

The South Carolina GARDENER

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

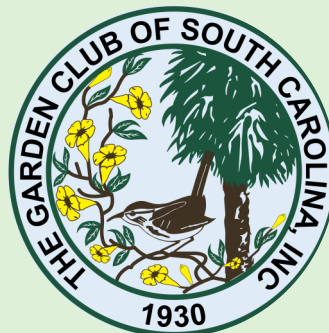
SPRING 2024 VOL. 102 No 2

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GCSC Affiliates

Anne Springs Close Greenway
Craig Farm Historical Preservation
Foundation
Moore Farms Botanical Garden
Piedmont Phisic Garden
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
SC Bluebird Society
SC Botanical Garden, Clemson
SC Native Plant Society
SC Wildlife Federation



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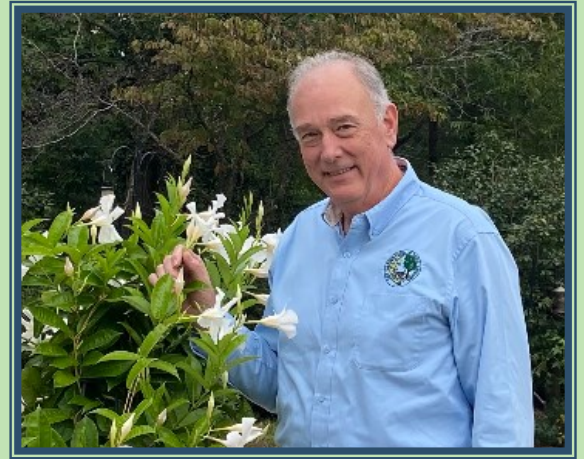
SAR Director - Carcille C. Burchette

Corbin, KY

carcillecburchette@hotmail.com

Dear Garden Club Friends,

As the deadline approaches for our articles to be in for *The SC Gardener* that means that spring is here. The beginning of our color changes in the landscape delights our eyes, the pollen “tickles” our noses and eyes, and this reminds us of some particularly important facts. The cycle of life and nature continues as it has for thousands of years, the earth’s return to those growth cycles in our trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, etc. is occurring. Our days are getting longer and while the temperature is still fluctuating, we know that warmer weather is on its way. This change of seasons also heralds the busy season of our garden clubs preparing for district meetings, hosting the South Atlantic Region (SAR) Convention and our GCSC State Meeting.



Excitement is in the air as our seven (7) District Directors, Assistant Directors and Host Clubs have planned, prepared, and welcomed or will welcome members and guests to their event! Starting first on Friday, March 1st we began our District Meetings throughout South Carolina with East Piedmont District (EPD) in Fort Mill. Following are our visits to Greenwood- WPD, Saluda- WSD, Darlington- ESD, Myrtle Beach- CD, and James Island- ELCD. These seven meetings conclude on Thursday, March 21st in Williston - WLCD. The quality of the programs, decorations, food, awards, etc. have already proven once again how super you are in event planning throughout our state! Listening to the description of district awards and being able to help congratulate our local clubs in receiving these honors is always a joy. I am reminded time and time again about “the force for good” we are in South Carolina. The legacy you and your clubs have and continue to build, is why the Garden Club of South Carolina is what it is. GCSC is growing and other states ask about what it is we are doing to make such a difference. I always say it goes back to you, our individual members, and local clubs. Our communities around South Carolina see the many projects you engage in along with our emphasis on working with our youth, adults, and communities as a whole. Our involvement in civic beautification, conservation, and protecting our environment, to name just a few, helps to make SC a better place to live, work, and play.

Continued on the next page...

Every five years, GCSC hosts the SAR Convention. This year it will be in Greenville. What a tremendous job Becky Crow and the entire SAR Convention Committee have done preparing for this five-state region convention. Also, we want to thank East and West Piedmont for going the extra mile to help conduct special tours, create floral designs, develop workshops, secure keynote speakers, etc. to make this gathering a successful conference. I would love to name everybody that has worked on the committee, but as we all know, it is very easy to accidentally leave out a name, so please know, I appreciate each and every one of you for all this hard work you have done to make the 2024 SAR Convention a hit! Oh, and it is an extra special year as our very own immediate former president, Linda Howle becomes our SAR Director for 2025-2027. Congratulations Linda and South Carolina on this honor!

Last and certainly not least is our upcoming State Meeting in Columbia. Our Board of Directors meets on Wednesday, April 24th and follows our State Meeting on the 25th at Riverbanks Botanical Gardens. Jan Burch, GCSC 2nd Vice President and State Convention Chairman and her committee are putting together a fantastic day for GCSC. A moving Memorial Service will collectively allow us to honor those garden club friends that have now made their final journey to that perfect garden. Our Business Session affords us the opportunity to hear reports from our district directors, committee chairs, and provide us the means to conduct important business such as approving the FY 24-25 budget, voting on a proposed Bylaw change and bringing into our federation in three clubs, along with recognizing two additional Affiliate Members that have joined GCSC. We will get to honor our scholarship winners, and high school essay winner. Our very special guest, Carcille Burchette, SAR Director, will be our keynote speaker at the Awards Luncheon where we will recognize our club and council award winners for their outstanding projects/work throughout our beloved Palmetto State!

I was excited to receive over 120 President's Reports from around the state. What an impressive accounting of your work in your communities. Thank you especially for this data which helps guide GCSC on areas you are interested in and seeking more support. I would encourage all next year to please take time and fill out this report. This information is unbelievably valuable as we plan programs, activities, trainings, etc. for GCSC.

Sincerely,

David

President's Theme 2023-2025
Legacy Gardening



The President's Theme for the 2023-2025 term as stated above centers our attention on the one piece of property the Garden Club of South Carolina owns. This property was donated by Sarah Bolyston in 1944 to GCSC and has become our "Legacy" to maintain and improve these grounds and structures for the present and the future. As stewards of this corner adjacent to the South Carolina's Governor's Mansion and Grounds, it is a living memorial from Columbia Garden Club Member, Mrs. Bolyston as the first such memorial in our country honoring World War II Veterans. A number of years ago the GCSC Board of Directors approved the designation of the Memorial Gardens to honor all our country's Veterans— past, present and future.

As this Administration works with the Trustees and Board of Directors, one of my missions is to help raise money to design and install a permanent handicap accessible ramp into this garden. Currently, when GCSC sponsors an activity, we are renting a portable ramp which is costly, and we have nothing to show for that money after the event is over.

I am asking that each of our Garden Club/Councils Presidents or their designee pick-out a collection container that can be passed at your monthly meetings to collect loose change and/or bills to help raise the money for this project. I look forward to seeing examples of the containers as you try to tie it into this theme and the Memorial Garden. As you collect the money, please send it in on a regular basis. Please send a check made out to GCSC for the cash collected to Marian Soule, GCSC Treasurer at 701 Gervais Street, Suite 150-142, Columbia, SC 29201. On the check, please note that it is for: "Legacy Gardening" funds.

Do you remember when?

by Helen Goforth, Co-Archivist

Rabbit chasing or research—it's the gift that keeps on giving! That brings me back to the history of the William Bartram Trail and the GCSC Historical Marker project.

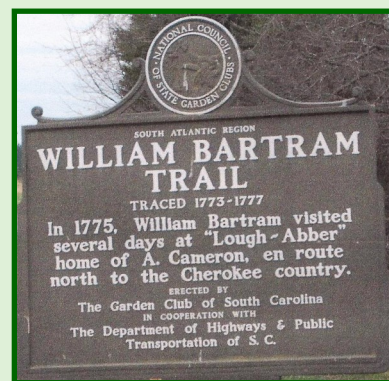
Another historical marker was placed at “Lough-Abber” in Laurens by GCSC in cooperation with the Department of Highways & Public Transportation of SC. The location was chosen because of its historical significance in pre-Revolutionary War days in Abbeville County. SCIWAY describes “Lochaber,” the homeplace of Alexander Cameron, as being in Long Cane, Abbeville County, near the Junction of Little River and Penny Creek. The SC District was named for the highlands of Scotland. After serving in the French and Indian War, Cameron claimed and was awarded 2,600 acres of land and built a log cabin in about 1765. Cameron had “the Scot’s gift of an easy assimilation with the Cherokee, and the Cherokee loved him and called him Scotchie!”

“In the Spring of 1773, Bartram chose Charleston as his operations center and undertook a nearly 4-year, 2,400 mile excursion through the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana....Sketching the plants and animals he observed during his youth, a young William had exhibited notable artistic ability.” (*Documenting the American South*, docsouth.unc/bartram/summary.html) Bartram was traveling on the southern journey from March 1773 to January 1777, when Superintendent John Stewart arranged to have Bartram meet with Cameron. In *Travels*, Bartram described his request, and considered the meeting to be most profitable as he continued, “...in order to facilitate my travels in the Indian territories, he would introduce my business to the chiefs of the Cherokees and Creeks, and other nations, and recommend me to their friendship and protection....it proved of great service to me.”

From *Bartram’s Journal*, we learn he “arrived in the evening (May 10, 1775) at Mr. Cameron’s, Deputy Commissary for Indian Affairs for the Cherokee nation....The season being uncommonly wet, almost daily showers of rain and frequently attended with tremendous thunder, rendered travelling disagreeable, toilsome and hazardous, through an uninhabited wilderness, abounding with rivers and brooks; I was prevailed upon by Mr. Cameron to stay at his house a few days, until the rains ceased and the rivers could be more easily forded.....May 15th I left Lough-Abber, the seat of Mr. Cameron.” (*Travels* by William Bartram, p.p. 326-328) (*William Bartram and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier* by Edward J. Cashin) -(Photograph by Brian Scott, Anderson)

I encourage you to read these articles for their superb biographies of William and his sense of calling for the use of his gifts. Enjoy the exciting and dramatic narratives by Bartram, coupled with his impressive, beautiful botanical art. Skills learned from Native Americans in SC must have guided Bartram as he navigated thickets, woods, streams and rivers to reach the plants and animals flourishing in their native habitats.

In July 1776, Cameron’s house was burned by Patriot forces led by Colonel Andrew Williamson because he was sympathetic to the Cherokee who were assisting the British. Cameron and his family escaped to Savannah, GA where he died in 1781. (SCIWAY)



Welcome to our newest GCSC non-profit Affiliate Member

The Garden Club of South Carolina offers Affiliate Memberships to organizations expressing a desire to further the objectives and purposes of GCSC and whose own objectives align with those of GCSC. Membership may be conferred upon recommendation in writing to the GCSC Membership Chairman from a federated garden club. Gardening on the Cay Garden Club recommended the Craig Farm Historic Preservation Foundation to the GCSC Board in January, 2024 and the Board voted to accept them as our eighth Affiliate member.

Craig Farm Historic Preservation Foundation was established to ensure the farmland and historic houses are kept safe from the encroaching development coming quickly down the Rt 521 corridor. The mission of the Foundation is (1) preserving and maintaining historic Craig House and Craig Farm in Lancaster County, SC; (2) promoting historic preservation and land conservation in the area; (3) advancing understanding and appreciation of the County's and American history; (4) promoting the classical arts and humanities and traditional values that enrich American life.

For 250 years and eight generations, the Craig Family has lived in the big white house overlooking the farmland on Craig Farm Road in northern Lancaster County. The 6200 sq ft home began in 1772 as a large single room with a story and a half upstairs. The original fireplace was built from local stone and is still there. John Craig, a Scotsman, left Northern Ireland in 1772 in a fleet of four wooden vessels filled with 1,000 people including his parents and 12 children. They were fleeing the oppressive British rule for the freedom of South Carolina and originally landed in Charleston. His older sons fought in the Revolutionary War in Chester and Lancaster County battles.

In 1865, the Union army marched through and raided the farm but occupied rather than burned the expanded Craig House. Since then, the house has survived many years of disrepair and major renovations. The farmland was revitalized but the original 20,000 acres have evolved from a cotton and corn farm to the 400-acre cattle farm you see today. The current owner, John Craig, and his siblings were the last generation to grow up in the home. John and his partner Johannes Tromp now live in the fully renovated Craig House which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Recently, the DAR presented an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to John Craig and Johannes Tromp. The lovely gardens are well thought out and can be enjoyed almost year-round.

The Inn at Kilburnie, also part of the overall Craig property, sits directly across the road from the white farmhouse and has welcomed thousands of guests to its pastoral setting. Johannes, a former NYC restaurateur and European-trained chef, has served for 23 years as the Innkeeper and host of this painstakingly yet luxuriously restored bed and breakfast.
Continued on next page....

Membership continued....

Kilburnie itself began as a dream to save one dilapidated old house in downtown Lancaster being torn down for a parking lot. The two men purchased and saved the house by having it taken apart and moved piece by numbered piece to the Craig property and carefully put back together and restored over years. Now it welcomes guests year-round who value a quiet setting, gourmet breakfast and acres of walking trails. There are plans for both Craig House and Kilburnie to be historic house museums one day. As John says, "we are trying to protect as much of Craig Farm Road as we can especially with the growing Charlotte metropolitan area creeping south". This year, Craig Farms is hosting free guided tours of the farm on the following Saturdays: June 25, July 30, Aug 27, and Sept 24. Tours start every half hour at 2:00, 2:30; 3:00 and 3:30 pm. Park in the field to the left of the house, across the street from the Kilburnie Inn. Tours are suitable for ages 6 and older. There is no charge for admission.

For more information and history on Kilburnie Inn and the Foundation established to protect the houses and the land, visit www.Kilburnie.com

Three new Federated clubs will be welcomed into The Garden Club of South Carolina at the Annual State Meeting in April

At the January Board meeting, Membership presented the GCSC Board of Directors with three applications from garden clubs wishing to become Federated members. All three were unanimously voted in by the Board and will be officially welcomed into GCSC at the April 25 State Meeting in Columbia. The Clemson Garden Club led by President Crossie Cox was proposed for membership by Lake and Hills GC and endorsed by Greenville GC and Pickens GC. The Lexington County Garden Club led by President Kerry Hershey was proposed for membership by St. Matthews GC and endorsed by Bay Blossom GC and Rose GC of St. Matthews. The Lugoff GC led by Rosemary Melillo was proposed for membership by Camden GC and endorsed by St Matthews GC and Gardening on the Cay GC.

We are thrilled to fold these new clubs and their members into our organization and hope to add several more this year.

Remember April 18 is the deadline for the GCSC NEW MEMBER CONTEST.

Has a new member joined your club since Sept 1? Over 30 clubs have reported adding a new member(s) since the contest started. Any club who submits a new member to me as part of this contest will be entered into a drawing with one club awarded a prize at the State Meeting April 25. The deadline to submit that new member's name to me is **APRIL 18, 2024**. You can mail their information to me or email it:

TARA RANSON 818 RYANS PLACE FORT MILL SC 29715

TDRanson@yahoo.com

Update on “SHARE THE LEGACY” Membership Contest –

It’s exciting to report that 20 clubs representing all seven Districts have already mailed in entries to this contest. If you are adding new members, Congratulations – but don’t forget to let me know too! The contest runs until April 18 and each CLUB who sends me their new member entry form(s) has an equal chance to win the cash prize drawing at the annual meeting.

The contest details are below.



GCSC NEW MEMBER CONTEST 2023-24

“SHARE THE LEGACY”

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST STARTS SEPT 1st 2023, AND ENDS APRIL 18, 2024

HOW:

The Club president completes the form below for **EACH** new member and sends or emails to:

Tara Ranson via email TDRanson@yahoo.com or via USPS to Tara Ranson 818 Ryans Place Fort Mill, SC 29715

WHY:

Share the fun of garden club! Your club is an important part of the **LEGACY** of The Garden Club of South Carolina. Use your **PAST** and **PRESENT** members and projects to ensure your **FUTURE** growth!

WHAT’S NEXT:

Each Club who submits new member names for this contest will be entered in a drawing to be held at the GCSC State Meeting in Columbia on April 25, 2024. A prize will be awarded to the Club drawn. All Clubs who participate will be acknowledged and their growth recognized and reported.

LET’S GO!

Tara Ranson, GCSC Membership Chairman 2023-2025 803-487-3236

EMAIL, OR CUT HERE TO MAIL TO TARA BY APRIL 18, 2024 -----

NEW MEMBER NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CLUB NAME AND DISTRICT _____

PRESIDENT NAME AND EMAIL _____

DATE THIS NEW MEMBER JOINED _____

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



NGC & SAR 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](#)

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](#)

Remember, Life Memberships = Scholarships

“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: _____

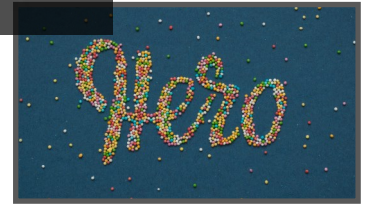
Email Address: _____

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



Justin Miller

Justin Miller is an amazing asset to the thriving community of Greer. Justin is the Recreation Supervisor of the City of Greer Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Department and on a daily basis, he enhances the surroundings and opportunities for leisure for the citizens of Greer. He also manages the city landscape and parks. While beautifying their parks, he finds ways to engage the community, get people involved and increase the quality of outdoor life for many.

Although Justin is not a garden club member, he has an outstanding partnership with the Camellia Garden Club and the entire community of Greer, especially with projects that protect Monarch Butterflies. Justin is passionate about the Monarch Butterfly and has been personally raising and releasing them for the past five years. Justin has worked with the Camellia Garden Club providing programs and education for the community. He has taken a leadership role in developing several gardens within the city park system, a butterfly education area and a butterfly recreation area. He has helped coordinate several butterfly releases that include live interaction with children and adults alike. Hundreds of people have participated!

Recently, the Camellia Garden Club applied for and were granted a \$500 Monarch Watch grant. They used the grant to purchase milkweed plants. Justin supplied an area at the Greer Golf Club where the Camellia Garden Club and city employees all pitched in and created a beautiful new natural butterfly habitat!

In appreciation for all of his community service, civic beautification and energetic inspiration he gives Greer's recreational department, Justin was nominated by the Camellia Garden Club, and was awarded The South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association's Programming Branch Professional of the Year award, for his overwhelming contributions to the community.

Any time that Justin is called on to help the community of Greer, he steps up with a smile on his face and a positive attitude. He is a true servant leader who makes everything he touches, better. Justin truly mirrors the Garden Club of South Carolina's "*force for good*", and is the perfect example of a GCSC Garden Hero!

Ann Salley Crider—Our Garden Hero!

Ann Crider is a very special person who loves to garden and encourages others to garden, too. She has been a member of the Clarice Wilson Garden Club in Greenville for 25 years, since 1998, and served as our President, 2021-2023. She is also a faithful garden worker. Her home in Greenville has huge oaks towering over her stone house, giving her a shade garden to care for which she generously shares with friends, neighbors and garden club members. The one sunny spot in her yard is a narrow walkway packed with beautifully planted pots and containers that can capture the sun.

Beyond her lovely yard, Ann also gets her gardening “fix” when she regularly works in one of the four Clarice Wilson Garden Club sponsored gardens throughout the Greenville community. When there are special activities sponsored by one of our various committees, Ann will invariably be there to lend a hand.

Her leadership is evident in the way she encourages others. During her presidency, our Club membership grew with twenty-five new members. She spots talent and engages Club members. It’s hard to say “no” to Ann and you’re always glad you said “yes”!

As President, she enabled CWGC Committee Chairs to expand the scope of their jobs. One example is that, rather than a “work day” for the maintenance of our Blue Star Marker, we were able to hold a ceremony at the Marker with Club and community coming together to honor veterans. She also joined several committees together to work on a very successful fund raiser for projects important to our community. Ways & Means, Education, Environmental Concerns, Design and Membership Committees and all the Club membership worked together for the event that raised triple the amount envisioned.

Ann has served the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs as Chair of various committees as well as The Garden Club of South Carolina as, most recently, Chair of the GCSC Youth Art Awards for 2023-25. She activated the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program in our Club. Even before she became State Chair for Youth Awards this year, she was encouraging participation in the Woodsy Owl youth program and the Smokey the Bear program.

Frogs hold a special place in Ann’s heart. She has a special affinity for those creatures, large and small, participating in frog counts and other associated environmental activities. She has an amazing collection of frog figurines, garden art and even her license plate includes FROG! During her term as President of CWGC, Ann selected as her theme F.R.O.G.—Forever Reimagining Our Gardens and encouraged us all to FROG with her. She even painted frog faces on rocks and passed them out to all of us to add to our gardens as a reminder to FROG!

Ann Salley Crider is our Garden Hero!





Paul Thompson

Paul has been working to educate and inspire people who love all types of plants, trees, shrubs, and gardens for thirty plus years. In September of 1994, he became a Clemson Extension Agent for Berkeley County, South Carolina and around 1999, moved to assume the role for York, Lancaster, and York Counties, where he works today. He is retiring in June after 30 years of service to the gardening world.

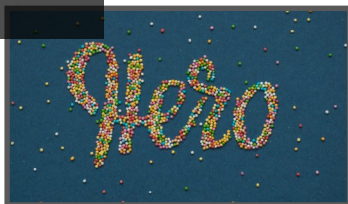


Paul teaches the yearly Master Gardener Class for York, Lancaster, and Chester Counties in South Carolina. He also teaches the SCCLP South Carolina Certified Landscape online course, and developed courses to prepare participants to pass the written and plant identification certification exams for the South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association, and the Core and Category 3 Pesticide Exam Preparation online course. His influence, support and guidance has led the Master Gardeners of York, Lancaster, and Chester to an outstanding 11,500 hours of service in 2023 including four community gardens – in York, Rock Hill, Fort Mill and Chester, serving the underserved communities with fresh vegetables and fruits throughout the year through food banks, free meals programs, and free deliveries to shut-ins.

For Gardening on the Cay, he has been a regular contributor as speaker at our meetings on virtually any topic for years. He has a genial and engaging way of addressing big topics in an accessible way – even for people who aren't very experienced gardeners. He can adjust to his audience and make everyone completely comfortable with his topic area. If he is asked, he will come to your personal home to help address issues that you are having with growing anything – at no charge. He simply wants to help.

He has numerous awards for his excellence and contributions to the world of gardening including being named a Distinguished Urban Horticultural Agent. He is a Certified Nursery Professional, and was awarded the 2015 Distinguished Service Award and 2016 Louis P. Parsons Award for outstanding contributions to the nursery and landscape industry. He writes a quarterly Column for SC Farmers Magazine. and is a regular guest on SCETV's "Making It Grow" and has numerous Clemson HGIC (Home and Garden Information Center) blogs and videos.

Working with Paul is like working with the encyclopedia of all plants. Walking with Paul through a garden or the Bartlett Tree Arboretum in Fort Mill, you get the sense of his knowledge and love for all things living and natural. He has been a gift to our gardening community here in the York, Lancaster, and Chester Counties for 20 years. Gardening on the Cay believes that Paul is an exemplary example of the Garden Club of South Carolina's "force for good", and we highly recommend him to be named a GCSC Garden Hero!



Lillian Sconyers

Lillian Sconyers has served as President of the Pink Dogwood Garden Club for 18 non-consecutive terms, collectively 36 years. Her entire club membership agrees that she has not only been selfless in her service to the club, but also a stellar friend to all. During her terms as President, the two pillars of her objectives were education and community.

Mrs. Sconyers arranged for countless scientists, horticulturalists, professors and experts to speak at their monthly club meetings. Topics have ranged from cultivating beneficial birds and insects, planting native, and soil testing to aesthetics of landscaping design and floral arrangements. Her passion for learning and her tenacity in procuring speakers has benefited every person who has been fortunate to be Pink Dogwood Garden Club members under her leadership!

Lillian Sconyers' dedication and tuteledge extends beyond the membership of the Pink Dogwood Garden Club. She is active in, or has personally organized many community projects. Some of these projects include the beautification of Main Street and local area park plantings and grounds maintenance. All of these projects have involved countless donations from her own yard and garden. She not only organizes these projects, but is the first to sink her own shovel into the ground to accomplish them!



In addition to volunteering within the community, inspiring young people and fostering their gardening knowledge is important to Mrs. Sconyers, as evidenced by her personal development and presentation of educational programs at local area schools.

Mrs. Lillian Sconyers is truly a powerful example of our "force for good", and we are pleased to honor her as a GCSC Garden Hero!

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The screenshot shows the website 'gardenclubofsc.org/catalog.php'. At the top left is the GCSC logo, a circular emblem with a palm tree, a bird, and the text 'THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA INC. 1930'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: HOME, MEMBERS LOGIN, and a search box. Below the logo is a horizontal menu with links: ABOUT, DONATE, LEARN, NEWS AND EVENTS, PROJECTS, YOUTH, and AWARDS. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'QUICK LINKS' and contains links for 'About Us', 'Join a Garden Club', 'Memorial Garden', and 'MASTER CALENDAR'. The right column is titled 'THE GCSC STORE' and features a section for 'DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES'. This section includes a photo of a man in a blue shirt standing next to a bush of white flowers. Below the photo is a 'VIEW' button. Further down, there is a section for 'GCSC MARKETPLACE' with a welcome message and another 'VIEW' button.



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Garden Club of South Carolina (GCSC)



Calling all Garden Clubs and Gardeners!

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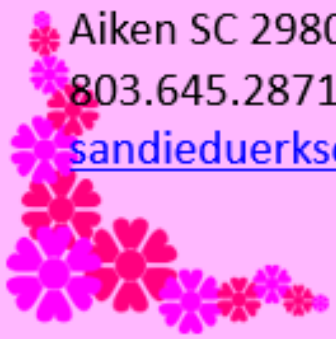
projects will be eligible to receive a GCSC award.



To submit your *"Plant it Pink Garden"* applications and pictures by December 10, 2024 or request additional info:

Send **applications & pictures** to:
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803.645.2871
sandieduerksen@gmail.com

For **more info**, contact:
Radine Tate
2627 Alligator Road
Effingham SC 29541-4314
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PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA



Are you participating in the NGC President's Project helping to feed the less fortunate in America? Get involved TODAY in the Plant America, Feed America Project by donating any extra produce you're growing in your own garden or in a community garden to a local organization that helps to feed the hungry in your community.

If you participate, **fill out this short donation form** found on the NGC's website. You'll find more information about this project and a link to the donation form in a story about the Plant America, Feed America project on the NGC's HOME page.

Get involved today to Feed America!!

www.gardenclub.org





South Atlantic Region

National Garden Clubs

SAR Convention

March 18-19, 2024

Greenville, South Carolina



Yellow Jessamine Garden Club Celebrated Arbor Day

Submitted by Betty Hubbard

Yellow Jessamine Garden Club from the Coastal District hosted a tree planting ceremony at J.P. Camp Roadside Park on Friday, December 1 to commemorate Arbor Day. Mr. Burt Rogers and the city of Dillon so graciously provided a beautiful Glowing Embers Japanese Maple tree for the occasion. Ms. Mary Ricks, President of Yellow Jessamine Garden Club, welcomed everyone who came out to support the event. Rev. Chris Alderman referenced various Bible passages in his insightful and inspirational talk about trees. He then followed with a prayer of thanksgiving to our God for trees and the gifts they provide.

President Mary Ricks offered a few opening remarks about the origins of J.P. Camp Roadside Park. The roadside park materialized in 1990 when Yellow Jessamine Garden Club voted to establish the park in its current location. Its namesake is Mr. J.P. Camp, a former director of the Dillon Vocational School, who pledged his support and secured use of the site. Dillon City Council contributed funds and resources for the implementation of this project, and YJGC continues to maintain the park on a regular basis.

Mrs. Terry Hayes, project and litter chair of YJGC, presented a short history of Arbor Day. She additionally presented a wonderful description of the Glowing Embers Japanese Maple tree. She remarked that this tree provides a kaleidoscope of color in the fall as the leaves fade from green to purple, fluorescent orange or yellow, much like the ever-changing and mesmerizing embers of a wood fire. The color sequence of each leaf varies as autumn deepens. A single branch may display four distinctly different colors at the same time, hence the name Glowing Embers. The Japanese Maple was chosen for its vigorous growth rate, brilliant fall color and adaptability to a range of Southern landscape conditions. Unlike many other Japanese maples that require shade and moist, organic soils, Glowing Embers thrives in full sun. It is hardy in zones 5 to 8 and tolerates drought better than most trees in its class, which is the reason for its rise in popularity in recent years.

The Glowing Embers was planted behind the fence at J.P. Camp Roadside Park by Mr. Rogers and his team of assistants. The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Rev. Alderman. Our hope is that the citizens of Dillon County, as well as visitors to this area, will enjoy the park and celebrate God's beautiful creation.

Rev. Chris Alderman, YJGC members
and Dillon County citizens



Mr. Burt Rogers and team
planting
Glowing Embers
Japanese Maple tree



Alhambra Garden Club...

Assists Brownies with Badge Requirements

Submitted by Barbara Hess

On October 12, 2023 several members of Alhambra Garden Club, part of the East Low Country District presented a program planned by members Teresa Brailsford, Nancy Newman-Limata and Sharon Scott to Girl Scout Troop 3910. The goal of the hands-on tutorial in garden design was to help the Brownie troop members earn their “Numbers in Nature” badge. Alhambra volunteers brought papyrus cuttings,



iris corms, chenille plant pods, *Aucuba* cuttings, *Tradescantia pallida* ‘Purple Queen,’ a giant Molokai sweet potato and Stokes Aster seeds to illustrate individual plant growth patterns. Every Brownie received a sample of each plant to examine and to compare height, width and spacing requirements. The girls then used graph paper to design their own gardens putting to use the information they had just learned. Each garden design was unique and created with much excitement and enthusiasm.

The program ended with a brief overview of various methods of plant propagation: cuttings, division, sweet potato “eyes” and seed. The giant purple Molokai sweet potato and its shoots generated lots of interest! Nancy Newman-Limata shared her large supply of Stokes Aster seeds as a take-home gift.



Troop Leader Bea Burton thanked AGC for a wonderful program and the Brownies happily returned home with bags full of plants and plans to create their own gardens.

Celebrated Arbor Day 2023 with Local School

Alhambra Garden Club celebrated Arbor Day on December 1, 2023 with students at Charles Pinckney Elementary School in Mount Pleasant. Several classes of third, fourth and fifth graders participated in the special program with original poetry and songs. A Little Gem Magnolia was planted at the school entrance by a local landscaper. The

children were eager to get their hand and shoes dirty as they helped with the planting and watering, while the landscaper explained the proper way to plant and care for trees. Prior to the event, students created an art installation in the school’s front hallway. They combined construction paper, fabric scraps, paper painted with watercolors and even sponges to construct a collage depicting a fall tree. The local weekly, Moultrie News, photographed members of AGC and the school children enjoying the beautiful first day of December.



Spread Christmas Joy

For more than 25 years Alhambra Garden club has donated Christmas Wreaths to the Town of Mount Pleasant to adorn Town Hall and various other buildings owned by the Town. The project started with a gift of 10 wreaths, but the wreaths were so well-appreciated that the Mayor requested 12 additional wreaths and offered to reimburse AGC for the increase in expenses.

Each year club committee members purchase the wreaths, hydrate them, spray them with preservative and then coordinate with the Town Maintenance Department to hang them with beautiful red bows. The joint effort has worked well for many years and enhances the beauty of our town during the Christmas season.



Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston

Submitted by Debra Cosby

To honor National Arbor Day, April 26, 2024, members of Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston, a member of the East Low Country District, recently planted a Hood pear tree (*Pyrus communis* 'Hood') at the James Island Outreach Center.



With many club members having active roles in the local Camellia club, the topic of a recent meeting was the study of the various varieties of camellias found in members' own gardens. Attendees also participated in a hands-on experience dipping camellia blooms in wax for preservation.

EAST PIEDMONT DISTRICT NOTES AND NEWS

from Linda Hutchinson, District Director

APRIL – DISTRICT-WIDE PROJECT During April, each East Piedmont District Club is asked to donate a book to a School, Library, Senior Center, etc. Check out the National Garden Club store which offer a bundle of 3 children's book (#1348) for \$15.00.

HANDBOOK An East Piedmont District (EPD) Handbook is being written. A main feature will be Clubs' histories. Club President will soon receive detailed information on this project. The Handbook will also include the District's: History; Calendar of Events and Deadlines; Meeting Rotation Schedule; etc.

CREST The Fall issue of the South Carolina Gardener will announce rules and requirements for the design, submission and selection of an East Piedmont District Crest. Submissions will be open to all EPD Club members; the selected Crest will be our Handbook cover.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Gardening on the Cay Garden Club for hosting this year's East Piedmont District Meeting. It was a great success! Every aspect of the meeting – the venue, keynote speaker, nametags, table centerpieces, food, vendors, etc. - culminated in a truly memorable event. We especially would like to thank the Planning Committee for its hard work and seamless coordination: Gina Ginther, Chair, Cindy Kennedy, Ka Hoover, Kathryn Bentley, Kathy Tighe, Louella Rupert, Michelle LaRoche, Luella Rupert, Pam Williams, and Tara Ranson.

HELEN GOFORT

The 2023 East Piedmont District Outstanding Service Award was presented to Helen in recognition of her service and lasting contributions to the District and Garden Club of South Carolina

Submitted by Linda Hutchinson

When David announced his theme of Legacy Gardening, it was decided to create a District Handbook which included the history of our District Clubs. The 1st person contacted was Helen. I expected a few pages of notes. What I got was pages of information worthy of an encyclopedia entry. Since last summer she has been sending me copies of her records. I am now just up to the 1950s.

East Piedmont is the only District that has comprehensive archive records, all thanks to Helen's initiative and dedication. For the District she has collected, codify and maintained reports, event materials, photographs, Club records, etc. She is our District hoarder for which we are eternally grateful.

Helen admits she had zero interest in garden clubbing until 1988 when she joined the Gaffney Garden Club. She later served as its secretary and won an award for her 'Book of Evidence.' In Helen's word she was corralled by former District Director Susan Hite into joining GCSC Board in 2003. Thank you, Susan. She was appointed "Special Publications" Chairman and wrote the book celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the GCSC. Her 100-page book is a history of all the Presidents from 1930 – 2005. She has since served each State President in this capacity and publishes her research in the *SC Gardener*.

When former East Piedmont District Director Betty Steele became State President, her project was the restoration of the Memorial Garden. Helen kept records of the progress which took over 2 years to compile. When it was completed, it was suggested that GCSC apply for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Helen's records provided the foundation on which the application for listing the Memorial Garden on the National Register was granted.

In all, she has computerized over 2,500 East Piedmont District and Garden Club of South Carolina documents!

Thank you Helen!

EAST PIEDMONT DISTRICT MEETING

Submitted by Venise Grier, EPD Communication Chair

The East Piedmont District 2024 Spring Meeting was held on March 1, 2024 at the Fort Mill Golf Club and hosted by Gardening on the Cay. The meeting was called to order by East Piedmont District Director, Linda Hutchinson. Attendees were welcomed to Fort Mill by Fourth Ward Councilman, Chris Moody.

Following the Invocation and the pledges to the flags, attendees were welcomed to the meeting by Gardening on the Cay President, Gina Ginther.

Officers from The Garden Club of South Carolina were introduced and offered remarks. President, David Stoudenmire spoke about the President's initiative at the Memorial Garden, the growth of the GCSC, and the schedule of events with district, state, and regional meetings. First Vice-President, Betty Wise-Jackson commented on the GCSC Scholarship recipients and shared that \$18,000 in scholarships were awarded. Jan Burch, Second Vice-President announced that the GCSC State Meeting would be held on April 25, 2024 in Columbia and issued an invitation for members to attend.

The Special Guest Speaker, Elizabeth Bowers provided an informative presentation on the "Living Legacy: The Life of Anne Springs Close and the Creation of a Greenway". As the Director of Communications & Advancement of Leroy Springs & Company she shared the vision, efforts, and subsequent impact that Anne Springs Close had on the development of recreation and conservation efforts to enhance the lives of residents in the area.

Honor Designs, created by Leaf and Petal member Kathy White, were presented to David Stoudenmire and Elizabeth Bowers.

The East Piedmont Assistant Director Denie Crowder provided a synopsis of clubs' projects that were selected for awards and presented certificates and checks to clubs receiving the district spring awards.

The Business Meeting was moderated by the District Director, Linda Hutchinson. She provided information on the district projects of book donations for Community Outreach, the development of EPD Handbook, and announced the plans to develop an EPD Crest. Nominations for State Delegates were announced. Linda Hutchinson made a special presentation of a Service Award to the District Archivist, Helen Goforth. Members of her garden club joined Mary Ann Kirby for this special recognition.

Sheree Walsh encouraged attendees to find ways to share gardening opportunities in their communities as a means to meet the GCSC Garden Therapy initiative.

Kathy Tighe provided the Credentials Report.

An invitation to the 2025 East Piedmont District Spring Meeting was issued by Rebecca Perkins. The meeting will be in Gaffney on March 13, 2025.

An invitation to the GCSC State Meeting was also issued. Attendees were encouraged to attend the meeting which will be held April 28th through 30th in Greenville.

Throughout the meeting the thoughtful planning and hospitality of the Gardening on the Cay Club was evident: the opening coffee break, the table decorations, the Barbeque lunch, the raffle prizes, the vendor shopping, the handout that shared "Our Beautiful South Carolina! Legacies, Traditions and Trivia...Did you know...", the take away bags, and the view that the location provided.

Linda Hutchinson adjourned the efficiently managed meeting and wished safe travels and thanked the Gardening on the Cay for their hosting.

Spartanburg Garden Club Council

Submitted by Mary Ann Kirby



Nationally Accredited Master Judges Elaine Wade, Mary Ann Kirby and Nancy Rayner attended the November 15, 2023 Georgia Federation of State Garden Clubs Symposium in Athens, GA at the Federation's headquarters at the Georgia Botanical Gardens. The three Spartanburg Garden Club Council members attended the Symposium for credit towards their Masters Certificate to qualify to judge Flower Shows both nationally and internationally.

Spartanburg Garden Club Council President Jane Zollinger and members met at the Chapman Arts Center in Spartanburg on December 5, 2023 for "REFLECTIONS," a recap of Greenville Garden Club's April 2023 Flower Show, *A Spring Garden Party*. During the event, Becky Crow revisited her blue-ribbon winning design titled "Winter Design."



Mary Ann Kirby's Table Artistry design, "A Picnic for 4th of July," was also a blue ribbon winner at the Greenville Flower Show.

Mary Ann's "Stargazer" *Amaryllis* won a blue ribbon, a Grower's Choice Award and the Award of Horticultural Excellence



Merry Tillers



Members of the Merry Tillers, part of the East Piedmont District, met at the home of Peggy Wilson for a winter workshop to build Peanut Butter Pine Cones for the Birds.



Gardening on the Cay – East Piedmont District

submitted by Tara Ranson

In January, Gardening on the Cay welcomed a special guest of honor to our Tega Cay peninsula.

As is our tradition during the first year of the GCSC President's term, we held a Soup and Salad Supper and invited President David Stoudenmire for the evening and overnight. East Piedmont District Director Linda Hutchinson and Memorial Garden Trustee Peggy Little were also our dinner guests. Tega Cay Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Miller welcomed our visitors to the city and enjoyed chatting with David as "one Mayor to another". Forty members and visitors enjoyed crockpots full of delicious winter soups and a variety of salads. After a quick club business meeting, David presented the program on his theme "Legacy Gardening – Past, Present and Future" while also discussing the importance of the GCSC Memorial Garden and his President's project of making that garden handicap accessible. Peggy Little spoke about the Veteran's honorary brick program and handed out information. After questions, club President Gina Ginther presented David with a check for \$250 toward his President's project. He was also given a basket of gifts including a Gardening on the Cay hat; J&J Farms honey; Peach Salsa from the Springs Family Peach Stand and some new leather garden gloves.

David rested overnight at the home of our club president, who then hosted a coffee the next morning before several members took David on a tour of some Gardening on the Cay projects in Tega Cay and Fort Mill. The caravan stopped at pollinator gardens installed by the club at two elementary schools; our newly dedicated Memorial Garden at Pitcairn Park and the Anne Springs Close Greenway PAR gardens where we teach preschool gardening classes. We dropped by the Fort Mill Care Center where we donate food monthly, tend the 150 ft stone perennial planter, and earlier this year supplied charities with 400 Christmas stockings.



Centerpieces of winter greens and berries captured the patriotic theme



Tega Cay Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Miller



Memorial Garden Trustee Peggy Little with GOTC Pres Gina Ginther



Committee Members Anne and Anne

Gardening on the Cay, continued....



Winter soups and plenty of salads



Cindy with her 3 foot display of cotton stalks, cranberries, painted sticks and fairy lights



GCSC President David Stoudenmire



EPD Director Linda Hutchinson (back) joined Ilene, Nancy, Judy, and Donna for dinner



David was presented a \$250 check, a basket of local gifts, and of course, one of our club ballcaps



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The Tea Thief

Sixty-five guests arrived at the North Augusta Community Center on November 13th to hear the story of 'The Tea Thief' presented by Charlotte Wiedenman. It's a swashbuckling historic tale of how a 19th century Scottish botanist uncovered the secrets of *Camellia Sinensis* and executed the greatest act of industrial espionage in modern history! Sponsored by the North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, the annual community educational forum's guest speaker was 10th generation South Carolinian and noted horticultural and historical speaker, Charlotte Wiedenman of Aiken, S.C.



As guests entered the community center, they selected their choice of teacup from over 80 antique teacups available from the collections of Gloria Farmer, Cindy Mixon and Anne Whittle from Beech Island, S.C. Seven different varieties of *Camellia Sinensis* tea awaited selection of personal choice by guests. There were 10 round tables for seating, beautifully adorned with fresh greenery topped with tiered serving platters. The tiered platters held a variety of tea sandwiches as well as sweets, scones and savory treats to enjoy with their tea while guests listened to the fascinating history of Robert Fortune. He was the 'Tea Thief' who stole the *Camellia Sinensis* secrets from China and brought them to other countries



Special guests attending were: Kathy New-WLC District Director, Christy Sloan – WLC Assistant Director and Sandie Duerksen – GCSC 3rd Vice President.

The North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs is comprised of 4 clubs: Beech Island GC, Carolina Hills GC, Palmetto GC and the Terrace GC.



Be Part of the Solution: Fight Hunger

Submitted by Laurie Flanagan

Lake and Hills Garden Club, West Piedmont District

Mention “garden clubs” to most people and they will think of the usual civic planting and beautification, conservation of natural resources, gardening, landscape design, flower arranging, and horticulture. But 21st century garden clubs are expanding their missions and vision to address a longstanding problem: fighting hunger in America. The goal of *Plant America-Feed America*, one of the National Garden Club’s 2023-2025 administration President’s projects, is to help feed the hungry across America.

On April 5, the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) joined this national effort and helped fight food insecurity in a most unusual way. The Club hosted *Tea and Togs*, a tea party and fashion show in the Vista Room at Keowee Key, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the Golden Corner Food Pantry. This 501 (c)(3) organization is the largest food pantry in Oconee County, serving nearly 2,000 low-income and disadvantaged people each month with emergency and supplemental food. Mike Harlin, the Food Pantry Director, had made a presentation at a prior LHGC meeting, which illustrated the huge need and urgency for help in our own backyard.

Tea Party guests enjoyed sumptuous offerings including scones with clotted cream, finger sandwiches, and assorted sweets. The Table Rock Tea Company, located in Pickens and one of only two tea farms in South Carolina, provided what the owners Steve and Jennifer Lorch call "uniquely American teas." However, *Tea and Togs* was more than just a tea party, as the name suggests. Mariani’s Boutique in Greenville provided a dazzling array of fantastic spring

fashions, which were modeled beautifully by 10 lovely LHGC members. Each model wore two outfits: one called “Personal Style,” which was casual attire, and the other called, “Dare to be Bold,” an outfit the model would not have picked for herself but, with owner Mary Ann Sudnick and her staff’s expertise, she looked fabulous! The models received a 25% off coupon for the outfits they wore. Tea Party guests, too, received 10% off coupons and had the opportunity to win two \$50.00 gift certificates. In addition, one person at each table received a delicate floral arrangement in a teacup with saucer.

Perhaps, the loveliest aspect of the Tea Party was the creativity of the Lake and Hills Garden Club. Certainly, fighting food insecurity through more conventional means, like donating vegetables from a garden or volunteering at a local food bank, is laudable. But how meaningful it was to know that a wonderful afternoon tea party with friends could help fight a chronic problem in America. Being part of the solution was certainly rewarding. . .and fun!



Azalea Garden Club of Greer

West Piedmont District

Submitted by Rosemary Saffer, President



On a cold December day, Roebuck Greenhouse was very cheery with wall-to-wall poinsettias.



We went home with indoor and outdoor plants to brighten the holidays.



All of us received a club apron made by one of our members at our annual holiday luncheon.

Several members visited the historic Kilgore-Lewis House in Greenville. Inside and outside was decorated by the Greenville Council member clubs. We went home with several decorating ideas!



Pickens Garden Club Attends the BROS Orchid Show

Submitted by Susan Ralston



Pickens Garden Club members attended the annual Blue Ridge Orchid Society show and sale at Duke Energy. This event includes expertise from BROS members and local orchid growers and very informative demonstrations by Julie Voss. We had a great time, learned a lot and came home with a few new houseplants.



Simpsonville Garden Club Brings Hydroponics to Local Schools

Submitted by Rebecca Garcia & Judy Wood

L to R: Rebecca Garcia, Ali Griffis,
Denise Merkling



Simpsonville Garden Club (SGC), part of the West Piedmont District, is excited to report on a new project that builds, and makes a difference in, our community.

Here's how our hydroponics project began: Our member Denise Merkling volunteers at the Center for Community Services (CCS). The CCS provides food and vital services to families in need in the community. In the course of her work, Denise found the center owns 6 hydroponic towers that were unused and taking up valuable storage space. Plus, the CCS did not have the expertise to operate the systems.

Denise relayed the potential opportunity to the club and our Vice President, Rebecca Garcia, who does have the expertise with hydroponics, steps up with a plan! So, with Rebecca's leadership, SGC and CCS formed a partnership which allows SGC to use the systems and install them in local schools. The first two towers were installed and planted in January at Fountain Inn High School. A variety of herbs and vegetables are now germinating and growing! Other partner schools are being sought and evaluated.

Members of the SGC train students to manage the hydroponic systems as needed. We provide information on various aspects of hydroponic food production and on related horticulture practices and topics. Club members monitor the systems' functions regularly to ensure successful outcomes.

So, with our members' assistance, students participate in cultivation, learn principles of plant biology, chemistry and environmental science. The systems also serve as practical application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) principles.

A tangible benefit of the hydroponics system is the production of fresh, locally grown produce for the CCS food bank. This also encourages healthy eating for the students who grow the food and the CCS clients as well.

In addition to setting up the systems and providing oversight, SGC funded the special nutrients and monitoring equipment required to operate each system.

Our hydroponics project is an educational tool but is also a community building initiative. The project encourages collaboration between students, teachers and local experts. This partnership sets a precedent for future projects that enrich learning experiences of students while promoting sustainability in our community.



The Greenville Council of Garden Clubs
Presents a Spring Garden Tour

Legacy Gardens of Augusta Road



Friday and Saturday - May 3 & 4, 2024

10 am to 4 pm - Rain or shine

Tour 7 unique gardens

Tickets are \$25 per person in advance, price includes admission to all 7 gardens. Tickets may be purchased the day of tour for \$30 at any of the garden locations or at the Kilgore-Lewis House. Check kilgore-lewis.org for additional information. Tax-deductible donation to support GCGC and the historic Kilgore-Lewis house and arboretum.

Mimosa Garden Club

Submitted by Paula Matthews West Sandhills District

What a treat to have The Charleston Silver Lady as our speaker. Dawn Corley spoke about the language of flowers in silver. Many of her personal silver pieces were shared with the club. Centerpieces for the meeting were arranged in members silver tea pots. Karen Galloway a certified flower judge, presented a wonderful program on using flowers from your garden to make arrangements for home or events. She used many cutting from her own winter garden.



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Financial Advisor
Portfolio Management Director

Ben is a Financial Advisor with the Moise Horn Team at Morgan Stanley where he works with families, individuals and organizations such as GCSC to create custom investment and comprehensive financial plans to meet their financial goals. As a Portfolio Management Director, Ben focuses on individual portfolio construction using individual stocks, EFT's, mutual funds, municipal bonds and fixed income securities.

Ben has served as GCSC's Financial Advisor for over 10 years. We appreciate his expertise, as he consistently assists us in achieving our financial goals. He has not only been a professional asset to our organization but a friend as well. Please remember Ben when considering your financial needs.

Ben,

We are grateful for your continued support

for the

Garden Club of South Carolina!

Memorial Garden

Peggy Little, Chair

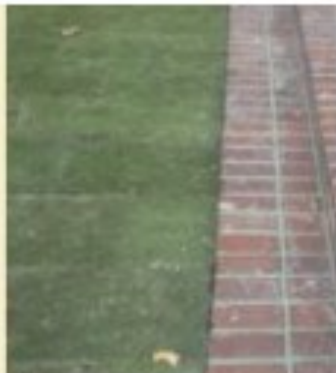
GCSC Memorial Garden Trustees

HELP LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE GCSC MEMORIAL GARDEN

**Honoring All Veterans
Past & Present
With An Engraved
Paver Stone**



To the right is a photo showing where the donated paver stones will be placed to help lay a solid foundation for the GCSC Memorial Garden.



Are you looking for a permanent, heartfelt way to memorialize or honor someone who previously or presently serve(s) as a member of the armed forces? Tribute bricks not only serve as a celebration of friends and family, but also provide building blocks for our future, helping to ensure that The 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 to honor a family member or loved one in his or her memory or honor. 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.

For questions, please call Peggy Little at 803.577.8599, or email peggytlittle@comporium.net Please mail contribution checks (made payable to GCSC Memorial Garden) to Peggy Little, 1241 Bradford Drive, Lancaster, SC 29720.



Coastal District

District Director: Graceann Phillips

Assistant Director: Judy Wesley

East Low Country District

District Director: Peggy Benton

Assistant Director: Joan McDonald

East Piedmont District

District Director: Linda Hutchinson

Assistant Director: Denie Crowder

East Sandhills District

District Director: Michelene Sheely

Assistant Director: Elizabeth Tolson

West Low Country District

District Director: Kathy New

Assistant Director: Christy Sloan

West Piedmont District

District Director: Dot Closs

Assistant Director: Jenny Snipes

West Sandhills District

District Director: Becky Fairey

Assistant Director: Inis Gibbes

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

501c3 non-profit organization

Website: www.gardenclubofsc.org

4225 Members, 175 Garden Clubs,

17 Councils and 9 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 for submission to *The Gardener*, please send an email to Laurie Churchill, Editor at scgardenereditor@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Nov. 15</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>Feb. 28</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.

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.

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Laurie Churchill, Editor

Gay Nelson, Assistant Editor

The Master Calendar of Events can be downloaded from the GCSC Web Site:
<https://gardenclubofsc.org/index.php>