



Laurel Letters

Nurture the Beauty of our Gardens

Laurel District, District 1

Directors Message



Edna McClellan, District Director

Sharon Payne, Co-Director

Ann Bridges, Recording Secretary

Marie Purser, Corresponding Secretary

Caroline Alford, Treasurer

Jackie Fulmer, Parliamentarian

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your District Director for the 2015-2017 term. The theme I have chosen is “Nurture the Beauty of our Gardens” Through garden club projects and activities we have opportunities to practice conservation of our natural resources, to educate ourselves and the public on the importance of being good stewards of our environment all of which results in the beauty of our communities.

We have been presented with a number of worthwhile projects from district, region, state and national organizations. We also have our own local projects to pursue. By involving ourselves in these projects we can further our education, make new friendships and experience the joy of improving our environment. Together we can accomplish many things. Your District and State Chairmen are ready and willing to help you accomplish these goals.

Edna

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The GCG Wild & Wonderful Experience Camp July 12-14

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

Is now accepting registrations. Make sure your members, club, council or district send children ages rising 5th & 6th graders to this wonderful GCG camp. Make sure you get your applications in soon. I would hate for your child not to be able to attend. Registration forms are online at: garden-club.uga.edu.

Molly Kimler
mollykimler@gmail.com

June 14-16

Georgia's 50th Annual Flower Show Judges Symposium

at The Georgia Center Hotel and Conference Center, Athens.

For more info contact
Cookie Roland, Registrar
r_cookie@att.net.

Luncheon and Garden Tour Lawn of Oak Hill

In celebration of “Garden Week in Georgia” Mountain View Garden Club visited the gardens at Oak Hill, Berry College to hear Tim Brown director of Oak Hill and The Mount Berry Museum speak of the continuing restoration of the historic hillside garden. The restoration of the work is being done with the aid of grants from the historic preservation of Gardens and Sites Committee of the Garden Club of Georgia Inc.

Mabel Milner charter member and first president of Mountain View Garden Club was honored for her contribution of preservation and conservation of historic gardens.

Mabel remembered walking along the hillside Garden at Oak Hill years before with her husband and how sad that the hillside garden had not been maintained as a garden and had grown into a wooded area. And, that was the beginning of the restoration of the hillside and sunken gardens of Oak Hill. Mable worked with Jennifer Dickey, curator of Oak Hill and Mount Berry Museum and the first grant for the sunken garden was given. Three more grants followed to date and the gardens are slowly returning to their original splendor.

Mabel’s family has a long history with the Berry College and Henry Ford. Martha Berry received her first tractor from Henry Ford and when she needed another one she would call Ford Motor Company then the Atlanta office would call Milner Motor Company and Mable’s husband, a teenager at the time would deliver the tractor to Martha Berry. Glen Milner Boule-

vard is named after her husband’s father. Occasional gifts were exchanged between the Ford and Milner family some of which were donated to the Ford Museum.

Mabel has expertise in many areas such as civic development, hor-



ticulture, conservation, landscape design and historic preservation of historic house and garden efforts, the latter of which she has a lifelong passion for. Georgia has a rich heritage and the efforts of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and other organizations led Mable to have as a personal theme the conservation of historic gardens. She has worked extensively with Cherokee Garden Library to help document historic gardens in Georgia. Their research is the foundation for the revision of the “1933 Garden History of Georgia”.

The Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative was begun through the collaborative effort between The Garden Club of Georgia Inc., the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division and the Cherokee Garden Library, at the Kenan Research Center of the Atlanta History Center. As The Garden Club of Georgia Chairman of Historic Gardens and Sites,

Mable Milner led the first training session to initiate this effort on August 22, 2002 at the historic Hay House in Macon.

Mabel Milner’s experience is extensive, some of her accolades include, but certainly are not limited to:

2006 Inducted into the Honor Society of Sigma Pi Kappa at the University of Georgia in recognition of outstanding achievements in Historic Preservation. The ceremony took place at the beautiful Founders Memorial Garden in Athens

2008 Merit Award as the founding chairman of the Georgia Historic Landscape

Initiative for The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

- Mable began the Historic Preservation Patron and Partners program to encourage donations to the Historic Preservation of Gardens and Sites Committee of The Garden Club of Georgia

- Former President of the Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.

- Served Laurel District in various offices

- The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Board-Emeritus- 20 years

- Former President of the Georgia Landscape Design Council 1997 – 1999 and during this term of office, Georgia hosted the 1999 National Garden Clubs Convention in Atlanta, thus Georgia’s Landscape Design Council hosted the Landscape Design Critics Tour “Southern Landscapes”.

- State, National and Deep South Life member

- Received The Certificate of

Continued on next page.

Oak Hill

Continued from pg. 2

Achievement for Contributions of Specific Noteworthy Projects from the Historic Preservation Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1999

- Received two Presidential Citations from The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. with one of the citations for helping spearhead the successful effort to prevent commercial development in the Marshall Forest in the City of Rome

- Advisor of the Historic House and Garden Pilgrimage (Dalton, GA in 2005; Advisor to Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Fundraiser in 2012, Gibbs Gardens Tour)

- Chaired and served on the Georgia Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Program Committee

- Founding member of the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative

- Participate in the Southern Garden heritage Conference sponsored by the University of Georgia school of Environmental Design

- Member of longstanding of the Southern Garden Historical Society

Pictured on previous page: (left) Donna Barnes presenting Mabel with gifts, (center) Mabel Milner, (right) Susan Milner, Mabel's daughter-in-law. ❁

Sixes Community Garden Club

The Sixes Community Garden Club spent Monday, April 27th at the historic Rock Barn in Canton doing their pre-Derby Day spring maintenance. Pictured are the results of their hard work.

The Rock Barn is a treasured landmark in Cherokee County. It was constructed by Augustus Lee Coggins in 1906. It is said to be the only remaining rock barn in Georgia. Today, the Rock Barn is the home of the Crescent Farm Historical Center. ❁



Laurel District Officers' Workshop



This workshop is for you! If you are a club/council officer, if you ever plan to be one or if you just want to know how a garden club operates, then you don't want to miss this workshop.

Laurel is proud to have Sara Lanier, former GCG president and past Deep South Regional Director, to lead this workshop.



Tuesday, July 21, 2015
9:30 AM Coffee and Registration
10:00 AM Workshop

Marietta Educational Garden Center
505 Kennesaw Ave NW
Marietta, GA 30060

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**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration form and check for \$15.00 (*for lunch and supplies*) made payable to Laurel District to:

Caroline Alford  
7 Pine Valley Road, SW  
Rome, GA 30165-4337  
[caroboone@aol.com](mailto:caroboone@aol.com)

**Registration Deadline is Saturday, July 11, 2015**

## Stonehedge Garden Club

by Vicky Wilson

What a fabulous and busy spring we've had at Stonehedge Garden Club!

At the end of March we had a wonderful visit to our State Capitol. We had a private tour bus drive us downtown. We toured the Capitol and were able to sit in on our State Senate in Session! What a treat! We had our photograph taken with our favorite State Senator Butch Miller and with our Governor Nathan Deal. After our time at the Capitol we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Mary Mac's Tea-room in a private dining room. Lastly we had a bus tour of Midtown Atlanta! Our Club's Legislative Representative, Mac Miller, arranged this entire trip. It was such a fun day! Thank you, Mac!

In April we had Guest Speaker Elzada (who goes by the name of "Z"). She spoke to us on how to establish a butterfly garden. She belongs to the National Garden Club, Deep South, Red Bud District and African Violet Society of America. She had a very interesting and informative slideshow on Butterflies sharing with us information on what plants are considered host plants that attract butterflies. It was a very interesting program!

Our new slate of officers was



submitted and approved at our April meeting. Our Installation of Officers will be in June. Also in April we had several members create table arrangements for the Buford Lannier Women's Club Spring Fashion



Show. They did a fabulous job, creating beautiful arrangements. After the fashion show several of the arrangements were given to the Gwinnett County Library in Buford and the Buford Pruitt Nursing Home.

Our May Meeting was the best! We celebrated the 45th Anniversary of Stonehedge Garden Club! Our President Betty Taylor brought in photo albums and scrapbooks from years past and our members were able to enjoy looking back and reflecting on past meetings, trips and flower shows. There were lots of good memories discussed and photos of members who are no longer with us. President Taylor also had a beautiful sheet cake for the occasion. Our member Mac Miller, who was in attendance at the first club meeting in 1970, was given the honor

of cutting the cake. Then we had a photograph taken of all of our Clubs Past Presidents that were in attendance. Our Past Presidents then served the members cake! Lastly we had a slideshow presentation of the

past two years and all the fun projects and good times that we've had. We finished up our meeting with a workshop on plans for next year (beginning in the fall).

As this season comes to a close we'd

like to say a special thank you to our Club President Betty Sue Taylor for two years of dedication, hard work and strong leadership! We'll miss you "at the helm!" ❁

**Pull – A – Tab or  
Pop – A – Top For  
Ronald McDonald House**

*John Barnett,  
Laurel Pull A Tab Chairman  
drb9565@aol.com*

*Let's Pop – A –  
Top for Ronald  
McDonald House  
and let the  
children and  
their families  
reap the rewards!*

For the past administration, Laurel District was awarded top awards for being the District in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s "Pull-A-Tab for Ronald McDonald House". Laurel District collected in 2013–2015 over 400 pounds each year of pop tops for this ongoing and wonderful project.

It is the hopes and desires of this administration for Laurel of Lights to continue their legacy. All garden clubs in Laurel District are encouraged and asked to begin collecting pop tops now and deliver those collections at each Laurel Board meeting and Laurel District Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. John Barnett, chairman of this project in Laurel District, at DrB9565@aol.com. ❁

**Leconte – Woodmanston Plantation  
And Botanical Gardens**

*John Barnett, Laurel Leconte-Woodmanston Chairman  
drb9565@aol.com*

Journey back in time and explore the rich history of LeConte - Woodmanston Plantation. There is much to learn about the LeConte family and the significant role African Americans played throughout the plantation's history.

Experience the mystery of the swamp and the beauty of the gardens, grounds and nature trails. There's so much to enjoy and explore!

Discover the many plant, bird and animal species that bring LeConte-Woodmanston to life. Future Laurel District newsletters will offer little known scientific facts about them as well as providing interesting information about the plantation and its original inhabitants. We will travel 'in print' to learn about native plants in the area and gain information about discoveries made by members of the LeConte family. The information will be informative and interesting!

After you find out what is going on at LeConte-Woodmanston, every club in Laurel District will want to help this Garden Club of Georgia project by donating \$25 for Landtrust: LeConte-Woodmanston. Laurel Letters will put forth an effort to give you an overview of LeConte-Woodmanston but the best way to truly experience LeConte-Woodmanston is to pay them a visit.

Plans are underway for Laurel District members and friends to take a journey to LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation and Botanical Gardens, Riceboro, Georgia in the spring of 2016. More information

about this will be forthcoming. Make plans to take a "field trip" to LeConte-Woodmanston Plantation and Botanical Gardens in the spring of 2016.

Until then, each Laurel District club, please make a donation of \$25 to GCG with Leconte-Woodmanston in the memo line and mail to Sue Edenfield, 720 Wood Valley Rd., Waynesboro, Georgia 30830. ❁

**Save the Date  
Gardening Study School**

The Gardening Study Schools (GSS) provide continuing education in the study of horticulture. Course content is established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. Four sequenced courses (I through IV) comprise a series. Each course consists of ten hours of instruction, which may include field tours of botanic or test gardens. Optional exams are offered for those wishing to become NGC Accredited Gardening Consultants.

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs will host Course I from August 4-6. The location will be Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome. Registration forms will be sent on the Laurel List Server in early to mid-July. For more information, contact Jackie Fulmer at jackie.fulmer@gmail.com or call 770-722-8229. ❁



Check out the  
Laurel District web site at:  
[www.laureldistrict.org](http://www.laureldistrict.org)



The Magnolia Garden Club of Cartersville observed Georgia Garden Week by having a proclamation signed by Mayor Matt Santini and Commissioner Steve Taylor at the Bartow County Court House on April 24, 2015. Attending were back row: Karen Smith, Betty Watkins, Martha Gilstrap and Kathleen Clark. The Georgia Garden Week committee Chairman, JoAn Dorsey not pictured and Ms. Clark also observed this week by a display at the Bartow County Library, Cartersville with brochures and plants available to the library visitors. ❁

### Dot Douglas' 90th Birthday Party

*by Mary Ellen Roos*

Members of the Laurel Garden Club in Canton recently helped Dot Douglas celebrate her 90th birthday at the Smith House Plantation in Roswell. Dot's son, Chuck is the Curator there and he hosted a luncheon for the honoree and her fellow club members. Dot has been the Container Gardening Chair for the



Laurel District for many years. She is "Dynamite!" ❁



*Picture above: Dot (in yellow) with members of the Laurel Garden Club at the Smith House Plantation in Roswell.*

*Pictured left: Dot with Janet Aden, Laurel Garden Club President.*



# Laurel District Awards Workshop

Don't miss this opportunity for your clubs and councils to receive the information needed to apply for all awards: GCG, Deep South Region and NGC!

GCG Awards Chairman, Jackie Fulmer, will conduct this workshop and bring you up to date on any new changes to awards.

Thursday, August 20, 2015  
9:30 AM Coffee and Registration  
10:00 AM Workshop  
The Garden Club of Ellijay  
Gilmer Arts and Heritage Association  
207 Dalton Street, Ellijay, GA 30540



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### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration form and check for \$15.00 (for lunch and supplies) made payable to Laurel District to:

Caroline Alford  
7 Pine Valley Road, SW  
Rome GA 30165-4337  
[caro-boone@aol.com](mailto:caro-boone@aol.com)

Registration Deadline is Tuesday, August 11, 2015



Cumming Garden Club  
Presents a

Standard Flower Show  
June 19-20, 2015

At the  
Georgia National Guard Armory  
100 Aquatic Circle  
Cumming, GA 30040

After the regular February club meeting, Flower Show chairman, Shirley Thomas led a group through the National Guard Armory to see locations to be used for floral displays and horticulture entries in the upcoming June Flower Show. ❁

**Flower Show times:**

Friday, June 19, 2015

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**2015 Flower Show Facility Tour**

After the February regular Club meeting, Shirley Thomas, FS chairman, led a group through the National Guard Armory to see locations to be used for floral displays in the upcoming June Flower Show.



Georgia National Guard Armory



Hats for Flower Show hostesses were modeled



From upper window, group looks into area where Horticulture will be displayed.



# Marshall Forest:

**The only virgin forest within the city limits of any city in the USA**

*John Barnett, Laurel Marshall Forest Chairman*

drb9565@aol.com

Every club in Laurel District has heard about Marshall Forest. Rome is the home to Marshall Forest - the only virgin forest with in a city limits in the United States. It is also probably the only virgin forest in the Ridge and Valley Province which extends from Pennsylvania to Alabama. The Garden Club of Georgia entered into an agree with the Nature Conservancy and garden clubs throughout our state have given generously to keep the forest at its finest and that led to the Braille Trail we are all proud of.

Maclean Marshall, naturalist and philanthropist, inherited the forest from his family who had purchased the forest in 1880. The land had been preserved for "preservation's sake". A large portion of the forest is old-growth forest and much has never been cut by humans. It is home to over 300 species of plants, as well as numerous animals, mushrooms, and other living organisms.

On October 12, 1966, the Marshall Forest was dedicated as a National Natural Landmark, the first of its kind in the state of Georgia. In 1976, just before Marshall's death, he gave the 100-acre forest and 120 additional acres of fields and woods to the Nature Conservancy which is dedicated to "preserving unique" natural areas through the United States.

Five nature trails exist on the preserve along with a Braille Trail. The trails are self-guided and travel on the southwest side of the forest, with plant identification tags and



*A Boy Scout working at Marshall Forest to earn his Eagle Scout Award.*

20 stations with plaques written in Braille and English. The trail can be easily walked in 30 minutes but to enjoy its beauty, a person may want to walk for a while and then sit and bask in nature at some of the benches placed along the way, purchased by GCG donations.

The forest is about 250 acres in size. About 75 acres on the Coosa River flood plain was probably farmed at one time. Seventy acres on the Mt. Alto side of the forest were added in 1985 and was not part of the original Marshall estate. Only about 75 to 100 acres of the original forest remains uncut.

Friends of the Marshall Forest is a local group who, with the Georgia



*Plant at risk: Large - Flowered Skullcap*

Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, manage the park. Tours for students, scientists and nature lovers can be scheduled through GCG's Land Trust: Marshall Forest chairman, Caroline Alford (caroboone@aol.com) or John Barnett (DrB9565@aol.com) Laurel District Land Trust: Marshall Forest chairman.

Students from Berry College and Boy Scouts earning their Eagle Scout work with GCG representatives and The Nature Conservancy to keep the Forest in great shape for its visitors. ☀



*Boy Scout working with friends to earn his Eagle Scout Award.*



## Seven Hills Garden Club Celebrates 90 Years

by Sheelah Schreiber

“To advance gardening, to promote city beautification, to stimulate an interest in cooperative gardening, and to aid in the protection of forests, wild flowers, birds, and streams.”

For ninety years Seven Hills Garden Club has continued to follow this objective. Since its first program meeting in April 1925, the club has remained active through involvement in many projects and endeavors especially the Rome Library Garden. In 1930 Carnegie Library became the site of the first Garden Center in Rome. In 1958 Carnegie Library Board asked Seven Hills to help establish an outdoor reading room. With the help of University of Georgia architecture students, the garden was designed and executed. Our club received the Parks, Civic Gardens, and Historic Improvement trophy for our efforts at the Library. When Sarah Hightower Regional Library was built in 1987 Seven Hills was again asked to create an outdoor reading room. University of Georgia worked with Seven Hills to establish the garden, and under the guidance of John Shultz members donated plants, painted furniture and worked to create the garden we see today. It is a constant project as Seven Hills members continue to weed, trim, and plant to keep the garden a welcoming place for the citizens of Rome.

Since our 85th anniversary Seven Hills has been very active with the South Rome Boys and Girls Club. Seven Hills members meet monthly with a youth group to teach students about planting and



growing produce and flowers. Children enjoy harvesting and eating their crops.

Another small group of members spends time weeding, trimming and planting flowers at Family Resource Center, a Rome agency that works to prevent child abuse through classes and interaction with families.

Being the oldest Garden Club in Rome and third oldest in Georgia, Seven Hills has had a close association with City, County and State. Seven Hills organized Rome Federated Garden Clubs (the Federation) in 1940 with two of its members, Mrs. Aubrey Matthews and Mrs. Byard Quigg, being the first presidents. Seven Hills Garden Club is also a charter member in the formation of the State Garden of Georgia in 1928. “Garden Gateways” first editor was Mrs. Calder Willingham, was one our members. This magazine is still received quarterly by all garden club members.

Additional local activities include Blue Star Markers; the establishment of the Network Day Service

Center Therapy Garden, a Federation project, in 2005; the planting of dogwood trees, magnolias, water oaks, and redbuds throughout the city and surrounding area; flower show schools; a school litter program puppet show: Marshall Forest - original 30 acres of virgin forest donated by Miss Helen Marshall, a charter member of Seven Hills; and many other endeavors both local and state.

Seven Hills has a long, impressive history and continues to be a strong, active club working to keep Rome a beautiful and welcoming city for both residents and visitors. Happy 90th Birthday. ❁



## Winder Garden Club

by Pat Tucker

The Winder Garden Club met for the March meeting in the home of Kate Nicholson, with Susan Amason and Rachel Hoover as co-hostesses. The program on "Hydrangeas" was presented by our resident expert, Margaret Haymon. In April the Club traveled to Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta and enjoyed touring the grounds and seeing the lovely spring flowers and shrubs. After that, a delicious lunch was served at "Six Feet Under." Our May picnic was held at the home of Andrea Craft, who opened her beautiful patio and garden for us. New officers were installed, and then our annual plant auction was held. This is our only money-making project of the year, so there's always much interest and lively bidding. We look forward to a new gardening year filled with service, fun, and fellowship!

### Winder Garden Club's New Officers

Betty Logan, President  
Kathy Fullilove, Vice-President  
Jean Anderson, Secretary  
Jackie Foley, Treasurer



Jackie Fulmer accepting an award from GCG President Matha Price at the GCG Convention on Jekyll Island.

## Expressions 2016 Calendars

June Harrison, Laurel District Calendar Chairman  
[june.harrison2@bellsouth.net](mailto:june.harrison2@bellsouth.net)

Our new Garden Club Calendar, "Expressions for the Home" is a truly exciting new prototype you won't want to miss. Great gift for family and friends!!

It has recipes (from Vince Dooley's wife!), tips on gardening, beautiful home floral designs, other ideas for the home, PLUS the calendar. \$8.56 per calendar, (tax included) is a BARGAIN!

Everyone, please get your Calendar orders completed and mailed with checks to Garden Club of Georgia as soon as possible. Orders will be filled on a first come, first serve basis, as we are printing fewer calendars this year. You don't want to miss out. I am already receiving orders and checks from Laurel clubs.

### Two ways to receive your Expression calendars:

**#1 If you are ordering calendars to be shipped**, please include postage and state tax. Make your check out to GCG, including order form, and mail to: Kay King, 950 Pate Rd., Juliette, GA 31046. 478-394-0883

**#2 If you are picking up your calendars at the Laurel District Meeting**, Oct. 13th in Young Harris, GA, please make your check to GCG and mail it with your order form to: June Harrison, 85 Blackberry Ridge, Ellijay, GA 30536. 706-698-1248

Remember, proceeds are for the scholarships we give.  
Thank you so much.

*Expressions order form on next page.*

**GCG 2016 CALENDAR ORDER FORM - Check One Method of Delivery**

- Pick up Calendars at the District Meeting in October 2015** - To pick up calendars at your District meeting, return this form with your payment to **YOUR District Calendar Chairman** prior to the District meeting. List the **county of your district meeting** below for sales tax purposes.
- Mail Calendar Order** If you want your calendars shipped, return this form with your payment to **Kay King, 950 Pate Road, Juliette GA 31046 478-394-0883**  
e-mail: [expressions2016@gmail.com](mailto:expressions2016@gmail.com) List the county to which the calendars are being shipped.

|                                                                                                                              |                                                         |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Club:                                                                                                                        | District:                                               |                      |
| President's Name:                                                                                                            |                                                         |                      |
| Address:                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                      |
| City:                                                                                                                        | State:                                                  | Zip:                 |
| Phone:                                                                                                                       | Email:                                                  |                      |
| No. of Calendars                                                                                                             | Desk Size ( 5-1/2"x 8-1/2"):                            | @ \$8 each= \$       |
| Club #:                                                                                                                      | Shipping and Handling if mailed (see rates below): \$   |                      |
|                                                                                                                              |                                                         | Subtotal: \$         |
| <b>County:</b>                                                                                                               | GA. Residents Add 7% Sales Tax (tax on shipping too) \$ |                      |
| (List the county to which the mdse is being shipped, or the county of the meeting/location where you will pick up calendars) |                                                         | Total Amount Due: \$ |

**\*\* (Enclose Check Made Payable to THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC.)**

**CALENDAR CHAIRMEN**

**State Chairman: Kay King, 950 Pate Road, Juliette GA 31046 478-394-0883**  
e-mail: [expressions2016@gmail.com](mailto:expressions2016@gmail.com)

**LAUREL DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Towns County**  
June Harrison  
85 Blackberry Ridge  
Ellijay GA 30536  
706-698-1248  
[june.harrison2@bellsouth.net](mailto:june.harrison2@bellsouth.net)

**AZALEA DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Columbia County**  
Julie Mann  
229 Dixon Court  
Evans GA 30809  
706-231-3910  
[julmann@yahoo.com](mailto:julmann@yahoo.com)

**OLEANDER DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Effingham County**  
Sharon Herrin  
6892 Beards Bluff Rd  
Odom GA 31555  
912-294-2418

**CAMELLIA DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Thomas County**  
Julia Singletary  
102 Chukkars Dr  
Thomasville GA 31792  
229-225-9711  
[juliasingletary@gmail.com](mailto:juliasingletary@gmail.com)

**MAGNOLIA DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Peach County**  
Jil Powell  
1961 Red Rock Rd  
Sylvester GA 31791  
229-777-0337  
[soilsisterjil@gmail.com](mailto:soilsisterjil@gmail.com)

**DOGWOOD DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Fulton County**  
Deborah Hamby  
12960 Bucksport Ct  
Roswell GA 30075  
770-993-8266  
[deborahhamby6853@att.net](mailto:deborahhamby6853@att.net)

**REDBUD DISTRICT**  
2015 Fall meeting in **Coweta County**  
Mary Denney  
PO Box 77  
Moreland GA 30259  
770-251-1670  
[srdenney@mindspring.com](mailto:srdenney@mindspring.com)

**SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES WITHIN THE U.S.**

**1-2 Calendars \$ 5.00                      11-25 Calendars \$ 14.00**  
**3-10 Calendars \$ 8.00                    26-49 Calendars \$ 17.00**  
For postage rates for 50 or more calendars, call Kay

## Blairsville Garden Club's Outstanding Landscape Seminar

April 22, 2015 over 150 people gathered at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center, Blairsville, Ga., to attend the 30th annual Landscape Seminar presented by Blairsville Garden Club titled "PAINT YOUR GARDEN WITH COLOR".

The Civic Center was ablaze with brightly blooming azaleas, rhododendrons, and other flowering plants, along with native wild azaleas in full bloom. Brightly colored foliage of perennials and shrubs added to the color scheme.

Mark Maher, Regional Representative of Flowerwood Nurseries, Loxley, Alabama, highlighted his presentation with many of the colorful plants from the Southern Living Plant Collection and the repeat blooming Encore Azaleas, presenting information on growth characteristics and how to use the plants in the garden. The entire plant collection on display was then given as door prizes to the excited audience.

Later Dr. Bodie Pennisi from University of Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin, spoke on "Flowers with a Purpose- The Pollinator Friendly, Sustainable Container Garden" and showed many tips on how to build the perfect container garden for color and effect in the garden. In the afternoon she spoke on "Flowers, Fragrance & Medicine From the Garden" and growth characteristics of particular herbs, perennials, and other plants that are used as medicine as well as beauty.

Dr. John Ruter, University of Georgia Trial Gardens, and Professor in the Department of Horticulture rounded out the program with a presentation on best use of conifers in Georgia. His has extensive



*Above: Blairsville Garden Club Members celebrating the 75th anniversary of the club.*

research in conifers and has written a book on the subject.

Highlight of the day was the observance of the 75th anniversary of Blairsville Garden Club's continuous service to the community as an organization. On April 17, 1940, ten women met in the home of Mrs. Marvin Akins, Akins Hotel, to organize and start up the club with 12 charter members. The first president of the group was Mrs. Edith Paris, mother of Commissioner Lamar Paris and Mary Carol Paris Akins, brother and sister. Commissioner

Lamar had a former commitment across the state and could not attend, but Mary Carol came as guest of honor.

A display featuring photos of the original hotel in 1940 where the first meeting took place and photos of the original charter members were featured, along with clothing and accessories from that era. No good club member left home without her dress gloves and hat in those days. A 75th anniversary birthday cake was served to the attendees of the seminar. ❁



Edna McClellan, Laurel District Director at GCG Convention on Jekyll Island with Suzanne Wheeler's memorial banner.

The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show School

Sponsored by:
North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges

In memory of former GCG President Suzanne Wheeler, North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges is sponsoring a Flower Show School to be held at Bellmere Garden House in Johns Creek. Come and join us September 28-30, 2015 for Course I. Learn the "ins and outs" of flower shows and how to create and judge award-winning designs. Georgia's own, Fay Brassie, NGC Flower Show School Instructor, will exhibit and discuss traditional mass, line, line/mass and still life designs. If your focus is on horticulture, then you'll want to come and hear Darlene Newell, NGC Flower Show School Instructor from West Virginia, talk about chrysanthemums, succulents and cacti, and how to grow, show and judge them.

Flower Show School is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in flower design and horticulture. While the primary purpose of these courses is to train those aspiring to become flower show judges, many people attend

for information only. Each of the four courses, offered approximately every six months, includes Horticulture curriculum, Design instruction and Flower Show Procedure.

The cost for each course is \$125.00. For further information, contact Joy Zaidan, GCG Flower Show Schools Chairman at jzaidan@bellsouth.net or 770-493-8475.

The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show School

Course I

Registration Deadline: September 14, 2015
NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

Course I: September 28-30, 2015
(The 2007 Handbook is required for credit)

Name
Address
E-mail
Phone #
Garden Club

Make Checks Payable To:
NGCFSJ Flower Show School

Mail to: Cookie Roland, Registrar & Co-Chairman
2771 Anscot Court, Snellville, GA 30078-3005
r\_cookie@att.net

(Check one)

Table with 2 columns: Course Description and Price. Includes Full Course (with exam) \$125, Full Course (no exam) \$115, Full Course, Judge's Special \$80, One Day, Monday, Horticulture \$50, One Day, Tue., Design \$50, Total Enclosed \$.

Fees include lunch and 2 breaks with snacks on Tuesday and Wednesday

Four Basic Courses

- Course I: September 28-30, 2015
Course II: March 15-17, 2016
Course III: September 27-29, 2016
Course IV: March 28-30, 2017
Fee: Each Course: \$125.00

Venue: Bellmere Garden House
10777 Bell Road
Johns Creek, GA 30097

(Registration limited to 30 students)

### Spade and Trowel Garden Club, Rome

The GCG convention, Rome Federation Day in May, and installation of club officers have been recent activities of Spade and Trowel Garden Club, Rome. Co-presidents Jane Davis and Irene Harper attended the GCG convention at Jekyll Island, "Georgia's Coastal Magic," and brought home 2nd place awards for yearbook and newsletter and Honorable Mention for Bettye Ellington's poem *Activity in the Garden*.

The Rome Federated Garden Club held its Day in May Celebration on May 4 at the South Rome Boys and Girls Club featuring community partner and member recognition and installation of officers for 2015-2017 followed by lunch. Spade and Trowel's Jane Davis was installed as 2nd vice president of the Federation. Spade and Trowel honored two of its members, Glenda Puckett and Bettye Ellington, with Life Memberships in the Federation.

The club's May meeting featured member Mary Kate Minge as auc-



*Pictured above: Spade and Trowel Garden Club's new officers: Jayne Payne and Ardith Birdsong Co-Presidents, Billie Watson Treasurer, Donna Knighten Vice President, and Sue Craft Secretary.*

ioneer for the club's annual fundraiser which was both successful and fun. The newly installed Federation co-presidents, Ansley Saville & Marla Janes, installed Spade and Trowel's officers for 2015-2017: Co-Presidents Ardith Birdsong and Jayne Payne, Vice-President Donna Knighten, Secretary Sue Craft, and Treasurer Billie Watson. ❁



*Pictured above: Bettye Ellington recipient of RFGC Life Membership*



*Above: Jane Davis, RFGC 2nd VP & Glenda Puckett, given RFGC Life Membership, with President Diane Harbin.*

Land - A - Can for  
Ronald McDonald House  
And help families in need!  
This is a Laurel District project!  
Hopefully, it will catch on  
across our state!  
Let's do our part and remember  
**Working Together Works!**  
See pg. 20



### 68th Anniversary

The Honeysuckle Garden Club met on April 21st for their 68th Birthday celebration/meeting at the Historic Root House, just off the Marietta Square. Our luncheon was organized by club hostesses Connie Kone, Angela Coffey, and Lynn Benson. The balmy, sunny weather was perfect for outdoor dining; and the members enjoyed tours of the home, kitchen, and gardens.

Before the meeting, Sue Burgess, Master Gardener and horticultural expert, led members on a fascinating tour of the historic garden in which she pointed out the various historic and medicinal plants and how they would have been used in the 19th century home. We had an opportunity to see how a typical Georgia household of that time would have been furnished and organized. The Cobb Landmarks has spent an inordinate amount of time collecting period items, both large and small, to really provide a sense of life at that time and all of us learned a little something new.

Following the tours, a delicious lunch was catered by Gabriel's and served on lovely tables decorated with linen, burlap and fresh flowers. Melissa DeVelvis, manager of the

Root House, Abby Parks, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Trevor Beeman, Director of Landmarks, were the welcoming hosts and servers.

The Honeysuckle Garden Club was founded in 1947 by the beloved Regina Rambo Benson and sponsored by the Flower Garden Club of Marietta. We are honored to have Charter Member Imogene Watkins Reeves as an active member as well as Emeritus Members Bebe Meaders, Suzanne Schmidt, Jean Reed and Jenny Lee Henderson on our roll. We have also added many second generation members in recent

years and look forward to the next 68 years making new friends and memories. ❁

This newsletter Editor needs an Assistant Editor to assist with proofing and editing articles. If you are interested please email Victoria Chandler at, [risingstar@ellijay.com](mailto:risingstar@ellijay.com)



### Tree Dedication by Dogwood Garden Club of Lawrenceville

On May 8 the Dogwood Garden Club of Lawrenceville convened at the newly opened Lawrenceville Lawn for the dedication of the Princeton Elm donated to the park by the club.

The club members were treated to a guided tour of the park's landscaping. Members were given information and names of many of the newly planted trees and shrubs.

After the dedication garden club members enjoyed box lunches on this beautiful sunny day at the Lawrenceville Lawn. ❁

### Anne Hathaway Happenings

Our Annual Fundraiser Bake/ Plant Sale was held on April 15 Rain or Shine. It rained but we SHINED!

The day started off with a drizzle at the Marietta Educational Garden Center, but we were prepared and set up a lot of the Garden goodies on the porch, baked items were inside.

Members were very generous with donated plants from their gardens, garden related items and baked goods. We had so many plants not everything could fit on

the porch and lined the walkway. Things sold quickly. Dedicated gardeners showed up in droves despite the rain and gray skies, for the best selection. We were sold out early!

In May we will be heading on a field trip to Catalina hosta farm and picnic at Laurel Park. June's program will be presented by Pat Pepper from Smith Gilbert Garden on Hummingbirds. We will take off July and August. ❁



*Save The Date*  
*Laurel District's Annual Fall Meeting is October 13, 2015 at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center in Young Harris.*



**Laurel Letters Schedule:**  
  
**Summer issue e-mailed June 1**  
*(Summer deadline May 15)*  
  
**Fall issue e-mailed September 15**  
*(Fall deadline August 30)*  
  
**Winter issue e-mailed December 1**  
*(Winter deadline November 15)*  
  
**Spring issue e-mailed March 15**  
*(Spring deadline February 29)*  
  
*Submit your reports and articles to: risingstar@ellijay.com Be sure to let me know it's for Laurel Letters.*

# Arboreta, Botanic and Memorial Gardens



Please encourage your club members to support the Arboreta, Botanical and Memorial Gardens. Donations of \$10.00 or more, if received by March 1st, 2016, will receive a certificate at the Garden Club of Georgia State Convention. Include club name and number, district name, club president's name and complete address.

Gifts in honor and memorials are encouraged. Please send name and address of person being honored or memorialized and name and address of family or person to receive acknowledgement card. Individual and club memberships to the State Botanical Garden are also available.

**Thank you for supporting our gardens.**

*Ruthellen Anderson*

*Laurel District Arboreta & Botanical Gardens Chairman*

*aruthellen@ymail.com*

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## Garden Club of Georgia

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

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

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

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Email to confirm receipt of donation \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Garden Club of Georgia** and mail to:  
Brenda Griner, GCG Treasurer, 244 Satilla Drive, Brunswick, GA 31523

Check if making donation:

**Arboreta/Botanical and Memorial Gardens** - For Certificate of Appreciation send \$10.00 or more by March 1.

Individual membership **State Botanical Garden in Athens** \$35.00

Club membership **State Botanical Garden in Athens** \$25.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00 donation for the **Atlanta Botanical Gardens**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00 donation for other garden - list \_\_\_\_\_

**Cherokee Garden Library**: For Certificate of Appreciation, send \$25 or more prior to March 1.

**Founders Memorial Garden**: A certificate will be issued for clubs sending \$25 or more prior to March 1.

**Total amount of check:** \_\_\_\_\_

*See list of Georgia botanical gardens and arboretums on next page.*

**Botanical Gardens in Georgia**

|                                                     |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Atlanta Botanical Gardens .....                     | Atlanta       |
| Atlanta Botanical Gardens .....                     | Gainesville   |
| Augusta Botanical Gardens.....                      | Augusta       |
| Barnsley Gardens .....                              | Adairsville   |
| Callaway Gardens.....                               | Pine Mountain |
| Chatham County Garden Center.....                   | Savannah      |
| Columbus Botanical Garden .....                     | Columbus      |
| Founders Memorial Garden .....                      | Athens        |
| Fred Hamilton Rhododendron Garden .....             | Hiawassee     |
| Garden State Research & Education Center.....       | Griffin       |
| Georgia Perimeter College Botanical Garden .....    | Decatur       |
| Georgia Southern Botanical Garden .....             | Statesboro    |
| Gibbs Gardens .....                                 | Ball Ground   |
| Masse Lane Gardens (American Camellia Society) .... | Fort Valley   |
| The State Botanical Garden of Georgia.....          | Athens        |
| Vines Botanical Garden.....                         | Loganville    |
| Waddell Barnes Botanical Gardens .....              | Macon         |

**Arboretums in Georgia**

|                                                    |               |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lockerly Arboretum.....                            | Milledgeville |
| Smith-Gilbert Arboretum.....                       | Kennesaw      |
| The Coastal Plain Research Center .....            | Tifton        |
| Thompson Mills Forest (State Arboretum of GA)..... | Braselton     |
| UGA Campus Arboretum.....                          | Athens        |



**Camellia Garden Club Celebrates Sixty-Five Years**

Rome's Camellia Garden Club met in March to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the club. Members were asked to wear hats and gloves as the charter members probably wore to meetings. Club memorabilia was on display. Members were asked to share a favorite club memory.

**Land – A – Can  
For Ronald Mcdonald House**

*John Barnett,  
Laurel Pull A Tab Chairman  
drb9565@aol.com*

During the last administration, Laurel District began a campaign of Land – A – Can to help with GCG's project of Pull – A – Tab for Ronald McDonald House. Though none of the cans received (and that was not very many last year) was included in our 400+ pounds of Pop Tops, the cans left behind when we took the tops off can help with the Ronald McDonald House expenses.

Your help is needed and wanted to increase Laurel District's donations to Ronald McDonald House. Have you personally known someone who had the need to stay at one of the Ronald McDonald Houses? If so, you know that our donations have and will continue to help these families.

What to do? When you take the pop top off the can and save it for this awesome project, have a heavy duty trash bag available.

Then what? Wash the cans out a bit, crush them if at all possible, and save the cans to be picked up at any Laurel District meeting (Board of Directors/General Meeting).

AND get your friends to help you save pop tops and cans! An aluminum can will be recycled indefinitely if we do our part! ❁