



The South Carolina
GARDENER

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GCSC Affiliates

Anne Springs Close Greenway
Black River Preserve
Brookgreen Gardens
Butterfly Monarchy Club
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



*Pictured on the cover... [Oakleaf Hydrangea in Snow](#)
by Laurie Churchill*

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Dear Garden Club Friends,

This fall has been filled with many wonderful and positive projects and events going on throughout our state in our local clubs! Thank you to all the many clubs I have been fortunate to share programs with and attend their meetings and celebrations. I would like to share with you some of the areas I have been able to travel to and the GCSC Sponsored statewide events.

Participated at the Anniversary Celebrations at Simpsonville Garden Club's 75th on September 21st. and Beaufort Garden Club's 90th on October 23rd. This celebration was also in conjunction with their Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities and Plant it Pink Project.

Provided the Garden Club Program for Lake and Hills Garden Club, September 13th and Yaupon Garden Club November 5th on "Legacy Gardening Past -Present - Future. On November 7th I had the pleasure of conducting a Magnolia Wreath Workshop for the East Sandhills District in Florence for over 70 attendees. What a delightful time together with the clubs from all around the Florence area.

Attended and brought greetings on behalf of GCSC at the following events: North Myrtle Beach joint meeting of Driftwood, Sea Oats, and Yaupon Garden Clubs on October 8th with Special Program by GCSC Wildlife Habit Chairman, Kelly Long on the Monarch Butterflies. October 25th Seed and Weed Garden Club's Breast Cancer Awareness Program. Attended Lake and Hills annual luncheon/auction, Chaired by our own *SC Gardener* Editor and Lake and Hills Member. What a dynamic event that raises significant amounts of money to support their numerous projects throughout the upstate. Coastal District Awards Workshop was held on November 22nd. For the first time, on December 6th I had the opportunity to attend the Treasured Trees Awards Program which was held at our Memorial Garden. As most people know I especially love the Christmas season and had the honor of being with members of Yaupon Garden Club, on December 3rd, Columbia Garden Club, December 6th, Clarice Wilson December 9th (A special tour was provided by a docent of the entire Kilgore-Lewis all decorated for the holidays.)

For the second year, I enjoyed giving the Opening Welcome to our Landscape Design School in Charleston. What an awesome turnout and a jam-packed schedule of dynamic speakers/training. Congratulations to all our NGC Schools sponsoring yearly training so that our members may work on their achievement in completing these programs and becoming consultants, judges, etc. Our very own Karen Oliver, Horticulture Chairman joins Victoria Bergsen on achieving the Five Star Honor Level after completing all areas of the NGC Schools. Karen will be recognized at our GCSC Convention in April and awarded her certificate at the NGC Convention in May in North Charleston.

The GCSC State Veterans Program Recognition was held on Monday, November 4th. What a special day that was for recognizing all the Veterans that could attend and highlighting ten Veterans that are members of a local federated club with the Quilts of Valor Presentation. All Veterans received a long stem red rose as a symbol of GCSC's appreciation and respect for them by our three Vice Presidents. We were honored to have the following special individuals speak at our program: Congressman Joe Wilson, First Lady Peggy McMaster, American Legion State Commander Bruce Donegen, and LT. Colonel Scott Harr from Ft. Jackson. Music was performed by the Ft. Jackson brass Ensemble as well as harpist Nina Brooks who performed during the reception a medley of patriotic songs with Elaine Reese our soloist. Various GCSC Officers participated and a special thanks goes to the Memorial Garden Trustees and The Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia for providing the refreshments and hosting the event. It was a special day in the life of our organization that we will not forget as we paid tribute to these brave men and women who have served and are serving in our armed forces.



Our State Arbor Day under the direction of Chairman Mark Cockerille was held on December 6th, a bright, beautiful and chilly Friday. The program was a reminder of the importance of trees to our environment and the overall beauty of this earth. In appreciation for her years of service as chairman of the Memorial Gardens, the flowering dogwood tree was placed in the Memorial Garden in honor of retiring chairman, Peggy Little. Delicious refreshments were prepared by the Arbor Day Chairman and enjoyed by all. Next, what a wonderful way to highlight the importance of trees than through a recognition program highlighting significant trees in the Columbia area on Arbor Day. This event was held immediately following our Arbor Day Program in the Memorial Garden. The Palmetto Garden Club of Denmark hosted their Arbor Program indoors due to the cold day in the Jim Harrison Gallery. The Crape Myrtle that was planted was in honor of our State Chaplain, Mary Rivers. Many individuals including NGC President Elect, Donna Donnelly spoke about the many contributions Mary has given in her community, garden club, church and to her family and friends. Just a few weeks later Mary Rivers celebrated the occasion of her 90th birthday. What a remarkable lady who remains active making a difference wherever she is.

Our partnership with the Garden Club of Columbia to co-sponsor our SC State Christmas tree continues to grow. Our continued cost sharing of the tree was aided by the 50/50 cost sharing of the purchase of the new LED lights for our State Tree. Joining with members of Columbia Garden Club, other GCSC members ventured to Columbia on November 18th to help decorate the tree. We all were delighted that the Garden Club Council provided delicious hot chocolate, coffee, and pastries to a team of individuals there to get the tree decorated and ready for the Governor's Annual Carolighting ceremony on November 24th when citizens and visitors alike enjoyed an extra beautiful site with the new light glowing and additional new ornaments to add to the ones bought last year. A large group from GCSC traveled to Columbia to represent our organization as we joined the Governor and First Lady McMaster in an evening ushering in the Christmas Season.

As I close this report, I can't complete this without expressing some thoughts on the passing of our good friend, fellow garden member, and 3rd Vice President and State Awards Chairman, Sandra Morris Duerksen. I think all of us were caught off guard when Sandie was diagnosed with brain cancer around Thanksgiving. Our prayers immediately went to focus on asking for healing for her. As Sandie has always exhibited her courage and that of her beloved husband for 60 years, Denny, she faced what soon became evident of another form of healing, that of everlasting healing. Her children Bruce and Chrissie were both able to be home during these few weeks after Sandie went to the hospital, but passed peacefully, on the 22nd of December, Sandie embarked on her crossing into a far better place than any of us can experience on this side. She is free of all pain, illness, etc. and now enjoys beautiful, perfect gardens we can only dream about with our heavenly Father, and all her loved ones and friends that have already made that journey. Many of us had the opportunity to gather with her family at her "Celebration of Life." While we were all hurt because of our loss of having Sandie here, we all enjoyed the service celebrating her rich life and many accomplishments. Due to Sandie's love of our garden club federation and her passion for our Scholarship Program helping many young people, Denny asked if GCSC would accept the money that would come in as memorials be given to our Scholarship Program in her name to help more young people. This was taken to our Finance Committee and accepted. The Scholarship Chairman, Sandy Barker, and committee will work on setting up the guidelines and upon getting the memorials in, will look to get the word out for next year's applicants. It has been amazing to see the work she had completed up until the time of her hospitalization for our awards program. A committee that she set up, scheduled in September for our January judging, copied and filed award applications as they arrived, etc. all preparing to complete her duties effectively and efficiently. Special thanks to all the individuals that have picked up extra assignments to complete these tasks. You are all an awesome loving group of individuals that I am honored to have as friends and my garden club family.

God Bless You, One and All

David

President Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

"Legacy Gardening" Past-Present-Future

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.

**Bartram Trail Marker at Silver Bluff Audubon
Center and Sanctuary
Jackson (Aiken County), SC**



Add this to my bucket list! Unfortunately, but understandably, the William Bartram Trail historical marker donated by GCSC was relocated from the beautiful natural site, Silver Bluff, to make way for another highway crossing our tourist-haven State. When Bartram visited Silver Bluff in 1775, he called it “a very celebrated place that included conical mounds, terraces, and fortifications!”

“Audubon’s Silver Bluff Sanctuary is a 3,400-acre woodland overlooking the Savannah River. Here you’ll find extensive pine forests and bottomland hardwood forests, beautiful walking trails, 50 acres of lakes and ponds; 100 acres of grassland; and all manner of birds and wildlife. And that’s just above ground—underfoot are archaeological sites from nearly every period in American history (layer upon layer of archaeological treasures).” (sc.audubon.org/visit/silver-bluff)

Silver Bluff is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, Archeological Sites in SC.

“The name derives from early travelers upon witnessing a silver appearance in the sands of the bluff, caused by mica. Hernando Desoto, the Spanish explorer, searched the area in the 1500’s for silver due to this unique phenomenon.” (discoveraikencounty.com)

Silver Bluff is known for its gorgeous and numerous inhabitants, “all manner of birds and wildlife.” If they are like the pesky crows on our land, are they drawn to the “bling” in the sands?

Conservationists and lovers of faithful visitors to their home, Harold and Donna Donnelly often visit the bluffs, and they have shared wonderful photos of several of our favorite SC residents or visitors, the birds of Silver Bluff. Two of their favorites are Summer Tanager and Bachman’s Sparrow. To see and hear a bird in its natural habitat, ask Harold to identify the visitor in your yard!



Summer Tanagers

**Bachman’s
Sparrow**



*Photos by
Harold Donnelly*

HELLO AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GCSC MEMBERSHIP

Tara Ranson, GCSC Chairman

GCSC Membership Dues Reminder –

January is the month to correct your official club rosters and submit your club Federation dues for the **upcoming** year. In January, all GCSC clubs will begin that process when they receive their email from Beth Stoney at ECS Data Systems showing the most current, official Membership Roster that GCSC has on file for your club.

This will come (with directions) to the club President and/or Treasurer. If you are a new President, please watch for this email, check you spam folder, or check with your past President and she may have it.



Presidents need to review this excel spreadsheet and compare it to your club records. Correct it by noting the members you added or dropped since your roster/dues were turned in last year. Please make any address or email changes for your members. Correct email addresses are very important because that's the only way GCSC or NGC communicates with your members, and the only way they receive *The South Carolina Gardener Magazine*. You are required to send a complete, updated roster of all members, including honorary, and sustaining members. \$8 dues are paid to GCSC **for each active** club member. If you sponsor a Youth Garden Club, please add an additional \$5 that covers that entire club, but no roster is required for kids.

Mail one corrected roster copy and your club dues check (make payable to "GCSC") to the GCSC Treasurer at 701 Gervais St. Suite 150-142, Columbia SC 29201, AND email one corrected roster copy to: Beth Campbell Stoney, ECS Data Systems, P.O. Box 784, Linville, NC 28646-0784. Beth is the one who coordinates with our webmaster Margaret Graham to keep the state website rosters updated. Please include your CLUB NUMBER AND your DISTRICT on all correspondence (emails or regular mail).

**Dues payment should be remitted to GCSC
on or before March 1.**

If you have questions, please contact your District Director.

Spotlight on our GCSA Affiliate Members

Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City, SC is “a non-profit organization committed to creating gardens that inform, inspire and delight. By combining cutting-edge horticultural practices and rural gardening traditions, we’re reinterpreting what it means to be a Southern Garden”.

The Moore Farms Botanical Garden mission is to promote research and education in horticulture, agriculture, and forestry for the benefit of the people of South Carolina and beyond. Located near Lake City, South Carolina, this non-profit organization is committed to creating gardens that inform, inspire and delight. The staff is comprised of dedicated professionals who are not only passionate about gardening, but also enjoy sharing this special place with others.

Moore Farms was founded in 2002 by South Carolina native Darla Moore who transformed her family’s ancestral croplands into a place of beauty, and an example of horticultural excellence. As her garden grew, so did Ms. Moore’s vision for the future of the property. Soon she began to see the potential of the garden as a place for horticultural research and education, and as a place of enjoyment for visitors. Moreover, she saw that the garden could become a source of pride for the people of her hometown and home state.

The garden, she determined, would become a gift to the ages – an enrichment to the lives of others. Today, a visitor to Moore Farms Botanical Garden will find a garden that is mature beyond its years, and spectacular in its variation of design features, plant species, and inclusion of art. This diverse wonderland now thrives in soil that was once carpeted with row crops. Individual areas of the gardens include Crepe Myrtle Alley; Cut Flower Garden; Fields and Meadows; Fire Tower Gateway and Center Gardens; Formal Gardens; The Green Roof Living Wall the Fishing Pond among others. Whimsical art is strategically placed throughout the gardens.

Moore Farms Focuses on Plants Native to South Carolina

At their core, botanical gardens are living museums. And just as other museums maintain and display various collections of objects, botanical gardens curate collections of plants. Some of the most common reasons for developing plant collections are for educational purposes, to preserve germplasm, to demonstrate proper usage in the landscape and to conduct research. Common characteristics of plants bind all collections together, including those with shared geographic origins, taxonomic relationships, cultural significance, economic importance, and historical occurrence. Moore Farms focuses on plants that perform well in the southeastern United States, and more specifically, those that thrive in eastern South Carolina. Those that are the top performers in their garden are promoted and distributed. Classes, camps and field trips are offered.

Ms. Moore also played a vital role in the revitalization of downtown Lake City. Located just 5 miles from the property, historic downtown Lake City is home to an additional 35-acres of pristine grounds designed and maintained by staff at Moore Farms, a fabulous boutique hotel, art galleries, unique restaurants, and countless boutique shopping opportunities. For more information on Moore Farms or to plan a tour go to

www.moorefarmsbg.org



Crepe Myrtle Alley Moore Farms Botanical Garden



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

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


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

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

Our website also contains lots of information about Bluebirds and allows for ordering Nestboxes with reduced price consideration for SCBS members. Purchase a Nestbox and place it in your yard and enjoy the Bluebirds 12 months a year. A volunteer will bring a Nestbox to your home, assemble, locate, install, and train you for one flat fee.

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





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

“GCSC Garden Heroes” Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gina Ginther, Chairperson,
GCSC Gardener Heroes



I support the GCSC Garden Heroes Campaign!

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

Pledge Amount \$100.00 _____

Contributions should be made payable to:

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

Memo: GCSC Garden Heroes Campaign

Mail to:

Gina Ginther

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

Please honor the following person as a GCSC Garden Hero:

Address for mailing the certificate:

Tell us about how this person has inspired gardening:

If possible, attach a photograph of your honoree.

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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

For more information, please contact Gina Ginther at

TheGinthers@Comporium.net

https://gardenclubofsc.org/GCSC_GARDEN_HEROES_CAMPAIGN

GCSC GARDEN HERO

Glenda Owens

Submitted by Riverland Terrace Garden Club, Charleston, SC

Glenda Owens joined the Riverland Terrace Garden Club in 1987. As one of the club's longest serving and most dedicated members, she is most deserving of a Garden Hero recognition. Through the years, Glenda's exceptional organizational and gardening skills have been put to good use. From 1989 to 1990 she chaired the club's Median Committee which was responsible for the landscaping, care and maintenance of the 5 Five Points Median. This important gateway to the Riverland Terrace residential neighborhood has been recognized by city and local government for its civic beautification. Glenda continued to serve post chairmanship on the Median Committee and then as Chairperson again from 2015 to 2019. Glenda led the club's Program committee from 1990-91 bringing experts to speak to the club on conservation, preservation and restoration. In 1992, she served as President of RTGC and hosted the club's 50 anniversary luncheon. When she completed her term as President, Glenda participated in the publication of the 1994-95 Yearbook. And, she served as Chairperson for the Awards Committee, and the Photography Committee. In 2007-2008, Glenda led the garden restoration work sessions at the Savannah House Senior Assisted Living center much to the delight of the residents. Her interest in garden preservation led to her initiating the restoration project of the Loutrel Briggs garden at the McLeod Plantation.



Through the years, she has also served as the Riverland Terrace Garden Club representative to the Council of Charleston Garden Clubs of Greater Charleston and Chair of the "bottle brigade" at the annual Council flower show. Her team has washed and filled hundreds of bottles for horticulture specimens, a mundane but vital task!

As Glenda moves on to her next adventure, we thank her for her years of dedication and service to not only Riverland Terrace Garden Club but to local civic beauty.

You are our Garden Hero, Glenda.

Good Luck and Thank you!

Here's your chance to help the Garden Club of South Carolina to show off!

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2025 Convention will be in Charleston in May and our own GCSC past President, Donna Donnelly will be installed as the next NGC President! There will be tours, workshops, seminars and vendors along with luncheons and banquets- come join us!

The registration and hotel reservations can be found [HERE](#)

Want to place an ad in the program honoring someone, showing off your garden club, announcing an event, advertising a business and/or congratulating Donna??

That link can be found on the [registration page](#) too! Those ads help to fund the convention and everything we are doing to show off all that South Carolina has to offer to participants from all over the US and our International Affiliates!

Can't attend the convention, but still want to help?

There's a donation link on the [registration page](#) too!



National Garden Clubs, Inc., 2025 Convention

"Charleston: A Charmingly Southern Destination"

COME ALIVE 2025 GCSC WITH LOVE IN BLOOM

GCSC Convention

April 28-30, 2025

Embassy Suites

Greenville, South Carolina

Registration Information will be available soon on the GCSC web site and an email will also be sent out to all GCSC members with the registration link.

Meanwhile, go ahead and make your hotel reservation before it fills up!

[Click here for hotel information & reservations](#)

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
2025 Spring District Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, March 4th **East Sandhills District**
Quinby Baptist Church - Quinby, SC

Wednesday, March 5th **Coastal District**
The Conference Center at Barefoot Resort - North Myrtle, SC

Thursday, March 13th **East Piedmont District**
Grassy Pond Baptist Church - Gaffney, SC

Friday, March 14th **West Piedmont District**
El Bethel Baptist Church - Greer, SC

Monday, March 17th **East Low Country District**
Pineland Place - Moncks Corner, SC

Tuesday, March 18th **West Sandhills District**
Bethesda Presbyterian Church - Camden, SC

Friday, March 28th **West Low Country District**
Dataw Island Club -Beaufort, SC

More information on these meetings can be found on the GCSC website at
www.gardenclubofsc.org

Bradford pears aren't the only yard killers in SC.

Avoid these 3 other invasive plants

By Lyn Riddle, journalist for *The State* newspaper

Don't be tempted by those beautiful purple blooms on wisteria or the delicate white flowers and subtle gray bark of the Chinese privet. Those things are killers. They grow fast and choke out the native vegetation in your yard. South Carolina yards are full of these non-native trees and shrubs and as the time approaches for full-on yard work to begin, foresters and botanists have suggestions of what to stay away from for a healthy and natural landscape. Bradford pear trees are well known as a scourge of the earth, smelly, messy and easily disseminated through berries eaten by birds. People meant well, bless their hearts, when they planted them. But now, well, experts say just get rid of them.



Beyond that, here are some non-native bad guys suggested by Dena Whitesides, an urban forester with the South Carolina Forestry Commission — which has a brochure about what to get rid of and what to plant instead — and University of South Carolina Upstate biology professor Jon Storm.

Chinese Wisteria. This plant looks a lot like Southern lilacs, which are native, Whitesides said. The problem is their large, woody vines wrap around trees — any tree will do — and choke off the tree's pathways for food and water that lie just under the bark. "Tree killers," Whitesides said. And they are aggressive. Use instead: yellow jessamine, a native vine that is actually South Carolina's state flower.

English ivy. "It's planted everywhere," Whitesides said. Resist the urge. It will take over, grow up trees like that other scourge of the South, kudzu, which was one of the hazards Storm noted. As most everyone knows — and has actually seen — it grows around and up and over most anything in its way. Kudzu was brought to America in the 1930s to control erosion. "It strangles everything in its way," Storm said. "They call it foot-a-day for a reason." Use instead: crossvine with its orange and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers and leaves that turn red in the fall.

Privet, Chinese and Japanese; both Whitesides and Storm mentioned this plant, which can be a tree or a shrub. Privet outgrows everything in its path and has adapted to all kinds of conditions — sunlight, low light, different sorts of soil, wet and dry. "People like them because they are fragrant," Whitesides said. They smell something like gardenias. "It's beautiful but it's terrible," Whitesides said. It's hard to manage and birds go crazy for it. We know what that means as far as spread. Use instead. Redbuds, pink blooms, heart-shaped, deciduous foliage with beautiful fall color.

Storm had the dense plant Japanese stilt grass on his list. It's mostly seen choking grassy fields and bottom lands. Stilt grass was used as packing material for porcelain, he said. The story is that a porcelain shipment arrived in Tennessee and the person who received it threw the stilt grass out into his yard. That was 1918. Now, it is all over the East Coast.

Editors Note- the best way to avoid planting non-native invasives is to do a little research online before you buy plants and know that nurseries and online sites still sell these aggressive non-natives! An annual inspection, research and removal of invasive, non-native plants in your yard will help too. Replace them with natives and the local (native) pollinators and wildlife will thrive!

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB SPREADS SCARECROW JOY

West Low Country District

Submitted by Meredith Baker



Glenda Mueller hosted the October 2024 meeting of Dogwood Garden Club of Orangeburg at her home. Club members enjoyed the rural setting of Glenda’s home, festive fall decorations, and a generous and delicious spread of snacks and beverages. When official business concluded, the group set to work to create adorable scarecrows to place in pots of mums.

After giving a short tutorial, Glenda urged everyone to “make your scarecrow your own.” She then invited the group to select their supplies from the well-stocked craft table. Lots of laughter, chit-chat, and good-natured teasing accompanied the design process. The final products were adorable. Attendees then shared the joy by delivering their creations to a person or place to lift spirits and provide encouragement.



Hostess Glenda Mueller begins her tutorial.



The well-stocked craft table



(L to R) Roxie Milhouse, Susan Berry, Elizabeth Clevenger, and Barbara Beach



Members show off their creations.

Seated (L to R):

Leona Mack, Roxie Milhouse, Patty Pickens, Susan Berry

Standing (L to R):

Meredith Baker, Candace Fowler, Barbara Beach, Elizabeth Clevenger

AZALEA GARDEN CLUB OF GREER

West Piedmont District

By Rosemary Saffer, President

The Greer Commission of Public Works invited us to their Lake Robinson Day where the public was educated by various vendors about the environment, recycling and water conservation. We provided information about pollinator puddlers and other club activities we do during the year.



We made blankets to be donated to North Carolina hurricane survivors for the winter and earlier in the month made a presentation to the Greer Community Ministries Senior Diners about types of birds that overwinter in the Upstate.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club's Garden Therapy Project

West Piedmont District

Submitted by Deborah Brodie and Risa Young

As we move through the seasons of our lives, we often discover new challenges – sometimes expected but oftentimes not. For some, the path created by rising to meet those challenges has led to Travelers Rest and to Spring Park, an assisted living and memory care community. For many new to Spring Park, assistance from staff, family and friends eases the transition to a new and different lifestyle and reveals the opportunities offered in this new chapter of life.

One of the many gems that Spring Park has to offer is Garden Therapy! What is “garden therapy,” you might ask? What does it involve, and how dirty does one get during this “therapy,” anyway? And doesn't the term “therapy” have a negative connotation?

To get the answers to these and many other questions, simply ask Mountain Laurel Garden Club member Vivian Bowen and her crafty garden accomplice Peggy Hawk, two of the most cheerful, positive, uplifting, creative and energetic ladies one could ever hope to meet.

Once a month Vivian and Peggy arrive at Spring Park armed with totes, bags and craft supplies and accompanied by a posse of other fun, crafty and delightful members of Mountain Laurel Garden Club. But, enough about these formidable ladies. Let's get back to that “garden therapy” thing. Demonstrating the perseverance of a woodpecker pecking away at its favorite tree, Vivian and Peggy plan a bevy of fun, creative monthly activities for the residents of Spring Park a full year in advance! Yep, that's right--one full year!

After the schedule has been established, the sourcing starts: bird houses and bird seed, card-making supplies, sand, buttons, flowers, seeds and everyone's favorite, POPSICLE STICKS! Throughout the year, with the support of many other Mountain Laurel Garden Club volunteers, Vivian and Peggy brighten the days of the Spring Park residents who participate in these monthly “therapy sessions” by hosting activities offering fun, fellowship and creativity, while instilling a sense of pride and purpose.

SPRING

So, remember we talked about people getting their hands a little dirty? “No problem,” say Vivian and Peggy. “We've got flower and vegetable beds awaiting Spring plantings for that! Not only that, but while we're waiting for the flowers and veggie harvest to arrive, a few bags of dirt, a carefully selected grouping of flowers, and, voila -- pre-spring beautification baskets are planted, hung and ready for everyone's enjoyment. “

Of course, if you have flowers, veggies and hanging baskets you also need birds, right?! Birdhouses are dipped in seeds and displayed so residents can enjoy the variety of birds that feed and engage in lively conversations about the winged visitors and their activities.



SUMMER

In the heat of the South, a cool, refreshing sweet tea is always a great idea. Or better yet, how about a miniature beach-themed craft to put on your bedside table to remind you of that favorite day when you were 10 years old, playing in the ocean, sunburned, happy and dripping with ice cream?

FALL

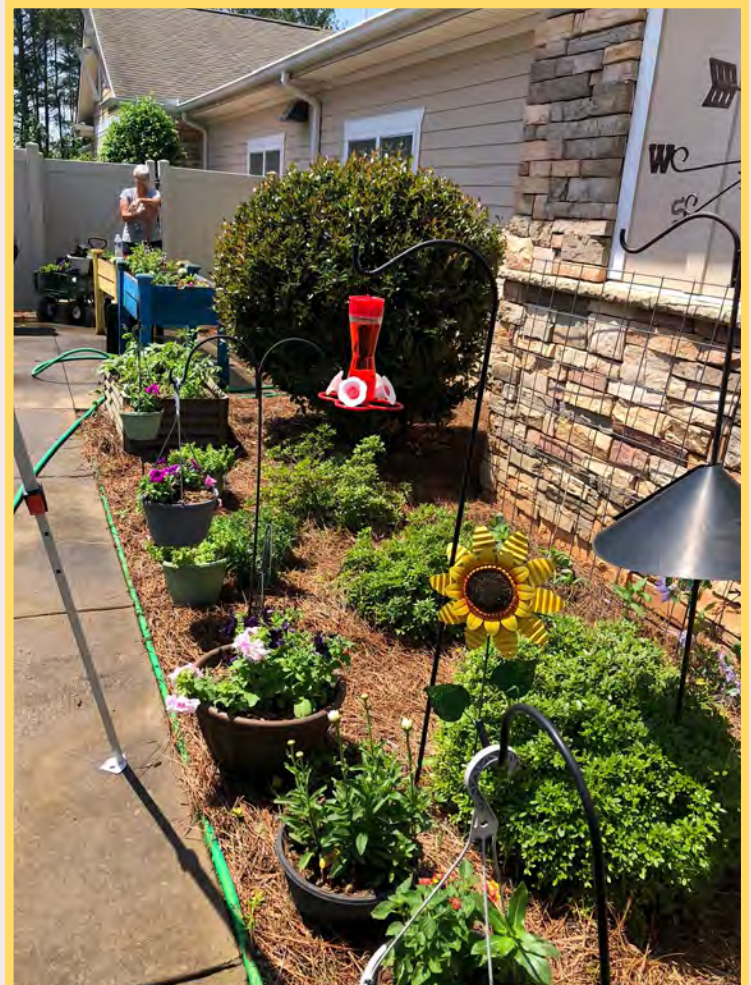
Some will argue that Fall is the best season of all. The air is crisp, the leaves are falling, and the scent of pumpkin is in the air. What better season to have a special visit with the ladies from the garden club? Imagine a knock at the door, a visitor with a goodie bag in hand, and a cheerful conversation. Then later that night, around the dinner table or fireplace, some nostalgic reminiscences of the day's events?

WINTER

What is normally a season of hustle and bustle for most folks, holiday time may be a bit lonely for those who aren't hustling about shopping for Christmas gifts or spending countless hours wrapping those gifts anymore. No worries there – one can always count on the merry band of elves from the garden club to bring the holiday cheer! Christmas ornaments are created and wreaths are hung on each door with care, because the child inside is always excited for Santa's arrival.

What would Mountain Laurel Garden Club be without these resolute, caring women? Each and every member of this organization strives to bring happiness, beauty and joy to our community and to the people around us. Yes, we enjoy our gardening activities, our monthly meetings and our organizational fellowship, but we especially cherish the rewarding sense of accomplishment and goodwill we experience when we interact with friends and neighbors within our community.

So with boundless appreciation and affection to Vivian Bowen, Peggy Hawk and all our gracious volunteer ladies of Mountain Laurel Garden Club, may all your seasons be blessed with beauty, grace, love, laughter, a little bit of dirt and perhaps even a popsicle stick or two!



Upsy Daisy Garden Club Celebrates 51st Anniversary

East Piedmont District

By Mary Ann Kirby

Festivities were at the Spartanburg Piedmont Club and \$645
was raised for Mobile Meals



Elaine Brockman,
Elaine Wade ,
Lanie Trout ,
Janice Hering ,
Mary Ann Kirby ,
Patty Simmons ,
NGC President Elect
Donna Donnelly
and Nancy Rayner



L to R: NGC President-Elect Donna Donnelly,
Upsy Daisy President Mary Ann Kirby and
GCSC Parliamentarian Becky Crow



MELROSE GARDEN CLUB GIVES BACK

East Low Country District

Submitted by Jean Neff

Time to give back

Garden club membership isn't just about gardening—it's also about giving back. And that's exactly what Melrose Garden Club's November meeting was all about. We decided to give back to Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child*. Samaritan's Purse is a great organization that delivers gift-filled boxes for children in need around the world.

Each club member contributed items to help fill boxes that were then passed on to Samaritan's Purse for delivery. We were able to fill 10 boxes for boys and girls. We also worked on a special craft project—cute little fabric gnomes that were included in some boxes destined for delivery to certain countries.

It was a fun evening of crafting and packing boxes—all for the best cause.



Aiken City Council and Mayor Teddy Milner gave a proclamation to recognize and thank the Aiken Council of Garden Clubs on their 50th anniversary of their association with the Doll House and Library in Hopelands Gardens in Aiken, SC.

West Sandhills District

By Peggy Thome

In 1970 the city of Aiken acquired the 14+ acre estate of C. Oliver and Hope Iselin to use as a public garden. Not everyone was on board originally, including some of the garden clubs. This was because the garden was not endowed by the Iselin estate and people did not think the city could afford to restore and maintain the gardens forever. People of vision, such as Odell Weeks, the mayor at the time, and his wife Ella, and city manager Roland Windham and his wife Kitty, were passionate about the city having this treasure for everyone to enjoy and both Ella and Kitty were in garden clubs. In 1974, after Ella Weeks went to different garden club's meetings talking about the Doll House and encouraging the clubs to restore the buildings and porch, the Aiken Council of Garden Clubs asked the city council's permission to restore the buildings and furnish them. In exchange the council would exclusively use them as their meeting place and garden library. For four long years the garden club ladies, their husbands, and their friends got rid of termites, scraped, sanded and painted the outside and inside of the Doll House. They restored 125 panes of glass that a vandal had broken just before the city took over the property. They then furnished the Doll House in a simple cottage style and showcased donated antique toys and dollhouses. To pay for this endeavor the clubs held numerous fundraisers such as bake sales and rummage sales. In 1978 the buildings were ready to be opened to the public.

Today the garden clubs open the buildings nine months of the year on Sunday afternoons and lavishly decorate and open them at Christmas time. They maintain and improve the grounds around the Doll House and Library. It is a labor of love for the six garden clubs and a gift to the city and the public.



The Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston Spreads Holiday Cheer

East Low Country District
By Debra Cosbey

Members of the Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston demonstrated their decorating skills by creating mini holiday trees and wreaths to distribute to James Island Outreach food bank clients. Over seventy trees and wreaths were handed out to delighted recipients.

In addition to distributing the trees and wreaths, members collected new stuffed animals and books for children and young adults to benefit Lowcountry Orphan Relief. This agency supports children placed in emergency foster care. The club received over fifty stuffed animals and 268 books, all gratefully accepted by the Lowcountry Orphan Relief staff.



Seed and Weed Garden Club "Plant It Pink"

West Low Country District

By Mary Benton

If just one lady is prompted to get a mammogram by noticing the Memory Garden when passing by, or the burdens of a few are lifted for a short period of time at the Reception, the impact of "Plant It Pink" to the community is validated. It' Seed and Weed Garden Club chose "Save the Hooters" as their "Plant It Pink" theme to raise awareness of breast cancer and to honor survivors and those battling the disease in tandem with remembering those who lost the battle.

In early October, the Club decorated its Memory Garden with an explosion of pink flowers such as dragon's breath, impatiens, begonias, alternanthera, pinta, and a chenille plant which was placed in a birdbath. Ferns were also placed throughout the garden to add fullness.



A five foot wooden whimsical owl "perched" in the Garden, captivating those who passed her. Two smaller owlets, a large pink ribbon, and smaller ribbons were placed in the Garden to emphasize breast cancer awareness. Pink owl wreaths made out of pine cones, pink chandeliers, and pink wind chimes were also added.

On October 23, 2024, Seed and Weed hosted a Reception at the historical Palmetto Theater to provide an opportunity for survivors to catch up with friends or to meet new ones. Baskets of pink dianthus were placed on bistro tables underneath the marquee to provide a place for casual relaxation and socialization. Ferns were also placed throughout the area to enhance it.



A particularly poignant moment at the Reception occurred when it was learned that a lady who had attended previous years' Receptions was in the ER with an adverse reaction to her chemotherapy. Another survivor asked everyone to join hands as she led a beautiful prayer for healing. This was such a wonderful example that everything does happen with perfect timing.

Guests received gift bags with goodies, custom made cookies, specialty labeled bottles of water to observe the day, and a pink crinum lily bulb. Left over items were taken to a local Infusion Center for distribution by their staff.



Seed and Weed appreciates all the support of the community in its "Plant It Pink" activities, and was particularly pleased to have Mr. David Stoudenmire, President of the Garden Club of SC, and Mrs. Kathy New, West Low Country District Director, in attendance at the Reception.



Riverland Terrace Garden Club

2025 SPRING GARDEN TOUR & BAZAAR

Saturday, March 22, 2025

10 AM - 3 PM **Rain or Shine**

★ **6 Riverland Terrace Private Gardens**

★ **Bazaar:** Vendors, Unique Crafts, Plants

10 AM - 4 PM

Bethany United Methodist Church

1853 Maybank Hwy

★ Advance ticket price **\$30**

day of tour **\$35**

To purchase tickets contact

Joan Dunning:

joan.dunning@att.net

843-324-8754.

www.facebook.com/RTGardenClub



Pickens Garden Club

West Piedmont District

By Susan Ralston

Members of the Pickens Garden Club gathered to create garden art from items from The ALIVE Exchange store. This workshop was hosted by members Jenny and Chuck Redwine. What a fun way to recycle and reuse beautiful items to enhance our gardens.



Dataw Garden Club Updates

West Low Country District

Submitted by Lynn Faulkner

Dataw Garden Club opened our 2024/25 year in September with a full slate of exciting and educational programs.



In September our community Landscape Director and Golf Maintenance Supervisors presented a program of *What Grows Best in Your Yard*, based on their years of experience in taming the challenges of gardening and landscaping in the Low Country environment.

October brought Oelschig Nursery, the supplier for our plant sales, to teach us how to *Grow Flowers and Plants for Year-Round Color*.

We also honored our long-time Plant Sale Organizers, Barbara Ditmer and Lenda Jablonski, with a token of our appreciation

for their years of work and dedication in planning our successful fundraisers. Their replacements have eagerly taken the reins.

During our November meeting we enjoyed an entertaining presentation on *The Holly and the Ivy* by Victoria Bergesen, President of Low Country Master Gardeners, and learned about many unfamiliar holiday traditions.

Member Marcy Umbricht, a veteran herself, recounted her experience attending the GCSC Veterans Day event at Memorial Garden. We all listened with rapt and tearful attention as she emotionally described the event and displayed the Quilt of Valor that was presented to her for her service as a nurse during the Vietnam War.



December found us enjoying the hospitality of 5 members as we toured their seasonally-decorated homes.



Wendy Hilty will present *Low Country Gardening* in January. In February we will fete our glorious Butterfly Garden that is lovingly maintained by many of our members. Executive Chef Dean Thomas will teach us to *Cook with Herbs* in March. April will find us on the road to Columbia to tour the Governor's Mansion, Riverbanks Gardens and the Hampton-Preston Gardens. Finally in May, we will fancy up and don our best hats and attire for annual Spring Social.

In addition to all of this, our members are busy bees with our various projects and gardening around our island community.

Dataw Garden Club Never Sleeps!

Alhambra Garden Club

East Low Country District

by Nancy Newman-Limata

The Alhambra Garden Club (AGC) this year formed a new partnership with the Horticulture program at East Cooper's Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), which serves both Wando and Lucy Beckham high schools. This September, Paul Millar, the Horticultural instructor provided an overview of the Horticulture Program to Alhambra's Horticultural Committee. Interested students

in grades 9 - 12, must first take the Introduction to Horticulture class where they learn the basics. If students score a 70 or above in this introductory class, students can take any of the following three classes in any order: Floriculture, Landscape Technology, Greenhouse Nursery and Garden Center Technology. 2.

Mr. Millar's student enrollment is such that he teaches all four ninety-minute classes each day without a planning period. He also has an active FFA (Future Farmers of America) Club which meets before school. This club is an extracurricular extension of the horticulture program. Students maintain a rooftop garden, hydroponic garden, and a greenhouse with chicken coop. They have a big Spring plant sale as a fundraiser and this November 16th will have a fall sale.

We are working with Mr. Millar on suggestions for the program and help we can provide. In addition to funding equipment, we plan to donate seeds and pots, help with plant propagation, and possibly give a workshop on flower arranging in the Floriculture class.

Sharing our skills and knowledge with Paul and his students furthers the GCSC and NGC objectives of advancing the arts of gardening, landscape design, flower arranging, and horticulture. We are truly excited about this new venture.



Program about Beautiful Monarch Butterflies Bedazzled Palmetto Garden Club Members West Low Country District

By Cindy Hurst

Brilliantly colored monarch butterflies highlighted Kelly Long's captivating presentation of "The Endangered Monarch" to the Palmetto Garden Club of Denmark on October 16, 2024. The butterflies had recently hatched and would be released soon to migrate to their overwintering spot in coastal South Carolina or Georgia or to forests in central Mexico. These monarchs represent the last generation to hatch this fall; they can survive for eight or nine months. After wintering, they will head north to breed and die.

Kelly became interested in butterflies when she saw birds eating caterpillars and realized that being part of the food chain contributed to butterflies' extinction. She decided to protect monarchs' pupae (chrysalises) by bringing them inside to hatch. She feeds sweet foods, such as mashed bananas, to the emerged butterflies until they are ready for release. Known as "The Southern Monarch," Kelly also serves as the GCSC's Wildlife Habitat Chair. Her e-mail is longfamily22@charter.net.

Kelly emphasized that the monarch population is decreasing, since milkweed plants (and breeding sites) are being eliminated through habitat loss. Kelly urged all club members to plant seeds of native milkweed, such as swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*) or Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*) to help monarchs have a better chance of survival. She cautioned that tropical milkweed (*A. curassavica*), with red and orange blooms, is not a native and may carry a disease that causes deformity and non-viability of the monarchs. If she notices non-native milkweeds in her yard, she cuts them back so they cannot be used for breeding.

Club members were enthusiastic about the interesting, well-presented program. "It was great!" said one. Another confessed that she had fallen in love with the monarchs and was so inspired that she would plant milkweed seeds in her yard to make it a waystation for the beautiful monarchs.



*Kelly included many visual displays
in her program*

Gardening on the Cay East Piedmont District

Upgrades added to the Anne Springs Close Greenway Greenhouse!

Submitted by Gina Ginther

Through a plant sale with our Anne Springs Close Greenway preschool garden clubs, Tiny Sprouts and Wee Sprouts, \$750 was raised and used to add grow lights a heater and an automatic louvre system to the greenhouse that Gardening on the Cay placed at their school last year.



We assisted them with growing plants from seeds to potted plants, and the chairman of this committee worked at the sale with the children!

Gardening on the Cay was thrilled to receive an invitation from the City of Tega Cay's Events Manager to advise, support and participate in the city's holiday decorating!



A committee was formed, a theme was selected and Gardening on the Cay Elves got to work. Using fresh Magnolia, pinecones, live Poinsettias and Baby's Breath, Gardening on the Cay decorated the lobby and porch of city hall, making sure that the all-important "Santa's Mailbox" was in place and ready for letters to Santa!



Deer are a very large part of the community "landscape", so for the open park located at the entrance to the city, Gardening on the Cay's proposal of three large hay bales turned sideways and made into deer using spray paint for faces and wooden ears and antlers made by the City's landscape maintenance department, was a big hit!

*GOTC member Lois Graham and
Project Chair Rhonda Lownds (R)*

The GOTC Elves worked hard and everything was in place for the big Tega Cay city tree lighting ceremony and Santa parade on December 5!

Gardening on the Cay Continued

GOTC Members bring Holiday Joy to 400+ Children!

What happens when you combine a mountain of holiday toys, books and goodies with a team of determined GOTC club members? **MAGIC!**



This season, Gardening on the Cay pulled off an incredible feat, organizing and assembling 410 Christmas stockings for children whose families are supported by local charities.

The task was no small endeavor! Each stocking was lovingly stuffed with donated items chosen to bring smiles and a bit of holiday sparkle to young faces!



Gardening on the Cay puts the Finishing Touches on new Men's Shelter

The city of Rock Hill has opened a new men's homeless center called The Haven. The Haven is a renovated brick building that has an industrial look. A local woodworking club gifted them with beautiful custom exterior window boxes that were begging for soil and plants!

After an invitation from the Center's Outreach Director, enter Gardening on the Cay! After careful assessment, a mix of soil, with sweetgum balls and pinecones was used to avoid excess weight on the planter boxes and plants were chosen to suit the available light.

The committee gathered to install the soil mix and plant pansies, grasses and heuchera varieties and will work with the residents to educate and assure upkeep and irrigation. Gardening on the Cay will make seasonal visits to refresh and to provide holiday touches.

Greenville Garden Club

West Piedmont District

Submitted by Beth Satterfield

The **Garden Therapy Committee** of the Greenville Garden Club has begun this new club year with a continuation of plans laid in the spring. We are working with a group of elementary school students and their teachers at Woodland Elementary School in Greer, S. C. They have a horticulture club called the “Woodland Habitat Rangers” and already have their Wildlife Habitat Certification.



Debbie Smith, our committee chairman, has applied for their South Carolina Garden Club “Youth Garden Club” membership with the GGC being their sponsor. Their meetings are once a month.

A Butterfly Garden is planned for the spring as a project with the Greenville Garden Club assisting as part of their Horticulture Classroom. This will be created in their outdoor classroom.



Legacy Southpointe is an Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Greenville that our **Garden Therapy Committee** is also working with. The residents wanted to establish a Garden Club, and we have done this by helping them make flower arrangements in the spring of 2024 and in October we took flowers and herbs and helped them plant up three raised beds. Our third meeting is coming up where we will assist them in making fall and Thanksgiving themed arrangements using greens and dried flowers from our gardens as well as some grocery store bouquets.



The **Greenville Garden Club** has a **Legacy Garden** in Greenville that was established by its members in 1929, the Rock Quarry Garden on McDaniel Avenue. After some years of neglect, the City of Greenville Parks and Recreation Department has committed to restoring it. The GGC is now partnering with the City to help create a garden with native trees, shrubs and perennials that will attract and support wildlife and demonstrate to the parks many visitors how natives can be successfully incorporated into a manicured garden setting. Our Native Plant Committee is formulating a Native Plant list to work from and one of our members is helping design how best to fit these plantings in. This GGC funded plan will go to the City Parks and Recreation Dept. for approval. We are also committed to helping the staff assigned to this garden with clean-up and planting. Marcia is encouraging City employees to recycle by taking plastic home herself to reuse! Beth is giving lessons on using an auger to dig holes for many pansies.



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



**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 peggylittle@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. 15</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>August 15</i>

Submission Guidelines

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

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>