



Laurel Letters

Nurture the Beauty of our Gardens

Laurel District, District 1

Director's Message



Edna McClellan, District Director

Sharon Payne, Co-Director

Ann Bridges, Recording Secretary

Marie Purser, Corresponding Secretary

Caroline Alford, Treasurer

Jackie Fulmer, Parliamentarian

Dear Laurels of Light,

As I write this we are still in the midst of a hot dry summer. Even so, Laurels of Light have been busy with flower shows, plant sales, fashion shows, and club fundraisers. In June, Garden Study Course IV was held in Rome which completed the series. The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show Course III will be held the last week of September. Martha Price's Action Comes Alive workshop held at Amicolola Falls in August was a huge success. Many Laurel members attended and enjoyed gathering and seeing old friends and participating in the many fun and interesting workshops. We also had a well attended youth day. This director enjoyed hiking, making seed pods and bird houses, catching salamanders, and learning about our watersheds along with our youth. Laurel Clubs supported Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden week by making floral arrangements for local libraries, nursing homes, and local businesses as well as taking tours of Gibbs Gardens, Oak Hill, and Barnsley Gardens. Ball Ground had their official dedication of their botanical garden located on the grounds of their City Hall during National Garden Week. Laurel District has had two Blue Star Markers refurbished, one in Cumming and one at the National Cemetery in Marietta. We have certainly been busy.

Laurel District will host the 2017 Historic Preservation Fundraiser in April next year. This event will be at Berry College and will include a tour of Oak Hill. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Fall is just around the corner and so is our annual meeting which will be held at the Marietta Country Club on October 12th. You will find a registration form included in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there.

In This Issue

- Director's Message 1
- Dist. Annual Meeting..... 2 & 3
- 2017 Fundraiser 6
- Atl. Hist. Center 8
- Life Memberships 13

Edna



Earth in Our Hands

**The Laurel District
of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

**invites you to
the 58th Annual District Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**The Marietta Country Club
1400 Marietta Country Club Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152**

9:00 AM- Registration and Hospitality

10:00 AM-- Meeting Begins

Honored Guest: Martha Price, President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Featured Speaker: Troy Marden, "The Volunteer Gardener" (www.troybarden.com)

"Shade Garden Companions"

Reservation Deadline: September 30, 2016

Directions: Traveling South on I-75 take Exit 269 and turn Right (west) onto Barrett Parkway. Travel west on Barrett Parkway approximately 3.3 miles. Then turn right on to Stilesboro Road. Turn left after 9/10 mile on to Marietta Country Club Drive. Take the first left into the Clubhouse parking lot.

Traveling North on I-75 take Exit 269 - Barrett Parkway and turn left (west) on to Barrett Parkway. Travel west on Barrett Parkway approximately 3.3 miles. Then turn right on to Stilesboro Road. Turn left after 9/10 miles on to Marietta Country Club Drive. Take the first left into the Clubhouse parking lot.

Hopelessly lost? MCC's phone (770) 426-1808

Lodging: Hilton Garden Inn Kennesaw/Town Center, 678 322-1140
Hampton Inn Town Center/Kennesaw 770 426-0017
Towneplace Suites by Marriott/Kennesaw 855 239-9485
La Quinta Inn Kennesaw 855 238-1593

You are cordially invited to tour our "home", the Marietta Educational Garden Center, 505 Kennesaw Ave, Marietta, at the conclusion of the District Meeting. Directions to the MEGC will be available at the District Meeting check-in table.

Hosted by The Marietta Council of Garden Clubs

Laurel District Meeting Registration Form

Deadline for registration and cancellation is **September 30th**.
Registration and luncheon \$40.00 (Late Registration fee is \$10.00)

Make check payable to: **Laurel District**

Mail to: Marietta Council of Garden Clubs

505 Kennesaw Ave, Marietta, GA 30060

Questions: Pril Buege: pbuege2@comcast.net 770 514 1660

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Garden Club Name _____

District _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check# _____

Please list any special dietary request _____

Please Check All That Apply:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Laurel District Meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Voting Delegate* | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former Laurel District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Council President | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director-other District | <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director-other | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel District Club Member | District | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member | |

*Voting delegate is one member from each club or council

State or District Chairmen wishing to reserve display space please indicate here. YES: ___ 3 feet ___ 6 feet

Name _____ Chairmanship _____

Cumming Garden Club keeps busy during summer hiatus



Chuck Baumrucker, Linda Hardie, and Shirley Puch

Head Start Garden

During August heat, members weeded the courtyard garden viewed from Head Start classrooms. The Club took over maintenance of this garden in 2014, and has added many plants. In 2016 the Head Start headquarters donated \$500.00 toward trimming, pressure-washing concrete pathing and new plants. Additional perennials targeted toward pollinators will be planted, including zinnias roses and butterfly bush.



Tiger Swallowtail on Lantana
Photographed by Chuck Baumrucker

Forsyth County Library

On August 25, Club members attended the 20th anniversary celebration of the Forsyth County Public Library as an independent library system. Cumming Garden Club has provided floral designs for the Cumming branch for many years, and received a special invitation to this event. This library system now enjoys the highest readership in the state.



Library Board Chair, Mary Helen McGruder (far right) posed with Club members (L to R) Linda Hardie, Tricia Wester, Heidi Stuckman, and Nancy Voss



Floral display done for the celebration (seen on information desk at left)

Jonquil Garden Club



Jonquil Garden Club held its 7th Annual Plant Sale at Smyrna Fresh Market on Saturday, June 11, with both new and repeat customers attending the fast and furious sale. Special educational activities were available for children at the sale as well as knowledgeable gardeners to assist with customers and the sale of over 400 plants. Money raised supports JGC's \$1000/year scholarship to a horticulture student at Chattahoochee Technical College and other educational projects.

Jonquil Garden club members had much to celebrate in August. JGC has gained nine new members since January 2016, with an age range of 42-95. Members celebrated birthdays and were especially pleased to celebrate Lou Kamps, rosarian and iris culturist, who turned 95 this year. A veteran of WWII, Lou led our club in donations to the Blue Star Memorial restoration project, sponsored by the Anne Hathaway Garden Club of Laurel District



Jonquil Garden Club visits the well-planned and planted garden of Carol and Dan Scoggins in Smyrna this past summer as part of an educational and fun project. Club members serve yearly as docents in the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Garden Tour to serve the community.





Laurel District is pleased to host
The 2017 Fundraiser for the
Garden Club of Georgia
Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund
lunch, lecture, book signing and
tour of Martha Berry's House and Gardens at Oak Hill
Wednesday, April 26, 2017



We welcome Tara Dillard, award winning and nationally recognized author and speaker, who hosted her own CBS-TV Show, The Better Gardening Show. Tara is the author of five books, including Garden Paths and Stepping Stones, Beautiful by Design and The Garden View. Tara will lecture on Modern Garden Design with Historic Inputs, a subject that is close to her heart.

Agenda of activities at Berry College and Oak Hill

Registration begins in Ford Dining Hall Lobby 11:30 a.m. -12 noon
Luncheon Ford Dining Hall 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Tara Dillard Lecture and book signing 1 p.m. to 2:30 pm
Tours of Oak Hill and gardens 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Note: Tours of Oak Hill begin at 2:00 p.m. but the book signing goes on to 2:30 p.m.



\$40 for individual tickets. Additional sponsorship levels are listed below and will be recognized in Garden Gateways.

Mark your calendars and purchase tickets now.

Send Check (payable to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.) and form to:

Marie Purser, 25 Apple Barrel Way, Taylorsville, GA 30178
Please address any questions to:
Marie Purser nanapurser6@gmail.com 770-815-6356
Edna McClellan ednamae@ellijay.com 706-889-1230



Please print clearly - especially your email address

Last Name: _____ First: _____
Address: _____
CityState.Zip _____ Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____

So we may plan for adequate tour guides of Oak Hill, please indicate if you wish to attend the tour of the House and Gardens. House _____ Gardens _____ Both _____.

(2 tickets included) Patron @ \$200.00 _____
(1 ticket included) Sponsor @ \$100.00 _____
_____ Number of Tickets @ \$ 40.00 _____
Total Enclosed _____

Rome is a beautiful area to visit and you are invited to stay and discover Rome. A block of rooms has been reserved at the following hotels. Reservation deadline is April 19, 2017

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Rome GA
35 Hobson Way, Rome, GA 30161
Phone: (706) 232-0021

Country Inn and Suites, Rome, GA
15 Hobson Way, Rome, GA 30161
Phone: (706) 232-3380

STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB

by Vicky Wilson

In June we had a wonderful time celebrating our 2015-2016 Stonehedge Garden Club year at The 1818 Club in Duluth. Nancy Chandler is always so faithful in setting up our luncheons at The 1818 Club. Jean Bowen did a wonderful job on our inspirational message and blessing! Betty Taylor provided our door prize which was won by Sunya Peebles! And Norma Shumpert and Sandra Fisher created our beautiful table centerpieces! Good times with good friends!

We look forward to cooler temperatures and “playing in the dirt” at the GEHC this fall. As we prepare for our September



meeting, we’ll be discussing our upcoming field trips and fundraisers, as well as gardening

and community outreach projects. Stay tuned for more information!

Spade and Trowel Flower Show Judges attend Symposium



Pictured above: Irene Harper, Jane Davis, and Helen Lane at the UGA Trial Garden.

Spade and Trowel Garden Club’s five Flower Show Judges attended Symposium in Athens July 10 – 12. Melanie Caldwell and Vivian Toles took the point scoring test to renew their accreditation. Master Judges Helen Lane, Jane Davis, and Irene Harper toured the Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters and the UGA Trial Garden – both very interesting and delightful experiences.

Doug Tallamy discusses the link between native plant species and wildlife, October 19th.



CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY AT THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

DOUG TALLAMY, AUTHOR OF *BRINGING NATURE HOME*



Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

7:00 PM

Native gardening and biodiversity matter. Why should you consider planting native?

Doug Tallamy, Chairman of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, presents practical recommendations for how virtually everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. He will discuss the unbreakable link between native plant species and wildlife. By acting on Tallamy's recommendations, everyone can make a difference.

Join us after the lecture for an author book signing and reception.

Ticket price is \$25.

For more information call 404.814.4150 or visit web site.

<http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com>

The Gift That Lasts a Lifetime

Giving someone a Life Membership in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. provides an excellent means of honoring those who have made valuable contributions to your garden club, council or district. Benefits are many and your donation supports a most worthwhile cause. State memberships fund our GCG scholarships. The person's name will be recorded in the permanent Life Members book displayed at State Headquarters in Athens. The person's name will be published in *Garden Gateways* and he/she will receive a subscription, for one year. Recognition at State Convention is also customary. Deep South Life Memberships support the Deep South Scholarship fund.

If you wish to become a Life Member or wish to gift a membership, kindly use the application form below. Questions: bhartley@windstream.net, 229-768-3577.

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Garden Club: _____

District: _____

Honored by: _____

State Life \$100.00 Make check payable to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Deep South Life \$50.00 Make check payable to Deep South Region

National Life \$200.00 Make check payable to National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mail check and completed application form to:
Bess Hartley, 250 Cotton Hill Road, Fort Gaines, GA 39851

Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club Update on Ball Ground Botanical Garden

by Evelyn Foster, Publicity Chairman

The Ball Ground Botanical Garden was officially dedicated on June 11, 2016, with a lovely celebration in the park. Since that day, six members of the club have dedicated themselves to watering every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (two each day). During this time, other garden club members have alternated watering downtown baskets and planters to keep them beautiful and thriving in the extreme heat this year. We are extremely excited that the city has now installed an irrigation system, in addition to the three water bays they installed that we've already been using. Needless to say, we're so excited about our new Botanical Garden!

On August 12, 2016, twelve club members met at the Botanical Garden for a day of pruning, deadheading, watering, and general cleanup. The main objective was to go through the many bricks that have been purchased and placed, matching them up with all applications. To date, 470 commemorative bricks have been sold, and they look beautiful as a focal point in the garden. Pictured left you can see ladies with lists, checking bricks together and enjoying each other in the process. Bricks and sponsorships are still available to anyone who is interested.

We continue to update and improve, with stone now outlining all areas, and we continue to have people come forward with donations of pine straw, plants and flowers. The Children's Garden is forthcoming, and the Butterfly Garden is now officially designated as a Rosalyn

just come to enjoy nature.

Pictured below: Projects Chairman Beverly Poag, Lucille Rich, Becky Huffman, Sylvia Bowles, Beth Ingram, and Jennie Byers.



Carter Butterfly Trail garden. Sign pictured above.

This garden has been and continues to be a resting place for walkers, passers-by, and those who



**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Soque Garden Club GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA, a FALL plant/garden sale, Saturday, October 22, 8am-4pm. White County Agri-Science Center, Hwy 129 North, 42 Claud Sims Road, Cleveland, GA. The sale will feature Regional Nurseries and Garden Vendors. Free Admission. Contact Arlene Martin O'Neill, amoflowers@gmail.com, 404-512-6857.

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Newsletter Schedule:

**Summer issue e-mailed
June 1**
(Summer deadline May 15)

**Fall issue e-mailed
September 15**
(Fall deadline August 30)

**Winter issue e-mailed
December 1**
(Winter deadline November 15)

**Spring issue e-mailed
March 15**
(Spring deadline February 29)

Denise Pace, Horticulture student at Chattahoochee Technical College, receives Jonquil Garden Club scholarship, presented by Stella Ross, JGC Scholarship Chair, at the celebratory luncheon for all scholarship recipients in May 2016.



In May 2016 Trayletaah Garden Club of Canton members visited the State Botanical Garden Headquarters in Athens for a guided tour of the facility and gardens. Pictured in front of the Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters at the State Botanical Gardens: Trayletaah president Betty Adams, Sue Allen, Carol Jackson, Glenda Thompson, Sylvia Osborn, Beverly Galenek, and Tina Smith.



Sunday November 6th

Save The Date

April 26, 2017 • **Historic Preservation Fundraiser.** Tea, lecture, and book signing with landscape designer, award winning author and speaker, Tara Dillard, at the beautiful campus of Berry College including a tour of the gardens at Oak Hill, Martha Berry's home. See page 6 for more information.

Rome Federated Garden Clubs

by Carrie Wilder, Corresponding Secretary

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs have been busy spreading our love of gardening this year with a host of events. Recently we hosted the Berry Garden Tour with a special stop at the House of Dreams. The weather was wonderful, the grounds spectacular, and the legacy of Martha Berry's tenacity tangible. We offer a special thanks to Tim Brown, curator of the Martha Berry Museum at Oak Hill, and Scott Wallace, along with volunteer students from Berry College, for the wonderful selection of food. The tour was so popular that reservations sold out three weeks prior to the tour. We are so proud to share Rome's beautiful Berry College and look forward to assisting with this event in the future.

All year we have been hosting sessions of the Garden Study School.

Participants came far and wide to experience our beautiful town of Rome, Georgia, and learn from experts in horticulture. They were treated to gourmet homemade lunches and snacks with each club participating in providing the refreshments and flower arrangements. Everyone agreed that the knowledge gained and the experience they had was exceptional, and RFGC appreciates all of our enthusiastic club volunteers.

We have had a number of enthusiastic and informative speakers at our Rome Federated Garden Club meetings including an up and coming apiary entrepreneur at Berry College, Holden Wilbanks, who raises bees and sells honey and other wax products through the student-led business organization, Berry Enterprises. Pat York, a local Master Gardener who expertly leads the ECO Center in Rome to reintroduce native plants and wildflowers through learning gardens, recently spoke.

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs are continuously spreading our love of gardening by introducing a community wide specialty bulb sale for 2016. We are so fortunate as an organization to have a space, The Garden Center, where we can hold RFGC meetings and local garden clubs often gather. This fundraiser will assist in the ongoing maintenance and financial stability of the RFGC while offering beautiful double daffodils, two-toned muscari, and giant orbs of lilac beauty- the Globemaster Allium. Each participating club will have the opportunity to sell to friends, family, and businesses with a percentage of the generated revenue going back to the clubs to support their ongoing projects. Please visit our website for order forms, due September 30, 2016. www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com.



Continued on next page.

It is with a great sense of loss that we announce the passing of several members of our Garden Club community, Mrs. Ann Miliam, Mrs. Elizabeth Neal, Mrs. Martha Lou Riddle, and recently Mrs. Ginger Noble. Each of these ladies has left a lasting impression on our community and will be greatly missed. We will always remember the “Bluebird Lady,” Mrs. Riddle. Many of us learned to appreciate all of God’s small creatures through her wisdom and love. The RFGC will be dedicating a bench and plaque at the Garden Center during National Garden Week in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth Neal, who was quick to say, “I love Garden Club!” and served as a prominent supporter of the RFGC and the Garden Clubs of Georgia. We continue to honor their legacies, appreciate their wisdom, and promote their love of Garden Clubs each and every day.



Seven Hills Garden Club



On 9 June 2016 seven members, all current or prior Presidents of Seven Hills Garden Club, met at Olive Garden to celebrate National Garden Week and discuss plans and suggestions for the 2016 - 2017 year. Sheelah Schreiber provided hydrangeas of varying colors and types, buttonbush, and a pink shovel arranged in a child’s sand bucket for the table centerpiece. Following lunch the flowers were presented to the managers of the restaurant.

Members present were Amanda Kinder, Carrie Wilder, Ansley Saville, Marla Janes, Sheelah Schreiber, Ruth Forrester, and Gina Conrad.



The Flower Garden Club of Marietta

by Judith Bodnar, President

The Flower Garden Club of Marietta started off the year in January with a wonderful speaker, Rita Buehner, who spoke to our club about bees. She was so knowledgeable and brought items to demonstrate the information she was talking about. Bees were a subject most of us knew little about so it was fun to have someone with such a passion on the subject speaking to us.

In February, our garden club held a short business meeting followed by a lovely buffet luncheon at the Marietta Conference Center on Powder Springs Road. Many thanks go to our hostesses Bettie Holder, Bettie Sander, and Faye Martin for their planning and lovely table decorations.

March found us traveling to the Hill Street Warehouse and Garden Center which was filled with everything you could imagine or want for your garden. The Center gardening expert gave a talk on the various types and weights of planters and pots to use around your home, deck, patio, or entrance way. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch at the OK Corral on Paces Ferry Road.

On April 29, we hosted our yearly fund raiser at the Marietta Educational Garden Center, and the center was filled to capacity. Floral expert, Karin Guzy, spoke while doing many special designs all her own. She also took questions from the audience while doing unique and beautiful arrangements. After Karin's presentation, there were numerous drawings for door



prizes which everyone loved. Our bake sell, which was held simultaneously with the flower show, sold out completely. Special thanks to Charlene Race and Carleen Tutwiler for chairing our fund raiser for two years in a row. Also, many thanks to our club members for doing each of their assignments so well. It takes a great team to do a successful fund raiser.

May found us on the road again with a trip to the Georgia Governor's Mansion. We were given a tour of the mansion; plus, we were treated to a special tour and talk by the Director of the Gardens and Landscaping at the Governor's Mansion. Afterwards, our club again visited the OK Corral for lunch. Our thanks to Madeline Joy for organizing this special tour.

In June, we enjoyed a luncheon at the Marietta Country Club which was delicious, as always. A surprise drawing for door prizes added to the fun.

Some of our donations included

sending money to the Anne Hathaway Garden Club as they spearheaded a project to restore the Blue Star Marker at the National Cemetery in Marietta. This was a very successful project and even made the front page of the *Marietta Daily Journal*. Thanks go out to the Anne Hathaway Garden Club for spearheading this project. We also made a donation to the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center which preserves over 30,000 books and papers on gardening. Finally, in June, we bought and planted flowers at one of the Cobb County Senior Centers.

After all of these activities, we were off for summer fun and vacations.

Pictured above: front row l to r: Madeline Joy, Clara Howell, Judy Bodnar, Georgianne Nestor, Faye Martin & Marcia Edwards. Back Row l to r: Mary Alice Greene, Barbara George, Annie Bottema, Kathy Newman, Jo Robertson, Linda Bozich & Carleen Tutwiler.

Seven Hills Garden Club

On Wednesday, 14 September at 10:45 a.m., Lynn Finn welcomed Seven Hills Garden Club to her home to learn what the year ahead has planned for the club's members. We reviewed our yearbook and activities for the year and discussed how to prepare specimens for the Coosa Valley Fair. Everyone was strongly encouraged to enter at least a few cuttings/plants as the earnings from the fair help support our library garden. Roll call asked if members had a colorful flower or plant that was the highlight of their summer garden.

Two of this year's programs that are being stressed by National Garden Club are the fall program on bees and another program on a beautiful flower, the zinnia, that attracts a different pollinator, the butterfly. Color will fly, flutter, float and buzz all around us this year.



Spade and Trowel Selects Plant of the Year



Spade and Trowel Garden Club (Rome) began the 2016 – 2017 year with its September meeting at the Federated Garden Center in Rome. Vice-President (Programs) Donna Knighton presented a proposal for the club to select a Plant of the Year, an idea from the *National Gardener* (Spring 2012). Each participating member would grow the selected plant and then report on its progress at meetings and give an evaluation at the end of the year. Donna made several suggestions of bulbs as well as plants grown from seed. The membership embraced the project and selected elephant garlic as the Plant of the Year. A number of members had ordered Globemaster Allium from the Rome Federation bulb fundraiser so it seemed a good choice with its 8 – 10 inch blooms of lilac purple. The club is looking forward to this new project and watching our garlic “bloom and grow.” And we look forward to reporting on it next year in Laurel Letters!

Spade and Trowel was pleased to learn that its yearbook won 3rd place in Deep South Region. Congratulations to Donna Knighton who produces the yearbook.

Pictured left: Donna Knighton explains Plant of the Year project to Spade and Trowel members.