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Moore Farms Botanical Garden
Piedmont Physic Garden
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
SC Bluebird Society
SC Botanical Garden, Clemson
SC Native Plant Society
SC Wildlife Federation

FROM THE GCSC PRESIDENT

My dear fellow gardeners,

Winter has passed, and we are witnessing the awakening of our South Carolina landscapes. As the first buds break through the soil and the jasmine begins to scent the air, we can finally look forward to a bright, vibrant spring filled with the promise of growth and renewal.

During March, I had the distinct pleasure of attending each of our District Meetings. My heart is full of pride after seeing the dedication within our clubs. I was appreciative of the emphasis on Butterflies as they were a common thread woven through the decorations and programs.

During these meetings, I issued a challenge to those in attendance, and now I extend that same challenge to you. To truly understand the heart of my President's Project, I ask you to take a moment to search on the internet, Ann Pamela Cunningham and Rosemont Plantation.

Ann Pamela Cunningham was a visionary South Carolinian whose tenacity saved one of our nation's greatest treasures: Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, I am proud to dedicate our Project to her spirit and legacy of historic preservation. By researching her life and her home at Rosemont, you will discover a woman of remarkable grit who overcame physical impairments and social barriers to save the heart of American history.

Together we can move to the next phase of this journey for Rosemont Plantation. This project encompasses placing benches along the trail to the home-site and establishing a garden at the entrance in remembrance of Ann Pamela and her dear mother who loved roses and for which the plantation was named.

I invite you and your clubs to help bring this vision to life. Thank you for the donations you collect and send to our GCSC Treasurer. We have a rare opportunity to sustain a living portion of history; your contributions are a timeless treasure, providing visitors to Rosemont with a sanctuary for quiet reflection.

If you would like to further assist with this project we welcome you to join us in grant development, plant acquisition, garden cultivation and sustainability. Please contact Dot Closs, President's Project Chairman, clossdj@aol.com. Please reference "President's Project" in the subject line of your email. I thank you in advance for making this venture a reality.

Betty Wise Jackson

GCSC PRESIDENT





WINNER OF THE GCSC HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST



This year's winner, outstanding sophomore Annalia James, titled her essay "Beneath the Bloom: Native Plants Fighting Climate Extremes in Charleston, SC". Annalia excelled in this effort while competing in long distance running and varsity cross country and track at Chapin High School. In addition, Annalia is a member of Beta Club, volunteers at her church with young children's worship, and has a part-time job at Capital City Catering where she helps serve University of South Carolina attendees at football games! Amazing, happy young lady!

Thank you, members of Quail Hollow Garden Club in West Sandhills District for sponsoring such a talented, accomplished, and committed young lady! Annalia is a great example of a terrific student determined to give her best every day! Her current GPA is 4.5.

The members of GCSC wish Annalia much, much success in her future plans!

BY: JACQUELINE WEINZIERL, CHAIR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST, 2025-2026

Spread Your Gardening Wings



As an affiliate of Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. we want to encourage participation in our organization - The South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS). We are a 501 c 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and propagation of Bluebirds in our state.

In the late 1900s the Bluebird population was in a serious decline (-70%) and headed for extinction. Loss of habitat, which is only accelerating today, was found to be the culprit. Bluebirds and other secondary cavity nesters including: Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Headed Nuthatch and Tufted Titmouse need a cavity in which to lay their eggs and raise their young. Previously these cavities were made by Woodpeckers in dead trees, but as we harvested the forests to build houses, schools, churches etc., we destroyed their homes. Fortunately, a group of scientists formed the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) and they invented the Nestbox to replace the cavities in the trees. SCBS is also an affiliate of NABS.

Request a presentation for your garden club or council. A volunteer will be happy to schedule and provide a meaningful and informative slide-show outlining our efforts to save the birds.

Go to our web site www.southcarolinabluebirds.org to read about our organization and to schedule a presentation, check under the tab "Events."

Our website also contains lots of information about Bluebirds and allows for ordering Nestboxes with reduced price consideration for SCBS members. Purchase a Nestbox and place it in your garden or yard and enjoy the Bluebirds 12 months a year. We also offer advice on placement and can even assist with installation and training, if needed.

Will you join us in our efforts to protect and propagate our Bluebirds?





HAPPY SPRING FROM MEMBERSHIP

As I write this, we have just had one of the biggest snowstorms ever in my part of South Carolina, and other parts of our state are still recovering from ice last week. It can be hard to remember that under the eight inches of snow and ice, new growth in our gardens is patiently waiting its turn. **Spring is coming!** Despite the weather, your diligent Membership Team has remained busy behind the scenes for The Garden Club of South Carolina. District Directors and Membership Chairmen have been following up with potential members as well as unfederated groups of gardeners, working hard to share the federation message and increase our membership. We hope to highlight several new garden clubs in the coming months, and we begin with...

Welcome– North Myrtle Dunes and Blooms, the newest federated club in Coastal District



(left) Charter members of North Myrtle Dunes and Blooms GC pose at their January meeting. **(right)** At the GCSC Winter Board meeting, the new club received a certificate commemorating their federation date. Pictured from left to right, Graceann Phillips, Coastal District Director; Wayne Barker, Dunes and Blooms President; Betty Wise Jackson, GCSC President; Sharon Robinson, Dunes and Blooms VP; Juanita Burnett, Coastal District Asst. Director.

BY: TARA RANSON, GCSC MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

RETAINING MEMBERSHIP IN A GARDEN CLUB

Author: Bonni Dinneen

Make new friends but keep the old; one is silver and the other is gold.

This little ditty I learned in Girl Scout camp. For many decades it has remained with me somewhat as a mantra. That ditty has a lot of wisdom when we reflect upon it.

Becoming and remaining a member of a garden club offers valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and community involvement. To ensure you retain membership and continue to enjoy the benefits, I follow and promote the following practical steps:

Pay Dues Promptly

- Federated garden clubs require members to pay annual dues. Ensuring dues are paid on time avoids lapses in membership. Membership dues can be collected by the club treasurer at a meeting designated for that purpose. Be aware of membership expiration date and complete renewal forms with updated contact information before the renewal deadline.
- Keep a calendar specifically for garden club activities and track important dates for items such as dues, awards, and meetings for your district, state, region, and NGC.
- Include dates for NGC schools and flower shows. This is a good task for the club vice-president to use in sharing information with members. An informed membership is a healthy cure for meeting boredom that may result in a potential loss of membership.

Participating in Meetings and Events

- Active participation demonstrates your commitment to your garden club. Attend regular meetings, workshops, and special events whenever possible. This not only keeps you informed but also helps you build relationships with fellow members.

Volunteering and Contributing

- Many clubs rely on volunteers for events, committees, or community projects. Offering your time and skills is often recognized and appreciated, and it may be required for continued membership in some groups.

Staying Informed

- Keep up-to-date with the club's newsletters, emails, or social media updates. Log into the State, Region, and National website. Inform members to do this often. The websites have valuable information and photos that will appeal to many of the members. In this age of technology, it is a simple action, and it is not time consuming.
- Remember as a president of your local garden club, it should be on your agenda each meeting to inquire if the members have researched the websites for news and activities and deadlines. This will help members stay aware of upcoming events, changes in policies, and opportunities for involvement.



RETAINING MEMBERSHIP IN A GARDEN CLUB

Author: Bonni Dinneen

(Continued)

Following Club Guidelines

Adhere to the club's code of conduct, bylaws, and rules. Respectful behavior and compliance with club guidelines are essential for maintaining membership. I often hear when approaching a non-federated garden club, that they decline membership in NGC not because of the payment of dues, but because of the "rules and regulations," such as having bylaws. The general attitude is that bylaws and regulations make the sociability of the club too rigid.

Be prepared to discuss why bylaws are important. Here are some tips to use:

- Bylaws serve as a blueprint for the club. They create consistent and predictable procedures for meetings, voting, and decision-making, reducing conflict and confusion.
- Bylaws clearly outline the roles and duties of the officers and its members.
- They provide guidelines for handling disputes.
- Bylaws are a legal requirement for the organization that help us stay in compliance with state laws and regulations.
- Bylaws promote transparency by clearly communicating the club's conduct to the public.
- By defining rules for things like how funds are managed, meetings are conducted, and new members are admitted, bylaws keep the organization running smoothly.
- They serve as an educational tool for (new) officers and members, ensuring everyone understands the rules.

Engaging with Members and Local Clubs

Building connections with fellow members fosters a sense of community and encourages ongoing involvement. Participate in group discussions and share ideas. An effective way to do this is to follow NCG's example of exchange of ideas at perhaps a breakfast meeting with other local clubs. Here are a few tips:

- Meet away from the club's standard meeting space such as a restaurant that serves large groups.
- Share the discussion of ideas with non-federated clubs by inviting them.
- If possible, a club or a member can cover the cost of one invited guest.

This relaxed setting promotes the ease of participation, fosters camaraderie with shared thoughts and ideas, and potential collaboration on projects. By consistently meeting these expectations, you can retain your membership in a gardening organization and continue to benefit from shared knowledge, resources, and friendships. Staying active and engaged ensures that you remain a valued member of the gardening community.

Author: Bonni Dinneen, NGC 5-Star Emertius
GCFMA - Curbs & Cobblestones Garden Club - Lowell, MA
NGC Membership Committee



GCSC Garden Hero

Faye Campbell

Flowertown Garden Club, Summerville, SC.

Long-time member of the Flowertown Garden Club Faye Campbell has exemplified exceptional service to the club and to the community.

Faye was a “guiding light” for SC Arbor Day in Summerville. Faye initiated the cooperation between the Town of Summerville and the club in 1986. She encouraged this so the Town could maintain its “Tree City USA” designation and has helped plan the event every year since. She coordinated with the Town’s Parks & Recreation Directors and Arborists for the programs and brought in Scouts, High School Color Guards, Pastors and Singers for each celebration. Her remarks each year stressed the value of trees for healthy forests and towns, clean air, homes for wildlife, and natural connections for people. As of this year, Faye has handed over the reins for the Arbor Day Celebration to her garden club co-chair.

For the past 12 years, Faye has volunteered for the Town of Summerville’s Tree Protection Board and has served with great dedication. Her passion for trees has led her all over the town to help educate citizens on the value of their own tree canopies.

In addition, Faye led the Flowertown Garden Club as President for the 2003–2004 term. She has always encouraged the club’s officers and members and has reported regularly on town initiatives and Arbor Day plans. Faye continues to participate faithfully in club meetings and activities, even when it isn’t easy.



In earlier years, Faye was active in two Garden Club in Greenville, SC., later serving as President of the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. She helped to lead the purchase and relocation and ultimate renovation of the 1838 Kilgore–Lewis House. The clubs used the site for meetings and events and worked to achieve the home’s recognition on the National Historic Register.

Also in Summerville, the Thanksgiving Cornucopia for the altar at Bethany UMC has been her special project each year. The cone overflows with colorful fresh fruits and vegetables, all artfully arranged by Faye.

With organization and dedication, Faye has inspired her clubs, her towns and her church for many decades. Faye Campbell is certainly a GCSC Garden Hero!

BY: GINA GINTHER,
GCSC GARDEN HEROES CHAIR

THE HUGGING TREE: ROOTS OF KINDNESS, BRANCHES OF HOPE

BY ANNE SCHRAUTH WITH LAURIE FLANAGAN,
LAKE AND HILLS GARDEN CLUB,
WEST PIEDMONT DISTRICT

Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) has done it again! The Club's entry won First Place in the 22nd Annual Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation Christmas Tree Festival. This festival supports Prisma Health Hospice of the Foothills.

The LHGC Hospice Tree project team consisted of seven members: Cyndi Carrizales, Jeanne Chambers, Jan-Espie-Steffen, Nan Donovan, Drucy Illanes, Anne Schrauth, and Cathy Twedt. These creative ladies chose the book *The Hugging Tree: A Story about Resilience* by Jill Neimark as the focal point for their design. The children's picture book tells the story of a tiny tree growing alone on a granite cliff, enduring harsh weather where ice storms break its boughs and roots. Eventually, a kind, young boy finds the tree and nurtures it until it becomes a shelter for nesting loons. This tree "calls to mind the potential in all of us to thrive, despite times of struggle and difficulty. To nurture the little spark of hope and resolve. To dream and to grow, just where we are" (jillneimark.com). What a wonderful offer of hope and comfort for those in Hospice!

Continued...



LHGC Hospice Tree Winner. Lake and Hills Garden Club's winning entry at the 22nd annual oconee memorial hospital foundation christmas tree festival.



HLHGC Team with Prisma Award. LHGC Hospice Christmas Tree team members receive a first-place award from Prisma Health Hospice of the Foothills.



The LHGC tree depicted a flying loon bringing nesting material to a mother and her babies amidst a background of pods, eucalyptus and feathers. The tree was festooned with natural elements of pinecones, acorns, as well as children’s “wellies” and a pail of topsoil. Black ribbon with copper and gold accents swirled about the tree. A nest of gift tags, at the base of the tree, offered “hugs” freely given from the tree itself to all tree viewers.

The LHGC Hospice tree was auctioned off at the Hospice Gala on Friday, December 5, at the Club at Keowee Key. To those who saw it, the tree was a celebration of nurture and resilience, with symbols of protection, love, and the bonds that carry us through all seasons. It definitely reflected the compassion, support, and peaceful guidance that is at the heart of hospice.

METHODS OF FINAL DISPOSITION

BY: MARY BENTON,
SEED AND WEED GARDEN CLUB,
WEST LOW COUNTRY DISTRICT

Mr. Preston Altman, Licensed Funeral Director, Embalmer, and Certified Crematory Operator at Peeples-Rhoden Funeral Home in Hampton, SC, shared during Seed and Weed GC's February meeting. Members and guests gathered at the Hampton County Library to learn more about the options that are available for interment.

Mr. Altman set the stage for his presentation by stating, "It's not 1975 anymore." Mr. Altman focused on the pros and cons of three of the most common methods of final disposition and their respective impacts on the environment. He noted that the choice is personal and should be treated respectfully.

He first talked about traditional burial with embalming. Mr. Altman listed viewing, sanitation, and temporary preservation as some of the positive aspects of this process; he addressed the drawbacks as higher cost, the use of chemicals, and the use of environmentally unfriendly materials like caskets and vaults. He also mentioned that in some locations space for traditional burials is limited.

With cremation, the ecological footprint is smaller, and there is traditionally a lower cost. Some of the disadvantages of cremation are the use of gas to operate the crematory and possible psychological effects on loved ones which is an irreversible process.

The last overview was about types of green burials: hybrid, natural, and conservation. SC has some specific green burial cemeteries, and if done completely green, is the most eco-friendly of the main methods.

He also talked about a number of other options that are infrequently utilized, such as mushroom burial suits, composting, cementation, anatomical donation, burial at sea, and tree burial, to name a few.

Mr. Altman's presentation was very insightful and thought provoking. As he remarked at the beginning, "It's not 1975 anymore."

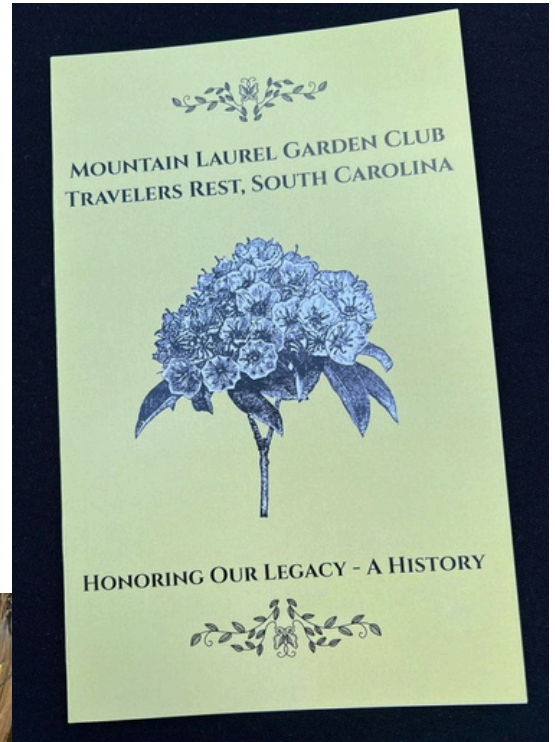
"Choosing which method of final disposition is right for you is a very personal decision. There is no wrong decision - only the best decision for you and your family, based on your values." - Funeral Basics



REMEMBERING THE PAST AND ENJOYING THE PRESENT

Last year, we were honored to celebrate our club's 70th anniversary! Anniversaries offer a special opportunity to pause, reflect on the past, and thoughtfully plan for the future.

Throughout the year, we marked this milestone in several meaningful ways. We partnered with the Department of Public Works in Travelers Rest and Trees Upstate to plant a native Black Tupelo tree on Center Street. Our 70th Anniversary Committee also created a new booklet for incoming members titled Honoring Our Legacy– A History, helping to share and preserve our story.



In addition, we hosted a lovely member luncheon at Adam's Bistro, enjoying their beautifully potted monochromatic garden on the outdoor patio. This year, we continue to learn, grow, and serve our community. Our educational programs have included topics such as Goatscaping, Growing Herbs, Bluebirds, and Favorite Gardening Tools and How to Sharpen Them. In the fall, our scarecrow earned third place in the Fan Pick category, and we proudly continued our beautification project in Travelers Rest by planting fall planters and hanging baskets along Main Street.

BY LYNN KLINE, MOUNTAIN LAUREL GARDEN CLUB,
WEST PIEDMONT DISTRICT



“TREES GIVE PEACE
TO THE
SOULS OF MEN”
-NORA WALN



A SEASON OF INSIGHT AND INSPIRATION IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

BY BECKY TERRY, DATAW GARDEN CLUB,
WEST LOW COUNTRY DISTRICT



Dataw Garden Club opened the new year with a strong focus on education, conservation, and creativity. At the January 13 meeting, members welcomed Chris Kehrel, Science Program Manager for the Port Royal Sound Foundation, who presented an informative program on environmental monitoring and conservation efforts within the Port Royal Sound.

Kehrel discussed the importance of long-term scientific research in protecting one of the East Coast's most ecologically significant estuaries. His presentation highlighted ongoing initiatives related to water quality, habitat preservation, and coastal resilience, reinforcing the connection between environmental stewardship and the health of the Lowcountry's natural landscapes.

Continued....





In addition to the featured program, members participated in several educational enrichment opportunities during the winter season. The club's Sprouts group, composed of new members, enjoyed a hands-on class on floral arrangements for wine bottles that combined creativity with seasonal design techniques. The Awards and Communications Committee also expanded its skill set through a photography and Canva workshop, designed to strengthen visual storytelling and documentation of club projects.

By the time this issue reaches readers, the Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs will have held its Annual Luncheon Meeting on February 24th. Dataw Garden Club will host mutual club members of the Council from Beaufort, Camellia, Lady's Island, Palmetto, and Sea Island Garden Clubs, and unfederated member Royal Pines Garden Club at Dataw's Carolina Ballroom. The event will feature keynote speakers Rebecca Wesson Darwin, Co-Founder and CEO of Garden & Gun Magazine, and CJ Lotz Diego, Senior Editor of the magazine.

From science-based conservation to creative skill-building and inspired Southern perspectives, these recent gatherings reflect Dataw Garden Club's continued commitment to education, stewardship, and the celebration of the landscapes of South Carolina's Lowcountry.

PARTNERSHIP LEADERS DEDICATE NEW CITY TRAIL IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH



The perfect mix of local collaborators succeeded in a project designed to “Remember, Educate and Celebrate”. Yaupon Garden Club, North Myrtle Beach Parks and Recreation Department, North Myrtle Beach Tree Board, South Carolina Native Plant Society and North Myrtle Beach Historic Preservation Society were all represented on Friday, December 5, 2025 at the Arbor Day celebration and dedication.

The idea for this event was generated by Yaupon Garden members Phyllis Green and Phillis Newman, residents of the Belle Park neighborhood who often meet to walk the trail surrounding a stormwater drainage pond. It is located off Hwy 17S and left/right onto 9th Avenue’ left on Belle Street.

Pictured above: Partners who contributed to the Red Wing Trail, left to right: Phyllis Green, Yaupon Garden Club; J. Baldwin, NMB Mayor; Phillis Newman, YGC President; Matt Gibbons, Parks and Recreation Director; Jarett Lewis, NMB Historic Preservation Board; Jim Granger, Asst. Parks and Rec Director; and, Tierney Rosenstock, Native Plant Society

BY DOROTHY BAMBACH
YAYPON GARDEN CLUB, NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
COASTAL DISTRICT

Along the way the women noticed a variety of sea birds as well as neighbors, both young and old, enjoying the surroundings; however, there was something missing: trees and bird houses to make a better home for the flora and fauna. This observation resulted in action plan. Four bird houses were built and installed by YGC member Bette Hurt and her husband, Gary. Club President Phillis Newman and her husband, Herb, installed the posts.

Yaupon Garden Club member and local historian, Susan Platt, no stranger to environmental problem solving, suggested that the YGC collaborate with the City's Memorial Tree Program to honor others who also had the vision to renourish the environment. Funding for the purchase of five trees was provided by the Yaupon Garden Club, S.C. Native Plant Society, and North Myrtle Beach Historical Preservation Society. Subsequently five trees: 2 Eastern Red Cedars, 2 Bald Cypress and a Sycamore were planted at the Belle Park trail. The individuals for whom a memorial tree was planted included: Tommy Samaha, Michele Washburn and Margie Livingston, sponsored by the NMB Historic Preservation Society, and Jeanette Prichard and Eileen Fox, stalwart members of the YGC.

A touching ceremony took place at the newly dedicated and christened "Red Wing" Trail which was named to pay homage to the first bird of spring. Following introductory remarks by YGC member Jolene Puffer and Susan Platt, NMB Mayor J. Baldwin, Matt Gibbons, Parks and Rec Director and Assistant Jim Granger, were introduced. Sharing in the excitement of the event were Tierney Rosenstock of the Native Plant Society, Jarrett Lewis, NMB Historic Preservations Society and several family members of those who were honored.

The event culminated with the unveiling of a permanent Informational marker designed to **Remember** individuals through living memorials; **Educate** the residents about the importance of native plants and trees; and, **Celebrate** the creation of a trail that enriches the local ecosystem.



Above: Before picture of the storm water drainage area. Below: Red Wing Trail surrounding a storm water catchment area, cleaned up, and adorned with new trees and birdhouses.





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COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS'**

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Step inside the gates of Simpsonville's
most stunning estates and discover
the beauty that blooms beyond.

**TICKETS: \$30 IN ADVANCE
\$35 DURING THE TOUR**

**SCAN FOR
DETAILS AND
TICKETS**



WWW.KILGORE-LEWIS.ORG

ROOTED IN TRADITION: ALHAMBRA GARDEN CLUB MARKS ARBOR DAY AT WANDO HIGH SCHOOL



The Alhambra GC proudly continued its long-standing tradition of honoring Arbor Day with a meaningful tree planting at Wando HS. Though the original planting date was postponed due to rain, the project was successfully completed on Tuesday, Dec. 9, when a stately live oak found its permanent home at the school's entrance. This year's planting was a collaborative effort between the Alhambra GC and the Wando PTSO Beautification Committee, with each organization sharing the cost of the tree. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to beautification, conservation, and community engagement throughout Mount Pleasant.

Several club members were on hand to support the event and celebrate the tradition: Iris Edwards, Nancy Lopic, Nancy Newman-Limata, Stacey Pfarr, Nancy Wood, and Isabelle Sargeant. Pfarr, who serves as Arbor Day Chair for the Alhambra GC as well as Beautification Chair for the Wando PTSO, played a key role in coordinating the partnership that made the project possible.

A highlight of the morning was watching students from East Cooper Center for Advanced Study's

horticulture program put their skills into practice. Guided by Paul Millar, head of the horticulture program, students dug, planted, and carefully tended the new tree, undeterred by chilly temperatures and steady rain. Their enthusiasm and dedication were inspiring. Millar also visited the site over the weekend with his wife to prepare the planting area in advance, ensuring the day ran smoothly.

Student volunteers Greta Denning, Micah Habersham, Benjamin Mallett, Brody Mancusi, Henry McClellan, and Jermaine Prioleau worked together with energy and pride, embodying the spirit of stewardship at the heart of this annual tradition.

Now firmly rooted, the new live oak stands as a lasting symbol of growth, environmental responsibility, and the collective efforts of the Alhambra GC, the Wando community, and the next generation of horticulture students. The club looks forward to watching it thrive for decades to come.

BY STACEY PFARR
ALHAMBRA GARDEN CLUB,
EAST LOW COUNTRY DISTRICT



The Aiken Garden Show

May 15 – 16, 2026

www.aikengardenshow.org

Aiken County Historical Museum
433 Newberry Street SW Aiken, SC

Friday 8:30 – 5:00

Saturday 8:30 – 4:00

Gardens open 10:00 – 3:00 Daily



Tours of 6 Private Gardens

Speakers: Cheryl Murga & Brie Arthur

Vendors Market

Juried Flower Show

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**BEST IN SHOW AWARD
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GARDENING ON THE CAY**



GARDENING ON THE CAY PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP WITH THE CITY OF TEGA CAY

The Tega Cay Living Memorial Gardens is a cherished site in the Tega Cay community. Established as a peaceful and reflective space, the gardens serve as a tribute to honor and remember those who have served in the military as well as loved ones and community members who have passed away. The area that honors members of the military has over 400 pavers and honors service in every branch, and every war and conflict that our country has participated in, and honors members from 29 states and 8 countries. The sidewalks are edged with pavers, not only remembering community members and their family members who

have passed, but also pets, and organizations. The Gardens serve as the annual site for the community to gather, honor and remember our military on Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and other appropriate holidays with military color guard and special speakers. Also of note, the Living Memorial Gardens has small, dedicated gardens honoring children that have passed. There is a free little library with children's books that was donated and is maintained by the Women's Club and in 2016, a lovely gazebo was donated and installed by a local realtor.

In 2010, Tega Cay resident Jennifer Stalford, who was Chairperson of the City's Beautification Committee, approached the City Council with a vision for an area located at the City's entrance that was in need of beautification. The Council approved Jennifer's civic beautification vision and the green light was given.

BY GINA GINTHER
GARDENING ON THE CAY
EAST PIEDMONT DISTRICT

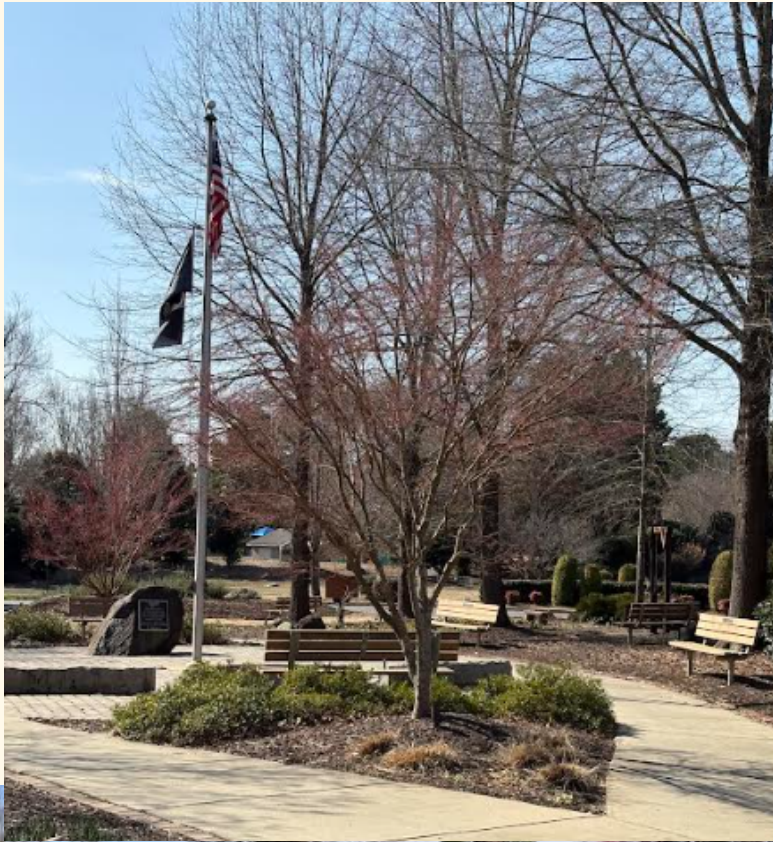




In May of 2011, a groundbreaking ceremony was held and 364 days later, in May of 2012, in a huge event, attended by hundreds and a host of political leaders, the Tega Cay Living Memorial Gardens were dedicated. The miracle of this achievement is that it took only 12 months and was funded entirely by private donations, grants and volunteer hours, not one penny of taxpayer money.

From the very beginning, the Tega Cay Living Memorial Gardens were cared for and maintained by the Tega Cay Beautification Committee. The mean age of that volunteer committee was 67 years. Although robust and capable, over the years, members aged out and late in 2024, the last 2 members gave notice that they would be retiring and turning the Gardens over to the city. The then Mayor Pro Tem knew that the city could not provide the level of frequent care and maintenance required and she reached out to Gardening on the Cay with an invitation to partner in stewardship with the city, on a permanent basis, to care for and maintain the Tega Cay Living Memorial Gardens.





The goal of the partnership was to maintain the beauty, preserve the dignity and respect for those honored and to protect the private financial investment of over \$250,000. Meetings were held with the City and an officer of Gardening on the Cay to create and agree on a list of tasks each could do effectively and on a timeline that would keep the Gardens beautiful year around. A committee of six GOTC members was formed. An initial site visit was made by the committee on November 1, 2025 to assess needs and make a maintenance plan. This included detailed recommendations for care of the large rose garden made by GOTC's Master Gardener. Their first work day was November 22, 2025. Weekly visits to the garden are being made by the committee members, the garden is thriving and looks gorgeous!



For more information on this beautiful public garden, including a flyover video, please log on to tegacaysc.org and type Living Memorial Gardens in the search bar.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

**BETH SATTERRFIELD,
GREENVILLE GARDEN CLUB,
WEST PIEDMONT DISTRICT**

Christmas

The Christmas Season for the Greenville Garden Club began in November with decorating the dining room of the Kilgore-Lewis House, Headquarters of the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. Each year we choose this room and our members always do a beautiful job dressing it to the nines! The theme chosen for The House this year was the poem "The Night Before Christmas" and each room depicted a verse from the poem. Our club used a number of verses to pull the designs from since the dining room is the first room to be seen on the tour. Over 30% of our club members participated in the decorating as well as acting as docents during the two weeks of our Open House.



Kokedama

Debbie Sizemore, a past member of the Greenville Garden Club, presented our program at the December meeting. She is an expert in Kokedama and demonstrated techniques to prepare the plants we each brought and the soil which forms the center of the structure. Susan Andrews, our program chairman, had purchased all of the needed items for our structures and had them ready for the hands-on workshop. And, of course, there was great food to enjoy which was prepared by our members.

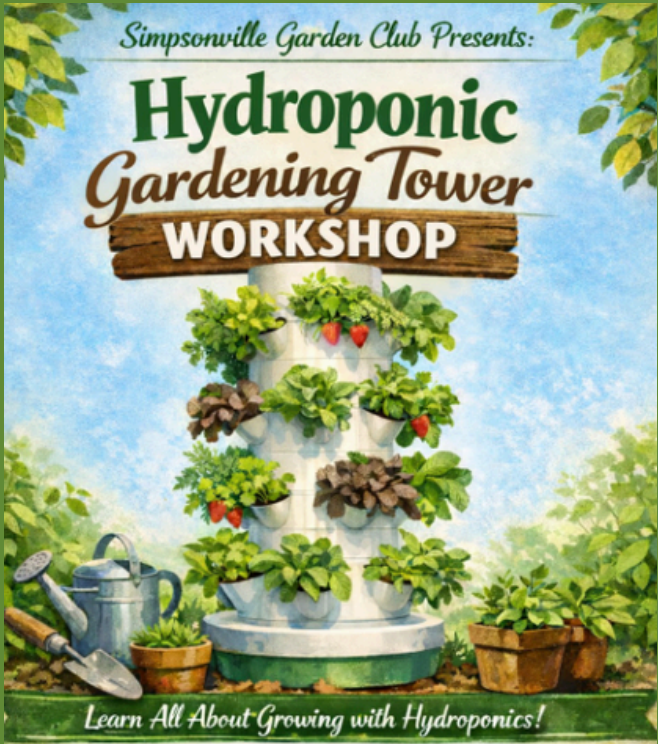


2027 Flower Show

The Greenville Garden Club has scheduled a Flower Show in April 2027 as one of our 2026–2027 Centennial Year Celebration events. Looking ahead toward that show, a program was planned to continue educating our members and members of the Clarice Wilson Garden Club on Horticulture and Design in a Flower show. We were fortunate to have Master Judge Linda Howle and Karen Oliver, Accredited Judges Cindy Thornton and Beth Satterfield and Student Judge Susan Andrews present Horticulture and Designs at our November meeting.



CONSERVING WATER AND FEEDING THE COMMUNITY



In the middle of winter, the Simpsonville Garden Club was busy growing and harvesting herbs, tomatoes, and leafy greens from the hydroponic farm. The February meeting was held at CCS to share hydroponic gardening with the community. We had many guests and local college students at the meeting to learn how to grow using water-based methods rather than soil. Hydroponic gardening leads the way in areas of conservation, land preservation, and food production per square foot. Did you know there's even a hydroponic garden in the international space station?!



Rebecca Garcia,
Simpsonville Garden Club,
West Piedmont District 29

WEST LOW COUNTRY DISTRICT MEETING

BY MARY BENTON,
SEED AND WEED GARDEN CLUB
PHOTOS BY KELLY BROWN,
MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB



The West Low Country District of the Garden Club of South Carolina held its annual meeting on March 10, 2026, at Open Arms Fellowship Church in Hampton, SC. Ivy Garden Club of Ridgeland, Magnolia Garden Club of Varnville, and Seed and Weed Garden Club of Hampton hosted the event, with approximately one hundred and twenty-five in attendance.

The theme of this year's District meeting was "Blooming for Generations: Heirloom Plants and Seeds." The theme resonated throughout the venue with a "Please Be Seeded" welcome sign, beautiful table arrangements containing seed packets, and note card favors printed from original hand-painted heirloom florals. The Church graciously allowed its facilities to be transformed into an inviting setting for the occasion.

Christy Sloan, West Low Country District Director, presided over the meeting. Donna Donnelly, National Garden Club President, and Betty Jackson, GCSC President, presented brief messages to the audience. Other Garden Club of SC officers providing remarks were Jan Burch, Peggy Benton, Michelene Sheehy, and Tara Ranson.

The featured Guest Speaker, Cole Smith, presented the program entitled, "From Soil to Story: How Regenerative Agriculture and Open-Pollinated Seeds Protect Garden Heritage." Cole and his sister, Jessi Gifford Smith, are the owners of Wild Oak Farm and Flower Company which was established in 2025 in Grays, SC. Cole describes their farm by saying, "Wild Oak puts soil health first, using regenerative practices- cover crops, compost, reduced tillage, and diverse plantings- to rebuild fertility and grow resilient, beautiful blooms. We prioritize biodiversity and heritage, supporting pollinators, native and heirloom plants, and seed stewardship to preserve ecological and cultural landscapes."





Karen Oliver and Anna Sheets presented the Design Program, “A Walk in Hitchcock Woods.” Mary Rivers and Laura Carlson also assisted. Each one described her floral artistry and shared interesting techniques. Guests were encouraged to be resourceful when making arrangements, such as using flowers and plants found beside roadways and using materials that might be otherwise discarded. It was a great day of fellowship, acquiring new knowledge, shopping with vendors, hoping for the winning raffle ticket, and enjoying wonderful food. The District Yearbook and District Project Awards were presented by Mattison Bolen. Lastly, the invitation for the West Low Country District Meeting to be held on March 9, 2027, was extended by Roxie Milhouse, Orangeburg Council of Garden Clubs.









In honor of Betty Jackson and her love of butterflies, affiliate GCSC member, South Carolina Native Plant Society – Grand Strand Chapter would like to feature another butterfly seen around South Carolina, the great purple hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*). This lovely lycaenidae depends on American or oak mistletoe (*Phorandendron leucarpum*) for its lifecycles. It will nectar on our native *Solidago* species (goldenrods), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). Abundant in coastal areas and rare in the mountains, despite its name, there is not much purple to its coloration. This photograph is by Alan Cressler, USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center.



STOWE



DANIEL STOWE CONSERVANCY

Plant Sale

**10 A.M.
-2 P.M.**

**MEMBERS!
JOIN US FRIDAY
FOR COCKTAIL HOUR**

SATURDAY, MAY 2

HUNDREDS OF PLANTS
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ANNUALS, PERENNIALS,
HERBS, VEGETABLES,
NATIVE PLANTS + MORE!

PLUS LIVE DEMOS WITH
OUR HORTICULTURE
STAFF!

MEMBER PREVIEWS

FRI., MAY 1 | 4-6 P.M.
SAT., MAY 2 | 9-10 A.M.

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The Garden Club of South Carolina



A non-profit organization, GCSC is a force for good promoting all aspects of gardening, focusing on preservation and restoration of historic gardens, conservation and environmental protection of natural resources, education of members and youth organizations, civic beautification, horticulture, and floral design.

Join us, and as a member of a Federated garden club you will be part of something BIG!

CONTACT US!

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

701 Gervais St., Ste. 150-142

Columbia, SC 29201

www.gardenclubofsc.org

THE SC GARDENER

Wants to hear from you!

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter	Nov. 15
Spring	Feb 15
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug 15

To submit articles, events, and items of interest to *The SC Gardener*, please send an email to: scgardenereditor@gmail.com

- In the subject line: identify "Article for SC Gardener"
- Submit articles in a Word (*.docx). The document needs to include: author, garden club name, district, article title, and no more than 1 page of 11 point font. Picture captions should be included and labeled according to the picture.

Submit all pictures in their original *.jpg or *.png files without editing, at a minimum 300 pixel resolution. Label the picture.

****Editor reserves the right to edit any article due to space, duplication, clarity, and accuracy.**

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.

501c3 non-profit organization

website: www.gardenclubofsc.org

4521 Members, 164 Garden Clubs, 17
Councils, and 13 Affiliate Organizations

Mission: The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc., a non-profit organization, is a force for good that promotes all aspects of gardening, focusing on preservation and restoration of historic gardens, conservation and environmental protection of natural resources, education of members and youth organizations, civic beautification, horticulture, and floral design.



Calendar of Events:

<https://gardenclubofsc.org/index.php>

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**Rebecca Garcia, Editor
Gay Nelson, Assistant Editor**