



Laurel Letters

Nurture the Beauty of our Gardens

Laurel District, District 1



Director's Message

Please, Can We Get Some Rain! I am sure all of you feel the same. These dry months have been challenging for us as gardeners. The added problem of the fires in North Georgia is taxing our patience even more. Some areas are experiencing more smoke than others, and we are all anticipating an end to both very soon.

We had a great turnout for our annual meeting at the Marietta Country Club. A big thank you goes to the Marietta Council for a job well done. Clubs received their certificates and awards that were given out at our convention in April. Your donations to the Garden Club of Georgia projects are so appreciated. Now we move on to next year and the deadline to apply for many awards is December 1st. It is fast approaching so don't procrastinate and get those awards in.

It has been a busy past couple of months for this director. I attended six out of the seven district meetings. It is great to visit other districts and see what is going on in them. They are all so different yet committed to not only their goals but the goals of the Garden Club of Georgia. Laurel District had two Blue Star Highway Marker dedications in November. Cumming Garden Club refurbished a Blue Star Marker at the VFW Post 9143 in Cumming and re-dedication was held on November 9th. The Magnolia Garden Club in Cartersville dedicated a Blue Star Marker at the Frank Moore Administration Building in Cartersville on November 11th.

The Garden Club of Georgia is having a native plant competition between the seven districts. Please send your photos and completed questionnaire to me at ednamae@ellijay.com. I will be putting all your information into one booklet to be submitted by March 15th. The information you send can include not only activities you have already completed but activities that will be completed in March and April of 2017. The form is located in this newsletter.

Laurel District has a very special project coming up next year — the Historic Landscape and Preservation Fundraiser. We need support from all of you to make this a success. Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

As we move into the festive time of our year, I wish all of you and your family Happy Holidays.

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

Life Memberships 3

2017 Fund-raiser 4

Native Plant Competition..... 6

Marshall Forest 9

Edna



Pull A Tab And Land A Can

Dr. John Barnett, Chairman

This Chairman is really excited about Laurel District's involvement and dedication to Ronald McDonald House! You were challenged to set a goal in our District for ONLY 500 pounds of pop tops and cans a year and half ago! We reached that goal with 568 pounds. But that wasn't enough. So beginning in April, 2016 we set another goal of 750 pounds! But that wasn't enough. We then went up to 1000 pounds! But that isn't enough! YOU, our beloved Laurel District, have far exceeded our goal and as of now <drum roll> we have <trumpet sound> OVER 1200 pounds that have been recycled!!!! Yes, go ahead and toot your own horn! Thank you for your participation. BUT (you knew that was coming) that is not enough! This Chairman is just wondering how many pounds Laurels of Light can get recycled by March 1, 2017! Keep those tabs and cans coming in! And again, THANK YOU Laurels of Light!



Anne Hathaway Happenings

Anne Hathaway Garden Club, Marietta, has been active with projects, fundraisers, and meetings. The club filled the planters by the Marietta Welcome center with gorgeous flowers and maintained them through the hot summer months.

Anne Hathaway took the challenge to have the Blue Star Marker restored in their district. They put out the call to other clubs in the district. A number of clubs stepped up with donations, but a 94 year old veteran, who is a member of Jonquil Garden Club, made a very generous donation and helped them reach their goal. Thank you!

Come check out the marker on Roswell Road by the True Value hardware store on the same side of the street as the Marietta National Cemetery.

The club's Annual Plant/Bake sale fund raiser at the Marietta Educational Garden Center was another wonderful success. Garden Club members donated delicious baked goods and plants from their own gardens. There was an excellent turnout; a number of other garden clubs came to support the club. Thank you for helping make the fundraiser such a success! The group really missed the big tree in the island that helped to shade them (and the shade plants) in the past, but now there are new trees planted and the club looks forward to watching them grow.

Anne Hathaway enjoyed a field trip and a picnic on the veranda of the Garden Center in May and had a program on miniature gardening in June.

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

TURN IN POP TOPS AND CANS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017!

The last Laurel District Board meeting before the March 1, 2017 deadline for this year's "race" is February 16! All Board members are encouraged to bring tabs and cans to that meeting so we can get the total in 'accurately' before GCG Convention in April, 2017! Clubs are encouraged to get tabs and cans to any Board member before February 16, 2017. Thank you for your participation and helping make this year a milestone in Laurel District!



Cumming Garden Club Contributed a Basket to the 58th Annual Laurel District Meeting

Providing her expertise in basket construction, Terra Manton supervised the project. Titled *Awesome Autumn*, the basket contents included garland of fall leaves, ceramic leaf candy dish, pumpkin spice candle, scarecrow head (center piece), wire pumpkin votive holder, four autumn place mats, seasonal popcorn, orange coffee mug, two tea towels and tote bag.



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	11:30 a.m. -12 noon
Luncheon Ford Dining Hall	12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tara Dillard Lecture and book signing	1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tours of Oak Hill and gardens	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@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 _____

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

Cumming Garden Club Honors America's Veterans

On November 9, 2016, a re-dedication ceremony was held at the Blue Star Highway Marker adjacent to VFW Post 9143 in Cumming, several months after its restoration. The Marker, originally installed by the now defunct Rose Garden Club in 1977, was restored with funding from the Club and contributions from The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and Laurel District.



Marker Restoration
Spring 2016

The re-dedication program included remarks from Edna McClellan, Director of Laurel District (directly right of marker), and Janice Thiese, Chair of state Blue Star Marker project (far left). Cumming Garden Club members (L to R) were Carolyn Nugent, Nancy Voss (with Betty Smith behind), Mary Stansell, Chuck Baumrucker, Linda Hardie, Terra Manton, Charlotte Dewberry, Judy Ree and Heidi Stuckman. After placement of memorial wreath, a reception was held in the VFW post facility. The floral arrangement container was an ammo case.



Members of all branches of the military except the Coast Guard were represented at the ceremony.



Linda Hardie, CGC president and Edna McClellan (right) with Color Guard.

ATTENTION – Garden Clubs There is a District vs District Native Plant Competition!!!!

One of President Martha Price’s projects is **Native Plants**. Using natives in your garden helps reduce the need for watering, and they are proven winners to survive in our varying climates in the state. **They also help sustain a diverse native wildlife in our environment.** **What you plant in your own yard really matters!!!** To promote the use of Native Plants by our members, we are establishing a friendly competition between the districts - for activities done during this term 2015-2017. We ask that at all levels within the district, (clubs, councils, and districts), that our members promote the use of Native Plants in their home gardens and in public landscapes - and then send a report to your District Director.

Possible ideas:

- o Clubs/Councils can have programs/speakers on Native plants at their regular meetings. **Plan speakers now for upcoming meetings!!!! Contact GA Native Plant Society <http://gnps.org/>**
- o Include articles on Native plants in your newsletters
- o If you can go to Atlanta - Get a group to attend the Lecture at the **Cherokee Garden Library** on Oct. 19th. Doug Tallamy, author of **“Bringing Nature Home – how You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants”**
- o Use Native plants in landscape projects that are being done in public places. Talk to city/town governments and encourage them to use Native Plants. Take photos of completed landscapes.
- o Encourage your members to purchase native plants to plant in their home gardens and support nurseries that carry native plants.
- o Document your efforts and send reports to your Director, so she can have plenty of information for the contest application - due March 15th.

Each District Director will need to complete an application for all that will have been accomplished during this term. Application due March 15, 2017. Clubs should submit information to their Director as projects/activities are completed - the sooner the better. . {Please include info for activities planned for March/April 2017} The annual President’s Report of Garden Club Achievements will give your club credit for Native Plant projects. Photographs are encouraged. This is an all-encompassing effort - not just what the Director does, not just what one or two clubs do, but a compilation of everything done within the district concerning Native Plants. Points will be given for what percentage of clubs participate in this, as well as the quality & quantity of the projects. Judges will be fair-minded and impartial.

SURPRISE - the winning District will have their name engraved on a special marker which will be placed in the State Botanical Garden in Athens. This will serve as a permanent reminder of GCG’s dedication to the use of Native Plants, and showcase the winning District for their success in promoting this project. Questions?

Contact Barbara Bourque, 2nd VP & Native Plant Chairman

b.bourque@comcast.net 770-889-2596

Native Plant Activity Questionnaire: For activities between May 1, 2015 thru April 30, 2017

Name of Garden Club - _____ Club # _____

Contact Person : _____

Phone # _____

Email: _____

1. Is your club planning to, or has your club already had a speaker on Native Plants at one or more of your meetings? If so, give date(s), name of speaker and subject. How many people in attendance at each?
2. Do you have a Native Plant chairman in your club? If so, what does she do to promote the use of Native Plants?
3. If you have a club newsletter, have there been any articles regarding Native Plants? Please give date and send a copy with this questionnaire. How many people receive this newsletter?

4. Has your club produced any other publications related to Native Plants? If so, please describe or send a copy.
5. Is your club planning to, or has your club already gone on a field trip/ educational event relating to Native plants? If so, give date, location of trip/event. How many people in attendance from your club? (The lecture at the Cherokee Garden Library – Doug Tallamy on Oct. 19th 7:00 PM would fit this category)
6. Is your club planning to, or has your club already done a project in the community to promote the use of Native Plants? (ie: Educational exhibit at the library or other public venue to promote NPs) If so, please describe
7. Is your club planning to, or has your club already done a hands on project in the community to plant Native Plants in a public space or garden? If so, please describe.
8. Is your club planning to, or has your club already sponsored some type of Youth activity related to Native Plants?) If so, please describe (There's a NGC Container Garden Pollinator contest that you can encourage your children/grandchildren/ neighbor children to enter and use Native Plants.)
9. Have your club members planted Native Plants in their home gardens? If so, how many members have done so, and how many members are in your club?
10. Other: Please list any other Native Plant Activity that your club has or will complete, that is not mentioned above.

Send photos with captions for any activity listed above.



Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville Georgia, dedicated the first Blue Star Memorial Marker in Bartow County on Veterans Day November 11, 2016 at the Frank Moore Judicial Building. Approximately 100 officials and Veterans plus a number of Purple Heart recipients were in attendance. A reception was held at the Roselawn Carriage House in Historic Cartersville.

Pictured above (l to r): Magnolia Garden Club president Vickie Jones, The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman Janice Theise, Laurel District Director Edna McClellen, Magnolia Garden Club Marker Chairman Sue Tucker, and The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. President Martha Price.

Victoria Chandler,
Laurel Letters Editor
risingstar@ellijay.com

Irene Harper,
Laurel Letters Text Editor
iharper11@comcast.net

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)



JAPANESE GARDENS BALL GROUND (ANETSA-GA-DA) GARDEN CLUB

Evelyn Foster, Publicity Chairman

One of our newer garden club members, Judy Dougherty, brought a very informative and interesting presentation at the October 12, 2016 regular monthly meeting on her experiences, some successful and some not so much, on Japanese Gardens. A detailed hand-out was given on the planning and implementation of a Japanese Garden. Judy is a self-proclaimed “Army Brat”, having lived in Japan for a time, and seeing Japanese Gardens all over the world. Once settled in Jasper, Georgia, Judy now has created her own garden, and states that it is still “a work in progress”. Following the meeting, Judy invited club members to go to her home and tour her garden. Several members were available to go, and were very impressed. We look forward to hearing about the progress of Judy’s Japanese Garden and her successes in it.

What’s Going On Around the State

January 20-21 • Environmental Studies School Course 3: Air and Related Issues. Sponsored by NGC, GCG, and the Augusta Council. For info contact Judy Kirkland, jukirkland@knology.net, 706 -556-3417.

February 15 • Capitol Conservation Day at Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, (across Washington Street from Capitol) at 8 a.m. for breakfast briefing on legislative environmental issues, followed by a visit with legislators at the Capitol.

March 10-11 • Environmental Studies School Course 4: Water and Related Issues Sponsored by NGC, GCG, and the Augusta Council. For info contact Judy Kirkland, jukirkland@knology.net, 706 -556-3417.

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, Tara Dillard, at the beautiful campus of Berry College including a tour of the gardens at Oak Hill, Martha Berry’s home. See page 5 for more information.

Marshall Forest

Caroline Alford

On October 20, 2016, the City of Rome's Street Department began the much needed repairs to the parking lot entrance. They removed and replaced the culvert, widened the driveway by an additional four (4) feet and repaved the driveway. It is much easier to get into the parking lot with a larger vehicle especially those vehicles with the rack for a motorized wheelchair. This will make the trail more accessible for physically challenged visitors.

Mr. Cescutti restored the monument and stabilized it with steel rods drilled into the rocks. He used epoxy instead of cement or mortar to hold the stones together, so the monument should be in good shape for the future. Marc Weed and his crew cleaned up the parking lot and entrance to get ready for the walk

The annual Robert Weed Memorial Walk was held on October 28 with about 45 people attending. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of the Rome and Floyd County community to learn about this special place and celebrate the renovations. Marshall Forest is the largest urban old-growth forest in

the world. The diversity of trees, herbs, and shrubs is indicative of an old growth forest.

Marc Weed will now be able to get into the forest to begin the rebuilding of the entrance gates, replacing the sign podiums, rebuilding the bridge, and replacing the posts that hold the guide ropes. He plans to use "Trex" or similar composite materials to increase the longevity of the structures. The contributions that your club makes each year helps to fund these needed repairs and construction. Without your continued help, it would be impossible to get everything done that needs to be done.

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. is sponsoring an education program on the Marshall Forest February 22, 2017, at the Sara Hightower Regional Library at 10:00 a.m. Nature Conservancy Steward, Malcolm Hodges will present an informative Power Point Presentation along with former Stewards Dana Edgens and Terry Dollar. Caroline Alford will be bringing everyone up to date on the improvements in the forest.



Thank you again for your continued support of Marshall Forest. Please do not forget to support Marshall Forest with your donation of \$25 to receive a Deed of Gratitude. Donations must be received by March 1, 2017, to qualify for the current Garden Club year. Checks should be sent to GCG Treasurer Brenda Griner. The donation form is located on the GCG website.

Pictured above: new culvert at the Marshall Forest Entrance. Pictured left: Malcolm Hodges, Nature Conservancy Steward, talks to walkers at the Robert Weed Memorial Walk October 28th.



Kathryn Litton Honored By Georgia Department Of Transportation

For the past twelve years Kathryn Litton, State Roadside Beautification Chairman of GCG has served diligently to promote the planting of wildflowers on the state highways in Georgia, working directly with the Landscape Architects in the Georgia Department of Transportation.

In past years when GCG had the wildflower awards program to give awards to the Roadside Enhancement Coordinators in each GDOT district, Kathryn was instrumental in getting the awards judged and attending the Employee Appreciation Days to give the monetary awards and award plaques to the recipients in GDOT. At that time there was a chairman for North Georgia and South Georgia to divide the work load, so she worked with another person in this endeavor.

The program was discontinued around 2009 when changes were made in the way GDOT handled the planting of wildflowers, giving the work to commercial contractors. Kathryn continued attending meetings with GDOT architects at the Atlanta office, promoting the sale of



Pictured above Johnny Floyd, State Transportation Board, District 2, making presentation to Kathryn Litton.

wildflower tags, make posters and exhibits at Garden Club Conventions, writing articles, and keeping the flame going.

Each club is encouraged to donate funds into the wildflower program and when a sizeable amount is accumulated this is given to GDOT for deposit in a special fund that can only be spent for wildflower purchases. Kathryn keeps up with this program and issues a certification of

appreciation to each club that makes a donation.

Kathryn prepared books of evidence each year for GCG to present to National Garden Club, and for a great number of years this work was awarded first place honors with a nice award check being presented to GCG. This money was deposited in the special wildflower fund and presented to GDOT to purchase more wildflower seeds.

The State Transportation Board honored Kathryn Litton with a resolution for her years of work at their November 17 Board meeting at the headquarters in Atlanta. The resolution was read and voted to be spread on the permanent records of the GDOT Board. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Kathryn. Many friends and GCG members were on hand for this presentation.

In part the resolution read:

WHEREAS, The State Transportation Board and employees of the

Continued on next page.



Pictured above l to r: Roadside Beautification Joan Brown, Laurel District Director Edna McClellan, Honoree Kathryn Litton, State President Martha Price, 3rd V.P. Virginia Pennington, Meeting Coordinator Deanna McFarlan, Redbud District Director Janet McGinnis, and GCG President Elect Jane Hersey.

Kathryn Litton Continued

Georgia Department of Transportation recognize and show appreciation to Kathryn H. Litton for her lifelong and selfless service to the beautification of the State of Georgia, and has dedicated more than half a century to the education, research, and business of growing and merchandising plants in the horticulture industry.

Mrs. Litton has worked directly with the Georgia department of Transportation's Wildflower Program for twelve years through the Garden Club of Georgia as the Roadside Beautification Chairman in the planting of native wildflowers on state highways, and due to Mrs.

Litton's contributions and partnership the Wildflower Program now includes 2,560 acres of wildflowers and 1.5 million daffodil bulbs planted around the state. "The Department and the traveling public have benefitted greatly from the vision, expertise and service of Mrs. Litton in her effort to make Georgia a more beautiful place to live, work and travel."

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be presented to Kathryn H. Litton in recognition of her outstanding lifelong service.

Water Saving Ideas

Georgia Burns - Air & Water Environmental Chairman

We have had no rain in several months and the prospects for much well into 2017 are bleak, so we must rethink what we do everyday. When we add together all the water we each use daily it is huge and we can make a big difference if we start using water saving ideas.

Here are some tips for you to consider: Run dishwasher and clothes washer only when full; do not use garbage disposer, but put items in compost bin; fix faucets, toilets and outdoor leaks immediately; install faucet aerators with flow restrictions; change shower and bath water usage; find ways to reuse grey water in your home; add mulch around trees and shrubs, but not touching the trunk; stop outdoor watering and let landscape go dormant for the winter; choose low water native plants for your landscape in the future; use a car wash that recycles water rather than washing yourself.

Please go to 40gallonchallenge.org to get more ideas. You do not have to sign up to save water, but I encourage you to do so. I hope you realize every drop counts so educate others to join you to save water.



Laurel Garden Club Participates In Fig Leaf Program

Janet Sonner- Aden and Chris Davis, President and VP of the Laurel Garden Club of Canton are pictured with Meg Rogers (in center), Executive Director of Cherokee Family Violence Center. Laurel Garden Club collected and delivered fig Leaf items to the Family Violence Center in Canton.

