



# Laurel Letters

Winter2019

Laurel District Newsletter



District Director  
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*John Barnett*  
*Jackie Fulmer*  
*Edna McClellan*

## *Cultivate the Beauty of North Georgia*

Hello to everyone,

WOW, what a busy fall it was starting with the State Board Meeting in Athens, followed by seven district meetings in seven cities in two weeks. So busy, but so much fun. That is how the holidays are; so busy, that sometimes the real meaning of the season gets buried in the fun. This is the time that we need to make New Year's resolutions. Hopefully, one of those resolutions will be to get more involved in garden club.

As you know, Laurel District will host the Garden Club of Georgia convention in Macon March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. I hope many of you will plan to attend. More information and the registration form are in the Garden Gateways and also can be found in this newsletter.

Please remember to get your President's Reports in me February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The report was revised this year, so go over it very carefully and get the recognition that your club deserves. All clubs should have received their tickets for the Garden Club of Georgia raffle. You are not required to sell the tickets, but your involvement is appreciated. This is the fundraiser for the Scholarships since calendars are not being sold. I understand that many of you do scholarships in your own area, but not all clubs have the means to do this. Therefore, please buy a ticket and help out some of the students that are not sponsored. All ticket stubs and money should be mailed in to our District Scholarship Chairperson per the instructions in the letter that each club received with their tickets. If you want more tickets, they are available. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

The next Laurel District board meeting will be held in Marietta on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All Presidents and Board Members are asked to attend if possible. You will get a lot of important information to share with your club.

Please remember that Landscape Design Course III and Basic Design I classes sponsored by our District will be offered this quarter. Classes are open to all garden club members. So be sure to sign up early to ensure a spot in the classes that you would like to attend.

Capitol Conservation Day will be February 26, 2020. Everyone is invited to attend and hear about important legislation that will be presented. Watch for more information. As always, go out and share your love of gardening with others, cultivate new members for your regular and youth club, and share the beauty of North Georgia.

This Director wishes each of you a very happy and safe holiday season.

*Marie*

Marie Purser, Laurel District Director

"CULTIVATE THE BEAUTY OF NORTH GEORGIA" (IN BOTH FLOWERS AND FRIENDSHIPS)



**BASIC DESIGN I CLASSES**  
SPONSORED BY CREATIVE STUDY CLUB

**THIS SERIES OF FIVE DAY LONG CLASSES COVERS  
VARIOUS AREAS OF BASIC FLOWER ARRANGING  
CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 15 STUDENTS**

**THE COST FOR THE COURSE IS \$150**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER**

**CONTACT EDNA McCLELLAN [ednamae@ellijay.com](mailto:ednamae@ellijay.com)**

**706-889-1230**

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE  
MARIETTA GARDEN AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER  
505 Kennesaw Ave, Marietta, GA 30060**

**CLASSES AND DATES**

<b>January 29, 2020</b>	<b>Oriental, Line and Line Mass</b>
<b>February 26, 2020</b>	<b>Mass Floral and Mass Foliage</b>
<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>Table Designs</b>
<b>April 23, 2020</b>	<b>Wreaths &amp; Designs with Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b>
<b>May 27, 2020</b>	<b>Petite and Creative Designs</b>

**Classes are from 10 a.m to 3 p.m.**

**Don't miss this fun and educational course  
reserve your spot NOW!**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL**  
**COURSE 3 & 4**  
**TO BE OFFERED IN ROME, GEORGIA**

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. will be offering the Landscape Design School Course 3 and 4 in Rome, Georgia at the ECO Center. Dates for the schools are **February 12-13, 2020** and **April 28-29, 2020**. Each two-day school will be *\$100.00 and it includes breakfast bar, snacks and lunch for each day.*

Landscape Design Schools offer a series of four 10-hour courses. The courses cover learning about our ecosystem, the principles and elements of landscape design, the landscape design process, the history of landscape design and designing for the environment, and many other topics.

Since its founding in 1958, professional instructors have maintained the high standards originally incorporated in the study program. In addition to acquiring the tools for making their own gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain, students have been motivated to serve in political decision-making areas where awareness of the impact of a well-designed landscape can enhance the beauty and enjoyment of life in the public arena.

The courses are intended primarily for garden club members but are open to the general public. They may be sponsored by member clubs, groups of clubs, councils, districts and state garden clubs. Garden club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of NGC Landscape Design Consultant. To maintain Consultant status, continuing education is required. Single-subject and Multiple Refreshers provide advanced study opportunities and the occasion to interface with other Consultants. Participation in Consultant Councils is encouraged as one means of using the knowledge gained from this educational program.

**More information and Registration Form is available at**  
**[www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com](http://www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com) under the “News” tab.**

Chairwoman is Jo Hernandez ([jelaynejewelry@comcast.net](mailto:jelaynejewelry@comcast.net))

Caroline Alford is the Treasurer.



**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

**Cordially Invites You to**

**The 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**

**Blossoming in Macon**

**Wednesday and Thursday**

**March 25 and 26, 2020**

**Macon Marriott City Center**

**Please join us in Macon on the eve of the famous  
Cherry Blossom Festival  
which begins on Friday, March 27, 2020**

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**The meeting will feature two presentations:**

- *Ikebana* by Elaine Flanagan and Jho-Ju Tu
- *Cherry Blossom Time In Macon* by Jan Thiese and Susi Keller, former Cherry Blossom Senior Queens

**Enjoy many other activities, including a vendor market,  
a luncheon, and an awards dinner**

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**Proudly hosted by the Laurel District  
Welcome to all Georgia Garden Clubs and  
their members**

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. • 92nd Annual Meeting

# Blooming in Macon • March 25-26, 2020

The Macon Marriott City Center welcomes The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 - Phone 478-621-5300

**Official Registration Form • Registration Deadline: March 9, 2020**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w/area code) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

*\*All GCG Board Members, all GCG Life Members and one member from each club are Voting Delegates; please check Voting Delegate box if applicable.*

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President                       | <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> My first GCG Convention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President      | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Voting Delegate                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President                        | <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member     | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member      | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member    |

**THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REGISTER (please check one):**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PACKAGE PLAN</b> includes registration fee, Awards Banquet and Life Member Luncheon (Open to all members).
<b>PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL</b> ..... \$98.00    \$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PART-TIME PLAN</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Banquet ..... \$55.00    \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member and Recognition Luncheon (Open to all members)..... \$30.00    \$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE ..... \$15.00    \$ _____
<b>PART-TIME PLAN TOTAL</b> ..... \$ _____

**TOTAL REGISTRATION COSTS** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Registration Fee** ..... (Postmarked after March 9, 2020 include \$15.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: **GCG 2020 CONVENTION**

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Susan Stephens, 527 Waterford Dr., Cartersville, GA 30120

sstep47151@aol.com, 770-547-4026

**No Refunds After March 14, 2020 - Registration Fee Not Refundable**

## Help Promote the 2019 Dirty Dozen!



**GEORGIA  
WATER  
COALITION**

The Georgia Water Coalition's ninth annual Dirty Dozen report was released this morning, highlighting the politics, policies and pollution problems that currently threaten Georgia's water.

Please help publicize this report by sharing it with your members and through your social media platforms and by contacting local news media.

### The dozen issues span the state and include:

- **Altamaha River:** Rayonier Advanced Materials chemical pulp mill in Jesup makes record seventh appearance in Dirty Dozen report.
- **Chattahoochee River:** Georgia Power Company determines "safe" coal ash cleanup plans for power plants in Cobb, Coweta and Carroll counties while Georgia leaders are idle on stronger requirements.
- **Coosa River:** Suspect coal ash disposal plan threatens river and groundwater.
- **Georgia's Headwater Streams:** Rollback to federal environmental rules endanger national forests, the birthplaces of Georgia's drinking water sources.
- **Georgia's Public Health:** Legislative budget writers continue stealing from environmental funds and delay hazardous waste cleanups.
- **Georgia's Rural Communities:** Proposed legislation would stomp on rural property rights and welcome industrial agriculture—and its pollution—to Georgia.
- **Lake Lanier:** Chronic pollution at private sewage treatment plant highlights state's failure to enforce clean water standards.
- **Ocmulgee River:** Coal ash ponds pollute drinking water in Monroe and Macon-Bibb counties.
- **Okefenokee Swamp:** Proposed 2,400-acre titanium mine threatens signature landscape of Georgia.
- **St. Mary's River:** Legislative loophole invites out-of-state toxic coal ash to Georgia landfills, including one in Charlton County
- **St. Simons Sound:** Cargo ship disaster fouls marshes and beaches
- **Terry Creek:** Proposed federal cleanup plan for toxic site in Brunswick leave locals fuming.



[Click here to read and share the full report.](#)

[Click here to download and share the media toolkit.](#)



## **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

Dear Garden Club Members, family and friends:

We have exciting news to share and hope you will participate and help us spread the word. Please feel free to forward this email to others and encourage your family and friends to search our assigned listing "**The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.**" when they shop with Amazon.

### **Support the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarships Fundraising through the AmazonSmile Program.**



#### **You shop. Amazon gives.**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Your shopping will provide Scholarships support from **The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.**  
Start shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-0706724>

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. provides scholarships to eligible students majoring in garden and environmental related fields of study enrolled in accredited Georgia Colleges and Universities.

For information, including scholarships application, visit our website at

<http://gardenclub.uga.edu/scholarships.html>

Your contribution to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. through the AmazonSmile program benefits these deserving students. Their mission is the same as ours: *Beautification, Conservation and Education*. Thank you for designating **The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.** as your charitable organization! For further scholarships information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman [glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)



The Garden Club of Georgia is a member of the Georgia Water Coalition - a group of more than 165 organizations in the state whose members are on both sides of the aisle - all dedicated to keeping our waterways clean for recreation/ fishing/wildlife and drinking water free from pollutants. Each year the GWC puts out a list of 12 serious offenders, and a list of 13 entities/individuals that are to be commended for their efforts to improve water quality. Click here for Clean 13 info: <https://www.gawater.org/clean-13> and congratulate them for a job well done.

The just released list of the Dirty Dozen 2019 is below. Especially if any of these offenders are in your area - express your concern to your local officials and others in your communities. The proper disposal /storage of coal ash continues to be a topic of serious discussion throughout the state. Working together we can accomplish a lot to bring about improved water quality for Georgia. Feel free to contact me or Tally Sweat <[tsweat06@parksprings.net](mailto:tsweat06@parksprings.net)> our GCG Legislative Chairman, if you would like additional details on any matters coming up in this next legislative session. Tally will keep us posted as issues develop.

## Protect Okefenokee



The future of Okefenokee Swamp is at risk. Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, a mining company based in Alabama, is seeking permission to operate a heavy mineral sand mine adjacent to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Twin Pines' mine is sited dangerously close to the refuge and could permanently alter the swamp. To date, Twin Pines, LLC has provided little to no assurance that their mining operation will not negatively impact the swamp and refuge.

Okefenokee is the largest blackwater swamp in North America, and is considered one of the world's largest intact freshwater ecosystems. The swamp, designated a National Wildlife Refuge in 1937, is located in Southeast Georgia. 600,000 visitors come to the refuge annually and 750 local jobs are supported by activities at the refuge. We cannot let short-term private gain jeopardize the long-term health of this natural resource.

**Help us stop this poorly planned operation by emailing our elected officials today!**

# Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club

Tammy Brinkley, member and former president of Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club of Ball Ground presented an informative program at the November meeting on "Nurturing Natural Beauty for the Holidays." She created and designed many beautiful arrangements and wreaths from natural and common materials such as dried flowers, gourds, grasses, acorns, berries, pine cones and more. It was enjoyed by all and provided decorative ideas for the holidays.

Sally Eubanks  
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404-376-0358



## GCG NATURE CONSERVANCY RECOGNIZES CARSON GARRETT



*Since the inception of the Eagle Scout rank in 1911 over 2.5 million scouts, representing only 4% of all scouts, have earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. To achieve this award a scout must first be active in a troop for at least six months as a Life Scout. He must earn a total of 21 merit badges, show scouting spirit, demonstrate his leadership and commitment. Scouting is preparing the young man for life experiences he may encounter.*



*The most difficult and time consuming aspect of the award is fulfillment of the Eagle Scout Project. Carson Garrett, son of Seven Hills Garden Club member Susie Garrett and her husband Casey, completed his project between July 2018 and June 2019. Every part of the project had to be planned, documented, coordinated, and finally executed. Lastly, there is a board of review.*

*Eagle Scout projects must benefit the Community or other organizations outside of BSA. After much research and thought Carson chose to make improvements to the Big Pine Braille Trail in Marshall Forest located in Rome, Georgia. Several things needed to be addressed. But his choice was to replace the 15 deteriorating signs along the trail. With help and guidance from Marc Weed, who works with Marshall Forest, Carson submitted his project for approvals from all the necessary groups. He started his workbook and headed off to survey the project area and decide what materials would be needed. A plastic-infused, weather-resistant wood was chosen to provide a stronger material that would not rot in the damp elements. Materials arrived on March 12, 2019.*

*Now the actual labor - choose a post design, check dimensions, get additional materials - screws, concrete, tools, etc. Total cost - \$1,864.97 - paid by The Nature Conservancy from funds donated by Garden Club of Georgia Garden Clubs to benefit Marshall Forest. On April 6th the signs took shape as Mr Weed, Carson, and his father assembled all 15 signs and began cutting the posts. By May 23rd all the signs were completely assembled and ready for installation.*

*Final step -announce the project to the troop; choose a work day (June 26) to install signs; set up a time schedule for workers; gather all necessary tools, snacks, and water. Thirteen boys from Troop 113 plus one scout's cousin, and 3 adults arrived to help. Digging out the old posts and setting new ones required hard labor; but with so many helpers the project was finished in 3 hours (2 hours less than anticipated). SUCCESS!*



*The Braille Trail in Marshall Forest is an important part of*

the Forest because it allows the area to be accessible to the visually impaired who lack the ability to see the beauty of their surroundings. The rope next to the trail guides visitors and the signs, written in Braille and English, provide information and education about the flora nearby. The improvements made by Carson Garrett will have an impact on all visitors. His Eagle Scout Project is truly appreciated by both Rome residents and visitors.

**NOTE:** The Robert Weed Memorial Walk in the Forest will take place October 11 at 2pm. Carson Garrett and Boy Scouts of Troop 113 will be recognized. Dr. Martin Cipollini of Berry College will speak and lead a tour of the forest.

#### Additional Forest updates:

The Fire Crew from the Nature Conservancy removed invasive species and fire hazards throughout the Forest. Several tours of the Forest were conducted during spring and early summer.

The City of Rome Public Works Department worked with Georgia Power to facilitate the installation of a streetlight across from the entrance of the Forest parking lot. The City of Rome paid for installation and will cover future bills.

On their community workday, Berry College freshmen worked removing invasive species around the trails. Owen Kinney, head of the Science Department at Darlington, and Dr. Brian Campbell, head of Environmental Science Studies at Berry, have been contacted to find ways to involve their students in studying the forest. Planning by Katie Owens, Caroline Alford, and Ansley Saville for the September 2020 Georgia Historic Preservation Ramble in Rome is underway. Marshall Forest is one of the featured destinations.

#### Forest needs:

New composite posts and guide ropes for the Big Pine Braille Trail.

New signs to replace damaged and missing signs: need to ordered.

Additional gravel along trails for easier walking and accessibility for all.

QR codes to give background information about the Forest and trail maps for use of visitors to the Forest, are one of the goals for the coming year.

Your contributions help us keep Marshall Forest in good condition for visitors. Please remember to add Marshall Forest to your club's list of contributions. Deed of Gratitude certificates will be presented to contributors of \$25 or more (by March 1, 2020) at the March Convention.

If your garden club or any other group is interested in touring the Forest please contact Caroline Alford via email at [caroboone@aol.com](mailto:caroboone@aol.com) or by cell 706-346-5886.

Caroline Alford, Land Trust/Marshall Forest  
Sheelah Schreiber, Seven Hills Garden Club



# SAVE THE DATE

For The Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser  
Presented by Dogwood District

MAY 2, 2020 | 10:00AM - 5:00PM

## "Mansions in a Mill Town"

A tour of Roswell's Historic Homes, Gardens, Cemeteries and More

### BARRINGTON HALL



### MIMOSA HALL



### BULLOCK HALL



### CEMETERY TOURS

OLD ROSWELL CEMETERY

FOUNDERS CEMETERY

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

### SMITH PLANTATION



### ACTIVITIES

PERIOD CLOTHING DISPLAYS

SEEKING EDEN

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

# Magnolia Garden Club



The Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville celebrated Christmas lunch at the Adairsville Inn. Each year members bring unwrapped toys to donate to the Bartow Christmas. This year 30 toys were donated.



The Magnolia Garden Club's Junior Garden Club members at Hamilton Crossing Elementary School learn how to make fresh wreaths and garlands

The Magnolia Garden Club sponsors Hamilton Crossing School Jr Garden Club. They planted fall veggies, created a jack o lantern and enjoyed pumpkin treats. The club meets all during the school term. Member Kathleen Clark, former teacher, is seen working with the children.



\$500 Program Grants were presented to Cass High School and Adairsville High School. Susan Stephens, Treasurer and Marcia Humphreys, Scholarship Chair presented checks to the instructors.

# MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



SPECIAL

**Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District, Georgia Garden Club, Inc. was presented the Certificate of Commendation for First Place Award for National Garden Week. This recognition was chosen among nationwide participants for the club's efforts with George Washington Carver Park. Pictured is Vicki Jones, Bonnie Floyd and Sandra McMillan. Floyd is the longest active member of Magnolia Garden club, joining in 1982, and is the committee chairman of National Garden Week. Jones was president from 2015 to 2019 and McMillan is the current president.**

# Hoe n' Euharlee

We had a basket auction in early October where we raised \$400 to help with patient expenses for the Hope Center in Cartersville.

Members worked at the **Emmie Nelson Library** in Euharlee cleaning out dead flowers, deadheading plants and cleaning up our garden spot.

Linda Craft, Chairwoman

## HOE'N IN EUHARLEE GARDEN CLUB DONATES TO HOPE CENTER



**SPECIAL**  
Members of the Hoe'n In Euharlee Garden Club presented the Hope Center a check for \$400 on Oct. 23. The club holds a basket auction each year and proceeds are donated to the Hope Center. Pictured are, front row, Leigh Akay and Michelle Perry; and back row, Dianne Myers, Dot Brett, Deb Hearn, Roxanne Miles, Sue Cox, Marie Purser and Melissa Gay.

"Sprouts" jr. garden club was hard at work on Tuesday at TES cleaning the garden and pond spot getting it ready for winter. Good job kids.



The Sprouts Jr. Garden Club at Taylorsville Elementary School pruned plants and raked the garden pond spot at their school. Meetings are every Tuesday. Recently, they planted 36 pansies. The Sprouts are fourth and fifth graders.



Sprout members made Christmas ornaments for the teachers.



Decorating for the Good Shepherd Christmas Dinner in October, three members of the club: Marie Purser, Betty Jane Tilley and Dianne Myers attended the annual District Meeting in Dahlonega.

Submitted by Dianne Myers



HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
MAZEL TOV  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
HAPPY HANUKKAH  
SEASON'S  
GREETINGS  
HAPPY KWANZAA  
PEACE  
ON EARTH  
AND GOODWILL  
TOWARDS ALL



**The End**