



# Laurel Letters

Summer, 2017  
Laurel District Newsletter

## Plant Gardens with New Horizons: Working Together Works



## Director's Dialog

Putting into words what it means to be the first male Laurel District Director and the first male district director in the state of Georgia is impossible. Your confidence in me, and the previous undertakings and accomplishments of former directors, inspire me to work with all garden club members to make Laurel District the very best. Together, over the next two years, we can lead Laurels of Light to greater heights. Former directors have left huge shoes to fill, the bar has been set high, hurdles are to be crossed and we must work together to run the race that is set before us.

A male director is just a start; many "new horizons" are in our future. Through club projects and activities Laurel District has opportunities to beautify our communities, participate in the conservation of our natural resources, and educate ourselves and the public on the importance of being good stewards of our environment.

Our Laurel District theme for the 2017-2019 term is "**Plant Gardens with New Horizons**". National Garden Clubs President Nancy Hargrove's theme is "Plant America"; Deep South's theme is "Plant America Southern Style" and our state President's theme is "Plant America: Georgia's Heritage, Georgia's Legacy". Under each theme there are numerous, significant projects in which clubs may participate. We hope to involve all clubs and their members plus our communities to carry out programs that educate, bring about new friendships, and protect our environment. In "planting our gardens" we will focus on membership as well as a variety of other goals. Our District and State Chairmen will be there to guide us in the accomplishment of our goals.

"**Working Together Works**"! We can and will complete many tasks, and I am anxious to see where the next two years will take us. Co-Director Marie Purser and I need your help. We have met several times and discussed the duties of the board, and we are excited to get started. We need everyone - a working board; working councils; working clubs and their members. Pick up your garden gloves and dig into the "gardens" of Laurel District and make them bloom. Remember "Working Together Works". Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve you and Laurels of Light as we strive to reach New Horizons during this administration.

*John*

District Director  
*Dr. John Barnette*

Co-Director  
*Marie Purser*

Recording Secretary  
*Susan Roof*

Corresponding Secretary  
*Susan Stephens*

Treasurer  
*Edna McClellan*

Chaplain  
*Diane Harbin*

Parliamentarian  
*Ann Bridges*

Advisor  
*Jackie Fulmer*

# Director and Co-Director of Laurel District



**Mrs. Marie Purser** (Co-Director) and  
**Dr. John Barnett** (Director)  
John and Marie were installed as  
Director and Co-Director at  
**Garden Club of Georgia Convention**  
in Callaway, Gardens in April, 2017.



## Spring, 2017

The Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2016 and with the new officers and board, the members have begun another busy year. The Club's 2 big events in the spring are The Plant Sale on May 20 and The Flower Show in late June. The Flower Show this year is Architecture, The Art of Expression.

Club members continue to support Beautification Projects for Ellijay: the Downtown Pots and plantings at Fort Hetzel and Kids Kottage. They also teach a class of local school children about gardening and have just adopted a portion of local road for litter pickup. The Club is also offering specialty design classes for our members and planning several field trips for the spring and fall.

## The Garden Club of Ellijay



Pictured above l to r after a workday at Fort Hetzel are Bessie Stephenson, Barbara Martin, Linda Fenner, Helen Smith, Bonnie Waldron, Betty Sammis, Joanne Waddey, Paula, Linebeck, Donna Houston, Maralyn Evans and Betty Reece.

# Laurel District



## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

**Are you in a leadership position in your club/council?  
Or, maybe,  
you might or will one day!**

If you are a club/council officer; if you ever plan to be one; if you think someone may nominate you and it is a big surprise; OR if you just want to know how a garden club operates, then you will not want to miss this workshop!

Laurel District is proud to welcome to our District, again, the renowned expert on Leadership, Sara Lanier, from Saint Simons, GA, former GCG president and former Deep South Regional Director, to facilitate and lead this workshop for the perfect **Leadership Team!**

**Thursday, July 20, 2017**

**9:30 AM – Coffee and Registration, 10:00 AM – Leadership Workshop**

**The Rock Barn**

**658 Marietta Highway (State Highway 20)**

**Canton, Georgia 30114**

Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Club \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail registration form and check for \$20.00 (light continental breakfast, lunch and supplies included) made payable to Laurel District to:



Edna McClellan  
180 Pacer Court, Unit 9044  
Ellijay, Georgia 30540

[ednae@ellijay.com](mailto:ednae@ellijay.com) Registration Deadline is Monday, July 3, 2017



# Laurel District

## AWARDS WORKSHOP



Presidents, Awards Chairmen and Interested Members will not want to miss this opportunity for all clubs and councils to receive the most up to date information needed to apply for **ALL** awards: GCG, Deep South and NGC! GCG Awards Chairman, Diane Harbin, will facilitate this awesome and interesting workshop. Diane will bring us up to date on any new changes to awards, how to apply for awards, PLUS answer any questions that you may have about Awards. Receive your accolades at the **Awards Banquet** at each convention from State, Deep South and National.

Laurel District Awards Workshop will be held in Hiawassee, GA on  
**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

The Awards Workshop will begin at 9:30 AM with Coffee and Registration with the Workshop beginning at 10:00 AM. Hosted by: **Hiawassee Garden Club**  
The England Hiawassee Garden Club Center  
34 River Street  
Hiawassee, Georgia

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration form and check for \$20.00 (for light continental breakfast, lunch and supplies) made payable Laurel District to:

Edna McClellan  
180 Pacer Court  
Unit 9044  
Ellijay, Georgia 30540  
[ednae@ellijay.com](mailto:ednae@ellijay.com)

**Registration Deadline is Friday, August 11, 2017**



**for the  
Community Wildlife Project (CWP) Annual  
Workshop**

**WHO:**

**Hosted by GA DNR  
(Nongame Endangered Wildlife Program)  
and The Garden Club of GA, Inc.**

**WHAT:**

**Learn the latest information about CWP**

**WHEN:**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

**WHERE:**

**116 Rum Creek Drive; Forsyth, GA 31029**

**WHY:**

**Protecting and preserving our non-game wildlife**

**Mark your calendar now.**

**Registration information will be mailed to you  
*the end of June.***

# Garden Club Master Calendar

## JUNE 2017

1	Sat	GCG Awards Committee Meeting 10:30	Perry Welcome Center
22	Thu	Oleander Leadership Workshop	Patterson
27	Tue	Azalea Leadership Workshop	Athens
28	Wed	Dogwood & Redbud Leadership Workshop	Bellmere

## JULY 2017

9-11	Sun-Tue	Wild and Wonderful Experience Camp	Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield
16-18	Sun-Tue	Flower Show Judges Symposium	Athens
20	Thu	Laurel Leadership Workshop	Canton
25	Tue	Oleander Awards Workshop	Swainsboro
27	Thu	Camellia & Magnolia Leadership Workshop	Americus

## AUGUST 2017

1	Tue	CWP Workshop	Rum Creek DNR, Forsyth
3	Thu	Magnolia District Board Meeting	Oglethorpe
4	Fri	Azalea Awards Workshop	Union Point
8	Tue	Laurel District Board Meeting	Euharlee
10	Thu	Camellia & Magnolia Awards Workshop	Tifton
14	Mon	Redbud District Board Meeting	Avondale Estates
15	Tue	Oleander District Board Meeting	Savannah
15	Tue	Azalea District Board Meeting	Washington
17	Thu	Laurel District Awards Workshop	Hiawassee
23	Wed	Dogwood & Redbud Awards Workshop	Decatur
29	Tue	Camellia District Board Meeting	Tifton
29	Thu	Investment Committee Meeting	Atlanta

## SEPTEMBER 2017

13-15	Wed-Fri	NGC Fall Board Meeting	St. Louis MO
24	Sun	GCG F&E Meeting 2:00 pm	King & Prince Resort, St. Simons Island
25-26	Mon-Tue	GCG Fall Board Meeting	King & Prince Resort, St. Simons Island

**Plant Gardens with New Horizons:  
Working Together Works**

# Creative Study Club offers a team of instructors for Basic Design Course in north Georgia

With over 80 years of combined experience in floral design and flower show judging, five members of Creative Study Club in Marietta have teamed together to teach **the Garden Club of Georgia's Basic Design Course I**. The team members live in a widespread area from middle Georgia to far north Georgia. Each of them teaches one class of the course depending on their specialty.

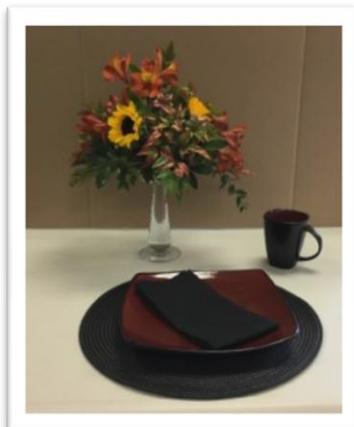
The Basic Design Course is meant for those who want to learn to arrange flowers, fruit, veggies, and foliage from their own gardens for their homes.

The five-segment course includes traditional line and line mass, mass and foliage designs, designs for dining tables, fruit and vegetable designs, creative designs and the new petite designs.

Garden Club of Ellijay just completed the course with this team of teachers .

If your club is interested, contact Creative Study Club member and former Laurel District Director Edna McClellan, at [ednamae@ellijay.com](mailto:ednamae@ellijay.com). Edna can then connect you to the state chairman to send out materials to get the classes started.

So this summer as you grow great-looking flowers and vegetables in your garden, consider learning more about arranging them for even greater enjoyment.



## Jonquil Garden Club Houseplant Exchange January, 2017



### Laurel Letters Schedule

Summer, June 1  
Fall, September 15  
Winter, December 1  
Spring, March 15

The newsletters will be available in .pdf format for you to download from this web site. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view, read and download the newsletter.

You can download the reader program for free at: [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)



## THREE RIVERS GARDEN CLUB



Three Rivers is a very active engaged garden club here in Rome. Our members are talented in so many areas and are very generous in sharing their gifts in our club and the community. In Administration alone the present Laurel District President and the Rome Federated President come from our club! We are very proud of them. We are small enough to know all our members which makes our fellowship that much better. We enjoy having very interesting and varied programs, even taking an occasional field trip. We start the new year off in September going to a member's vineyard to learn all about growing grapes and later in the year we go to a Native Plant Nursery. Programs that involve hands-on activities are always a treat for our members; designing terrariums and sowing seeds for a program on propagation were recent programs.

We are very proud of our various projects that we participate in, such as the beautification of Rome Visitor's Center where we have window boxes planted with flowers for each season and other containers with beautiful arrangements of flowers. Participation in the Coosa Valley Fair in entering horticulture specimens is a fun activity for all. We relish when our members win those awards that help our fundraising efforts. Having our efforts rewarded in Awards we receive on the District, State, and Deep South is always rewarding for Three Rivers.

Our theme for next year is "Experiencing Nature's Hearth Through Gardening." Take a look at us on Facebook and our Website to see what we are about. You'll see some happy gardeners!

## A FEW Garden Facts

by D.J. Chakraborty

Summer time is a perfect time to enjoy garden activities with family and friends which inspire new endeavors. School is out however the joy of learning can continue in the garden, an ideal classroom to stimulate the right brain and the left brain. An important lesson for all ages is about Empedocles and the foundations of gardening. The Greek philosopher Empedocles of Cos who lived around 495 to 435 B.C. stated that four basic substances air, fire, earth, and water combined in various proportions make up all the objects in the universe. Those four substances correspond directly to the four essentials of gardening: air is the climate, fire is the (sun) exposure, earth is the soil, and water is water. Consider **afew** [**A**ir (Climate), **F**ire (Sun Exposure), **E**arth (Soil), and **W**ater] facts for your garden.

Plants are the foundation of life on earth and the earth/soil is the foundation in which to grow plants. Do you know the plants in your garden can grow fresh air and clean water? Yes, gardens do grow fresh air and clean water as well as fresh, fragrant, edible, useful, and medicinal plants. Human beings and animals inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Employing that carbon dioxide energy, plants express oxygen. We could not breathe without plants. Anthropogenic activities and technology exhale toxins and plants work hard to clean up after us. Hence gardens grow fresh air.

Transpiration is the evaporation of water from plants by the process of moisture carried from the roots to the pores on the underside of leaves. There the water changes to vapor and is released into the atmosphere. About ten percent of atmospheric moisture comes from transpiration. Hence gardens grow fresh water.

Let's do something to appreciate plants this summer and benefit ourselves as well.

June is the perfect time in Georgia to create a tropical garden; choose to study a special country, recipe, or plant. Plant an exotic flower or seed and enjoy the process of nurture and patient expectancy. At summer's end, you have an exotic Eden laden with tropical flowers, fruits, herbs, spices, or vegetables to enjoy and enter in the North Georgia Fair.

Feed the stomach, brain, heart, and soul while enjoying summer's beauty and utility. The garden is a perfect classroom to relieve stress, exercise, eat, oxygenate, hydrate, and have fun!



# News from Spade and Trowel Garden Club, Rome

Spade and Trowel members Donna Knighten, Glenda Puckett, Jane Davis, and Irene Harper attended the GCG Convention at Callaway Gardens April 18 – 20, 2017.



Donna Knighten, Jane Davis, Irene Harper, and Glenda Puckett at the 2017 GCG convention at Callaway Gardens

Spade and Trowel officers for 2017 – 2019 were installed at the May meeting held at Village at Maplewood Clubhouse. Mary Kate Minge installed the following officers: president – Donna Knighten, vice-president – Glenda Puckett, secretary – Sondra Wilkins, and treasurer – Billie Watson.

The club also held an auction for fundraising, and members enjoyed luncheon and fellowship. Hostesses for the meeting were Diann Kothe, Elizabeth Wooten, and Sally Kiefer.



At the Awards Banquet Spade and Trowel received a first place award for Member Participation Program for three programs presented by Donna, Jane, and Irene. The club's yearbook received 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and the newsletter received honorable mention. The club was also presented a Certificate of Excellence.



Donna Knighten receives award from Carol Bullard (left), Deep South Director, & Martha Price (right), GCG President 2015 – 2017,

Photo at left:  
Donna Knighten (president), Glenda Puckett (vice-president), Billie Watson (treasurer), Melanie Caldwell standing in for secretary Sondra Wilkins, and Mary Kate Minge who installed **Spade and Trowel's** officers for 2017 - 2019

## Eggcellency:

### A Study of Eggplants by the Junior Master Gardeners at King Springs Elementary School

by D.J. Chakraborty

#### **Eggplant Preparation:**

Wash Eggplant  
Slice ¼ inch thick  
Place in baking tray  
Drizzle with olive oil  
Broil +/- five (5) minutes  
(Caution: time will vary depending on  
the amount of eggplants & type of baking tray)  
Remove from oven very carefully  
Add your favorite toppings\* & enjoy!

#### **\*D.J.'s Favorite Toppings for Grilled Eggplants:**

Bruschetta sauce  
Provolone, mozzarella, asiago, or cheddar cheese  
Pesto  
Chopped red onions & Roasted garlic  
Sausage & Fresh herbs  
Tahini  
Chopped green onions & Ginger (use mustard oil)  
Wasabi



#### **II. Eggplant Facts:**

- A. Botany: Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) is a fruit which belongs to the [nightshade](#) family and is related to [tomatoes](#) and [potatoes](#). Botanically classified as a [berry](#) and has a wide range of shapes and sizes, some like eggs, others like cucumbers. Also comes in many colors including white, yellow, green, orange and purple.
- B. History: Eggplants are native to Asia where they have grown for thousands of years. They were introduced in Europe through trade routes from the Middle East and first recorded in England in 1597 as “Easter egg plants” or just “egg plants” because the fruits resembled Easter eggs. The British later borrowed the French name “aubergine” which came from the Arabic name “al-bāḍinjān.”
- C. Today, the British call them *aubergines* whereas Americans use the Old English word *eggplants* thanks to Noah Webster. Noah Webster (1758-1843) is known as the “Father of American Scholarship and Education.” His famous *Speller* and *Dictionary* created an intellectual foundation for American nationalism and linguistic independence from the cultural dominance of Great Britain. The British pronounce the “H,” in herbs the Old English way, whereas we choose the French pronunciation.
- D. Cultivation: Eggplant seeds can be transplanted into the garden after the danger of [frost](#) has passed; April fifteenth here in Smyrna, GA. Seeds can be started indoors eight to ten weeks earlier. The 2016-17 school year/season produced a very generous harvest of eggplants. Many thanks to the Junior Master Gardeners at Kings Springs Elementary School for the hard work!



## ANNUAL COVERED DISH MEETING AND PLANT EXCHANGE UPDATE ON BOTANICAL GARDEN

Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club enjoyed our always-fun annual covered dish and plant exchange on May 10, 2016. Members bring dishes to share and a plant to be given away. Members first take a moment to tell about the plant they brought, and a few words about its care. Numbers are then distributed allowing us each to choose something that's new to us and/or unusual. Many of the plants brought come from club members' gardens if they have something to share. Others are lovely plants purchased at retailers. Pictured are this month's hostesses, L-R: Marie Nordest, Linda Scrivner, Becky Huffman, and Beverly Poag. We look forward to field trips during the summer months, and a new year beginning in September.

The Anetsa-Ga-Da Garden Club is working hard in anticipation of the dedication of the Ball Ground Botanical Garden. On **June 11** at 11:00, the Garden will be dedicated as part of National Garden Club Week. The Garden is located on the grounds of City Hall. With the support of the City, local businesses, and the Community a beautiful garden has been created. The 3/4 acre garden is highlighted by a certified butterfly garden in the shape of a butterfly. The Native Plant Garden contains many local native plants and rare finds. The Daylily Walk takes you through daylilies and roses in bloom. A foot bridge is located near the stream. The funding is through engraved brick sales and "Friends of the Garden" donations. The public garden will continue to grow and evolve as an asset to the Community. It is a source of pride for those who had a vision to create a beautiful garden for Ball Ground families.

Submitted by Evelyn Foster/Diane Smith

# Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden Club

Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden Club held our annual Tablescapes luncheon and silent auction in March. This is our main fundraiser for the year. Guests enjoyed a buffet of homemade salads. Each table was decorated with a beautiful centerpiece created by a club member. Our individual place settings, each of which required a fresh flower, were judged by a panel of 3 judges based on criteria set by the Garden Club of Georgia. In keeping with the Garden Club of Georgia efforts to protect the pollinators, the theme of the event was "Bees". Goodie bags with honey and flower seeds were given out, and the program was full of bees.



The Judges



Marie Purser  
with Scrapbook



A few of the Tablescapes



Our other recent activities have included donation of a check to the HOPE Center, delivery of felt Easter eggs decorated by members to the workers at the Good Shepherd Foundation, donating a tree to be planted in downtown Euharlee and giving out seedlings for Arbor Day, maintaining the garden spot and a memory rose garden at the Emmie Nelson Library in Euharlee and volunteering as board members for the Euharlee Historical Society. Members recently attended the Garden Club of Georgia State Convention in Callaway Gardens and attended the Garden Club of Georgia Historic Land Preservation Fundraiser and Tour held at Oak Hill in Rome on April 26th.

# NEWS FROM SEVEN HILLS GARDEN CLUB



Seven Hills Garden Club of Rome, Georgia has had a busy, successful year. Under the leadership of our Co-Presidents, Carrie Wilder and Amanda Kinder, and a fantastic Executive Board, we have learned about our bee population, how to entice our buzzing polinator friends, and even how we might start a hive and harvest our own honey. Since birds, with their beautiful colors and songs, also add to the environment, two of our members presented a program on how to attract them with the proper food, water, and shelter. Not to be forgotten – the butterfly - who loves zinnias, another of our programs. Save some of the zinnia seeds to share next year as we did with bulbs and a variety of seeds and plants from our gardens this year. Spring took us to Gibbs Garden and a carpet of yellow, gold, pink, and white daffodils. Our final program told about the wild, native flowers that grow in our area; if you look carefully you might find some hidden in a shady corner of your yard or nearby wooded area. Or you could just add a few; they are hardy and easy to grow. This year has taught us many ways to protect our pollinators and beautify our gardens.

Our holiday celebration was a Christmas Tea at which we were honored to have Governor and Mrs. Nathan Deal help us celebrate their daughter, Carrie's, fortieth birthday. May was the busiest month when The Rome Federated Garden Clubs held *Day in May*. *Each club invited members of the community who had been of special help to them; over the past two years.* Certificates of appreciation were given, awards were presented, and lunch was provided. Attendees enjoyed the Library setting with lovely floral arrangements and delicious foods. The event was co-chaired by Ruth Forrester and Sheelah Schreiber of Seven Hills. Our final meeting of the year was our May party. It was time to thank the outgoing board and introduce the newly elected Executive Board for 2017-2019.

Our hostess, Fran Bagley, welcomed members and their guests to her beautiful home that stretched down to a picturesque lake. Spectacular flower arrangements could be seen throughout the home and outside, and a vegetable garden had produce ready to harvest. It was the perfect setting to relax, visit with friends, and end our very active year.

Submitted by.

Sheelah Schreiber

# The Magnolia Garden Club



The Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District of Cartersville Georgia, is proud to announce the sponsorship of the "Junior Magnolia Club" located on the property of Hamilton Crossing Elementary School.

A beautiful tea was held to showcase all of the work and plantings that have been done during the last school year; some vegetables have been picked and cooked in the cafeteria, this year.

Kathleen Clark, Chairperson of the Youth/Education committee, and Sandy Lukas and Lynn Frye, master gardeners of Bartow County and all members of the Magnolia Garden club, are pictured with the Junior Gardeners and Hamilton Crossing students who have diligently worked after school to cultivate this beautiful garden. In 1998, the garden club started this small space as they did at several of the schools in Bartow County, some of the original planting still exist. As part of this project, books have been given to various schools on the subject of gardening.

## Magnolia Garden Club Scholarship

presented to **Jeremy Mathis**,  
a Horticulture student at  
**Chattahoochee Tech.**

Pictured are Susan Stephens,  
Treasurer- Chattahoochee Tech  
Foundation, Jeremy Mathis, and Mary  
Lou Wilson, Chair of the Magnolia  
Garden Club Scholarship Committee.



# ANNE HATHAWAY GARDEN CLUB

Anne Hathaway Garden Club Members continue to promote their interest in gardening with all guests who attend events at the Marietta Educational Garden Center at 505 Kennesaw Avenue. Funds from last year were used to purchase planters for the front entrance of the historic building and filled them with Lorapetalums and Hucheras for the twenty-one garden club members to enjoy along with others attending group meetings and social gatherings.



**Anne Hathaway Garden Club** was also successful in their annual Plant and Bake Sale in April with funds being used for various civic projects.

Rosemary Martin is President of Anne Hathaway Garden Club.



## The Magnolia Garden Club Pond & Garden Tour

The Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District of Cartersville held their annual Pond and Garden Tour on May 13. There were four gardens and ponds featured on the tour. A raffle was held for a handmade quilt and handpainted canvas. The funds raised from the raffle will be used for the various committees for projects in the Bartow County area, including the establishing of Jr. Garden Clubs in the local elementary schools. Pictured on the far right, is President Vicki Jones with members of the Garden Club of Ellijay.

# Mountain View Garden Club

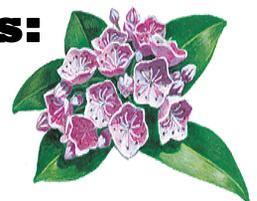
**Mountain View Garden Club** members, from Rome in the Laurel District, enjoyed a tour of the beautiful garden at the Rome/Floyd County Library. The multi-level garden established and maintained by Rome's Seven Hills Garden Club includes a gazebo, water fountain, and reading areas for quiet relaxing retreats.



Picture below left-right

Front Row: Nancy Thompson, Wanda Meeks, Janie Peacock  
Second Row: Sallee Smith, Nancy Graham, Ann Green, Caroline Alford,  
Joanne Burke, JoAnn Bell, Vickie Davidson, Carmen Henderson  
Third Row: Joan Fellows, Mary Rolan, Laura Gafnea, Didi Vreatt

**Plant Gardens with New Horizons:  
Working Together Works**



# Jonquil Garden Club



Madison Puch received the \$1000 scholarship donated by Jonquil Garden Club through Chattahoochee Tech, where Madison is studying horticulture.

Shirley Priest, President, and Meg Perry, Treasurer, attended the luncheon for donors and recipients on April 21.



Officers installed February in February were Meg Perry, Treasurer; D. J. Chakraborty, Secretary; Debbie Jones, 2nd Vice- President; Lorelei Clapper, 1st Vice- President, and Shirley Priest, President. Jacque Landers, long-term member and former president, gave a floral color-themed installation. **Jonquil Garden is a Club of Excellence.**



Jonquil Garden Club members created table centerpieces for the Keep Smyrna Beautiful Banquet in March. We again received the Helping Hands Award for service with KSB and the Adopt-A-Mile Award for 25 years of service for roadside clean-up. Debbie Butler, far left, was our design leader.

## **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

**July 20th**

Canton, GA

You don't have to be a current club officer to attend this leadership workshop, if you think you might like to be a club officer someday, or just want to know how things operate in Laurel District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. then you will not want to miss this workshop!

## **AWARDS WORKSHOP**

**August 17**

Hiawassee, GA

Presidents, Awards Chairmen, and interested members will not want to miss this opportunity for all clubs and councils to receive the most up to date information needed to apply for ALL awards: GCG, Deep South and NGC!

Jonquil Garden Club of Smyrna presents our

# ***Eighth Annual Plant Sale***



**Saturday, June 10, 2017**

**8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

***At Smyrna Fresh (Farmers') Market on King Street in the lower parking lot of First Baptist Church of Smyrna***

Sun and shade blooming perennials (especially for pollinators), hard-to-find plants, miniature hostas (Mouse Ears), medium to large hostas (Brother Stefan), ferns, hellebores, small trees, annuals, groundcovers, *wide selection of natives*, named irises, daylilies, and herbs will be for sale. We have both 2017 Perennial Plant and Hosta of the Year, both creative container gardens and garden accessories will be plentiful.

Let our "little red wagon" brigade help you get your plants to the car. A special children's activity is planned. Rain or shine, we have great prices...most gallons: \$5-\$7.

We appreciate your continued support of our sale that funds our scholarship project each year at Chattahoochee Tech for a candidate majoring in horticulture.

Thank you!



## Member honored with Lifetime Membership In Garden Club of Georgia

At the February 2017 meeting The Fleur de Lis Garden Club, Laurel District honored member **Barbara Stevens** with a Lifetime Membership in the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Barbara holds the longest tenure of any present member of Fleur de Lis.

She has been a faithful member who has served in many capacities from leadership to hostess. She has been gracious, flexible and a mentor to many.

The Fleur de lis Garden Club expresses appreciation and thanks to Barbara for her Years of Service.



# Dalton Garden Club

P7067142289@gmail.com

May 2017

Dear Laurel Garden Lovers,

The thirteen members of the Dalton Garden Club meet together on the Second Wednesday of each month, September through June. **Our theme for 2016 was “An Hour in the Garden,”** giving us the opportunity to share the happiness we experience in our own, or other’s, gardens. To that end, we shared in programs about pollinators, the myths and magic of plants, children in the garden, patio gardens, and pruning. We also held our annual flower show, and visited nurseries.

For many years we have cared for “*Mary’s Garden*”, the “small fenced flower garden located on the grounds of the historic *Hamilton House*, owned by the **Whitfield-Murray Historical Society**. The garden is named in honor of the late Mary Hamilton McKnight, past-president of both the Dalton Garden Club and the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society, and is planned and planted for year-round interest, using plant materials suitable to the home’s heritage and history.”

## **We support Marshall Forrest.**

Last year we “adopted” a Habitat for Humanity home to provide flower and shrub borders around a newly constructed home, refurbished and replanted the flower beds at the Dalton Post Office, helped decorate Hamilton Medical Center for the Christmas season, and supported the Cohutta Community Food Pantry.

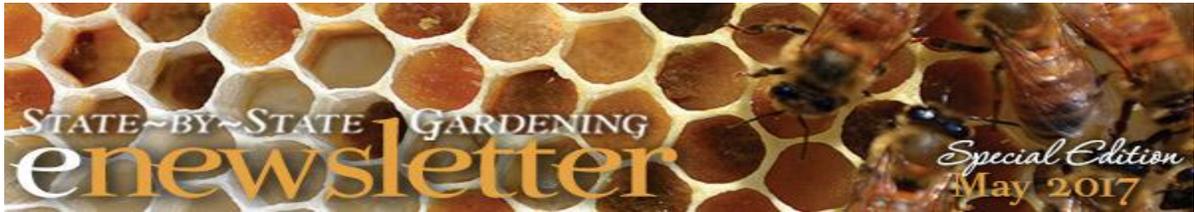
This year (2017-2018) our theme is “Welcome to our Gardens.” We began our year with very enlightening and informational programs on noxious plants and xeriscaping. On April 26th our entire club attended the Laurel District Historic landscape Preservation fund raiser at Berry College. In May we thoroughly enjoyed a program entitled, “From Farm to Cocktail Glass”. The inspiration and information for this program was from Amy Stewart’s book *The Drunken Botanist*.

We took on a new project this year to assist the town of Cohutta in establishing a community garden. The town has designated the space and will provide water for the garden, which is located just across the street from Shugart Park, the Community Center and the elementary school. This year, while the town gets the basics taken care of, we will provide various workshops to those who are interested in having garden plots. Three members of our Club are on the flower guild at Dalton’s First Presbyterian Church, one of whom is the chairman.

Each month members may share something new they learned or observed in their garden or other gardens. Some examples would be a new bird, or one we did not recognize, a plant that just appeared, or something of interest we read or heard. As always, we look forward to each meeting and the opportunity to share our knowledge of, and delight in, God’s amazing creation!

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Reggin, President



## Surprising Pollinators

by Helen Newling Lawson

Honey bees in North America are disappearing at a rapid rate. It's time to find other pollinators for our farms and gardens.

I started seeing tiny green bees about 12 years ago here in Volusia County.

There would be five or six on each lotus flower. My insect book had information about dozens of smaller bee species, but not the one I was watching. My search continued to the internet. Information included thousands of species of small bees, however, I could find none like the one I photographed as living in Florida.

When I decided to write about them I sent photographs to several entomologists. I was told that these bees were not orchid bees, because they don't live in Florida. They're found in abundance in all other parts of the lower 48, but not Florida.

I didn't give up. I continued searching. I finally found images on a site called [bugguide.net](http://bugguide.net). They evidently do live in Florida, even as far south as Ft. Myers and Fort Lauderdale. The images in this article you're reading are of one particular type: Neotropical Green Orchid Bees, *Euglossa Viridissima*.



## The Trouble With Honey Bees

by Blake Layton

Honey bees hold a unique place in the insect world. They are one of only a few insects man has domesticated, and they are bred and raised as livestock throughout the world. The honey and wax they produce has been prized by humans for thousands of years and honey bees provide critical pollination for many food crops.

These are valuable insects that enhance our lives. Commercial beekeepers derive their livelihood by farming this miniature livestock, and even if you do not keep bees, eat honey or use beeswax candles, many of the fruits and vegetables you eat are more readily available and less expensive because of honey bee pollination.

Honey bees are not native to North America; they were brought here by European settlers to provide honey and beeswax. As settlers moved west they carried honey bees with them, and many of these bees escaped along the way to establish feral colonies in hollow trees throughout the country. But feral honey bee colonies are not nearly as common as they once were, and neither are domestic colonies. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the number of commercial bee hives in the U.S. peaked at 5.9 million in 1947; today there are less than 2.5 million.

If you have paid attention to the news media over the past few years, you probably know honey bees are having problems. One of the most widely publicized is a phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder, or CCD. This problem, which causes entire colonies of bees to die suddenly and mysteriously, was first recognized in the U.S. in 2006. But CCD is just one of a series of new problems to affect U.S. honey bees over the last 30 years.

## **The Importance of Pollination** by Connie Kingman

The lyrics might even have continued for that matter, for there are many other organisms involved in the process of pollination: wasps, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, ants, bats and other mammals, including humans.



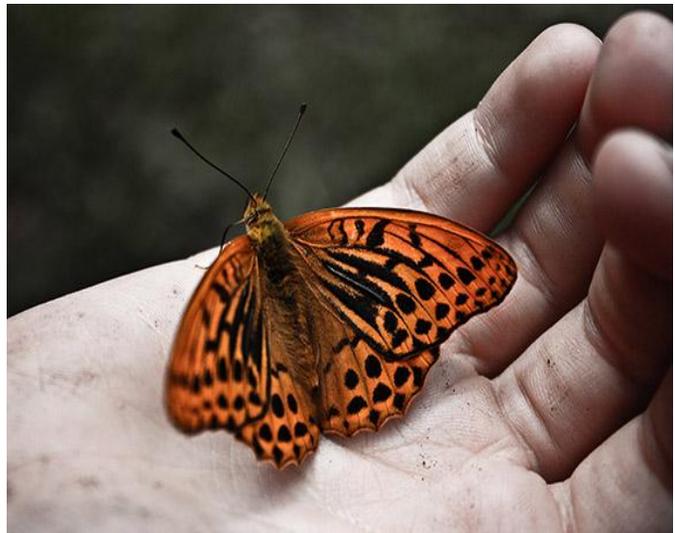
We all do it, even if unintentionally. But the most efficient of all pollinators are the bees: honeybees, bumblebees and solitary bees. Their industrious nature leads them on daily treks from flower to flower, transferring pollen amongst them as they go.

We marvel at the beauty of flowers, their intricate designs, their vast array of colors and intoxicating fragrances. Most often, though, we give no thought to their real purpose, which is to produce new plants.

## Welcoming Butterflies

by Ilene Sternberg

Despite their freewheeling, frivolous demeanor, butterflies follow a deliberate and complex regimen in their day-to-day doings. Their life-cycle consists of four stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult (butterfly), each stage requiring specific food and environments. Butterflies deposit eggs — singly or in clusters — in spring, summer or fall, depending on the species.



A good nectar source promotes the production of large numbers of eggs. Some lay eggs on only one or a few plant species, others on many kinds, usually on those appropriate as larval food. Eggs usually hatch within a few days. Nine out of 10 eggs never become adults because predators, mainly birds, think the eggs, caterpillars and butterflies are delicious.

Emerging caterpillars feed first on their eggshells, then the host plant. They shed their “skin” usually four or five times, growing larger with each stage (called an “instar”). Caterpillars with abundant, high-quality food mature earlier than poorly fed larvae.



## The Buzz About Backyard Bees

by Peggy Hill

Bees are fascinating. You may remember learning about the waggle dance they do to communicate the direction and distance to great flowers, but did you know that the hive entrance guards sometimes accept bribes? That’s right — a bee from another hive will slip one of the guards a little nectar, and then that guard will tell the other guards, “Hey, this is my nephew Joey. He’s okay.” Joey will slip in, steal a little honey and make a quick getaway. And I bet you thought only humans were corruptible.

The only problem with this story is that most of the bees in the hive are women, so Joey is most likely a Josephine. In a hive of 50,000 bees, only a few hundred are males. The bees have complete control over whether the eggs will hatch into males, females or a queen. They usually choose females, because females do all the work. The males just sit around, eating and drinking more than their share.



**The End**