



Garden Gateways

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



*Greatest Harvest:
Why School Gardens
Grow Far More Than
Vegetables*

***GCG is
GROWING
GARDENERS***

*Explore GCG's
Educational
Opportunities*

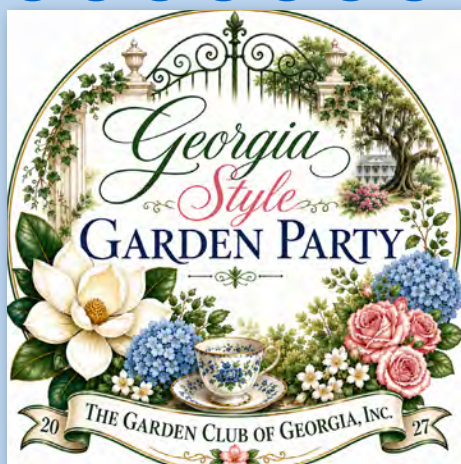
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Select nights November 2026-January 2027

Visit wonderlights.uga.edu for more information.
Tickets will go on sale in September.



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Join us for a
Georgia Style Garden Party!

The 99th Annual GCG Convention
March 30, 2027 - April 1, 2027
Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa
Young Harris, GA

Your Convention 2027 leadership team continues to work on details to keep the "Georgia Style Garden Party" theme to Engage, Educate and Entertain you! Look for details in the coming months for Registration, Schedule, Speakers and more.

You don't want to miss this!

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



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*Plant the Deep South with Flowers and
Trees for the Birds and Bees*

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No, that's not a review for *The Odyssey*. That is what I expect each of you to say when you read this issue. GCG and NGC take education seriously. Classes in floral design, flower show judging, horticulture, landscape design, and environmental studies are unique to our organizations. They provide our members with access to experts from around the state and country. Attendees are exposed to the latest ideas in these areas and take that knowledge back to their clubs. This ever-expanding knowledge base is just one way you benefit. Where else are you exposed to a professional landscape designer discussing urban design? Our Zoom NGC study schools scour the southeast for the latest sustainable practices, water conservation practices, and smart power.

We educate the public not just with our club programs but in our classrooms. This issue gives some concrete and creative ideas about involving youth in gardening. Whether it's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl contests or working during or after school to plant school gardens for food and pollinators, our clubs grow the next generation of gardeners.

GCG clubs prove their commitment to education year after year when they set record numbers in college scholarship awards to deserving Georgia students. Last year we provided \$95,000 to these amazing people. You'll meet one of them in this issue. You'll meet another recipient at our Fall Board Meeting. Many of these students are not only horticulture experts, but they are taking that knowledge into careers in agricultural education.

No one knows better than a gardener that education is a lifelong, life-changing process. We at GCG are proud to be part of the mission.

Thanks for tending to the heart of Georgia,



Fantastic News!!!!

*The World Heritage Committee has designated
The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge a
UNESCO World Heritage Site*

This is the FIRST World Heritage Site in Georgia and the 27th site in the United States that include Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks.

The Okefenokee is North America's largest blackwater swamp providing habitats to more than 1,270 species of plants and animals. Most of the swamp's wilderness is the same as it was 6,000 years ago, making it one of the largest intact wetland complexes left on Earth.

Even though one mine near the 'OKE' was purchased by the Conservation Fund, the rest of Trail Ridge still needs to be permanently protected from the dangers of mining. Thank you for keeping this issue a priority.

Education in the fields of botany and horticulture for women has expanded dramatically in less than 200 years. Prior to 1850, women were rarely encouraged to pursue the formal study of either subject. By the 1860s, educational opportunities were beginning to expand, and between 1880 and 1915 specialized horticultural schools for women appeared in Britain and later in the US. The Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, founded in 1911 by Jane Bowne Haines, was the first of its kind in America.

During World War I, women stepped into every aspect of gardening and agriculture. Interest in, and the need for their contributions continued to grow after World War II, when women increasingly entered university horticulture programs. They went on to become directors of botanical gardens, professors, landscape architects, garden writers, and leaders in horticulture and conservation.

The rise of garden clubs helped spread horticultural knowledge, as did the growing published writings devoted to gardening. To this day, I depend on other garden writers to inspire and keep my own garden education growing. Kathryn Litton, the former author of *Inside Your Garden Gate*, was and is an inspiration through her generosity in sharing her love and knowledge of gardening.

One of my earliest and most admired teachers was Gertrude Jekyll (1843–1932), the revered British garden designer and author. Educated at home before attending the National School of Art, she began writing for *The Garden* magazine in 1881. Her first book, *Wood and Garden*, was published in 1899 and, amazingly, remains in print today. It still offers practical wisdom, arranged month by month, with the occasional curmudgeonly observation. In September she writes, "I have no patience with slovenly planting..." Later she warns, "If this is not done, and the plant is put in, in its pot-bound state, it never gets on; it would be just as well to throw it away at once." Ladies, remember that when you begin your fall planting!

When we moved from Connecticut to Georgia, Elizabeth Lawrence (1904–1985) became an important garden influence on me. She was the first woman to graduate from North Carolina State University with a degree in landscape architecture. Neither Jekyll nor Lawrence was living when I discovered their writing, yet the knowledge they shared remains as valuable today as when they first put pen to paper. Lawrence's books and newspaper columns on Southern gardening are still among the finest ever written.



Elizabeth Lawrence

More recently I discovered Caroline Dormon (1888–1971). Although educational opportunities for women had expanded during her lifetime, she was largely self-taught in the fields that became her life's work. Her college degree was in literature and art, yet she became a respected authority on native plants, forestry, and conservation. She is widely credited with helping save more than 600,000 acres that became Kisatchie National Forest, preserving Louisiana's remaining longleaf pine forests. Her books, *Wild Flowers of Louisiana* (1934), *Forest Trees of Louisiana* (1941), *Flowers Native to the Deep South* (1958), and *Natives Preferred* (1965) continue to educate and inspire. While planting with native species may seem like a modern movement, Caroline Dormon was championing their value decades ago.



Caroline Dormon, courtesy of Northwestern State University, Cammie G. Henry Archives

Dormon's scientific accomplishments were extraordinary, but what draws me to her is the balance between her analytical mind and her compassionate heart. She saw the science of plants, but she also saw their soul. One of her quotations especially resonates with me:

"My very soul lives in that beautiful old gnarled and weather-beaten tree... Oh my, the tales he could tell of his rugged survival through the storms of life."

One of the Garden Club of Georgia's most important endeavors is its outstanding scholarship program. Through it, we help further the education of young people who will shape the future of horticulture, conservation, and environmental stewardship. The science of gardening continues to evolve, and these students will make discoveries we can scarcely imagine.

My hope is that, somewhere inside their own garden gate, they discover not only a love of plants but also a deep respect for Nature that fuels a lifetime of learning. Like Caroline Dormon, may they find their soul in a beautiful old, gnarled, weather-beaten tree.

And may all of you continue to find your soul inside your garden gate.

Carter Presidential Center Blue Star Marker Dedication

On June 30, 2026, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG), in cooperation with its seven districts and the Carter Presidential Center, dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. The marker honors all men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The dedication was especially significant because it is one of only two Blue Star Memorial Markers located at a presidential library or center in the nation.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks from Jan Thiese, GCG Blue and Gold Star Memorial Marker Chairman; GCG President Diane Hunter; Donna Donnelly, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC); and Beth Davis, Chief Operating Officer of The Carter Center. Dr. Juanita Barron, GCG Chaplain, offered the invocation.

The Presentation of Colors by the DeKalb County Fire Rescue Honor Guard, led by Battalion Chief Doug Harms, set a patriotic tone for the morning. The audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a stirring rendition of the national anthem by Bess Hartley, GCG First Vice President.



Diane Hunter introduced distinguished guests, including Donna Donnelly; Denise Thorne, Director of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.; Candace Fleming Wells, NGC Blue and Gold Star Memorial Marker Chairman; and Deen Day Sanders, NGC Honorary Life President. Other honored guests included representatives of The Carter Center, Josh Carter grandson of President and Rosalyn Carter, current and former district directors, Blue Star district chairmen, executive board members, and past GCG presidents.

In his keynote address, Josh Carter shared personal reflections on his grandfather's life of service. While recalling President Carter's years as Governor of Georgia and President of the United States, he emphasized the importance he placed on his U.S. Navy service, which he considered one of the defining

experiences of his life. Carter noted that the Blue Star Memorial Marker is especially meaningful to his family because it honors military service while its garden setting reflects First Lady Rosalynn Carter's lifelong love of gardening and nature. He also highlighted the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, which continues to celebrate her appreciation for the environment.

Peggy Tucker, Azalea District Blue Star Marker Chairman, shared President Carter's lifelong commitment to peace, public service, and humanitarian work before tracing the history of the Blue Star Memorial and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker programs.

The Blue Star program began in 1944 with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs to honor World War II veterans. It was adopted nationally in 1945 as the Blue Star Memorial Highway System, and in 2015 the Gold Star Families Memorial Marker program was established to honor the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

Jan Thiese then led the dedication of the marker, followed by its unveiling by the seven GCG district directors. Members of the Dogwood District presented a traditional floral tribute before Amy Williams, Deputy Director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and



~ Jan Thiese and Linda Doiron

Museum, formally accepted the marker on behalf of the Carter Presidential Center.

Jan Thiese and Donna Donnelly presented certificates of appreciation, and the ceremony concluded with the "Armed Forces Medley," honoring each branch of the United States military.

The new memorial is Georgia's 187th Blue Star Memorial Marker and joins a nationwide network of tributes established by garden club members over the past eight decades. Located near the picnic deck at the entrance to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, it stands as a lasting reminder of the sacrifices made by America's service members and the nation's enduring gratitude for their service.

The Garden Club of Georgia extends sincere appreciation to everyone whose support, attendance, and participation made this project possible. Through the collective efforts of many dedicated individuals, this vision became a reality.



Perhaps no words better captured the significance of the dedication than those offered in the invocation by Dr. Juanita Barron, GCG Chaplain:

"What a beautiful day to assemble and earmark this momentous occasion to remember and honor the gallantry of men and women who have served and are serving in the United States Armed Services. With humility and deep gratitude, we unite to ensure that the legacy of military personnel is preserved. They are the watchmen on the wall fiercely fighting to safeguard our most precious assets as human beings—peace and freedom."



Increasing Student Participation in NGC Youth Contests

Edie Baxley and Cindy Hatchett, GCG State Youth Program Chairmen

Youth Contests are an exciting way to engage children in Garden Club activities while encouraging creativity, environmental awareness, and community involvement. They also provide clubs with opportunities to recognize outstanding student achievements through awards, incentives, and media recognition. Most importantly, youth contests help clubs share the Garden Club's mission and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

One of the easiest places to begin is with the children and grandchildren of Garden Club members. Building partnerships with teachers, youth leaders, and program directors is another effective strategy for creating strong, long-term participation.

English Language Arts (ELA) teachers are excellent partners for the Poetry Contest, as the annual theme often complements classroom writing and poetry units. Providing the contest theme and guidelines early gives teachers the flexibility to incorporate the activity into their lesson plans when it best fits their curriculum.



Volunteering to assist with school or youth organization activities—such as pumpkin decorating, door decorating, writing contests, or art projects—help establish relationships with educators and youth leaders. These partnerships often lead to increased participation in Garden Club contests year after year.



Many clubs also support local schools by providing poster paper and art materials for the elementary art teacher along with the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl contest guidelines. Junior Garden Club sponsors, STEM, STEAM, and GATE teachers, along with enrichment camp instructors, are outstanding partners for Sculpture Contests. These programs encourage creative thinking and project-based learning, making them ideal settings for longer-term contest entries. Depending on the school or teacher's preference, members may visit the classroom to introduce the contest, demonstrate techniques, distribute supplies, and explain submission deadlines.

Additional community partners—including 4-H Clubs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Scout troops, church groups, homeschool cooperatives, and summer camps—also provide excellent opportunities to reach enthusiastic participants through organized youth programs.

To simplify the submission process, consider providing teachers and youth leaders with a pre-filled contest label template that includes your club's required information. This saves time and helps ensure entries are submitted accurately. (See the Contest Label available on each Youth Program's Contest page at The Garden Club of Georgia website.)

Additional resources and participation tips are available on the Garden Club of Georgia Youth Programs pages. We also encourage you to share your success stories and ideas with Cindy or Edie so we can continue learning from one another and strengthen Youth Contest participation across the state.



Breanna Harris is an Agricultural Education student at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. In advance of her senior year 2026-2027, she is excited about graduation. Breanna writes, "I want to share my passions and instill in the next generation the importance of being a good land steward and protecting our natural resources while supporting agriculture. Once I earn my degree in agriculture, I plan to be an environmental, marine science, or agricultural educator."



While at ABAC, Breanna has been involved in many clubs including Horticulture, Education, Collegiate FFA, and Agripreneurs. Breanna writes, *"I have become a School of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SANR) Leader and give farm tours to prospective students and other groups that visit campus. I was also a member of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) Team. Our team designed and marketed a product that benefits agricultural producers. We presented our idea at the competition in St. Louis, MO."* The team of 10 students took 4th place in the competition.

This summer, Breanna is an outreach intern with The South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe. She assists with adult education like beekeeping certification classes as well as hands-on agriculture summer camps for students of all ages in environmental and natural resources, agricultural mechanics, horticulture, animal and equine science, and beekeeping. She has worked with approximately 200 students across these programs. During the week off, she explored Oregon and California. Breanna is a very busy and well-educated woman. We are assured that she will continue to do wonderful things in her career, making a positive impact for us all. We wish Breanna all the best as she pursues her goals and dreams!

Breanna taking in the view at Crater Lake National Park, Oregon and the horticulture she enjoyed while hiking at Lava Beds National Monument, California.

2026 GCG Adult Poem Winners

Poems Written for Adults by Adults

Perennial Memories

My grandmother always had a task for me,
Handing me a cloth to wipe the dust,
Or an apron to wash dishes in the sink.
But my favorite chores were always outside,
Barefoot on grass so cool and lush
Wrangling a hose to give the flowers a drink.

Together, we planted Sweet William by the garage
And divided lilies-of-the-valley for her neighbors
The wage for pulling weeds was a dime,
And if I was good, some vanilla wafers.
On a lark we placed a seashell in a tree's split bark,
And watched it get swallowed up by time.

My grandmother saw me marry a sweet William
But she never met my children.
They only know her through the daylilies I took from her
yard.

Bright yellow flowers that glow in the April sun
And move with me to every house and garden.
Those lilies bloom for us every year—her special calling
card.

- Robin Conway of Camellia GC of Atlanta

Poems Written for Children by Adults

My Little Seeds

Today is the day I bought some seeds.
Planting them in soil so they will grow,
Learning about my plant's special needs.

Today I tended my little plants.
I watered well to make them healthy,
Learning just how much I needed to pour.

Today I watched my tiny plants sprout.
Up they popped from the soil, small and green.
Searching for the sunshine, no doubt.

Today my plants are so big and strong.
Blooming brightly on my windowsill,
Happy and healthy, like singing a song!

Today I picked some flowers for Mom.
I grew them myself with lots of care,
Like good soil, water, sunshine and love.

- Susan Turner of Conyers GC

GCG Scholarship Donors

Student Scholarships Grant Awards 2026

GCG provided \$95,000 in grants to 20 students for the 2026-2027 academic term.

We are thankful to all who have contributed to the GCG Scholarship Program.

We received 44 Named Scholarships totaling \$58,535. In addition, we granted \$36,465 through Patrons of Scholarships, General Fund contributions, along with interest & dividend income from Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose Investment Accounts. Congratulations to our students on their many achievements. We send our very best wishes as they continue their studies and move into their careers.

Laurel District

The Laurel District Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2016, this year is presented in honor of their Garden Clubs, Councils and members

The Garden Club of Ellijay Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2022 to honor the service of the club to their community

The James M. (Jim) Grimes Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2023, given in memory by his family

The Carolyn Hawkins Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2025 in memory of Arnold D. Hawkins

The Jody Hunter Scholarship; \$2,500

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

The Caroline Romberg Silcox Scholarship; \$2,200

Est. in her memory by family and friends

Azalea District

The Azalea District Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2026 in honor of Jane Edmunds, Azalea District Director 2023-2025

The Pine Needle Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. by The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. In honor of the 2025 Club of the Year

The Ladies' Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2018 in honor of the club and their members

Oleander District

The Oleander District Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2014 in honor of its clubs and members

The Lisa Hall Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2025, to honor Anne Gardener, a longtime friend and garden club mentor

The Garden Club of Savannah; \$1,000

Est. in 2026 in honor of Cindy Meyer, President 2023-25

The Landings Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2014, this year in honor of Dawn Cordo

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

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

The Brenda Griner Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in honor of Ina Hopkins for her dedication to GCG as Headquarters House & Operations Chairman

Camellia District

The Camellia District Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2011 in honor of the Camellia District Directors

The Bobbie Appling Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2026 in her honor by The Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, Inc.

The House & Garden Scholarship; \$1,535

Est. in 2025 by its members to honor seventy years of service

The Barbara Jones Scholarship; \$1,500

Est. in 2023, given in loving memory of her husband, Lynn L. Jones

The Mary Tomlinson Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2025 in memory of Lucille Burgess, Killarney Queen Garden Club

Magnolia District

The Magnolia Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2022, to honor the club and their members

Dogwood District

The Dogwood District Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2016 in honor of its clubs and members

The Ama-Kanasta Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2011 by its members in honor of the club

The Club Estates Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2022 to honor their members and many years of service to the community

The Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2026 in honor of the Federation and its members

The Garnett Hanna Cobb Scholarship; \$5,000

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

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

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

The Mrs. Sammie S. Flaherty Scholarship; \$1,500

Est. in 2008 by Nancy Moses in loving memory of her mother, an educator, librarian, Life Member and Former President of Hilltop Garden Club

The Stanley D. Moses Scholarship; \$1,500

Est. in Stan's honor in 2014 and in loving memory in 2020 by Nancy Moses

The Norcross Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2019, in honor of the clubs and their members

The Deen Day Sanders Scholarship; \$1,300

Est. in honor of Deen by her friends and family

The Deen Day Sanders Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2026 in her honor by Bellmere Garden Club

The Bettye Trankina Scholarship; \$2,000

Est. in 2023 by Alpharetta Garden Club in her honor

Redbud District

The Redbud District Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2021 honoring Redbud District clubs and councils

The Avondale Estates Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2022 in honor of the club and their members

The Alice Boyd Memorial Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in her honor by her many friends

The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship; \$1,000

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

The Sharon R. Denney Horticulture Scholarship; \$1,000

Est. in 2020 in tribute to his memory by Mary Denney
 The Dunwoody Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000
 Est. in 2020, this year is given in celebration of our
 2025 accomplishments, including a statue at the
 Dunwoody library and the Doug Tallamy event
 The Dunwoody Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000
 Est. in 2020, this year is given in honor of the
 Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Department.
 The Jody Hunter Scholarship; \$2,500
 Est. in 2023 & given in his memory by Diane Hunter.

The Jim and Lorraine Loftis Scholarship; \$1,000
 Est. in 2018 by Nanette Loftis in loving memory of her
 parents
 The Frank Mullins Scholarship; \$1,000
 Est. in 2026 in honor of Dr. Harry R. Hurst
 The Friends of Garden Club Scholarship; \$1,000
 Est. in 2026 anonymously in memory of Carolyn
 Childers & Eunice Robertson

Patrons of Scholarships May 2025 – April 2026

Contributions of \$200.00 or more allow us to further benefit students with our grants!

Laurel District

Crabapple Garden Club, in memory of Caroline Silcox
 Commerce Garden Club
 Fleur De Lis Garden Club
 Carolyn Hawkins, in honor of Deen Day Sanders
 Lawrenceville Garden Club
 Magnolia Garden Club
 Mountain View Garden Club
 Seven Hills Garden Club
 Hazel Ruth Stephens, given in her memory by The
 Garden Club of Ellijay and many friends

Azalea District

Augusta Council of Garden Clubs
 Burkeland Garden Club
 Carrington Woods Garden Club
 Cherokee Rose Garden Club
 Nancy Hart Garden Club
 Jane Hersey, in memory of Caroline Silcox
 Jane Hersey, in memory of Phyllis Doran
 Milledgeville Garden Club, in honor of Martha Herren
 Milledgeville Garden Club, in honor of Kelly Thomas
 Pine Tree Garden Club, in honor of Sylvia Floyd
 Rosemary & Thyme Garden Club
 Spade & Trowel Garden Club, in honor of President
 Susan Hadden

Oleander District

Oleander District, in honor of President Diane Hunter
 Hamilton Plantation Garden Club
 Sprig 'N' Dig Garden Club

Camellia District

Camellia District, in honor of President Diane Hunter
 Green Acres Garden Club
 Killarney Queen Garden Club
 Lady Banks Garden Club
 Quitman Garden Club
 Magnolia District V
 Magnolia District, in honor of President Diane Hunter
 Butler Garden Club, in honor of President Sybil
 Willingham
 Columbus Council of Garden Clubs, in honor of Stacy

Poydaseff

Village Green Garden Club, in honor of Mary Shipman
 Shelnutt

Dogwood District

Dogwood District, in honor of President Diane Hunter.
 Alpharetta Garden Club, in honor of President Mary Lee.
 Boxwood Garden Club, in honor of Linda Fraser.
 Camellia Garden Club
 Linda & Dave Doiron
 Druid Hills Garden Club
 Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs, in honor of Wendy
 Chambers.
 Indian Creek Garden Club
 Norcross Garden Club, in honor of Florence Lytle
 Norcross Garden Club, in honor of Carol MacGregor
 Norcross Garden Club, in honor of Sandra Pagano
 Norcross Garden Club, in honor of Teresa Stoker
 Norcross Garden Club, in honor of Meryl Wilkerson
 Northwood Garden Club
 Rose Garden Club
 Deen Day Sanders
 Deen Day Sanders in Memory of Alice Boyd
 Deen Day Sanders in Memory of Caroline Silcox
 Spade & Trowel Garden Club
 Roswell Garden Club, in honor of its members
 Sandy Springs Garden Club
 Spade & Trowel Garden Club
 Spalding Garden Club, in honor of its members.
 Town & County Garden Club

Redbud District

Redbud District, in honor of Deen Day Sanders.
 Avon Garden Club
 Avondale Estates Garden Club, in memory of Pat
 Maddox.
 Rigby & Jack Duncan
 Lullwater Garden Club
 McDonough Garden Club
 Moonflower Garden Club
 Susan Turner, in honor of our students' achievements

New State Life Members

#2215 Eve Rumble; Honored by Marge Willis and
 Joanne Maxheimer, Camellia District
 #2216 Kay Jones; Honored by Windsor Forest Garden
 Club, Oleander District
 #2217 Elizabeth Watts; Honored by Windsor Forest
 Garden Club, Oleander District

#2218 Louise Schindler; Honored by The Garden Club
 of Pooler, Oleander District
 #2219 Beverly Waters
 Honored by The Garden Club of Pooler, Oleander
 District

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) offers a variety of educational opportunities for both members and the public. These include the GCG Basic Design Course and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) Schools, which provide instruction in floral design, horticulture, environmental stewardship, landscaping, and flower show judging.

Basic Design Course

Under the leadership of Edna McClellan, the GCG Basic Design Course is a five-unit series that teaches the fundamentals of floral design. Participants receive hands-on instruction in line, line-mass, and mass designs; tabletop arrangements; creative and petite designs; and designing with fruits and vegetables.

During 2025–2026, Basic Design Courses were offered in Griffin, Augusta, Conyers, Ellijay, Stone Mountain, and Cartersville. GCG designers sharing their expertise included Edna McClellan, Lynn Fronk, Anna Burns, Becky Groce, Fran Myers, Madeline Chandler, Michelle Culberson, and Gale D. Thomas. Clubs interested in sponsoring a Basic Design Course should contact Edna McClellan at ednamae@ellijay.com.

GCG Annual Convention

The annual GCG Convention provides educational programs featuring experts in beautification, conservation, horticulture, and related topics. Each year, convention planners invite distinguished speakers to share their knowledge and inspire attendees. Information about the 2027 GCG Convention at Brasstown Valley Resort will be posted on the GCG website when available.

National Garden Clubs Schools

GCG also sponsors the NGC Schools: Gardening, Environmental, Landscape, and Flower Show Schools.

The Gardening, Environmental, and Landscape Schools each consist of a four-course curriculum developed by NGC. Courses may be offered in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format, and participants may attend schools in any state regardless of residency.

Successful completion of all four courses and examinations in Gardening, Environmental, or Landscape School qualifies eligible garden club members for Consultant status. Although Consultant status is not a professional certification, it equips members to serve as educational resources within their clubs and communities, support youth programs, and promote sustainable gardening, landscaping, and environmental practices. All courses are open to the public, although Consultant status is reserved for garden club members.

Environmental School

GCG recently completed a successful Environmental School series conducted via Zoom. Presentations by environmental educators, civic leaders, and gardening specialists covered air, water, and land resources,



Mass Design

sustainable practices, and youth engagement. Participants also met in breakout sessions to discuss environmental challenges and practical solutions for protecting Georgia's natural resources. Environmental School Chairman: Dee Anne Wyse.

Gardening School

The next GCG sponsored NGC Gardening School will be on September 15–16, 2026. This horticulture-focused course will include instruction in botany, soils, outdoor flowers, and plant propagation. Participants will gain practical knowledge applicable to home gardening and community gardening. Courses 2–4 are currently being planned.

Gardening School Chairman: Gale D. Thomas

Landscape School

Plans are underway for Landscape School Course 1. Details will be announced on the GCG and NGC websites once finalized. Landscape School Chairman: Nan Loftis.

Flower Show School

This comprehensive four-course program is designed for anyone interested in exhibiting in, judging, or managing flower shows. While the curriculum prepares qualified participants to become accredited Flower Show Judges, it is equally valuable for exhibitors, flower show committee members, and anyone wishing to better understand flower show procedures and judging standards. Course topics include horticulture judging, floral design evaluation, flower show procedures, and schedule preparation. Those seeking accreditation as Flower Show Judges must successfully complete all courses, pass written examinations, earn exhibition credits, fulfill student judging requirements, and receive a passing score on a flower show schedule.

Course 1 was held this past spring. A 2nd Course 1 will be offered August 16–19 in Johns Creek. Two Course 2 sessions are scheduled for Sept. 14–17 in Macon and Nov. 15–17 in Johns Creek. Flower Show School Chairman: Michelle Culberson.

To learn more about any NGC School, including classes offered in Georgia and across the country, visit the GCG and NGC websites.



Tabletop Arrangement

Understanding Sustainability

~ Maurice Carter, Co-Founder
& President, Sustainable Newton

The United Nations defines sustainability as "...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In 1994, business author John Elkington coined the phrase "Triple Bottom Line," to argue businesses should measure performance not only by financial results (profit), but also social (people) and environmental (planet) impacts. It's often called "The Three P's."

In 2018, I joined with eight other concerned Newton County residents to found the non-profit Sustainable Newton – a name which also begged the question. When we discussed at length what sustainability means to each of us, we eventually arrived at a vision statement combining the ideas of the UN and Elkington: "We're building a world where people and planet are as important as profit – and future generations matter."

It works for organizations like ours – but also the businesses, governments, and households we engage in our community. Like-minded readers of this newsletter may find it helpful too.

Gardeners, by nature, are already environmentally aware and well-versed in sustainable practices like composting, recycling, waste reduction, and organic gardening. That positions gardeners for adopting these other habits to lead by example and restore balance to our world.

Focus, for example, on reducing environmental impacts of transportation – especially in Georgia, where "vehicle miles traveled" are a huge source of air pollution and emissions that warm our planet. Electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles are one way to eliminate air and climate pollution, and using less gasoline is a real economic win right now. But other simple changes also have very positive effects, such as replacing car trips with walking, bicycling, carpooling, or transit. Longer term, if we build cities and towns where home, work, and play are closer together, an automobile becomes less central to daily life.

Achieve dramatic gains at home by using less energy and getting what you use from clean, renewable sources. Save energy and spend less by taking advantage of electrification and energy efficiency at home. Improvements like better insulation, weatherization, smart thermostats, utility company time-of-use rate plans, high-efficiency electric heat pumps for HVAC and/or water heating, electric induction cooking, and solar panels help the world ecologically and benefit you economically. For better bang for your buck, hire a contractor to perform a home energy audit and build an improvement plan tailored uniquely to you.



For a limited time, until federal funding runs out, Georgia even offers upfront rebates that make some of these improvements almost free for low and moderate-income households.

Everyone's situation is unique, and so is your roadmap. The following resources provide guidelines for sustainable growth.

- Our Sustainable Newton website (sustainablenewton.org), has pages for Action and Resources providing information you to take the steps I've recommended here.

- The statewide non-profit Drawdown Georgia publishes great, practical materials including their Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution Toolkits at info.drawdownga.org/toolkits-for-georgians-to-reduce-carbon-emissions. Check them out for tips on everything from EVs to rooftop solar and energy efficiency to home composting.

- The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has a website dedicated to helping Georgians take full advantage of the Georgia Home Energy Rebates – see energyrebates.georgia.gov. Find out which savings you qualify for, find a contractor, or learn how to get started.

- The national non-profit Rewiring America has step by step guidance for developing your personal home electrification & energy efficiency plan. See <https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/personal-electrification-planner>.

Regardless of what you do next, remember: We don't have to save the world – it will be fine. We act to save the places we love for the people we love to share them with. It's personal.

~Mr. Carter serves as a speaker for the NGC Environmental School Course 1.

Boxwoods have earned their place in garden history, performing many duties, both pragmatic and aesthetic. A perennial bed with an untamed variety of colors and textures needs the crisp definition of a small hedge to hem in its edges. Not only does it create linear interest in the landscape as a hedge, but the evergreen boxwood provides bones for the garden during the winter months, when many other garden plants are dull and leafless. A formal parterre or knot garden wouldn't exist without the boxwood as the medium used to create dramatic lines and accents.

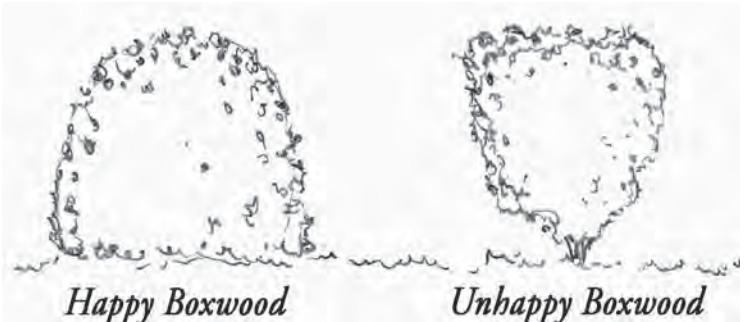


With the widening range of cultivars available, the perfect boxwood for the job is easier to find. The three major groups of boxwoods available in the nursery industry are Korean Boxwoods (*Buxus sinica*), the old English Boxwoods (*Buxus sempervirens*), American Boxwoods (*Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa*), and Japanese Littleleaf Boxwoods (*Buxus microphylla japonica*). Several varieties and cultivars exist within each of these groups. It pains me to say that the beautiful, cloud-forming English boxwood does not thrive in the deep south, and I envy our North Georgia friends who get to enjoy them. The Korean introductions are slower growing, making them great choices for smaller hedges. The Japanese Littleleaf is, by far, still my favorite, just because it is so hardy. It may take a little more trimming, but this workhorse is hard to beat. The Harland Boxwood (*Buxus harlandii*), a slow grower, is a welcome candidate for smaller hedges. The only downfall is it tends to produce a strong, exposed woody trunk. This can spoil the boxy, full-to-the-ground classic look of a boxwood. Groundcover planted along the front can remedy this, hiding the trunk.

Boxwoods are not without their problems. *Volutella* (*Volutella buxi*), Boxwood Blight (*Calonectria pseudonaviculata*), and Root Rot (*Phytophthora nicotianae*, *P. cinnamomi*) are three formidable enemies boxwood owners must contend with. All boxwoods struggle with these diseases; however, English and American boxwoods are more susceptible to Boxwood Blight, and Japanese and Korean boxwoods are more susceptible to *Volutella* and Root Rot. It is important to remember that a fungicide is helpful as a preventative measure for Boxwood Blight but unfortunately not as a treatment once the disease is present. Clemson University has put together a helpful fact sheet that discusses boxwood diseases, pests, and treatment. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/boxwood-diseases-insect-pests/>

To trim a boxwood, start with a sharp, clean pair of hedge shears. The ones with about a ten-inch blade work nicely. It is also a good idea to make sure there is some form of shock absorbency to save the wear and tear on your hands. Resist the urge to use electric hedge trimmers. They tear the leaves and make the leaves more susceptible to disease and pests. Always wipe your hedge clippers down with antibacterial wipes between each shrub, taking extra care when moving from a diseased plant to another plant.

Boxwoods are used in a variety of design situations, all of which require the shrub to have a full-to-the-ground appearance. The goal is to make sure that the top is never wider than the base of the plant. Wherever the shrub is trimmed, the apical end of that branch is then encouraged to branch out and grow. If only trimmed across the top of the plant, new growth is encouraged on the top, and the stems underneath get broader and taller. This eventually leads to a leggy shrub with a broad top and can also shorten the plant's life. Many argue that the boxwood is a tired, formal remnant of gardens gone by, but I see them as the stalwarts of the garden, good soldiers who have defined gardens for centuries without asking for much glory. Long live the boxwood!



Why School Gardens Grow Far More Than Vegetables

What happens to schoolchildren in a garden? Students who have never planted a seed may have never watched something depend on them. That simple responsibility can build confidence in unexpected ways. The greatest harvest from a school garden may not bear fruit for another twenty years. As gardeners, that promise is exactly what makes us want to volunteer.



Hayes Elementary School Garden

Every thriving school garden begins with someone willing to invest in a child's future. One remarkable example can be found at Hayes Elementary School in Marietta, where gardeners from the Flower Garden Club of Marietta partnered with the Marietta Metro Rotary Club and the school's parent-teacher association to bring an outdoor classroom to life. The school garden earned the club a first-place award from National Garden Clubs, Inc. for Community Gardens. Club president Caye Hale is especially grateful for the continued partnership of the school's faculty, staff, parents, and students whose care has kept the garden healthy, beautiful, and filled with life. Furthermore, Brooklet Garden Club sponsors two elementary school garden clubs in partnership with Stilson and Brooklet Schools. Members provide financial support and hands-on assistance with school gardens. A highlight of the program is participation in flower shows. Students prepare entries for a youth design division, learning the basic principles of floral design and presentation while exhibiting their work before judges. By introducing children to flower shows at an early age, the club helps preserve an important garden club tradition.

Working alongside adaptive curriculum students each month, members of Marietta Daisies Garden Club have created far more than a school garden at Marietta Middle School. Together, they have developed an outdoor classroom where accessible pathways, sensory gardens, raised beds, composting, rainwater collection, and birdhouses provide meaningful opportunities for learning. Completion of the pathway was made possible through a Plant America Grant awarded to the club.

As one of the newest clubs, Johns Creek Garden Club has already established a strong partnership with Chattahoochee High School through the "CHS Garden Project." Members help students maintain and improve



Marietta Middle School Garden

the campus garden and greenhouse, providing practical experience and leadership. At a recent October meeting at the school with Johns Creek Mayor John Bradberry, members reinforced their goal of broadening student involvement and strengthening community partnerships. [Photo: Chattahoochee High School, Johns Creek garden club members, students, and Mayor Bradberry]

Children don't remember worksheets. They remember pulling their first carrot, growing beans in a cup, or digging potatoes. School gardens level the playing field. The child who struggles in the classroom may become the expert outside. Suddenly, they're the ones explaining worms, spotting pollinators, or showing classmates how to plant seeds. A garden is one of the few places where failure isn't permanent. A frost comes; you plant again. A rabbit eats the lettuce; you try something different. Seeds don't germinate; you sow another row. Children learn resilience without anyone calling it a lesson. Nature doesn't care about grades. The garden offers a different way to succeed.

Children who plant flowers at school often go home and ask to plant them there. One school garden can quietly spread into dozens of family gardens without anyone planning it. The promise of every school garden is to grow the next person who will care enough to plant a tree, protect a river, feed a neighbor, or teach another child to garden.



Chattahoochee High School: Students and members in front of greenhouse with the mayor

NGC Environmental School Inspires Anesta-Ga-Da Ball Ground Garden Club: The Ball Ground Garden Club is commonly recognized by the local community as caretakers of the Ball Ground Botanical Garden. The garden is well known inside and outside of Cherokee County for its beautiful and serene green space.



This year two club members completed the NGC Environmental School. Due to the knowledge they acquired, these members identified a large area in the garden along the creek bed where the ecosystem was very negatively impacted by a large overgrowth of two invasive plants. Yellow Flag Irises and Japanese Stiltgrass had taken over both sides of the bank. The water flow was drastically impeded, and there was very little sign of aquatic life. A neighbor of the garden was recruited and graciously lent a hand to a few members to eliminate the invasives. The creek banks are now being replanted with native and non-aggressive plants to stabilize the banks and to restore the ecosystem to friendly territory for pollinators and aquatic life. Signs of life have returned to the creek!



Mountain Ivy Garden Club Awards Scholarships: Rabun County High School (RCHS) held its annual Senior Scholarship Assembly on May 12. Mountain Ivy Garden Club (MIGC) is pleased to announce that the club awarded scholarships to four seniors, Daniel Alexander, Ladonna Houston, Jayla Boyd and Lilly Speed, totaling, \$5,000. In addition, they awarded a special one-time scholarship in memory of the late Lucy Ezzard Bartlett to Peyton Hicks, in the amount of \$4,000. A native of Tiger, Lucy was a long-time member of MIGC and a life-long educator. She was passionate about education and the club's mission to provide an opportunity for Rabun County students to seek post-secondary education in the agriculture sciences. To that end, she worked tirelessly during her tenure with the club supporting many fundraising events over the years. The club also renewed two scholarships awarded last year, totaling \$5,000.



In 2024, the club hosted its first Celebrate Spring Garden Symposium in support of our scholarship fund to replace the annual plant sales. Thanks to the overwhelming success of this first symposium, we staged additional events in 2025 and 2026, adding more than \$20,000 to our scholarship fund. In addition to granting scholarships, the club provides funds to RCHS's FFA and assists with 4-H camp tuition for attendees. The club's next Celebrate Spring Symposium is scheduled for March 27, 2027.

The Marietta Magnolia Garden Club boards the floating classroom of the Chattahoochee River Keepers:

On April 16th, the Marietta Magnolia Garden Club had the opportunity to board the 40-foot floating classroom operated by the Chattahoochee River Keepers. CRK's purpose is to educate, advocate, and secure the protection of the Chattahoochee River including its lakes and tributaries. The classroom instructors teach the importance of water conservation in a changing climate and the importance of ecological health for the people and the wildlife that depend on the river. They also participate in water monitoring in places that regulatory government groups cannot reach and will hold groups that are responsible for the pollution accountable by taking legal action against them.

The Chattahoochee River is the most heavily used water resource in Georgia. For more information: www.chattahoochee.org.



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

Gray Garden Club and Woodmen of the World Plant Red, White, and Blue Garden: In April ten members of the Gray Garden Club (GGC) and two members of Woodmen of the World (WW) descended on the Jones County Public Library with tillers, post hole diggers, shovels, muscle power, other garden tools and \$1,200 (donated by WW) worth of red, white and blue salvia, red and white vinca, batchelor button, red celosia and white pentas to turn the front of the Library into a patriotic flower garden to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America. In the center of the main garden in front of the library, an American Flag was created using red and white vinca and batchelor buttons surrounded by red celosia and white pentas, and the garden bed planted under the library window was filled with the remaining vinca celosia and Pentas. We hope the gardens will be in full bloom for the fourth of July!

Thanks to the work of GGC and WW members, and the Jones County Public Library staff creating this wonderful garden for the citizens of the City of Gray and the Jones County Community to enjoy.

Pine Needle Garden Club proudly celebrated Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 16, with the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Pendleton King Park. The Blue Star Memorial Program, established in 1945 by National Garden Clubs, Inc., honors all men and women—past, present, and future—who serve in the United States Armed Services. The ceremony was truly wonderful, blessed with perfect weather and a heartfelt spirit of gratitude. Among the highlights were the presence of Diane Hunter, President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and Jan Thiese, Blue/Gold Star Marker Chairman for GCG, who joined Pine Needle Garden Club members in marking this meaningful occasion.



The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States, placed a commemorative wreath on the 1st Blue Star Memorial Marker in Georgia dedicated in 1948 at Fort Gordon. Through decades of change at the Fort, this historic marker continues to stand proudly at Gate 1 today, a lasting tribute to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed

Forces. The marker was originally placed by The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs in partnership with the Azalea District.

Union Point Garden Club club proudly hosted its first NGC Small Standard Flower Show, *Fun in the Garden*, lived up to its name, bringing creativity, community spirit, and smiles throughout the day. As a NGC Small Standard Flower Show, the event featured Design and Horticulture divisions. Congratulations to the winners: Creative Design- Designer's Choice: Toby Peebles, Warrenton Garden Club; Traditional Mass Design: Jane Edmunds, Warrenton Garden Club; Functional Table for Two: Betty Davis, Pine Needle Garden Club, Augusta and Horticulture Excellence: Jan Brazier of Union Point.



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

The Rincon Garden Club visited the Bobcat Aggies Club at the Rincon Elementary School in May and had a fun time with the students sharing the love of gardening and discussing gardening activities and techniques. The Garden Club members shared a fun, hands-on activity showing the kids how to plant their very own sunflowers and also covered some easy care tips so that their new plants can thrive at home all summer long.

Pictured are members L-R: Carol Grubbs, Mariah Exley, Brenda Helmly, Elizabeth Lewis and in front, Club President Rosemary Tedesco with members of the Bobcat Aggies



Seedling Garden Club members decorated the historic farm wagon on the Swainsboro Square in celebration of the 79th Annual Pine Tree Festival & Southeast Timber Expo. Inspired by this year's theme, "Pines and Patriotism—Growing a Stronger Tomorrow," the club created a patriotic display featuring pine branches, American flags, red, white, and blue flowers, patriotic bows, wreaths, ferns, red geraniums, and a garland proclaiming, "Happy 250th Birthday, America!"



This spring, the Seedling Garden Club partnered with residents of Emanuel County

Nursing Home to plant a community vegetable garden filled with cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, peas, peppers, and okra. Thanks to the residents' care and a season of sunshine, the garden has produced a bountiful harvest. Resident David Smith has faithfully tended the garden each day, even singing the hymn "In the Garden" as he works. Activities Director Missy Mills shared that the garden gives residents a sense of pride, keeps them active, and brings back cherished memories of home and family.



Jesup Garden Club Celebrated its 85th Anniversary with a reception on April 25th. Formed in 1941, early members decided that the town needed some "Beautification" and purchased hundreds of azalea plants which were planted in public and private gardens all over Jesup. The azalea became the club's flower. The longest active member, Jon Ann McCrary, shared her remembrances, including going to the first club meetings with her mother, a founding member. She mentioned that the first club dues were fifty cents.

The reception featured a special cake with live flower decorations and four other assorted cakes, fruit and vegetable trays, and lemonade and tea. The attendees enjoyed scrapbooks and yearbooks and a power point display of club members and events. GCG President Diane Hunter presented a certificate of congratulations to the club. Other attendees included Martha Cobb, Oleander District Director, members of other garden clubs, friends, family and community members. Prospective members had a chance to meet members and sign up for information about the three clubs in Wayne County – Jesup, Odum, and Lily Garden Clubs.



Richmond Hill Garden Club Announces their 27th Annual Pumpkin Patch to be held Saturday, October 3rd from 9am-1pm. Join families and friends for a kid friendly, fun filled day of games for kids, fall themed photo opportunities, pumpkins, mums, bake sale, outdoor decor and new this year, plants for sale.

Rain or shine under the pavilion at J.F. Gregory Park 521 Cedar Street, Richmond Hill



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

Southern Lily Garden Club during Garden Week in Georgia invited the community to make and plant seed bombs. This fun, hands-on activity has since become a favorite at community events, encouraging children and adults alike to enjoy gardening while growing wildflowers for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Made from wildflower seeds, soil, and clay, seed bombs are easy to create and can be tossed into gardens, empty lots, or along fences where flowers bloom naturally. The activity helps children connect with nature while beautifying the community.

Step 1: Mix powdered clay, potting mix, some water, and wildflower seeds

Step 2: Form golf ball-sized seed bombs

Step 3: Spread them out and let them dry until hardened

Step 4: Place them on any spot with soil that needs some beauty

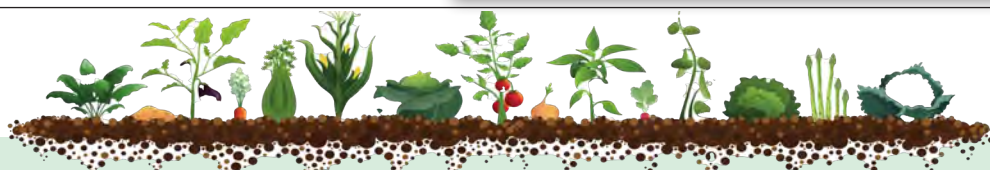
Step 5: Keep moist until they sprout, this can take a few weeks



Greenbriar Garden Club's America's 250th Celebration commenced at the Museum of Aviation at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Attendees enjoyed ample refreshments and music provided by the Heartland Flute Ensemble. Speaker David Washington from the Perry Historical Society spoke on the Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Our beautiful and impressive wreath display stood between our Blue and Gold Star markers alongside the logos of all six branches of our armed services. To add to the patriotic display, The Retired Enlisted Association donated 288 flags. Our club had a wonderful time planning, executing, and attending our event.



Granada Garden Club took a field trip to Wakulla Springs. We learned about the history of the springs, as well as the flora and fauna, when we took the Jungle Boat Tour. We saw evidence of prehistoric animals and Native Americans that inhabited the museum area. Once on the riverboat, we encountered alligators, turtles, many birds, mullet jumping out of the water, and even a couple of manatees. We saw bald cypress trees and many flowers and butterflies along the river bank, which we photographed and later identified. Wakulla Springs has also been the backdrop of several movies. Afterward we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the historic 1930s style Wakulla Springs Lodge.



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

Memorial Marker to Rosalynn Carter: Members of the Magnolia District honored former First Lady Rosalynn Carter's legacy with a permanent Memorial Marker. Members of Magnolia District worked closely with the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Carter family to find a good location and design for the Historic Marker. On May 1st, 2026, the Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia Inc. and guests gathered at the Plains Welcome Center in Plains to unveil the Memorial Marker.

The Memorial Marker honors Rosalynn Carter as an American activist and was a leading advocate for women's rights and mental health. In the final decade of her life, she was dedicated to Monarch butterfly conservation. With the aid of her friend Annette Wise, now the President of the Board of Directors of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Association, her concern for pollinators has blossomed into a network of pollinator gardens throughout the US and other nations.

Mrs. Carter was a former member of the Iris Garden Club in Plains. In 2017, the Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia decided to support the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Association's annual symposium. The symposium features: educational offering on recent research on pollinators; strategies to enhance habitat, food and host plants for butterflies and other important pollinators, and a native plant sale.

The memorial marker can be viewed at the entrance to the Plains Welcome Center located at 1763 GA HWY 280 in Plains. The Marker is displayed on the beautiful Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.



The Magnolia Garden Club hosted its fourth Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms, the beautiful historic home of member Delise Knight in April. During nearly 30 years at Pineola Farms, Delise and Paul Knight, have transformed a once-bare landscape into a showplace featuring more than a dozen gardens. The property is also a stop on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

This year's theme, "Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle," celebrated flowers, creativity, and environmental stewardship.

The restored 1850s home featured five rooms decorated with recycled and repurposed items, from composting displays and tin-can flower vases to children's boots filled with gerbera daisies and bird baths made from secondhand glassware.

The surrounding gardens, in peak bloom, hosted 11 vendors offering native plants, pottery, local honey, and more. Visitors also enjoyed presentations on raised-bed gardening,

composting, honey bees and honey production, backyard bird habitats, and herbs and edible weeds.

The event raised \$8,000 for GCG scholarships and \$10,000 for the Wellness Garden at Massee Lane Gardens. Flower Fantasy will return to Pineola Farms on April 17-18, 2027.



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

The Duluth Garden Club (DGC), now in its third year, brings together gardeners and plant lovers to share knowledge while promoting beautification and historic preservation. The club partners with the community on service projects at the Southeastern Railway Museum, Spectrum Autism Support Facility, Duluth Public Library, Duluth Cemetery, local beautification projects, and a neighborhood coffee shop.

Members have created and revitalized gardens, installed pollinator habitats, maintained planters, and led gardening workshops for children on the autism spectrum. Monthly educational programs in 2026 featured topics including supporting Georgia wildlife in winter, garden design, and mushroom foraging.

The club also offers social events, including seed and plant swaps, birdhouse building, pottery workshops, and garden gatherings. Its annual plant sale, featuring plants, birdhouses, and yard art, continues to support club projects. The Duluth Garden Club welcomes new members to enjoy gardening, learn together, and make a positive impact in the community.



Ivy Garden Club's Unsung Heroes

Prissy Swearingen has long been an inspiration to the members of the Ivy Garden Club. A tireless volunteer, she is always ready to help—whether creating gardens at the Hillside Center, chairing the Ivy cocktail party, preparing her famous grilled salmon, designing floral arrangements, or mentoring new members in floral design. Prissy says her love of gardening began as a child picking wildflowers along a creek.

She now creates the floral arrangements each Sunday for Christ Church, as well as flowers for weddings and funerals. Prissy and her husband, Bill, owned 25 restaurants, including The Abbey and The Mansion, where she served as floral designer, chef, and event coordinator. She later opened Nouvelle Mariée, designing wedding gowns for nontraditional brides. Among her many philanthropic contributions was donating The Mansion and its grounds to SCAD, where the restored property now serves as an academic building and cultural center. Ivy Garden Club is proud to count Prissy among its members.

Anita Thomas has enriched the Ivy Garden Club since joining in 1982, through her leadership, creativity, and generosity. She has organized numerous meetings at SCAD in Atlanta and coordinated Ivy on the Go trips throughout the United States and abroad.

A University of Georgia graduate and mentee of Lamar Dodd, Anita served on the Atlanta Advisory Council and the SCAD Board before joining the SCAD Board of Trustees. Her gardens and home have been featured on tours, and she has contributed more than 40 articles to *Southern Accents*, *Veranda*, and *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles*. As founder of Anita's Accents, Ltd., she designed handcrafted jewelry that earned statewide recognition and was featured in local and national publications. Anita continues to inspire Ivy Garden Club members through her creativity, leadership, and generosity.



Prissy Swearingen, Anita Thomas and Christy Novellis with SCAD's founder and President, Paula Wallace

Spalding Garden Club Announces "A Floral Affair" to benefit Dumwoody's new Sensory Garden at Homecoming Park. The fundraising luncheon will be held October 14th, at City Springs to recognize floral designer and author John Grady Burns. For tickets and details see spaldinggardenclub.com.



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

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club launched "Grow With Us Little Gardeners," a new partnership with Mountain Park UMC Preschool. Twice each month, club members and Master Gardeners introduced three- and four-year-olds to gardening through fun, hands-on lessons. Throughout the year, the children explored worms, ladybugs, pumpkins, birds, seeds, frogs, owls, and butterflies while planting flowers and seeds, making pinecone bird feeders, and learning how gardens support the natural world.

The preschoolers' enthusiasm and curiosity made the program a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Following a successful first year, the club looks forward to expanding the program with more outdoor activities, additional vegetables and herbs, and new opportunities to inspire the next generation of gardeners.



The Conyers Garden Club spent its spring workday at the Light House Children's Butterfly Garden, supporting the Garden Club of Georgia's "Plant Red, White, and Blue" initiative. Using funds generously donated by the Rotary Club, members planted a colorful selection of red, white, and blue flowers, including delphiniums, dianthus, petunias, vincas, salvias, and spike speedwells. After preparing the garden by relocating daylilies and removing unwanted plants, members installed the new flowers and added lantana and delphiniums to the center island for extra color. Their teamwork transformed the garden into a vibrant, welcoming display that will provide cheerful curb appeal for the community to enjoy.

DeKalb Federation volunteers planted a patriotic display of red, white, and blue flowers in the concrete planters outside the Garden Center. In addition to adding colorful seasonal blooms, the volunteers also enhanced the surrounding landscape by weeding, pruning, and watering the pollinator garden, helping to keep it healthy and attractive for visitors and pollinating wildlife.



Moonflower Garden Club

celebrated America's 250th birthday by planting a vibrant red, white, and blue patriotic garden along with coordinating containers at the Barnesville, Georgia Post Office. The colorful display honors the nation's semiquincentennial while enhancing the beauty of a prominent community landmark.



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

Coming Up



September



Sept. 3 - Ethnobotany of Native Plants:

Through the Eyes of Native Americans

9 am - 1 pm; Medicine Bow Wilderness School, Dahlonega, GA. See botgarden.uga.edu for details.

Sept. 4 - Friends First Friday Natural

Wonders of Georgia

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

Sept. 9 - GCG Fall Board Meeting

9:30 am - 3:30 pm; GCG Headquarters, Athens. More details forthcoming.

Sept. 12 - Fall Wildflowers of the Georgia Piedmont

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

Sept. 14 -NGC Flower Show School Course 2

1 pm - 4 pm; Central Georgia Technical College, Macon. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 15 -NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 5:30 pm; Central Georgia Technical College, Macon. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 15 - NGC Gardening School Course 1

8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Zoom. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 15 - Sunflower Concert Series -

Classic City Jukebox

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

Sept. 16-NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 5:30 pm; Central Georgia Technical College, Macon. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 16- NGC Gardening School Course 1

8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Zoom. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 17-NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 9:30 am; Central Georgia Technical College, Macon. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org for details.

Sept. 18 - Fall Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia

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

Sept. 19 - Monarchs & Beyond: Pollinator Stewardship

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

Sept. 25 - Between the Tides: Salt Marsh Plant Ecology

9 am - 1 pm; UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, Savannah, GA. See botgarden.uga.edu for details.

Sept. 25 - The Extraordinary Caterpillar Movie Night

7 pm - 9:30 pm; Discovery and Inspiration Garden Lawn, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu for details.

Sept. 26 - Between the Tides: Salt Marsh Plant Ecology

9 am - 1 pm; UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, Savannah, GA. See botgarden.uga.edu for details.

Sept. 27 - 36th Annual Insectival

11:30 am - 3:30 pm; Entire Garden



October



Oct. 2 - Friends First Friday Horticultural Therapy at Public Gardens

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

Oct. 3 - Richmond Hill Garden Club 27th Annual Pumpkin Patch

9am-1pm; J.F. Gregory Park Pavillion, Richmond Hill.

Oct. 3 - Plants We Love to Hate: Identifying and Controlling Non-native Invasive Pest Plants

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

Oct. 6 - Laurel District Fall Meeting

9 am - 2 pm; Dalton. Further details to be announced.

Oct. 7 - Dogwood District Fall Meeting

9 am - 2 pm; Ronald McDonald House Atlanta

Oct. 8 - Redbud District Fall Meeting

10:30 am - 2 pm; American Legion Post 66, Avondale Ests.

Oct. 10 - Fungal Ecology & Diversity: The Fascinating World of Fungi

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

Oct. 14 - Spalding Garden Club "A Floral Affair"

10 am - 2 pm; City Springs, Sandy Springs. See spaldinggardenclub.com for details.

Oct. 14 - Camellia District Fall Meeting

9 am - 2 pm; Cordele. Further details to be announced.

Oct. 15 - Magnolia District Annual Fall Meeting 2026

9 am - 2 pm; Americus. Further details to be announced.

Oct. 17 - Warm-Season Grasses of the Georgia Piedmont

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

Oct. 20 - Azalea District Fall Meeting

9:30 am - 2 pm; First Baptist Church Waynesboro.

Oct. 21 - Oleander District Fall Meeting

9 am - 2 pm; Nordson Center, Swainsboro.

Oct. 24 - Grow Your Own Prairie in North Georgia

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

See botgarden.uga.edu for details.



November



Nov. 7 - Basic Botany: Fundamentals of Plant Biology

10 am - 12 pm & 1pm - 3pm; Visitor Center & Conservatory Adult Classroom, State Botanical Garden, Athens. See botgarden.uga.edu for details.

Nov. 10 - Basic Botany: Fundamentals of Plant Biology

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

Nov. 14 - Invasive Plant Control Strategies, Techniques, Tips, Tricks and Tools!

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

Nov. 15 - NGC Flower Show School Course 2

1 pm - 4 pm; Registration and further details to be announced. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Nov. 16-NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 4:30 pm; C Flower Show School Course 2 Nov. 15-18, 2026 Registration and further details to be announced.

Nov. 17-NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 4:30; Registration and further details to be announced. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Nov. 18-NGC Flower Show School Course 2

8 am - 9:30 am; Registration and further details to be announced. See gardenclubofgeorgia.org

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

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The Terrace Room

A unique ballroom-like space known for its elegant decor and tasteful appointments opens onto an expansive brick terrace overlooking a wooded area and landscaped garden. Its beauty and location distinguish it as one of the premier wedding reception sites in the area. The Terrace Room can seat up to 140 for dinner and larger numbers for lectures, receptions, and exhibitions, and includes a catering kitchen.

In addition to providing an ideal venue for receptions and formal dinners, the Terrace Room is the perfect setting for business meetings, conferences, and corporate retreats. The room offers state-of-the-art audio and video equipment, including an electronic projection screen and room-darkening capabilities for the purpose of media viewing.

An elevator and a staircase connect the upper and lower floors of the building. The lower level may also be accessed via the lower drive providing direct handicap access and permitting immediate access to the caterer's kitchen.



For rental information, contact The State Botanical Garden
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