harriett Whipple, Linda Poyner and B.J. Simpson. "May we continue to delight all who visit and "live in Milledgeville," said Ana Edwards, MGC President.



September Yard of the Month was awarded to Oscar Waller by the Milledgeville Garden Club. He likes to stay busy, he says, and his beautifully kept yard is a testament to that. After retiring several years ago, Mr. Waller took another job at nearby Northside Baptist Church. His busy schedule does not prevent him from maintaining his lush lawn as well as lovely flowers and shrubs that can be enjoyed from his front porch and by those passing by. He grows vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers in his side yard, which he shares with friends.



AUGUSTA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Cordially invites all GCG members to join us for a delightful gathering at our
ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON EVENT

Honored guests: National Garden Clubs, Inc., President Donna Donnelly
Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., President Diane Hunter
Very Special Speaker: Brie Arthur, a bestselling author, horticulturist, and YouTube host, "Brie the Plant Lady."

Thursday, March 26, 2026
9:30 Registration and Coffee, 10am Meeting
Location: Augusta Country Club, 655 Milledge Road, Augusta, GA 30904
For more details contact: Beth Wiseman: bethwiseman807@gmail.com



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director

Pine Forest Garden Club donates plants to Aggies Jr. Garden Club



The first project of the Club was to help the Aggies Junior Garden Club raise some much-needed funds for their upcoming field trips. As part of the club's ongoing collaboration with the Aggies Junior Garden Club, the Appling County Elementary Ag. Program, and County Farm Plant Company, PFGC members donated potted plants for a fall plant sale to raise money for students' field trips to local agricultural sites. The PFGC helps sponsor the Aggies Junior Garden Club at the Appling County Elementary Complex in Baxley. Club members at the September meeting are pictured with their donated plants.

St. Marys Garden Club's Earth Angels are taking a new direction this year.

The program began in 2013 at three elementary schools and was approved by the Board of Education to support the 2nd grade science curriculum.

Each year, the Angels taught four lessons, reading gardening books and leading hands-on activities about recycling, worm composting, butterflies, and the plant life cycle. Later, teachers requested new topics such as

weather, ecology, the water cycle, and conservation. One Angel was invited to help a 5th grade teacher with a "Go Green" Recycling Club, where students completed many projects and cared for school gardens. The club eventually ended when the teacher retired. Over time, two more schools

joined the program. By the time COVID-19 restricted school visits, the Earth Angels had reached more than 500 students. Last year, the group began offering programs at the library, which were very well received. The library programs can reach both public and home-schooled children. Today, 6-7 Earth Angels continue to share lessons about nature and the environment with students across Camden County. The Earth Angels also sponsor a 5th grade essay contest, "Why Trees are Important for St. Marys," for Arbor Day. The topic, encourages students to reflect on their local environmental. Winners receive cash prizes and are recognized at the Arbor Day celebration.



Wilmington Island Garden Club members met in October for a field trip to Greenwich and Bonaventure



Cemeteries in the Thunderbolt area of Savannah. Master Gardener, Claire Bryant, gave a walking tour of the natural area at the cemetery's tidal pond. The Master Gardeners have worked hard to enhance everything natural in the area. It is truly a beautiful place for peace and quiet reflection. At the entrance of historical Bonaventure Cemetery, club member Marion Leith showed the major work Master Gardeners have done over the past few years to transform the area around the office building. It's now full of perennials, there is a shade area, a native plant garden and a camellia bed where the collection of GA First Ladies camellias are growing. The area is now very colorful and pretty for the enjoyment of locals and the thousands of tourists that visit the site each year.



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director!

The Camellia and Magnolia Districts' Flower Show, Celebrating Nature's Art was held in October.

Entries carried out the theme of travelling the world and experiencing "Nature's Art," from "Antelope Canyon in Arizona" to the spectacular "Nong Nooch Garden" in Thailand! Beautiful Mass Designs depicting "Claude Monet's Garden to Table Designs of "Sunset Dinner on St. Lucia's West Indies Beach," showcased "For the Beauty of the Earth." Youth entries, in three age groups, captured their favourite flower, pollinator and landscapes in unbelievable photographs! We had beautiful Pot-et-fleur Designs in boots to a high heel shoe, and hats decorated for spring and fall outings. The youth division was spectacular, giving the judges difficulty in making final decisions.



"Keep Georgia Beautiful" educational exhibits provided information highlighting three GCG statewide projects. Information, seeds and other items were provided to educate our visitors.

We had 206 horticulture specimens to fill the area, with many top awards in each section. It was an honor to have members as well as local, non-garden club members bring their entries. A huge thank you to all Camellia District and Magnolia District members for working to make another flower show a huge success!

The Camellia District's Annual Meeting in Dublin was hosted by Erin and Green Acres Garden Clubs. We had 97 garden club members throughout the District attend with 37 "first timers"! We welcomed GCG President Diane Hunter, not only as our guest, but former resident. It was indeed a pleasure to have other State Officers, Committee Chairmen and five other District Directors.

The welcome was given by Dublin City Manager, Josh Powell, who graciously accepted the GCG Distinguished Service Award for the Mayor's initiative to plant 2,000 trees in Dublin. As of September, 1137 trees have been planted. The meeting educated the attendees about GCG, informed clubs on how to build their membership, beautify our communities, and be involved with our youth throughout our District. We gladly announced that Wesleyan Woods Garden Club in Macon with 45 members voted to become members of GCG. Also, we acknowledged a three-generation family with five members who are all active in a garden club. Our speaker Beth Meeks, from the Dept. of Agriculture, has recently contacted GCG regarding starting a club in her area.

There's excitement in Camellia District with a new garden club and the possibility of another, youth clubs being established, projects being planned in communities AND ...our District hosting a fun day with the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser, March 28!



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director

Village Green Garden Club Fall Display: For many years the club has placed a fall display on Hwy 49 in front of the Byron Fire Department. This year we got a little more creative by adding a giant flower inspired Scarecrow. We gathered cornstalks, golden rod, Pampas grass fronds, along with recycled materials and other fall decorations. Everything was donated by members and friends of our club. We always have a good time doing this project for our community.



Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert helped residents of Joe-Anne Burgin Nursing Home decorate delightful pumpkins for their rooms. A Fall Fun Time was had by all! Pictured are a sampling of the pumpkins and club members Vickie Andrews, Andi Henderson, and Bobbie Liggett.



Magnolia Garden Club, Fort Valley, work to support the GCG Scholarship Fund. In the past three years the Magnolia Garden Club, has raised over \$21,000 for the GCG Scholarship Fund. The club, while small, partners with local entities



to produce an award winning event, featuring extravagant floral displays, horticultural related vendors and presenters all nestled in beautiful gardens. Each event features a different theme and is never the same design. The theme in 2026 will be around recycling. We are doing it again!! The club has been meeting, planning and working on another Flower Fantasy at Pineola. Mark your calendar for April 25 - 26, 2026. Watch for more information about the event and how you can participate in your next Garden Gateways.

Camellia and Magnolia Districts Flower Show "Celebrating Art in Nature" Tricolor Award was won by Faye Frazier with her beautiful traditional design titled *Claud Monet's Garden*. Faye is a member of the Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville and the South Georgia Designing Women Garden Club.



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director!

Town and Country Garden Club of Douglasville's members would like to take you on a journey through their yards and to enjoy the beauty nature shares with us each day. Cindy Liggett contributes to our Facebook post a featured flower each month with beautiful pictures and a brief history of the flower. We also have a Yard of the Month contest which has been very enjoyable since we don't know who the garden belongs to when we vote. January and February which the winter issue covers will probably bring us many surprises since we don't know what Mother Nature has in-store for us. As the days grow shorter it's nice to enjoy still seeing butterflies. Alexandra Fasulo posted the following, "It's not the end of summer for pollinators. Goldenrod, asters, and clover are still fueling monarchs, bees, and hummingbirds. Cut them now, and you starve migrations in progress."



Indian Creek Garden Club members gave an outreach



program for the residents of Calvin Court! We set the room with festive fall decorations, yummy brownies, deviled eggs, pimento cheese sandwiches, chicken salad, fruit bowl, cheese, egg and sausage casserole, plus lots of sweets and iced tea with lemon and mint. Afterward, members

gave mini talks, on the "Language of Flowers," pressed ferns, houseplants and their contributions to health and wellbeing, and an entertaining clay pot man demonstration. Residents were treated to pick a member donated houseplant, flower arrangement or succulent. Everyone was happy, and our hearts swelled as we gave our love to the residents.

Spalding Garden Club's co-presidents, Lynda Schermerhorn and Clare Schelhammer, were pleased to present past president Susan Frenzel with the Dynamic Dogwood Trophy at the club's October general meeting.



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director

Cruisin' with Daisy Flower Show is a Winner! In September, Daisy and all her friends gathered together for a spectacular "Road Show." This fabulous show included over 450 beautiful horticulture entries, 36 outstanding designs, 2 educational displays, and 31 amazing photography entries. Daisy's Redbud District friends showed up and showed out! We welcomed over 250 visitors in this new location. Spade and Trowel Garden Club won the Sweepstake Award for receiving the most blue ribbons. They won 23 first place, 28 second place, 20 third place, and 36 honorable mention awards! NGC Flower Show judges from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee judged the stunning entries. The Chairman and Co-Chairman, Gale D. Thomas and Joy Zaidan, and volunteers, made this show a remarkable one.



Dunwoody Garden Club hosts "Nature's Best Hope" with speaker Doug Tallamy, a nationally recognized entomologist, wildlife ecologist and best-selling author. Getting Professor Tallamy to speak was a BIG DEAL! DGC, with the support of sponsors, was able to make this event FREE. Over 600 tickets were issued for this engaging education event for our members, students, and the community. Tallamy is an inspiring advocate for biodiversity and the beneficial insects necessary for ALL life—including ours! Attendees also visited with local ecology groups like the Georgia Native Plant Society, the Chattahoochee Nature Center, and the Dunwoody Garden Club and learned how each of us can make a difference, even with a modest patch of native plants.



Smoke Rise Morning Glories were treated to a special workshop using pressed flowers to create one-of-a-kind greeting cards and bookmarks. Beth Gabbart, owner of Bouquets Y'all, demonstrated how – with some glue (or Mod Podge), stationary, tweezers, a small brush, a package or two of pressed flowers, and a little patience – you can create a special handmade gift. Take a look at some of members' beautiful designs! Each was different, but all showed the creativity of the group. This was a unique and fun experience!



Mountain Mums Sponsor "Tucker Walk to Remember"



Hundreds gathered for the 13th annual event as a tribute to young lives tragically lost and honored at the "Triangle of Trees" memorial, on Highway 78@ Exit 7. This garden serves as a constant reminder to "Please Drive Safely." To further their commitment to safety, the club also presents Taggart's Driving School scholarships annually to the students of a winning essay about why they want to attend the driving classes. This year's scholarship winner was Dhyana Patel from Tucker High School. Mountain Mums members are thrilled to announce that they will support three additional driving scholarships next year.



Show off your club! Send in your articles to your District Director!

Coming Up

December

Dec. 2 - Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Tuesday Tour

2 - 3pm- Every Tuesday, State Botanical Garden Museum Classroom, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Dec. 4-30 - Winter WonderLights

5:30 - 9:30pm Each night, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Dec. 5 - December Friends First Friday Tulips in December

9 - 10:30 am; Terrace Room at GCG Headquarters, State Botanical Garden, Athens. \$12 See botgarden.uga.edu

Dec. 5,6,12,13 - Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens December Nights & Holiday Lights

See coastalbg.uga.edu/holiday-lights

Dec. 6 - Holiday Décor: Wreath Workshop

10 - 12pm; State Botanical Garden Horticulture Complex, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

January

Jan. 2, 3, 9, 10 - WonderLights Disco Nights

5:30 - 9:30pm Each night; State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Jan. 7 - GCG Basic Design II Course

10am - 2pm; UGA Griffin Research & Education Building, Griffin.

Jan. 21 - GCG Floral Design Course II

8am - 5pm; Warren Community Center, Augusta

Jan. 21 - Dogwood District Winter Board Meeting

9am - 12pm; Details TBA

Jan. 31 - Athens Beginners Beekeeping Seminar

9 - 3:30pm; Terrace Room at GCG Headquarters, State Botanical Garden, Athens. \$12 See botgarden.uga.edu

February

Feb. 4 - GCG Basic Design II Course

10am - 2pm; UGA Griffin Research & Education Building, Griffin

Feb. 17 - Azalea District Winter Board Meeting

9:30 am - 2pm; Hartwell, Details TBA

Feb. 18 - GCG Floral Design Course II

8am - 5pm; Warren Community Center, Augusta

Feb. 24 - Camellia District Winter Board Meeting

9am - 2pm; Quitman Brooks County Museum, Quitman

Feb. 25 - Native Plant Symposium

9am - 4pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens.

Save the Date

3rd Annual Garden Symposium

Join the **Mountain Ivy Garden Club** for a day of expert speakers, networking, demonstrations, raffles, door prizes, vendors, plant sale and much more.

March 26, 2026

9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Rabun County Civic Center
201 W. Savannah Street
Clayton, Ga.

**Tickets on sale
January 2026**

Updates and more details
on our Facebook Page.
Mountain Ivy Garden Club



NGC's PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants bring beauty, and sustainability to plant the seeds of lasting change to communities across the country. Since 2017, more than 250 grants have been awarded totaling more than \$390,000.

Georgia received \$41,986, more than any other state!

Lets continue our winning streak while we celebrate America's 250th Birthday by planting Red, White & Blue in Georgia's Gardens--Great and Small.



Plans are being made to capture your 2026 pictures of those red, white and blue gardens throughout all seven districts in a giant collage. So, start planting those colorful and native gardens, adorning them with flags, banners, birdhouses, etc. More details will be coming your way, and now is the time to get those creative gardening plans going, ordering seeds and bulbs, so you'll be ready to highlight your patriotism within your private and community gardens.

Let's celebrate America's 250th Birthday in Georgia's style—Red, White and Blue!

For details contact Nilsa Summey, NGC's PLANT AMERICA Chairman from GCG
nilsa.summey@yahoo.com

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 706-542-6467 or
sbgrent@uga.edu.
2450 S. Milledge Ave | Athens, Georgia 30605
www.botgarden.uga.edu



“Celebrating 100 Years of Beautification, Conservation & Education”

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

Join The Century Club and Support Our Celebration

Help defray the costs of our many celebrations in 2028. Donate \$100 and receive a Century Club lapel pin and other benefits.

Accepting \$100 donations NOW.

Make your \$100 check payable to GCG and mail to:

Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman

6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641

b.bourque@comcast.net 404-374-2828

See the GCG Website for details and the donation form

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

