



# Laurel Letters

Summer 2020

Laurel District Newsletter

## *Cultivate the Beauty of North Georgia*



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,

WOW, what a crazy time we are living in. Whoever thought our everyday sentences would include social distancing, hand sanitizer, and where can I find toilet paper.

Although we cannot have our face to face, in person, garden club meetings, some clubs have managed to hold virtual meetings, garden tours, and plant swaps. Outside meetings, sitting 6 feet apart, are also being held.

Many clubs have had to cancel their yearly money making event. This is going to have a big impact. Please, if possible, when you are planning your budget for next year, don't cut back on your yearly donations; these groups are also impacted and still need your help.

This District Director expresses her sincere gratitude to Edna McClellan, Susan Stephens and all of the members of the Convention Committee for their hard work. When the event was cancelled, Edna had to "wrap things up" and Susan wrote and mailed 240 checks to reimburse attendees for their registration fees. The convention would have been great, and, though it did not take place, Laurel District is to be applauded. A great deal of work went into the planning and that cannot go unrecognized. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Our District reached the goal of selling 350 raffle tickets; therefore, we will receive \$250.00 back from The Garden Club of Georgia. Thank you to all clubs who sold their tickets and those clubs and individuals who stepped up and sold additional tickets to help meet the goal. Awesome teamwork! The drawing will be held soon.

Congratulations to the Laurel District clubs that received awards. These will be presented at the yearly District meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> in Rome. Save the date and more information will be forthcoming at a later time.

Now put on your garden clothes and sun hat and head out to the garden to work or just enjoy the beauty of nature. Hoping to see you all soon.

Stay safe!

*Marie*

"CULTIVATE THE BEAUTY OF NORTH GEORGIA"

# Magnolia Garden Club

In 2019 The Magnolia Garden Club made a donation to Euharlee Historic Society to have a flag flown to Honor Our Veteran, Beth Ward.

This Memorial Day Weekend Beth is again being honored with her flag flying in Euharlee.



## Social Distancing from the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club

*Sally Metz, Ball Ground Garden Club Publicity*

In these days of COVID-19 and social distancing, the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club has created virtual tours of members' home gardens. Since we have not been able to meet this spring, we are sharing (by social media) with our members these floral walks amid beautiful flowers. A few of the early spring photos are shared here.





*BALL GROUND (Anetsa-Ga-Da) GARDEN CLUB 's  
ANNUAL PLANT AND GARDEN ACCESSORIES SALE !*

*Saturday, June 13*

*10:00 – 4:00 or until sold out*

*Ball Ground City Hall  
215 Valley Street  
Ball Ground, Georgia*

*Guided tours of Ball Ground's own Botanical Garden*

*Memorial bricks available for purchase.*

*Proceeds benefit the beautification of Ball Ground*

SEVEN HILLS GARDEN CLUB  
SOCIAL DISTANCING

On a warm spring evening in May members of Seven Hills (Ruth Forrester, Marla Janes, and Sheelah Schreiber) along with two members of Mountain View (Caroline Alford and Sylvia Lanier) met with their mates at the home of Ansley Saville (Seven Hills) and her husband for a social distancing dinner party. Tables were placed about 10 feet apart on the patio. Each couple brought tablecloth/placemats; plates and silverware; glassware and drinks; flowers/candles; snacks; and a meal of their choice. We all enjoyed actually seeing one another and visiting while social distancing.

During our time at Ansley's we were privileged to see two healthy pawpaw trees (I had only heard of them in a childhood song). The tree is deer resistant and produces a medium size flower that develops into the largest edible fruit in the United States. The flower and fruit resemble a banana in fragrance and taste, and because of this, the pawpaw has been referred to as the "poor man's banana". Note photos of flower and emerging fruit and garden club members in front of the trees.

Ansley's yard holds many types of flora, one being a new American Chestnut. Until blight wiped out the original American Chestnut, the trees grew wild, producing bushels of edible nuts each year. The trees could reach 100 feet in height and 10 feet in diameter and were prized for their wood. Stretching from Georgia and Alabama to Michigan, they numbered in the billions. Though their demise began in the 1800's, the 20th century brought a devastating blight. The *American Chestnut Foundation* in partnership with the Forest Service has endeavored to breed a blight-resistant variety to replace the lost original variety. Dr. Martin Cipolini of Berry College has been a leader in this project. In 2015-2016 Berry encouraged individuals to allow Dr. Cipolini and students to come and plant new seeds - that came from a hybridization process with Chinese Chestnut trees - on their property. Today Ansley has four, healthy, ten-foot chestnut trees growing in her yard. Our educational garden tour was the perfect end to a delightful evening with friends.

Sheelah Schreiber, Seven Hills GC



Flower with tiny emerging fruit.



Beautiful Table Arrangements.



New American Chestnut Trees



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL LAUREL DISTRICT CLUBS

Award Certificates will be presented at  
the **Laurel District Annual Meeting** on October 5, 2020, in Rome.

### DEEP SOUTH AWARDS

Special Achievement Council - 1st place - **Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc, Rome**  
Special Achievement, Small Club, Honorable Mention, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
Tree Planting, Council, 1st Place, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**

### THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. AWARDS

*#6 Tree Award, Council*, 1st Place, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**  
*Special Achievement, Small Club*, 2nd Place **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
*Award #7 Special Achievement, Council*, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**  
*#10 Garden Therapy A, Small Club*, 2nd Place, **Cumming Garden Club**  
*#10 Garden Therapy A, Small Club*, 3rd Place, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
*#13 Civic Improvement, Small Club* 2nd Place, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
*#16 Yearbook, Under 20 members*, 1st Place, **Camellia Garden Club**  
*#16 Yearbook, Under 20 members*, Honorable Mention, **Spade & Trowel Garden Club**  
*#16 Yearbook, 20-29 Members*, 2nd Place, **Three Rivers Garden Club**  
*#16 Yearbook, 20-29 Members*, 3rd Place, **Cumming Garden Club**  
*#16 Yearbook, 20-29 Members*, Honorable Mention, **Townview Garden Club**  
*#16 Yearbook, 30-44 Members*, 2nd Place, **Mountain View Garden Club**  
*#20 History, Medium Club*, 1st Place, **Ballground Garden Club**  
*#20 History, Medium Club*, 2nd Place, **Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville**  
*#25 Scrapbook-Traditional, 20-29 Members*, 2nd Place, **Amicalola Garden Club**  
*#23 Flower Show Schedule, 36-50 Members*, 1st Place, **Hiawassee Garden Club**  
*#25 Scrapbook- Traditional, 30-44 Members*, 1st Place, **Hiawassee Garden Club**  
*#26 A Poem by Adults for Adults, Glenda Thompson, "Be Still"*, **Trayletaah Garden Club, Canton**  
*#26 A Poem by Adults for Adults, Cynthia Dianne Myers, "Old Dandelions"*, **Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden Club**  
*#37 Publications -Newsletter, 2-12 pages, Small Club*, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
*#37 Publications- Newsletter, 2-12 pages, Council*, 2nd Place, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**  
*#37 Publications- Membership Brochure, Small Club*, 2nd Place, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**

## AWARDS continued...

- #40 *Gardens for the Challenged*, Small Club, 1st Place, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
#44 *A Flower Show Staging*, 1st Place, **Hiawassee Garden Club**  
#45 *A 2 Flower Show Staged in Public Building*, 1st Place, **Hiawassee Garden Club**  
#47 *DVD/CED/PowerPoint/Flash Drive*, Small Club, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, **Cumming Garden Club**  
#49 *Holiday Decorations*, Small Club, Honorable Mention, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
#53 *Website, Inaugural Award Year*, Small Club, 1st Place, **Cumming Garden Club**  
#53 *Website, Council*, 1st Place, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**  
#53 *Best Website*, **Cumming Garden Club** (shared winner with **The Landings GC in Oleander District**)  
#53 *Social Media, Medium Club*, 2nd Place, **Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville**  
#57 *J-1 Junior/Intermediate Activities, Medium Club*, 2nd Place, **Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville, GA**  
#57 *J-3 Civic Beautification, Small Club*, 2nd Place, **Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden Club with Sprouts Junior Garden Club**  
#60 *Garden Week in Georgia, Medium Club*, 2nd Place, **Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville**  
#60 *Garden Week in Georgia, Medium Club*, Honorable Mention, **Ball Ground Garden Club**  
#61 *Arbor Day, Small Club*, 2nd Place, **Townview Garden Club, Rome**  
#61 *Arbor Day, Council*, **Rome Federated Garden Clubs**

## Congratulations to LAUREL DISTRICT AND OUR CHAIRMAN, DR. JOHN BARNETT

We could not have done it without the help of all of you. Certificates are in the mail for the winners.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** winner for both the Tabs and Cans is **LAUREL DISTRICT!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** winner for the Tabs is **OLEANDER DISTRICT!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** winner for the Tabs is **AZALEA DISTRICT!**

### TOTAL TABS COLLECTED 2019 - 2020

#### Spring 2020 Report

DISTRICT	WEIGHT-pounds
1 Laurel	361
2 Oleander	293
3 Azalea	194.8
4 Magnolia	154.2
5 Camellia	79.4
6 Redbud	50
7 Dogwood	23
TOTAL	<u>1,155.4</u>



### TOTAL CANS COLLECTED

**Laurel** 452

## AMICALOLA GARDEN CLUB

Victory Gardens are not a thing of the past anymore due to the COVID-19 Virus

Unexpected times call for society to adapt! - Victory Gardens from the past have emerged! When COVID 19 Virus hit the US, members of the Amicalola Garden Club put on their gloves, picked up their shovels, and started GROWING. They handled their shelter in place in different ways - working in their gardens, and, with the uncertainty of fresh food availability or possible higher prices, they created new raised garden beds.

Some planted raised beds with vegetables and herbs. Some planted vegetables in their flower gardens alongside the flowers. This ensured that they would have safe and abundant food - food to eat or food to can. Some photos are attached of the raised bed gardens - some from last year and some newly established ones.

Who knows how this epidemic will end or when. ADAPTING TO THIS SITUATION IS A MUST. If there is a silver lining to this virus, it is that it made its debut in the Spring amid beautiful flowers and bountiful harvest - evidence of God's promise to us. As we all have been forced to slow down, everyone has had time to reflect on matters of life. Members use their time to reflect on those people (relatives or strangers) before them who planted those flowers that they are now enjoying. These flowers have helped memories stay alive.

We all handle our quiet time in various ways, but being surrounded by family, home, and nature bring us a sense of peace and comfort. Through all of this, we were not afraid to share and help each other. We check on family and friends with a phonel call. Enjoyment of natures's outdoor beauty is the gardener's common connection. I brings peace and joy to all who view it.



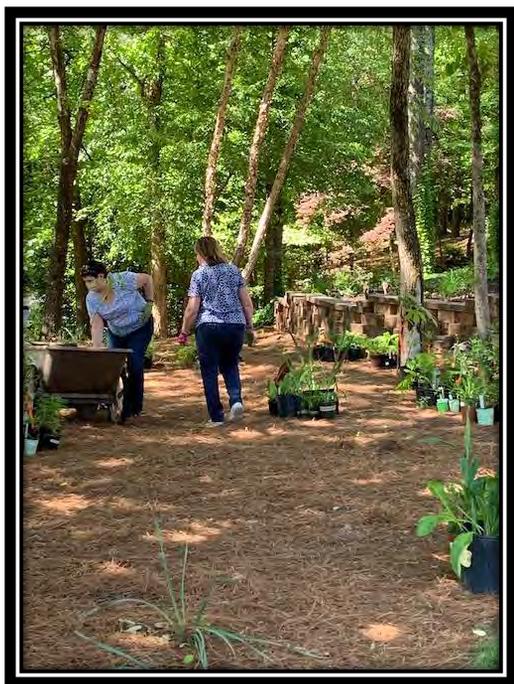
## THE VIRUS PLANT SWAP

Due to the arrival of the coronavirus, **Sope Creek Garden Club's** Spring biennial plant sale has been changed to a club members plant swap. Since preparation began months ago with plants being potted for the sale, plans had to change.

The committee of Joan Cotter, Bridget Horgan, and Teresa Murray set up the swap guidelines for members to send in the names of the plants they each had available, and a final list of over 400 plants was sent to each Sope Creek Garden Club member. The notices that were sent contained colorful graphics to keep participants' interests on alert. On a set date, the members compiled a list of their top 6 choices; they could add more later if available. One home was designated for the plant delivery and pickup. Working behind the scenes, the swap committee grouped each member's requested plants. Blessed with a beautiful sunny day, the drivers arrived, popped their trunks and left after their chosen plants were loaded.

This amazing first time event for our club has created many smiles and warm hearts as plants found new homes. Digging in the dirt in this Spring of the 'Virus' will always be remembered as a special event in our club's history.

Sope Creek Garden Club  
Co-Presidents  
Joan Archer  
Marcia Keiter



# Magnolia Garden Club

One of our favorite projects is maintaining Laura's Garden which is located on the historic Sam Jones home site in Cartersville. Members of the Magnolia Garden Club maintained social distancing and worked tirelessly in Laura's Garden. The site is a popular spot for wedding photos.



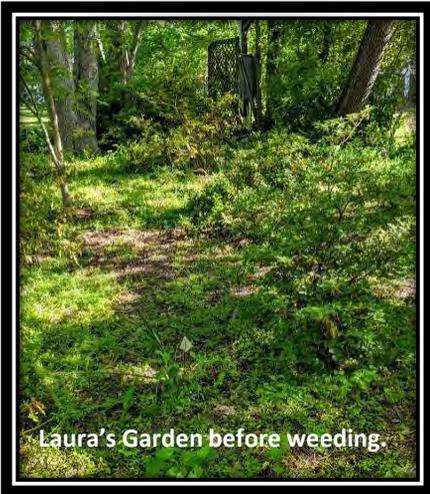
Becky Mentesti



Bench dedicated to Laura's Cottage Garden by the Magnolia Garden Club in 2003.



Vicki Jones flagging new shrubbery.



Laura's Garden before weeding.



Piles of limbs and shrubs.



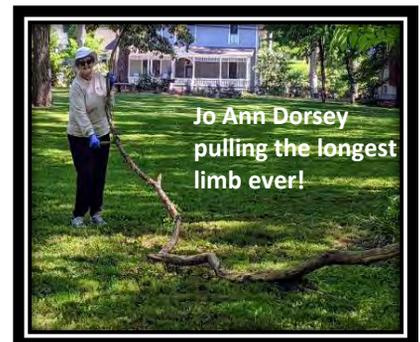
After



New Camellias



3 New Emerald Green Arborvitae



Jo Ann Dorsey pulling the longest limb ever!



Dear GCG Members,

There has been another series of emails requesting you to buy gift cards for VA homes and to help Corona Virus patients. It says that I will reimburse you. They are using this COVID situation as another messaging method - and it sounds very convincing. It did not come from me. It is not my email address.

**THIS IS A SCAM**

**NEVER NEVER NEVER** buy gift cards for anyone else. If GCG is going to make a donation to a good cause - we write a check and mail it to the organization. We do not give gift cards.

If you receive an email like that, delete immediately. Don't reply.

Please share this information with your club members. We don't want anyone to be ripped off & fooled by scammers.

*Barbara*

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**Please stay safe.  
This too will pass.**

**The End**