



Redbud Reporter

Spring 2026

From Your District Director

This time of year, I look out my windows and am happy to see daffodils and dogwood trees blooming in my backyard and George Taber and Formosa azaleas in the front. My hydrangeas are sprouting green leaves, the gardenia bush is full of tiny buds, and my tea olive is covered with small fragrant flowers. Then I drive over to my sister's home and walk all around her woodland yard and see several varieties of native azaleas full of flowers in every color, along with a Chinese snowball taller than her barn that looks like a "snowy paradise." Her fence is covered with a Lady Banks yellow climbing rose. I keep saying I'm going to plant one but then I start thinking I'd like a native honeysuckle instead. So many choices – what a good problem to have.

The GCG 98th Annual Convention is right around the corner on April 1-3, 2026 in Peachtree City. The theme is "GCG Celebrates America", which will feature informative speakers, fun workshops, delicious meals, interesting vendors for shopping, and an awesome awards night. Looking forward to a great time and visiting with garden club friends from around the state.

Spring is Here

I see robins, I see bird's nests,
Butterflies too, flowers too.
Everything is growing,
The wind is gently blowing.
Spring is here, spring is here.

Author Unknown



An arrangement I made for the 2026 Troup County Historical Society's Tour of Homes using plants from my sister's yard and mine.

Are you aware that Georgia has more than 180 Blue Star and Gold Star Markers throughout our state? Our garden clubs continue to sponsor and support this worthwhile project. Redbud District's Green Thumb Garden Club of Thomaston will hold a Gold Star Marker Dedication on April 4th at the Upson Historical Society, 800 S Church St., in Thomaston at 10:30 am. It will be a meaningful and beautiful program. The GCG Blue Star Marker Dedication at the Carter Center in Atlanta is tentatively scheduled for June 30th at 11 am. More information will be forthcoming.

Garden Week in Georgia is April 19 - 25 and NGC National Garden Week is June 7 - 13, 2026. Remember to take pictures of your club's activities and events, write a description and send to the *Redbud Reporter*, Sandy Reed - sandyreed17@gmail.com.

Could you help me get *Garden Gateways* submissions each quarter? I look forward to receiving pictures and writeups from our Remarkable Redbud Garden Clubs. Our District gets

one page which means we can print 3 or 4 articles with pictures on our page. Submissions for *Garden Gateways* should be emailed to me, then I forward them to the editor. The editor makes the final selections to be published on our page.

Many thanks to all of you for your time, talent, and resources as you promote your garden club, our District, and the Garden Club of Georgia.

Bonnie Dudley
Redbud District Director



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




Flower Show School, Course 1

Want to become a Flower Show Judge? Or maybe you just want to learn more about flower shows, design or horticulture. Well, this is your opportunity!! There are 4 courses required to become an NQC Accredited Flower Show Judge, typically offered every 4 months.

~Course 1: August 16-19, 2026~

Bellmere Garden House, Johns Creek, GA

Fee for the Full 4-day Course to become a judge: \$155.00 (includes lunch)
Registration for informational purposes: either design or horticulture:
One day audit: \$75 (includes lunch).
Flower Show Procedure audit: \$25.00, 2 hours, Sunday August 16, 2026
Non-NQC/GCG members, add \$10.00 to above fees



Anna Burns will discuss traditional line, line-mass and mass designs and how to critique them.

David Robson will teach us about Hostas and Zinnias and how to judge them.



For more information, contact:
Joy Zaidan, Local School Chairman
770-493-8475; Joyzaidan4986@gmail.com
Gale Thomas, Registrar, Co-Chair
404-790-7101; galedthomas@gmail.com

INSTRUCTORS

DAVID ROBSON

HORTICULTURE, FLOWER SHOW PROCEDURE

David Robson of Springfield, Illinois is a retired horticulture and pesticide safety specialist with the University of Illinois. He has been an NGC Master Judge since 1992 and Flower Show School and Symposium instructor since 2008. David has held many positions of leadership in his local garden club and has served 10 years as Awards Chairman for the Garden Clubs of Illinois. David has presented design programs to CFAA, Florida Design Gala & Deep South Convention. Interesting to note that he has also been an Illinois State Fair Culinary Judge for the past 14 years and a Floriculture Superintendent for 18 years. He currently serves on the NGC Board of Directors as Vice Chairman of the Flower Shows and Flower Show Schools Committees, and is the Horticulture Instructor's and Credentials Chairman.

ANNA BURNS

DESIGN

Anna resides in Griffin, GA and is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge and an NGC Provisional Instructor of Design. She serves The Garden Club of Georgia as a Basic Design instructor. A Life Member of NGC, Deep South and The Garden Club of Georgia, Anna has held leadership roles in her local garden club, Creative Study Club and North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges. In 2017, she published the book *Guide to the New Petite-Floral Design 12" and Under* which is on the Recommended Reading list for NGC Flower Show Schools. Anna's designs have been featured in NGC's *Vision of Beauty* calendars, CFAA's *Design Dimensions* and Assembly of Flower Arrangers publications. She has conducted workshops and given presentations across the southeastern United States.

REQUIRED READING

1. *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, revised July 2025*. Digital version free at: <http://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>.

2. *Outlines of Period Flower Arrangement* by Frances J. Hannay. Available online at the NGC Store at www.gardenclub.org for \$5.00.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING A DIGITAL OR PRINTED COPY OF THE HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS (HB). POSSESSION OF THE HB IS REQUIRED FOR CREDIT.

Study outlines will be emailed in advance to paid registrants. Be sure to print and bring outlines that have been punched with 3 holes. The FSS will provide a 3-ring binder for your outlines.

RECOMMENDED READING

While not required reading, these books provide additional information on design types and horticulture entries.

1. *Guide to the New Petite* by Anna Burns (purchase directly from author at Course I FSS)

2. *Hortulana, 21st Century Ed.*, Nancy Heber, available online for \$10 at the NGC store (www.gardenclub.org).

3. *Designing by Types*, Harriett Osborn, Editor (FSS will provide this book to full-time students taking exam).

STUDENTS TAKING COURSE FOR CREDIT MUST:

- Be on time, attend all sessions and remain seated throughout the lecture time.
- Bring *Handbook for Flower Shows, revised July 2025* edition, either a digital download or a printed copy. Also bring *Outlines of Period Flower Arrangement*.
- Bring instructor outlines (punch holes to fit 3-ring binder). FSS will provide the binder.
- Bring sharpened pencils, clipboard and a highlighter.

*National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Flower Show School*



Course 1

August 16 - 19, 2026

Bellmere Garden House
10777 Bell Road
Johns Creek, GA 30097

Sponsored by



The North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges & The Designers Club of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Local Chairman: Joy Zaidan
Joyzaidan4986@gmail.com

Registrar and Co-Chairman:
Gale Thomas
Galedthomas@gmail.com

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

**GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKER
DEDICATION CEREMONY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 4th at 10:30 AM

UPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
800 S CHURCH ST
THOMASTON, GA



Free BBQ Lunch
RSVP Peggy Greene
(770) 468-5125

Sponsored by
Green Thumb Garden Club
&
The Upson Historical Society
in cooperation with
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Basic Floral Design I Course

The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs is pleased to sponsor a GCG Basic Floral design I Course. The classes for this course will be held at the Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 5901 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087.

Registration fee for this course is \$150. To register, please go to this link:
<https://forms.gle/q5tvebWcLcnH6aFJ8>.

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Classes are from 1 pm – 5 pm on the following dates:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 1, 2026: | Line and Line Mass Designs |
| May 15, 2026: | Mass Designs |
| May 29, 2026: | Creative & Petite Designs |
| June 12, 2026: | Table Designs |
| June 26, 2026: | Botanical Arts: Wreaths and Fruits & Vegetables |

News from the Clubs

Avon Garden Club Bids Farewell to Member

Avon Garden Club bid a fond farewell to long-time member Kathy Deprey at its meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Kathy and her husband, Rod, will be moving in April from Avondale Estates to Nashville, Tennessee. Avondale's loss will be Music City's gain!

As a member of Avon Garden Club for 22 years, Kathy has served the Club in many official capacities, including as President in 2010-2011. Kathy is also a Life Member of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

At their home in Avondale Estates, Kathy and Rod created a lovely backyard shade garden for which she received the DeKalb Federation's 1st Place Wilma Coney Shade Gardening Award for 2023-2024. The Deprey shade garden was a part of a public Eco-Garden Tour celebrating Earth Day in recent years. The shade garden provides habitat for at least 23 species of birds (including resident owls) as Kathy discovered and reported during the 2026 Great Backyard Bird Count.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Kathy has been a consistent contributor and presenter at Club meetings and events. Her keen interest in crafting and in the environment led to projects showing Club members how to repurpose old mugs into bird suet feeders, old tee shirts into shopping bags and long-sleeved men shirts into aprons. Kathy also spearheaded a volunteer Club project with Club members surveying areas of the City of Avondale Estates to identify issues of interest to the Public Works Department of Avondale Estates.



Avondale Estates Garden Club Celebrates Arbor Day in Georgia

Georgia Arbor Day, the third Friday in February of each year, is a special time for members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC). Each year, the club works with the City of Avondale Estates to plant a tree in memory of club members and their spouses who have died during the previous year.

In 2026, the tree was planted in memory of longtime garden club member and Avondale Estates resident Sheila Biggs.

AEGC contributes \$150 to purchase the tree and works with the city's Greenspace Manager to select the tree and decide where it will be planted. This year, the tree selected was an American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*). The site selected was Lanier Gardens, at 2699 E. College Avenue at the eastern entrance to the city.

An approved tree on the City's tree ordinance, the American hornbeam is native to Georgia and often called musclewood or ironwood. According to the city, it is an excellent, low-maintenance understory tree for local landscapes, offering striking fall color (yellow, orange, scarlet) and unique smooth, gray, fluted bark. It thrives in partial shade to full sun, stabilizes soil with a robust root system, and

provides essential wildlife food for birds and mammals.

Planting trees and encouraging conservation are important missions of AEGC. In November 2025, the club purchased 50 overcup oak saplings to give away following an Environmental Awareness seminar.

The garden club purchased the saplings, which are native to the Southeast, to encourage residents to both add to the city's tree canopy and learn how important trees are to the environment.



Avondale Estates Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 18, 2026; 10 am - 3 pm
Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive,
Avondale Estates

The sale will be open rain or shine.

Feeling the urge to get outside and get your hands down and dirty in your garden? You can find lots of plants to get help you get started at the Annual Avondale Estates Garden Club Plant Sale. Garden Club members have been working on getting plants of all kinds, including plants for shade, full sun, popular perennials, pollinators, as well as a selection of herbs, vegetables, and houseplants.

Plant sale co-chair Deborah Levine said a special focus will be on adding more native plants to the sale this year. “We are especially looking to source more native azaleas,” she said. Another new feature is a short note from Garden Club members who donate plants about their plant donation.



“The Annual Sale is a big team effort,” said Julie Martinez, Avondale Estates Garden Club President. Members work all year selecting and potting plants from their gardens for the sale. “There are a lot of big jobs, a lot of small jobs needed. Everyone is involved.” In addition, she said the sale is a way of “reaching out to the community, providing plants, education, and expertise, and making people aware of our club.”

The plant sale will once again feature a children’s activities area, where they can learn while their parents shop.

For more information, go to Avondaleestatesgardenclub.org.

Co-chairs of the 2026 Plant sale are Ann Umbaugh, Susan Carney, Peg Wyse and Deborah Levine. Karen Liebert chairs the children’s activities.

June 6 Tour Features Secret Gardens of Avondale Estates

Plan a trip to Avondale Estates on Saturday, June 6, when the Avondale Estates Garden Club presents their biennial Secret Garden Tour.

These private gardens are normally off limits to the public. But once every two years, when gardeners open their gates for one day, visitors will find lushly landscaped gardens filled with flowering perennials, native plants, and plenty of pollinators.

Coming up Saturday, June 6, the biennial tour features five of the city’s loveliest gardens, offering ideas for landscaping and a glorious array of plants and garden paths.

Tour hours are 10 am - 3 pm.

Advance tickets for the Secret Garden Tour are on sale through June 4. Day of tour tickets will be for sale June 6 at the Gazebo beside Lake Avondale from 10 am until 1 pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the tour.

Advance tickets will be available at Finders Keepers Furnishings and Intown Ace Hardware in Decatur.

For online ticket sales, go to the club’s web site, avondaleestatesgardenclub.org. Tickets purchased online by June 4 can be picked up at the Gazebo on the date of the tour.

Locations of each home on the tour are provided on the tickets, along with a map of the area.

DeKalb Federation Celebrates Life Members

The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs held its annual Life Member Recognition Luncheon in February. The Life Membership program began in 1994 to recognize those who have made valuable contributions in gardening or garden club work. Beginning with 27 charter members, the number of Life Members has now grown to 423 members! The funds raised from this program support The Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund.

This year the following were recognized by their garden clubs:

Avon Garden Club

John Oechsner
David Fowler
Chris Kingsbury

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Jean Kingsbury
Alice Murray
Susan Ragsdale

Lullwater Garden Club

Jennie Richardson
Connie Weimar

Mountain Mums Garden Club

Mary Jacobson
Kelley Samaras

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

Doug Burns
Amie Walsh

Stonecrest Garden Club

Ieisha Fuller

The highlight of the Life Member Program was the presentation of the DeKalb Federation 2026 Life Member of the Year to Nanette Loftis.

While a small girl Nan learned about the power of garden clubs by observing the enormous effort put forth by her mother, Lorraine, with the garden clubs of DeKalb County to save Callanwolde. She even helped distribute leaflets!

Upon retirement from data work at Emory University, Nan joined Lullwater Garden Club in 2018. She immediately volunteered to be the club's DeKalb Federation representative and has been on the DeKalb Federation Board since 2021. She serves on The Garden Club of Georgia Board as Environmental Studies Chair. She also has established a Named Scholarship to The Garden Club of Georgia in her parent's memory, coming full circle to those moments inspired by her mother.

Congratulations, Nan!



DeKalb Federation Holds Designers Showcase

The program for the January 2026 meeting of The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs was a “Designers Showcase”. Five DeKalb Federation members brought in designs they had created ahead of time and discussed the design principles behind them. Each of the designs represented a different type of floral design.

The program was so well received by the attendees that we are considering repeating it in the future. Anyone interested in learning how to create floral designs is encouraged to sign up for the Basic Floral Design Course I class that is being sponsored by The DeKalb Federation of Garden Club (see page 5 of this newsletter for more information). Members may also want to consider taking the Flower Show School being offered this summer (pages 3 - 4).



Photos, clockwise from upper left:

DeKalb President Sandy Reed started things off with a line mass design.

Faye Long created an eye-catching mass design in autumnal shades.

Gale Thomas displayed a creative design that utilized dried plant materials.

Susan Turner created an illuminary design.

GCG President Diane Hunter created a festive red and white table design.

Quill Duncan served as moderator for the discussion.

Dunwoody Garden Club Donates Scholarship

In support of the Garden Club of Georgia’s scholarship program, the Dunwoody Garden Club donated a \$1000 scholarship in the name of the Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Department.

The club is fortunate to have the support of the City of Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Department in beautifying and maintaining the gardens at Brook Run Park, Windwood Hollow Park and the Dunwoody Library. Whenever dirt, mulch, flowers, assistance with heavy work is needed, the Dunwoody Parks and Recreation deliver – usually literally.

The relationship works both ways for the benefit of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department has called on Dunwoody Garden Club members to help design plantings at Waterford Park, one of its newest parks; to work with the public at its annual MLK Day of Service daffodil planting; to identify and plant native plants throughout the city; and to site new artwork at Windwood Hollow Park. Garden site leaders and board members appreciate the respect given to club

members for their gardening expertise, years of service and commitment to the community.

Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Director, Rachal Waldron, was presented with a certificate at the January meeting.



Pictured from left: Patsy Newton, Club President; Rachal Waldron, Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Director; Su Ellis, Kim Bornstein, Chris Gleason, Donna Burt and Marysusan Banavali.


SAVE THE DATE
Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony
July 2, 2026 at 5:30pm
The Veteran’s Memorial in Brook Run Park
 Sponsored by
 The Dunwoody Garden Club
 In Cooperation With
 Dunwoody Parks and Recreation
 And
 The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc

A Productive Fall Season for Green Thumb Garden Club

Fall proved to be an especially productive season for the Green Thumb Garden Club, marked by engaging programs, community involvement, and notable member accomplishments.

September was highlighted by the Daisy Flower Show, where several club members submitted entries and were rewarded with multiple ribbons and awards for their outstanding work.

In October, club members used their talents to create a beautiful fall display in the downtown area in celebration of our community's Mule Days Celebration. Later in the month, club member and interior designer Kimberly Davis of Kimberly Davis Interiors presented a program focused on fall table decor. Members participated in a hands-on-activity, creating arrangements of seasonal foliage from the home garden and using live pumpkins as unique containers.

November activities included participation in the Annual Community Veterans Day Program. In

recognition of local veterans, the Green Thumb Garden Club purchased a new wreath for the Blue Star Marker located at the Greatest Generation Park.

The November meeting featured guest speaker Lydia Johnson Menzies, a Thomaston native, internet personality, and founder of The Supper Club. Lydia shared ideas and inspiration for creating an elegant Christmas table and highlighted her book, *The Supper Club*, which offers guidance on hosting meaningful gatherings throughout the year. She also announced the launch of the inaugural issue of her magazine, *The Supper Club*.

The club year concluded with garden club members assisting in the decoration of the historic Courthouse on the square. The last function of the year was a Christmas Luncheon, with reflection on the year's achievements and looking ahead to an exciting lineup of programs planned for 2026.

Lullwater Garden Club Plant Sale

Lullwater Garden Club will hold their Annual Plant Sale located in the Lullwater Conservation Garden – 845 Lullwater Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30307. They will be selling home grown annuals, perennials, heirloom tomatoes and their ever-popular moon vines.

Friday, April 17: 1 pm - 5 pm
Saturday, April 18: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, April 19: 1 pm - 5 pm

A Nature Scavenger Hunt for children of all ages will be held on Saturday at 10 am

Guided Garden Tours will be given on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm. by expert Druid Hills Historian Jennie Richardson, who will share the history, horticulture and special features of the garden.

All proceeds from the plant sale are used for the care of Lullwater Conservation Garden

For more information go to [Lullwater Conservation Garden](#)

Mountain Mums Garden Club Visits NETWorks GROWINGS

A recent featured speaker at the Mountain Mums Garden Club meeting was Neil Duggan, Volunteer Farm Coordinator for NETWorks GROWINGS, who shared how innovative gardening practices support the organization's food pantry mission.

NETWorks operates a grocery-style food pantry designed to provide nutritious, appealing food to neighbors in need. Because purchasing fresh produce can be costly and donated items are not always at peak quality, NETWorks made the decision to grow its own food.

Traditional outdoor gardening presents challenges such as limited space, unpredictable weather, and ongoing maintenance. To overcome these obstacles, NETWorks implemented hydroponic growing systems – cultivating plants indoors using nutrient-rich water instead of soil. Inside the NETWorks warehouse, leafy greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, and herbs are grown year-round. This method produces consistent, high-quality harvests with a longer shelf life, ensuring neighbors have access to fresh food they are proud to serve their families.

As a follow-up to the presentation, seventeen club members visited the NETWorks facility in Tucker, Georgia, for a tour and hands-on experience. Members picked, bagged, and labeled fresh produce for community members to select from the pantry. Due to the positive response, the club recently agreed to make this a monthly service project.



Left: Renee Boudrot, Gaye Auman, Mary Lou Still and Kate Graham (left to right) bag picked lettuce at NETWorks GROWINGS

Top: Gaye Auman, Maureen Fraser, Sally Young and Mary Jacobson (left to right) take picked, bagged and labeled bags of lettuce to the cooler.



Floral Designers Take Spotlight at Satsuki Garden Club Meeting

The Satsuki Garden Club's February meeting brought a surge of excitement as members gathered for the long-awaited Designer's Challenge, an event that had been the talk of the club for months. Anticipation filled the room as six members stepped forward to test their creativity under pressure.

Each volunteer designer received identical vases, materials, and fresh flowers, along with a strict 20-minute time limit to craft a unique floral arrangement. The challenge was conducted by Gale Thomas, 2nd Vice President of the Garden Club of Georgia, whose guidance and commentary added both expertise and enthusiasm to the event. Throughout the competition, Gale shared helpful tips on preparing a floral design, emphasizing the importance of planning, structure, and thoughtful selection of materials.

Members cheered on the designers – Beverly Copeland, Tricia Gann, Louise Miller, Georgianna Toole, Connie Waller, and DiAnn Wheeler – as they worked swiftly and skillfully. When time was called, the results were a delightful surprise. Though each participant began with the same supplies, the finished arrangements showcased a remarkable range of styles, shapes, and artistic interpretations.

The room buzzed with admiration as members viewed the completed designs, many remarking that it was "one of the best meetings ever." The event highlighted the talent and creativity within the club.

The February meeting will be remembered as a standout moment in the club's year – a time of learning, laughter, and floral artistry at its finest.



Satsuki Garden Club Joins Literacy Event

The Newton County School System hosted its third annual Literacy Extravaganza on Saturday, February 7, drawing an estimated 3,500 students, parents, and community members for a day dedicated to promoting literacy. The event featured a wide range of vendors, agencies, civic organizations, and school clubs; each offering displays and activities designed to engage young readers and encourage a love of books. According to organizers, 55,000 books were given to readers.

The Satsuki Garden Club participated in the event for the first time and has announced plans to make this an annual project of its Civic Improvement Committee. Club members presented an educational and visually engaging exhibit centered on the theme “Stories Take Flight on Butterfly Wings”. A trifold display board, created by members Beverly Copeland and Reba Wilson, showcased colorful butterflies alongside book covers featuring butterfly-related stories and nonfiction titles. A second poster highlighted the club’s free nature book box located in its pollinator and butterfly garden.



Ten volunteers from the club staffed the booth throughout the day, distributing 300 children’s books, coloring sheets, crayons, and handcrafted origami butterflies made by members Carlotta Ehmen and Sue Sanders.

The booth also featured an interactive presentation by Connie and David Waller, whose demonstration of the butterfly life cycle drew steady crowds of children. Connie, wearing butterfly wings, used props – including a plush caterpillar that unzipped to reveal a butterfly – to illustrate the stages of metamorphosis.

Volunteers participating were Connie and David Waller, Sharon Payne, Louise Miller, Adrienne Dettore, Susan and Butch Bozeman, Sandy and Bill Crawford and Co-Presidents Carol Fulton and Martha Taylor.



STEAM Academy Students Establish Junior Garden Club with Support from Satsuki Garden Club

The Newton County STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Academy has officially launched a Junior Garden Club following a student meeting held on February 9, 2026, where twelve students and their advisor, Mrs. Amanda Kirkham, gathered to begin planning their inaugural garden project.

In response to the students' request for sponsorship, the Satsuki Garden Club voted to support the newly formed group, granting them affiliate status with the Garden Club of Georgia. Satsuki Co-Presidents Martha Taylor and Carol Fulton issued a formal letter congratulating the students and welcoming them into the statewide gardening community.

As part of the club's early mentorship efforts, Martha Taylor and Kimberly Ramsey, chairman of the Satsuki Club's Pollinator/Butterfly Garden committee, met with the students to discuss foundational gardening topics. The session included lively questions about pollinators, plant selection, planting schedules, and proper watering practices, reflecting the students' strong enthusiasm and curiosity.

The STEAM Academy Garden Club is now preparing for an upcoming visit to the Satsuki pollinator garden, where members will have the opportunity to explore established pollinator habitats and gain hands-on insight to support their own garden planning.

The Satsuki Garden Club looks forward to continuing its partnership with the students as they begin their journey in horticulture, conservation, and community engagement.

