



Laurel Letters

Spring 2020

Laurel District Newsletter

Cultivate the Beauty of North Georgia



District Director
Marie Purser

Co-Director
Susan Stephens

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Shirley Priest

Corresponding Secretary
Sue Tucker

Treasurer
Edna McClellan

Chaplain
Betty Jane Tilley

Parliamentarian
Jackie Fulmer

Advisors
John Barnett
Jackie Fulmer
Edna McClellan

As I sit here finishing up the President's Reports report, this director is in Awe!! The clubs in Laurel District have outdone themselves again. There are 13 clubs with 30 or more points, thereby making them eligible for the "Standard of Excellence" award. After recounting the checks on the reports, this Director feels that maybe a class on how to fill them out would be good. Many of you counted every check on the page, but in reality, it is only the ones in the margin that count. That being said, several clubs who thought they had 30 or more points, do not. Please remember next year to only count the checks in the margin.

Edna and the Convention Committee have been very busy getting things in order for The Garden Club of Georgia State Convention in Macon on March 25th and 26th, 2020. "Blooming in Macon" is being sponsored by Laurel District and promises to be a fun and educational experience. Vendors will be open from 1:00 until 7:00 pm on Wednesday. Edna still needs volunteers to work one hour shifts. Please make plans to attend.

Rain, rain, go away and bring us some sunny days. It is time to get busy cleaning up the garden, and deciding on what to plant where. So many trees and shrubs have already started to bloom, let's hope this crazy weather does not kill them.

All clubs are welcome and encouraged to send articles and pictures to be published in Laurel Letters. Share your great accomplishments and get the recognition your club deserves.

Please make plans to attend The Garden Club of Georgia Historic Preservation event, "Mansions in a Mill Town", which will be held in Roswell on May 2, 2020. Information and tickets are available on the GCG website.

Start making your plans for Garden Week in Georgia, April 19th thru 25th, and National Garden Week, June 7th thru 13th. Please take lots of pictures and share your events. If your club has not turned in GCG raffle tickets, please do so immediately. The drawing will be held on March 26th at the convention. Thanks to all clubs for your support.

Clubs change officers at different times of the year but all dues are required to reach GCG Headquarters by March 1, 2020. Please send in your dues on time and also send to GCG and this Director a list of your new officers after installation so the correct person will receive all correspondence.

"Cultivate the Beauty of North Georgia".

Marie

Tea & Tour + Sale at Bellmere

Join the North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges for three special events with the purchase of one ticket. Activities available include:

- ❖ Tour of Bellmere, the Georgian style home of Jim and Deen Day Sanders in Johns Creek.
- ❖ An elegant tea in the Bellmere Garden House.
- ❖ An opportunity to purchase Deen Day Sanders' floral design collection of modern pottery containers, driftwood sculptures, and table setting wares.

You have all this and more in **Tea & Tour + Sale on Friday-Saturday, April 24-25, from 10 am to 4 pm** at Bellmere in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Tickets, on sale February 1st, will be available online and from Council members. **Tickets are limited to 100 each day for \$50.00 per event date.** *Guests will select April 24th or 25th in purchasing tickets.* Additional information and ticket purchasing links will be available via The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. list server.

Bellmere sits on 100 acres in North Fulton County. Architect Jack Wilson, Moultrie, Georgia, designed the home. Completed in 1985, the house has around 12,000 square feet and is surrounded by grounds landscaped by Gibbs Landscape Company.

The tour is the final time Deen Day Sanders' collection of Flora Danica porcelain is seen housed in a home setting. The collection moves to the Center for Art and Nature - Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum currently under construction in Athens at the State Botanical Garden.

The Garden House, where tea will be served, is adjacent to Bellmere.

Guests will be served an elegant tea with scones, finger sandwiches and sweets from 10-12 and 2-4.

The sale of modern pottery containers, driftwood sculptures, and table setting wares will be held in three locations around the property. It includes items from Deen's presentations in 22 states as a National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judge and co-author of *Table Settings for All Seasons*. Deen has worked in garden clubs for over 50 years.

Deen Day Sanders is Chairman of the Board of Cecil B. Day Investment Company. She was the first woman appointed by a Georgia Governor to the Board of Industry, Trade and Tourism, elected chairman for two terms by the all male board. She served on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Symphony, the Atlanta Ballet, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Chairman 1986, The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Fine Arts Board of Georgia Governor's Mansion, Carter Presidential Center Steering Committee and the City of Atlanta International Arts and Cultural Exchange. She is a past President of the Garden Club of Georgia (1987-1989) and National Garden Clubs (1999-2001).

TEA & TOUR * SALE

To Benefit the North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges



— ∞ —
Sale of Deen Day Sanders'
Floral Design Collection:
* Unique Pottery Containers
* Driftwood Sculptures
* Table Setting Wares
April 24th and 25th
Bellmere, Johns Creek, GA
Tour and Sale: 10:00am-4:00pm
Tea Times: 10:00am-12:00pm
2:00pm-4:00pm
Limited Tickets- \$50
Tickets on sale February 1st
from members and online.

Amicalola Garden Club

EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR GARDEN MEMBERS

The February meeting of the Amicalola Garden Club was held on February 18, 2020 at the Tate Community Room. An Italian luncheon was served to members, and was hosted by Glenda Thompson, Susan Armstrong, and Jan Tate.

The program consisted of educating members on the requirements to be a STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE CLUB recognized the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Information was provided by President Jane Griffeth on the President's Annual Report and narratives detailing special projects. Also, President Griffeth shared newsletters that were prepared throughout the year on bird sanctuaries and the benefit of raised bed gardening.

Fran Cathey gave a presentation on "What is this thing called garden club?" This was a power point presentation provided by the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. for new members and a refresher for current members. The program provided information about how a local garden club fits into the National Garden Club, Deep South Region, and Laurel District of Georgia. The Garden Club of Georgia has 334 garden clubs, 7 districts, 25 councils, and 10,256 members.

Additional information was given on the Garden Club of Georgia Awards Program. Members learned what awards our club was eligible for and how to apply for the award. Members were encouraged to check in the yearbook to see what committees they were assigned and to contact the chairperson to see what their duties were.

Sue Massey gave a dual topic horticulture tip. She provided a handout on how to grow your own pineapple plant from the pineapple top. She also provided information on how to water and care for our house plants.

Anita Poole gave inserts with updated information for the yearbook. The Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered and plans are being formulated for the dedication. Committees have been formed to make the dedication a special event to honor our service men and women. Our club was pleased to make a donation to the Pickens County School Snack Program.



Plans were made for the March meeting and the meeting was closed with the club prayer.

Attached are two photos. One is of President Jane Griffeth presenting the President's Report. The other picture is Sue Massey presenting the Horticulture Tip.

Submitted by: Fran Cathey, Publicity
Amicalola Garden Club
Laurel District



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

Saturday, June 13

10:00a – 4:00p
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



5th Annual

Spring Garden Extravaganza

A plant and garden sale featuring
Regional Nurseries and Garden Vendors

hosted by

Soque Garden Club, Inc.

Saturday, May 2, 8 am – 4 pm

White County Agri-Science Center

Hwy 129 North at Claud Sims Road

Cleveland, Georgia

Free Admission

For more information contact:

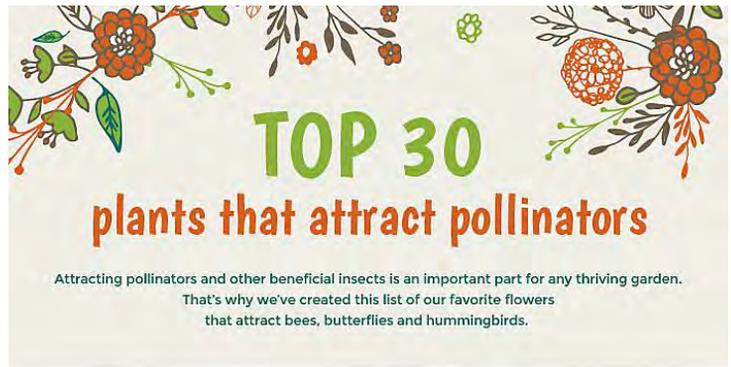
Arlene Martin O'Neill 404-512-6857

amoflowers@gmail.com

*Proceeds from event help support Scholarships, Habitat for Humanity
and other Community projects.*



MARTIN



Dear GCG Members,
 Have you wanted to incorporate more native plants into your pollinator gardens but were unsure what to plant? This new venture will make it so much easier!

The UGA Cooperative Extension has partnered with the State Botanical Garden, the Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Green Industry to come up with the state's first **Pollinator Plants of the Year** program. After a committee of experts carefully select the plants, greenhouses will be encouraged to produce these plants.

All of the information is in the attached article, including the **2021 Pollinator Plants of the Year**.

Willie Maxwell
Butterflies and Bees Chairman



ANNUALS



1
Floss Flower
 (Ageratum)

ZONE 2-11



2
Borage

ZONE 2-11



3
Cosmos
 'Sensation'

ZONE 2-11



4
Mexican sunflower

ZONES 2-11



5
Milkweed

ZONES 3-9



6
Egyptian Star Flower
 (Pentas)

Herbaceous Perennial
 ZONES 10-11



7
Pincushion flower
 (Scabiosa)

ZONES 5-9



8
Verbena

Herbaceous Perennial
 ZONES 7-11



9
Zinnia

ZONES 2-11

Extension News

Published on 02/04/20

State pollinator protection efforts focus on pollinator plant availability

By Merritt Melancon, Maria M. Lameiras

As part of an ongoing effort to help support Georgians use more native plants in their landscapes, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension has partnered with the State Botanical Garden at the University of Georgia, the Georgia Green Industry Association and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to launch the state's first Pollinator Plants of the Year Program.

"We are excited to be part of the effort to get this amazing program in place for Georgia gardeners," said Becky Griffin, UGA Extension school and community garden coordinator and pollinator protection expert. "Extension has strengths. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has strengths; the Department of Agriculture has strengths and the private sector has its strengths. We have a better chance of meeting our goal of providing more pollinator habitat if we work together."

The collaboration will connect Georgia's robust greenhouse industry with experts in native plant cultivation and pollinator health to produce more ready-to-plant natives and to encourage Georgians to turn part of their home landscape into pollinator habitat. This year the groups will be reaching out to greenhouse growers to encourage them to produce specially selected landscape plants. Next year the focus will be on teaching gardeners how to incorporate and maintain the pollinator-friendly plants.

The State Botanical Garden at the University of Georgia announced its first Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year at the Georgia Green Industry Association Wintergreen conference to encourage green industry professionals to suggest that businesses, parks, schools, city and county governments, and home gardeners add pollinator-friendly native plants to their landscapes.

The plants were selected by a committee made up of horticulturists, ecologists, entomologists and industry professionals. Each plant had to be aesthetically pleasing, marketable and, most importantly, provide shelter and food for a number of native Georgia pollinators.

"This program brings together conservation and horticulture, which don't function independently—one supports the other," said Lauren Muller, conservation outreach coordinator at the State Botanical Garden and coordinator of the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program. "It is important for people in the green industry to think about conservation, the work we are doing and how we can tie it back into the larger ecological system."

The 2021 Pollinator Plants of the Year are:

Spring bloomer — *Conradina (Conradinacanescens)*, also known as wild rosemary, is a fine-textured, evergreen, woody shrub in the mint family with aromatic, needle-like leaves. In spring, the plant is covered in small lavender flowers with purple-spotted throats. It supports many native bees and other pollinators and is ideal for container gardening or garden walls.

Summer bloomer — Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is a small, deciduous, densely branched shrub ideal for rain gardens. Panicles of white flowers give off an intoxicating fragrance in the heat of summer and support many native bees.

Fall bloomer — Downy Goldenrod (*Solidagopetioularis*) — not to be confused with ragweed, the true culprit in many allergies — is one of the shorter goldenrods, standing between one and three feet tall. From August to October, the flowers bloom in dense, spiky clusters, creating a gorgeous yellow plume. This is an excellent plant for bees, wasps and at least 112 species of butterflies and moths.

Extension News continued...

Georgia native — Butterfly Weed (*Asclepiastuberosa*) is a drought-tolerant, herbaceous perennial wildflower that reaches one to two feet tall and is excellent for sunny borders, meadows and containers. This plant serves as the larval host for the Monarch Butterfly, Grey Hairstreak, Queen Butterfly and Milkweed Tussock Moth and provides abundant nectar for many insects and hummingbirds.

These plants should be available in Georgia garden centers in late 2020 and early 2021.

“This is great because, as an agent, it’s discouraging when you get a call from someone asking where they can find these (native) plants and we have to say, ‘Good luck! You can start them from seed if you want,’” said Ashley Hoppers, UGA Cooperative Extension agricultural and natural resources agent for Fannin County. “It really stifles their desire to plant natives because it’s hard. If (home gardeners) can’t go to a local outlet and find that (plant) they’re looking for, it creates a negative feedback loop.”

The partnership behind the Pollinator Plants for the Year is part of a large scale partnership between State Botanical Garden and UGA Extension. Pollinator protection experts with Extension have merged their Pollinator Spaces project with the garden’s Connect to Protect pollinator protection efforts. The program will continue under Connect to Protect and help build a stronger pollinator protection movement across the state, Griffin said.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture Georgia Grown’s Pollen Nation program will also join that effort. The program’s goal is to encourage the creation of pollinator gardens and the propagation of native plants, and to help support the green industry through increased plant sales of pollinator-friendly species, said Matthew Kulinski, deputy director of marketing at the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Pollen Nation will provide green industry professionals with marketing and educational materials and consumers a website with tips on the best pollinators for their landscapes, including the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year. That program will launch in March.

Programs and partnerships like the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program and Pollen Nation not only benefit members of the green industry, but also consumers and the environment, according to Jeremy Oxford, chairman of the Georgia Green Industry Association, which hosts the Wintergreen conference.

“Connecting the dots between the environmental benefits of pollinator plants and Georgia’s nursery industry creates a win-win relationship,” Oxford said. “The Georgia Grown program and pollinator awards highlight the best of these plants so that growers can make them easily available to the consumer. “

For information on acquiring Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year or Connect to Protect visit botgarden.uga.edu/conservation-science/connect-to-protect.

For information on how UGA Extension can help families, businesses and schools create more pollinator-friendly landscapes visit extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/timely-topics/pollinators.html.

Merritt Melancon is a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Authors:

[Merritt Melancon](#)

[Maria M. Lameiras](#)

Experts/Sources:

The Magnolia Garden Club—Cartersville 2020 Pond and Garden Tour



“Art in the Garden II”

Saturday, May 16 ~ 9 am - 4 pm

Ticket Information

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

- Sam Franklin’s Furniture
- Periwinkle
- Urban Market

•Eventbrite Online Ticket Sales
Search: 2020 Pond and Garden Tour
“Art in the Garden II”

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

Tour Information



Pond & Garden Tour -
Cartersville, GA

Email:

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.*

Ticket Raffle for Original Paintings.

Proceeds fund Scholarships, Grants and Junior Garden Club projects at area schools.
The Magnolia Garden Club accepts donations as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.



*Everyone
Loves a
Garden*

Magnolia Garden Club



The Magnolia Garden Club celebrated Valentine Day at the historic Grand Oaks in Cartersville.

Left to Right are GCG President Barbara Bourque, Susan Stephens , Co Director of Laurel District, Ray Thacker, owner of Grand Oaks, Marie Purser, Director of Laurel District and Sue Tucker, Corresponding Secretary of Laurel District.



Bonnie Floyd accepts the award for "Most Distinguished Member" for 2019 from President Sandra McMillan, Magnolia Garden Club.

Ms. Floyd has been an active member since 1982. She was selected by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. the 2019 winner of the " National Garden Week Award".

Mickey Carlton, Sandra McMillan, Susan Stephens, Barbara Bourque, Marie Purser and Vicki Jones.



Dee Anne Wyse, Lynn Frye, Judy Patterson and Vicki Jones Display their creations from the Design Class.



Edna McClellan Laurel District Treasurer and popular floral Designer demonstrated "Floral Design with Market Flowers" as the program for Magnolia Garden Club at the January meeting, L-R: Edna McClellan and Sandra McMillan President of Magnolia Garden Club .



The Jr. Magnolia Garden Club had a great day learning about terrariums. Instructor Mia Koener discussed the miniature ecosystem and how to care for them. Linda Evans provided the plants for the individual terrariums. Students created their own terrarium and decorated with colored sand and shells.



Members of Magnolia Garden Club

Garden Club of Georgia Litter and Recycling



For many years the **Garden Club of Georgia** has had an on-going project of supporting the **Ronald McDonald House** by saving pull tabs from aluminum cans. *Dr. John Barnett, former Laurel District Director*, has taken on this project again and is urging all garden club members to help.

Now, that has changed and we can save the entire can. I do this by crushing the can so it takes up less room, bagging them and delivering them to John.

As **Litter and Recycling Chair for Laurel district**, I want to urge you to participate because it also keeps cans out of the landfill. Garden Club members, we need to do everything possible to protect Mother Earth.



Many thanks,
Jo Ann Dorsey



COMPANION PLANTING THE OLD FASHIONED WAY WITH A 3 SISTERS GARDEN

corn, pole beans & squash

**THE CORN SUPPORTS THE BEANS, THE BEANS ADD NITROGEN
AND THE SQUASH SHADES OUT THE WEEDS**

- 1) Plant the corn after danger of frost has passed.
- 2) Plant the pole beans when the corn is 5 inches high.
- 3) Plant squash seeds one week later.

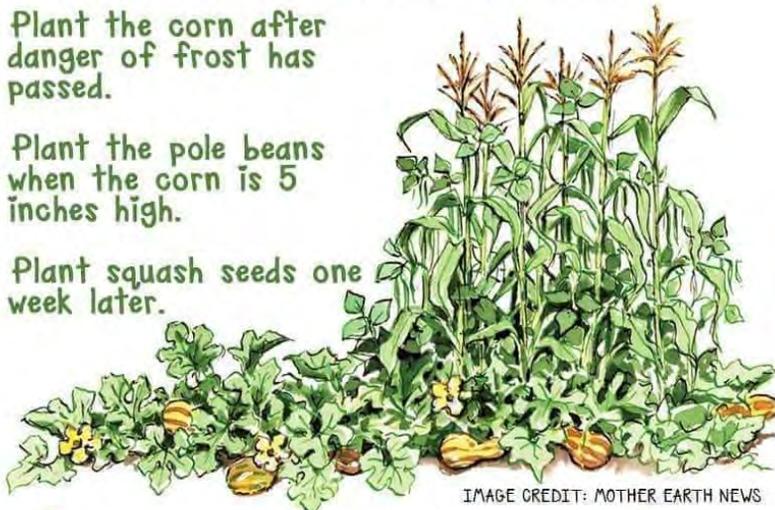


IMAGE CREDIT: MOTHER EARTH NEWS

Laurel Letters Schedule

Summer Issue

Deadline – May 15

Published June 1

Fall Issue

Deadline – August 25

Published – September 15

Winter Issue

Deadline – November 19

Published – December 19

Spring Issue

Deadline – February 25

Published – March 15



www.gmo-freeusa.org
www.facebook.com/gmo-freeusa
www.facebook.com/gmo-freecanadagroup



Mansions in a **MILL TOWN**

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



\$40 Per Person | Rain or Shine

To purchase tickets, visit: <http://gardenclub.uga.edu/mansions.html>

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

BARRINGTON HALL



BULLOCH HALL



SMITH PLANTATION



ROSWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MIMOSA HALL



ACTIVITIES

PERIOD CLOTHING DISPLAYS

SEEKING EDEN
LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

CEMETERY TOURS

SEVEN HILLS GARDEN CLUB

In preparation for the winter holidays , Seven Hills had some great programs. The first took place at the home of Susan Horton in November where three member-groups presented perfectly dressed tables for the holidays - one was a formal setting, one more casual, and finally one was decorated especially for children.



At our December meeting hosted by Laurie Hubbard, we viewed beautiful Christmas decorations throughout the home and learned about the lovely orchids we had purchased as a club project. Carol Rutledge, our President, provided us with information on orchids - how to water and how much water, suggested locations, proper



growing medium, temperature requirements and many more tips on cultivating orchids. With proper care these tropical plants can live for up to 30 years!



Now that colder weather has arrived the majority of flowers are dormant, and we are left with mostly greenery, some winter camellias, jasmine, and quince in our yards. Our January speaker, Justin Bradford, educated us in designing small arrangements (in 5 - 10 minutes) for anywhere in our homes using different shapes, textures, and colors from our bushes

and trees along with a few flowers (from the grocery store if necessary). No matter the time of year we can bring nature inside to brighten our homes.

Sheelah Schreiber, Seven Hills



South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium

**The 2020 symposium will be held on March 18,
the third Wednesday of the month.**

LOCATION: Georgia Museum of Agriculture in Tifton
Georgia Museum of Agriculture Conference Center
(formerly known as the Agrirama):

Watch for details on our website: <http://sgnpws.org/>



Rosalynn Carter
Butterfly Trail™

2020 Spring Symposium

Sponsored by: The Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, Plains Historical Preservation Trust, Plains Chautauqua, LazyK Nursery and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Friday, May 1, 2020
**Plains Community
Center**
106 Main Street
Plains, GA 31780

You may register on-line or download the form and mail with your check.

Go to <https://rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org/>

\$45/person

Land Trust/Marshall Forest

Laurel District Report

Marietta, GA

February 20, 2020

Marshall Forest has been a busy place this year. Many volunteers have worked in the forest including the Nature Conservancy Fire Crew, the Berry Freshmen, Boy Scout Troop 113, and the Weed Family.

Here are the highlights:

- The Fire Crew from the Nature Conservancy removed invasive species and fire hazards throughout the Marshall Forest.
- The 5th annual Robert Weed Memorial Walk, scheduled for Friday October 11, 2019, was open to the public with a large crowd attending. The Scouts of Troop 113 and Carson Garrett were recognized for their work in the Forest this summer with commendations from Barbara Bourque, President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Dr. Martin Cipollini of Berry College spoke and led a tour of the forest. The Rome News had a great follow-up article about the Forest.
- Katie Owens and Ansley Saville are planning for the September 2020 Georgia Historic Preservation Ramble that will be in Rome. Marshall Forest is one of the featured destinations.
- There are ongoing discussions with the City of Rome to add an unpaved parking area across the street from the entrance to the Forest. Mark Weed has offered to level the parking area once the entrance is constructed.
- New signs to replace damaged and missing signs need to be ordered.
- Additional gravel is needed along the trails to make walking easier and more accessible to the visually challenged.
- QR codes, to give background information about the forest and trail maps for use by visitors to the forest, are one of the goals for the coming year.
- Several tours of the Forest are planned during the spring and early summer.
- An Eagle Scout project is in the works for the forest. Details are being discussed.

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, 2020, at the March Convention.

Contact Caroline Alford to schedule a tour of the forest via e-mail at caroboone@aol.com or by cell phone 706 346-5886.

AMICALOLA GARDEN CLUB MAKES
DONATION TO
PICKENS COUNTY ACES PROGRAM

The Amicalola Garden Club was pleased to make a donation to the ACES youth home. The ACES Program provides temporary and long-term residential placement and care for youth, both girls and boys ages 11-18. They provide a safe, secure and nurturing home for youths who have been victims of abuse or neglect. ACES help children discover their strengths and learn to cope with the crisis in their lives.

Submitted by Fran Cathey, Publicity
Amicalola Garden Club
Laurel District

Susan Armstrong presenting a check
to ACES Director Erin Bleisath.



**Happy Spring
Y'all!**

The End