



# Laurel Letters

Winter 2018

Laurel District Newsletter



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## Plant Gardens with New Horizons: Working Together Works

My Dear Laurels of Light,

I was excited to see so many of you at the Laurel District Meeting in Dalton, Georgia at the Dalton Convention Center. Meeting so many new Laurel District attendees and seeing old acquaintances made my day perfect.

All of our clubs should receive a round of applause for the many awards and accolades you receive through your many projects that help GCG reach its goals and **"PLANT AMERICA - Georgia's Heritage, Georgia's Legacy"**. Three Rivers Garden Club received the Laurel District Club of the year award and Rome Federated Garden Club, Inc. received the Council of the Year award. What a fantastic day for Rome.

Several members were also lucky enough to win a beautiful basket or door prize and our program on winter pots was very informative. Since that Laurel meeting I have been in recovery mode - bedridden for awhile and now only able to be out of bed for 4 to 5 hours.

It was my full intent to visit every District Meeting across Georgia and I did get to Dogwood District and spent time with my friends and Lib Thompson, Director. Leaving Sandy Springs it was raining so hard that at times I could hardly see in front of me. I did not receive the message that Redbud District Meeting had been postponed due to Hurricane Michael. I could not get off any exit to turn toward Lindale. Passing the Locust Grove exit, I realized if I could get to the Jackson exit, I could travel the back roads. Just as I past Locust Gove exit, I truly thought the Lord had returned. I heard what sounded like a bomb going off, my cup of water flew past my head, my printer on the front floorboard flew up and into the back.

To make a long story short, I was traveling about 60 mph and a transfer truck had just pased my car. A lady going 75 mph "whipped" around the truck and rammed into me. My cruiser flew (literally) for several feet and when I finally got control of the car, I had gone about the length of a football field (per the police). Before leaving home I told my Queen that I was going to drive my P.T. Cruiser until it would not cruise anymore. I did drive the car to Jackson but the next morning my P.T. Cruiser said, "I'm not going to cruise any more!". I am alive and the lady who hit me is doing OK. As I told her, "lives can't be replaced but cars can".

December is a time for us to stop for a moment and breathe. In addition to Club decorating projects, decorating your own home will take precedence. It's time to prepare for family time and company. Up go the trees, cuttings from our yards enhance garlands, wreaths, and floral arrangements that bring welcoming Christmas cheer to our homes. My Queen and I have only had time (due to lack of strength right now) to put up and decorate 13 trees and 15 window wreaths. But we will get it completed!

I wish you and your family a happy and Merry Christmas and a peace filled holiday season. See you all soon. Love Hugs, and Blessings always to all of you.

*John*



**Orchid Show  
March 8-10, 2019  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
(in Day Hall)**

**Hours:**  
**Friday 9-5 (exhibits open at noon),**  
**Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4**

The Atlanta Orchid Society's annual show will feature 8-10 displays of blooming orchids and 6-8 vendors of orchid plants and orchid themed items.

Vendors we're expecting to attend include: Peach State Orchids (Woodstock, GA), Marble Branch Farms (Walhalla, SC), Odom's Orchids (Ft. Pierce, FL), Owens Orchids, etc. (Pisgah Forest, NC), Equaflor-A (Cuenca, Ecuador) and Gracelynn's Clay Flowers.

The orchid show is included with admission to the garden. While you're here be sure to also check out the seasonal displays and permanent collections in the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Fuqua Orchid Center. For updated information check our web site at [www.atlantaorchidsociety.org](http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org)

## Magnolia Garden Club

At the October meeting of Magnolia Garden Club, Cartersville, Georgia, Laurel District, Sandra McMillan, program chairman, introduced Reverend Scott Shepherd, pastor at Brandon's Chapel in Bartow County.

The meeting took place at Roselawn Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, and Reverend Shepherd spoke on the life and ministry of Rev. Sam Jones, evangelist, who made his home at Roselawn. Reverend Jones was the topic of Reverend Shepherd's recent dissertation written for his doctorate.

Reverend Shepherd plans to share more information about the amazing evangelist by writing a book about his life. A framed lithograph of Roselawn was presented to the speaker by Ms. McMillan.



## Planting at Hamilton Crossing Elementary School

Kathleen Clark of Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District and chairman of the Junior Magnolia Garden Club at Hamilton Crossing prepares with her committee members, Lynn Frye and Sandi Lucas, for fall planting at the raised beds at the elementary school garden in Bartow County, Georgia. This garden receives monthly attention- weeding, watering, and timely plantings. Volunteers and students even enjoy sharing the abundance of produce with the cafeteria.

# Magnolia Garden Club



The Jr. Magnolia  
Garden Club





## **SEVEN HILLS GARDEN CLUB**

*Seven Hills Garden Club Federation project continues to progress. Nectar and host plants beckon as the garden attracts more beautiful butterflies for all Clock Tower visitors to enjoy. We will soon be completing our application to become part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. Stop by and visit; you will be amazed.*



# Marshall Forest Update

Things are looking so much better in the forest. Here is what has been happening.

- Marc Weed worked to rebuild the entrance gates to match the fencing across the street.
- The Fire Crew of the Nature Conservancy has been working with removal of invasive species such as privet, Chinese wisteria, holly, Nandina, Magnolia and English Ivy.
- The Loop Trail is now open at the tip of the Dorsey Trail. It circles the Long Leaf Pine Grove on Mount Alto.
- The Flower Glen Trail has been reopened for the first time since the storm of 1993. Many downed trees had to be removed from the trail to make it unusable.
- The parking lot has been leveled and some new railroad ties have been put into place.
- An Eagle Scout candidate is planning to work on the trail and replace the posts and sign podiums during the winter. We hope to use a product similar to TREX for the posts and podiums to eliminate the issue of rotting wood.
- Joan Maloof, Executive Director and Founder of the Old Growth Forest Network, officially named Marshall Forest as part of the Old Growth Forest Network.
- The annual Robert Weed Memorial Walk took place on October 19th with over 60 attendees. Doug Walker, from the Rome News Tribune, wrote several articles about the Marshall Forest and elaborated on its unique characteristics.
- The City of Rome is working with Georgia Power to install a streetlight across from the entrance to the Marshall Forest parking lot.
- Dr. Brian Campbell, Environmental Studies Chairman at Berry College, has discussed finding projects for his students to do in the forest such as making a video tour and possibly putting QR codes with information on the history of the forest and detailed trail maps inside the existing Kiosk in the parking lot.

Many donations have come in this fall, but we need your continued support to accomplish all the work that needs to be done in the forest. Please add us to your list of contributions. Any contribution of \$25 or more will receive a Deed of Gratitude at the State Convention in April.

**Jennifer Kearns, Stanley Boulee, and Caroline Alford walk across the bridge over the wet water creek during the Robert Weed Memorial Walk**



# BALL GROUND GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS MISS MOPSY DAISY RAKER

For the Ball Ground Halloween Scarecrow Contest, the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club created **Miss Mopsy Daisy Raker**. Although we didn't win (there were many very good scarecrows), we felt ours was the best. It was still fun for those who put her together, and for those who placed her in the heart of downtown Ball Ground. Pictures show the progress of the creation and the finishing touches of putting her in place.

Thanks to Beverly Poag, Projects Chairman, who came up with this idea. We are very proud of our efforts. Thanks for all the great suggestions and special thanks to all who helped complete this project!

Submitted by Evelyn Foster, Publicity Chairman



# Magnolia Garden Club



Our members annually participate in the Bartow Christmas and this year 35 unwrapped gifts were donated.



Magnolia Garden Club- Laurel District, Cartersville- assisted "Keep Bartow Beautiful" at Georgia Washington National Park. As a follow up to National Garden Week celebrated in June, the ladies participated in planting native plants.

It was a little chilly and the wind was pretty feisty but so were these Magnolia Garden Club members who braved the cold to commit to assisting in planting and shoveling and raking a flower bed.



Sue Tucker, Wanda Love and Sandra McMillan, officers of the Magnolia Garden Club, Laurel District visited Townsend Park Nursing Home in Cartersville to deliver gifts of clothing to three residents. The two gentlemen were very appreciative and the man in the grey, a Marine and Navy Veteran, cried. We were honored and proud to speak to him. We also provided clothes to a female resident, but without consent, we could not capture a photo. This was an amazing day for them and us, and is an example of our members at work. Thankful that we can honor our veterans in a small way.



Placing a wreath on our Blue Star Memorial are Wanda Love, Sue Tucker, Vicki Jones, Beth Ward\*, Barbara Bentley, Paula Ann Ceci, and Cynthia Wainscott. \*Beth a LCR Navy veteran served in the Persian Gulf on the USS Comfort Ship.



Planting in the raised beds donated to a local assisted living home.



# Stonehedge Garden Club

Stonehedge Garden Club had such an exciting jump into the Spring season. We had several exciting and educational field trips.

One month our ladies gathered to use their talents to create beautiful centerpieces for the annual Buford Lanier Women's Club Fashion Show. After the fashion show we donated the flower arrangements to the local library and nursing home to honor Garden Week in Georgia.

These were just a few of the activities we enjoyed as a Club this past spring. There are really just too many activities to share them all! We'll have one last meeting in June before we take the summer off and will reconvene in the fall.

Blessings!

Vicky Wilson  
Publicity Chairman

*From the Editor,  
We had a technical problem with our emails and were unable to include these articles in our Spring Laurel Letters. Our apologies to the Stonehedge Garden Club.*



In April, our field trip was to the State Botanical Gardens where we were given a fabulous guided tour of the facility.



In May, our president, Brenda Pruitt, invited club members into her beautiful home for our meeting, followed by a lovely "High Tea".



In March we traveled to the State Capitol for Conservation Day. One of our members happens to be the mother of our very own Senator Butch Miller so our Club received extra TLC on our visit. Thank you to Mac Miller for putting together this trip for our Club, and a special thanks to Senator Miller for taking such good care of our ladies and always making us feel so welcome.

# STONEHEDGE GARDEN CLUB

## "Many Hands Make Light Work"

Stonehedge Garden Club had a very productive November meeting; we completed three of our Community Outreach Projects. North Gwinnett Co-op in Buford was the recipient of twenty-five Thanksgiving Meal Boxes prepared and delivered by our members. Four large Thanksgiving baskets were filled and taken to our local Gwinnett Fire Stations.

What a blessing to be able to support our Co-op as they provide Thanksgiving meals to those who might not otherwise have a Thanksgiving dinner. Our baskets of fruit, nuts, and snacks are our special way of saying "thank you" to our local Fire Departments who protect us and our neighbors.

We are almost ready for Christmas. In preparation for December, stockings were completed at our November meeting. December's community service project includes decorating our local Pruitt Health Care/Lanier Nursing Home for Christmas. While Stonehedge members hand out the over one hundred Christmas stockings filled with goodies, Santa is scheduled to visit the nursing home and spend time with each and every resident.

Thank you to our President Brenda Pruitt and to our Community Outreach Chairman Betty Taylor for organizing these community service projects. You set the work up in such an organized fashion. It was so easy, yet so fulfilling.

Yes, we are a Garden Club but we are also about serving our community. Happy Holidays from Stonehedge Garden Club.

Submitted by Vicky Wilson, Historian/Publicity Chairman



**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**



Garden Club members are invited to attend **Capitol Conservation Day 2019 on February 20, 2019**, at Central Presbyterian Church on Washington Street in Atlanta. The day will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. where members will be briefed on upcoming environmental legislation. Later they walk across Washington Street to the State Capitol where they will meet with their legislators. More details will follow.



**PLANT  
AMERICA**

National Garden Clubs

Thank you for your time,  
talent and service  
that you give to  
your community  
and to  
National Garden Clubs  
throughout the year.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

*Nancy Hargroves*



Peace on Earth



