

The South Carolina GARDENER

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

SUMMER 2024 VOL. 102 No 3



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message & Theme	3-5
Memorial Garden	6
Do you remember when?	7-8
Membership	9-11
Life Memberships	12
GCSC Board News	13-25
District News	26-45
SC Gardener Deadlines & Master Calendar	46

GCSC Affiliates

Anne Springs Close Greenway
Brookgreen Gardens
Butterfly Monarchy Club
Craig Farm Historical Preservation
Foundation
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



Pictured on the cover... State Meeting Juried Art Show
Best in Show Terry S. Newman
(mixed media) Azalea Garden Club of Sumter

David Stoudenmire, President

3914 Bryant Street
Loris, SC 29569
843-333-9642

dstoudenmire@sccoast.net

GCSC Treasurer

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 Environmental School Studies & NGC Gardening School

Karen Allen

864-979-9562

saludalake@aol.com

NGC Flower Show Schools

Linda Howle 843-616-2561

howlelinda@yahoo.com

NGC Landscape Design Schools

Susan Epstein 843-224-6784

susanmcleodstein@gmail.com

NGC President - Brenda Moore

Oakhill, WV

bmoore@gardenclub.org

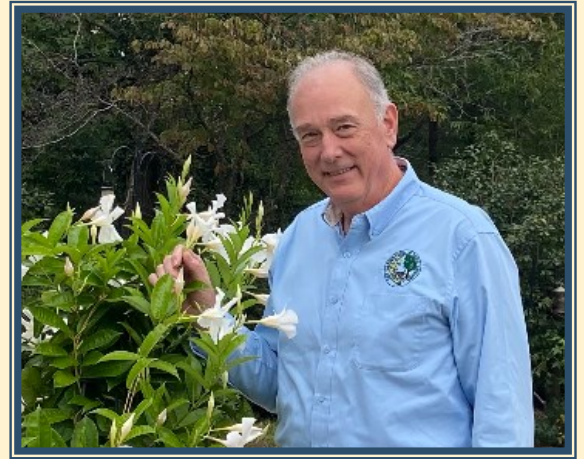
SAR Director - Carcille C. Burchette

Corbin, KY

carcillecburchette@hotmail.com

Dear Garden Club Friends,

This year, South Carolina hosted the Garden Club of South Carolina State Meeting as is tradition in our state capital, Columbia. Board of Directors arrived for their meeting on Wednesday April 24, 2024. After a fast-paced business session., BOD members and guests prepared to attend the Vice Presidents' Reception honoring our SAR Director Carcille Burchette and GCSC President David Stoudenmire, Jr.



The lovely afternoon reception was hosted in GCSC's Memorial Garden adjacent to the Governor's Mansion Grounds. What a delightful afternoon of great fellowship in this historic garden owned by GCSC. Excellent food and drinks were enjoyed in the garden on beautifully decorated linen covered tables with silver wine coolers laden with beautiful white orchids! All too soon the reception was over and GCSC hosted a dinner for Carcille and David at "Saluda's" that evening. Jan Burch, 2nd Vice President and Convention Chairman and committee throughout both days, left no stone unturned. Truly both days were well planned and executed!

The next day brought out over a hundred GCSC members, numerous honored guests which especially highlighted our 2024 Scholarship and Essay Contest Recipients and their parents. We were reminded of our garden club friends that had passed since last year's convention in a moving Memorial Service lead by our GCSC Chaplain, Mary Rivers. Special presentations were made throughout the day that highlighted various partnerships GCSC is involved in. Reports from the officers, district directors, and committee chairmen told the story of an active organization the previous year and with plans for even more in 24-25. Business was conducted efficiently with our 1st Vice President, Betty Jackson bringing recommendations from our Finance and Bylaws Committees. Especially exciting during the General Business Meeting was the introduction of our new clubs and affiliate members that had joined the GCSC Family under the direction of Membership Chairman, Tara Ranson. During the lunch hour, Carcille Burchette, was introduced by our very own NGC Vice President, Donna Donnelly. Carcille addressed our attendees and enlightened us with her passion and dedication to our gardening club federation. Our Scholarship chairman, Sandy Barker told a delighted audience about our scholarship selection process and the well deserving individuals. A number were present with family members to be recognized and some were on senior trips, etc. and could not be present.

Continued on the next page...

President's Corner continued...

2025 Local Convention Chairman, Mary Ann Kirby issued the invitation from East Piedmont District to join us April 28-30, 2025, at The Embassy Suites on Verdae in Greenville. It is hard to believe half of this Administration is now completed!

Excitement in our state grows daily as our very own former president of GCSC 2017-2019, Donna Donnelly, has become President Elect at the June NGC Convention that was just held in Denver. South Carolina will be honored to host the NGC Convention in the Palmetto State as we honor Donna as only our third former state president to ascend to the office of National Garden Clubs President. Donna and Harold Donnelly, Linda Howle, Betty Jackson, and I were honored to attend this year's convention. What a wonderful time building new friendships and renewing old ones.

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. was greatly saddened to wake up Friday morning, June 14th to the news that former GCSC President, 1999-2001, active Driftwood Garden Club member since 1966, Former Coastal Director, GCSC Golden Circle member, former SAR Director and member of SAR and NGC Board of Directors, Emily Floyd Stephens made her final journey crossing that heavenly divide into the most beautiful garden any of us could ever imagine. Emily was a loyal friend with all she knew and always demonstrated the remarkable traits of a "True Southern Lady." I know all that ever met Emily, will smile upon thinking about her even while a tear may well up in your eye as we ponder our blessings of this friend.

Our seven (7) Garden Club Districts yearly hold their Summer Presidents Meeting in which they receive training, information and share strategies among their districts. These have just begun and are off to a wonderful start. Sunday, June 16th, I had the honor of attending the opening of our Conservation Camp, Camp Wildwood. We are excited and amazed each year at the wonderful young people attending this leadership conversation camp in our Upstate.

I look forward to telling you all about the wonderful GCSC Tour Joyce Moore put together for our members to go to The Newport Flower Show and tour some of the gardens and homes built by those of the famed "Gilded Age." I wish each one of you could have experienced the beauty and wonder of Rhode Island. What a beautiful state, but I will always end with this wonderful and heartfelt note, "There is NO place like home.... South Carolina!"

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.

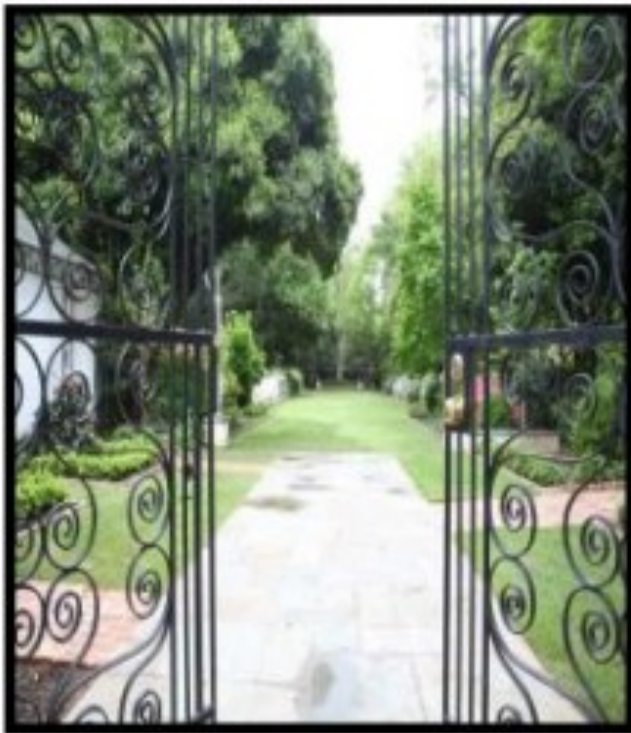
Memorial Garden

Peggy Little, Chair

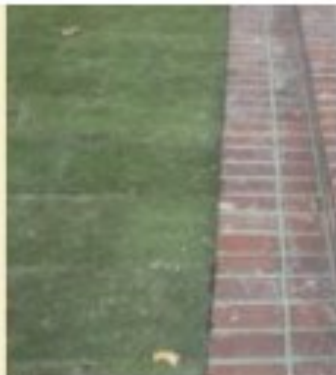
GCSC Memorial Garden Trustees

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.



Remembering Emily Floyd Stephens

by Helen Goforth, Co-Archivist

None knew her but to love her! None named her but to praise her! We remember Emily!

Emily Floyd Stephens, born April 15, 1930, went home to be with her Lord on Thursday, June 13, 2024 in North Myrtle Beach.

Our beloved 34th GCSC President was one week old when GCSC was “born” in 1930. While the anticipation of celebrating GCSC’s 100th Anniversary was probably unrealistic, I joined her hope and enthusiasm for “What if!” Emily was excited knowing National Garden Clubs, Inc. would soon install a third former GCSC State President as its President in 2025. Her vision was always forward thinking!



To list and describe the numerous achievements during Emily’s term would take the space of several pages in this publication, but we’ll attempt to honor her memory with heartfelt gratitude for her significant accomplishments and service to our garden club family, our State, and our Nation.

The Summary of 1999-2001 History of GCSC, written by the late Betty Lou Blackwell, Historian, was sent to NGC as Emily’s GCSC’s President’s Report. Her theme was “Gardening Vision—The Key to Beautification and Service.”

Two major projects which were dear to her were Carolina Fence Garden /Schoolyard Habitats and Butterfly Gardens. These projects promoted comprehensive planning and planting of gardens featuring SC symbols staged and planted around a split-rail fences. There were approximately 80 gardens certified with plaques and all seven Districts participated.

“Teaching Kate” was a very successful project for educating youth about the mysteries and fun found in nature. Sponsored by garden clubs, school-aged children enjoyed weekend camping experiences.

The Meditation Garden on the grounds of the GCSC Headquarters at Riverbanks Botanical Garden was planted and dedicated in honor of all former GCSC State Presidents and in celebration of the new Millennium. What “Y2K?!” Emily simply planned for the future!!

The 70th GCSC Anniversary was celebrated by planting thousands of trees, and all seven Districts participated. The Convention was held at Fripp Island. The first Memorial Service honored our deceased members—friends forever in our memories.

“Green Spaces in Empty Spaces” led to a State-wide explosion of pockets of pretty plants and posies! From wide to narrow, medians and “islands” across SC still have colorful “Spots of Beauty” and show-place entrances to our towns and cities.

Members and Presidents who served alongside Emily gladly shared their personal memories, often expressing the same heartfelt sentiments about the character of their friend...always endearing, and sometimes more comical than we could imagine.

“One of a kind! One of a special era! Generous and kind! Direct, yet diplomatic! Encouraging...inspirational! Compassionate and caring! Kind but firm! Gracious and dignified! Always a lady! Always gracious! Never argumentative but made her point! Lifted everyone up around her! Happy to help. Sincere. A friend to all GCSC Districts, especially her beloved Coastal.

Continued on next page...

Emily Floyd Stephens, continued...

“Emily was so many things to all of us; a confidante, advisor, encourager, and more, but the two things will forever come to mind when I think of Emily—a ‘Southern Lady’ and ‘Friend!’ She had all the attributes of what we believe a Southern Lady embodied. She was kind in all her dealings, always thoughtful and appreciative. Emily made us all feel special!

I had the honor of driving our GCSC delegation to the SAR Convention in 2022 in Kentucky, and I remember well that no matter where or when we stopped, she never failed to look me in the eye, and with that beautiful smile, thank me for driving and helping her step in and out.

I pray I will strive to follow her example and show kindness wherever I go to a world that is starving for a kind word or gesture.”

~ David Stoudenmire, GCSC President

“At the end of every two-year term, the members of the GCSC Board gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the previous administration, as well as to anticipate the plans and goals of the future. As was the custom in 2001, incoming President Patsy Epperson launched a “roast” of out-going President Emily Stephens. Her loyal friend, Joann Johnson, wrote the script, and Maida Dantzler was asked to compose a poem, titled “Ode to Queenie!” Emily remained unflappable and gracious and her tiara firmly attached to her perfectly-coiffed head.”

~ Maida Dantzler, former GCSC President

“She was obviously a terrific businesswoman who wanted to be involved and had a positive effect on her community. It saddens me that new garden club members won’t have her to emulate. It is a compliment to say she was of the ‘old school!’ Truly, she will be missed.”

~ Betsy Steele, former GCSC President

“Emily was a very special person and friend. She was always invited to the LGC (Loris GC) Christmas party and presented wonderful programs to our club which were enjoyed by everyone. She was a blessing.”

~ Dorothy Richardson, GCSC Historian

“As a new member of the Board, I was terrified of Emily—understandable but unnecessary! Asked to write the Presidents’ histories, I sought her advice, and Emily became a wise voice in the plans. Not one to stand on her own sense of self-importance, she shared her wealth of garden club memories. As District Director, a member of the GCSC Board for 12 years, President, SAR Director, NGC Board, Flower Show Judge, she touched lives with her humility in service, with immeasurable influence, and rewarded us with unforgettable memories.

Emily, may you always have wildflowers without weeds!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Tara Ranson Membership Chairman TDRanson@yahoo.com



Contest News, New Clubs, New Affiliate Members, and Summer Connect Ideas for your Club

First, the results of the “SHARE THE LEGACY” Membership Contest are in! Forty-four clubs from all Districts sent me the names of their 200 new members. The contest ran between Sept 1, 2023 and April 18, 2024 and each club who participated went into a drawing at the State meeting. Congratulations to Westcliffe Garden Club from West Piedmont District who won the cash prize for their club! Your District Directors will have details at the summer President’s meetings, but here is the general data:

- COASTAL – 4 clubs reporting 34 new members
- E LOW – 7 clubs reporting 43 new members
- E PIEDMONT – 5 clubs reporting 19 new members
- E SANDHILLS – 5 clubs reporting 13 new members
- W LOW – 7 clubs reporting 35 new members
- W PIEDMONT – 9 clubs reporting 30 new members
- W SANDHILLS – 7 clubs reporting 26 new members

At the State Meeting on April 25, The Garden Club of South Carolina officially welcomed our three newest clubs into federation at the general session. Please give a big HELLO to The Clemson Garden Club, Lexington County Garden Club, and Lugoff Garden Club. Evergreen Garden Club of Ellore and Mauldin Garden Club were also acknowledged as returning to federation status. Your Membership Team is currently working on bringing 3-4 more brand new clubs into GCSC, and I hope to report on that in the fall. If you know of a local non-federated club who may be interested in becoming part of GCSC, please reach out to your District Director or me.



(l to r) Grace Reilly, Lexington County GC; Beth Smith, Lugoff GC; Kerry Hershey, Lexington County GC; GCSC Pres David Stoudenmire; Becky Fairey, WSD Director; Crossie Cox, The Clemson GC; Tara Ranson, GCSC Membership

Membership, continued...

The Garden Club of South Carolina welcomed several more non-profit Affiliate Members into GCSC this spring. Affiliate Memberships are offered 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. Two of these new members are highlighted below. The Anne Springs Close Greenway was proposed by Gardening on the Cay, and Brookgreen Gardens was proposed by Wildwood Garden Club. For additional information, to plan a tour, or ask about potential speakers from either organization, please use the links provided to access their websites.

Anne Springs Close Greenway

Nestled amid beautiful lakes and hardwood forests, the Anne Springs Close GreenwaySM is a natural preserve more than twice the size of Central Park. Minutes south of Charlotte in Fort Mill, SC, its 2,100 acres serve as a natural buffer from urban development and provide a wide-open space for countless activities – from hiking, biking, and horseback riding to picnics, kayaking and more. The land has ties to the Catawba Indians and the Civil War and has been permanently preserved for public use. The children of Mrs. Anne Springs Close donated the land in honor of her lifelong commitment to recreation and the environment to provide a natural landscape for the community to enjoy. The GreenwaySM contains native plants and animals, historic buildings, a 40-mile network of trails, Greenway Gateway welcome center and facilities for a nature-based pre-school, weddings and other special events. As a non-profit organization, it depends on memberships, program fees as well as private donations to support annual operations. Main entrances include Lake Haigler, Adventure Road, Dairy Barn, and Blue Star, all of which provide additional information and trail maps. Whether it be through educational trips, special events, summer camps, individual visits, or volunteer opportunities, be sure to explore the GreenwaySM and take advantage of everything there is to offer for year-round recreation. www.ascgreenway.org

Brookgreen Gardens

From its inception, Brookgreen had a three-pronged purpose: first, to collect, exhibit, and preserve American figurative sculpture; second, to collect, exhibit, and preserve the plants of the Southeast; and third, to collect, exhibit, and preserve the animals of the Southeast. Collecting and exhibiting, it became the first public sculpture garden in America. Today it is the finest outdoor museum of its type in the world. The 9,127-acre property preserves this historical site's natural and cultivated landscape. Thousands of acres in Brookgreen Garden's History and Wildlife Preserve are rich with evidence of the native plants and animals of the South Carolina Low Country as well as the rice plantations of the 1800's. The Live Oak Allée is comprised of 250-year-old Live Oak trees that were planted in the early 1700s when today's Brookgreen was actually four thriving rice plantations. The four wings of the butterfly garden offer many horticultural surprises and delights as you move deeper into the Huntington Sculpture Garden. The Brenda W. Rosen Carolina Terrace Garden has a spectacular array of perennials, roses, shrubs, and mature trees. The Palmetto Garden, named for the use of Sabal palmetto, South Carolina's state tree, was completed in 1950. The whimsical Fountain of the Muses Garden displays the sculpture of the same name and takes bold garden design to new heights. Brookgreen Gardens contains the largest and most comprehensive collection of American figurative sculpture in the country displayed in a stunning garden setting, three galleries, and a visible storage and research facility. The Brookgreen collection contains over 2,000 works by 430 artists. Indoor galleries present exhibits of smaller sculptures, as well as paintings, etchings, and other artworks. www.brookgreen.org

Is your club “taking a pause” from meetings this summer? Ideas to stay connected...

- Inter-Club garden tours
- Progressive Meal on member's patios and decks
- Celebrate National Garden Week
- Visit the public gardens of our Affiliate Members (see GOTC website landing page for links)
- Visit local Farmer's Markets together
- Visit small venue outdoor concerts together
- Deliver flower bundles from your cutting gardens to shut ins or food banks
- Deliver extra “bounty” from your gardens to food banks
- Harvest seeds for a future Seed Library
- Plan and share a “Garden to Fork” meal to enjoy together
- Plan which potential members you are bringing to September meeting!

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

5 STAR HONOR CLUB INFORMATION

Any federated garden club can earn the distinction of being designated a GCSC Five Star Honor Club by contributing a minimum of \$40.00 to each of the five GCSC "projects" (\$200.00) listed below. 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

2024 Five Star Honor Clubs & Councils

Alhambra Garden Club	Greenville Garden Club
Anemone Garden Club	Hunting Creek Garden Club
Azalea Garden Club of Florence	Iris Garden Club
Azalea Garden Club of Manning	Lady Slipper Garden Club
Azalea Garden Club of Marion	Lady's Island Garden Club
Azalea Garden Club of Sumter	Lake and Hills Garden Club
Azalea Home & Garden Club	Lancaster Garden Club
Bay Blossom Garden Club	Latta Dogwood Garden Club
Bishopville Garden Club	Leaf and Petal Garden Club
Camellia Garden Club of Conway	Lilac Garden Club
Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston	Loris Garden Club
Carolina Wren Garden Club	Magnolia Garden Club of Varnville
Chapin Garden Club	McCormick Garden Club
Clarice Wilson Garden Club	Mimosa Garden Club of Columbia
Columbia Garden Club	Myrtle Beach Garden Club
Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter	Orangeburg Council of Garden Clubs
Country Gardeners Garden Club of Aiken	Palmetto Garden Club of Denmark
Dataw Garden Club	Pickens Garden Club
Driftwood Garden Club	Pine Garden Club
Elloree Garden Club	Poinsett-Bland Garden Club
Fairforest Garden Club	Potpourri Garden Club
Fannie Louise Holcombe Garden Club	Riverland Terrace Garden Club
Flowertown Garden Club	Rose Garden Club
Foothills Garden Club	Sea Oats Garden Club
Forget Me Not Garden Club	Simpsonville Garden Club
Four O'Clock Garden Club	South Windemere Garden Club
Gaffney Garden Club	St. Matthews Garden Club
Garden Club Council of Greater Charleston	St. Paul's Garden Club
Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia	Sunflower Garden Club
Garden Club of Aiken	Sunshine Garden Club
Garden Club of Charleston	Town & Village Garden Club
Gardening Girls Garden Club	Upsy Daisy Garden Club
Gay Gardeners Garden Club	Virginia's Pride Garden Club
Georgetown Garden Club	Westcliffe Garden Club
Green Gardeners Garden Club of Aiken	Wildwood Garden Club
	Yaupon Garden Club

*The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. Vice President's Reception
at the Memorial Garden
April 24, 2024*



Photos by Nancy Rayner & Becky Fairey

*The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. State Meeting
Riverbanks Botanical Gardens
April 25 2024*

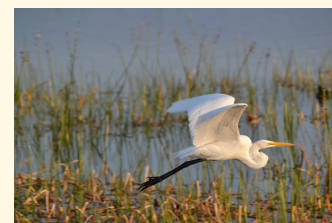
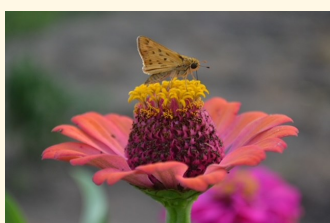
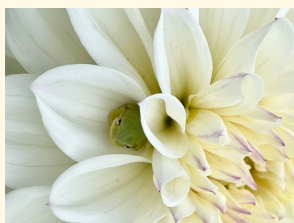


Photos by Nancy Rayner & Becky Fairey

Juried Art Awards

Submitted by Sherri Bardsley

This year we had a total of 35 judged art entries in the four categories for the 2024 Juried Art Award. The winners were all announced at the GCSC State Meeting. A photo copy of all the winners were displayed at the meeting and many of them were sold. The Best in Show winner this year was Terry S. Newman for her mixed media piece of roses. Both Terry and her garden club, the Azalea Garden Club of Sumter received a check for \$100.00. Her piece can be seen on the cover of this *SC Gardener*. Congratulations to all the winners!



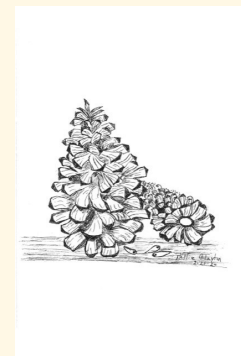
PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Annette Ellard- St Paul's Garden Club

2nd -Kathy Cramer- Virginia's Pride Garden Club

3rd- Mary Ann Powell Kirby- Upsy Daisy Garden Club

Honorable Mention- Laura Courtney-Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston



DRAWING

1st -Frances Harris -Leaf and Petal Garden Club

2nd place-Terry Newman-Azalea Garden Club of Sumter

3rd - Lois Graham-Gardening on the Cay

Honorable Mention-Nellie Clayton- Quinby Garden Club

JURIED ART AWARDS, Continued...

PAINTING

1st- Mary McCarthy- Alhambra Garden Club of Mt Pleasant

2nd-Lois Graham- Gardening on the Cay

3rd-Frances Harris- Leaf and Petal Garden Club

Honorable Mention-Jean Souther Jones- Upsy Daisy Garden Club



MIXED MEDIA

1st- Sandie Duerksen-Carolina Hills Garden Club

2nd-Kathleen Murphy-Palmetto Garden Club

3rd-Donna Sheehan-Palmetto Garden Club of North Augusta

Honorable mention-Mary Ann Powell Kirby –Upsy Daisy Garden Club

GCSC High School Essay Winner 2023—2024

Theme: "What are the benefits of planting natives?"

Victoria Grace Purvis

Sponsored by the Bishopville Garden Club

[Click here to see a video of Victoria reading her prize-winning essay!](#)

GCSC Scholarship Winners 2023 – 2024

Hessie Morrah Horticulture Scholarship @ \$2000

Whitner Bobo

Ashley Deliberto

McClendon Geddings

Whitt Miller

Alexandra Ranker

Babs Barnette Environmental Scholarship @ \$1000

Samantha Acker

Whitner Bobo

McClendon Geddings

Pearl Fryar Horticulture Scholarship @ \$1000

Annabelle Horton

District Scholarships @ \$500

Coastal District

Madison Gough

Tiffany Ragin

West Piedmont District

Eden Burrell

West Sandhills District

Whit Miller

East Low Country District

Elinor Taylor

East Piedmont District

RaeLyn Abernathy

East Sandhills District

Kinsey Mangum

Alexandra Ranker

“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 MARKETPLACE

Check out the new store with LOTS of new LOGO items and more!

Now you can order online and have it shipped straight to you— no more having to wait until you are at a State or District meeting!

GCSC Logo dress & t-shirts, tote bags, flags, hats and aprons

Perfect gifts for Garden Club speakers

Great Gifts for your favorite gardener

All here on the [GCSC Web Site](#)

gardenclubofsc.org/catalog.php

HOME MEMBERS LOGIN

ABOUT ▾ DONATE LEARN NEWS AND EVENTS ▾ PROJECTS ▾ YOUTH ▾ AWARDS

QUICK LINKS

- About Us
- Join a Garden Club
- Memorial Garden
- MASTER CALENDAR


THE GCSC STORE

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES?

All Donations to GCSC Funds, Projects or Scholarships are to be sent directly to the GCSC Treasurer. Donations are 100% tax deductible under IRS code 501(c)3. The Chairmen of these entities will be notified.

[VIEW](#)



GCSC MARKETPLACE

Welcome to the new GCSC Store!
Order all of your favorite Garden Club logo items and more and have everything shipped right to your door!

[VIEW](#)



"Plant it Pink"

Garden Club of South Carolina (GCSC)

Calling all Garden Clubs and Gardeners!

Let's raise awareness of cancer with a community or home garden with pink blooming plants. All new *"Plant it Pink"*

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:

Sandie Duerksen

165 Double Eagle Court

Aiken SC 29803

803.645.2871

sandieduerksen@gmail.com

For **more info**, contact:

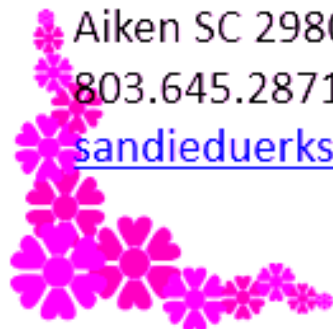
Radine Tate

2627 Alligator Road

Effingham SC 29541-4314

843.678.7379

rpt4love@bellsouth.net



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





Camp Wildwood 2024—A Bit of History

During the week of June 16, campers from around South Carolina explored the forests, waded the creeks, and came to know the terrain surrounding Camp Wildwood. They were not the first to do so.

Two hundred and forty-four years ago battle-weary men from the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky swept over the Appalachian Mountains and across this same land to fight for freedom at Kings Mountain. 900 Patriots fought 1100 Loyalists, brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor. In the end, the Patriots prevailed. The tide had turned in the South, and it was the beginning of the end for the British. One year and twelve days later, Gen. Cornwallis surrendered to Gen. Washington at Yorktown. Two years later, England signed the Treaty of Paris, legally recognizing the United States' independence.

Following the Revolution, this area of Northwestern York County was settled by Patriot veterans who had fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Their descendants still populate the area today.

Ninety years ago, during the Great Depression, the United States Government donated over 6000 acres of land to the State of South Carolina and thus Kings Mountain State Park came to be. Civilian Conservation Corps teams moved onto the property, improving depleted soils, laying out roads, creating Lake York, and building the camping facility that today houses Camp Wildwood. As a CCC member, the grandfather of Camp Wildwood Executive Director Dan DuPre helped construct the cabin into which Dan moved 51 years later as a first-year camper.

This year the first-year campers were making history too. 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of Camp Wildwood, and the campers were members of its 70th class. It took courage to leave friends, family, and the conveniences of home and electronics behind, spending the week much like the Patriots did, uniting with unknown people, bonding in pursuit of a common goal, and meeting what nature threw their way. Each of the campers accepted the challenge and thrived.

Susan Hite,
Camp Wildwood Chairman

Camp Wildwood 2025 Registration

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!

<https://www.campwildwoodsc.com/camp-video>

In 2025, Camp Wildwood will take place June 15 - 21. Campers proposed by Garden Club of South Carolina member clubs may submit applications **October 1- 31**.

Applications are electronic only and will be considered in the order that they are received.

The camp fills quickly, so it is better to submit applications earlier in the month rather than later. On November 1, registration will open to the public for any remaining slots.

Clubs wishing to sponsor a camper should select a first-year-camp prospect who will be a rising 10th, 11th or 12th grader in June 2025. Clubs may offer candidates for the first-year camp only. Second- and third-year camps are significantly smaller and by invitation only.

[Article on Camp Wildwood](#)

Questions? Need help?

Please consult the Garden Club of South Carolina website for updates or contact Susan Hite, Camp Wildwood Chairman, at hite.susan@gmail.com.

Alhambra Garden Club, East Low Country District

Submitted by Nancy Newman-Limata

Alhambra Garden Club Holds Spring Tea

April 16th was a beautiful morning and perfect for a Spring Tea. The Alhambra Garden Club hosted the fund-raising event and invited the Palmetto Garden Club of Mount Pleasant members. East Low Country District officials attended as well.



The extensive gardens at the Ravens Run home of a member served as a wonderful backdrop for the event. The morning was filled with horticultural wonders, spirited silent auctions and accompanying raffles.



Many of the items auctioned and raffled were crafted by members, not to mention a beautiful oil painting of the Ravenel Bridge done by one of our talented members.



White cloth tablescapes abounded. The refreshment table was decorated with a member's beautiful arrangement of tulips, calla lilies and roses, loaded with tasty bits and tea



sandwiches. Each dish was garnished with edible floral decorations. Iced tea, lemonade and water quenched the thirst of the guests under the warm sun.

Riverland Terrace Garden Club, East Low Country District

National Garden Week 2024

Submitted by Sandee Bauer



This year in celebration of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. “National Garden Week”, June 2-9, 2024, Riverland Terrace Garden Club again partnered with the Baxter-Patrick James Island Library. For the week, members set up an informational display inside the library introducing the art of Pavé floral design and techniques. Our display was located in an open, sunny reading area, where the exhibit had space

for a poster describing Pavé and tables to display actual examples of Pavé designs made by our members, and one made by a member’s granddaughter! Also provided were handouts defining Pavé designs and numerous techniques used in this type of design; plus instructions to complete one’s own design. An informational handout about Riverland Terrace Garden Club - where and when we meet, some of the club’s activities was also provided, and who to contact if they wanted to learn more.

Also in celebration of “National Garden Week”, the executive officers of RTGC and several members met with Brook Lyon, the mayor of the Town of James Island. We met her and eight of her staff at James Island Town Hall; we presented the Mayor with a succulent planter, the staff members with tea cup gardens and three additional planters of succulents for the Town Hall. These vintage planters and tea cup arrangements were made by club members. Mayor Lyon read a Proclamation recognizing the importance of gardening, the contributions of gardens and the National Garden Club, acknowledging “National Garden Week” June 2-9, 2024. All who attended enjoyed meeting and talking with the town’s mayor, who herself is an avid gardener. The mayor and the staff expressed their appreciation for the plants, and also asked many questions about our club.

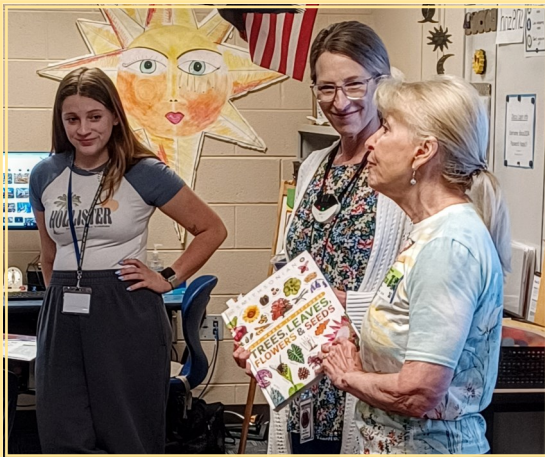


Gardening on the Cay

East Piedmont District

Submitted by Gina Ginther, President, Gardening on the Cay

Building Pollinator Gardens and Lasting Relationships with Community Schools



Always focused on community service, and education, Gardening on the Cay has proudly built and maintained pollinator gardens on community school campuses and partnered with teachers to enrich their life cycle curriculum.

On May 22, 2017, Gardening on the Cay built and dedicated an official certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation pollinator garden on the Tega Cay Elementary School campus. Our club maintains the garden and the teaching staff and students water the garden during the school year. Our club members take over the watering during the summer months. At the end of summer, our club members do a major freshen up of both the garden and the large pots located at the entrance of the school to welcome the students and staff "Back to School"!

The East Piedmont District Director asked each club in the District to donate a book to a school, library or senior center and it was an easy choice for us to gift Tega Cay Elementary.

On May 6, our TCES Committee Chair, Cheryl Fatzinger, presented a copy of the Smithsonian's *Trees, Leaves, Flowers and Seeds* to Ms. Rogers and her amazing class! The students were excited and asked several questions about pollinators and flowers. They even asked if we would come back and teach them more! The students presented Gardening on the Cay with a GIANT thank-you card signed by all of them!



More from Gardening on the Cay

Submitted by Gina Ginther, President, Gardening on the Cay

Another Sweet Crop of Wee Sprouts!

Gardening on the Cay proudly promotes youth gardening year-round. A little over 4 years ago, we started a program at the Anne Springs Close Greenway for their nature-based preschool and today we sponsor 2 GCSC registered youth garden clubs, the four year-old Tiny Sprouts and the three year-old Wee Sprouts.

Wee Sprouts boasts 24 members this year! They meet at the Adventure Garden raised beds that Gardening on the Cay built in 2020. They split time with outdoor learning and lessons once a month at picnic tables. This year, their favorite activities were “Worm Day” and learning about gourds and squashes when they got to taste hot buttery spaghetti sauce with parmesan. They loved it!

The Wee Sprouts harvested the lettuce they planted, washed it, and ate the leaves fresh from the garden. Later that morning, Gardening on the Cay Wee Sprouts Chair, Paula Pietroski gave the Wee Sprouts their GCSC Youth Garden Club certificates and the Wee Sprouts presented Paula with a gift for the Adventure Garden!



Leaf and Petal Garden Club, East Piedmont District

Submitted by Venise Grier

We began our gardening year with a meal and plans to take an October field trip to the Pearl Friar Topiary Garden in Bishopville, SC. In November we welcomed the Lancaster Career Center Agriculture Education teacher, Tyler Outen, to speak about pruning practices. 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 1400 people!



We also planted a tree for Arbor Day in our Greenway Pollinator Garden to honor a former member and memorialize her husband. We also provided a Cheetos PollinatorBee Puppet activity for over 250 students at Erwin Elementary School. As an extension of our partnership with this school and to support the EPD Director's initiative we donated gardening books to the school library.



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. In February we partnered with the Lancaster Career Center to plant a tree as the beginning of an orchard in memory of a member's spouse and former teacher to bring attention to Career Tech Education Month. Our March meeting was a Thai cooking class and a meal provided by Chef Vershawn Gray at the Southern Dish 101. We participated in the Ag and Art Tour by providing talks about our NASC Three Sister's and Medicine Wheel Gardens and planted Caladium Bulbs at Lancaster High School for Teacher Appreciation Week. We provided a container of pink Caladiums to our local Atrium Health Radiation Clinic for the Plant It Pink Initiative and partnered with a local Girls On The Run club for our Garden Therapy activity in May. The Leaf and Petal Garden Club culminated the 2023-24 year with a covered dish meal, a recap of the club's efforts and accomplishments, and a plant swap.



Spartanburg Garden Club Council Celebrates 89th Diamond Jubilee and the 50th Anniversary of Federation for the Upsy Daisy Garden Club

Submitted by Mary Ann Kirby



Beth Waddell from Fairforest Garden Club and SGCC Recording Secretary played the Grand piano for us

L to R: GCSC President David Stoudenmire; Elaine Wade, SGCC Treasurer and Registrar; GCSC 1st Vice President Betty Jackson; Mary Ann Powell Kirby SGCC VP and 2024 SAR Convention Design Coordinator and Spartanburg Garden Club Council May 17, 2024 Events Chairman ; GCSC 2nd Vice President Jan Burch; Becky Crow SAR 2024 Convention Chair and Donna Donnelly NGC , Inc President Elect



Upsy Daisy Members : Vicky Parsons and Barbara League Pose with GCSC Jan Hodges Burch. Upsy Daisy Garden Club Celebrated 50 Years of Federation at this Gala Buffet Event at Spartanburg Piedmont Club .

Jim Goforth with Elaine Wade SGCC Treasurer and Helen Goforth , President of In-depth Garden Club.



Celebrating Earth Day *Wildwood Garden Club, East Sandhills District* *By Michelene Sheehy*

How do you celebrate Earth Day? The answer is easy, plant a tree, but not just any tree, but two pear trees.

On April 22, 2024, a number of the Wildwood Garden Club members on that breezy, cool afternoon, drove to the home of a Wildwood Garden Club member's grandson's home in Florence to make a dream become a reality.

Jake is twenty-eight years old, and five and a half years ago was involved in a devastating accident that has left him as a paraplegic. Even though at the time, his future seemed bleak, Jake has continued in trying to make the best of his life. He came out in his wheelchair to greet everyone, and he was overwhelmed by the support.

After everyone arrived, they were able to see how the blank canvas of 10 acres with almost five years of love of growth by landscaping or building every idea he considered has developed. A home and workshop were built, completed, a beautiful pond, stocked with fish and surrounded by weeping willows and cedar trees, a lovely forested section was thinned out and underbrush removed, and now his dream of an orchard would begin.

The first planting for the orchard were two pear trees and a mandarin orange tree donated by the Wildwood Garden Club. Additional trees were planted including two apple trees, a few plum trees, and two blueberry bushes. Also on the land is a cul-de-sac with a large Elm that was unexpected to live due to its size but it is leafing out along with the surrounding red azaleas. A hope is to purchase a bench for others to sit with Jake under the shade of the Elm. The ten acres is Jake's whole world. His life is fragile and he has survived so much. He is the oldest grandson and stays in contact with all four of the other grandchildren helping them nurture their well-being.



West Low Country District Meeting

“Meet Me in the Garden” was the theme of the West Low Country District Meeting held on March 21, 2024 at the Christian Activities Building of First Baptist Church in Williston, SC. The ladies were beautifully adorned in their “Pearls and Hats”.

Ivy Garden Club of Williston along with Springfield Garden Club, Blackville Garden Club and Sandy Acres/Pine Needles Garden Club of Jackson served as host clubs for the event. 135 people registered for the meeting.



West Low Country District Director, Kathy New, chaired the meeting and presided over the awards.

Dignitaries present included:
David Stoudenmire, Garden Club of South Carolina (GCSC) State President
Betty Jackson, GCSC 1st VP
Jan Burch, GCSC 2nd VP
Sandie Duerksen, GCSC 3rd VP, West Low Country Scholarship Chairman



Guest speaker, Kelly Long, GCSC Wildlife Chairperson, presented a delightful program entitled “Endangered Monarch Butterflies”. She discussed the reasons for the decline of these beneficial pollinators including decreased habitat and predators. She encouraged all attendants to plant “Milkweed” to attract these beautiful insects.



Karen Oliver, Design Program Chairman, along with Martha Wolf and Laura Carlton, delighted us with a program on “Designing Table Settings”.

Submitted by Sandra Ridgeway, Ivy Garden Club Secretary

Dogwood Garden Club of Orangeburg, West Low Country District

Submitted by Meredith Baker

The Dogwood Garden Club of Orangeburg held their annual end-of-year luncheon at the Fine Arts Center on May 1, 2024. The group enjoyed Tea Thyme sandwiches and salads on the terrace overlooking the Edisto River. Outgoing co-president Elizabeth Clevenger and incoming co-president Susan Berry provided homemade desserts: a delectable coconut cake and a delicious, congealed confection.

Elizabeth Clevenger and Candace Fowler, led the incoming officers' installation. The ceremony concluded with a welcome gift for each new leader, a scented Lenox candle from the company's Butterfly Meadow Collection. After hugs and farewells, members dispersed for the summer. The club will resume monthly meetings in September.

Incoming officers

Co-Presidents: Susan Berry/Barbara Beach

1st Vice President: Roxie Milhouse

2nd Vice-President: Glenda Mueller

Secretary: Meredith Baker

Treasurer: Margaret Frierson

Outgoing officers

Co-Presidents: Elizabeth Clevenger/ Candace Fowler

1st Vice-President: Sheryl King

2nd Vice-President: vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Pam Reynolds



Members of Dogwood Garden Club (L to R) Elizabeth Clevenger, Margaret Frierson, Pam Reynolds, Meredith Baker, Nicole Huff, Patty Pickens, Glenda Mueller, Leona Mack, Barbara Beach, Susan Berry, Roxie Millhouse, and Candace Fowler. (Not pictured: Diane Arrington, Sylvia Burwell, Kathy Dress, Dionne Gleanon, Lisa Ray, and Connie Till)

Dataw Garden Club, West Low Country District

Submitted by Lynn Faulkner

Whew!! Has The Dataw Garden Club ever been busy since our last update to you!



In early December a team beautifully decorated the Club Common areas for Christmas! An over the top effort and stay tuned for even more spectacular beauty to come for 2024.



December 5th had garden club members enjoying 6 homes on the island for a Holiday Homes tour to ooh and ahh over their Christmas decor.

That was quickly followed on December 11th with Luminary Night for the whole island.



It takes a village to organize our larger community and our garden club manages to pull everyone together!



In time for Valentine's Day, we began to learn how to exhibit in the upcoming Beaufort Flower Show. Victoria Bergeson helped to familiarize us with the entry divisions and how to shine!

And, oh how we shined for the Dataw 40th Anniversary Week by collaborating with our Visual Arts Club and our Flower Team to create floral masterpieces to accompany the magnificent art. What a showcase night!

On that same afternoon, we sponsored a tour of island homes open to the whole community. More than 200 residents visited 8 distinct homes that represent various years of architecture and décor.

And we weren't done! We had a private tour of Dataw's former Landscape Director, Christi Henry's gardens. Then, our season ended with our May Social where we celebrated with each other and installed new officers.



Aiken Council of Garden Clubs, West Low Country District

Submitted by Christy Sloan, WLC Assistant Director

“The Aiken Garden Show”

On May 17th and 18th at the Aiken Garden Show, over 700 people were provided the experience of walking through six beautiful, private gardens in and around downtown Aiken. That, however, was only part of the activities of the show put on by the Aiken Council of Garden Clubs. Each morning the show started at the Aiken County Historical Museum. The grounds were abuzz with visitors shopping, eating, and enjoying speakers and a juried flower show. For a stress-free tour experience the City of Aiken provided bus transportation to the gardens that picked them up at the gates of the museum to tour the gardens, then returned them to shop with the 28 vendors featuring plants and cut flowers, garden art, fresh honey, compost, cutlery, books, pottery, furniture, and more. A food truck provided freshly cooked items for those that were hungry from all the activity.

Inside the museum, Michaela Berley, of Cold Creek Nurseries, taught listeners about “Bringing Life to Your Garden with Native Plants” Friday morning, while Landscape Architect Joe LeVert spoke Saturday morning about “The Opportunity to Grow Citrus in Our Area”. Each afternoon of the garden show featured Kate Van Cantfort, of Southerlee Farm, introducing people to “Sustainable Gardening in the South” and stressing to everyone that “Your Yard IS a Cut Flower Garden, and It Can be Sustainable, Too”. A Juried Flower Show judged by NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges featured Horticulture and Floral/Table Designs. All ribbons were awarded on Friday, and visitors were able to enjoy the beautiful display of plants filling the ballroom Friday and Saturday.

The Aiken Garden Show is hosted by The Aiken Council of Garden Clubs every other year in May. The group of six Aiken garden clubs works hard in the year prior to the show to find beautiful garden gems hidden in downtown Aiken. The gardens are rarely duplicated, ensuring a fresh experience each year. The next Aiken Garden Show will be held in May 2026.



Horse topiary, Cold Creek Nursery



Live oak at Joy Cottage



Garden #3 on Hillcrest Road



Garden #4 on Marion Street, Ext.

Seed and Weed Garden Club, West Low Country District

Submitted by Mary Benton



On April 22, 2024, Seed and Weed, with the assistance of several other organizations, picked up litter alongside a state highway in recognition of Earth Day. This was also the inaugural litter pickup for Seed and Weed's Adopt-A-Highway project. The South Carolina Department of Transportation and Palmetto Pride provided information, support, and supplies to Seed and Weed Garden Club.

Prior to the litter pickup, Joan Brown, incoming Seed and Weed President, presented information about the origin of Earth Day and other interesting facts about Earth Day. Safety guidelines and protocol for the pickup were also discussed to ensure that it was a successful event. Eleven members of Seed and Weed Garden Club and several members of the Sprouts, our Youth Garden Club, and some of their



parents picked up litter on a perfectly beautiful Earth Day. The Hampton County Palmetto Pride Coordinator, the Hampton County Sheriff, and the Hampton County Sheriff's Youth Explorers Club also provided assistance cleaning the roadside.



Eighteen bags of litter were picked up, making the area look better and helping our environment. Seed and Weed Garden Club is grateful for all of the enthusiastic support and help they received for this successful event.



Carolina Hills Garden Club, West Low Country District

Submitted by Jean Ellen Timmons

"Independence is in the Air"

From "Dawn's Early Light" to the "Rocket's Red Glare" and "Twilight's Last Gleaming" the theme of "Independence is in the Air" was widely interpreted by designers for the recent NGC Small Standard Flower Show. Presented by the Aiken Council of Garden Clubs, the North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs and The Aiken Garden Show, the flower show was held at the Aiken County Historical Museum in May.

Participation in the horticultural Division I was open to *ALL* amateur growers. The museum was filled with 176 horticultural specimens for the judging – all vying for the highest possible award for excellence: "Horticultural Award of Merit". Participation in the Design Division II was open to ANY NGC member (if all schedule requirements are met). The highest award for excellence given for the 12 table and floral artistry designs entries was the "Table Artistry Award".

All horticultural specimens and floral/table designs were judged by *NGC Accredited Flower Show* judges from Georgia and South Carolina, following all NGC guidelines. Flower Show General Chairman, Karen Oliver, a Master Accredited Flower Show Judge, along with Aiken Council of Garden Clubs' president Peggy Thome gave an on-site interview to local TV station/NBC and CBS affiliate WRDW, Augusta, Georgia. That interview can be accessed through the provided link. <https://www.wrdw.com/2024/05/18/garden-show-is-educational-tool-aiken-neighbors/>



Janice Hull
Table Artistry Award

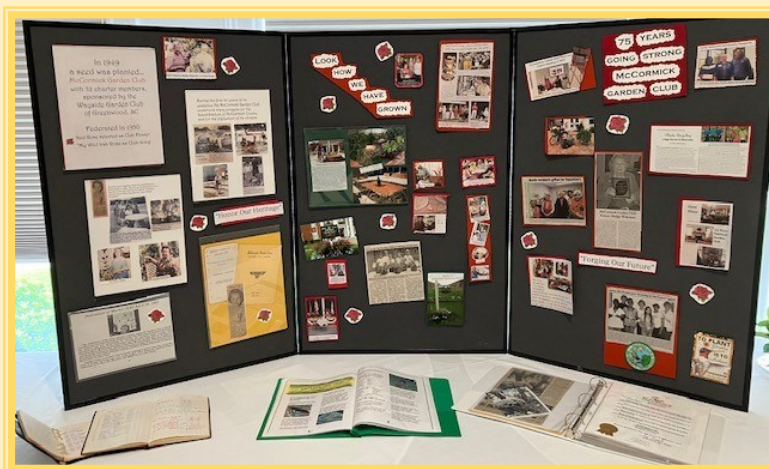
Joan Danforth
Horticultural Award of Merit



McCormick Garden Club's 75th Anniversary Celebration, West Piedmont District

by Pam Hagy and Caren Larate

The perfect backdrop for a celebration can be a rainy Saturday morning in May---given the right circumstances. Mostly, the event must be indoors with individuals prepared to celebrate for a good reason---and that's exactly what happened. On May 4, 2024, the McCormick Garden Club (MGC) honored its 75th anniversary at the ARK in The Lutheran Church by the Lake. Table centerpieces of red roses designed by club members with displays of memorabilia added to the festive mood. All rainy-day thoughts disappeared, however, with the eagerness of members, past and present, to gather and reminisce those times of work and fun that made 75 years of the MGC's existence possible.



The day's program began with Phyllis Roth, MGC president, welcoming all and leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation, given by Pastor Greg Van Dyke, from the Lutheran Church by the Lake, where he referred to all attendees as stewards of God's creation.

President Phyllis Roth then introduced past presidents of the MGC, dignitaries from the Garden Club of SC and special guests. Exceptional thank-yous were extended to Toni Chandler and Melly Meyer, the event's co-chairmen, for their guidance and diligence.



David E. Stoudenmire, Jr., president of Garden Club of South Carolina, offered his greeting to MGC members by praising the club's 75-year success, especially now as South Carolina grows and heightened interest in new garden clubs thrives.

Dorothy Closs, the director of the West Piedmont District of the Garden Clubs of SC, complimented MGC's dedication and announced two state awards for this club: second place for celebration of National Garden Club Week and first place for Conservation of Natural Resources.



Continued on next page...



To follow up her presentation, Phyllis Roth recognized Bev Malenka and Paula Palaima for their leadership of the Spring Garden Tour, a major part of the National Garden Club Week celebration, and Janet Robinson, who began the Trex plastics recycling, the project which won the Conservation of Natural Resources award.

McCormick's Mayor Roy Smith presented and read a proclamation honoring the McCormick

Garden Club on its 75th anniversary. A letter from Kirk Smith, chief operating officer of SLV, thanked the MGC for the garden bench given to Tara Clubhouse and the contributions of this club to the community.

A history of the McCormick Garden Club presented by Toni Chandler preceded the singing of the club's song "My Wild Irish Rose" by all members and guests. Pastor Van Dyke returned thanks for the lunch prepared by Main Street Coffee and served by club members. The event's sweet finale was the cutting and sharing of an exquisite anniversary cake decorated with roses and the garden club emblem, designed and baked by John Yerdon.

What a celebration...yet someone might ask why. Throughout the affair, visual images of bygone garden parties, meticulous minutes of meetings, and ladies, from long ago and from recent months, planting to beautify, loomed above the audience on PowerPoint. As Toni Chandler delivered her history of the MGC, the members and guests listened to



practices from a simpler yet, in some ways, more difficult time. Her words followed many praises on the triumphs of today's club from a variety of speakers. What a touching and nostalgic reminder it was to all present that today's success began long ago---75 years ago to be exact! She concluded by mentioning a future project: supporting the Ascending Bird Sanctuary in Plum Branch. The McCormick Garden Club's theme for their 75th anniversary celebration, "Honor Our Heritage – Forging Our Future," was plainly there.

Lake and Hills Garden Club, West Piedmont District

Water Wisely by Laurie Flanagan

I love to plant flowers in the spring. The vibrant, dazzling colors fill me with joy. The earthy, warm fragrance of the garden soil quiets and soothes. The signs of new life growing and thriving nurture my maternal instincts. Yet, when the blasting heat of July arrives, I must confess that I grow weary and have little interest in watering my flowers. I wilt, and my flowers do too.

Much the same can be said of Garden Club membership initiatives as the clubs mature and seasons change. While there are approximately 4500 members of the Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. (GCSC), local Garden Clubs can wither if not properly watered. So how do you “water” a Garden Club? The Membership Team of the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) not only focuses on recruiting new members but also on retaining current members. Membership Team Chair, Diana Beane, concentrates on creating a welcoming environment and fostering active participation. Both are key to increasing and retaining membership.

Potential members often first attend a LHGC monthly meeting and luncheon as a guest of a current member. Guests are introduced and asked to describe a little bit about themselves. They also receive a tri-fold membership brochure that provides a high-level overview of the Club, its activities, and programs. Guests who become members select their areas of interest from a list of more than 20 LHGC projects on the Club registration form. Diana then informs the project chairs about their new members so that the project chairs can include them in activities right away. New members are welcomed with a seasonal plant, as well as a list of the right plants for the right locations in the Upstate. The Membership Team also creates a short, fun eBlast to introduce new members to the club. Diana also recently launched LHGC Sprouts: a big-sister, little-sister program. Especially because the LHGC is such a large club of nearly 100 members, we found the need to welcome our “little sisters” in a more intimate way, answering questions, providing guidance, and warmly inviting them to our luncheon tables.

Now that we know “watering” is helpful in bringing in new members, how does watering increase member retention? Interesting programs at monthly luncheon meetings are a must. LHGC programs have spanned from fireflies to hummingbirds to cicadas; from native plants to rain gardens to container gardens; from floral design to landscape design to colorful shrubs. The LHGC values an “always” learning attitude that pairs well with fun. LHGC members attend tea parties, hands-on workshops, and day trips to the Biltmore or Gibbs Gardens while building life-long friendships. The LHGC believes in and practices community responsibility. Our desire to make a difference is witnessed through our annual planting of trees on Arbor Day with elementary school children, helping out at high school FFA Agricultural Fairs, installing new landscape plantings at a local library, and planting seasonal containers while maintaining bird feeders at a nursing home.

All of these practices “water” a Garden Club, increase membership, and encourage retention. They help the Lake and Hills Garden Club “promote the love of gardening, environmental conservation, and community responsibility by providing education, resources, social opportunities, and fun for our members,” which just happens to be our mission statement!

Water your club wisely!

Pickens Garden Club, West Piedmont District

Submitted by Susan Ralston, PGC President



Pickens Garden Club members entertained residents and staff at Manna Healthcare Center in Pickens SC. They enjoyed refreshments, a lovely devotion by Lucy about May and nostalgia, shared jokes, played trivia with prizes, and sang while Lucy played piano. Members brought gifts of flower arrangements to share.



Azalea Garden Club of Greer, West Piedmont District

Submitted by Rosemary Saffer, President

Our club was very proud and happy to receive three awards at the WPD Annual meeting this spring. First Place Mary McPhail Award for building and installing 12 birdhouses in the Greer area, First Place National Garden Week for our participation in club and council projects and Second Place Community Service Award for our ongoing events educating the public at local booths and garden therapy with local seniors. The Garden Club of South Carolina also presented us with a First Place Civic Achievement Award for our birdhouse project and GCSC Second Place Winner for our National Garden Week Activities!



We assisted the Greer Council of Garden Clubs with an educational booth at the Greer International Festival in April. Displays included information about monarchs, the construction of the Nancy Welch Memorial Butterfly Garden at City Park and handed out flower seeds. The garden is used to educate local students and the Parks and Recreation Department collects caterpillars to relocate at other city parks.



Lexington County Garden Club, West Sandhills District

Submitted by Kerry Hershey, President



The Lexington County Garden Club Kicks-Off First Civic Project Submitted by Kerry Hershey The Lexington County Garden Club (LCGC) is partnering with a local school district's family center. This program is associated with adult education and parents learn English while the children are in a first steps preschool program. Our club is establishing a garden in their courtyard.

The blank canvas will include raised beds of vegetables, flowers and herbs as well as benches. The space will eventually contain a sensory garden, play area and water feature. The club plans to break ground in late summer/early fall 2024. One of our club member's sons is building the beds and benches as part of his Eagle Scout project. We had a celebration on Friday, May 10th where we were able to share the plans of the garden project with the families and the children. Our generous members donated seed packets as well as gardening gloves and pots and plant food to send home with the children over the summer. We also had some fun activities for them at our booth. We were able to share with the parents the plans for the gardens and they are excited!



We also shared the information of our Garden Club with the parents and collected their email addresses so we can send them some more information should they be interested in joining us. LCGC is building a legacy in our community!

Mimosa Garden Club of Columbia, West Sandhills District

Submitted by Paula Matthews



The Big Red Barn Retreat was established for veterans and first responders to help them find healing and peace. A number of retreat programs are available. The Mimosa Garden Club visited in March seeing first hand what the Big Red Barn does. The club also had a chance to visit the community garden maintained by participants. The Club also made a donation.

The club plant exchange, held in the garden of one of its members, proved to be a lovely garden tour as well as a chance to exchange plants. A variety of plants were available for members to choose from.



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.

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

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