Laurel Letters

Nurture the Beauty of our Gardens

Laurel District, District 1



Edna McClellan, District Director
Sharon Payne, Co-Director
Ann Bridges, Recording Secretary
Marie Purser, Corresponding Secretary
Caroline Alford, Treasurer
Jackie Fulmer, Parliamentarian

In This Issue

Director's Message	1
Landscape Seminar	2
Life Memberships	3
2017 Fund-raiser	4
Marshall Forest	9

Director's Message

The daffodils are sprinkling the landscape with their cheerful welcome to spring. It is my favorite time of year. I am anxious to get outside now and play in the dirt. This is a very busy season for our district. Clubs are having garden and home tours and plant sales to help support their projects. Laurel District is hosting the Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Preservation Fundraiser on April 26th at Berry College. Your support is needed to make this fundraiser a success, and I urge you to send in your reservations now. See the attached flyer for information.

The 89th Annual Convention, "It's All About the B's," is being held April 18-20th at Callaway Gardens. See your recent *Garden Gateways* for the registration form, hotel information, and schedule of activities.

John Barnett will be installed as Laurel's new District Director. This is a very special honor for John being the first male to hold the position of a District Director in the state of Georgia. John has been a member of the Three Rivers Garden Club in Rome for fourteen years and is the editor of the Landscape Design Newsletter "Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty." We all wish John the best as he assumes his new duties, and I know all of you can be counted on to continue your support of our district and make Laurels of Light shine.

It has been an honor to serve as your District Director for the last two years. I have enjoyed reading your president reports and learning of your many accomplishments and visiting your clubs. I have met so many wonderful new people and made lasting friendships.





HERE COME THE NATIVES LANDSCAPE SEMINAR BLAIRSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

In cooperation with
Georgia Mountain Research Education Center
Union County Cooperative Extension Service
Haralson Memorial Civic Center
165 Wellborn Street (off the Square)
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., April 12, 2017
\$30 Registration fee includes snacks and lunch
In depth study of native plants and their role in the environment
Speakers: Heather Alley, Conservation Horticulturist,
Ga. Plant Conservation Alliance
Ray Dorsey, Agronomist Manager, Ga. Dept. of Transportation
Henning Von Schmeling, Senior Director of Operations,
Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, Ga.
Brad Davis, Associate Professor/BLA Program Coordinator,
UGA, College of Environment and Design

Coordinator: Chris DeGrace, Office of Maintenance, GDOT MANY DOORPRIZES

Clip and mail			
- Name	e-mail		
Address:	City	Zip	
	or each person registered. lub. Mail to: Box 965, Bla		
Sandwich: Ham	Beef Turkey	y	
C	head of time. Registration	_	

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



Pull-A-Tab, Pop-A-Top, Land-A-Can

Thank you from Ronald McDonald to our Laurel District's Laurels of Light!

WOW! This Chairman is totally blown away by YOUR support to this project! You've heard it before, however, it must be repeated!

Laurel District began this administration with a goal of 500 pounds; quickly going to 750; and on to 1000 – yes that is pounds of pop tops and aluminum cans!

Laurel District did not stop there! A goal was set for 1250 and a final goal of 1500 pounds of pop tops and aluminum cans! Well, pat yourself on the back; toot your own horn; give yourself a round of applause!

Laurel District has met that challenge and has surpassed our 1500-pound goal!

As of the writing of this report, this Chairman is over-joyed to let you know because of your commitment, support and excitement about Ronald Mc-Donald House and our project across the state, Laurels of Light have collected 1551 pounds!

We don't even want to stop there! The deadline is not March 1 as was reported earlier. The deadline is now APRIL 1, 2017! So, continue collecting, continue to turn in tabs and cans and continue to reach for the STARS! YOU can do it!



Magnolia Garden Club's Pond and Garden Tour

May 13, 2017 make plans to take a short trip to beautiful Cartersville, Georgia for the Third Annual Pond and Garden tour. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Noel Parro for information: 770-606-9464.



Laurel District is pleased to host The 2017 Fundraiser for the Garden Club of Georgia Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund 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. Lunch, lecture and book signing will be held on the beautiful campus of Berry College in Rome, Georgia. Tours of Martha Berry's House and Gardens located across the street from Berry College are scheduled following the book signing.

Prior Registration is Required

Check in at Ford Dining Hall Lobby Luncheon Ford Dining Hall Tara Dillard Lecture and book signing Tours of Oak Hill and gardens

11:30 a.m. -12 noon 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 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@ellijav.com 706-889-1230



Please print clearly - es	pecially your email ad	dress
Last Name:		First:
Address:		
CityState.Zip		Phone:
E-mail address:		
So we may plan for ade	quate tour guides of C	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

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

15 Hobson Way, Rome, GA 30161

Country Inn and Suites, Rome, GA

Phone: (706) 232-0021

Phone: (706) 232-3380



Stonehedge Garden Club

by Jean K. Bowen



On December 6, 2016, our garden club boarded a bus for our Christmas party. We drove up to Jasper, Georgia, and had lunch at the magnificent Tate house. The owners had made sure each room, mantle, door way, and table was decorated to the fullest. There were miniature choir dolls that were exquisite. Each room gave way to more and more elaborate decorations. The grounds were picture perfect, and the cool crisp day made the day very much feel like

Christmas in North Georgia.

Lunch was served in a beautifully appointed dining room. The menu was perfect for the day. Each lady certainly enjoyed the tasty beautiful food. The Tate house is a fine mansion build in Jasper by the marble people in the early nineteen hundreds. It is now a place for big events, weddings, meetings, lunches, and some dinners. The history of the Tate house is very interesting, and of course everyone loves to see the marble

that is used in each room. Pink marble has made North Georgia famous.

Please enjoy the attached pictures of us from Stonehenge Garden Club, Buford, Georgia.

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 28)

Cumming Garden Club Honors Member Loyalty

With more than 20 years' service to Cumming Garden Club, three members were awarded a \$25.00 gift card for Applebee's Restaurant, and presented with a certificate. Montine Howell, Helga Palframan and Mary Stansell have all been continuous members for more than 40 years!

For her devotion to the club for over 65 years, honorary charter member Montine Howell was presented with the award by her long-time friend Charlotte Dewberry. At the Club's January meeting, Charlotte read an 'Ode to Montine' which she composed as a loving tribute.



Laurel Garden Club Honors Two Members



The Laurel Garden Club of Canton recently honored two of its members for their outstanding service. Dot Douglas was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her 60 years of dedicated service. Dot has held many offices during that time and was an avid Container Garden advocate who earned the title of "Dynamite Dot."

Although a member only since 2011, Lorna Little was given the prestigious "Nelle Allison" Award. She has served as Second Vice President for three terms and continually exemplifies the principles of the Laurel Garden Club. Con-

gratulations, to both of these ladies!

Pictured left: Dot Douglas, Pictured below: Marie Woodall, the Nelle Allison Award Chair, presenting the award at our annual Christmas Party and the ladies sitting around are, I tor: Ruth Burgess, Iris Smith, Gail Sams and Sheri Shirley.



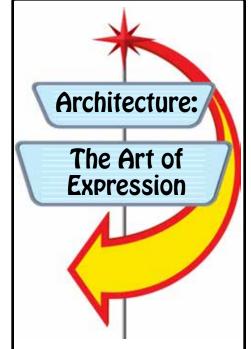
BALL GROUND (ANETSA-GA-DA) WELCOMES YOUTH TO MEETINGS

Contributed by Evelyn Foster, Publicity Chairman



The Ball Ground Garden Club has been honored to be able to enjoy two presentations at meetings by young James Robertson, an up-and-coming Master Gardener! James joined us back in November 2016, and again in February 2017. He spoke with utmost wisdom and professionalism on The Art of Kokedama in November. Kokedama Moss Gardening is a soil ball wrapped in moss. Various plants can be grown from the ball. James is pictured holding the Kokedama which he created and illustrated at the meeting. A four-page handout was given to each club member. In February, James gave a presentation on Vanda Orchids. He explained that there are over 30,000 species in about 770 genera in the orchid family. Vanda is just one of them. Again, an informative four-page handout was given to the garden club members.

We first met James when he attended a plant sale held during a festival in Ball Ground, and we were very impressed to learn that he has a heart for all kinds of gardening. President Diane Smith, Master Gardener, invited him to attend the MG seminars, which he has been doing ever since! Our club is looking to finally sponsor a Youth Garden Club, and I'm sure James will be a charter member. Congratulations to James, as he is one of those who will pass his love of gardening on to everyone he meets!



A Standard Flower Show, Friday, June 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Gilmer County Library, 268 Calvin Jackson Drive, Ellijay, GA.

Laura C. Martin, well-known horticulturist and author of 26 books, will present a program, "Taming the Natives, Gardening with Southern Wildflowers" on Saturday, June 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Victoria Chandler,

Laurel Letters Editor risingstar@ellijay.com

Irene Harper,

Laurel Letters Text Editor iharper11@comcast.net

TOWNVIEW GARDEN CLUB COLLECTS FOR DFAC's FOSTER CHILDREN

By Judy Howerton, President

The members of Townview Garden Club enjoyed their Christmas meeting at the home of Diane Harbin on December 14th with lots of food, fun and fellowship.

The theme of this meeting was a Community Action Project. The membership all brought donations for the Department of Family and Children Services for the new foster children. Al-



though a small club of 18 members, many items were collected. The incoming foster children usually arrive without being able to bring any of their personal belongings.

The Club collected 25 pairs of pajamas, 7 backpacks, 25 pairs of socks, underwear, diapers, 7 blankets/throws, toiletries, stuffed animals, and books.

Townview also erected a Christmas tree in a store front in downtown Rome. It was decorated with lights, beanie babies, and 40 stars to represent the 400 Floyd County foster children needing families. The purpose was to bring visibility to the need for foster parents. DFAC provided literature to be picked up by anyone interested.

What's Going On

March 22 • South Georgia NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER Symposium Southern Regional Technical College, Tifton. For more info: www.sgnpws.org, 229-391-6868, abcarter@uga.edu.

March 27-30 • Suzanne Wheeler FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL Course IV, see Garden Gateways pg. 32 for more info.

April 18-20 • Celebrate Pollinators at the 89th Annual Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. State Convention at fantastic Callaway Gardens, Informative programs, great tours and gardening fun!

April 26 • Historic Preservation Fundraiser. Tea, lecture, and book signing with landscape designer, award winning author and speaker. See page 4 for more information.

May 6 • Soque Garden Club Second Annual "SPRING GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA Plant and Garden Sale,, 8am-4pm, White County Agri-Science Center, Hwy 129N, at Claud Sims Rd., Cleveland. FREE AD-MISSION, featuring Regional Nurseries and Garden Vendors. Info: Arlene Martin O'Neill, amoflowers@gmail.com, 404-512-6857.

May 13 • Magnolia Garden Club's Pond and Garden Tour, Cartersville Georgia. Hours are 9 am to 4 pm. Contact Noel Parro for information: 770-606-9464.

May 20 • The Garden Club of Ellijay's annual Plant Sale, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Lions Club Pavilion, 1729 S. Main St., Ellijay. A wide assortment of native plants, perennials, shrubs, and container plants.

June 23-24 • The Garden Club of Ellijay will present a Standard Flower Show, "Architecture: The Art of Expression". Laura C. Martin, well-known horticulturist and author of 26 books, will present a program, "Taming the Natives, Gardening with Southern Wildflowers" on Saturday, June 24 at 1:30 p.m.

July16-18 • 52nd Annual Flower Show Judges Symposium The Georgia Center's UGA Hotel and Conference Center, Athens, Georgia. Registrar: Sally Holcombe, smholcombe@hotmail.com.

Marshall Forest Land Trust

Caroline Alford, Chairman

Thank you for your continued support of the Marshall Forest, without your help we could not protect and keep the forest and the trails in good repair. Here are some of the things we have accomplished:

- ✓ 1. Removed glue from the Dr. Lipp's Memorial.
- ✓2. Removed undergrowth by entrance gates and sign.
- ✓3. Restored sculpture by replacing missing or broken stones with rocks Marc already had and added rebar rods for stabilization. Dismantled rock on the base and rebuilt it with rebar inserted and an epoxy adhesive to give more support.
- ✓4. Added additional crushed gravel to Braille Trail for ease of walking and better handicapped access. More gravel is needed to cover the entire trail.
- ✓5. In late October, the City of Rome came in and removed the old driveway and culvert and replaced them with a new culvert and wider driveway.
- ✓6. With the help of the Nature Conservancy Fire Crew, Berry Bonner Scholars, and the City of Rome several large piles of debris have been removed.
- ✓7. A small prescribed burn was done on two pairs of the research plots to aid the research being conducted by Dr. Susan Monteleon of Shorter College on the how fire changes the forest.

Many other improvements are planned, but must wait until the parking lot dries out before the heavy equipment can get into the parking lot.

Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc sponsored a community education program highlighting Marshall Forest on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at the Sara Hightower Regional Library. Over 75 people attended the program from the community. Malcolm Hodges, The Steward from the Nature Conservancy, was the main speaker. Dana Edgens, past president of the Friends of the Marshall Forest, gave some history and described the vision of Dr. Lipps and McLean Marshall when the forest was first donated to the Nature Conservancy. Marc Weed, a member of the Marshall family, detailed some of the improvements that have been completed and plans for the future of the forest. Caroline Alford reiterated the need for local as well as



Marc Weed, Malcolm Hodges, Ansley Saville, Caroline Alford, Ruth Martin, Dana Edgens, Mimi Weed Rome Federated Garden Clubs Inc. Co-President Ansley Saville presents a donation to Malcolm Hodges of the Nature Conservancy

Garden Club support to continue to protect and preserve this special place. The audience was asked to join the effort to start a new "Friends of the Marshall Forest" to aid in this endeavor. Jane Davis coordinated the display of twelve different designs, created by local flower show judges, which incorporated native plants to go along with the program. An educational exhibit on native daffodils/jonquils was also on display.

Floral designs incorporating native plants created by local flower show judges.



















Don't forget to include Marshall Forest in your donations as we work to make the Big Pine Braille Trail even better. Donations of \$25 received by March 1, 2017, qualify for a Deed of gratitude at the Convention in April.

News from Spade and Trowel Garden Club

Spade and Trowel members have been participating in a number of garden club activities in the past few months. The club's annual Christmas luncheon was December 10, 2016, at the Village at Maplewood Clubhouse with a focus on fellowship, sharing, and Christmas memories. Spade and Trowel chose the Open Door Home as the designated charity for 2016, and the members contributed gift cards and donations to the home. Jane Cunningham shared Christmas memories in her stories from her southern heritage. She is a member of National Storytelling Network, Southern Order of Storytelling, and Seven Hills Storytellers.

Club member Vivian Toles recently received her credentials as a Master Flower Show Judge, the highest level for National



Spade and Trowel members Vivian Toles, Sally Kiefer, Mary Kate Minge, President Jayne Payne, and Helen Lane at club's Christmas luncheon.

Garden Club Flower Show Judges. Congratulations, Vivian!

Pam Roberts, Master Gardener and NGC Landscape
Design Consultant, presented
the January program, "Attracting
Pollinators to Your Landscape."
Some pollinators are wasps, flies,
bees, bumblebees, butterflies
and moths. Some birds, such as
hummingbirds, are also pollinators. These small visitors seeking

nectar from plants are vital in cross-pollination which is necessary for most flowering plants and the vegetables and fruits we eat.

We can support these pollinators by planting gardens and landscapes with plants that can attract and provide food for these species. Choosing a succession of flowering plants that lasts from spring through fall is best. These can include flowering plants, trees, and shrubs. Flowers of different shapes will attract different pollinators. Avoid pesticides because they can harm pollinators. Pam distributed a listing of early blooming flowers as well as mid-season and late blooming choices. Two websites were given as references: www. greatpollinatorsproject.com and www.pollinator.org.

Spade and Trowel member Jane Davis gave a program, "Flying Friends of the Flowers: Pol-



Jane Davis in front of poster used in program on Pollinators presented to Chattooga Garden Club.

Continued on next page.



2017 Plant Sale

Annuals, Perennials, Trees, Shrubs, & Vegetables

The annual Forsyth County Master
Gardener Plant Sale offers a wide variety
of southern plants, unique garden
accents and more. Master Gardeners will
be on hand to answer any questions and
offer expert advice on planting, growing
and caring for your plants.

Forsyth County Master Gardeners

Contact: (770) 887-2418 for more information

DATES:

Friday, March 31, 2017 8:00am - 5:00pm Saturday, April 1, 2017 8:00am - 4:00pm

LOCATION:

The Barn@ Cumming Fairgrounds 235 Castleberry Road Cumming, GA 30040

RAIN OR SHINE!!

Covered Venue - inside heated barn on fairgrounds





The Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District of Cartersville held their annual Christmas luncheon at Stonewall Manor on December 8. One of the highlights at this time of the year is remembering the children and each member brought an unwrapped toy for Bartow Christmas.

Spade and Trowel *Continued from pg. 10*

linators, Protectors, and Predators," to the Chattooga Garden Club. She illustrated her talk with posters including ladybugs, bees, and praying mantises. Jane noted that honeybees pollinate about \$10 billion worth of crops yearly in the US.

She recommended that we choose plants with sweet, pungent, highly fragrant flowers: red, purple, orange, yellow or pink colors and simple, open flowers. Native annual and perennial plants are preferred. Choose plants so you will have blooms all season long. Members were encouraged to register their pollinator gardens at www.pollinator.org and become part of the "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge."

Jane, who is 2nd vice-president of Rome Federated Garden Clubs, organized an exhibition of floral designs to be included in the Federation Educational Program held in February 2017. The goal was to acquaint the public as well as club members with flower shows and designs. Designs were exhibited featuring Marshall Forest (the program presented at the meeting) and native plants as well as other designs. Spade and Trowel members creating designs for the exhibition were Iane Davis, Melanie Caldwell, and Vivian Toles.

The Flower Garden Club of Marietta

The Flower Garden Club of Marietta held their first Christmas Party in December 2016 at the Marietta Educational Garden Center. All but two members, who had previously planned trips, were able to come and several guests also joined our members. The tables were beautifully decorated in red and white tablecloths with lovely centerpieces. Christmas goblets were given to each member and guest plus five drawings were given out to members. Everyone enjoyed the party and socializing with friends along with celebrating the Spirit of Christmas.

Mickey Gazaway was our speaker in January. Mickey spoke about various easy to grow and maintain plants for the indoor area which would brighten up the home and which would also be easy to maintain. Many questions followed about problems members wanted to solve with their own plants.

New officers have been elected for the club for 2017-2019 and will be installed at our February luncheon which will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. We will be having a large attendance plus a couple of guests so this should be a lot of fun for everyone.

It is time for our club's fund raiser which we hold every year in April. This year's fund raiser will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at the Marietta Educational Garden Center. The theme this year is "Flower Fun in the Kitchen" with Donna Kennedy. Tickets are selling for \$15.00 each. Tickets will be sold at Council Meetings each month, and you can also call Kathy Newman at 770-509-9373 or 404-772-9172, or you can reach Kathy at dknew79@gmail.com.

There will be a flower show, light refreshments, and a bake sell. Doors will open at 9AM for the bake sale, and the flower show with Donna will begin at 10AM. Come early and don't miss our wonderful bake sale. We will have everything from pies and cakes to

candy, brownies, fudge, cookies, and even things like homemade pear relish. We have sold every single item every year; so don't be late and miss out on all of our wonderful homemade goodies! Also, our speaker, Donna Kennedy, is a wonderful, dynamic speaker as well as a multi-talented artist so everyone will really enjoy her creative abilities as well as the fun way she delivers her information to her audience. Donna is a real favorite of our club members. Please join us for our fund raiser on Thursday, April 20 at the Marietta Educational Garden Center, 505 Kennesaw Avenue, Marietta, Georgia. Doors open at 9AM.



Edna McClellan, Laurel District Director, installed the 2017-2019 officers of the Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville at the annual Valentine Luncheon at the Cartersville Country Club. Pictured l to r: Edna McClellan, Vicki Jones; President, Sandra McMillan, 1st Vice President; Sue Tucker, Secretary; Wanda Love, Treasurer; JoAnn Dorsey, Parlimentarian; and not pictured is Mary Lou Wilson, 2nd Vice President.

Arboreta Botanic and Memorial Gardens



Gibbs Gardens

Have you been to Gibbs Gardens? It's not too late to see the billions of daffodil s in bloom, a truly beautiful experience. If you have not been there during Daffodil season this would be a wonderful field trip for your club. This is just one of the many beautiful Botanical gardens in Georgia. So please remember to include our gardens in your budgets for your next term of office. Thank you so much for your support.

Ruthellen Anderson
Arboreta Botanic and Memorial Gardens Chairman 2015-17
aruthellen@ymail.com 706-216-5034

Garden Club		Club#	District	
Club President		Street		
City		State	Phone	
Treasurer		Phone		
Description and	Amount of Donation			
\$	_State Botanical Garden			
\$	_Atlanta Botanical Garden			
\$	_Cherokee Garden Library			
\$	_Other Garden –			
Name				
-	yable to <mark>Garden Club of Geor</mark> Griner, GCG Treasurer	<mark>gia</mark> and mail by Mar	ech 1, to:	

244 Satilla Drive

Brunswick, Georgia 31523