

The South Carolina GARDENER

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



SUMMER 2025

Vol. 103 No 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message & Theme	3-4
NGC President & Theme	5
GCSC Affiliates	6
5 Star Honor Clubs & Councils	7
Membership	8
Garden Heroes	9-11
Flower Show	11
Life Memberships	12
Camp Wildwood	13
Gardening School	14-15
New Federated Clubs & Affiliates	16-19
Club Membership & Retention Tips	19
Club-District News	20-29
VP Reception	30
GCSC Convention	31-32
NGC Convention	33-36
Memorial Garden	37
GCSC Mission/Calendar	38
SC Gardener Deadlines	39

**GCSC President,
Betty Jackson**
Trenton, SC
bettywisejackson@gmail.com

**GCSC Treasurer,
Marian Soule**
701 Gervais St., Suite 150-142
Columbia, SC 29201
803-233-2740
Treas.GCSC@gmail.com

GCSC Headquarters
Riverbanks Botanical Garden
1300 Botanical Parkway
West Columbia, SC 29619

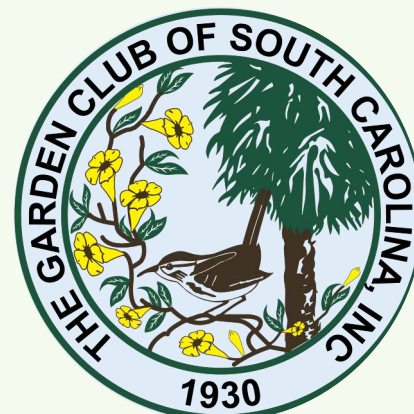
**NGC President,
Donna Donnelly**
Elloree, SC
ddon21@aol.com

**NGC Environmental School
& NGC Gardening School,
Karen Allen**
Greenville, SC
saludalake@aol.com

**NGC Flower Show Schools,
Cindy Thornton**
Mt. Pleasant, SC
diverdana1@aol.com

**NGC Landscape Design Schools,
Susan Epstein**
Charleston, SC
susanmcleodepstein@gmail.com

**SAR Director,
Linda Howle**
Darlington, SC
howlelinda@yahoo.com



*Pictured on the cover Zinnia Pollinator Garden
by Rebecca Garcia*

Welcome
GCSC President
Betty Wise Jackson
2025-2027



President's Theme

Butterflies... "Come Flutter with Me!"





Excitement ignites as District Directors and Club Presidents learn of my 2025-27 theme *Butterflies...* “Come Flutter With Me!” There will be special club awards during my two year administration: 1) Best program about butterflies , 2) Plant new butterfly gardens, 3) Refurbish existing butterfly gardens, and 4) Educating children about “lifecycle of a butterfly”.

This “FALL” Introduce my “THEME” to your club with a program about butterflies or take a “road trip” to a butterfly garden near you. Remember our sister states Georgia and North Carolina have great places to visit as well as our home state. Better yet.....plan a summer excursion with your children/grandchildren. They will love it! E-mail me bettywisejackson@gmail.com. I would love to read about your experiences!

Kind Regards,

Betty Jackson, President GCSC



National Garden Clubs



President

Donna M. Donnelly

Theme:

“Plant America”





GCSC Affiliates

Anne Springs Close Greenway
Black River Cypress Preserve
Brookgreen Gardens
Butterfly Monarchy Club
Craig Farm Historical Preservation Foundation
The Daniel J. Stowe Conservancy and Botanical Gardens
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



2023-2025 Five Star Honor Clubs & Councils

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
 Ellore 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 required to be in the 5 Star Honor Club?

Federated garden clubs that contribute a minimum of \$40.00 to each of the five GCSC "projects" (\$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.



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



“GCSC Garden Heroes” Campaign

Honoring Gardeners who Inspire Others as they Lay the Foundation for Future Gardeners.

Let’s honor the special people who inspire us to garden. For many of us, gardening is a way of life, a way to create something beautiful, or simply an avenue to reconnect with what matters most.

As you think about your love of gardening, consider for a moment the people who introduced you to gardening. Perhaps it was a parent or grandparent, a favorite aunt or uncle who shared their love and skills with you when you were a child, or a dear friend who brought you the gift of a plant, and then showed you how to tend it. Think about your community teachers, scout troop leaders, childcare providers, and good neighbors. You may need to look no further than your own local club!

In every NGC Federated Club, there are members who share their passion for gardening with old and new members alike. Sometimes they go above and beyond and share their passion with their communities: providing gardening experiences, outreach programs, and education to schools, seniors, and other groups. Each club might consider selecting a dedicated member each year to honor, as a tradition, or as a gift to a retiring president.

These individuals spread the joy of gardening. They fuel curiosity, cultivate interest, and seed confidence in new gardeners. They bring gardening as a first-time experience to some and frequently lay the foundation for the next generation of gardeners. All these individuals are our Garden Heroes!

Remember, most people can grow a garden, but it takes a special hero to grow a gardener!

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. wants to help you honor those special individuals through our “GCSC Garden Heroes” Campaign. With a donation to GCSC, you can honor the person who inspired you, and they will receive a special Certificate of Honor that they can proudly display. The funds collected will go to support their legacy through garden training resources and educational outreach across South Carolina.

Use the application form on the next page or on the GCSC website to sponsor your GCSC Garden Hero!

Thank you for honoring someone who inspires the love of gardening. This hero will be featured in a future issue of the *SC Gardener* magazine and added to our list of GCSC Heroes on our website.

GCSC reserves the right to honor your hero in future publications, posts, and podcasts.

Gina Ginther, Chairperson,
GCSC Gardener Heroes



I support the GCSC Garden Heroes Campaign!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for the GCSC Garden Heroes Initiative.

Pledge Amount \$100.00 _____

Contributions should be made payable to:

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

Memo: GCSC Garden Heroes Campaign

Mail to:

Gina Ginther

GCSC Garden Heroes
11109 Broken Brook Way
Tega Cay, SC 29708

Please honor the following person as a GCSC Garden Hero:

Address for mailing the certificate:

Tell us about how this person has inspired gardening:

If possible, attach a photograph of your honoree.

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you for honoring a person who encourages the love of gardening!

For more information, please contact Gina Ginther at

TheGinthers@Comporium.net

https://gardenclubofsc.org/GCSC_GARDEN_HEROES_CAMPAIGN



GCSC Garden Hero

Susan Uhlott

Susan is simply tireless in the support of gardens that provide food for people in the community, and has been a steadfast and deeply helpful member of the team of Gardening on the Cay members who teach preschool children at the Anne Springs Close Greenway.

Susan took over the PAR Garden (Plant Another Row for the Hungry) which is managed by the Master Gardeners of York County in 2015. This is a huge endeavor as they have approximately eighteen 4' x 40' beds plus in-ground beds, numerous fruit trees and even chickens, that supply eggs to the food banks. This requires a year-round effort as this garden grows at least three total crop rotations throughout the year. Susan drew volunteers to help her, planned which crops to grow, and managed the compost piles which help return food to the gardens. Throughout the year, the volunteers work multiple days a week to water, weed, plant, harvest, weigh and deliver the produce to the Fort Mill Care Center Food Bank as well as free meal programs in Fort Mill, Lake Wylie and other community programs. Each year that she was running the garden, the total amount of food donated rose in volume, from around 1,500 pounds to a whopping 5,000 pounds of produce in 2023 when she retired from being the manager. She is still there every day as a volunteer!



In addition to this very tough challenge, in 2021, she also started volunteering with the Gardening on the Cay preschool programs at the Anne Springs Close Greenway; Tiny Sprouts and Wee Sprouts. Many of our volunteers were not experienced in growing vegetables of all kinds and she stepped right in, dedicating a 4' x 40' bed for the Tiny Sprouts, and helped us manage the Adventure Garden for the Wee Sprouts. Having her with Tiny Sprouts allowed us to split the group into much smaller segments so that when she took the children into the garden, it was very close to one on one – a priceless experience!

Susan is very quiet and would never look for affirmation. She simply goes about every day, being a true GCSC Garden Hero! Thank you, Susan!

SMILING FACES, BEAUTIFUL PLACES

AN HGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW



August 2-3, 2025
The Exchange Park
Ladson, South Carolina

Flower Show

presented by

**The Council of Garden Clubs
of Greater Charleston**

www.charlestonflowershow.com

NGC Life Memberships

Dorothy Richardson, Chair

The NGC Life Membership supports scholarship funds to help young people complete their education. Giving someone an NGC Life Membership is an excellent way to honor someone who has made a special contribution to your garden club, district, state or region. Or, you may purchase one for yourself. The NGC Life Membership is divided evenly between the NGC Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment Fund. NGC Life Members are recognized online in *The National Gardener* and at the NGC National Conventions. To obtain an NGC National Life Membership, just complete the application form and send it with a check payable to NGC for \$200.00 and send to: Dorothy Richardson, P.O. Box 14, Loris, SC 29569

[National Garden Clubs Life Membership Form](#)

SAR Life Memberships

Dorothy Richardson, Chair

The SAR Life Membership supports The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college. Each state within the South Atlantic Region may submit one application to be in competition for the scholarship. Qualifying students must major in the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Biology, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management and/or allied subjects. All of the SAR Life Membership goes to the Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship, which means that you can use the entire amount as a charitable deduction for tax purposes. You will also receive an SAR Life Membership pin. To obtain a SAR Life Membership, just complete the form along with a check payable to SAR for \$65.00 and mail both to: Dorothy Richardson, P.O. Box 14, Loris, SC 29569

[SAR Life Membership Application Form](#)

GCSC Life Memberships

Gloria Kinney, Chair

The GCSC Life Membership supports The Babs Barnette Environmental Scholarship and the GCSC Memorial Garden Fund. To obtain a GCSC Life Membership, just complete the form along with a check payable to GCSC for \$60.00 and mail both to: GCSC Treasurer, 701 Gervais St., Suite 150-142, Columbia, SC 29201-3066.

[GCSC Life Membership Application Form](#)

Remember, Life Memberships = Scholarships



Camp Wildwood kicked off June 15, 2025 with just under 100 participants. About half of these were sponsored by garden clubs. Thanks to all the clubs sponsoring a camper!

Camp Wildwood is a unique conservation and leadership camp that challenges the imagination, mind, and body. Many of its staff first came to Wildwood as campers, and the high staff-to-camper ratio ensures a quality experience. Numerous campers are the second or third generation of their family to attend Camp Wildwood. Fisheries and fishing, boating, wildlife, archery, gun safety, journaling, forestry, sports competitions, dances, talent shows, themed events—the days pass much too quickly!

Plan now for your club to sponsor a first-year-camp prospect who will be a rising 10th, 11th, or 12th grader in June 2026. Clubs may offer candidates for the first-year camp only and will be selected first before registration opens to the public. Please consult the Garden Club of South Carolina website for updates.

Gardening School Highlights

By Karen Allen, NGC Gardening School Chairman

Gardening School Course 3 was held on June 11-12 at Spartanburg Community College. Twenty-seven NGC club members and 3 non-members attended the two day school.

Gardening School consists of a series of four courses, scheduled over two days of instruction, followed by an exam for those interested in becoming an NGC accredited Gardening Consultant. Courses cover all aspects of horticulture: gardening, understanding soil structure, pruning techniques, identifying plants, etc.

The next school will be landscape design in Charleston, so plan now to attend.



Thanks to all the participants and instructors!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL



NOVEMBER 11 - 12, 2025

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

[FORM 6 Application for Consultant Accreditation for Students.](#)

[FORM 7 Application for Refresher credit for Consultant / Master Consultant.](#)

Your South Carolina Landscape Design School Committee is pleased to announce that we will be offering Course 4 on Tuesday, November 11 and Wednesday, November 12, 2025. As in the past, this year's class will be held at Founders Hall in Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site in Charleston SC.

Student Enrollment will be open until October 30 or the class reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Due to our limited seating capacity and anticipated high level of demand we recommend that you promptly register if interested.

Registration Consists of Two Parts:

Part 1: Mail your completed registration form (attached) and check to the Course Registrar at the indicated PO Box. You will receive an email receipt notification.

Part 2: Email your Form 6 or Form 7 (*whichever applies to you*) to the State Landscape Design Chairman at: scldsp@gmail.com.

For questions or concerns please email scldsp@gmail.com.



Welcome New Federated Clubs & Affiliate Members

By: Tara Ranson, Membership Chairman

THE NEWEST GCSC FEDERATED CLUB

Please welcome our newest federated club, **The Fort Mill Garden Club** in East Piedmont District! This long-time garden club located just south of Charlotte has been a “force for good” in their community since 1938 and decided to join GCSC. They are interested in growing their membership and scaling up into a public meeting place. With the tremendous growth in York County, they are sure to involve many new residents as they continue their proud history of civic involvement and beautification in Fort Mill.



GCSC's Tara Ranson with new FMGC President, Darlene Williams and FMGC Secretary, Nan Roberts.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEWEST GCSC AFFILIATE MEMBER

THE DANIEL J. STOWE CONSERVANCY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



Welcome to Daniel Stowe Conservancy, 380 acres of beautiful, conserved land located just 20 miles from Charlotte on the shores of Lake Wylie. They serve as their community's backyard and path to nature. The Conservancy is a non-profit organization determined to preserve its natural beauty and provide a space for outdoor community-building, learning and exploration. The Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens are the Conservancy's centerpiece and crown jewel. Set aside in 1991 and opened in 1999 by retired textile magnate Daniel J. Stowe, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden has been an inspiration to the community and the region for nearly three decades. See some featured gardens on the following pages.

GCSC's Tara Ranson with Daniel Stowe Conservancy Curator, Karen Kottkamp.

THE DANIEL J. STOWE CONSERVANCY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



Four Seasons Garden

Right outside the Garden Pavilion, you'll find the Four Seasons Garden—a spot that's beautiful no matter the time of year.

White Garden

The Nellie Rhyne Stowe White Garden feels like you're in a castle courtyard whether you're taking a simple stroll or hosting a wedding ceremony through its white blooms and silvery foliage.



Cottage Garden

The sweet scents and elegant feel of the Cottage Garden transport you to the English countryside. Spectacular in spring, it showcases popular plants of the Victorian era including a nostalgic collection of bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubs.

Canal Garden

The Ragan Canal Garden features 100 yards of sparkling water bordered by ever-changing seasonal gardens and highlighted by a fountain at each end. Summer boasts bold tropical ginger, bananas, elephant ears, palms and hibiscus.





Lost Hollow Kimbrell Children’s Garden

Children of all ages enjoy Lost Hollow. Nestled in the forest, it features an amphitheater, sunken pond, play spaces and more for the imagination. Lost Hollow will soon include a 0.4 mile Adventure Trail and Prairie Castle Play ground to open in spring 2025!

Perennial Gardens

This winding garden path includes Magnolia Allée and Tunnel Fountain, a spiral of plants and fountains in Scroll Garden, a display of beds in Ribbon Garden, Crown Fountain surrounded by crape myrtles, pools in Serpentine Garden and a blend of cone-bearing plants in Conifer Garden.

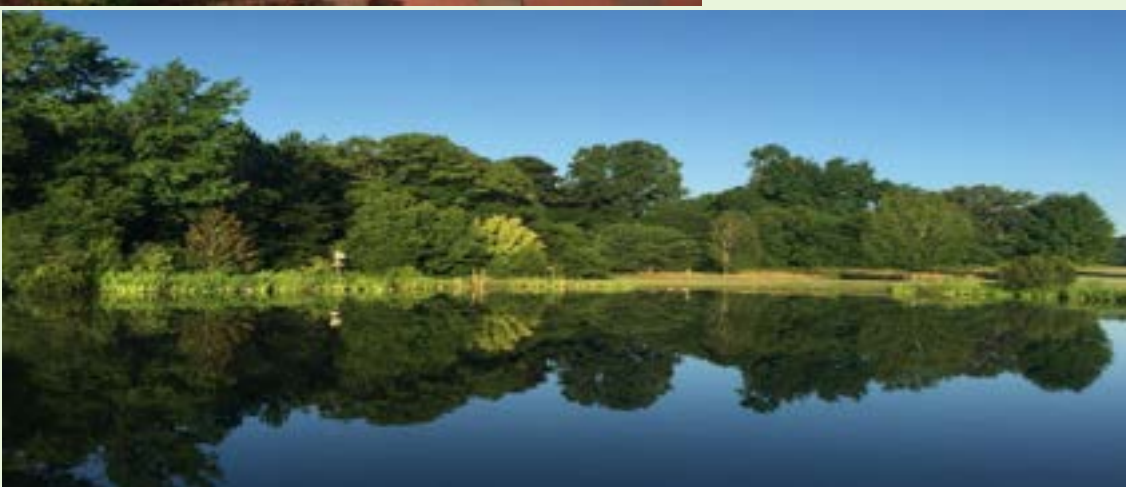


William H. Williamson, III, Conservatory

The Williamson Conservatory is the Carolinas’ only 8,000-square-foot, five-story glass house dedicated to a display of orchids and tropical plants. Discover a waterfall and tropical plants like a cocoa tree, vanilla orchid, and orchid tree in this warm oasis.

Garden Trails

Embark down a stroll of the half-mile Meadowood Walk. See majestic views of the Piedmont Prairie and listen for the sounds of native birds. At the peak of the path, take a leisurely stroll down the Lakeview Loop, a short woodland trail offering scenic views of Lake Wylie.





The Butterfly Bungalow

Open each summer, the Butterfly Bungalow provides a way to interact with butterflies up close and personal. Hundreds of butterflies are released into this pollinator paradise, giving visitors a spectacular view and plenty of educational opportunities to explore the butterfly lifecycle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THEIR WEBSITE – danielstoweconservancy.org

Is your club “taking a pause” from meetings until the fall?

Here are ideas from clubs around the state on how to stay connected and continue the fun...

- **Organize inter-Club summer garden tours** - my club calls this our “Sip and Strolls”
- **Plan a Progressive Meal** on several member’s patios and decks
- **Celebrate National Garden Week**, the first week in June
- **Visit the public gardens** or one of our 13 Affiliate Members (see GOTC website home page for links)
- **Support your local Farmers’ Markets** by planning a group visit
- **Visit small venue outdoor concerts** together
- **Hold a summer plant sale**
- **Deliver flower bundles**– thrift some vases and make arrangements from your cutting gardens to local shut ins or food banks
- **Deliver extra “bounty”** from your veggie gardens to food banks
- **Harvest seeds** to trade or put aside for a future Seed Library
- **Plan and share a “Garden to Fork” meal** -to enjoy potluck from the gardens
- **Make a list of potential members** you are bringing to the September meeting!



Remember, growing and maintaining the membership of your club is ongoing!

Be Like the LHGC:

Visit the Hart County Botanical Garden for a Heartfelt Good Time!

By Laurie Flanagan

Lake and Hills Garden Club, West Piedmont District

Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) kicked off its new Club year with a “Go Out and Learn” adventure to the Hart Botanical Garden (HBC) in Hartwell, Georgia. LHGC members were immersed in the nearly 8-acre garden that highlights the diverse beauty of Georgia’s flora.

Beginning as the dream of Anne King, one of the first graduates of the Hart County Master Gardener program in 1997, the HBC is sustained entirely by donations and volunteer labor. One of 16 botanical gardens in Georgia, the HBC features a pavilion, amphitheater, children's play area, picnic tables, a Little Free Library, a bird sanctuary, benches and fountains.



LHGC members soaking up the beauty of the Bog Garden at Hart Botanical Gardens.

Led along winding paths by former curator Kate Kirby, LHGC members explored HBC themed habitats including pollinator, herb, sun perennial, Asian woodland, native plant, fairy, and children’s gardens. Of note were six chainsaw sculptures by JB Craftworks of Greenville which are scattered throughout the gardens, lending a “whimsical” air, according to LHGC member Drucy Illanes. Following the 1-hour tour, LHGC members had lunch at the Southern

Chainsaw sculpture by J.B. Craftworks of Greenville located at Hart Botanical Gardens.

Hart Brewery in downtown Hartwell and shopped for plants at the huge Sunny Hill Greenhouses and Nursery in Canon.

So, whether you are a master gardener or just looking for a brief respite in nature, consider visiting the Hart County Botanical Garden like the Lake and Hills Garden Club did.



LHGC members enjoy lunch at Southern Hart Brewery.



Greenville Garden Club

By Beth Satterfield

Greenville Garden Club, West Piedmont District

Members of Greenville Garden Club started off our spring projects by planting up one of the Stumperies created by Hurricane Helene in the Kilgore Lewis House Arboretum. The Kilgore Lewis House is the home of the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs of which GGC is a member. We planted ferns, Hellebores and other perennials that we shared from our gardens to create a lasting impact in our back corner area. Using logs cut up from fallen trees, a fence was built to serve as a guard rail around the hole uncovered when this tree fell.



A tree stump at KLH turned to garden art from upcycled tree debris.

Our club participated in the Garden Club of SC Convention in a big way. We had 13 members who were vital to putting on a fabulous Flower Show by Chairing and serving on the Staging Committee, Signage Committee, Horticulture and Entries, Placement Chairman, Clerks Chairman, Hostess Chairman and as a Clerk. Our chairmen collaborated with other clubs in the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs whose members assisted in putting on the flower show. Not only did we work hard to produce the flower show, but we had great participation in Horticulture with Blue Ribbons and Section Awards won. We also had a Section Award won in Design.



GCSC Convention Flower Show Awards

A field trip to the South Carolina Botanical Garden in Clemson was a special treat for the 13 members and one guest of the Greenville Garden Club who attended. Although the day was cloudy with an occasional mist, it was a lovely day to see the gardens without bright sunshine.

Our tour was guided by Sue Watts, Education Program Coordinator. Sue shared information about the history of the garden, the trees that were native to the garden and those which were introduced over time. Take a trip to the garden to find out about the Caboose memorial and the wonderful gazebo in the pond on the property. There's so much to see and places there to explore!



Greenville Garden club members pictured in the Caboose Garden at left and at the Gazebo over the Duck Pond at right.



Do you know what's in your backyard?

By Rebecca Garcia,
Simpsonville Garden Club, West Piedmont District

What a great year it has been to be part of the Simpsonville Garden Club! This year's theme *Native Plants: "What's in Your Backyard?"* has taken us on a journey. We started the year off with a test to see how many native plants we could identify, and unfortunately almost all were diagnosed with plant blindness. To begin treatment, we took a tour to Furman's Organic Farm and learned how to

turn food scraps into compost and grow our own produce. With this in mind, we secured a grant from the Laurens Electric Cooperative (LEC) that provided funding for us to start a *Community Education and Vegetable Garden* on the campus of the Center for Community Services (CCS). We celebrated the completion of 75 years of service in the Simpsonville Community with a celebration of *Showers of Wildflowers*. In October, we learned about all the wicked plants that we commonly encounter from special speaker Polly Powell. If that wasn't enough, we then decided to go hands-on in forcing those poisonous paperwhite bulbs to bloom and bloom they did for the next 2-3 months. When Hurricane Helen ravaged our communities, we supported the local food bank with a check to help buy needed items. We collected Christmas gifts for children in the community who needed it the most and for local seniors. Several members did a lovely job decorating the bridal room at Kilgore Lewis House, and we had a great outing to see the Christmas décor at Twigs. December brought the 2024 year to a close with a Holly & Ivy luncheon, submission of awards, and overview from our committees.



The new year continued our learning about native plants with an educational session about moss from Joyce Moore. In March, we focused on our Carolina Fence Garden at Heritage Park with special focus on soil testing. We had an award-winning month of March. At the West Piedmont District, we won 1st place for our *Hydroponic Project* that runs year-round to produce fresh vegetables and herbs for CCS and educates local students at the high school and undergraduate levels. We also won 1st place for our LEC grant supported *Community and Education Garden* located at CCS Head Start. The *Pots on Main* won 2nd place for civic beautification and our yearbook design took 2nd place.



Once the flowers started to bloom we then spent April learning how to make frogs and arrange the beautiful blooms in arrangements led by our own Dottie Beesley. Two of our members submitted award winning entries in the Flower Show at the GCSC Convention. We also picked up a 1st place award for Conservation for our hydroponics project from CGSC and a certificate of commendation from the National Garden Club. The hydroponics project started with 4 working towers, but with the grant award from the Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association grant now has 10 towers at CCS, 1 tower at Fountain Inn High School, and 1 tower at Bob Jones University Biology Department. The towers have produced over 30 gallons of produce this year for the CCS food bank, and advanced education for a high school environmental club, supported two undergraduate capstone environmental research projects, and assisted in educating sustainable agriculture for introduction to biotechnology students. Our annual Garden Market raised over \$1200 and stimulated interest for new membership. Our year concluded with a tea party and how appropriate for a state that started the tea party movement. Dr. Anne Peden shared with us the history of tea in SC which has roots right here in the Golden Strip area. New officers were installed and awards given to our most outstanding members. The tea was the final step in treatment for our plant blindness that could now be upgraded to an occasional forgetfulness of a plant name here or there.



SGC members at the May Tea Party.
President Rebecca Garcia (right)
and Denise Merkle (left)
sharing the 1st place conservation GCSC award.

If you love plants (and animals) – You need to visit Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Gardens

By Patti Kreh,
McCormick Garden Club, East Piedmont District

It was a perfect springtime day for a stroll in the 70-acre Riverbanks Botanical Gardens in Columbia, SC. On April 2, thirty-six McCormick Garden Club members were hosted by the Riverbanks Botanical Garden horticulture team on a “behind the scenes” tour showcasing spring plants. Insights were gained into various gardens such as: Bog, Shade, Dry, Asian, Walled, Old Rose Garden and the Collection Garden. This garden has 100 different species and hybrids of Crinum Lillies. Altogether, these gardens have 5700 species of native and exotic plants. Club members enjoyed the many blooming perennials and annuals – native azaleas, hydrangeas, Carolina allspice, Lenten roses, camellias, snapdragons, kale and the fabulous Lady Banks climbing rose vine were stand outs.



McCormick Garden Club members visiting Riverbanks Botanical Gardens.



Carolina allspice



Tulips



Lady Banks Climbing Rose

Garden Club members were able to see the construction of the new “Bridge to the Wild” which will transform the Zoo & Botanical Gardens into SC’s leading conservation resource. The Saluda Skyride is an aerial lift that will transport guests across the Saluda River between the Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

After the guided garden tour and lunch, members wandered the gardens and visited the zoo. Since the weather was cool and dry, many animals were roaming around showing off their springtime finery – like the American Flamingo, Reticulated Giraffe, Southern White Rhinoceros and Lowland Gorillas.

This adventure was an excellent opportunity for the “new to SC” and experienced members alike to consider plant specimens that might be right for their gardens. It was an amazing visit.



Southern White Rhinoceros



Reticulated Giraffe

Leaf and Petal Garden Club Year in Review

By Venise Grier,
Leaf and Petal Garden Club, East Piedmont District

Leaf and Petal Garden Club enjoyed a covered dish meal, a recap of the club's efforts and accomplishments, and a plant swap as our final meeting for 2024-25.

We began our gardening year with a meal and planning. Our October meeting found us touring The Dixie Bee Store and learning about facilitating bee production. In November we had a hands on tutorial of flower pounding by member and artist Frances Harris. We rated this as one of our best programs of the year! We worked with other Lancaster clubs to decorate the Lancaster County Historic Courthouse with greenery and to serve hot chocolate at the Lindsay Pettus Greenway for the Lights on the Greenway event where we greeted over 2,000 people! We also planted a tree for Arbor Day near our Carolina Fence Garden at the Lancaster Animal Shelter. We learned from member and bird enthusiast Linda Hutchinson about how to participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count.

Tree planted for Arbor Day



Leaf and Petal Garden Club members.

The spring season was busy sprucing up our four local gardens at Andrew Jackson State Park, Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lancaster County Animal Shelter, Lindsay Pettus Greenway, and the USC-L Native American Studies Center. Our March meeting was presented by Jena Bice regarding grape vineyard cultivation at our local Laurel Haven Winery. Club members traveled to Kalmia Gardens in Hartsville for a fun and informative tour and lunch. We completed our annual Caladium Bulb fundraiser in anticipation of continuing our garden projects in the coming year. We ended our year with a meal, committee reports, and a plant swap.

New Logo for East Piedmont District

East Piedmont District now has an official crest which was selected by EPD Club voting.

The crest was designed by Becky Perkins, Gaffney Garden Club.



TARA RANSON RECEIVES EAST PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of her exceptional service to the East Piedmont District, The Garden Club of South Carolina, and Gardening on the Cay Garden Club, Tara Ranson was presented the East Piedmont District Special Achievement Award. This Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates effective leadership in achieving the goals and objectives of the District, State and National Garden Club communities.

Tara joined Gardening on the Cay in 2004. She has served 2 terms as President and 2 terms as Co-President. She has chaired over 1 dozen different club committees over the years and currently chairs seven. Tara has chaired and led too many special club projects to list!

As a former East Piedmont District Assistant Director, she has served as an invaluable resource to succeeding District leaders. In 2019 she received the GCSC Garden Heroes Award for her spectacular work bringing garden and pollinator education to elementary school children in her community.

As a GCSC Board member, Tara worked with our late Sandie Duerkson on the Scholarship and Membership Committees before taking on Membership (as a separate committee), taking it to a new level of focus and energy.

Tara has taken on the State of South Carolina like a “territory”, crisscrossing the state, traveling hundreds of miles taking the message of federation to hundreds of interested individuals. During the past two years, her work has resulted in the addition of a new East Piedmont District Garden Club plus 7 new Federated Garden Clubs throughout the State. Her efforts have resulted in the addition of over 250 new energized members to the GCSC Federated Garden Club roster. And she’s not done yet! In addition, to new clubs and members, she has been successful in engaging 6 new affiliate GCSC members with more potential affiliates pending.

She is a “force for good” in our organization and in her community, serving as an active member with her husband Jerry, at Neely’s Creek Church. And if all that is not enough, she works tirelessly for York County Family Promise, providing delicious home cooked meals for large groups of people in the Family Promise community.

**Special thanks to Gina Ginther, President, Gardening on the Cay, and David Stoudenmire, President Garden Club of South Carolina for providing background information and text.*



Gardening on the Cay Club Members congratulate Tara Ranson who received the Special Achievement Award at the East Piedmont District Meeting. Left to right: Michelle LaRoche, Gina Ginther, President, Kathryn Bentley, Kathy Tighe, Louella Rupert, Tara Ranson, Suzanne Vogel.

Kathy Davis Honored

The East Piedmont District Small Club Pollinator Award was presented in honor of Kathy Davis, a dedicated member of Potting Shed Garden Club. Kathy was recognized for designing and spearheading the renovations of Breezeway Garden in Downtown Chester. The Award given in Kathy's honor was sponsored by Mark Cockerille, President, Potting Shed Garden Club.

Kathy's design included repainting the beautiful latticework, repairing the fountain, installing flagstone and extending the patio. Under Kathy's guidance, Potting Shed members tilled, amended the soil and planted over 2,000 bulbs that put on a show all year long. Kathy, along with other club members, put in long hours to maintain the garden that Chester citizens and visitors enjoy. Also, Breezeway Garden has become a popular backdrop for prom and wedding pictures.

Kathy earned a BS in ornamental Horticulture Plant Science from Clemson. In addition to her gardening, Kathy stays busy being the President of the Rotary as well. Through the garden club she reconnected with David Stoudenmire. They played in the high school band together while at Cheraw High School. She still enjoys playing the saxophone and flute.

"We are so fortunate to have her in our club. She is a true asset to our club" says Mark Cockerille, Club President.



“Welcome Spring”

Welcome Spring was submitted as a pencil drawing in the “Gardening: Past, Present, and Future” Juried Art Contest by Nancy Stone of Gardening on the Cay Garden Club. The drawing received the 1st place award. Nancy described it as a “colored pencil drawing on a variegated gray soft textured paper.” The drawing was displayed in an oval black mat (shown on the left). The opening is 4”x10” on a 10” x 12” mat.

Congratulations Nancy!

Gardening on the Cay

By Tara Ranson

Gardening on the Cay, East Piedmont District

For their April meeting, Gardening on the Cay enjoyed a program presented by GCSC Affiliate Member **The Butterfly Monarchy** from Aiken, SC. Local non-federated garden clubs were also invited, and it was a full house with many guests. Susan, Pat and Tammy from The Monarchy presented a fascinating PowerPoint that focused on SC Butterflies, the best ways and proper plants to create a butterfly garden, and the Monarch life stages. Prior to the meeting, the three speakers met our Committee Chairmen at a few of the pollinator gardens and Monarch Waystations Gardening on the Cay that has installed over the years. We caravanned from one garden to the next, dodging the rain until we ended up at The Glennon Center for our meeting and program. We thoroughly recommend The Butterfly Monarchy if you want an excellent program!



Pat, Tammy and Susan from The Butterfly Monarchy with their interesting display at our meeting.



Pat, Tammy and Susan with Chairmen Louella Rupert to see the Riverview ES Pollinator Fence Garden.



The refreshed Tega Cay ES Monarch Butterfly Waystation that Chairman Ericka Kauer had refreshed to prepare for the visit.

To support our many projects, we held a Plant Sale at the end of April, using plants cultivated from our own gardens. We also sold plant books and garden art, netting \$762 for the club treasury. This was advertised on social media and via Tega Cay communications including the city marquee. GOTC members Monica Rylski, Ilene King, Anne Murray-Randolph, Louella Rupert, Kathy Tighe, Gina Ginther and Jonathan Hollinger priced over 100 plants from \$1-\$5 and provided brochures about our club.





Mattison Bolen

Assistant Director, West Low Country District

I was raised in the close-knit town of Williston, South Carolina—a place where the days were quiet and creativity was essential for fun. I was always the child riding bikes, digging in the dirt, or making mud pies, developing a deep love for the outdoors that has stayed with me throughout my life. My mother, Rhonda Bolen, past vice president of the Ivy Garden Club of Williston, jokingly encouraged me to join to help attract younger members. What began as a playful invitation soon became a meaningful way to connect with others and continue a legacy of planting and growing in our community. Watching my brother grow into a dedicated farmer further deepened my respect for agriculture and the hard work it takes to nurture the land.

In my professional life, I serve as the Grant Compliance Specialist and Special Projects Coordinator at Southeastern Housing and Community Development. In my personal life, I am the owner of Sonshine Creations, a small business that allows me to express my creativity through handmade candles, shirts, and family-centered products that celebrate faith, community, and joy. I am also the author of *Still I Rise: A Devotional Journey Through Cancer*, a book that reflects my personal journey as a two-time cancer survivor and offers inspiration to others facing similar battles. Through my experiences, I have learned the true meaning of grit, perseverance, and faith, and I have chosen to stay active and purposeful—in my work, in nature, and with my family.

These days, I find peace mowing the lawn, working on landscaping, or planting something new. I have a four-year-old son who shares my love for the outdoors. Whether he's splashing in the water, helping plant flowers, or proudly picking blooms just to admire their beauty, I see the same spark in him that I had as a child. It's proof that a love for nature can be passed down and often begins with the smallest moments right in our own backyards. As the Assistant Director of the West Low Country District, I hope to inspire and recruit more young individuals by educating them about pollinators and how simple backyard gardening can make a difference. Together, we can plant the seeds for a stronger, more connected future—one garden at a time.

These days, I find peace mowing the lawn, working on landscaping, or planting something new. I have a four-year-old son who shares my love for the outdoors. Whether he's splashing in the water, helping plant flowers, or proudly picking blooms just to admire their beauty, I see the same spark in him that I had as a child. It's proof that a love for nature can be passed down and often begins with the smallest moments right in our own backyards. As the Assistant Director of the West Low Country District, I hope to inspire and recruit more young individuals by educating them about pollinators and how simple backyard gardening can make a difference. Together, we can plant the seeds for a stronger, more connected future—one garden at a time.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK 2025

By Sandee Bauer, Riverland Terrace Garden Club, East Low Country District

In celebration of National Garden Clubs, Inc. 'National Garden Week', June 1-7, the members of Riverland Terrace Garden Club once again collaborated with Baxter Patrick Library on James Island. In a bright reading area an informational display table was set up with books related to National Garden Week, gardening in South Carolina, native plants and butterflies,

The garden club provided coloring sheets with 3 different butterflies to take home and complete. Members of Riverland Terrace Garden Club were also present at a table near the entrance for three days, from 11am-1pm, with a craft table for making butterflies utilizing cupcake papers, fuzzy sticks (pipe cleaners) and colored beads. Not only did the children have fun making butterflies, but parents, grandparents, babysitters, and library patrons enjoyed the activity, as well! Alongside the craft table was a large easy to read poster with butterfly facts.

The members participating in this event gained as much enjoyment this week as the children! At least 35 children participated in making butterflies. As always, these events allow us to interact with our community and pass along knowledge regarding gardening and butterflies to all ages.



Anne Murray-Randolph

By Gina Ginther

Gardening on the Cay, East Piedmont District

Anne's long history of developing and delivering rich educational gardening programs for children is well known to her community. In the fall of 2019, her club was asked by the Anne Springs Close Greenway, Fort Mill, SC to create a program for their preschool that would teach four to five year-olds how to garden and answer questions like where does food come from, how do we grow it, the importance of pollinators, what are good bugs and bad



bugs.....

A certified Master Gardener, Anne took the solid lead and solely developed an amazing curriculum for nature-based preschools, and with a team of fellow garden club members, began teaching at the Greenway preschool. Anne's program grew as the Greenway added three year-olds to their preschool.



Tiny Sprouts Class 2020. Anne teaching preschoolers about bulbs.

Her club, Gardening on the Cay, sponsors two youth garden clubs at the Greenway, [Tiny Sprouts and Wee Sprouts](#).

Over the years, she has continued to refresh, update and advance her curriculum, earning her awards at the District, State and National levels. In 2021, she was named a GCSC Garden Hero for her work developing curriculum and delivering science-based garden education to children.

Her work was submitted to the American Horticultural Society and in January, she was invited to present her program, "*Farm to Table Engagement for our Smallest Gardeners*" at their National Youth Garden Symposium in Hartford Connecticut this coming summer!

Congratulations to our Anne!

Vice Presidents' Board of Directors Reception
Honoring Donna Donnelly, President-Elect, National Garden Clubs, Inc.
and
David E. Stoudenmire, Jr., President, The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
April 28, 2025 at Kilgore-Lewis House,
Headquarters of the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs



**Garden Club of South Carolina
95th Convention
Greenville, SC**



**Garden Club of South Carolina
95th Convention
Greenville, SC**



National Garden Clubs Convention Charleston, SC



National Garden Clubs Convention Charleston, SC



National Garden Clubs Convention Charleston, SC



**Creative Design
to Honor
Deen Day Sanders
by Mary Ann Kirby**



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) corporatio; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you, in advance, for your contribution!

TO RENT THE MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR YOUR EVENT, CONTACT: Karen Hedgecock 803-737-2235

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



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.

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization

4640 Members, 164 Garden Clubs,
17 Councils and 13 Affiliate Organizations

www.gardenclubofsc.org

For GCSC Calendar of Events visit:

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

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

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

Submission Deadlines

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Nov. 15</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 15</i>

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.

SC Gardener Contacts:

Rebecca Garcia, Editor

Gay Nelson, Assistant Editor

The South Carolina Gardener is the official publication of the Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc., published quarterly and funded in part by Membership dues. The South Carolina Gardener has made every effort to insure listings and information are accurate and assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

©2023 All rights reserved. No portion of this magazine may be reprinted without the express, written consent of the publisher.