



HELLO

Stay in the know with

East Low



SPRING 2026

Hello

 East Low Country Presidents and Club Members,

Assistant Director Annette Ellard and I are pleased to present the fourth edition of our district newsletter. This newsletter, "Hello! Stay in the Know with East Low," is designed to serve as a key resource: a way to connect our ELCD clubs, share important information, and support leadership as we all continue to

GROW, THRIVE, and BLOOM.

Inside this issue, you will find updates on upcoming events, important deadline reminders, and helpful links to guide and support your club. This issue is packed with summarized information from the recent State Board Meeting. If you and your club have information to share with the community for our next issue, send it our way! Let others know what is happening in your club.

District Updates & Reminders:



Presidents Save the Date! JULY 15th

The Presidents Meeting will be held in Columbia. Presidents from all clubs in the seven districts are encouraged to attend. Details and an RSVP will be heading to your inbox soon from the GCSC. This will be an informative meeting for all seven districts together. You will have the opportunity to learn more to support your club more effectively.

Calendar Notes:

May 15th - Carolina Gardener Magazine deadline

June 10-11th Gardening Studies School Course IV

June 7th - 13th - National Gardening Week

July 15th - Presidents Meeting in Columbia

GCSC Memorial Day Service - May 29th Memorial Garden Columbia SC

1919 LINCOLN STREET COLUMBIA SC

Your're Invited

All members of a South Carolina garden club are invited and encouraged to attend the Memorial Day Service at our Memorial Garden in Columbia SC. Join us to honor those who have served our country and sacrificed for the freedom we enjoy every day.



COMMUNITY PROJECT

WITH THE DISABILITIES BOARD OF
CHARLESTON COUNTY

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

THE DISABILITY BOARD OF CHARLESTON IS LAUNCHING A BRAND-NEW INITIATIVE TO BRING THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE TO THEIR RESIDENTIAL HOMES. WHETHER IT'S A VIBRANT **POT OF FLOWERS**, A **RAISED GARDEN BED**, OR A **SEASONAL HOLIDAY WREATH**, THESE SMALL TOUCHES MAKE A MASSIVE DIFFERENCE. THEY PROVIDE A SENSE OF PEACE FOR RESIDENTS AND A MUCH-NEEDED BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE DEDICATED CAREGIVERS WORKING 12-HOUR SHIFTS.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

WE ARE STARTING SMALL WITH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR A FEW SELECT HOMES, WITH THE GOAL OF EXPANDING TO ALL 50 LOCATIONS ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY. WE NEED YOUR GREEN THUMBS, YOUR CREATIVE EYE, AND YOUR HEART!

GET INVOLVED:

PLEASE REACH OUT TO MELANIE CASON TO CONNECT AND SEE HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE. YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE MET WITH IMMENSE GRATITUDE AND WILL DIRECTLY BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS. LET'S LIFT OUR COMMUNITY BY SHARING OUR TALENTS IN THE ELCD!

MELANIE CASON

DBCC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

843-870-7316

MELANIE.CASON@GMAIL.COM

[HTTPS:DISABILITIESBOARD.COM/ABOUT-US/](https://disabilitiesboard.com/about-us/)



Your District Needs You!

We are building the team! The district newsletter is in need of volunteers to work on the newsletter committee. Do you like taking pictures and sharing information. Are you a roving reporter at heart. Well here is the opportunity for you. Help keep our district clubs connected while having fun too! If interested contact : Joan McDonald astrodog@comcast.net

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE -

Greetings East Low Country District Gardeners,

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Membership Chair for ELCD. I look forward to working with Joan and Annette to support and grow our district.

One of our key goals is to seed new clubs, especially in rapidly growing areas such as Mount Pleasant and Summerville. Expanding our reach will help us connect with more gardeners and strengthen our district.

We're delighted to welcome our two newest club and affiliate members to the ELCD . The Dorchester Beekeepers and Gardeners garden Club and The South Carolina Beekeepers Association which were officially voted into the GCSC federated family at last week's Annual State Meeting.

I would love to learn more about your clubs and the wonderful work you are doing. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you know of gardeners interested in joining a club, or if you have ideas for starting new clubs or expanding existing ones. I look forward to connecting with you all.

Cheers!

Kathy Murphy
ELCD Membership Chair

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS GROWING!

Welcome to the East Low Country District

**The Dorchester Beekeepers and Gardeners
The South Carolina Bee Keepers Association**



A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE-

Exciting news from the GCSC meeting– these East Low Country students were awarded scholarships for 2025-26. Congratulations to Michael Douglas Ballard - winner of the Hessie Morrah Horticulture Award and Khloe Turner – winner of Babs Barnette Environmental Scholarship. In addition, Michael, Khloe and Mary-Esther W. McCabe were awarded individual District awards.

GCSC awards scholarships in four categories annually and the District has additional scholarships based on funding and merit. All of the awards need applicants. ELCD has begun an initiative to provide clubs with information and help in navigating the application process. Students are eligible if their area of studies meet the criteria and they are sponsored by a garden club (it doesn't have to be a family member, clubs can seek to sponsor through schools and other organizations). Stay tuned as more information will be available at this summer's President's meeting where kits will be available to assist and raise awareness.

Contact information for ELCD Scholarship Chair is Deb Akins (debakins@att.net).

AWARDS WORKSHEET - SAINT PAUL'S GARDEN CLUB

Wrangling award deadlines and requirements can be full-time job for club leadership. Well not anymore; the president of Saint Paul's Garden Club, Camille Campbell has put together this comprehensive chart (9 pages) to serve as a helpful tool to be shared. Thank you Camille for creating and sharing! This is greatly appreciated. Club Presidents keep your eyes on your inbox; this will be headed your way in a separate email.

CLUB NEWS- RIVERLAND TERRACE GARDEN HEROS



May 5th , 2026

Riverland Terrace Garden Club honors their Garden Club **Heroes!** Be sure to congratulate them! We thank them for their service to the Riverland Terrace Garden Club.

Left to Right

Irene Morris, Joyce Wichmann, Barbara McCormick, Glenda Owens, Edith McLemore

Do you want to honor a garden club HERO in your club ?
Reach out to Chair Gina Ginther theginthers@comporium.net



Thank you to our host clubs Alhambra garden club and Magnolia garden club for such a lovely district meeting! Fun was had by all from the celebration of talent with awards to the delightful lunch, informative programs and the lovely pianist. It was especially great that the luncheon was mindful about its environmental impact. Over 20+ pounds of compostables were sorted, lunch boxes, place mats, napkins were recycled and plastic forks were saved and repurposed as garden stakes by club members. Way to go and thank you. Looking forward to celebrating again together next March!

Job well done!

A special thank you to the host clubs for the contributions to our ELCD Scholarship Fund , GCSC President's Project and to the venue.

GCSC UPDATES

Scholarship Endowment-

Exciting news! Jan Burch our GCSC First Vice President, announced that the scholarship endowment honoring our National Garden Club President, Donna Donnolly has had an anonymous donor come forward and donate 10 thousand dollars. The GCSC board voted to match the investment! This will be more sustainable for the future; in the past it relied solely on life memberships.

Presidents Project -

Paul Gilson of the Landscape Design School shared that our GCSC President's Project of creating a butterfly friendly garden at Ann Pamela Cunningham's Rosemont Plantation is in the early design phase with students who have volunteered from the design school. They are interested in connecting with members and clubs in the area to be a part of the process to help the vision come to fruition. Reach out to Paul Gilson for more details pgilson@verizon.net

NGC UPDATES

The National Garden Club's Plant America/Keep America Beautiful has launched a massive nationwide initiative to celebrate America's 250th birthday specifically centered around the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers. The red, white and blue planting of approximately 4000 markers across the country will culminate on July 4th 2026. It aims to promote awareness of our patriots, environmental stewardship , and community beautification. Don't forget to plant your markers!

THE 2026 YEAR AHEAD

GCSC MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GCSC 2026 Calendar

2026

OTTY= Ongoing throughout the year

OTTY- Ames Grant Deadline - NGC
OTTY- Native Plant and Wildflower Grant Deadline - NGC
OTTY- Natural Disasters Grant Deadline - NGC
OTTY- Youth Grant Deadline - NGC

May 17-25 President's Trip to France
May 29th GCSC Memorial Service
June 10 - 11 Gardening Studies School Course IV, TBD
June 7 - 13 National Garden Week
June 21-27 Camp Wildwood 2026
July 15th GCSC Presidents' Meeting
August 15th Gardener, Fall Edition Deadline
September 1 Yearbooks due to President and District Director
September 14-16 GCSC Flower Show School- Greenville
October 1 NAJCSC meeting - Columbia
October 27, 28 Landscape Design School
November 6 Veterans Day Service
November 15 Gardener Winter Edition deadline
November 15 High School Essay deadline
November TBD Decorate SC state Christmas Tree
December 4 Arbor Day SC
December 10 GCSC Awards Applications due



Helpful Information & Resources



GCSC LEADERSHIP GUIDE

LOOKING TO ENHANCE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

THE GCSC LEADERSHIP GUIDE IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE . JUST SIGN IN TO MEMBERS AREA OF GCSC WEBSITE SCROLL DOWN TO GARDEN CLUB/COUNCIL LEADERSHIP GUIDE. SELECT TAB TO LEARN MORE.

STAYING
CONNECTED

DON'T FORGET
BE SURE TO KEEP
YOUR ROSTER UP TO
DATE!



The Garden Club of South Carolina thanks you for supporting your community.

