



Garden Gateways

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



*Garden Therapy:
Growing Success
at Atlanta's
Georgia Regional
Hospital*

**Recognizing our
Unsung Heroes**

*Plant Georgia
Red, White
and Blue*



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Garden Gateways readers?**

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Who inspires you? We could all come up with people who've guided our paths in life and gardening. At the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. there are many who have left an indelible mark on our history and inspired this great organization. This issue attempts to enlighten us to all those trailblazers.

One of my inspirations was (and is) the late Tally Sweat who led our legislative and environmental advocacy for decades. She was brilliant, funny, supportive, and one of those never-say-no kind of workers. Her sense of civic responsibility was part of her soul. She continues to provide me with "what would Tally do" moments.

We know these members like Tally and our own Honorary President Deen Day Sanders as symbols of selflessness. But there are countless members of your own clubs who provide quiet strength and unique creative impetus to your projects. There are the worker bees who delight in getting things done but really don't want to "stand out."

So, this issue is for them. Take a moment to think sources of inspiration in your own life and club and say a little prayer that they continue to guide you and bring your organization's joy and health.



Diane



*Thank you for your gifts to Scholarships
Our Georgia students are grateful and will make the most
of their education to benefit us all!*

The GCG Scholarship Committee is so thankful for your contributions. The students who received grants in February 2026 share their appreciation for the generosity provided to them by GCG. As you plan your new budgets, please consider a contribution to Scholarships from your Garden Club, Council, District or individually. Invite our Plant Societies and Affiliate Members to join our Mission of Education.

So many ways to support our Scholarships program.

- Named Scholarships Contributors
- Patrons of Scholarships
- The General Scholarship Fund
- Dollars Educate Scholars Fundraiser
- Brown Thrasher & Cherokee Rose Fund
- Life Memberships-*This includes a great gift of Garden Gateways! Share with family, friends, speaker gifts, prospective members and others. Life Membership counts toward GCG in applying to receive two NGC Scholarships grants.*

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

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

With sincere thanks to all, the GCG Scholarship Committee, Susan Turner, Chairman.

Diane Hunter
Bess Hartley
Janet Carn

Carolyn Culpepper
Brenda Griner
Rosemary Maulden

Marianne McConnel
Frank Mullins
Geri Shaw

“Inside the Garden Gate” has given a platform to share thoughts and discoveries inside my own garden gate, as well as to envision the spaces that garden club members across Georgia plan and create. There is so much to write about as the garden warms with the shifting light and warm breezes. However, this spring, two dear long time garden friends casually shared their thoughts, prompting me to step outside my garden gate and contemplate the diverse paths we all take when we extend our garden passion to other garden spaces.

As we work in our gardens, we may feel a profound connection to nature, to the generations of women and men who have toiled happily in their gardens, and perhaps to a higher spiritual power. Consider the numerous ways over the years that you have instilled joy, hope, or tranquility in others through your garden endeavors. Membership in our local garden clubs provides countless opportunities to utilize our knowledge and love of gardening to inspire or assist others.

Recently, I volunteered with my local club to assist with pruning and some cleanup in the Serenity Garden located at the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Center at Memorial Health University Medical Center. This was my first experience with the women who so ably and selflessly chair this worthwhile project. Since 2017, they and their team have completely restored the garden and continue with monthly maintenance. The small garden area features lovely green plantings that provide structure to the space, which includes a path leading to a seating area just beyond a small bridge. A waterway and small pond with koi complete



The Serenity Garden at Savannah's Anderson Cancer Center



this welcoming garden. Imagine the many individuals who can find moments of peace and healing in this well-tended garden. The women dedicated to its care share in the joy it brings.

Reading about similar projects in Garden Gateways is so inspiring. As spring arrives, the inclination to focus on what is happening inside our own garden gate is strong, but making time to spread our joy to other gardens, both public and private, can be equally fulfilling.

Whether it is a serenity garden offering a respite from troubled times, a children's garden providing education and excitement, or a pollinator garden supplying nourishment and a home for endangered insects, the positive impact of our many and varied contributions is immeasurable.

As plants begin to emerge from the chilly soil, do you recall certain friends who have shared some of their favorite plants now coming to life in your garden? The affinity you feel towards a person or place is very special when a beautiful living plant triggers that emotion. I have experienced that with the two long-time friends mentioned at the beginning of my written musings. I am grateful for their encouragement to think outside the box, beyond my own garden gate. While I will continue to enjoy all the benefits of gardening at home, this spring, I plan to step outside my garden gate to continue experiencing the deep satisfaction of gardening for others. I know many of you will be doing the same. I applaud the silent heroes who champion the many GCG projects that foster and encourage all the positive aspects of gardening. Good going, Georgia gardeners.

A Garden Club Returns with Gardens of Hope in Lyons, GA

~ Linda Doiron, 3rd Vice President Communications and Connections

For more than ninety years, a historic building in Lyons has stood as a place meant for community outreach. It was originally built by the Lyons Woman's Club in 1932, where it served as a community space featuring a large meeting hall and auditorium on the second floor with a stage and beautiful furnishings. In the 1930s, the club established a library, created a children's department, and landscaped the grounds as a memorial park.

The building was the center for patriotic activities during World War II and used thereafter by the local Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and Boy Scouts. The community's first radio station, WRQN, went on the air from the basement. Around 1945, the Lyons Garden Club (LGC) was organized following the disbanding of the Lyons Woman's Club assuming most of the functions of the earlier group. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

To support the property, the LGC has hosted fundraisers over the years including Holiday House tours using fresh woodland greens and berries, bridal showers, Christmas parties, bridesmaids' luncheons, birthday parties, city events, and holiday bazaars.

Beginning in 2020, the once-busy space stood quiet and uncertain because of the pandemic. The garden club did not hold meetings, and the building began to deteriorate suffering roof leaks, squirrel damage, burst pipes, and acts of vandalism. The club members were at a low point, and wondered who would love and care for this beautiful building as they faced the painful decision to close it and withdraw from the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Even so, those decisions did not change their long-standing sense of service and mission as they continued on as a local garden club, meeting only a few times a year. Several years later, Trudy Bowen, the club's president, would reflect on the property's unexpected turning point describing it simply as, "God sent a very big God wink."

Craig George with Forge Recovery was in Lyons scouting for a community space to house a recovery center. He had visited a Baptist pastor and decided to walk and pray when he came upon Patrick Bowen (Trudy's son) at a sandwich shop. He told Patrick about a really neat building that he had found, but before he could say more, Patrick said he knew of a neat building too. They ended up walking together to the same building, the former LGC community center. Craig appreciated its history and character as he had previously helped restore buildings in Savannah. Without fanfare, a small group of people came together, and in doing so became unsung heroes to the community in Lyons.

Craig's organization, a peer-based, non-clinical recovery center that helps people recover from substance abuse through individualized support, needed a space that felt safe, welcoming, and respectful of the people it served. Patrick's introduction



was a simple action, but a critical one, because without it, Craig may never have known the building was available, and the LGC may never have known there was a mission that fit so well with the property's long history of service to the community. Trudy had always remained committed to the idea that the property still had a purpose throughout its years of closure, and when the possibility of reopening the building emerged, Trudy embraced it with energy and determination. Her willingness to invest time, resources and leadership was essential in making the reopening possible. She and the other club officers met with Craig and proposed a contract to lease the building for five years to Craig's recovery center that he named Gardens of Hope.

A partnership was formed where Gardens of Hope agreed to undertake renovations and provide a small rental fee. The Lyons Garden Club would be able to meet upstairs and sponsor special events and workshops. The club rejoined GCG marking a full circle moment met with an enthusiastic and heartfelt welcome back return.

The property renovation was completed in late October 2025. The garden setting plays an important role in the recovery process providing a calm environment where individuals can engage in routine and connection. Perfectly positioned to support this work, garden club members are planning to assist Gardens of Hope by planting a butterfly garden, creating a bird sanctuary, planting a vegetable garden, offering flower-arranging lessons, building bluebird houses, holding classes on manners, and assisting with Gardens of Hope fundraisers and programs.

Sometimes the most meaningful restorations don't begin with funding or plans; rather they begin with people with shared values of service, dignity, and community outreach. In Lyons, Georgia, these unsung heroes, able to renew their community purpose through partnership, offer a hopeful example for other communities facing similar challenges.

World Heritage Update for The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

~ Charles McMillan, Trustee- Okefenokee Swamp Park

As we start 2026, Georgia is on the cusp of having its first World Heritage site. This year, the World Heritage Convention is taking the final steps to review the extraordinary features and unique flora and fauna of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR). This vast refuge (400,000+ acres), in southeast Georgia, has six hundred twenty (620) plant species. In addition, and importantly, it is the largest intact peatland in the temperate (middle latitudes) zone worldwide.

Garden Clubs in Georgia have played an advocacy role on conservation-related Okefenokee issues over the last few years, including the recent threat of mining, which was solved by a \$60 million conservation purchase led by The Conservation Fund. While other issues remain in the Okefenokee landscape, the opportunity for World Heritage



Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Inscription is a generational opportunity for our State that helps highlight the region's significance.

World Heritage sites are magnets for informed ecotourism worldwide, and the increased visitation to this rural part of southeast Georgia will provide more employment options and help stabilize the economy, while also raising awareness of the importance of conserving our unique Georgia natural resources.

In the fall of 2025, scientific experts from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the advisory body to the World Heritage Committee for natural sites globally, visited the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to review the inscription documentation, which focuses on two selection criteria called Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):

Criteria iX – Ongoing Ecological and Biological Processes:

This criterion focuses on the vast peat beds that cover so much of the swamp. These are outstanding examples that represent significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their related plant and animal communities.

Some of these massive floating peat formations provide the unstable footing, which legend says is the Native American, Muscogee Creek word for the swamp, Okefenokee- "land of the trembling earth."

Criteria X - Exemplary Habitats and Biodiversity

ONWR is a stellar depiction of the biodiversity of the North American Coastal Plain (NACP). The NACP is the 36th recognized global biodiversity hotspot, stretching along the US east coast bordering the Atlantic Ocean, from Cape Cod to east Texas. The ONWR is a unique representation of the NACP, providing high-quality freshwater wetland and upland habitats that support 14% of the flora and 29% of the fauna species found in this hotspot.

Notable examples bolstering this part of the nomination are swamp species such as Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and the local endemic Okefenokee hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia psittacina*). Along with this, the interspersed higher ground with a matrix of native longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) habitats plays an essential role in promoting biodiversity, particularly for amphibians.



Okefenokee hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia psittacina*)

The findings from the onsite visit will be passed along to the World Heritage Committee. As this article goes to press (first quarter 2026), updates and final revisions are being made to the project documentation. During the Summer of 2026, we expect the World Heritage Committee to hold the final vote on the Inscription. If approved, there will be Georgia-based celebrations in the fall of 2026 – stay tuned.

Look here for updates: <https://okefenokeeworldheritage.org/>

Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc., is the non-profit partner of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Join Us for the GCG 98th Annual Convention! *GCG Celebrates America*



Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Peachtree City,
April 1-3, 2026

The Magnolia District and the GCG Convention Committee have put together a great convention. Join us for two full days of exceptional speakers and two terrific fee-based floral design workshops led by two of our Georgia designers. Our speakers will bring us the latest information on Monarch butterflies, planting native plants for pollinators, therapeutic horticulture, conservation efforts, community gardens, Georgia's rivers, and the Bartram Trail. After each day's informative sessions, great food is planned for the evening meals. And let's not forget the Award Program. A member-favorite recognizing award winners and member accomplishments over the last year.

Educational exhibits will be on hand for you to peruse and learn about many of the GCG programs and committees. And for your shipping delight, some of GCG's favorites will be joined by new vendors in the vendor area.

We have exceptional speakers, great food, shopping and awards! What more could you ask for from a convention? How about "The Garden Club" a dedicated area with mellow music, great for fellowship, relaxing, and space to hang with old and meet new friends.

This convention has it all, join us and make it a real success!

For more information, please see the 98th GCG Convention details at gardenclubofgeorgia.org.

The Georgia Hosta Society

Invites You to Attend

Fifty Shades of Green

2026 Hosta Show and Plant Sale

Saturday May 9, 2026

(Show 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Hosta Sale 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM)

Oak Grove United Methodist Church Gymnasium

1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033

It Takes a Village

~ Diane Hunter, GCG President

For every garden club member who is actively digging, designing, teaching, picking up litter, improving public areas, there is a slew of FOCM's (Friends/Family of Club Members) who are there to tote, fetch, buy, encourage, and cheer.

Spouses are the first line of defense. They are there with their trucks to ferry plants to plant sales like Kathy Shiner's husband Todd and his truck and trailer. They are there to haul flower show properties from warehouses. The traveling board often arrives via the good graces of our spouses. Witness driver and photographer par excellence William Tucker, husband of former president Peggy Tucker. William is an institution. And Peggy would agree she couldn't have done all she did as president without his support.



They bring their musical talents as well entertaining us at meetings. Steve Duncan (Quill) performed with Reuben Fair (Kim) to gin up support for Redbud convention. And don't forget the acoustic performance of Marci and Jim Wilcox at one of our board meetings.

Construction skills are also in demand. How many of our clubs are using properties built by husbands like Bud Boyd, the late Alice Boyd's husband? Randy Stewart (Jan) not only constructs garden structures for the club but has also become the Azalea District Co-Director.

Many of us got into garden clubbing by tagging along with Mom. Joni Thompson's mom, Sophie Jones, was quite active in youth programs at GCG and 4H. Joni often accompanied her on GCG projects. Several clubs in the organization are "daughter" clubs – clubs that started with the daughters of club members. Nan Loftis follows in her late mother's footsteps by being active in Lullwater Garden Club



and the DeKalb Federation. Kendra Boyer wears her mother's judges' badge proudly when she judges flower shows. Of course, some just tag along. Dee Johnson brought her baby son to meetings and stowed him under the table in his bouncer. Going back to the Stewart (Jan) family, her boys and husband are the nucleus of their garden club.

Friends of the club are those who always show up when there is a flower show, plant sale, home tour, or dedication. They are your local officials, church buddies, and next-door neighbors. They buy your raffle tickets and purchase your wreaths and bulbs.

Without the support of FOCMs, we could not thrive. So, say a big thanks to all the FOCMS in your life.

"Oak trees are unsung heroes.
They feed caterpillars and bees.
They encourage diverse neighborhoods
of tiny wildlife for predators to feed on."



- The Xerces Society

Garden Therapy: Growing Success at Atlanta's Georgia Regional Hospital

~ Quill Duncan, 4th Vice President

Sometimes ordinary events in life can turn into something very special, eventually making a tremendous difference in many people's lives. In September of 2018 this pivotal "Aha!" moment happened at the monthly meeting of The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Our meetings are open to the public, and we often have guests. At the meeting Jaclyn Cox introduced herself and requested the Federation's help with a garden she was creating at the Georgia Regional Hospital-Atlanta. She was a staff member at the facility and felt that gardening experience would be beneficial for the residents and staff.

Jaclyn envisioned the project as an ornamental and tactile garden so the residents would be able to see, touch and smell the plantings. Several DeKalb Master Gardeners met with Jaclyn at the hospital and toured the area where she planned to add the Sensory Garden. The Master Gardeners, who are DeKalb Federation members, endorsed her plans and advised the Federation Board to donate funds to the project. And as a bonus, Jaclyn Cox joined the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club adding her special insight to the project goals.

In 2019 this officially became a DeKalb Federation Garden Therapy project. With the assistance of the Smoke Rise Morning Glories and the Federation, the hospital staff were able to purchase more plants and develop additional areas to garden. The following year Jaclyn moved to Washington State to develop a Garden Therapy project at a mental health hospital based on the success of the Georgia Regional project.

The current leader of the Garden Therapy project at the hospital is the hospital's Activity Therapy Coordinator, Mary Cochran, who is a member of the Smoke Rise Morning Glories.

The project has expanded considerably in the last seven years, and now six therapists on staff manage container gardens or in-ground gardens across the campus with staff and patient assistance. The largest garden is the vegetable and fruit garden by the campus gym. This garden produces food year-round for the residents who plant, water, weed



Sensory Garden

and harvest their crops. One resident is a trained chef and frequently prepares meals using the vegetables and fruits they harvest for the enjoyment of the residents and the staff. There is real joy and delight on the faces of these residents when they share the bounty of fresh food and the pleasure they find in managing their gardens.

It is important to note that a majority of the patients there are permanent residents who cannot leave the facility. We are limited in our interaction with the hospital, and all visits must be scheduled and accompanied by hospital staff. These individuals are challenged by their circumstances, and we are very encouraged they find the gardens offer a respite and a sense of accomplishment.

In the vegetable garden residents grow flowers and vegetables year-round. Winter crops are greens, cabbage and broccoli. In spring they plant lettuce, peas, herbs, beans, strawberries, and squash. Summer brings watermelon and blueberries and the delicious bounty of corn, okra, tomatoes, zucchini and blackberries. Fall is the time to harvest pumpkins, sweet potatoes and other gourds. The containers feature seasonal annuals and herbs. Pollinators are drawn to all the gardens, and the bright colors of the flowers add so much beauty to the campus. Last spring, the strawberry



harvest was so prolific that staff and patients enjoyed several strawberry parties! Hospital staff members contribute seeds, plant starts and herbs and offer encouragement to the resident gardeners.

Mary entered several specimens grown in their gardens at the Redbud Standard Flower Show in 2024 and 2025. Those entries won two red ribbons, one yellow ribbon and a blue ribbon for a sweet potato vine bloom in 2024. The following year she entered a dozen items ranging from vegetables to annuals and received more ribbons for the hospital produce and flowers.

The Skilled Nursing Unit received a garden therapy grant in 2024 from The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) to update and brighten the atrium space for the patients who live in that building. This garden is still a “work in progress.” The patients in this unit have profound physical and mental challenges and are confined to the unit. Adding garden therapy via visual stimulation improves their quality of life. Colorful containers and fall plantings have added some life to the atrium and more is planned in the coming year.



Funding for the project has come from grants by the Espoma Company, the DeKalb Federation, and GCG’s Garden Therapy Grant. Additional funds have supported the project including a \$100 Special Achievement Award from Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Avondale Estates, Dunwoody and Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Clubs.

The DeKalb Federation has a long association with the hospital, but this project has become a key component of our service to an underserved community. This state managed hospital facility is often trying new techniques and processes to improve the quality of life for the residents, and it is very encouraging to see a positive response from staff and residents. In 2025 the hospital established a work therapy program and several of the resident patients are now being paid to work in the garden several days a week.



Two Georgia Master Gardeners and Smoke Rise Morning Glories members, Quill Duncan and Bonnie Pennington, stay in regular communication with Mary Cochran reviewing plans, discussing projects and funding to keep this vital project growing.

Over the years, DeKalb Federation and the Redbud District have played a vital part to help the hospital community with garden therapy as well as the thousands of donated new underwear and toiletry items collected each year through the Fig Leaf Community Service Project.

The beauty, joy and success of the Sensory Garden was noticed by Georgia Regional Hospital administrators, and the staff was encouraged to spread this across their large campus. Statewide there are a total of five Regional Hospitals:

- Georgia Regional-Atlanta
- Georgia Regional West Central-Columbus
- Georgia Regional Central State-Milledgeville
- Georgia Regional East Central-Augusta
- Georgia Regional-Savannah

Establishing garden therapy projects at these facilities with the support of GCG and local garden clubs can make a big impact. Funding up to \$750 per year is available for districts, councils and garden clubs through the GCG’s Garden Therapy Grant Program. The application and guidelines can be found at the GCG Website; gardenclubofgeorgia.org. The DeKalb Federation and the Redbud District are happy to share the successes of their Garden Therapy project at the Atlanta facility with other garden clubs to benefit the Georgia Regional facilities around the state.

From that DeKalb Federation meeting in 2018 and the vision of one determined and creative individual, a Garden Therapy project blossomed into a thriving garden culture at the hospital. The impact of this one project cannot be overstated in the lives of the residents of Georgia Regional Hospital-Atlanta and for those of us who have witnessed the project’s many benefits increase year after year. It is a perfect partnership for nurturing Georgia’s gardening community.

The Erin Garden Club and the Camellia District

Invite you to the

2026 Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser

Saturday March 28th ~ 9 am to 3 pm



Tour Dublin's Historic Homes, Churches and More

For information and tickets see the March Events Calendar at gardenclubofgeorgia.org

2026 Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms

April 25 and 26, 2026

The 2026 Theme is Recycle & Repurpose ~
Treating Our Environment Better



The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, is proud to host its 4th Flower Fantasy at the beautiful historic Pineola Farms. This year's event will feature creative, meaningful floral designs that are fresh, different, and inspiring, all centered on our environmental theme. You'll also enjoy educational programs throughout the weekend, including:

- ♻️ the ease and benefits of composting
- ♻️ the importance of worms and other natural helpers
- ♻️ practical ways to protect, preserve, and enhance our environment

Join us for a delightful day (or two!) touring the stunning historic property, admiring unique floral installations, shopping, and learning how to be better stewards of our planet.

A percentage of the funds raised will support scholarships through The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the Sensory Garden at Masee Lane Gardens.

Mark your calendars for another fun and exciting fundraising event!

We can't wait to see you there—let's celebrate flowers, creativity, and a greener future together!

Tickets and details can be found at www.pineola.com/events

Georgia's Unsung Environmental Heroes

While the star gets all the kudos, they could not perform without all the behind-the-scenes helpers; costume shop, lighting, prop building and maintenance, dressing etc. Think of your own garden club. Who always remains behind when the event is over to clean up? Who weeds your community space? Who picks up litter when out walking? Notice these people and send them a thank you note.

Struggling to keep Georgia green while accommodating the needs of our increased population are many who have quietly worked to ensure that the air is safe to breathe and the waters safe for drinking, fishing and swimming. New ways are being found to balance development, industry and farming with the natural environment. Many, including scientists at our universities, have continued to discover better methods to balance development with the natural world. Let me introduce a few of those behind the scenes or catalyst helpers for our Georgia environment.

Doug Hoffman, recently retired, worked for 20 years on Cumberland Island with the Wildlife Services in predator management. During his time on Cumberland, Doug's efforts reduced sea turtle nest destruction from 70% to 6%. Hundreds of volunteers are coordinated through the Wildlife Services of the Department of Natural Resources to assist in preventing predator destruction of the nests. All of this has succeeded in bringing to the fore the needs of Sea Turtles. Now there is a Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island. Founded in 2007 by veterinarian Terry Norton, it is backed by the Jekyll Island Authority, a self-supporting state entity. The seeds planted 20 years ago are providing a bountiful harvest.

After learning of the successful cleanup of the very polluted Hudson River in New York, Sally Bethea decided to try a similar approach on the Chattahoochee. She founded the Chattahoochee River Keeper in 1994 and continued as the director for 20 years. The need to have official sitings on our rivers was seen by others and now all the large rivers in Georgia have River Keepers. The more eyes on the rivers the more likely pollution will be discovered and addressed early. James Holland founded the River Keeper for the Altamaha and has headed the effort for more than 20 years. His exquisite photographs are compiled into a book, *Altamaha: A River and Its Keeper*. When you are out on one of our rivers there is always a River Keeper to inform if you are concerned about anything you spot. The work of the river keepers has significantly changed the way our rivers are used. They are no longer dumps.



Altamaha River

Stephan Foster State Park achieved designation as an International Dark Sky Park in 2016. Michael Ellis, a DNR interpretive ranger at the park, spearheaded the effort to become a Gold Tier Dark Sky Park. The entire staff worked to make the changes required to become certified as the only Dark Sky Park in the eastern United States. Go for terrific astronomy programs and get to see the Milky Way. One person can make a difference.

Annemarie Reynolds, the widow of R.J. Reynolds Jr. sold his Sapelo Island holdings to the State of Georgia after his death. Prior to this he had become interested in the habitats he saw and loved on the island. He funded research that enabled Eugene Odum to write the first book on ecology in 1953, *Fundamentals of Ecology*. This was the first acknowledgment that the salt marshes and estuaries were critical to the health of the coast. This led UGA to establish the first Department of Ecology in the country. Because of this work there are now two research entities on Sapelo Island, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve managed by DNR, NOAA and the UGA Marine Institute. Both provide housing for scientists and students.

Joe Burnham, DNR senior wildlife biologist, successfully coordinated relocation of nesting pairs of red cockaded woodpeckers from Fort Stewart and Jones Center at Ichauway to Wildlife Management Areas at Sprewell Bluff and Choctawhatchee. Over the years this effort has moved the woodpecker off the Endangered list.

Georgia DNR staff do yeoman service in many different areas. They risk themselves trying to free Right Whales entangled in fishing gear, monitor the positions of the whales using drones and helicopters so ships can be alerted, give lectures and tours, coordinate volunteer work in our parks, band hummingbirds and many incredible jobs to make your visit to a state park remarkable. Our DNR workers are definitely 'unsung heroes'.

Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Spring Symposium and Native Plant Sale

May 1, 2026 10 am to 2 pm

5 Plant Vendors featuring Native Plants, Milkweed
and Container Gardens

Keynote Speakers

Ashley Frasca; Green and Growing, WSB Radio
Susan Myers; Monarchs Across Georgia

Symposium Mini Programs

Dr. Jaap de Roode, Ph.D.
Monarch Lab Director, Emory University Department of Biology

Amy Heidt; Coastal Plain Native Plant Chapter

Mary Ann Johnson; Former Florist for Rosalynn Carter,
The Carter Center

Brandon Cross; Horticulture Instructor, South GA Technical College

Seating is Limited ~ Book Early!

Details and Registration at
rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org



Thomasville Garden Club, Inc. 105th Annual Standard Flower Show



Friday, April 24, 2026
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thomasville Garden Center
1102 South Broad Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31792

I love seeing our beautiful stars and stripes proudly flying over the municipal buildings, the library, and many businesses in our small town. Showing off our national colors does not have to be limited to a flag waving atop a flagpole. Another clever and effective way to show off your national spirit is to incorporate plantings of red, white, and blue in the landscape. It is exciting to hear about the many beautification projects Georgia's Garden Clubs have participated in each year and think of the difference our members are making in their communities. The next time your club is about to embark on another community project, think red, white, and blue! Here are some tips and suggestions to make the most of these magnificent colors in the landscape.

Tree and Shrub Plantings

Many shrubs and trees sport blooms in red, white, or blue; however, having them all bloom at the same time may be a bit of a challenge. If the space is intended to be contemplative and perhaps maintained as a veteran's garden, utilizing long lived trees and shrubs that feature blooms in patriotic colors at different times of the year is suitable because the space is meant to be occupied and enjoyed for longer periods of time rather than just passing by or walking through the space to enter the library, post office, etc. The Veteran's Memorial Garden pictured here was designed to be utilized in this manner, and the plantings included blue *Plumbago auriculata*, red *Rosa 'Knock Out'*, white *Camellia sasanqua 'Mine no Yuki'*, and (*Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Natchez'*).

Annual and Perennial Plantings

If you wish to incorporate a pop of patriotic colors into part of a landscape that is not a destination in itself, perennial and annual beds are the way to go. Maximize the effect by selecting areas near building entrances or at busy connector points along walkways or drives.

By nature, annuals and perennials require more upkeep than trees and shrubs but are unmatched for making a colorful statement in the landscape. Concentrating these plantings in high-traffic areas minimizes extra maintenance. Pots can also provide the perfect venue for incorporating red, white, and blue blooms at an entrance or busy node in the landscape. The soil in pots can be doctored to the perfect mix for the plants you select, and changing the plants out for each season is a breeze. In-ground annual plantings make the greatest visual impact when presented as layered masses of each color rather than intermixing the colors throughout the planting.



Red

Red Salvia (*Salvia splendens*)
 Begonias (*Begonia semperflorens-cultorum*)
 Petunias (*Petunia x hybrida*)
 Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*)
 Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica 'Dynamite'* or '*Red Rocket*')
 Sasanqua Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua 'Yuletide'*)

White

Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
 Gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*)
 Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*)
 Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua 'Mine no Yuki'*)
 Begonias (*Begonia semperflorens-cultorum*)
 Petunias (*Petunia x hybrida*)

Blue:

Cape Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*)
 Hydrangea macrophylla (*Hydrangea macrophylla 'Nikko Blue'*)
 Russian Sage (*Salvia yangii*)
 'Big Blue' Liriope (*Liriope muscari 'Big Blue'*)
 Agapanthus (*Agapanthus africanus*)
 Big Blue Sage (*Salvia longispicata x farinacea 'Big Blue'*)

Laurels' Unsung Heroes



Cindy Smith is a highly dedicated member of the Mountain View Garden Club whose many contributions often take place quietly behind the scenes. She spends countless hours producing the monthly newsletter, featuring seasonal gardening articles, club and district news. Cindy coordinates holiday themed gift bags for the Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center with educational books and activities. She donates an original wreath each year to Cancer Navigators and assists with planting and maintaining the Mountain View garden at the Cancer Center. Currently, Cindy serves as co-secretary, is a backup for devotionals, and hosts one meeting annually. The care, creativity, and excellence she brings to every project make her an invaluable club member.

Linda Fenner. For 21 years, the Garden Club of Ellijay has been fortunate to have Linda as a member. Her bright smile, positive attitude, and welcoming spirit uplifts everyone around her, and she is a valued mentor to new members. Always ready to help, Linda prefers working as a team member, willingly serving on any committee that needs her. She has contributed to the Adopt-a-Road project, Arbor Day tree plantings, the annual plant sale and flower show, and is a consistent member of the Beautification Committee, supporting multiple local garden projects. Adding to her service is her husband, Bob, who for years quietly assisted at the annual plant sale as the club's only non-member volunteer. The Garden Club of Ellijay is richer because of Linda's grace, dedication, and generous spirit, and she is truly a treasured member and friend.



Fleur de Lis Garden Club in Gainesville had a Christmas luncheon at Chattahoochee Country Club on December 3. We collected stuffed animals to give to firefighters for children facing trauma and tragedy. God bless our firefighters!

Ball Ground Garden Club was busy in 2025 striving to be good stewards, caring for and conserving our environment. In October, the club was invited by the city to work with a local Boy Scout Troop to clean up debris and litter from Ball Ground Creek and around the roadside.



Members used repurposed materials to create the club's entry in the City of Ball Ground's Scarecrow Contest. We held a Halloween Festival in the Garden for the community and surrounding area.

The pumpkins used for the event were donated to a rescue farm to use as food, the pine straw was reused for mulch in the garden, and the straw was donated to a family with horses to be used for the horses' beds. Our club continues to be good stewards of the environment by recycling our plastic, glass and paper products used at our monthly meetings.



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

Azalea's Unsung Hero, Doris Blalock

A member of the Pine Needle Garden Club since the late 1970s, thanks to a friend who would not take no for an answer, Doris found the club to be a perfect fit even though raising four children and balancing other civic commitments. She served as club president, two terms as president of the Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, and as Azalea District Director. Doris was appointed to the GCG Board in 1991, and served for 34 years, including 14 years as state parliamentarian. Her lifelong passion for parliamentary procedure began in the early 1970s, and her goal has always been to support strong leadership and orderly, effective meetings. She came out of retirement in 2021 to serve as Parliamentarian at the request of former President Lisa Hall. Lisa shared, "She was serving at the time as parliamentarian for the Azalea District and the Augusta Council reviewing all meeting formats and scripts. She was so dedicated, always wanting to help so that we put our best foot forward! It was wonderful working with her. She would explain why something had to be done a certain way. I always felt confident that what I was presenting was proper and according to our bylaws, policies and Robert's Rules."



Doris currently serves as the Azalea District as Parliamentarian. Jan Stewart, AD Director, says each time she calls Doris for her advice, she answers the phone with a joyful "HELLO, how can I help you."



The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. is proud to sponsor The Garden Club of Georgia's, Basic Design Course II in Augusta January through May. We are pleased that thirteen students are enrolled, many of whom successfully completed Course I last year. Their continued commitment to learning is wonderful to see.

We are especially delighted to welcome Lynn Fronk as our instructor for this five part series. Lynn is an NCG Master Flower Show Judge, a Flower Show Schools Design Instructor, and a Flower Show Procedure Instructor. Her widely respected teaching expertise spans 42 states and six countries. Three enrolled students from Union Point are planning a NGC Small Standard Flower Show May 30, 2026, everyone is invited to attend.

Register for Lynn Fronk's workshop at the upcoming GCG Convention.

Rose & Dahlia Garden Club's Delightfully Busy Season: Fall and early winter were active and rewarding months for the club, marked by learning, service, and fellowship. The season opened at GCG headquarters with exciting news about the club's developing website, supported by Eddie Killmeier's expertise. The Growing Seeds Club at Downtown Academy enjoyed a creative fall exploring spiders, recycled art, and wreath-making while members connected through home socials, lunch outings, and mahjong. Educational programs featured Oconee Hill Cemetery, the Sexton's House, and Athens' Moon Tree. The Beautification Committee added seasonal plantings at St. Mary's Hospital and wreaths at Memorial Park. Highlights included assisting with the Azalea District Fall Meeting, participating in Wreaths Across America, and sponsoring a snowflake at Winter Wonder Lights as the club looks ahead to 2026.



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Oleander's Unsung Hero, Shirley M. Lewis 1937 - 2025

It was apparent that the Shenandoah Valley knew how to produce a good crop when Shirley was born and later blessed Savannah with her presence. She was an earthmother, gently nurturing, fiercely protective, and in 'teaching mode' until our Lord took her home. Shirley's devotion to the future of gardening spread to all who knew her. Leadership was synonymous with Shirley's amazing organizational and 'people' skills.

As a Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. board member for over twenty years, her involvement included Former Oleander District Director, Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs President, and President of the Windsor Forest Garden Club. Leading with that magnanimous smile, Shirley wowed us with years of experience which oozed with kindness and generosity.



Pine Forest Garden Club and Jr. Garden Club: In spite of the freezing temperatures, members of Pine Forest Garden Club (PFGC) and the Junior Garden Club, better known as the Aggies, met in December at the Appling County Retired Educators Memorial located at the Baxley Board of Education (ACEC). The group worked together to clean and replant around the memorial. This is an ongoing project that the PFGC does twice a year through the collaboration with Appling Co. Retired School Teachers, the Aggies and ACEC, PFGC, and County Farm Plant Company, who often supply free or discounted plants. Club members also participate in other hands-on activities and field trips to increase the students' knowledge of agriculture, gardening, and protecting the earth.

Windsor Forest Garden Club members kick off the Holiday in their green garden aprons and red Santa caps on the busiest shopping day of the year, Black Friday. Our elves are busy with a club tradition, hanging wreaths, 22 in all, on community entry columns, our oak tree at the busy traffic circle and on our club's Tribble Park, Presidents Bench. Taking over for a Neighborhood Association, our club volunteers have enjoyed bringing cheer to the neighborhood for nearly 25 years. It means so much when a busy mom slows down, smiles and says thank you.



The Windsor Forest High School announced the need, and we were only too happy to donate a beautiful 12-foot artificial tree for their 40-foot atrium. Our volunteers and the news crew arrived for a tour of the new and improved school and to admire the club's fully decorated donation.



We stayed close to home for the holiday luncheon, playing bingo and enjoying fellowship over a wonderful holiday menu. Our holiday charity this year was toiletries for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House and turned in by our RMH chairman and dynamic duo, Chuck and Maia Petty.



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

Camellia's Unsung Hero, Nancy Stinson

If you want a posed picture of Nancy, you are out of luck! Erin Garden Club is fortunate to have this dynamic lady, full of energy, quiet, and who always responds, "just tell me what you want me to do!" Nancy joined Erin Garden Club in the early 1980's and has remained very active. She's the one that prefers edging flower beds with her hoe at the market or wherever she may be gardening.

Nancy is known for her very beautiful designs, be it a table setting, wreaths, massive wedding arrangements or even covering a mannequin. She tackles any request using her imagination and amazing talent! She's known throughout our community for special events needing special flower designs. She's a worker, wanting to be involved with projects. Yes Nancy, you are our unsung hero and thank you all you do not only for Erin Garden Club, but for our community too!



Granada Garden Club of Thomasville braved the chilly January weather for a field trip to Valdosta to visit The Crescent a beautiful house and two camellia gardens on the American Camellia Garden Trail along the way. We toured The Crescent, home to the Valdosta Garden Club, which was built in 1898 and saved from demolition by the Valdosta Garden Club in 1951. It survived Hurricane Helene in 2024, but had to have extensive repairs that included replacing all windows. We walked through the Sara Oliver Camellia Garden at the Christ Episcopal Church in Valdosta and delighted in the many different varieties of beautiful camellia blooms. On our way back, we stopped at the Brooks County Museum to see the Betty Sheffield Memorial Garden in Quitman.



Dogwood Garden Club of Valdosta, was asked by Habitat of Humanity to design and plant the front garden of their new building. The building was destroyed by Hurricane Helene in 2024 and we were able to complete the job in November 2025. Jan Thomas and Heather Miller, Dogwood's two new Master Gardeners, designed the space, tested the soil, and with the help of Home Depot purchased all the plants and materials for our project. The Habitat employees helped with the placing of the soil and planting. It was a beautiful day for planting.



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

Magnolia's Unsung Heroes

Becky Cartledge serves as Vice President of the Winchester Garden Club, where she shares an inspirational message and blessing at each meeting. In October, she presented an informative program on the uses of pumpkins and gourds. Becky generously volunteered her time at the Gold Star Marker dedication and the Magnolia District meeting. She also partnered with fellow members and Midland Middle School to prune peach trees, refresh pine straw, and plant flowers. Becky was the inspiration behind the "Stomp the Cans" recycling project and donated craft supplies to the Ann Elizabeth Sheppard House. In addition, she decorated mini trees for residents of River Towne Center nursing facility in Columbus. Becky is a truly valuable and dedicated member of the Winchester Garden Club.



Joyce Henson is a Charter member of the Beautiful View Garden Club organized in 1961 and Federated in 1962. In 1965, the club held its First Standard Flower Show and achieved the National Purple Ribbon for Flower Show Achievement. Joyce Henson has held many offices, worked many projects, and participated in the longevity of the club. Joyce, at the age of 95, still comes to the monthly meetings and participates in the club activities. We celebrate our member, Joyce Henson, for her 65 years of dedication to the Beautiful View Garden Club with continual activity, participation, and attendance.



The Camilla Garden Club with the help of Hays LTI gathered at the De Soto Trail Library for the presentation of a special butterfly bench. During recent travels, several garden club members had admired benches elsewhere. After sharing photos, a plan was developed to design and build one of our own. It turned out absolutely beautiful and was a wonderful donation to the De Soto Trail Regional Library's Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Trail Garden. Pictured L-R: Shirley Moye, Sharon Martin, Cindy Bostick, Lydia Bullard (Friends of the Library), Cindy Anglin, Sandra Sullivan,

Will Murphy (Hays LTI), Holly Phillips and Kirsten Harrell (Library Staff), Susan Luke. Seated: Debbie Murphy and Jenny Bostick.

In Memoriam



Mary Sibyl McHugh McGlaun passed away peacefully at the age of 93 in November. Sibyl was a National Flower Show Judge Emeritus and served in numerous GCG leadership roles for more than 25 years. Her service included terms as Magnolia District Director, GCG Assistant Treasurer, and 2nd Vice President. Sibyl's dedication and contributions to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. were truly exceptional and will be long remembered.

Miriam Elizabeth Taff Denham

passed away at age 100 in November. A member of the Sherwood Garden Club, she served in numerous leadership roles, including Magnolia District Director. With more than 20 years of service on the GCG Board, she established Youth Garden Clubs to foster a love of gardening. A Master Judge and Landscape Design and Garden Consultant, her dedication to GCG was outstanding.



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

Dogwood's Unsung Heroes

Norcross Garden Club celebrates two garden members behind our success.

Jeannette Shewbert: If Norcross Garden Club were a garden, Jeanette Shewbert would be everywhere at once, pulling weeds, dividing plants, mulching beds, and somehow still finding time to write the newsletter. As our corresponding secretary and official news pollinator, she makes sure nothing and no one gets overlooked. Thank you Jeanette for tending this garden for many seasons. We all thrive beautifully because of your smile and generous spirit.

Sue Wyatt is our treasurer extraordinaire and we mean extraordinaire. For many, many years she has kept our books balanced, our records straight, and the rest of us out of trouble. Thanks to Sue's careful attention and steady hand we always know where everything is planted. Her dedication and reliability give us peace of mind and plenty to be grateful for. Thank you Sue. While the rest of us see rows of confusing numbers, you see neat little sprouts.



During our yearly plant sale both of these ladies are usually ALWAYS at the sale. Both are hard to replace.

Ama-Kanasta Garden Club has two Unsung Heroes that deserve recognition.

Susanne Hudson and Jeri Farmer led our club as well as other Garden Clubs in Douglas County and the County Master Gardeners by organizing and planning the Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival and Flower Show for 16 years. Susanne, a friend of Penny McHenry, the founder of the American Hydrangea Society, received permission from Penny's family after her death to name the festival in her memory. She and Jeri both went on to create a Festival that received state and national attention bringing tourists from many states and some foreign countries to experience a wonderful horticulture experience that included beautiful garden tours, award winning Near-Club Standard Flower Shows, horticulture vendors, and fun parties.



Their efforts brought joy to our community and welcomed visitors from near and far to experience the beauty of our county in full bloom. They are truly our unsung heroes!

The Ivy Garden Club met on November 11 to hear Staci Catron, the Director of the Cherokee Garden Library, speak on Georgia Women Pioneers in Landscape Architecture & Design. Some of the renowned women we learned about were Clermont Huger Lee from Savannah, who is most known for her work designing gardens and parks such as the beautiful Forsyth Park, and Edith Harrison Henderson of Atlanta who inspired many to gardening with her articles in the AJC as well as being the first woman to be elected an officer of the American Society of Landscape Architects. It was a fun morning for all Ivy members to learn about these brilliant gardening pioneers from our beloved state.



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

Digging in the dirt grows Redbud's Plant Sale Heroes

The Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) Plant Sale committee (Susan Carney, Deborah Levine, Ann Umbaugh and Peg Wyse) start in early February dividing plants, seeking donations, purchasing wholesale plants and repotting to get them ready to sell each April.

The sale began in 2021 to make up lost revenue from a holiday marketplace canceled because of the pandemic. The plant sale, this year on Saturday, April 18, soon became the club's largest annual fundraiser. It immediately became a way for the club's unsung heroes to shine.

AEGC President Julie Martinez says each year the team works behind the scenes to gather donations of cash, plants, and dirt. They store, repot, and nurture plants to get ready for the sale. Perhaps the most time-consuming work involves labeling and pricing each individual plant. As one member notes, "Each plant has a label with its name, price, and how to take care of it. Everything hinges on our heroes who make it happen, the club sells the inventory. In order for us to fulfill our mission, we need funds, and we do that with the sale."



LaGrange Garden Clubs Participate in the Daffodil Project

In November, the Troup County Master Gardeners, members of the Elms and Roses Garden Club Council, and Talisman Garden Club planted 250 bulbs at the Troup County Agriculture Center in LaGrange as part of the Daffodil Project to remember the 1.5 million children who lost their lives in the Holocaust and to support children throughout the world suffering in humanitarian crises. The project began with 1,800 daffodils planted in Atlanta to 662 locations with over a million bulbs planted around the world. Troup County's bulbs were donated by the project to be planted in a memory garden at the Ag Center. Founder of the project, Andrea Videlefsky, along with Holocaust survivor Herschel Greenblat, were on hand for the ceremonial planting. For more information, visit www.daffodilproject.net.



Mountain Mums Garden of the Month: A Tropical Touch at Home

After nine years in the Smoke Rise neighborhood, Jay and Kellie Rappaport have turned their yard into a peaceful, vacation-inspired retreat. Jay has developed a lifelong fascination with palm trees, something that now defines his beautiful backyard. "Palm trees make you feel like you're on vacation, even when you're at home," he shared. Jay has personally planted every tree, plant, and flower in his backyard, creating a landscape filled with sabal palms, windmill palms, and a variety of colorful plantings. His dedication shows in every corner of the yard, bringing a touch of the tropics to our community.

Congratulations to Jay and Kellie, our Garden of the Month winners!



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

Coming Up



March



Mar. 3 - Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Tuesday Tour

2 - 3pm every Tuesday; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 3 - Johnstone Lecture

6:30 - 8:30; "From Georgia to the World: William Bartram's Botanical Legacy"

Featuring Dorinda Dallmeyer, Visitor Center, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 4 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants

Virtual Lecture – Zoom.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 4 - Fundamentals of Design Graphics

9am - 4:30 ; Gardenside Room, State Botanical Garden, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 7 - Soils of the GA Piedmont & Beyond

9am - 1pm; State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Classroom 2, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 11 - Basic Design II Course

10am - 2pm; Conyers Presbyterian Church, Conyers

Mar. 16 - 21 - 2026 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention at sea! Port Canaveral Cape Canaveral, FL.

See deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Mar. 18 - Floral Design II Course

8am - 5pm Warren Community Center, Augusta.

Mar. 21 - Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests of Georgia

9am - 1pm; State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 24 - Basic Design II

10am - 2pm; Conyers Presbyterian Church, Conyers

Mar. 22 - Georgia Questival

11:30am - 3:30pm; State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 25 - Creating the Ultimate Landscape Design

9am - 4:30pm; Gardenside Room, State Botanical Garden, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 26 - Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Spring Luncheon

9:30 am - 2pm; Augusta Country Club, Augusta.

Contact: bethwiseman807@gmail.com

Mar. 28 - Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser 2026

9am - 3pm; Irish Ramble on Bellevue, Dublin. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Mar. 28 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants

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

Mar. 30 Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants

6 - 8:30pm; Virtual Lecture – Zoom See botgarden.uga.edu

Mar. 31 - Plant Taxonomy: The Identities of Plants

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



April



Apr. 1 - 3 GCG 2026 Annual Convention

Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW, Peachtree City. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Apr. 1 - Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia

9am - 1pm; Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Stonecrest.

See botgarden.uga.edu

Apr. 11 - Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent Tour of Homes

10am - 4pm; Savannah. For tickets, go to www.ardsleypark-gardenclub.org

Apr. 15 - Floral Design Course II

8am - 5pm; Warren Community Center, Augusta

Apr. 15 - Designing the Environmentally Responsive Landscape

9am - 4:30; Gardenside Room, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See

botgarden.uga.edu

Apr. 17 & 19 - Valdosta Council Flower Show 2026

Crescent Garden Center of Valdosta. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Apr. 17 & 18-The Garden Club of Savannah NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens

10am - 4pm; Harper Fowlkes House, Savannah.

See gardenclubofsavannah.org

Apr. 18 - GA Bot. Gdn. Spring Plant Sale

8am - 2pm; State Botanical Garden Horticulture Complex, Athens. See

botgarden.uga.edu

Apr. 18 - Entomology for Gardeners: Identifying & Understanding Common Backyard Arthropods

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

Apr. 19 - Apr. 25 Garden Week in Georgia

Apr. 26 & 27- Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms

8am - 5pm; Pineola Farms, Fort Valley. See www.pineola.com/events

Apr. 23 - Learning by Leading™ End of Semester Spring Showcase

6 - 8pm; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum Classroom, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu



May



May 1 - Rosylann Carter Butterfly Trail 2026 Symposium & Native Plant Sale, Plains, GA See:

rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org

May 2 - The Soque Garden Club 9th Annual Garden Extravaganza

8am - 3pm; White County Agri-Science, Cleveland. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

May 4, 5, & 6, National Garden Clubs Annual Convention 2026

2026 St. Louis, MO. See gardenclub.org

May 6 - Planting Design for the Sustainable Landscape

9am - 4:30 Gardenside Room, State Botanical Garden, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

May 7 - Ethnobotany of Native Plants: Through the Eyes of Native Americans

9am - 1pm; Medicine Bow Wilderness School, Dahlonega.

See botgarden.uga.edu

May 9 - Native Ferns of North Georgia

9am - 1pm; State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Classroom 2, State Botanical Garden, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

May 30 - Introduction to Graminoid ID

9am - 1pm; State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Classroom 2, Athens.

See botgarden.uga.edu

May 9 - Ball Ground Garden Club Annual Plant Sale and Festival

9am - 3pm; Ball Ground Botanical Garden, Ball Ground.

See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

May 16 - Blue Star Marker Dedication – Augusta

8am - 5pm; Pendleton King Park, Augusta. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

May 20 -Floral Design Course II

8am - Warren Community Center, Augusta

May 25 - Gold Star Marker Dedication – Thomaston

8am - 5pm; Upson Historical Society, Thomaston. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
State Headquarters
2450 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605-1674

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Let's Celebrate America's 250th Birthday in Georgia Style **Red, White and Blue!**

NOW is the time to get those creative plans going, ordering seeds and bulbs, so you'll be ready to plant those colorful private or community gardens. Adorn them with flags, banners, and birdhouses to highlight your patriotism.

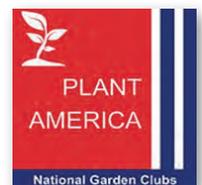
NGC's PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants are available to provide funds to help.
Apply **NOW** at gardenclub.org

We plan to capture pictures of your red, white and blue gardens in a giant collage. Send your pictures with the following information to nilsa.summey@yahoo.com or PO Box 484, Fortson, GA 31808-0484:

1. Subject line: "PLANT AMERICA/GA XX-XXX" (your Garden club number)
2. General location (i.e. City, park name, rest stop area or street name only)
•(NO address number—keep it general in nature so no tour buses will come to your house!)
3. Your Contact information

Since 2017, Georgia has received \$41,986 in PLANT AMERICA Grants
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.

For details contact Nilsa Summey, GCG Chairman of NGC's Plant America
nilsa.summey@yahoo.com



"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.***

