



# Redbud Reporter

Fall 2026

## From Your District Director

I love fall, y'all! It's a wonderful time here in the Redbud District. After the scorching summer heat and humidity, we welcome the cooler days and look forward to the beautiful changing colors of the leaves. Fall also signals the time to plant our spring-flowering bulbs. Some of us wait until December to get them in the ground, so there's still plenty of time! It's also the season when we're encouraged to prune our plants—a chore that always makes me a little nervous because I worry about making the “wrong cut” or ruining the natural shape of a shrub. And, of course, fall brings old-fashioned county fairs, quirky festivals, and chili cook-offs throughout our District.

Even though many of our clubs take a summer break from monthly meetings, our members continue to be busy with community projects and District activities. Redbud members joined me at the GCG Leadership Orientation at the Atlanta History Center on August 11. The following day, we held our Summer Board Meeting in Barnesville at the Barnesville-Lamar County Library. Board members and Club Presidents had the option of attending in person or via Zoom. A special thank-you goes to the members of Moonflower Garden Club for hosting such a wonderful meeting and making everyone feel so welcome.

From August 16–19, I joined many Remarkable Redbuds in returning to school as we completed Flower Show School Course 1 at Bellmere Garden House. Our members brought their usual enthusiasm, curiosity, and willingness to learn.

The next *Garden Gateways* issue will focus on Membership, and I would love to share the wonderful things our clubs are doing in this area. Please send me your club's membership efforts, along with a photo, for publication by **October 15** at [bondudley@yahoo.com](mailto:bondudley@yahoo.com).

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual District Meeting on Thursday, October 8. The Avon Garden Club and Avondale Estates Garden Club have been busy planning what promises to be a wonderful event, and I hope you'll make plans to join us. All Redbud Garden Club members are invited to attend. Our clubs are encouraged to donate a raffle basket or make a monetary donation in lieu of a basket. The details of the meeting are available on the Redbud's website: [Redbud District Annual Meeting](#).

Please remember to email photos of your club's red, white, and blue plantings to Nilsa Summey at [nilsa.summey@yahoo.com](mailto:nilsa.summey@yahoo.com). Be sure to follow the directions in the Celebrate America's 250th post below.

This Director couldn't be prouder of all that our Redbud Clubs have accomplished! Our members continue to dig in, get things done, and make a beautiful difference in their communities. Thank you for all you do to help Redbud shine!

**Keep digging in, Redbud!**

Bonnie Dudley  
Redbud District Director



## ***“Red, White and Blue – Pollinators Need You!”***

Thursday, October 8, at American Legion Post 66  
30 Covington Road, Avondale Estates, GA

*Guest Speaker—Becky Griffin*

*Community & School Garden Coordinator for the Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture and a true champion of pollinators*



**Let's Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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 250<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nilsa.summey@yahoo.com)



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Never Forget 9/11/01

This September 11<sup>th</sup> marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal attack on our nation. To honor the men and women who died on that day, The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was honored to continue their participation in the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held at the DeKalb County Public Safety Office in Tucker.

Members of several DeKalb Federation clubs were present at the ceremony. The Federation members presented a beautiful red, white and blue wreath to honor the occasion.



Jim and Iwalani Barbazon, Leafmore Hills Grand Gardeners, walked with others in the wreath presentation, which was led by DeKalb Co. Police Honor Guard and Senior Officer D. A. Wisdom. This ceremony was particularly poignant for the Barbazons, as they were both working for United Airlines on the day of the attack.



Victoria Crosby, Smoke Rise Garden Club, was escorted by CWO1 Curtis Miller of the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Airborne. Victoria read her original poem, entitled "A Tribute to Heroes". This year's was a special version for this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11. Always moving and memorable, we are grateful to Victoria for sharing her poem with us all.

DeKalb County Police Seargent Tonya Gaither sang a heartfelt and lovely rendition of our National Anthem. Battalion Chief Douglas Harms played "Amazing Grace" and other songs on the bagpipe.

We appreciate all who attended this ceremony. It is a time to reflect, not only on this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but of all our Country means to each of us and that *United We Stand!*



## *Never Forget*



## Summer's Glorious Harvest!

The DeKalb Federation sponsored garden therapy project continues successfully at the Panthersville Road campus of Georgia Regional Hospital-Atlanta. Mary Cochran, Activity Therapy Coordinator and member of the Smoke Rise Morning Glories, leads a group of volunteer patients at the gardens. The patients plant, weed, water, mulch and harvest the crops. Smoke Rise Morning Glories members Bonnie Pennington and Quill Duncan serve as liaisons with Mary.

As you gardeners know, this very hot summer was perfect for growing okra! The hospital garden also produced great crops of watermelon, corn, eggplant and peppers. As you can see in the photos, these organic vegetables look fantastic! Herbs, zinnias and sunflowers planted among the vegetables attract the pollinators that keep that garden thriving.



The large vegetable garden produced lots of delicious meals for the patients and staff this summer. The hospital staff prepared meals using the vegetables so all could enjoy the fruits of their labors!



The project received a Garden Therapy grant of \$750 from The Garden Club of Georgia last year. While there is still some money left from that grant, we expect they will need more funds for later this fall as they consider the winter crops and other needs for the garden.

We are very encouraged that the hospital staff members continue to have a variety of garden therapy activities across the expansive campus. This project has proven to be a wonderful benefit for so many, and the sweet success is in the enjoyment of the delicious meals from their very own garden.



## **AW SP250 – Special 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award**

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Awards Committee, this special Award 250 will be presented to individuals, clubs, and Districts for the best designs to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America. Some use of fresh plant material is mandatory. Requires GCG Award Application Form with up to three pages of information and photos. Do **not** need to answer question on Application form about financial information.

- I. Individual Member (May be from entries in a flower show or a personal event)**
  - A. Exterior Planting
  - B. Tablescape
  - C. Floral Design
  
- II. Project in Public Space by Clubs, Councils, or Districts.**
  - A. Clubs – Small, Medium, Large
  - B. Councils
  - C. Districts

**Award SP250** will be presented at the 2027 GCG Convention for applications from projects and events in 2026.

**Entry Deadline – December 31, 2026**

Electronic application to [awardschairmangcga@gmail.com](mailto:awardschairmangcga@gmail.com)





### ***Remarkable Redbuds - Now Is the Time!***

**Our giving period for GCG Scholarships is underway!  
Contributions received now through the end of January will  
make all the difference in our giving in February 2027.**

This includes *Dollars Educate Scholars!* The 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this friendly district competition will ultimately crown one District Director the *Queen of Scholarships* at the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual GCG Convention, March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1, 2027  
Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa in Young Harris, GA.

***Our Redbud Director Bonnie Dudley would love to wear the Crown!***



#### **HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?**

*NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, PATRON OF SCHOLARSHIPS,  
GENERAL DONATIONS, HONORS & MEMORIALS,  
DOLLARS EDUCATE SCHOLARS FUNDRAISER,  
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.*

**A new one page donations form is available for your convenience.  
Scholarship Info is located under the member Resources tab on the webpage.  
<https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-scholarships/>**

We are grateful to all who have contributed to Scholarships!  
On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee and our students,  
we thank you for your continued generosity.

**Questions?** Contact Susan Turner, GCG Scholarship Chairman  
404-502-8147 [glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)  
Frank Mullins, Assistant Treasurer 404-268-4140  
[assttreasurer@gardenclubofgeorgia.org](mailto:assttreasurer@gardenclubofgeorgia.org)



## ***GCG Youth Garden Clubs Digging In with Our Redbud Youth Today and For Future Generations!***

Your Redbud Youth Team Chairmen are available to guide you with your GCG Youth Garden Club projects and programs. Handouts with ideas are available upon request.

Much information is available on the GCG and the NGC websites. Involve neighbors, friends, church groups and others to inspire our young people!

**Remember**, youth need not be in a Youth Garden Club to Participate in these NGC/GCG sponsored Youth Contests. Via generations of gardeners, kids may live in another state and be sponsored by you and your garden club!

**Join the fun and educate our youth in all that you love about gardening.  
It's a WIN-WIN!**

### **Youth Awards, Contests, and Grants**

- **High School Distinguished Service Project Award**
- **Kindergarten – 12th Grade Poetry Contest**
- **Youth Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**
- **Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant**
- **Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest**
- **2026 Poetry Contest**

### **NGC Printable Activity Books on [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)**

- **NEW! NGC Youth Club Handbook**
- **Do Something Green Activity Book**
- **Ecology Warriors Activity Book**
- **Pollinator Power Discovery Guide**

**For more information, contact:**  
Melody Gaskins, Redbud Youth Team Chairman  
[melodythompsongaskins@gmail.com](mailto:melodythompsongaskins@gmail.com)  
Susan Turner, Redbud Youth Team Co-Chairman  
[glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)





# YOUTH POETRY CONTEST GUIDELINES 2026

[gardenclub.org/poetry-contest](https://gardenclub.org/poetry-contest)



## CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH **RED**, **WHITE**, AND **BLUE**!

### Guidelines

- Include name, address, age, grade, school, sponsoring local garden club and state garden club of the poet on the back of entry. (Child privacy is important to NGC, and thus, published winning national poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, local garden club and state.)
- Poet's family does not have to be a member of the local sponsoring garden club.
- Poems should be no more than **24 lines** (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on a single page of the booklet.
- Poems do not have to rhyme. They may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.
- When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White and Blue." However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Sending Region winning entries to NGC: All Region winning entries must be typed, titled, and sent to the National Chairperson (**James Pavelka**, [jamespavelka@comcast.net](mailto:jamespavelka@comcast.net)) in Word format via email, and the original hard copy mailed for judging.
- National winners will be announced at the NGC 2027 National Convention and the local garden club contact person will be contacted regarding any winning entry.

### Submissions and Deadlines

All poems are submitted to a local garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. local clubs send their winning poems (1 per grade-level) to their State by the published State deadline. State winning poems are sent to their Region Contest by **2/1/2027**. Region winners are sent to the National Contest by **3/1/2027**. National winning poems are announced in **May 2027**, and published online in a free digital poetry booklet.



### Eligibility, Categories and Judging Criteria

- Youth in **grades K-12** compete by grade-level.
- **Scale of Points:** Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%, Style 20%. Total 100%

# Radiant Redbuds Register for Flower Show School!

On August 16, 2026, former Redbud Directors Joy Zaidan and Gale Thomas welcomed an unprecedented 22 full-time and 10 part-time students enthusiastic about becoming flower show judges and/or learning more about flower shows to Course I of the NCG Flower Show School. Of the 22 full-time students, 41% were members of the Redbud District. As always, Redbud Rules!

Thanks to the generosity of Deen Day Sanders, Bellmere Garden House served as the venue. Over a 3-day period, attendees learned about flower shows, hostas, zinnias and traditional line, line-mass and mass floral designs. They made new friends from around the state and had an opportunity to meet Diane Hunter, our GCG President, who is also a Redbud.

NGC Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing and chairing a flower show. There are 4 courses, generally scheduled over

a 3-day period, each having a specified curriculum that includes horticulture, design and flower show procedures.

If you are considering becoming a Flower Show Judge, planning to chair a flower show or simply want to learn more, your first step is to attend a flower show school course. Courses do not need to be taken sequentially, so even though you may have missed Course I, you are still eligible to sign up for Course II. You can pick up Course I later.

The curriculum for Course II will include photography in the Botanical Arts Division, petite designs, horticulture (hollies, junipers), table designs, duties of flower show chairmen, flower show awards and more! Redbud District and Designers Club member Lynn Fronk, who is an Accredited NGC Design Instructor, will teach the design segment of Course II. Pam Braun from Tennessee will focus on horticulture and flower show procedures.



Course II is scheduled for November 15-18, 2026, again at Bellmere Garden House in Johns Creek. We look forward to being with you on your journey to becoming a judge. For more information, contact FSS Chairman Joy Zaidan (770-493-8475) or Gale Thomas, Registrar, at [galedthomas@gmail.com](mailto:galedthomas@gmail.com).

Registration will open soon. Register early, as registration is limited to 30, and the deadline to register is October 31, 2026.

## Elms and Roses Garden Council Celebrates America's 250th with Flowers and Friendship

Volunteers from the Elms and Roses Garden Club Council gathered at Historic Bellevue Mansion in LaGrange to create beautiful red, white, and blue floral arrangements. They then delivered the arrangements to local government offices, hospitals, clinics, and community organizations throughout LaGrange in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

The volunteers shared that seeing the immediate boost of happiness, gratitude, and appreciation the flowers brought to recipients was especially rewarding. Their heartfelt response has inspired the Council to continue this meaningful project in the future, spreading joy and patriotic spirit throughout the community.



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### Awards Reminder

Most GCG Award applications are due on November 15!

Send your award application following the details on the GCG website in the Awards Section

<https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-awards-2/>

All Award applications are to be sent to Diana Malone; 770-490-817; [awardschairmangcga@gmail.com](mailto:awardschairmangcga@gmail.com)

# The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.— A Powerful Asset for our Communities



*This is an article submitted by Quill Duncan, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Membership, to the "The Smoke Signal", a local newspaper for residents of the Smoke Rise area of Tucker. It would be easily adaptable to your own communities. Let's spread the word about the wonderful work done by our garden clubs!*

In 2028 The Garden Club of Georgia will celebrate 100 years as the first garden club established in the United States. The first meeting was in Athens, GA and the first club, The Ladies Garden Club of Athens, is still thriving today. In 2026 there are over 9200 members across our beautiful state and there are three clubs right here in Smoke Rise: Smoke Rise; Smoke Rise Morning Glories; and the Mountain Mums.

During the last nearly 100 years, the organization has greatly influenced our state with many incredible beautification projects, conservation efforts and educational initiatives. Many of you may recall the proliferation of billboards on our highways and junk car dumps lining our roads in Georgia back in the 60's and 70's. Garden club ladies fought the lobbyists for the billboards and the junk cars and forced the state legislature to pass laws that controlled those eyesores. The GA DOT is a partner with GCG for roadside beautification that you enjoy as you see the pollinator friendly cosmos, clover and other native plantings that now grace our interstates.

GCG is a champion for the Okefenokee Swamp to prevent the mining of the precious minerals that will destroy that sensitive ecosystem. Plastics in our water supplies is another environmental concern of garden club members. We also partner with the GA River Keepers, The State Botanical Garden in Athens and many botanical gardens across the state to support their missions.

The organization offers grants for scholarships for students studying garden related fields in Georgia colleges and universities. Last year we donated \$95K in scholarships to twenty students!

Grants are provided for garden therapy across the state including the GA Regional Hospital in Decatur, which has benefited from funds for many years. The organization sponsors training for flower show schools, landscape design, environmental schools and garden schools via Zoom or in-person classes. Historic landscape preservation matching grants are issued annually to a wide variety of gardens to support and maintain those special gardens. In total, there are fourteen projects and programs that are supported by the GCG members, ranging from Youth Garden Clubs to the Marshall Forest Land Trust in Floyd County and the LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation in Liberty County.

And what about here in Smoke Rise? What do our three clubs do to benefit our community?

Smoke Rise Garden Club is the original club in our area founded in 1969. Today's members are 35 strong with both a website and a Facebook page that chronicle their many activities. They maintain the plantings at the Tucker Fire Station and have monthly night meetings in members' homes, field trips and an annual May plant sale with plants from members' gardens. Each meeting features horticulture tips and expert speakers on a wide variety of horticulture topics.

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories were founded in 1970 as an offshoot of the Smoke Rise GC. This club with 29 members meets monthly at Park Springs where several of our members now live. Morning Glories sponsor and lead a Youth Garden Club for preschoolers at Mountain Park Methodist Church. The November meeting is devoted to Wellroot Family Services, the former United Methodist Children's Home. The club donates funds, toys and gifts to the foster children in the Wellroot organization, which is based in Tucker, GA. The Wells Brown House in Stone Mountain is decorated each Christmas with period appropriate greenery for the Stone Mountain Historic Society and the Village of Stone Mountain's enjoyment.

The Mountain Mums were organized in 2003 and have 28 members and a Facebook page. They

created a low maintenance garden at the Tucker Police Precinct and maintain it. They offer creative garden therapy sessions at the Atria Assisted Living location in Tucker. They sponsor the annual "Walk to Remember" honoring young lives tragically lost too soon and promote safe driving. As a part of this annual event, the club donates driving school lessons to selected deserving students.

Every club has projects that benefit the community and support the objectives of the Garden Club of Georgia: Beautification, Conservation and Education. Sometimes behind the scenes and at other times very visible activities of the garden club volunteers enhance Smoke Rise and the State of Georgia. Please contact Quill Duncan for more information on joining a club at [quillduncan@msn.com](mailto:quillduncan@msn.com).

## Redbud Flower Show Fundraisers

As you may know, the Redbud District decided that we would not have a Daisy Flower Show in 2026. This was based on financial concerns, with a decision also being made to ramp up fundraising activities this year so we could reinstate the flower show in 2027. Our aim is to make the Flower Show self-supporting by holding several different types of fund-raising activities throughout the year.

Our first fundraiser will take place at the Annual Redbud District Meeting on October 8. We will be offering some adorable garden-themed t-shirts and quilted tote bags for sale. Prices will be in the \$15 - \$25 range. We cannot take credit cards, so please bring **CASH** or **CHECKS**.

This is separate from the gift basket raffle that will also be occurring at the Annual Meeting. Proceeds from that supports the general activities of the Redbud District. Again, bring **CASH** or **CHECKS** for purchasing raffle tickets.

The second Flower Show fundraiser will be held at The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs' annual Leading Lights Luncheon and Fundraiser on November 12. Plan on buying some JUMBO amaryllis bulbs at that event. Look for more details and pre-order information later this month!



Join us for a  
**Georgia Style Garden Party!**  
**The 99<sup>th</sup> 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!***

## News from the Clubs

### *Avondale Estates Garden Clubs Commemorate 9/11 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

To mark the 25th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, Avondale Estates Mayor Jonathan Elmore joined both the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) and the Avon Garden Club for a ceremony at Dewey Brown Plaza at 8:30 am Friday, September 11, 2026.

With hundreds of American flags in the grass nearby, AEGC member Peg Wyse rang a bell 25 times, marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, starting at 8:46 am, the exact time the first plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Mayor Elmore and Avondale Estates Garden Club President Julie Martinez addressed garden club members and area residents about the importance of remembering and honoring the 2,977 people who died, as well as the many first responders with long-term health issues resulting from their heroic rescue efforts. "Their bravery will inspire us forever," Ms. Martinez said.

She summed up the ceremony with the words, "The years pass, but this is still our promise: we will never forget the strength, love, and unity of that day. We honor their memory and hold their families in our hearts."



## A Busy Bee Comes to Dunwoody's Windwood Hollow Park

Windwood Hollow Park in Dunwoody is one of three parks maintained by the Dunwoody Garden Club. Over the years, the club has expanded the number and variety of pollinator-friendly plants at the park's main entrance, creating an inviting garden that provides valuable habitat for bees and other pollinators.

The abundance of bees attracted the attention of the City of Dunwoody's Parks Department and city leaders. Recognizing an opportunity to enhance the park while educating visitors about the important role pollinators play in our environment, the city commissioned a striking new **Busy Bee sculpture**.

You can't miss her! We've decided she must be the queen. Bright yellow with an even brighter pink base, the sculpture stands an impressive 12 feet tall and weighs more than 800 pounds. Positioned near the playground, she is sure to capture the attention of children and adults alike while serving as a colorful reminder of the importance of pollinators.

And, as most of us would agree, when important guests are coming, you want everything to look its best! In preparation for the sculpture's ribbon-cutting ceremony, a team of Dunwoody Garden Club members spent hours tidying, planting, pruning, and mulching the surrounding garden. During the ceremony, the mayor recognized the club's efforts and its ongoing commitment to enhancing Dunwoody's parks.

The Busy Bee is just one part of the club's continued work at Windwood Hollow Park. Last year, members planted native species along the street frontage and partnered with the city to share the expense of installing an irrigation system. The irrigation system has significantly reduced the amount of time members spend watering, allowing them to focus their efforts on planting, maintaining, and improving the garden.



## *Green Thumb holds “Pollinator Census”*

On Wednesday, August 19, 2026 Green Club had a “Pollinator Census Party” at The Flower Patch in Milner, GA. We went over the directions for completing the Great Southeast Pollinator Census as well as distributing the census papers to each member.

Each member picked a cup full of flowers at The Flower Patch. Tara Green, the owner, had all types of flowers growing from cattails to zinnias. Nineteen members attended the Census Party!!



## Smoke Rise Morning Glories Start a New Year of “Grow with Us Little Gardeners”

Last year, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club began a new project through a partnership with Mountain Park United Methodist Church Preschool. Former SRMG President Amie Hinter worked with the preschool director to create a gardening program for the 3- and 4-year-old students. Little did we know how successful this program would be!

Named “Grow with Us Little Gardeners”, members of the club, including several Master Gardeners, worked to create age-appropriate hands-on gardening lessons designed to introduce young children to the wonders of nature. Held every two weeks during the school term, various club members volunteer to help.

Last year included lessons about: worms and their importance in creating healthy garden soil; ladybugs and the important role they play in the garden ecosystem; how to use a spinning wheel; winter animals and owls; the life cycle of frogs; and how birds care for their young. We had a Pumpkin Patch Party where each child got to paint their very own pumpkin. The students made pinecone bird feeders during the winter and planted pansies in the preschool garden in the spring.

This school year kicked off with Kim Fair presenting a lesson on different types of mint plants. She talked about families and how in families there are similarities and differences. She showed the preschoolers a picture of her family and then talked about differences in plant families.

The children were able to touch and smell different types of plants: rose; rosemary; bee balm; and orange and chocolate mint. We talked about different uses for mint and then planted different types of mint plants. We reminded them to water their plants everyday!

This has been a very rewarding adventure – as much for our members as for the children!



## *Thomaston Garden Club Plants Red, White and Blue*

The newest members of the Thomaston Garden Club accepted the challenge of the GCG to plant red, white, and blue in celebration of our 250 years as a nation. They planned, purchased and planted a variety of summer flowers in a brick planter at our newly constructed “Thomaston Exchange”, a farmer’s market and event center.

The flowers were beautiful all summer and enjoyed by many. At present, plans are being made to replace plants with fall plantings and decor.

The red, white and blue were also planted to celebrate National Garden Week in Thomaston.

