



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

As I write this it is not officially Spring but it sure feels like it with the temperatures in the high 60's. Tree pollen is on the rise and the daffodils are open and spreading their warm welcome of a season about to change.

On February 17th, Garden Club members converged on our State Capitol in support of Capitol Conservation Day. I was happy to see so many Laurel District Members there, many of whom helped check in those who attended. We were able to visit with both David Ralston and Nathan Deal.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in awards for all the wonderful work you do. You have risen to the challenge of our National, Deep South and State projects. Many clubs have read the *Frightened Frog* to Youth Clubs and have written and sent in poems for awards. You have had programs on bees, butterflies, amphibians and signed up your gardens as a Wildlife Habitat. Please continue these good works.

Coming up is our State Convention in Macon which will be April 13th and 14th. If you have not attended our convention before, please consider doing so. It is a lot of fun and you will meet some wonderful ladies from all over Georgia.

June 28th and 29th, Martha Price will have her President's Workshop "Action Comes Alive" at Amicalola Falls State Park. The focus will be on conservation and we will have a program for youth on the 29th. Information and registration forms are included in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at Convention and our President's workshop.

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Edna

**51st
Georgia
Flower Show Judges
Symposium**

at

The Georgia Center
UGA's Hotel and
Conference Center
Athens, Georgia
July 10 - 12, 2016

Sponsored by
**Georgia's Councils of
Flower Show Judges**

Let's Explore!
Instructors - Claudia Bates
and Darlene Newell
Specialist - Anna Burns

Registration closes July 1, 2016
Sally Holcombe, Registrar
3115 Brandy Station,
Atlanta, GA 30339
smholcombe@hotmail.com

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Soque Garden Club "GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA", plant/garden sale, Saturday, May 7, 8am-5pm. White County Agri-Center, 42 Claud Sims Road/Hwy 129N, Cleveland, GA. Regional plant/garden vendors. Free Admission. Contact: Arlene O'Neill 404-512-6857; amoflowers@gmail.com.

9th Annual
PENNY MCHENRY
*Hydrangea
Festival*
Garden Tour & Flower Show
Presented by Douglas County Tourism & History Commission

Saturday and Sunday June 4 & 5, 2016

"America the Beautiful"
Featuring the
Blue Wave Hydrangea

Garden Tour: *Featuring Nationally Recognized Private Gardens*
\$25 per person-Present this ad or code ATB2016 for \$5 OFF

"The Hydrangea Run" 5K Race \$25

All other events are FREE & include but not limited to:

*Award winning Flower Show
Markets: Artists', Home & Garden, Farmers'
Exhibits: Miniature Gardens, Scarecrows,
Design Gardens, Vegetable Garden, Butterfly Gardens*

For details visit:

www.pennymchenryhydraneafestival.com

For Hotel info and offers contact:
678.449.3939 or info@douglascountymuseum.com

Supported by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and
the City of Douglasville, Georgia
Dates, prices and events subject to change without notice





Anne Hathaway Garden Club Has Hit The Ground Running This Year!

We learned about:

- Oakland Cemetery Preservation from Sara Henderson
- Winterizing our Gardens from Pike Nursery -Mickey Gazaway.
- Becky Blades showed us how to adapt the garden to increase the therapeutic value for people of all ages and physical levels.
- Our Christmas Luncheon was at the Marietta Country Club, where Mark McGuire, Director of the Marietta Daily Journal's Cobb Life Magazine spoke about his new book "Letters from Red Clay Country"

Our activities included:

- Sprucing up our mile along Kennesaw Avenue / thanks to Louanne Frye, Sara Jochim, Nancy Martin and Gwen Pennington
- Project Fig leaf- collecting underwear to be distributed to the regional hospital in Savannah.
- Fundraiser Auction in January - homemade goodies were among the most popular items to be bid on!
- Anne Hathaway hosted the Council in February and provided many choice goodies. Carol Williams did a lovely center piece of camellias. Thanks to Ollita Chestnut, Carole Jordan, Barb Spryn, Nancy Martin, Gwen Pennington and Chairperson Sara Jochim, for serving and cleaning up.



**** SAVE THE DATE ****

April 20th 9a-1p

Anne Hathaway Garden Club
Fundraiser
Plant/ Bake Sale
Marietta Educational Garden
Center

**** RAIN OR SHINE****

Come for plant bargains
and homemade goodies!
We hope to see you there!



Due to Carol Brody returning to work and no longer able to chair Parks and Public Lands program, there is an opening on the Laurel Board for the Parks and Public Lands Chairman. The Garden Club of Georgia in cooperation with the State Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources strives to heighten awareness and appreciation of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites. The GCG is offering small matching grants to any club, council or district planning and carrying out a project in a State Park or Historical Site. Laurel District has 12 state parks and 7 historic sites that may benefit from this grant program. This chairman would be asked to investigate any possibilities at these sites. For more information please contact Laurel District Director, Edna McClellan, at 706-889-1230.

Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club

Jennie Byers, Ball Ground Garden Club, Botanical Gardens Fundraising Chairman

Dear Friends,

The Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club is working with the City of Ball Ground to develop a beautiful and educational botanical garden on the grounds of City Hall. The garden will consist of a walking path along the creek, bordered on each side with a variety of shrubs, trees, perennials, annuals, native plants, wildflowers, herbs and a butterfly garden. All plants will be identified. The walking path will culminate in a 25'-diameter circle of commemorative engraved bricks with a seating area and a focal feature in the center. The botanical garden will be within walking distance of the new Ball Ground STEM Academy, a huge educational benefit to the students. A kiosk will be placed at the en-

trance of the garden with the history of the City, information of the gardens, and a list of the names of the sponsors of this project. We hope you will consider supporting the Garden Club's efforts in developing this beautiful and educational botanical garden by becoming Friends of the Garden and a \$1,000.00 Platinum Sponsor, a \$500.00 Gold Sponsor, a

\$250.00 Silver Sponsor, or a \$100.00 Bronze Sponsor. Your name will be engraved on a plaque placed on the kiosk at the entrance to the gardens. The City will place this money in a special account for construction of the gardens. All donations are fully tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to the City of Ball Ground, Botanical Garden Account.



Oak Grove, near Newnan, GA in Coweta County, GA, will be the focus of the Historic House and Garden Fundraiser for The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc., for 2016.

The GCG tour will include not only the gardens but also the house itself, built in the early 1800's, owned by George and Liz Tedder since 1983, and lovingly restored by the Tedders. The house, listed on the National Register of His-

toric Places, has a traditional farmhouse layout, with 4 rooms up and down and central hallway, originally heated by 4 huge chimneys with their fireplaces. Mrs. Tedder is in the process of writing a book about the discovery, renewal, and years of

Oak Grove GCG's Historic House and Garden Fundraiser



living in the house, and the continued growth of the gardens. This property was on the very first GCG Historic House and Garden tour set up by James Cothran, and the cemetery garden and other gardens have been greatly expanded in the

last 20 or so years. Docent-led tours of both the house and of the gardens, an "interpretive restoration" of a plantation landscape, will be held all day.

The \$35 individual ticket brings you the beauty of the gardens, the uniqueness of the house, and a boxed lunch at midday on the grounds on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10a.m. to 4p.m. Advance-purchase tickets are \$35,

including lunch, and can be obtained from Emily Wilbert, phone 770-502-8381. Checks should be made payable to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and mailed to E. Wilbert, 206 E. Camp St., Moreland GA 30259. Deadline is April 15.

Ladies' Garden Club 125th Anniversary

The Ladies' Garden Club will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary May 19, 2016, at the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens from 5:30-7:30 pm. Laurel District members are invited to this free Gala Event. As you know, this club began the garden club movement in the United States in 1891 and would love to have all clubs feel welcome to share this momentous time.

I have recently had the great honor of becoming a member of the Norcross community. In an effort to meet new people I joined the Norcross Garden Club. So far, I have attended a number of their meetings which always include a topic I find interesting, for example, planting to attract butterflies, what to do with gourds, and a fantastic discussion about the past Gold Medal Winning plants in Georgia. The meetings are attended by people who all seem to possess a wealth of knowledge about gardening and I enjoy learning from the seasoned gardeners. In addition, I have made numerous acquaintances through volunteering at the club.

In April every year, April 22 and 23 this year, the club hosts their fundraising event by selling plants. The plants I purchased in 2015 grew quite successfully in my little garden. It was very satisfying seeing the one tomato plant I purchased provide fruit all summer and fall. I cannot wait to see how the flowering plants do this spring. For more information about becoming

How does your Garden (Club) Grow?

By Jolyn Barrow



a member, attending meetings, volunteering opportunities, renting the clubhouse, or just to meet new people visit the website at www.norcrossgardenclub.org.

Here's a little information about the club and its history. On behalf of the club, come on by and meet us...we'd love to meet you.

The College Street location has served as a community gathering place for some 100 years. In the early 1900's a building formerly located on Autry Street was moved to this site, drawn by a pair of oxen. The building had served as the office of Dr. W.P. Walker, a general

practitioner. The house had one room with a small addition, speculated to have housed supplies. There was a porch on one side and inside, benches lined the long walls. A big heater stood in the center of the

room and there was no bathroom.

Soon after the building was moved it became a studio for Miss Ida Wooten. Miss Ida was a generous woman, a talented pianist, guitarist and vocalist. She shared her talents with the community and taught hundreds of students.

In 1930 a new clubhouse was built by the Civic Improvement Club. It remains a question as to whether the building was totally rebuilt then or renovated by adding a kitchen, bathroom and fireplace. It continued to serve as Miss Wooten's studio as well as a meeting place for the local Boy Scout troop and other civic organizations.

Since 1958 when the Norcross Garden Club was founded, its members have had the privilege of meeting in the clubhouse located at 33 College Street in historic Nor-

Continued on next page.

How does your Garden (Club) Grow?

Continued from page 6.

cross. In 1958 the Norcross Civic Improvement Club gifted the property by means of a quit-claim deed and \$1 to the garden club. With that gift came the responsibility to maintain and improve the property as needs dictate.

In 1984 the first renovation of the clubhouse included installation of vinyl siding over old wood siding. During the summer of 2013, all the old siding was removed and replaced with Hardie Plank. The house and shed were painted a bright, cheerful yellow with white trim and dark green doors. At this time electrical upgrades were done. New light fixtures now provide better illumination and also enhance the décor.

Ongoing maintenance and improvement projects for both the building and the grounds are supported by club fundraising events and ongoing volunteer efforts such as garden and housecleaning workdays.

The clubhouse is available for rental too but limited by the fire marshal to 48 people. Contact us if you are interested. It's a great place



for baby or wedding showers, birthday parties, meetings, etc.

The Norcross Garden Club meets at the garden clubhouse. We have two groups, “day” and “evening” from the months of September to May.

The day group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9:45 am. The evening group meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Hostesses for these meetings provide a snack or dessert and beverages. Each meeting features a garden or community-related program/speaker followed by a business meeting. Club members may attend one or both meetings. There may be a field trip or informal gathering at one of the member's home and garden during

summer months.

Membership dues are \$35 annually and include membership to the Garden Club of Georgia and a subscription to Garden Gateways, the Garden Club of Georgia quarterly publication.

To ensure we have enough seating, please send us a email to norcrossgardenclub@gmail.com, letting us know you'd like to attend.



Holiday Activities Laurel Garden Club of Canton

Instead of exchanging gifts with each other at the annual Christmas party, the members of the Laurel Garden Club of Canton brought Fig Leaf type items to donate to the Family Violence Center in Canton. Pictured left: Janet Sonner-Aden, garden club president, with Meg Rogers, Director of the Family Violence Center.

Garden Club members also brought smaller items to fill stockings for the Must Ministries Toy Shop where needy family members could shop for Christmas gifts.

Pictured below right: Janet Sonner-Aden is pictured with mother and daughter Renattia and Lindsley Beasley who volunteer for Must Ministries.

Our third photo below left: is of Marie Woodall, chairman of our annual Nelle Allison Award, and Chris Davis our 2015 recipient. This award honors a club member who best exemplifies the principles and activities of the garden club. Congratulations, Chris!



Capitol Conservation Day

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and its affiliate garden club members attended Capitol Conservation Day on February 17, 2016. Two members of Cumming Garden Club, along with several other Laurel District ladies, met with state representatives and Governor Nathan Deal. Also in attendance were GCG president Martha Price and Tallie Sweat, State Legislative Chair. Pictured above right: From left: Nancy Voss and Linda Hardie (Cumming Garden Club), Nancy Harmon, Linda Ragland and Edna McClellan (Ellijay Garden Club), House Speaker David Ralston (from Blue Ridge).



Pictured above: Nancy Voss and Linda Hardie take a minute to pose for a picture with Governor Nathan Deal in the cafeteria at the State Office Building.



Pictured left: Nancy Voss, and Linda Hardie with State Representative Sheri Gilligan (R).

Continued on next page.



Pictured left: GCG members, talking to our Governor on Water Conservation. He was given a gift of the book "The Frightened Frog."

Pictured below: Laurel District Members helping Tally Sweat with registration on Capital Day.

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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)

*Submit your reports and articles to:
risingstar@ellijay.com Be sure to let
me know it's for Laurel Letters.*



**Norcross
Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale**

April 22-23, 2016

9AM-5PM

Cash/Check accepted.

**Garden Club of
Ellijay Plant Sale
Saturday May 21
8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

*Location: Lion's Club Pavillion
1729 S. Main St., Ellijay, GA*

*Huge selection from some of the
best gardens in Gilmer County!
Plus Great Raffle Items!!*

The Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville, Ga., Laurel District was hostess to the Laurel District Board Meeting on February 19 at the Stiles Auditorium. Breakfast and lunch were served, and since it was Arbor Day, the Master Gardeners of Bartow County furnished the ladies with Catalpa trees and White Dogwood trees with planting instructions. Bartow County Tourism also donated candy and wildflower seeds. The ladies pictured (left to



right) are officers of the club: Wanda Love, Treasurer; Sandra McMillan, 1st Vice President; Bonnie Floyd, Tucker, Secretary and Edna McClellan, Laurel District Director Life Member of the Garden Club of Georgia; Vicki Jones, President; Sue



Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville hosted the February Laurel District Board meeting .



Stonehedge Garden Club Updates

by Jean Bowen

The Stonehedge Garden Club had their annual Christmas Luncheon at The 1818 Club in Duluth. The luncheon was attended by most members of our Club. We always have so much fun, visiting and conversing with one another finding out how the shopping



was going and what was happening at the homes of each member. Lots of good information was exchanged as well as many good ideas were shared. Our beautiful centerpieces were created by our Hospitality Committee and were given as door prizes. Also in December we brought Santa to visit the

residents of Pruitt Health Lanier Nursing Home in Buford. We gave each resident a gift bag stuffed with goodies, which included a pair of socks, some candies and our stuffed felt stockings! What a blessing to see those happy faces as Santa walked into their rooms! And the week before Santa arrived we decorated the Nursing Home for Christmas by putting up two Christmas trees and table top decorations, as we shared the spirit of Christmas!



In January we met and were entertained by our guest speaker Kathy Walton, "The Junk Lady." She

was a natural born speaker, artist and comedian as well. Her specialty is Recycled Steel and Ceramic Structures. She brought so many of her creations of yard art. We sat on the edges of our seats waiting on what she would bring out next. She created these structures from junk yard finds. Her most favorite to use was old metal filing cabinets. She could use a blow torch as well as Van Gough used the paint brush. Now we know for sure that "one man's junk is another's treasure." All clubs should look into booking this funny, creative lady for a program.



Our February meeting was of course the classic day. Cold, windy and ugly. We met and enjoyed some news from our County Agent. He talked about summer vegetable gardening. He was full of knowledge which he shared with our members. We got the incentive to buy some seeds and wait till warmer days to plant them. At least he inspired us to think spring!

March will be here soon and we look forward to our next meeting, and hope that since Easter is early this year, spring will also be early. Looking forward to those yellow daffodils, blooming cherry trees, wisteria that decorates our road sides and, of course, the dogwoods in Buford which really put on a show along with the azaleas, and weeping willows. We have so much to look forward to as spring opens up the blossoms, as well as the beautiful tiny tender green leaves that adorn our densely populated woods. We are in for a treat again this year!

Put on your Easter Bonnets and enjoy the beauty that only God could have created for us to enjoy! HAPPY SPRING FROM STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB!

Put on your Easter Bonnets and enjoy the beauty that only God could have created for us to enjoy! HAPPY

SPRING FROM STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB!



The Garden Club of Georgia

2016 State President's Workshop

June 28-29, 2016

Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge

*It's a cool summer day at the Falls as
Action Comes Alive! Conserving our World*

Tuesday, June 28

- 1:00 – 2:00 Registration
- 2:00 – 2:15 Welcome and Announcements
- 2:15 - 3:00 Native Plants in MY OWN Yard
- 3:15 – 5:00 The Herbal Way of Life
- 5:00 – 5:30 Lodge Check in/Break
- 5:30 – 6:15 Social Hour with cash bar
- 6:15 – 6:30 The Rumble in our Tummies
- 6:30 – 7:30 Dinner – Royal Buffet
- 7:30 – 7:45 Our National President Talks to Georgia
- 7:45 – 8:15 The District Directors Present...
Georgia on Our Minds—and in Our Hands
- 8:15 – 10:00 Calling of the Moths and Social Hour with
cash bar



Wednesday, June 29

- 9:00 – 9:45 Buzzing in the Bee World
- 10:00 – 10:45 Beautiful Butterflies
- 10:45 – 11:30 Butterfly Magnets activity
- 11:30 – 12:15 Box Lunch
- 12:15 – 1:00 Wet and Wonderful
- 1:15 – 2:00 Beneficial Birds
- 2:00 – 3:00 Homes for the Birds activity
- 3:00 – 3:15 Closing Remarks

Kids' Day (Adults Optional)

Wednesday, June 29

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome
- Wildflower Seed Bombs Project
- 9:30 – 10:00 To the Falls Hike
- 10:00 – 11:15 Creek Splash
- 11:15 – 11:45 Box Lunch at Picnic Shelter
- 11:45 – 1:15 Silly, Sneaky Salamanders
- 1:15 – 2:00 Return Hike to Lodge
- 2:00 – 3:00 Homes for the Birds
- 3:00 – 3:15 Closing

Action Comes Alive! Conserving our World

The Garden Club of Georgia
2016 State President's Workshop
June 28-29, 2016
Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge
Dawsonville, GA

_____ (Check if attending)

(Printed Name) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Garden Club(s) _____

Regular Meals _____ Vegan/Vegetarian _____ Other (specify) _____

Wednesday options: Remain in Lodge for programs all day _____ **OR** (check one or both if desired)

Spend **A.M.** with Kids group/programs _____ and/or spend **P.M.** with Kids group/programs _____

Registration fee of \$83 enclosed _____ Check # _____ **Deadline June 1, 2016**

Kids fee of \$8 for Wednesday only.

Mail to: Mrs. Caroline Silcox, 951 East Lake Dr., NE, Gainesville, GA 30506

Room Reservations by May 20, 2016

Contact Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge, 1-800-573-9656

Rates: King (\$104.25), 2 Queens (\$104.25), 3-bdrm Cottage (\$174.25)

plus state and local taxes and \$5 Park Pass.

For information, contact: Marilyn McDonnell at mmcdonnell25@comcast.net,

706-863-4992 or Caroline Silcox at csilcox@bellsouth.net, 770-534-4506