



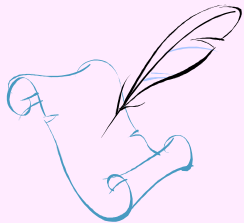
# *“Laurel Letters”*

*Winter 2008 “Touching Tomorrow”*

**Lou Ann Bleakley, Laurel District Director**

**Veronica W. Carden, Editor**

## **Laurel District Director’s Press ..From Lou Ann Bleakley’s Desk**



Dear Laurel Ladies,

What a 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Laurel District! Thanks to the Marietta Council and Chairman, Frances Kilgore, for a wonderful day. Chairmen displayed their creativity in designing their “hat with a message.” Honored guest, Sara Lanier, GCG President, brought a bundle of National Awards to present to deserving Laurel Clubs. What fun!

It seems only yesterday we left the convention in Savannah filled with ideas and excited about making plans for the year. And so we did!

You have certainly planned and implemented so many worthwhile projects and served your communities with dedication. Visiting clubs throughout Laurel, I continue to be amazed at the work you do. Thank you for inviting me to visit and participate in your activities; it is indeed an honor.

2008 will soon be history; we will welcome 2009 with enthusiasm and a determination to make a difference in our world. The future belongs to our youth, so please include them in your plans – they are our real treasures.

Make plans now to attend the State Flower Show, February 20 & 21, 2009 at Pebble Hill Plantation in

Thomasville. GCG’s State Convention, “Nature’s Palette,” will be April 14 – 16 in Atlanta.

May the coming holiday season be a joyous time for each of you and your loved ones.

Happy Holidays,

Lou Ann

## **Laurel Letters wants to Feature Youth Clubs in District**

Laurel District would like to feature a section on Youth Activities in future Laurel Letters. Please plan to send a brief report about what your Youth Club is doing and their plans for the future. Photographs would be welcomed, include identification of persons. Let everyone know that our youth is also involved and contributing to Beautification, Conservation and Education.

## **Funds Available for H4H**

We have funds in the District Treasury that are reserved for H4H projects.

There are still some funds available for Habitat for Humanity to be awarded to clubs in Laurel District. If your club is planning on landscaping, or has recently completed a H4H House, you may apply. Contact Kathy Hawthorne, Chairman, for details at: 770 534-8864 or [Khawth1974@aol.com](mailto:Khawth1974@aol.com)

## ARBORETA BOTANICAL AND MEMORIAL GARDENS

Garden Clubs are urged to support our Botanical and Memorial Gardens. Please send donations to the state chairman, Ruthellen Anderson, 427 Gold Bullion Drive East, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534. For a Certificate of Appreciation, send \$10.00 or more by March 1, 2009. Individuals may also wish to donate to this project and take a tax deduction. GCG is registered with the IRS as a 501c (3) Non-Profit Organization.

Gifts in honor and memorials are also encouraged as a wonderful way of honoring someone special.

Please enclose with your check made out to Garden Club of Georgia, and mail to: **Ruthellen Anderson,**  
**427 Gold Bullion Drive East**  
**Dawsonville, GA 30534**

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Club # \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

President's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Whom your club is honoring (If applicable)

Please send information for the *next Laurel newsletter*  
by deadline,

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

to:



**Veronica W. Carden**  
**1302 Euharlee Road, S.W.**  
**Euharlee, Georgia 30145-2861**  
**770 386-9348 or 770 386-9528 Fax**  
[vjwcarden@netscape.net](mailto:vjwcarden@netscape.net)

## GARDEN THERAPY

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
RESPONSE AT THE DISTRICT MEETING FOR OUR  
FIG LEAF PROGRAM. JOHN PAUL WAS  
DELIGHTED.

REMEMBER YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS TO:  
NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
705 DIVISION ST.  
ROME, GA 30165  
ATTENTION: JOHN PAUL BREault  
([jpbreault@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jpbreault@dhr.state.ga.us) 706-295-6709)

**SEND MONEY TO:**  
**MARGARET BALLARD**  
**GCG GARDEN THERAPY TREASURER**  
**P.O. BOX 338**  
**CORNELIA, GA 30531**

TISH REDWINE, CHAIRMAN  
LAUREL DISTRICT GARDEN THERAPY  
706-291-3902  
[fredwine2@comcast.net](mailto:fredwine2@comcast.net)

NOW MORE THAN EVER

As state budgets have been slashed, support of clients at Georgia's Regional Mental Health hospitals is more critical than ever. These clients need to be remembered throughout the year, which is where your \$25 or more contribution to Garden Therapy comes in to support garden therapy projects.

At Christmas and Easter your decorated stockings and eggs show them that we care. As ever, stockings and eggs are sent directly to the hospital of your choice in your area, or Central State in Milledgeville. ALL monies should be sent to the State Garden Therapy treasurer, Margaret Ballard, P. O. Box 338, Cornelia, GA 30531. Please indicate on the check the project you wish the money to benefit ( Garden Therapy Certificate of Appreciation - \$25, stockings, eggs, or Fig Leaf).

Margaret Ballard  
Garden Therapy Treasurer

# Help Membership Bloom!



## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC.

GEORGIANA, HOTLANTA, ATHENA? It could happen! Help get new members for GCG and we could be naming this new variety of canna! With red blooms and black foliage, it's a natural for Georgia. We already have a new club in Augusta and one soon to be federating in Marietta. Keep up the good work!

Margaret Ballard  
Membership Chairman

Increase your state membership. Participate in National Garden Club's Membership Contest June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

The state with the greatest percentage increase in membership will have a new Canna Cultivar named for its state.

This new Canna variety to be named for the winning state is 3 1/2 feet high with red/red/orange bloom and purple/black foliage. It can be grown in all states and will be made available for sale in Fall of 2009 at \$14 each from the grower, and will be available to members in the winning state as well as nationwide. Winner will be announced at 2009 Fall Board Meeting.

### Earn Your State's Claim to Fame!

### Beat the Competition

### Grow Your Membership and Win

### This Honor For Your State!

## A Big "Thank You" is in Order

Dear Laurel District,

You are the greatest! The Patron of Scholarship in my Honor by Laurel District at the 2008 Fall District meeting was the finest thing you could do for me, Laurel District and a deserving student.

*One* of the most outstanding activities that the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. does is it's scholarship program.

I am grateful for this wonderful gift.

Fondly,  
Virginia Palmer

## Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Dear Laurel Ladies,

Many thanks for the 'Pull-Tabs' delivered at the district meeting. We have so far delivered 315 lbs to Ronald McDonald Houses. Please let me know if you deliver some yourself and please weigh before delivering as they cannot do so in Dunwoody.

Ask that your donation be acknowledged to "Laurel District" and let me know so that I may inform the State Chairman.

Please continue to support this worth while project.

Helga Palframan  
Laurel District Chairman for Pull-Tabs

## Looking for History

*Laurel clubs, we need your help!* Elizabeth Neal, Laurel Districts Archivist, is gathering history from clubs in Laurel District to form our history from 1985 – 2009. If your club won State, Deep South or National awards, have district programs, have minutes from district meetings, old guides or anything that could help us piece together our history in this time frame, would you please get in touch with Elizabeth Neal. It might be a piece of the puzzle she may need. We know this is a busy time of year but if you have anything she could use call her and let her know what you have and she can tell you if it is what she needs. (She will return you originals) This is very important and requires all of our participation and quick response. Elizabeth has a short time frame in which to gather and assemble Laurels history. Please help.

Elizabeth Neal 706-291-7181

## Laurel District Host Conservation Workshop “Nurture Nature”



*Pictured Above: Lou Ann Bleakley, Laurel District Director, Sara Lanier, GCG President, Kathryn Litton, Conservation Workshop Speaker.*

Laurel District hosted The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.’s Conservation Workshop, “Nurture Nature”, November 5-6 at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center on Lake Louise, Toccoa. Director Lou Ann Bleakley opened the two-day workshop, and welcomed everyone, and special attendee GCG President Sara Lanier. Featured at the well-attended workshop were outstanding speakers in their field.

Day one was a panel of four, moderated by Co-Director Georgia Burns. Don Dye, Water/Wastewater Utility Director of the City of Toccoa, showed a map that had adequate water flow in Toccoa and Stephens County, despite the drought. Heather Turner, Georgia Power Senior Environmental Analyst, Athens Region spoke about cooling water, drinking water, firewater, making steam to produce electricity and water to power dams. She expressed a need for education on disposal of fluorescent light bulbs (CFL), and gave the website [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).



*Pictured Above: Lake Louise at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center.*

Charles Jenkins, Georgia House of Representatives, District 8, said there is a need to educate children about trash. Frank Henning, Liaison University of Georgia Extension Service and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) teaches Sediment & Soil Erosion Control. His “Water Smart” topic consisted of (1) Landscape Planning and Design, (2) The Finer Points of Landscape Design, and (3) Making the Connection: Our Landscape, Stream and Watershed. A question and answer period followed each panelist.



*Pictured Right: Duncan Hughes, Watershed Coordinator, Soque River Watershed Partnership at North Georgia Technical College, Clarksville.*

After a break Duncan Hughes, Watershed Coordinator, Soque River Watershed Partnership at North Georgia Technical College, Clarksville delivered a very interesting message on the trials of Watershed management.

Following dinner, the group roasted marshmallows and had fun making S’mores.

On day two, Dr. Gary Wade, Professor UGA Horticulture Extension Service, gave a power point presentation on, “Water Wise Gardening”. He said there are seven steps to Xeriscape: planning and design; soil analysis; appropriate plant selection; practical turf areas; efficient irrigation; uses of mulches, and appropriate maintenance. Dr. Wade said there would be a test, but it was an audience participation game modeled after the TV show, “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”, complete with



*Pictured Above: Lou Ann Bleakley, Laurel Director, Georgia Burns, Laurel Co-Director, Veronica Carden, Laurel Corresponding Secretary & Sharon Foxworthy, a new member of Three Rivers G.C. in Rome.*

music and choices like the real show. Rounding out the workshop, Kathryn Litton, Landscapes by Litton, did a slide presentation on the best drought tolerant plants for the landscape. She gave out a comprehensive list of native plants for the North Georgia gardens.

## The Crabapple Seedlings

Our junior garden club is a kindergarten class at Enota Elementary School in Gainesville, headed by teacher Mrs. Denise Wilkins. Crabapple GC is in its 5th year of sponsoring a Junior GC thru Mrs. Wilkins' classes.



*Pictured Above: The Bird Tree shown above is in the hallway.*

A bird tree with several students in front. The tree is in the hallway next to the classroom door. We talked about birds, worked on identifying local birds and cut out these bird pictures for their bird tree. They also made bird feeders out of pinecones, peanut butter and birdseed. This was in advance of October 9th, Bird Day in Georgia.



*Pictured Above: Pam Kuchler (left) and Cheryl Hinderscheid (right) who work with the students.*

Cheryl's daughter is their teacher and she allows us a lot of freedom with our different themes throughout the year.

We have also used the several year old GCG short video on anti-littering and worked on the recycling theme. Recently the students drew pictures and created short poems with the 'Nature's Song' theme for the GCG poetry contest.

## Land Trust/Marshall Forest

Boy Scout Troop #455 from Haygood Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, arrived with 20 Scouts to replace the signposts and ropes on the Braille Trail. Scoutmaster Tom Rusica and his wife Grace donated the posts for the rope and new signposts. The forest has been temporarily closed due to trail rope and all of the metal Braille signs that were stolen earlier this fall.

We are actively seeking a source to remake the Braille signs in plastic so we do not have the problem of stolen metal signs again. If you have any information or suggestions of whom to contact about making the Braille and English signs, please let me know. We would like to have them made of plastic to keep them from being vandalized again

Please forward your donations to Land Trust Marshall Forest as the new signs are extremely expensive. Malcolm Hodges, the steward from The Nature Conservancy, has promised to earmark the money from The Garden Club of Georgia for the purchase of the new signs.

A \$25.00 or more contribution will earn your club a "Deed of Gratitude." Make your check payable to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (for Land Trust/Marshall Forest) and mail to: Caroline B. Alford, Land Trust/Marshall Forest State Chairman. Guided Field Trips can be scheduled for the spring by contacting her at (706) 346-5886 (Cell) or Martha Lou Riddle at 706 234-2235.

Here is the 2008/2009 donation form for Land Trust/Marshall Forest - \$25.00

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ #0 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer's Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Check made payable to

**GARDEN CLUB of GEORGIA**

*Put Land Trust Marshall Forest on the **for** line*

*Mail to:*

*Caroline Alford, State Chairman*

*7 Pine Valley Road, SW*

*Rome, Georgia 30165-4337*

**Thank You,**

**Jayne Payne, Laurel District Chairman**

**Land Trust/Marshall Forest**

**9 Overhill Road, N.E.**

**Rome, Georgia 30161-6271**

# Lavender View Garden Club Presents It's Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker



On Sunday, November 9, 2008, on Veteran's Day Weekend, a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was dedicated in Lavender View Garden Club's garden spot located in the triangle at the intersection of Garden

Lakes Boulevard and Shoreline Drive in Rome. This spot has been maintained by the club since the late '60's. The

ceremony also commemorated Lavender View's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The club had hoped to use the large boulder in its garden spot to hold the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker. Upon further observation, it was determined



that it should be placed on a concrete monument instead of the boulder and is surrounded by seasonal plantings and evergreen shrubs. Lavender View Garden Club members feel that the marker in this highly visible area will bring awareness and honor to all veterans past, present and future.



Dedication Day was a windy day with lots of sunshine. It was attended by veterans and local people of our area.



The program began with a trumpet call to order by Mark Knauss, a Rome High School student, followed by the Presentation of

Colors by Shanklin-Attaway Post #5 American Legion led by Cmdr. Alvin Hardin. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Braden Barnes, a middle school student Boy Scout.



The Garden Lakes Elementary School Chorus sang "American the Beautiful," under the direction of Mrs. Emily Threldkeld.



(left)

Reverend Jack Karch, Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, gave the invocation.



(right)



The history of the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was presented by Mary Louise Dixon, president of the Rome Federated Garden Clubs.



(left)

The dedication speech was given by Lt. Colonel Kenny Payne, who is in his 19th year of service with the Georgia National Guard.

Lou Ann Bleakely, Director of the Laurel District (right) of The Garden Clubs of Georgia, unveiled the marker, followed by The Tribute of Flowers by

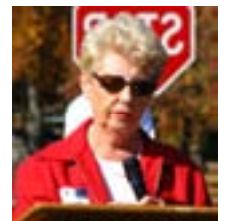


Lt. Cmdr. Hartwell Nolan, U.



S. Navy retired (left), assisted by Peggy Eason, president of the Lavender View Garden Club.

(right)



(left)

Following the ceremony, Lavender View hosted a reception for all guests at the Anthony Recreation Center. All members were actively involved in executing plans for the dedication ceremony. Adine Shepherd was chairmen of the event. Other members assisting were Suzanne Field, Ann Bradfield, Grace Brinson, Ann Harris, Shirley Muller, Marion Richards and Doris Schultz.

## Congratulations!!!!!!

Congratulations to Norcross Garden Club  
Celebrating 50 years with an open house  
November 9<sup>th</sup> at their clubhouse.

## Any Changes in Your Club????

For clubs electing *new officers* each year, please send the changes to:

Veronica W. Carden, Laurel Letters  
[vjwcarden@netscape.net](mailto:vjwcarden@netscape.net) or 770 3869348

&

Lou Ann Bleakley, District Director  
[dablab@alltel.net](mailto:dablab@alltel.net) or 706 745-7033

&

Victoria Chandler, Laurel List Server & Website  
[risingstar@ellijay.com](mailto:risingstar@ellijay.com) or 706 635-3388

&

State Headquarters (Athens)  
[gcca@uga.edu](mailto:gcca@uga.edu) or 706 227-5369

so they will receive mailings and notices.

## Looking for LAUREL LETTERS Information

**Would you like to have  
your club featured in the  
Laurel Letters? Just send  
me pictures and an  
article. We love bragging  
on your club and  
members.**

send to:  
Veronica W. Carden  
at  
[vjwcarden@netscape.net](mailto:vjwcarden@netscape.net)

## NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LAUREL DISTRICT 2007- 2008

Award # 13B Publications

3. Horticulture

[1st Aii Crabapple Garden Club, Gainesville](#)

Award #32 Conservation Award for Junior And/or  
Intermediate Garden Club

[God's Gardeners, Ellijay - \\$100.00](#)

Award #39 Litter/Recycling/Reclamation

[1st B. Rome Federated Garden Club](#)

Award #54 Environmental Education

[1st Aii Garden Club of Ellijay, Laurel District](#)

Award #55 Youth Environmental Concern Award

OVERALL WIAAER: \$25.00

[Garden Club of Ellijay, Laurel District](#)

Award #65 Junior Garden Club Horticulture Award

[B. Blairsville Junior Garden Club](#)

Award #5 Standard Flower Show

[B. The Garden Club of Ellijay](#)

[C. Hiwassee Garden Club](#)

AGC School Garden Project - Regional Winners -  
\$100.00

[Deep South - Garden Club of Ellijay, North Georgia  
Christian](#)

[Academy - Laurel District](#)

## GCG Club Scrapbooks are Due February 1, 2009

If you are entering your club scrapbook for an award,  
please check guide for rules and regulations and send it  
to arrive by February 1, 2009 to:



GCG State Scrapbook Chairman

Veronica W. Carden

1302 Euharlee Road, S.W.

Euharlee, Georgia 30145-2861

770 386-9348 Home

[vjwcarden@netscape.net](mailto:vjwcarden@netscape.net)



Good Luck and I look forward to seeing all your  
creativity, projects and programs. If you have any  
questions please don't hesitate to contact me.  
Veronica W. Carden

## Winners for “Bag a Bushel”

Bag A Bushel awards go to:

**First Place - Fleur de Lis Garden Club, Gainesville (\$100.00)**

**Second Place - Clarkesville Garden Club (\$75.00)**

**Third Place - Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Rome (\$50.00)**



*Melanie Caldwell (left) of Spade & Trowel picks up litter.*



*Vivian Strain (right) of Spade & Trowel, is working hard to clean along the highways in Rome.*



*Spade & Trowel take a load of cardboard to the recycle center in Rome.*

**The two youth clubs that received certificates for participation were –**

**Sprouts Youth Garden Club, in Euharlee  
&  
Blairsville Junior Garden Club**

Thanks to all that helped cleanup our streets, roads and communities.  
It made us all **WINNERS!**

## National Poinsettia Day

Did you know that the poinsettia has a special day all its' own? By an Act of Congress, **December 12** was set aside as **National Poinsettia Day**. The date marks the death in 1851 of Joel Roberts Poinsett, who is credited with introducing the native Mexican plant to the United States. The purpose of the day is to enjoy the beauty of this popular holiday plant. So, be sure to give someone you love a poinsettia on December 12, National Poinsettia Day!

### Here are the DO's of poinsettia care

- DO place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sun can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain.
- DO provide room temperatures between 68 - 70° F. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia.
- DO water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- DO use a large, roomy shopping bag to protect your plant when transporting it.
- DO fertilize your plant AFTER THE BLOOMING SEASON with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.

### And here are the DON'Ts of poinsettia care

- DON'T place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat. Avoid placing plants near appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts or the top of a television.
- DON'T expose plants to temperatures below 50° F. Poinsettias are sensitive to cold, so avoid placing them outside during the winter months.
- DON'T over water your plant, or allow it to sit in standing water. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering, and allow the water to drain completely.
- DON'T expose your plant to chilling winds when transporting it.
- DON'T fertilize your plant when it is in bloom.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## December 2008

- 1 Deadline for NGC and DSR award entries and some GCG awards
- 1 Felt Stockings & Fig Leaf Items to State Hospitals
- 2 North Georgia Judges Council Meeting, Bellmere, Johns Creek
- 11 Basic Design Class, Unit 3, Ellijay
- 11-12 GCG Awards Committee Meeting, Perry

## January 2009

- 12 Fulton Federation Meeting, Hastings, Atlanta
- 15 Basic Design Class, Unit 4, Ellijay
- 19 Dogwood Board Meeting, Hastings, Atlanta
- 20 Camellia Board Meeting, Cordele
- 21 Native Plant Symposium, Athens
- 22 South Georgia Judges Council Meeting, Tallahassee, Florida
- 28 Garden Club Day at Southeastern Flower Show, Cobb Galleria Centre
- 28-Feb. 1 Southeastern Flower Show, Cobb Galleria Centre
- 29 Basic Design Class, Unit 5, Ellijay

## February 2009

- 3 North Georgia Judges Council Meeting, Bellmere, Johns Creek
- 3 Oleander District Board Meeting, Savannah
- 4 Azalea District Board Meeting, Eatonton
- 5 Magnolia District Board Meeting, Oglethorpe
- 9 Redbud District Board Meeting, Atlanta
- 10 Laurel District Board Meeting, Gainesville
- 11 Basic Design Class, Unit 3, Newnan
- 18 Finance and Exec. Comm. Meeting, Thomasville
- 19 Placement of Horticulture (State Board to help with entry and placement), Pebble Hill
- 19-20 GCG State Board Meeting and Flower Show, Pebble Hill
- 20 Judging and State Board Clerks/Hostesses, Pebble Hill
- 20 Dinner and State Board Meeting, Garden Center, Thomasville
- 20 Arbor Day
- 21 Flower Show Opens, Pebble Hill, Thomasville
- 27 East Georgia Judges Council Meeting, Augusta

## March 2009

- 1 Decorated Felt Eggs & Fig Leaf Items to State Hospitals
- 9 Fulton Federation Meeting, Hastings, Atlanta
- 9-11 Flower Show School Course IV (Magnolia District), Americus
- 11 Basic Design Class, Unit 4, Newnan
- 12 Scholarship Committee Meeting, Athens
- 16-17 Garden Study Course III, Hasting's Garden Center, Atlanta
- 19 (Redbud and Dogwood Districts), Hastings, Atlanta
- 25 Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium, Tifton
- 26 South Georgia Judges Council Meeting, Fitzgerald
- 27-29 Deep South Convention, Huntsville, Ala.

*Laurel Letters*

*Veronica W. Carden, Laurel Editor  
1302 Euharlee Road, S.W.  
Euharlee, Georgia 30145-2861*

*We Wish you a Safe and Wonderful  
Holiday Season!*