

The South Carolina GARDENER

The Official Publication of The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message & Theme	3
The Garden Club of SC	4
5-Star Honor Club	5
Landscape Design School	6
Membership	7-8
3 rd Vice-President's Message	9
A Tribute to Veterans	10
New Award Categories	10
High School Essay Contest	11
Birds of a Feather	12-14
Memorial Garden	15
District News	16-37
SC Gardener Deadlines	38
Master Calendar	38

GCSC Affiliates

Anne Springs Close Greenway
Black River Cypress Preserve
Brookgreen Gardens
Butterfly Monarchy Club
Craig Farm Historical Preservation
Foundation
Daneil Stowe Conservancy
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



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Pictured on the cover Echinacea purpurea by Rebecca Garcia



Dear Members of the Garden Club of South Carolina,

After an extremely hot summer with temperatures soaring, I am sure all of us hope for an early fall. I am excited to place a pumpkin and small gourds in the center of my dining room table, and a scarecrow or two to be later replaced by a couple of Pilgrims for the Thanksgiving season. I hope these thoughts will inspire you to do something as well to help bring into your home much cheer during the coming holidays. Snap a picture and send it to me. I would love to see your inspiration . I wish for you and your family much joy as you gather to celebrate this season.

Your President,

Betty Jackson

Butterflies... "Come Flutter with Me."



The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.



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 organization, civic beautification, horticulture, and floral design.

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

We are 4400 members strong, serving in 172 garden clubs within 7 Districts across the state of South Carolina. We are part of the South Atlantic Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world with 165,000 members in 5,000 garden clubs. The Garden Club of South Carolina affiliate members' goals align with our mission and objectives such as SC Native Plant Society; SC Bluebird Society; SC Botanical Garden at Clemson; Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Columbia; SC Wildlife Federation; Moore Farms Botanical Garden and Piedmont Physic Garden.

WE PROMOTE AWARENESS

We are stewards of the environment - making choices to protect pollinators and wildlife, conserve resources, and promote native plants and habitats to support them. We follow legislation to speak with a bigger voice on issues of environmental concern. We work to preserve and conserve, by identifying and restoring Historic or Legacy Gardens across the state, including Botanical and pollinator gardens. The Garden Club of South Carolina owns the Memorial Garden adjacent to the Governor's Complex in Columbia which was deeded in 1945 to become the first Memorial Garden in the United States to honor World War II veterans. This beautiful garden continues to evolve over time and is supported by individuals and garden clubs. We promote Environmental Awareness Initiatives such as recycling, upcycling, water conservation, and litter control.

WE EDUCATE

We offer National Flower Show Schools and Symposiums; Landscape Design Schools; Environmental Studies and Gardening Schools. Learn to put on a Flower Show or to be an accredited Flower Show Judge! Members enjoy fabulous, organized trips to world famous gardens. You will also learn about supporting Wildlife Habitats, The Blue Star Memorial Program, Carolina Fence Gardens, Native Plants and promoting National Garden Week and Arbor Day.

WE SUPPORT YOUTH GARDENING

We encourage the love of gardening, civic, and environmental responsibility in our youth. Local clubs promote youth activities throughout the year in their communities, including the sponsorship of Youth Garden Clubs. Clubs send campers to the highly regarded **Camp Wildwood** where the brightest conservation-minded students are invited to study wildlife and outdoor skills that are not taught elsewhere. The Garden Club of South Carolina partners with the SC Department of Natural Resources, The SC Wildlife Federation, and the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund to ensure the camp's success. We also hold Youth Poetry and Poster Contests; and the GCSC promotes Scholarship opportunities for both High School and College students, awarding over \$20,000 in 2022.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP in a Federated club

We join together at the District, State and National level to accomplish more than we ever could individually!

- As a member, you receive a subscription to the GCSC quarterly magazine, *The SC Gardener*, delivered right to your inbox.
- You are automatically enrolled as a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc (www.gardenclub.org) and can subscribe to *The National Gardener*, their quarterly magazine.
- You can access the "Members Only" space on the GCSC website (www.gardenclubofsc.org) to discover informative educational and leadership tools. Your club will enjoy learning the GCSC initiatives during each term to guide monthly programs, workshops, field trips and Yearbooks.
- State and National project grants are available only to Federated clubs. Club Award recognition and honors are offered at the District, State and National levels.

Along with lectures and seminars at the club level, annual State meetings and Conventions offer an opportunity for continuing education and networking with gardeners from across the state who will become your life-long friends



Contact us!

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
701 Gervais Street, Suite 150-142
Columbia, SC 29201
WWW.GARDENCLUBOFSC.ORG



2024-2025 Five Star Honor Club Members

COASTAL

Azalea GC of Marion
Camellia of Conway
Driftwood GC
Georgetown GC
Latta Dogwood GC
Loris GC
Myrtle Beach GC
Sea Oats GC
The Glove & Trowel GC
Yaupon GC

EAST LOW COUNTRY

Alhambra GC
Azalea GC of Manning
Camellia GC of Greater Charleston
Flowertown GC
Garden Club Council of Greater Charleston
Garden Club of Charleston
Magnolia GC of Johns Island
Potpourri GC
Riverland Terrace GC
South Windemere GC
St. Paul's GC
Town & Village GC
Virginia's Pride GC

EAST PIEDMONT

Carolina Wren GC
Fairforest GC
Fannie Louise Holcombe GC
Gaffney GC
Lady Slipper GC
Lancaster GC
Leaf & Petal GC
Upsy Daisy GC

EAST SANDHILLS

Azalea GC of Florence
Azalea GC of Sumter
Azalea Home & Garden
Bishopville GC
Council of GCs of Sumter
Darlington GC
Forget Me Not GC
Four O'Clock GC
Poinsett-Bland GC
Sunflower GC
Wildwood GC

WEST LOWCOUNTRY

Aiken GC Council
Country Gardeners GC of Aiken
Dataw GC
Elloree GC
Garden Club of Aiken
Green Gardeners GC of Aiken
Lady's Island GC
Magnolia GC of Varnville
Orangeburg Council of GCs
Palmetto GC of Denmark
Seed and Weed GC
Sunshine GC

WEST PIECMONT

Clarice Willson GC
Dahlia GC
Foothills GC
Fountain Inn GC
Greenville Council of GC
Greenville GC
Lake & Hills GC
McCormick GC
Pickens GC
Simpsonville GC
Westcliffe GC

WEST SANDHILLS

Anemone GC of Winnsboro
Bay Blossom of Columbia
Blythewood GC
Chapin GC
Columbia GC
Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia
Gardening Girls Study Club
Gay Gardeners
Hunting Creek GC
Iris GC of Columbia
Lilac GC
Mimosa GC of Columbia
Pine GC
Rose GC
St. Mathews GC
Whitehall GC
Columbia GC Foundation

What is the 5 Star Honor Club?

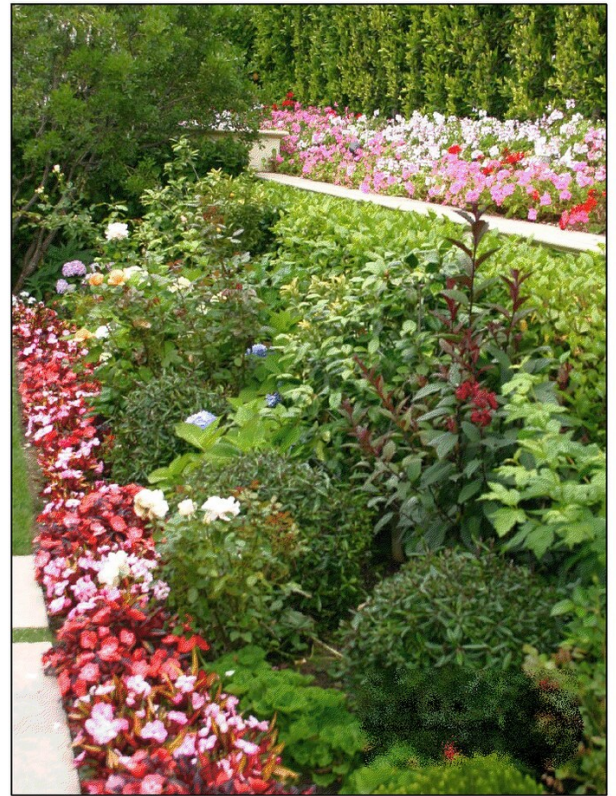
Members are federated garden clubs that contribute a minimum of \$40.00 to each of the five listed GCSC projects for a total of \$200.00: Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers, Camp Wildwood/Youth Awards Celebration (contribution is split equally to benefit both), GCSC Memorial Garden, GCSC Headquarters and The SC State Christmas Tree.

2025 Landscape Design School Program

Charles Towne Landing Historic Site

November 11 & 12, 2025

The Garden Club of South Carolina is offering the Landscape Design School on November 11-12 at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. The School is a series of 4 courses, open to the general public and courses may be taken in any order. Students learn about the principles and theories of landscape design, site planning and garden design.



For 2025, we will be offering Course 4 at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site in Charleston SC on November 11-12, 2025. Topics in this year's program include **Contemporary Trends in Landscape Design, Suburban Residential Design, Water Resources: Design & Conservation, Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs, Community Participation in Landscaping Projects and the Development of Community Gardens.**

In addition, we will be visiting three public gardens in downtown Charleston to conduct on-site evaluations of each garden's design. We will introduce and utilize the National Garden Club's Evaluation Guidelines to quantify the various landscape design components that should be considered in evaluating a property. A Landscape Designer will be present at each site to discuss the principles and elements of good design along with how they have or have not been met.

Additional information : [2025 South Carolina LDS Course 4](#)

Prospective students who wish to enroll should complete the registration form using the link and mail it along with a check to the indicated post office box.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact:

Paul Gilson, Chairman GCSC Landscape Design School

pgilson@verizon.net



Membership - A new year begins

Tara Ranson, GCSC Chairman

As summer ends, federated garden clubs across the state are planning their new club year and I hope exploring membership ideas is part of that planning. Along with officers, many clubs have Membership Committees and/or Social Media Chairmen. These efforts are important, not only to keep your current club members engaged and active in the club, but to attract new members to support the great things you do in your community. Club Facebook and Instagram accounts are easy to start and help advertise your events, plus show membership opportunities to new residents. Let people know you are out there!

Fall is a good time to invite potential members to teas, coffees, or to the first few meetings. You may want to advertise these on your social media platforms. If you have visitors to your event, assign a greeter and a friendly someone to “buddy up” and answer questions about what the club does and the process to join. Follow up with them afterwards to gauge interest, invite them back and offer membership and more fun!

**** A reminder—remember that each club president turned in their official club roster and per capita dues to GCSC last March. Those completed club rosters can be viewed in the MEMBERS log in area on the GCSC website. But if a club adds members during the year, GCSC does not know this. It is up to the club president to send the new member information to GCSC along with their dues. A complete explanation and steps for this important task are found on the GCSC website in the MEMBER AREA under Dues and Rosters.**

Spotlight on *The Garden Club of Harbison*

In September, the GCSC Board will review the application for federation submitted by a new garden club in greater Columbia, The Garden Club of Harbison. The dedication and perseverance of the charter members of this group over the past six months has been so impressive, and they will be a great asset to their community and West Sandhills District. Kudos to GCH President Katherine Carter who saw a vision for Harbison and ran with it; and a big thank you to the Columbia Council of Garden Clubs under the leadership of Molly Rowe. GCSC Membership is working on building more clubs in other Districts.



Some charter members of the new Garden Club of Harbison with President Katherine Carter (front row, left) and Columbia Council President Molly Rowe (second row, right).



From the Third Vice President's Desk

Michelene Sheehy

As I watch the dried leaves from the crepe myrtle slowly float to the ground and the berry bunches change from their green color to a dark purple, I realize that fall is quickly coming on the heels of summer. I have realized those lovely white crepe myrtles, that I planted in front of my house about 15 years ago, have caused me many hours engaging with my broom and dustpan. However, they are beautiful when they are blooming.

September brings another start to the Garden Club Year with many clubs meeting for the first time since summer. The club yearbooks should have been submitted to your district director and President, Betty Jackson, by September 1, 2025. I am looking forward to receiving the first-place winners by membership category from each district by October 1 to determine the State winners and then forward first place winners to the South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs to be evaluated for yearbook awards.

Within the next two plus odd months, I am hopeful that many of the garden clubs will consider submitting State Award Applications. The following are several important facts in submitting the award application:

- Please send all applications electronically. The application needs to be saved in Word and sent as an attachment. **Please do not send the application as a PDF.**
- Applications need to be emailed to michelene.sheehy@yahoo.com by December 10, 2025. Applications received after that date will not be considered for an award.
- Use Times New Roman and no less than a size "10" font.
- The application directions can be deleted. Digital pictures can be embedded in the text when responding to each of the questions and can start on the first page

Please be aware of the four new awards under #10 Presidential Initiatives that involve butterflies. The list of awards can be found on the GCSC website under awards. If any of the clubs need assistance with their awards, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. You can send me an email with a contact person's name and telephone number. and I will reach out to them. Please take the time to complete an award application. There are so many amazing activities undertaken by the GCSC garden clubs from the smallest to the largest.. By submitting an award application, the GCSC Board, the South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs, and the National Garden Clubs are made aware of what is happening in this wonderful state we call home. We won a National Garden Club award last year, maybe we can add one or more to that number. All it takes is a little writing and maybe an hour or two of your time.

A Tribute to Veterans

Friday, November 7, 2025

11:00 a.m.

GCSC Memorial Garden

1919 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC
(corner of Lincoln and Calhoun Streets)

Hosted by

Trustees of the Memorial Garden

Please join us on this special day and
honor ten Quilts of Valor recipients.

NEW AWARD CATEGORIES FOR 2025-2027

10. Presidential Initiatives Award

The following four awards will be offered to clubs only and will be sponsored by the 2025-2027 President's Project in support of the President's theme, "Butterflies ... "Come Flutter with Me!" Four award categories have been identified. Each first-place membership category winner for each award will receive \$25.00.

10i. Creating a New Butterfly Garden This award is given to a club that is starting a butterfly garden. The club must identify a specific area and create a planting design which includes native caterpillar host plants and three different native butterfly nectar sources. Application must include names of plants, cost, funding source, involvement of club members (number of members participating), and any community assistance. The project must be started and completed by the end of the current calendar year.

10ii. Refurbishing an Existing Butterfly Garden This award is given to a club which has an existing butterfly garden that needs upgrading and replacement of butterfly-attracting plants. Application must include a garden design which names and shows location of the replacement plants, cost and funding source. Also, include the number of members involved and any outside involvement with the project. The refurbishment needs to occur by the end of the current calendar year.

10 iii. Best Butterfly Garden Club Program This award will be offered to the club that has the best butterfly garden program. Application should include the presenter's name and qualifications, a synopsis of the presentation and the number of attendees. Also include any steps taken after the presentation, either by the club or its membership, as they relate to the program.

10 iv. Best Youth Education Program about Butterflies This program can involve students in public or private schools, youth garden clubs or any student group. Application must include the objectives of the program, a synopsis of presentations and/or hands-on activities, the age range of the students, the number of students and the number club members involved in the program, and any follow-up.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST “HOW CAN WE USE NATIVE PLANTS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION?”

The High School Essay Contest, also listed as GCSC Award #38, is open to any South Carolina High School Student (grades 9-12) sponsored by a **federated** garden club, group of clubs or council.

The 2025-2026 theme is **“HOW CAN WE USE NATIVE PLANTS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION?”** The student essayist will have to be creative as the theme should be incorporated in the title but not used as the title. All entries become the property of GCSC, Inc. A certificate and a cash award of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner of the GCSC High School Essay Contest at the APRIL State Meeting in 2026. This year’s winning GCSC essay will also be forwarded to the South Atlantic Region (SAR) of the National Garden Club. The SAR cash award is \$200.00.

Each year, the number of applicants has grown! GCSC is delighted to see so many students enter this competition!! Our three excellent judges would like to encourage entries that are representative of every corner of our state.

[FOR ESSAY RULES AND OTHER INFORMATION](https://gardenclubofsc.org)

Go to the GCSC website at <https://gardenclubofsc.org>. Under YOUTH click on the HS Essay Contest for contest information, checklist and permission.

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED VIA MAIL OR EMAIL BY THE GCSC HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CHAIRMAN BY MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 15, 2025. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

The State winning essay will be entered in the SAR Contest by 2/1/2026. The Region winner will be sent to the National Contest by 3/1/2026. National winning essays are announced in May 2026, and published online in a free digital essay booklet.

Birds of a Feather

by Kiki Mikkelson, Bird Chairman

Ramblings

It's Fall Y'all. As the summer winds down, our gardening focus changes from growth to cleaning up. One dilemma many of us face is... what to do with flowers such as zinnias, cone flowers and marigolds. As gardeners, we love to gather the seeds to share and plant for an abundance of flowers for the following growing year. As I sit outside in the Carolina heat, I enjoy the flutter of bees and butterflies enjoying a hearty nectar feast, and I'm a little sad that soon that view will change. Then my attention falls to how many plants are already looking worn out. Do I leave these seeds behind for the birds?



Both migrating and native birds are looking for food sources as nature's resources start changing. The change is not limited to a season's change but enhanced by declines in insects and berries. My feeders are always full of peanuts and sunflowers seeds which bring massive amounts of cardinals, mourning doves, blue jays, house finches, sparrows, tit mouse, wrens, chickadees, grackles, and bluebirds. Gold finches and nuthatches are birds that I have yet to attract to my new backyard. This year I gave myself permission to be a lazy gardener and leave most of the flower bounty to



seed naturally in hopes of attracting more birds. Zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers, thistles, cone flowers, sedum, black-eyed Susan, Joe Pye weed, and cosmos provide great seeds for birds. I always let a few basil plants go to flower also. Bees love the blooms, and the birds love the seed. I had lots of random basil plants sprout up this year from not picking off

blooms last fall. Seeds from a friend brought the most beautiful zinnias this year. What joy they have given me in the late summer as they are a constant buffet for bees and butterflies. Seeds are truly a gift to get and share.

Birds of a Feather (continued)

What the Bird

Certain things remind me of fall besides the typical color changes, dropping acorns, cornfields and pumpkins. I think of blackbirds in the fall, perhaps because of the association with scarecrows. Spring brings the cute chickadees and grackles, but it's the mystic feel of crows that shout out "Fall" to me. There are 26 types of blackbirds in the US, but crows and ravens are most associated with the season. From a glimpse, they seem interchangeable, but with a few tips anyone can spot the difference. They have several things in common, from the black feathers and eyes to the scavenging eating habits and reputations for intelligence, but that's where the commonality changes.

Ravens have a wingspan of 46-56 " and 27" long. They have a curved, thick beak. Their tail feathers form a wedge with long, middle tail feathers. The primary wing feathers are longer and the throat and chest hairlike feathers are shaggy. They are built to soar high in the sky with hawks and often glide when they catch an air current.



Ravens are generally solitary birds living mostly with just a lifelong mate or a small family group, though you might see them in groups if they are in a feeding area. They live in protected forests, mountains or sea cliffs. They avoid confrontation and do not seek out human connections from years back when they were

once hunted. With urban growth and infringement on their territory they can now be seen in fringe suburban areas dining on carrion. They communicate in low croaking sounds of gronk.

Birds of a Feather (continued)



Crows, while still large yard birds, are smaller in comparison. They have a wingspan of 36-39" and are 18-21" long. The beak is straight, and the tail is fan-shaped with feathers of equal length. Their blunt splayed wings are designed to flap in flight with steady wing beats. The body feathers are smooth, and

they have a sleeker build. Crows are highly social birds, often seen in large flocks known as murders and are found in open spaces close to humans, often building nests in backyards. They are known for gathering in numbers and chasing off larger predator birds. They make the familiar high pitched repeated caw caw call.

Both birds are omnivores, with Ravens being predatory and eating larger prey. They scavenge for carrion and human debris. Crows eat small mammals, insects, fruit, and seeds.



Both birds are highly intelligent. Ravens are said to be able to carry out multi level tasks. Crows are known for remembering human faces, especially if they were taunted or treated kindly. It is said they build relationships and bring trinkets to people in exchange for food.

Part of what makes crows and ravens perfect birds for fall birds is that they hold a place in folklore and mythology symbolizing omens and wisdom. Ravens represent good luck and change and are a symbol of harvest. Crows represent new beginnings and are a reminder to be generous, offer forgiveness and release what no longer serves you.

“Quoth the Raven ‘Nevermore.’”



GCSC Memorial Garden

1919 Lincoln St., Columbia, SC

Nancy Bunch, Chairman



Are you looking for a permanent, heartfelt way to memorialize or honor someone who served or is presently serving in the armed forces? Tribute brick pavers not only serve as a celebration of friends and family but also provide building blocks for our future, helping to ensure that GCSC Memorial Garden will continue to provide a place of dignity and serenity for the citizens of South Carolina, our community, and all who enter its gates.

Please donate an [engraved brick paver](#) in honor or memory of a family member or loved one. Your donation will become a part of the Memorial Garden's history for years to come. The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) corporation; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you, in advance, for your contribution!

TO RENT THE MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR YOUR EVENT, CONTACT:

Sarah Truel, 803-737-2235 or struel@scprt.com

It's a great day trip for your club to plan a visit!

Thanks for the Memory!

Lake and Hills Garden Club, West Piedmont District

by Laurie Flanagan

A 1938 Academy Award winning song, “Thanks for the Memory,” was also Bob Hope’s signature song. However, it also could have been the signature song for Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) at its June 13 meeting. Past President Laura Havran and Charter Member Barbara Shaver presented “A Walk Down Memory Lane,” a narrated PowerPoint presentation of signature moments in LHGC’s 37-year history.

- At first, LHGC members were struck by some of the significant differences between the 1989 Club and today’s. Members were referred to by the traditional naming convention that omitted the member’s actual first name, as in Mrs. John Smith, rather than Sarah Smith. Strict by-laws required members to present valid excuses to the Membership Chair for missing meetings. Three unexcused absences and members lost their memberships! Probably the most telling difference between “then and now” was that skirts or dresses were required at all meetings.

As Laura and Barbara got into the heart of their presentation, however, members began to notice the similarity between the early years of the LHGC and today’s Club.

- Members in the 80’s and 90’s were highly mobile. They toured Gourdcraft Originals, the Founders Memorial Garden, the State Headquarters House and the Founders Memorial Garden in Georgia, and even took a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. The 21st century LHGC visited Gibbs Gardens in Georgia, Biltmore Gardens in North Carolina, the Jocassee Gorges, the Hart Botanical Garden and Mushroom Mountain in South Carolina.
- In the 1990’s, LHGC began clearing and cleaning Hunnicutt Cemetery, an historic site within Keowee Key dating back to the 1800’s. It is the final resting place of those who once lived on Beck Plantation before it became Keowee Key. Today, LHGC’s Historic Preservation Committee maintains and adds to the existing landscape with native plants, annuals, and perennials.
- For its Memorial Tree Project in 1994, LHGC planted 100 dogwood trees around the Keowee Key Leisure Trail. To commemorate Keowee Key’s 50th anniversary in 2022, LHGC planted an American Beech on the Club’s circle.

Thanks for the Memory! (continued)

- In the early 2000's, LHGC, landscaped Habitat for Humanity's new home builds, educated school children about litter control, and produced an environmental brochure about designing gardens that protect the beauty of Lake Keowee. In 2025, LHGC continues to promote the love of gardening, environmental conservation, and community responsibility through its many projects. For example, maintaining 90 bird feeders and 30 planters at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation, annually transplanting 1000's of seedlings at Table Rock Tea Farm, landscaping the Seneca Public Library and Salem Fire Station, creating flower arrangements alongside nursing home residents, planting trees with elementary school children on Arbor Day, and leading the charge for Keowee Key's National Wildlife Federation's designation as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

Thanks for the memory, to be sure! But thanks, also, to the hundreds of women who have made Lake and Hills Garden Club a thriving organization for the last 37 years. Together, we plan for many more years of service and fun.



LHGC Honorary Members include Barbara Shaver (standing), Irene Ferber, Dee Helvik, Freddi Hallman, Edna Melamed, and Maggie Kavran alongside LHGC Past President Laura Havran (standing) and Vice President Evelyn Cole (sitting).



LHGC Past President Laura Havran presents "A Walk Down Memory Lane"

Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston

A Visit to the Farm

In May, Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston toured the beautiful property of the Caldwell family of Awendaw, South Carolina.

Members enjoyed seeing the expansive gardens and raised vegetable beds and heard the story of the development of the home located on the Wando River.



Following a lovely al-fresco lunch, the owner, Marianne, shared fresh eggs from their chickens with every member attending.

The group plans another visit to the home in December when the family sponsors a popular German-inspired CHRISTkindlmarkt.



Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston

(continued)

Busy August

With near perfect attendance, members of our club participated in the Charleston Flower Show, hosted by the Council of Garden Clubs of Greater Charleston on August 2 and 3. Our fundraising sale at the flower show was a success.

August 9th found 5 of our members assisting Keep North Charleston Beautiful with maintenance of Quarterman Park in North Charleston as a new community service project.



90th Celebration

Spartanburg Garden Club Council

By Mary Ann Powell Kirby

Photos by Marcus Zollinger

On June 27, 2025, The Spartanburg Garden Club Board of Directors welcomed Officers from National, Regional, State, EPD and local Clubs of East Piedmont District. Donna Donnelly, our own National Garden Club President who was installed in May 2025 at the NGC Convention in Charleston was in attendance. Many of those invited served on Donna's Convention Committee.



Invitations were also extended to EPD Director Denie Crowder and EPD Assistant Director Beth Waddell, who also played the grand piano with her "Musical Celebration". All EPD Presidents were invited to attend this combined meeting for the "President's Summer Meeting". SGCC Board of Directors attending were President Jane Zollinger, Vice President and Events Chairman Mary Ann Kirby, Treasurer and Registrar Elaine Wade, Recording Secretary Beth Waddell, Second Vice President Nancy Rayner and Third Vice President Lanie Trout.

Others invited: GCSC President Betty Wise Jackson, GCSC First VP Jan Burch, SAR Director Linda Howle, GCSC Advisor David Stoudenmire, NGC "America 250" and NGC Calendar Chairman Becky Crow, Mary Ann Kirby, 2025 GCSC Convention Chairman and 2025 National Convention Design Coordinator, Cindy Thornton 2025 National Convention Chairman.



90th Celebration of Spartanburg GC Council

(continued)

Upsy Daisy Garden Club was recognized as celebrating their 53rd Anniversary. SGCC and Upsy Daisy Garden Clubs won The East Piedmont District Yearbook Awards. SGCC won the GCSC Yearbook Award. The Chairman for both of these Yearbooks was Mary Ann Kirby.



A GCSC Presidential Citation was presented to Mary Ann Kirby by GCSC President David Stoudenmire at the State Convention Formal Banquet April 19, 2025.

GCSC President Betty Wise Jackson spoke about her Butterfly Theme and First VP Jan Burch spoke about the NGC and GCSC Conventions.

Autumne Kirby Relich from Down To Earth Garden Club of Lexington, KY, graciously designed the Beautiful “90th SGCC Diamond” crystal table designs using Circus yellow roses.

EPD Director Denie Crowder presided over the “Summer President’s Meeting, which all new Members were encouraged to attend. A plant exchange, silent auction and door prizes added to the excitement.

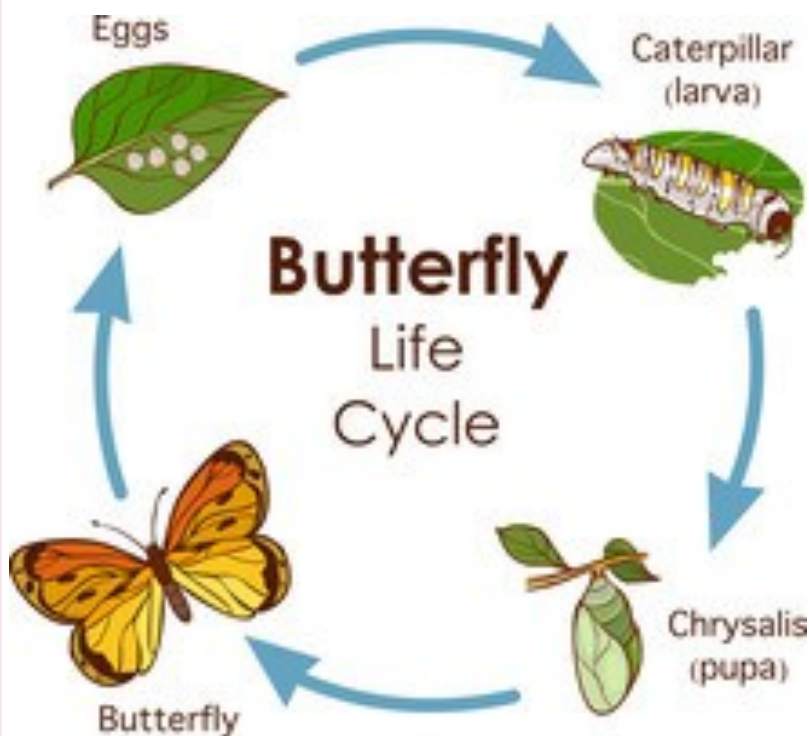


Plant Them – They Will Come!!

By Michelene Sheehy and Folly Carter
Wildwood Garden Club, East Sandhills District

Psychologists define inspiration as being motivated by something outside yourself that evokes an idea and/or the impulse to produce something creatively. Kelly Long, Wildlife Habitat/Birds Chairman, at the 2024 East Sandhills District Meeting provided the inspiration, as well as the cause, to create a Monarch Butterfly Garden. Members of Wildwood Garden Club had a mission, with the mission taking longer than expected, but the outcome was glorious. A committee of seven members were determined to help in rebuilding the Monarch butterfly population.

Wildwood Garden Club had already created a native pollinator garden at the academic building at the Francis Marion University Fresh Water Ecology Center. It was the perfect site to create the Monarch Butterfly Garden, with water, flowers that would provide nectar, as well as, bushes and trees for a caterpillar to find a suitable home to change into a chrysalis.



Gifted milkweed seeds, were carefully planted in peat pots with great hopes. Out of 30 seeds, one did germinate. Thankfully, it is still growing but will not be planted at the site until it matures a little more.

Not to lose site of the mission, milkweed plants were purchased and planted that spring. Maybe it was the heat of the summer, lack of watering, or orange aphids that destroyed the plants, but one plant made it and no Monarch caterpillars. However in the fall, the Committee purchased additional milkweed plants. The members of the Committee lovingly

planted them, watered the plants faithfully, weeded, controlled the orange aphids, and did a lot of hoping that a Monarch butterfly would lay its eggs on the Milkweed plants. Pleased to say they survived, they flowered, have seed pods, and most of all were host to 15 Monarch caterpillars.

Plant Them – They Will Come!!

(continued)



The caterpillars devoured the plants, but they rebounded. Have no idea where the caterpillars went, but supposedly they can crawl up to 33 feet to find a safe place to pupate. A Monarch butterfly was observed in the area.

The next step is to increase the number of Milkweed plants. This fall additional plants will be placed in the garden area. In addition, Wildwood Garden Club will be registering as a Monarch Waystation. The club will be a small red dot on a map. The club is in search of someone who will raise the caterpillars until they turn into beautiful Monarch butterflies.



Native Plant Pollinator Garden at the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture

By Janet Robinson,
McCormick Garden Club

The Governor's School for Agriculture has added a new beekeeping program. The school received a \$25,000 grant from Duke Energy to expand the program this year.



Included in this grant was a plan to start a Native Plant Pollinator Garden. The school reached out to McCormick Garden Club to help with this project. After clearing a large area right next to three bee hives, students built 9 12'x 12' beds. While the beds were being completed the search began for plants in our area.



Native Plant Pollinator Garden

(continued)

The students started by planting a mixture of Coneflowers, Common Milkweed, Bee Balm, Black Eyed Susans, Goldenrod, Beauty Berry Bushes and more in three of the beds. Students learned about plants, pollinators, and their role in maintaining the garden.

They have prepared three additional beds to plant native plant seeds early this fall.

The remaining three beds are being prepared for planting in early spring 2026.



Greenville Garden Club



By Beth Satterfield, West Piedmont District

On May 24, 2025, our Membership Chairman organized a group of volunteers to man a “Booth with a Cause” at the Greenville Downtown Farmers’ Market. The group handed out flyers and displayed Show and Tell plants to explain what we as a garden club are involved in and how others can join and participate in our projects. Many passers-by were interested in our club and enjoyed beautiful weather was enjoyed by all.



In June The Greenville Garden Club held its annual Year End Celebration Awards Tea and Installation of Officers. The hostess committee did a beautiful job with the decorations and food. Our own precious Madeline Freeman did the honors of pouring tea for us.



Greenville Garden Club (continued)

Fellowship was enjoyed by all. Our young members kept the fascinator theme alive and we are all enjoying the spirit these bright young women are bringing to our club.



The summer has been a busy time finding a new meeting venue. The room we will be meeting in at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Greenville is bright and spacious. This location accommodates our need for a separate room in which to hold our Horticulture Shows at 5-6 meetings a year. We are all thankful for a quiet and comfortable place to gather.

As we are nearing the start of our meeting year, I am pleased that the monthly programs are planned, our fundraiser fashion show, "Step into Fashion," is being organized for April and our Yearbook is at the printer. I'm grateful for the other three pairs of eyes who proofread this book. We are all looking forward to an informative and productive year full of service to our community.



Pollinators & Ecosystems

Simpsonville Garden Club
by Rebecca Garcia



SGC started off the new club year with the theme of *Building Ecosystems of Edibles: Feeding Family and Friends*. Karen Oliver, GCSC Chairman of Horticulture gave an excellent presentation about the 7 layers of the food forest. Karen Allen, President and Sandra Haman, 1st VP of the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs shared with us exciting activities planned for council club members. This was a great start to get us started thinking about ecosystems.

An ecosystem is a community of living and nonliving things that interact and work together in the same area or environment. An ecosystem works because each element works with those around it, balancing out the strengths and weaknesses among each other. The defini-

tion reminds me that our garden clubs are also ecosystems. We each have similar objectives and working together with the state and the national club objectives we can make a great impact. What better time than now, to be building ecosystems of plants and pollinators as well as a garden club community.

7 Layers of the Food Forest

1. Canopy
2. Sub-canopy
3. Shrub
4. Herbaceous
5. Ground cover
6. Root
7. Vertical (climbers)

Carolina Fence Garden at Heritage Park is a busy hub for pollinators.



Random Acts of Kindness

Simpsonville Garden Club

Simpsonville Garden Club continues to bring inspiration to the community through flower recycling. Thanks to our partnership with the local Walmart Neighborhood Market, we are repurposing expired plants for one last show at local businesses and public locations. You can find our *Random Acts of Kindness* from the GSP airport to the Simpsonville libraries, Chamber of Commerce, Acute Care and other local businesses or events for the public's enjoyment. Thanks to our very talented ladies who create these works of art.



Gardening on the Cay *Celebrates our own Donna Donnelly*

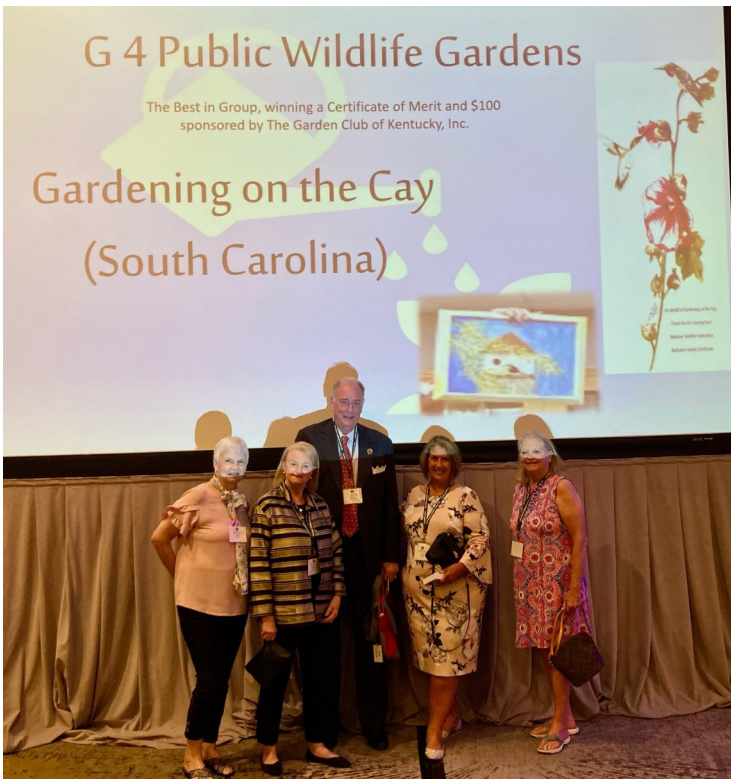
Submitted by Gina Ginther

In May, Gardening on the Cay members Kathy Tighe, Gina Ginther, Tara Ranson and Pam Williams attended the National Garden Club Convention in North Charleston and celebrated the installation of South Carolina's own, past GCSC President Donna Donnelly, as NGC's 49th president!

The celebration continued when Gardening on the Cay won the First Place National Award for Public Wildlife Gardens!



Kathy Tighe, Gina Ginther, NGC President Donna Donnelly, Tara Ranson and Pam Williams.



Gardening on the Cay members receive their 1st Place National Garden Clubs Award with outgoing GCSC President David Stoudenmire





*Gardening on the Cay Continues to serve
“Food for the Soul” at the Fort Mill Care Center*

Submitted by Gina Ginther

Even with oppressive summer heat, Gardening on the Cay’s “Food for the Soul” Project Chair Donna Feely and club members Debbie Wey, Cindy Runyon and Tara Ranson continued to deliver beautiful homegrown arrangements weekly to the Fort Mill Care Center for their clients! This year Donna and her crew exceeded last year’s total of 125 arrangements and have delivered 131 arrangements to the agency. When the agency’s clients come to the food bank, they are treated to an arrangement of their choice to take home...”Food for the Soul”!!!



Gardening on the Cay members build fellowship as they “Sip & Stroll”!

Submitted by Gina Ginther

For the second summer, members of Gardening on the Cay enjoyed fellowship and refreshments, sipping and strolling the gardens of members who volunteered their homes. The event is staged like a progressive dinner, with participating members coordinating the menu for the evening. The evening event provides a wonderful opportunity to not only enjoy fellowship and make memories but to share gardening tips and take amazing photographs!



Beautiful, tasty refreshments served at a hosting member's home!



Gardening on the Cay members enjoying fellowship at a recent summer Sip & Stroll.



Gardening on the Cay Habitat for Humanity “Porch Warming”

Submitted by Gina Ginther

Gardening on the Cay participated in another Habitat for Humanity summer home dedication with GOTC’s signature “Porch Warming.” The club brightened a pair of rockers with accent pillows and gave the porch a splash of color and a homey feel with a freshly planted flower pot and a seasonal wreath for the door. Gardening on the Cay members deliver the items on the morning of the dedication and participate in the moving-in dedication ceremony.



Gardening on the Cay celebrates National Garden Week

Submitted by Gina Ginther

Gardening on the Cay celebrated National Garden Week this past June by pruning, planting and posting signs in their six public gardens and civic beautification projects.



The Gardening on the Cay Memorial Garden at Pitcairn Park in Tega Cay



Riverview Elementary School SC Fence Pollinator Garden



Fort Mill Care Center



Tega Cay Elementary School Certified Monarch Way Station Pollinator Garden

Gardening on the Cay sows beauty in and out of the garden!

Submitted by Gina Ginther

Four Gardening on the Cay members were announced as winners in the 2025 GCSC Juried Art Contest at The Garden Club of South, Inc. Convention in Greenville in April.

Donna Feely won Best in Show for her painting “Potting Shed.” Donna’s Best in Show award included checks of \$100 each to her and to Gardening on the Cay!

Pam Anderson won First Place in the Mixed Media Category for her clay creation “Time Less Bloom.”



Nancy Stone won First Place in the Drawing Category for “Welcome Spring.”



Lois Graham received an Honorable Mention in the Drawing Category for “Winter Snow Swept.”



Our award-winning artists were honored at Gardening on the Cay’s end of the year meeting and celebration!



By Rose Mary LeBlanc

In August, 2025, the Travelers Rest Historical Society invited Travelers Rest Garden Club to host a booth at the soft opening of the Spring Park Inn. The Spring Park Inn stands as one of the oldest extant buildings in Travelers Rest, South Carolina, with its eastern section estimated to date back to the 1820s. For most of its history, the building served as an inn, catering to passengers on the Swamp Rabbit rail line, which included a stop at this location. Following five years of extensive restoration and planning efforts, the Travelers Rest Historical Society completed renovations of this historic site in the heart of Travelers Rest during the summer of 2025. The Spring Park Inn will officially open to the public for tours, beginning September 5, 2025.



Travelers Rest Garden Club's booth highlighted the club's mission: to educate the community about the advantages of native plants, foster enthusiasm for gardening, promote awareness of wildlife and pollinators, and advocate for the protection of native flora and fauna. TRGC members who assembled and worked the booth were: Rose Mary LeBlanc, Denise Frick, Joan Powell, Chere' Edwards. Also participating were Yvonne Matthews and Susan Stancik.



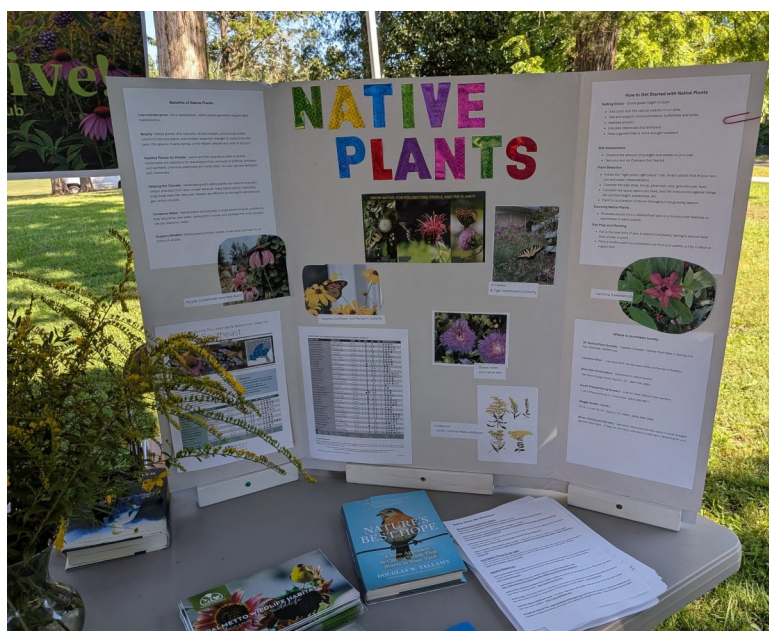
L to R: Chere' Edwards, Denise Frick, Rose Mary LeBlanc, Yvonne Matthews, and Joan Powell.

Travelers Rest Garden Club (continued)

At the booth, TRGC offered a native plant raffle, with proceeds going to the Spring Park Inn. Swamp Rabbit Trail native plant brochures donated by the South Carolina Native Plant Society, Palmetto Wildlife Habitat Gardening for Wildlife brochures from the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and soil test kits were free for the taking. A presentation board provided educational information, and bird and wildlife stickers were available for children. The native plants offered in the raffle were *Echinacea purpurea*, *Baptisia* 'Indigo Spires', *Conoclinium coelestinum* (blue mist flower or wild ageratum), *Chelone glabra* (white turtle-head), *Penstemon digitalis* 'Huskers Red' (beardtongue), *Heuchera* (coral bells), and *Heliopsis helianthoides* (oxeye).



Sponsoring the booth created a significant opportunity for Travelers Rest Garden Club to engage with the community, to impart our love of gardening and to foster that love in others and to educate our fellow community members about native plants.



Coastal District

District Director: Graceann Phillips

Assistant Director: Juanita Burnett

East Low Country District

District Director: Joan McDonald

Assistant Director: Annette Ellard

East Piedmont District

District Director: Denie Crowder

Assistant Director: Beth Waddell

East Sandhills District

District Director: Elizabeth Tolson

Assistant Director: Terri Brown

West Low Country District

District Director: Christy Sloan

Assistant Director: Mattison Bolen

West Piedmont District

District Director: Phyllis Roth

Assistant Director: Jenny Snipes

West Sandhills District

District Director: Margaret Axson

Assistant Director: Stephanie Cordum

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

501c3 non-profit organization

website: www.gardenclubofsc.org

4521 Members, 164 Garden Clubs,

17 Councils

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.

To submit articles, events and items of interest to

The SC Gardener, please send an email to

scgardenereditor@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

Issue	Date
Winter	November 15
Spring	February 15
Summer	May 15
Fall	August 15

Submission Guidelines

- Articles to be plain text email or word doc.
- Photos should be high resolution jpg
- Email: scgardenereditor@gmail.com
- Email Subject to include “article for SC Gardener” and Club Name
- Email Body to include District, Garden Club and submitter name
- Editor reserves the right to edit any article due to space constraints, duplication, clarity and accuracy.

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Rebecca Garcia Editor

Gay Nelson, Assistant Editor

The Master Calendar of Events
can be downloaded from the
GCSC website:

[https://gardenclubofsc.org/
index.php](https://gardenclubofsc.org/index.php)