



# Laurel Letters

Spring 2021

Laurel District Newsletter



District Director  
*Marie Purser*

Co-Director  
*Susan Stephens*

Recording Secretary  
*Shirley Priest*

Corresponding Secretary  
*Sue Tucker*

Treasurer  
*Edna McClellan*

Chaplain  
*Betty Jane Tilley*

Parliamentarian  
*Jackie Fulmer*

Advisors  
*John Barnett*  
*Jackie Fulmer*  
*Edna McClellan*

Hi Everyone,

Here I am performing my last official task as Laurel District Director. The last two years have flown by too fast. I have met wonderful people and learned many things about the Garden Club of Georgia and how it takes an army to work together to run such a great organization.

Although the big plans of traveling around the District were put to a stop when COVID interrupted our lives, it has been a fantastic and enjoyable experience.

Susan Stephens, the Laurel District Director for the term 2021-2023, will take over her new position on April 21, 2021. Susan has many great things planned for the District. I hope you will support her and her team as you have done for me.

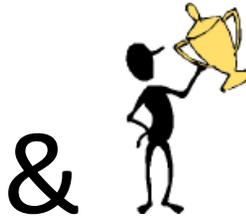
It has been my honor and pleasure to be your Director. I will remain on the Laurel Board as an Advisor and Marketing Chair. I will be on the State Board as Co Chairman for Awards so you will definitely be hearing from me. Please Continue to "Cultivate the Beauty of North Georgia" in both gardens and friendships.

Much love to all!

*Marie*

# “CULTIVATING THE BEAUTY OF NORTH GEORGIA”

The Laurel District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



## WORKSHOPS

### Marietta Educational Garden Center

505 Kennesaw Avenue, Marietta, GA 30060

Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>

Coffee 9:30 am, Workshops 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

*Social distancing and mask policies per CDC recommendations and Governor's guidelines will be observed.*

### REGISTRATION FORM

The *Leadership and Awards* workshops will be held together this year: one in the morning and the other after lunch. Registration for both workshops and lunch is \$30.00, which includes an Awards binder and Leadership handouts.

The Leadership workshop will be presented by **GCG Outgoing President Barbara Bourque** and the Awards workshop will be presented by **Dee Anne Wyse, Chairman and Marie Purser, Co-Chair of the GCG Awards Committee.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail registration by June 5<sup>th</sup>. Late registration add \$10.00** Check payable to **Laurel District**

**Mail to: Dee Anne Wyse, 37 Waterside Drive, Emerson, GA 30121**

# Ball Ground Garden Club

## Ball Ground Garden Club and the City of Ball Ground Celebrate Arbor Day!

The City of Ball Ground, Georgia has been an Arbor Day Tree City for 31 years, and it was the first city in Cherokee County to receive this title. To be a part of Arbor Day is an honor, and The Ball Ground Garden Club looks forward to the City's "Tree Planting" event each year.

Since being established in 1976, the Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to become a Tree City USA and have achieved that status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management - maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

We are honored to have two of our members, Diane Smith and Jennie Byers, as members of the City of Ball Ground Tree Board. When Arbor Day was first observed, it was celebrated with the planting of more than a million trees in the state of Nebraska. This holiday is now observed throughout the nation and the world. Although National Arbor Day is in April, each state typically celebrates Arbor Day during their regional planting season. Arbor Day in Georgia was February 19, 2021 when two October Glory Maple trees (*Acer rubrum*) were planted along Old Canton Road beside the botanical gardens.



## AMICALOLA GARDEN CLUB HAS DISCOVERED WINTER SEED SOWING

Due to the pandemic and problems arising from Covid-19, members of the Amicalola Garden Club have found it necessary to get creative with new garden ideas and techniques.

Members have discovered winter seed sowing in plastic jugs to be done in February through April of this year.

These are some of the steps to follow:

1. Collect and wash gallon milk jugs. Discard caps. This will also help in recycling of plastic.

2. Cut holes in bottom of jug for proper drainage.

3. Slice jug in half leaving the handle attached.

4. Pack 3 to 4 inches of moistened seed starting mix in bottom of jug.

5. Sow seeds (flower, herbs, or vegetables) according to package directions.

6. Label both inside and outside of jug with the plant name and date.

7. Tape the jug back together using clear or duct tape.

8. Set jugs in a sunny spot outside. Snow and rain will enter through cap hole creating a greenhouse effect. Spray with water if the jug becomes dry.

9. Once seeds have sprouted protect them from late frost by covering with blankets.

Open jugs in the spring to your amazing plants to be used in transplanting in your garden, beds, or containers. The wonderful thing about winter sowing is that in the spring, the plants will not have to be hardened off. They will already be accustomed to the outside. Also when using this method, you will not need seed trays or grow lights.

For you gardeners that want to start sowing seeds, this is an inexpensive way to have plants for yourself and to share with friends and neighbors.



Amicalola Garden Club  
Laurel District of Georgia  
Fran Cathey, Publicity



# Plant & Garden **SALE**

**Saturday, May 22, 2021**  
**8:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Lions Club Pavilion**  
**Rain or Shine**

**Huge Selection of Perennials**  
**Shrubs · Herbs**  
**Drought Tolerant Plants**  
**Container Gardens**  
**From some of the best gardens**  
**in Gilmer County**

**Plus Great Raffle Items!**

**The Garden Club of Ellijay**

**Lions Club Pavilion**  
**1729 S. Main St.**  
**(Hwy. 5 south of town)**  
**Ellijay, GA**

# Feds Fail to Protect Swamp; Now It's Up to You

## Feds Fail to Protect Swamp; Now It's Up to You

Don't Risk One of Georgia's Seven Natural Wonders: After Federal Rule Changes, Only Georgia's Leaders Now Have the Power to Stop a Dangerous Titanium Mine Near the Okefenokee Swamp

The Okefenokee Swamp, one of Georgia's seven natural wonders, the largest blackwater swamp in North America, and a wetland of international importance, is threatened by a proposed titanium mine.

That threat recently became more pronounced when the federal government changed rules in the Clean Water Act that allows Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, an Alabama mining company with a poor track record of environmental stewardship, to proceed with its 600-acre heavy mineral sand mine without any federal oversight.

Now only the state of Georgia can ensure that the Okefenokee will not be harmed by this and other mines that might follow. The proposed mine sits next to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Charlton County. The company proposes digging 50-foot deep trenches in Trail Ridge, the very rise of land that helps regulate water levels in the swamp. These excavations would extend below the water table of the swamp and could alter water levels in the swamp.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has written that, "should impacts occur, they may not be able to be reversed, repaired or mitigated for."

At risk is one of the last self-contained, naturally functioning wetlands left on Earth. Among the most visited National Wildlife Refuges in the country, the Okefenokee hosts some 600,000 people annually who help create more than 750 local jobs and a total annual economic output of \$64.7 million in the four counties surrounding the swamp.

With the federal agencies abandoning science and public input, we now must depend on Georgia's leaders to do the right thing. Ask Governor Brian Kemp to save the swamp from this dangerous proposal, and encourage him to request a study to determine how the Okefenokee Swamp could be impacted by mining along Trail Ridge. You may also mail Gov. Kemp a letter to 206 Washington Street, Suite 203, State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

# Help Fight Mosquitoes

Put any of these plants in your garden or on your patio this summer. Mosquitoes absolutely hate them!



Lemon Thyme



Lavender



Lemon Balm



Basil



Lemongrass



Catnip



Rosemary



Garlic



Marigolds

# Land Trust/Marshall Forest

February 18, 2021

**Caroline Alford**  
**Land Trust/Marshall Forest**

Marshall Forest has had more visitors this fall and winter. Many people are walking the trails on a daily basis and enjoying the new ropes, signs, and trail improvements. With social distancing still required, many more people are looking for places to be outside and safely enjoy the out of doors.

The following maintenance needs have been met this fall and winter.

- Andrew Saville, the son of a Garden Club Member, has kept the Pecan Field mowed to make the area more accessible.
- The City of Rome removed large broken branches from the pecan grove after some winter storms.
- The Fire Crew from The Nature conservancy is scheduled to do some trail maintenance and removal of invasive species during January and February.

Marshall Forest still has many things that need to be done to keep the trail well maintained and accessible to the physically impaired.

- Finish replacing the remaining guide rope posts.
- Reinstalling the guide ropes with climbing rope donated by a climbing gym in Marietta.
- Installation of crusher run gravel along the Braille Trail to provide more accessibility to the physically impaired.
- Creation of QR codes to provide trail maps, Forest information, and plant identification photos.
- Working with students at Berry College, we hope to create a video of a narrated walk through the forest.

The Nature Conservancy is working on a partnership with Berry College and Shorter University to create learning centers in the Pecan field and over to the Coosa River. The goal is to make the Marshall Forest a destination for student field trips.

Several major contributions were made over the summer to augment previous donations so that all of the posts could be ordered at the same time. Certificates for 2020 and 2021 contributions will be sent to the District Directors after the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Your contributions help us keep the Marshall Forest in good condition for visitors. Please don't forget to add Marshall Forest to your club's list of contributions. Deed of Gratitude certificates will be presented to contributors of \$25 or more to Marshall Forest by March 1 of each year. Contact Caroline Alford to schedule a tour of the forest via e-mail at [caro Boone@aol.com](mailto:caro Boone@aol.com) or by cell phone 706 346-5886.

# Magnolia Garden Club



Dee Anne Wyse presented a program on making a Resurrection Garden at March meeting..

## RESURRECTION GARDEN

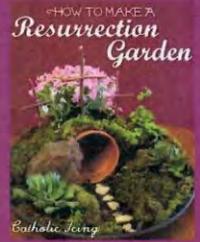
*"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 NIV*

### SUPPLIES

- Terra cotta small tray (base)
- Terra cotta mini pot (tomb)
- Small to medium stone (in front of the tomb)
- Small pebbles
- Potting soil
- Miniature plants of your choosing (2 to 3)
- Moss (either dried or fresh, small low growing)
- Small twigs and twine
- Large rocks
- Glue gun
- Spray water bottle

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place mini pot on the tray on its side and add potting soil around
2. Place large rocks around the mini tray to build up a mound
3. Continue to place soil around the mini pot to form a small hill
4. Add pebbles coming from the opening of the "tomb"
5. Place larger rock half covering the tomb opening
6. Place plants around the tomb and hill mound
7. Use twigs and twine to make 3 crosses (one larger than the other two)
8. Place crosses on the hill mound
9. Place moss on the hill mound
10. Spray plants with water bottle



Kathleen Clark, Magnolia Garden Club donates \$500 Grant to the Cass High School Horticulture program.



### Magnolia Garden Club 2021-2023 Officers

Left to Right: Kathleen Clark, Second Vice President, Anne Coultas, First Vice President, Merrell Holden, President, Barbara Bourque, GCG President, Marie Purser, Laurel District Director, Susan Stephens, Treasurer, Sandra McMillan, Parliamentarian, and Mickey Carlton, Chaplain.

*The Magnolia Garden Club—Cartersville*  
**2021 Pond and Garden Tour**  
**“Art in the Garden”**  
*Saturday, May 15 ~ 9 am - 4 pm*

**Ticket Information**

*Pre-Sale \$15 available at these  
Cartersville locations:*

- Sam Franklin’s Furniture
- Periwinkle

•Eventbrite Online Ticket Sales  
Search: 2021 Pond and Garden Tour  
“Art in the Garden”

*Day of Event \$20  
available at:  
Host sites on the Tour*

**Tour Information**



Pond & Garden Tour - Cartersville, GA

Email: [MagnoliaGC49@gmail.com](mailto:MagnoliaGC49@gmail.com)

Call: Vicki 770-547-3228

*Beautiful private  
Ponds & Gardens  
will be open for tours.*

*Plein Air Artists will be on  
site at most gardens.*



*Everyone  
Loves a  
Garden*

# Ball Ground Festival and Plant Sale

*Celebrating Ball Ground Garden Club's 70th anniversary*

**June 12, 2021**

**10am - 4pm**

*Large supply and selection of plants  
Gardening presentations  
Guided tours of our Botanical Garden  
Bake sale and Raffles  
20 local vendors (food, drink, shopping)  
Local non-profit groups*

215 Valley Street Ball Ground Ga,  
next to Ball Ground City Hall

For more information visit  
[www.ballgroundgardenclub/upcoming-events](http://www.ballgroundgardenclub/upcoming-events)

Contact [support@ballgroundgardenclub.com](mailto:support@ballgroundgardenclub.com) for questions



## Laurel District Club of the Year

Laurel District had two clubs tie for  
**Club of the Year 2019-2020**



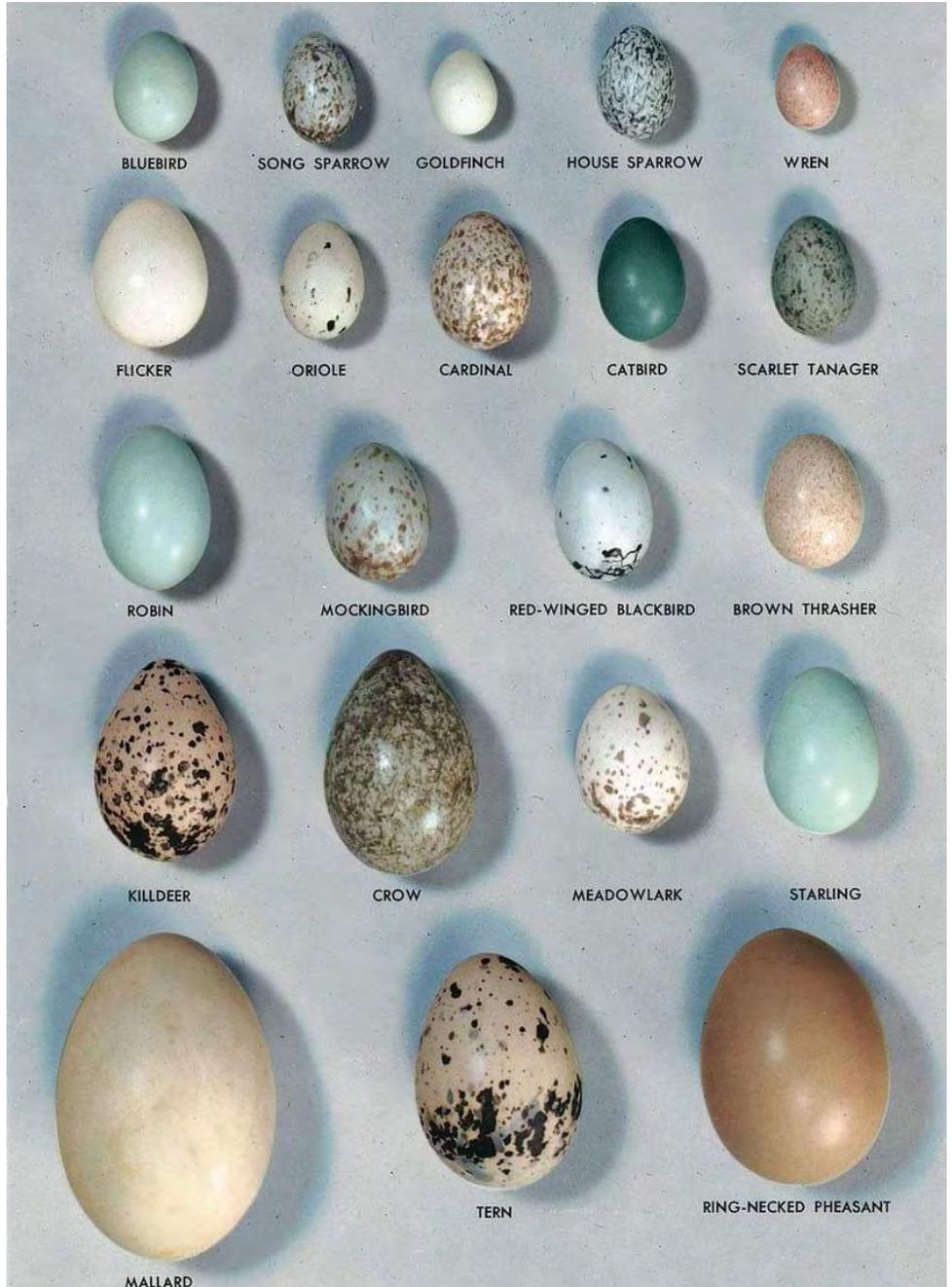
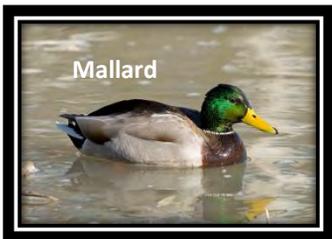
Laurel District Director Marie Purser  
presents

**Club of the Year Award**  
to Diane Myers, President of  
Hoe' n Euharlee Garden Club.

And

**Sandra McClellan, President of  
the Magnolia Garden Club.**

# Help Protect our Feathered Friends



## *A note from the Editor*



*It has been my pleasure to serve as the editor for the Laurel Letters newsletter for the past five years.*

*This past year has been challenging due to the COVID restrictions. Clubs have been creative in ways to meet and perform their community services and projects.*

*I look forward to serving as the 2021-2023 Laurel District Director.*

*Susan Stephens*

## 2021-2023 Laurel District Officers

Susan Stephens, Director

Caroline Alford, Co-Director

Cheryl Briscoe, Recording Secretary

Sheelah Schreiber, Corresponding Secretary

Dee Anne Wyse, Treasurer

Mickey Carlton, Chaplain

Edna McClellan, Parliamentarian

Marie Purser, Advisor

Edna McClellan, Advisor

John Barnett, Advisor

# Happy Spring Everyone



## Laurel Letters Schedule

**Summer Issue**

**Deadline - May 15**

**Emailed - June 1**

**Fall Issue**

**Deadline - August 25**

**Emailed - September 15**

**Winter Issue**

**Deadline - November 19**

**Emailed - December 15**

**Spring Issue**

**Deadline - February 25**

**Emailed - March 15**

**Shirley Priest will serve as the new editor of Laurel Letters.**

**Please send your club information to:**  
[sapriest2@aol.com](mailto:sapriest2@aol.com)

# the End