

# Laurel Letters

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

January 2004

Jayne Payne, Laurel District Director

Christmas has come and gone and now we move full steam ahead into 2004 braced by renewed ties with family and friends and looking forward to the opportunities to come. Please take time to read this newsletter and make note of what concerns you. A lot of things will be coming at us fast and furiously. Laurel has the reputation of being a strong district and I can understand why. You are all very supportive of one another and of me. This is very much appreciated.

Our Laurel District meeting in Marietta was a huge success. There were 245 in attendance, \$1,240.00 was raised for the District Treasury, Walter Reeves gave a splendid program, Jaydee was in attendance and won the BIG prize. Marietta ladies did a fantastic job!

February 17, 2004 is the date of our Laurel District Board Meeting to be held in the Hiawassee-England Garden Club Center. Be sure to send in your reservations ASAP. The form is in this newsletter.

There are several decisions we have to make on February 17, 2004 so please attend if at all possible. Check the date list for all upcoming events. A lot is going on!

Fondly,  
Jayne Payne

## **Laurel District Board Meeting**

*Sharon Payne 706-896-2337*

The Laurel District Board Meeting will be February 17, 2004 at the Hiawassee-England Garden Club building in Hiawassee. Executive meeting will begin at 9:30 am. Board meeting to follow around 10:30 am. See attached flyer for more information.

## **Volunteers Needed for the Southeastern Flower Show**

*Jayne Payne 706-234-8771*

Laurel District has teamed up with Dogwood and Redbud Districts to staff the GCG booth at the Southeastern Flower Show. The three Districts will acquaint the public with the mission of Beautification, Conservation and Education that we provide our members. This booth is being designed and staffed by a tri-district team of Laurel, Redbud and Dogwood Designers; Ruthellen Anderson (from Laurel), Betty Thompson and Jeanne Heyser will create a lovely booth.

Those who staff the booth will receive a FREE pass for that day to see the show. We have the longest travel time so we have the 12 - 3 and the 3 - 6 p.m. time slots. We need three people to staff the booth for each of the above time slots on February 19, 20 and 21.

Please contact Jayne Payne (706-234-8771) ASAP with your shift preferences while choices are still available!

## **Recycle Greeting Cards**

*Sharon Payne, Environment, Litter, Recycling 706-896-2337*

I am asking Garden Club Members to save their holiday and all occasions greeting cards (fronts only). These cards will benefit the St. Jude's Card Recycling Program that began over 30 years ago.

Wishing to show donors appreciation for making St. Jude's Ranch for Children possible, an idea was conceived for turning the previous year's Christmas cards into "new" cards for the coming season. The recipients were so delighted with their unique "thank you"; they requested the children sell them the special cards. Today, the program has been expanded to include all occasion greeting cards too.

This project will assist our recycling program and help these children at the same time. Please encourage all garden clubs to bring their cards to the district meeting on February 7, 2004 in Hiawassee.

## **Membership Development**

*Victoria Chandler, risingstar@ellijay.com*

Club members are assets to your club and to your community. Need ideas on membership growth and maintenance? Want to form a new club? We can help you with membership development and retention. Let's make sure that everyone interested in joining a garden club has one to join.

## **Garden Activity Centers**

*Maggie Burns, ATLROB2@peoplepc.com*

Garden Club Presidents, 2004 is the year to renew your registration for your garden club activity center or mini-center. Forms will be mailed in February 2004 by the State Chairman or you can prepare ahead by referring to your GCG *Guide* for the following information:

Garden Activity Center description - page 152  
Laurel District Centers registered - page 205  
Garden Center Registration form - page 343 & 344

Form does not state it but photos of your center (inside and/or outside) should accompany registration form. Photos will be used by state and district chairman. Any Laurel District garden club not registered can follow the instructions on page 152.

## Legislatoris Will See Green Feb. 24th

Mary Lovings, [marmgl@bellsouth.net](mailto:marmgl@bellsouth.net)  
Rachel Fowler, [RachelBFow@aol.com](mailto:RachelBFow@aol.com)

GCG Legislative Day at the Georgia Capitol is February 24, 2004. Club members, Club Presidents, District and State Officers and Chairmen are urged to attend this upcoming GCG event. Wear something green and assemble upstairs (3rd floor) at the north end of the Capitol at 9:30 a.m.

Parking near the Capitol is limited, so carpool or ride MARTA to the Georgia State Station and walk to the Gold Dome.

If you do not know the names of your state Legislators, go to [www.sos.state.ga.us](http://www.sos.state.ga.us) and click on "Elections" and then under that, "Poll Locator" and enter pertinent information. Appropriate District numbers will appear. Click on the item you want information for; district numbers and names of your elected representation, many with email addresses. Legislative Day will be an excellent opportunity to meet and greet those who represent you and let them know your opinion on the environmental issues.

## Calendars = Scholarships

Kathy Hawthorne 770-534-8864, [Khawth1974@aol.com](mailto:Khawth1974@aol.com)

Friends, this is a special appeal, I am asking for your support to purchase our GCG annual calendar, which benefits our college scholarship program. All of the proceeds go to deserving Georgia college & university students. I would like to see EVERY member of GCG buy at least one 2004 calendar. At \$7.00 you will get a real bargain... many beautiful floral designs, and, the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped sponsor a deserving Georgia student to further their education. But hurry, a limited amount of calendars are available. I am asking that your club be a "100% club", with each member buying at least one calendar for \$7.00. Order your calendars from your District Calendar Chairman above.

## Life Memberships

Life Membership is an excellent means of honoring those who have made valuable contributions in garden club work. GCG Life membership costs \$100, while NGC Life Membership is \$200. 50% of the monies received for GCG life memberships is used to fund the GCG scholarship fund for deserving students majoring in a garden related field. Join the ranks of life members, and your name will be recorded in the permanent Life Member book displayed at the State Headquarters in Athens. Life memberships make a wonderful gift.

## Plant-4-A-Cure

Plant 4 A Cure is a project that will insure a lasting legacy for breast cancer patients by creating a mass planting of daffodils along the entrance of the State Botanical Garden in Athens. A memory book will be kept at the Garden Club of Georgia's Headquarters House with the names of those patients.

One third of the proceeds will purchase high quality daffodil bulbs, the second third will pay for planting and maintenance, and the last third will be given to breast cancer centers all over Georgia.

\$36 A DOZEN FOR BULBS TO BE PLANTED TO  
HONOR A BREAST CANCER PATIENT

OR

\$100 FOR 3 DOZEN BULBS TO BE PLANTED  
PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF 3 PATIENTS

Send checks payable to GCG Plant-4-A-Cure to:  
Marsha Webb  
1500 Spalding Drive, Atlanta, GA 30350  
770-394-3900

## -- Opportunities For Continuing Education --

### Native Plant Symposium

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia and The Garden Club of Georgia have collaborated to present a Native Plant Symposium at the State Botanical Garden in Athens, GA on January 28, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members. Bring your own lunch or order a box lunch in advance for an additional \$8. Interest in wildflowers and native plants continues to grow. Use of natives can often enhance garden fauna and flora. Knowing how to combine natives for maximum landscape value and year-round color will be emphasized. The program will include presentations on native azaleas and their companions, gardening with Georgia's wildflowers, getting the most from your natives, style and function in contextual landscape design, and wildflowers and 15 great destinations to view Georgia's natives. For further information, contact the State Botanical Garden at 706-542-6156.

### Flower Show School Course III

Laurel District will sponsor the Flower Show School's third course to be held in Rome at Coosa Country Club February 25-27, 2004. Contact Caroline Silcox at 770-534-4506 or Jane Davis at 706-235-1724 for an application. Remember, you do not have to take these courses in numerical order.

### Environmental Studies School III

Dorothy Lee 706-896-1506, [dslee@alltel.net](mailto:dslee@alltel.net)

National Garden Club's accredited Environmental Studies School, Course III, Series III will be held March 7-9, 2004 at Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA., see attached flyer for more information.

### Garden Study Course I

Garden Study Course I will be held at UGA's Experiment Station in Griffin on Monday and Tuesday, March 22 and 23. Contact Mary Green at 770-436-8248 or Kathy Anderson at 706-647-0127 for more information and an application.

## -- Dates to Remember --

Jan. 28 - Native Plant Symposium, Athens  
Feb. 1 - Final deadline for GCG Awards  
Feb. 15 - Club Presidents Report Due  
Feb. 17 - Laurel District Board Meeting, Hiawassee  
Feb. 18-22 - Southeastern Flower, Atlanta  
Feb. 20 - Georgia Arbor Day  
Feb. 24 - Legislative Day at the Capital - Wear Green  
Feb. 24-27 - Flower Show School III, Rome  
Mar. 7-9 - Environmental Studies School, Course II  
Mar. 22-23 - Garden Study Course I, Griffin  
Apr. 22-24 - GCG State Convention, Atlanta

# *Laurel District Board Meeting*

Hiawassee-England Garden Club Center  
River Street  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

The Laurel District Board Meeting will be February 17, 2004 at the Hiawassee-England Garden Club building in Hiawassee. Executive meeting will begin at 9:30 am. Board meeting to follow around 10:30 am.

Coffee with breakfast sweets will be served before 9:30. Then lunch to be served at Garden Club building.

Detach and send lunch registration form and money by February 10, 2004.

Thank You,  
Sharon Payne  
(706) 896-2337

## **Lodging:**

Holiday Inn Express (706) 896-8884  
(Be sure to ask for Garden Club discount \$55.00)

Lake Chatuge Lodge (706) 896-2523

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Enclosed \$12.00 for Lunch

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Sharon Payne  
1090 Hwy 76 W  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(706) 896-2337

## Environmental Studies School

National Garden Clubs accredited Environmental Studies School, sponsored by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and Laurel District will be held March 7-9, 2004 at Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA. All sessions will be held at BVR unless otherwise noted.

### **Sunday, March 7, 2004**

4-6 PM - Registration  
6-7 PM Arranged Dinner  
7:15 -Opening of Environmental Studies School, Course III, Series III  
Speaker: Georgia Public Service Commissioner Angela Speir

### **Monday, March 8, 2004**

8:45 AM Thought for the Day, Dr. John Kay  
Announcements  
9 AM to 10:30 AM *The Rain Forest - Lungs of the Earth*, Towns County Agent Robert Brewer  
10:45 AM Refreshment Break  
  
11 AM to 12 Noon, *An in-depth study of Acid Rain*, Dr. Paul Arnold, Biology Professor,  
Young Harris College at Young Harris College  
  
12:15 -1:30 PM - Lunch at Young Harris College Dining Room  
  
1:30 -3 PM - *Material Sources and Citizen Education* -  
Communications Director of The Clean Air Campaign Michael Halicki  
  
3:30 - 5:30 PM Nature Discovery Field Trip, Vicki Seastrom, Sr. Field Education Coordinator,  
National Wildlife Federation

### **Tuesday, March 9, 2004**

Thought for the Day, Dr. John Kay  
  
9 -10 AM - *Initiating School Programs*, Cindy Reed,  
Georgia Power's Environmental Teacher Corps Program  
10:15 AM Refreshment Break  
  
10:30-12 Noon - *Environmental Science, Pollution*,  
Suzanne Burnes, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, P2AD  
12 Noon - Lunch  
  
1-4 PM Open Book Test

Registration for the three-day course is \$40. Make check out to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and mail to Dorothy Lee, PO Box 944, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Meals are on your own with the exception of the planned dinner on Sunday evening at Brasstown Valley Resort. When making reservations at Brasstown Valley Resort, request GCG rate of \$89 per night plus tax. For information contact Dorothy Lee at [dslee@alltel.net](mailto:dslee@alltel.net)