

Laurel Letters

"Treasuring the Past... Celebrating the Present... Protecting the Future"

Fall 2003

To: Laurel District Clubs
Laurel District Councils
Laurel District Board Members
Garden Club of Georgia Board Members

From: Jayne Payne, Laurel District Director

I have always believed garden club ladies to be a special group and my experience in beginning my two year term as your Laurel District Director has certainly provided proof that you are indeed very special. You have all been so helpful and so eager to be a team player and I do appreciate each of you. We are going to be very busy "Keeping Georgia on our Minds" as we "treasure the past, celebrate the present, and plan to protect the future."

This newsletter contains a wealth of information for all of us as we enter an exciting new time in garden club activity. Together as we work, learn, and play we will accomplish a great deal. Set goals...but remember your legacy. You won't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been!

Plan now to attend the Laurel District Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at Marietta Country Club in Marietta. Available at that meeting will be our new GCG Calendars, a President's Packet, displays of ideas and opportunities, and a Country Store. Our guest speaker will be TV/Radio Personality and Journalist Walter Reeves. You don't want to miss this event. Return the enclosed reservation form, get your club's carpool together and bring some extra money to help our district's fund raiser opportunities. **DO SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR CLUB CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERSHIP.**

Please note that District Chairmen and phone numbers are listed with their reports. Give them a call if you need more information. It's important to send them word of your successes, also.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Laurel District Director. Please call if I can help you in any way or if you just need to talk!

See you in Marietta!
Jayne Payne

Laurel District Annual Meeting

Laurel District cordially invites all Garden Club Members, Board Members and GCG Board Members to the Forty-fifth Annual Laurel District Meeting, Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at the Marietta Country Club. Honored guest: Jaydee Ager, President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Program presented by Walter Reeves, TV/Radio Personality and Journalist. A registration form is attached. Please make copies of the registration form for your club members.

Web Site

Laurel District has a web site! You can view the new web site at www.LaurelDistrict.org. Laurel Letters and all flyers will be available on the web site for your convenience.

E-mail Addresses Needed

Victoria Chandler 706-635-3388, risingstar@ellijay.com

We are trying to follow GCG's lead and reduce the amount of paper we generate through newsletters and flyers. Our goal is to eventually eliminate all printed newsletters and flyers and send all information electronically. To reach our goal we will need e-mail addresses for all Laurel District Club Presidents, Committee Members and Council Presidents. If you don't have e-mail access please find an e-buddy who can receive e-mail for you.

Historical Trail Markers

Phyllis Fegreus 706-745-9467, wfegreu@brmemc.net

It is the utmost importance that we try to preserve our heritage so it can be passed on to the younger generation and their families where it can be known that William Bartram explored throughout Georgia.

Log on to www.bartramtrail.org and you will receive a wealth of information on William Bartram's travels. A map is included showing where he traveled within Laurel District and other parts of Georgia. Laurel has only one Bartram Trail Marker at Warwoman Dell in Rabun County. It is anticipated that our clubs will give priority to locating areas that are suitable for a marker. This will perpetuate the history that William Bartram has given us as he visited Georgia. This chairman has applications for a Bartram Trail Marker.

National Garden Club Grant Project

Mabel Milner 706-232-1613

NGC proudly presents an exciting new grant program under the sponsorship of The Principal Financial Group. In keeping with the 2003-2005 administrations theme "Preserving the Past - Forging the Future", the focus of this grant project is gardens at historic sites. Every community has at least one such project worthy of your effort! Tell us about yours! States, Districts, and individual clubs may apply for funding up to \$3,000. Deadline for application is November 1, 2003. Project to be completed by 2005.

To learn about requirements, general information, and application procedure contact Mabel Milner, your State Principal Financial Group Historic Gardens Chairman.

Publicity

Dorothy Lee 706-896-1506, Dslee@alltel.net

Publicity is a positive thing. Garden Club members in Laurel District are serviced by a local newspaper. If the editor of that newspaper is aware of people interested in garden related articles, then they will try to accommodate their readers. The key is making

friends with the editor, or person in charge of community news.

Take time to become acquainted with the newspaper staff, then write about your club activities. When your news comes out in the paper, clip the article and send a copy to your Laurel District Publicity Chairman. We are compiling a Book of Evidence to submit for an award so send pertinent information to Dorothy Lee, P.O. Box 944, Hiawassee, GA 30546

National Garden Week

Jean Carter 706-745-5506, jeancar@alltel.net

There was difficulty in communicating with the district clubs concerning 2003 National Garden Week since this was the beginning of a new term of office. However, this chairman prepared a hand-out that was distributed to some of the clubs' presidents at the tri-district presidents' workshop at Callonwolde. This handout was a reminder that the first week in June was National Garden Week and suggestions were given as to how it might be celebrated and how the public could be made aware of its purpose.

From a recent survey that this chairman conducted, the following Garden Week activities were reported by the clubs: proclamations concerning National Garden week were made by county and city officials and printed in local newspapers; tree and flower planting were done; recognition of club charter members was made; floral arrangements were placed in local banks, local governmental offices and churches; wildflower seeds were distributed and visitations were made to special gardens.

This chairman will remind all district clubs prior to 2004 National Garden Week so that there will be greater participation.

Historic Landscape Initiative

Mabel Milner 706-232-1613

The Historic Landscape initiative co-sponsored by The GSG, Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Cherokee Garden Library is well underway. Its objective is to survey the gardens presented in The Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933. Much is still to be done. It's an unending project with far reaching ramifications. A second training session to learn what has been discovered and what needs to be done next is scheduled for September 5, 2003 at Dunaway Gardens near Newnan. Join us and learn how to conduct a historic survey in your community. The day will involve presentations, discussions, hands on opportunity using historic Dunaway Gardens as our historic site. Jennifer Bigham has invited us to tour her wonderful garden. We'll have lunch, share adventures, discuss your concerns, get reenergized!

Join us for this important project. Friday, September 5, 2003, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 3218 Roscoe Rd., Newnan, Georgia. Call Mabel Milner 706-232-1613 for more information.

Roadside Beautification

Phyllis Fegreus 706-745-9467, wfegreu@brmemc.net

Laurel District has many Wildflower Plots planted by the Department of Transportation. The Union County Rotary has participated again on an 8 mile planting on Hwy #515 along with our local club's donation.

We have a Mini Garden Center at our local Chamber of Commerce and are supplying small packets of wildflower seed for newcomers with instructions on planting and information on the GCGA /DOT wildflower plantings throughout the state of Georgia. One pound of Black-Eyed Susan will make 1000 packets @ 1/8

teaspoon measurement. Cost \$20.00 plus the cost of small envelopes.

Historic Trees

Chris Cooney 706-896-2169

Do you have a historic or landmark tree in your community or county? Isn't it time your tree is registered as a historic tree. Let's learn all about these historic trees in our state. Georgia has a lot of history that involves trees. Like the trees that have been bent to indicate an Indian trail. Contact this Tree Chairman and additional information will be forwarded to you for your club.

Youth Activities

Lou Ann Bleakley 706-745-7033, labdab@alltel.net

LET'S PUT LAUREL YOUTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!! Get the word out in your local community about all the exciting contests and rewards in store for every age group from Pre-school through High School. Contact your public schools, home school leaders, Boy & Girl Scout troops, 4-H clubs, Church groups and encourage their participation. Our youth is the future of our garden clubs so let's get their attention now.

Detailed information can be found in The GCG Guide on all youth contests and activities. Contact me for any assistance you need and plan to visit the exhibits at the District meeting in Marietta. Information and forms will be displayed and help with all your requests will be available.

Deadline November 15, 2003 to District Chairman:

- Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Grades 1 - 5-Winner for each grade for Smokey and Woodsy. This year is the 60th birthday of Smokey Bear and the contest is dedicated to Smokey and the "60 Years of Vigilance" theme.
- Poetry Contest - "Plant a Seed - Leave a Legacy" Kindergarten through 9th grade
- Poster Contest - "Plant A Garden For the Future" Pre-School (3-5) and Kindergarten through 6th grade
- High School Essay Contest - "Preserving the Past"
- High School Speech Contest - "Preserving the Past, Open to High School students attending 9th - 12th grades.

Laurel Clubs and Councils are encouraged to sponsor a youth club. Age groups are:

Ecotots; Ages 3 through Kindergarten

Junior: Grades 1 - 6

Intermediates: Grades 7 - 8

High School: Grades 9 - 12

Clubs must be registered each year by December 1 with the State Youth Garden Clubs Chairman. Forms are published in The GCG Guide and will be available at the District Meeting in Marietta. Contact me if you need further assistance.

Laurel District List Server

Victoria Chandler 706-635-3388, risingstar@ellijay.com

Laurel District has a LISTSERV (or List Server), an automated e-mailing group for members to post messages. The List Server will automatically send the message to ALL the users on the mailing list. Information can be shared instantly throughout the Laurel District. The types of messages that will be appropriate are any GCG or NGC activities and garden club related activities, i.e. upcoming events such as flower shows, garden tours, classes, meetings, etc... To sign up or for more info contact Victoria Chandler.

Ways and Means

Chris Cooney 706-896-2169

This is your opportunity to win a lovely Haley Days Enamel hand painted box, a weekend at the Elf School Inn and golf at Mountain Harbor Golf Course for two, front row tickets for two at the Marietta Theater in the Square, or two round trip tickets on Air Tran Airlines anywhere in the Air Tran system. Opportunities for these items will be \$5.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$10.00. The drawing for the above items will be at the Laurel District Meeting in Marietta, don't miss out!

A reminder to all clubs and councils to bring items for the Country Store valued at \$25.00 or a donation of \$25.00 to help defray district expenses.

Environmental Consultants

Margaret Ballard, 706-778-7060, mpballard@hotmail.com

The Environmental Consultants will have a joint meeting with Gardening Consultants and Landscape Design Consultants September 22 -24 in Tifton and the Okefenokee Swamp. This is an excellent time to refresh for any ONE of these schools. Reservations are to be made through Joanne Kingery at 706-863-6148.

Flower Show

Margaret Ballard, 706-778-7060, mpballard@hotmail.com

Laurel District has had a busy Summer with flower show schedules coming in for approval. Please send me TWO copies of your rough draft schedule and a list of judges for your show, especially if you intend to apply for NGC awards.

I encourage you to purchase the new, revised Handbook, 2003, through GCG Ways and Means or NGC. There are some important changes, namely Flower Show Books of Evidence now are 10 pages instead of 12 pages in length. The GCG GUIDE 2003-2005 will also contain this information.

Upcoming Laurel District Flower Shows:
Chattahoochee Mountain Fair, Clarkesville, Sept. 6-7
"Southern Comfort", Gainesville, Sept. 11-12
"Let's Go On Vacation", Marietta, Sept. 18-22 & 24-28

Parks and Public Lands

Margaret Ballard, 706-778-7060, mpballard@hotmail.com

The annual Parks and Public Lands Awards Luncheon will be held at Georgia Veterans State Park in Cordele on Thursday, September 18, 2003. Registration forms will be in the next Gateways, but mark your calendar now. Next year Laurel will sponsor this fun event. Please plan to attend, September 16, 2004.

2004 "Georgia Pride" Calendars

Kathy Hawthorne 770-534-8864, khawth1974@aol.com

Hot off the press is the Pathways "Georgia Pride" Garden Club of Georgia Calendar for 2004. This calendar has a whole new "look".

Remember for a \$7.00 tax-deductible donation to GCG Scholarship Fund, you will receive a FREE Calendar. Each Club member should purchase at LEAST ONE calendar to support the Scholarship Fund.

Garden Club presidents will be receiving order forms in the mail for the new Calendar and should place orders promptly and mail them to Kathy Hawthorne, District Calendar Chairman, so

that the calendars may be picked up at the Fall District meeting in order to save postage. Laurel District will be receiving calendars shortly so lets sell all that we receive. Garden Clubs with each member purchasing a year 2004 calendar will receive a 100% participation certificate during the District meeting at the 2004 Convention. Districts that sell the most calendars will win the Calendar of the Year Award Plaque at the 2004 Convention. Azalea District has been the winner of this award for the past two years (2001 & 2002). Let's have Laurel District be the winner of this award for 2004! For the first time, Calendars will be available to the public in retail stores.

America's A-Bloom

Martha Lou Riddle 706-234-2235

If I were a tree I'd like to be born right here in Georgia, and I can be that tree if you will help. June Wood is the new President of our National Garden Club and her project is "America's A-Bloom". She has asked for each garden club member (including your friends) to plant flowering trees in personal gardens, public places, civic beautification projects, and in landscape designs along interstates and entrances to towns and cities. Well, I'll tell you! We're going to have a good time and at the Laurel District meeting on October 14 I'll give you some suggestions of varieties of flowering trees who would like to grow in Georgia. Let's be A-Bloom!

Yearbooks

Kathy Haynes 770-531-4212

Yearbooks must be in the hand of the State Yearbook Chairman by October 15th:

Heidi Ream, State Yearbook Chairman
3290 Vista Cir., Macon, GA 31204
478-474-8618, hwrdrkr@aol.com

What to send to State Yearbook Chairman:

2 completed State Award applications
2 completed NGC Award applications
2 copies of your Yearbook

What to send to the State Awards Chairman:

1 completed State Award application (only) to:
Deanna McFarlan, State Award Chairman
3772 Allsborough Dr., Tucker, GA 30084
770-939-1282, dmcfarlan@earthlink.net

Life Membership

Frances Kilgore 770-428-1445

It is important we support the State, Deep South and National Life Memberships fund. State funds are divided between Headquarters and scholarship funds according to need. Honor a friend or a retiring garden club president. State \$100.00, Deep South \$50.00, and National \$200.00. I have applications for all.

Native Plants and Wildflowers

Kathryn Litton 706-745-5478, kathlitt@alltel.net

If anyone has done a project this year with native plants, wildflowers, or xeriscaping (drought tolerant plants), please send me a short write up with CLUB NAME, CONTACT PERSON, FULL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, E-MAIL ADDRESS, ETC. Please give a brief description of your project, listing any successes or failures you had.

Garden Therapy

Tish Redwine 706-291-3902, fredwine2@comcast.net

Ladies, please remember the Fig Leaf Project when you gather your necessities for the District Meeting on Oct. 14. The folks at Northwest Regional Hospital need our tender touches. Fig Leaf means new underwear for men and women in all sizes. Also, Garden Therapy will have John Paul Breault, Horticulture Therapist at NWRH and Mary and Curt Yarbrough on hand in Marietta with their display and patterns for projects.

-- Opportunities For Continuing Education --

FLOW~

Georgia Burns 706-295-1516, Georgiawburns@aol.com

Help!! All Laurel clubs and councils are needed to support the new state water project FLOW~, Forging Leadership in Our Watersheds. Each president has received a letter and registration form for the seminar our district will have on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, from 9-4 at the Civic Center in Rome. It is hoped all clubs will want to send one person to this exciting, fun, interesting day to learn what we can do to preserve our precious water. Then in October we are all asked to participate in a water/watershed clean up in our own area. Next year we will have another seminar and clean up to complete this project for the 2003-05 term. Time is short, but it is of huge importance that each club and council participate in FLOW~. Contact Georgia Burns for more info.

Flower Show School

Caroline Silcox 770-534-4506, desibeautiful@aol.com

Laurel District and Creative Study Club sponsored a successful Flower Show School Course I. It was held on April 29, 30, and May 1, 2003 at the Floyd County Public Library in Rome, GA. 39 attended with 27 students taking and passing the class. Carolyn Hawkins taught Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure. Trece Chancellor was the Design instructor. My thanks to many Laurel Ladies for their assistance especially Jean Sawyer for providing 6 Designs for practice point scoring Margaret Jones for providing ivy and ground covers for the Horticulture Study, Helen Lane for hosting the breaks and luncheons, Jayne Payne for handling logistics such as lunch orders and Jane Davis for serving as Registrar and Treasurer. It takes many hands to make a school successful. Treasurer, Jane Davis reported that school finances are in good shape so far.

Course II will be held on October 28, 29, 30, 2003. The place will be Holiday Inn Skytop Center in Rome. The library is having a Book Fair so this move was necessary. We will see which space is more convenient for our needs. Leona Venettozzi will instruct Flower Show Procedure and Horticulture - Annuals, Biennials, and Herbaceous Perennials. Her daughter, Gina Jogan, will teach Design. Information is available on the Laurel District web site (www.laureldistrict.org) and brochures are available by contacting Caroline Silcox, Chairman. You can begin with any course.

Environmental Studies Course

Helen Hargreaves 770-971-4074, Hnharg@aol.com

Environmental Course 3 will be held March 7-9, 2004 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris. Georgia's Public Service Commissioner Angela Speers will be one of the instructors. Others will be those who have inspired us in the first two courses. For

more information call Dorothy Lee, 706-896-1506 or Helen Hargreaves.

Gardening Study Courses

Connie Burns 706-232-5549, cmburnes@comcast.net

Not yet a Gardening Consultant? Begin with any of the 4 schools, held twice a year, and besides becoming a proficient gardener, join GCG's Georgia Association of Gardening Consultants which offers trips to inspirational gardens Spring and Fall.

- Fall School #4, at Statesboro. Call Mary Green 770-436-8248 for more information.
- Refresher, September 22 (meeting), 23, and 24 at Tifton, Waycross and Thomasville and the Okefenoke Swap.

At Home With Flowers (Basic Design Course)

Pamela Kuchler 770-983-3168, lkuchler@starband.net

This past few months has seen Basic Design Courses in new areas like Gwinnette Garden Club Council and Dawsonville, through their Arts Center. I am really excited to see this program branch from one set of courses into others.

This design course is for anyone interested in creating plant material designs for their home, learning about different plant material, mechanics and the principles of design. While this is not intended to be a 'how to enter a flower show' course, the information and practise within these five one day classes, helps everyone create arrangements, whether for the dining table, a banquet table or a flower show class. The course is set up for the participants to learn from the most basic through the most creative of designs, taking one step at a time. Each of the classes is a combination of instruction, demonstration, workshop and critique.

Information is available to set up these classes by any garden club(s) or council. Participants do not have to be garden club members, so it is a great way to introduce and recruit new members. I will be happy to guide you through the process of establishing At Home With Flowers for your club or council.

-- Updates --

Awards Chairman (Laurel District):

Evon Creech
P.O. Box 214, Cherry Log, GA 30522
Home: 706-635-1480, Work: 706-276-4741 - ext. 249
evon.creech@sunlinkhealth.com

Plant 4 Hope Chairman (Laurel District):

Martha Lou Riddle
2641 Lakeridge Cr., Rome, GA 30165
706-234-2235

Land Trust/Marshall Forrest (Laurel District & State)

Veronica Carden
1302 Euharlee Rd. SW, Euharlee, GA 30145
770-386-9348, vwcarden@netscape.net

Yearbook Chairman (State):

Heidi Ream
3290 Vista Cir., Macon, GA 31204
478-474-8618, hwrdr@aol.com