



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,

At our annual convention in Macon last month, I took great joy in reporting on the many and diverse projects our clubs sponsor. So many of our clubs came home with awards. It was an exciting time and we had a lot of fun. I want to remind you of our president's workshop, "Action Comes Alive - Conserving our World," at Amicalola Falls State Park. Although the deadline to sign up has passed, there is still room for more. This is very important to our president and I encourage you to attend. I have listed the prices for you and the registration form can be found in this newsletter (on pgs. 2 & 3).

- Full workshop, includes both days and 3 meals, \$83
- Tuesday only, Workshop including dinner, \$51
- Tuesday dinner only, \$32
- Tuesday Workshop only, \$19
- Wednesday only, including Workshop, breakfast and lunch, \$56
- Wednesday only, Workshop and lunch, \$42
- Wednesday meals only (breakfast and lunch), \$35

Meals only are for guest who are not attending the workshop (like husbands)

I hope to see many of you at Amicalola Falls.

Edna

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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

Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden Club

Hoe'n in Euharlee held our annual Tablesapes, Luncheon, and Silent Auction in March. We had a great turnout with over 100 tickets sold. Each table was individually decorated and a beautiful floral arrangement was a requirement.

Donations were made to the Cartersville Hope Center and the Euharlee Baptist church from our Tablesapes event and basket auction.



In April, several members attended the tour of Oak Hill and the Martha Berry House O'Dreams, the GCG Convention, packed backpacks weekly for the local school, and delivered decorated "eggs" for Garden Therapy to the Good Shepherd Foundation. We also replanted our memorial rose garden at the Euharlee Library and had a Garden Spot workday.

Members participated in the "Not Just Social" event held at the Euharlee Library for Garden Week. Our scrapbooks are on display at the Library through July along with the history of our club and other women's clubs in the area.

May found members touring the beautiful Gibbs Gardens.



Cumming Garden Club Pays Tribute to Lost Member

On April 23, 2016, the family of Patti Whatley (1946-2015), along with members of Cumming Garden Club, held a memorial service in a garden maintained by Cumming Garden Club at Poole's Mill Park. After a brief ceremony in which club members shared thoughts and memories of Patti, a Tea Olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*) donated by the garden club was planted in Patti's honor by her grandsons. A marker provided by CGC was installed by her granddaughters and husband Alan.



Frances Tidd, CGC member and close friend, spoke of their many shared interests. She concluded her remarks by giving those in attendance a card with the words . . .

*In life's garden,
Patti is remembered as a special bloom.*

The recent projects of the Laurel Garden Club took place at Cameron Hall, an Assisted Living Center in Canton. The garden club members joined with some of the residents to fill the planters in the courtyard. Note that Dot Douglas (below left), one of the founding members of Laurel Garden Club and former Laurel District Container Gardening Chair, is now a resident at the center. In the picture she is holding a can of "Dynamite," her favorite container fertilizer.



STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB UPDATES

by Vicky B. Wilson

STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB has had a very busy Spring!

On April 15th members of Stonehedge Garden Club gathered together to work on one of our projects for April, providing centerpieces for the Buford/Lanier Women's Club 2016 Fashion Show. The members present created these beautiful centerpieces shown below. The Fashion Show, titled "Diamonds and Pearls" was held on Saturday, April 16th at Buford Presbyterian Church and is an annual event, silent auction and fundraiser for local charities.



In honor of Garden Week in Georgia our Club presented these same lovely floral arrangements to the Buford Library and also to Pruitt Nursing Home.



For our May meeting our Program Chairman, Mac Miller, arranged for Connie Wiggins, recently retired President of Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, to speak to our Club. The Topic of her program was "Taking Care of ME." We were surprised to learn what ME actually stood for: "MY ENVIRONMENT." It was such an interesting topic and Ms. Wiggins shared great information on how to be better stewards of our environment!

Ellijay's Youth Garden Club

June Harrison, Garden Club of Ellijay Youth Chairman

The Garden Club of Ellijay's Youth Committee planned this Earth Day trip to the State Capitol in January of this year. With Tally Sweat's suggestion, Linda Ragland, Edna McClellan and June Harrison, Youth Chairman, attended a Water Coalition breakfast and Conservation Day at the Capitol in February with a large group of GCG members from all over the state. I was able to meet with Dianne Hardin, David Ralston's Administrator, and make plans for God's Gardeners to meet and speak privately with Speaker Ralston and Senator Steve Gooch about water conservation issues facing Georgia's lawmakers.

In preparation for Earth Day at the Capitol, we planned a Junior Garden Club Program for our March meeting about the diminishing supply of fresh clean water for our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at North GA Christian Academy. For-

ty one children were in attendance with their teachers present. As Youth Chairman, I taught the class after researching many facts to share with the children.

Using GCG President Martha Price's "Apple" demonstration of what per cent of the Earth's water is drinkable, the children were all ears.

Then I demonstrated how our ground water gets contaminated, even into our wells, which most children were aware they had at their home. We discussed how long a person can live without drinking water. They were amazed it is only 1 week. After cutting up the apple in segments, the children learned that all the people on our planet share only 1/8 of the Earth's drinkable water because that is all we have. So the urgency was created to do something to help the dilemma.

The children shared great ideas on how they could save water. I told

them there was one more thing they could do to get help. After hearing that you can go to the State Capitol of GA and speak to the lawmakers in Congress about very important issues such as this, they were excited to go! Their mission was to ask them to support clean water and make laws which protect our water from contamination. As a result we made signs to wear around the neck with various messages such as, "Water is Life" or "Save Water, Save Lives!" and many more. One fourth grader wrote a letter to Speaker Ralston using her other classmates contributions, too. On Earth Day, April 22nd, she read her letter to Speaker Ralston and handed him her copy. She gave one to Senator Gooch who also attended this private meeting in a Committee Conference Room. For an hour, Ralston and Gooch spoke with God's Gar-

Continued on next page.



Ellijay's Youth Garden Club

Continued from pg. 6

deners about GA's Water issues. They asked if there were any questions and six hands went up! Great meeting for the children to have direct contact with lawmakers who can do something about it.

We are so very proud of God's Gardeners. They were so happy with their meeting with key lawmakers and their tour of the Capitol that they sang the whole way home to Ellijay on the bus! Payton Beaver's letter to Speaker Ralston below.



April 22, 2016

Dear Speaker Ralston,

Thank you for keeping Georgia clean!

I'm very glad that I live in a clean environment. I hope that you continue to keep animals

safe and keep people from littering.

In the future, I hope that everyone has clean water. I want everyone to not have contaminated water so

we can live happy and healthy. There is only 1/8th of water in this world

that is clean. Yet there are 7.3 billion people in this world! I hope that there is not a single soul in Georgia that

has contaminated water. I hope that you will help us make Georgia a better place to live. Please help everyone that has contaminated water! I know you will help us!

Thank you for caring about Georgia's water! Happy Earth Day!

Payton Beaver 

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL
COURSE III**

In memory of former GCG President Suzanne Wheeler, North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges is sponsoring a Flower Show School to be held at Bellmere Garden House in Johns Creek. Come and join us September 26-29, 2016 for Course III. Learn all about flower shows and how to judge floral designs and horticulture. Penny Decker, NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor, will exhibit and discuss American Creative Designs. If your focus is on horticulture, then you'll want to come and hear the very dynamic David Robson, NGC Flower Show School Horticulture Instructor, talk about combination plantings and container-grown plants, with an emphasis on Coleus and Begonias, and how to grow, show and judge them. Our very own Carolyn Hawkins will present Flower Show Procedure and the rules associated with holding a flower show.

Flower Show School is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in flower design and horticulture. While the primary purpose of these courses is to train those aspiring to become flower show judges, many people attend for information only. Each of the four courses, offered approximately six months apart, includes Horticulture curriculum, Flower Show Procedure and Design instruction. The cost for each course is \$130.00 for full-time students and a judge's special of \$90 for the two-day course. Courses need not be taken sequentially. Joy Zaidan, GCG Flower Show Schools Chairman jzaidan@bellsouth.net or 770-493-8475. See registration form on pg. 11.



TOWNVIEW GARDEN CLUB MAY MEETING AT BARNSLEY GARDENS

By Judy Howerton, President

The members of Townview Garden Club, Rome, Georgia, enjoyed visiting the storybook setting of Barnsley Gardens in Adairsville for their May meeting.

Godfrey Barnsley poured his heart and soul into creating this Southern country estate two centuries ago for his beloved wife.

The Townview members enjoyed fine cuisine, touring the heirloom roses, boxwood parterre planted over 160 years ago, perennial border, manor house ruins and museum.



Photos by Ruth Edgar.

The Historian told tales of chivalry, dream-like appearances and royalty that add to the legend of this special destination.

The former home of the Fleming Rice family that was built in 1854 was relocated to Barnsley Gardens in 1995 as a dining establishment.

Members attending the May meeting were: Stanley Boulee, Connie Burnes, Lulie Chin, Ruth Edgar, Ann Gidden, Diane Harbin, Jo Hernandez, Judy Howerton, Carolyn McGuinness, Mary Reid, Pam Roberts, and Trude Sansbury.

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.

ANNUAL COVERED DISH MEETING AND PLANT EXCHANGE UPDATE ON BOTANICAL GARDEN

Evelyn Foster & Diane Smith

Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club enjoyed our always-fun annual covered dish and plant exchange on May 10, 2016. Members bring dishes to share and a plant to be given away. Members first take a moment to tell about the plant they brought, and a few words about its care. Numbers are then distributed allowing us each to choose something that's new to us and/or unusual. Many of the garden club members brought plants from their gardens to share. Others were lovely plants purchased at retailers. Pictured are this month's hostesses, Marie Nordest, Linda Scrivner, Becky Huffman, and Beverly Poag. We look forward to field trips during the summer months, and a new year beginning in September.

The Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club is working hard in anticipation of the dedication of the Ball Ground Botanical Garden. On June 11 at 11:00, the Garden will be dedicated as part of National Garden Club Week. The Garden is located on the grounds of City Hall. With the support of the city, local businesses, and the community, a beautiful garden has been created. The 3/4 acre garden is highlighted by a certified butterfly garden in the shape of a butterfly. The

Native Plant Garden contains many local native plants and rare finds. The Daylily Walk takes you through daylilies and roses in bloom. A foot bridge is located near the stream. The funding is through engraved brick sales and "Friends of the Garden" donations. The public garden will continue to grow and evolve as an asset to the Community. It is a source of pride for those who had a vision to create a beautiful garden for Ball Ground families.



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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)



Mountain Ivy Garden Club, Clayton had their annual sidewalk Sale June 4th. Pictured l to r: Diane Mobley, Brigitte Marchman, and Hope Pollitt. Proceeds benefit a college scholarship for a Rabun County student.



Garden Club of Ellijay members busy beautifying the downtown area by refurbishing planters around the square.



Suzanne Wheeler
FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course III

Registration Deadline:

Sept. 16, 2016

NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 26, 2016

Course III: SEPT. 26-29, 2016

(The 2007 Handbook is required for credit)

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone # _____

Garden Club _____

**Make Checks Payable To:
NGCFSJ Flower Show School**

Mail to: Cookie Roland,
Registrar & Co-Chairman
2771 Anscot Court,
Snellville, GA 30078-3005
r_cookie@att.net

(Check one)

Student, Full Course (with exam)\$130

Student, Full Course (no exam)\$115

Student, 1 Day Auditing\$65

Judge's Auditing Special, Full Course, ..\$90

Judge's Auditing, 1 Day, Tues., Hort\$55

Judge's Auditing, 1 Day, Wed., Design ..\$55

Total Enclosed\$ _____

Fees include lunch and snacks
on Tuesday and Wednesday



**Martha Berry's Oakhill Gardens
and the House O' Dreams**
Caroline Alford



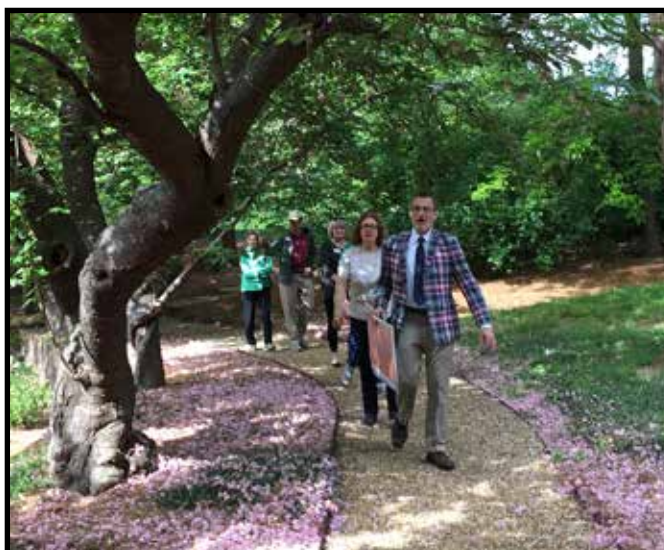
Rome Federated Garden Club, Inc. celebrated Garden Week in Georgia by sponsoring a tour of Martha Berry's Oakhill Gardens and the House O' Dreams. What a gorgeous day for a tour! Sixty-six ladies and gentlemen enjoyed seeing the many restored gardens that have been completed at the Oakhill Gardens and the continued enhancement at the House O'Dreams. Lunch was served in the Garden Room.

Tim Brown, Oakhill and Martha Berry Museum Curator, led the tour of the grounds and Martha Berry's home, Oakhill. It was so nice to see how the funds from the Historic House and Garden Grants have been used to restore several of the gardens. As Tim said, it is an

ongoing project.

If you missed this tour, put April 26, 2017, on your calendar as that is the date of the Historic House and Garden Fundraiser next year, which will be at Oakhill along with an afternoon tea, speaker and book signing.

Picture above Tim Brown, Caroline Alford, Laura Gafnea and Nancy Thompson on the lawn of House O'Dreams.



**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

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

Soque Garden Club's Garden Extravaganza In Cleveland, GA

Hear ye!, Hear ye! Soque garden club's May 7th Garden Extravaganza was a huge success, thanks to over 500 patrons, 13 area gardening business vendors and 35 plus Soque Garden Club members. The event was geared to bring folks out from all over the northeast Georgia community. And it did!

Members and customers alike entered through the doors of the White County Agri-Science Center in Cleveland, Georgia, and found themselves surrounded by the beauty of gorgeous hanging colorful baskets, lush greenery all around, beautiful herbs, perennials, annuals, native plants, bonsai in unusual containers, magnificent yard art, and trees taller than they were. Plus gardening tools, for every need and the toughest gardening job imaginable. Soque Garden Club plant area had plants nurtured ahead of the sale by club members. As patrons and members left the sale throughout the day, they were seen carrying small bags, large bags, and "red wagon" carts loaded down with their choice of plants. A member commented to one lady, "Wow, you sure have a loaded cart!" to which the customer replied, "This is my third cart!" That comment in



itself, speaks to the success of the event. Door prizes donated by each vendor, were presented to many delighted winners throughout the day. A food area was available for customers to enjoy a quick bite to eat.

Deepest thanks to all who worked so hard to make our first Garden Extravaganza a huge success! Funds from the event will go to community projects of the Soque Garden Club. Continued care of the gardening needs and supplying plants for the Sautee Nacoochee Center; providing plants and planting the new Habitat for Humanity homes in Habersham and White county. Providing annual scholarships to needy students to start their college career plans in horticulture.