



Redbud Reporter

Winter 2022

From the District Director

My friends,

Winter is finally here. The last few weeks, we have experienced many mild fall days, days that were perfect for fall cleaning in gardens, and rainy days that allowed for perfect days at home cleaning, preparing and decorating for the holidays. As we end 2021, award applications have been submitted and now it is time for the President's Reports (<http://gardenclub.uga.edu/pdfs/presidentsreport.pdf>) to be finalized and submitted to GCG President Peggy Tucker, your council president, and to me by the February 15, 2022 deadline.

The month of October was a whirlwind for this director and the GCG Board members. We attended two district meetings, via Zoom, and five in-person meetings. The meetings were informative and allowed me to hear of the accomplishments of the clubs in the other districts. After being on the road for these meetings, it was good to come back home to the successful GCG Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser Garden Tour at Hills and Dales. Many thanks to our own Quill Duncan and Bonnie Dudley who served as chairmen for a great event. Thanks to those of you who supported this fundraiser!

Fundraising is an important activity for our clubs and our state organization. January brings about the annual scholarship fundraiser of Dollars Educate Scholars. We are also selling raffle tickets for the GCG's cash raffle. Both of these fundraisers are

important and successful fundraising on our part will ensure that we receive a \$250 bonus from the cash raffle and recognition for outstanding scholarship donations.

Although we had many challenges in 2021, your clubs were still able to accomplish much. I hope the information your club provides in the President's Report is a great summary of all that you have done in your clubs. Please provide lots of details and do not hesitate to "toot your own horn". Remember that the majority of the Redbud District Awards come from the information submitted in this annual report.

One of Redbud's newest awards, the Lorraine Loftis Redbud Membership Award, is for membership growth. Reporting your activities to the Redbud Reporter, Garden Gateways and the Redbud District website is important as we look to grow our membership. We want to let interested persons know of the great work done in our garden clubs. Additionally, it is also important that our programs and activities support member retention. As you and your clubs plan activities to celebrate April's Garden Week in Georgia and June's National Garden Week, I hope that you will take lots of pictures and submit articles to Redbud Reporter, Garden Gateways and the Redbud District website. I also hope that you will make plans to register for and attend the GCG Convention in Macon April 12-13, 2022. Details for the convention can be found at: <http://gardenclub.uga.edu/convention.html>.

As we prepare to move into 2022, I look forward to hearing of the great things happening in your clubs and communities.

Wishing you the best that the holiday season has to offer and a wonderful new year!

Gale D. Thomas
Redbud Director



National Garden Week 2022

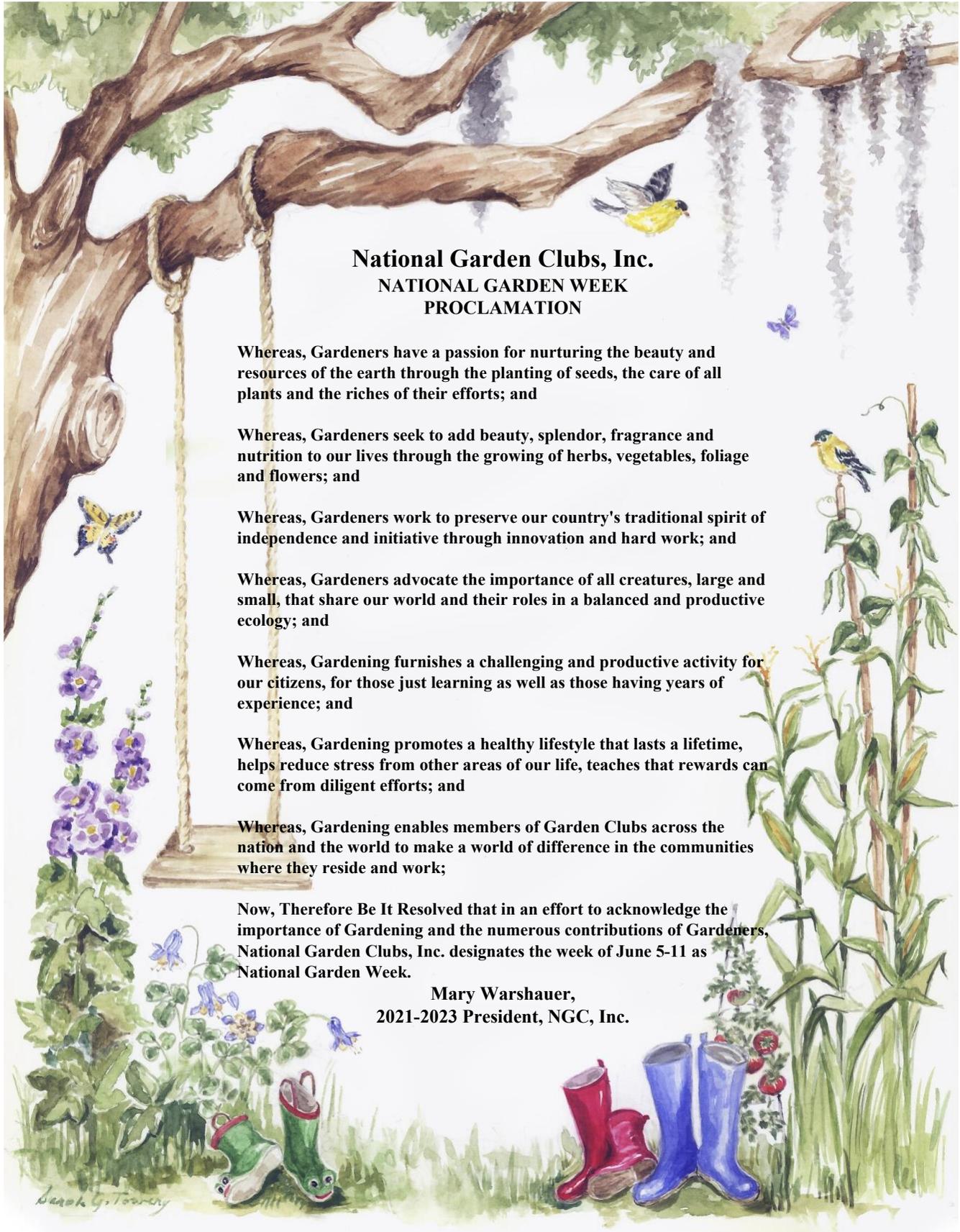
Make plans to celebrate National Garden Week in your community on June 5-11, 2022! Each year National Garden Week provides a window for us all to encourage others to love their communities and work with organizations around us to enrich our environment. The National Garden Chairman, Sara Hemphill, offers suggestions on the [National Garden Club's Garden Week website](#). Use those and the ones below to kickstart ideas for your upcoming events.

- Plan an opportunity for an adult or youth organization to improve a public space.
- Plan an opportunity to work with families to upgrade a nearby area.
- Work with a local nursery to plan a workshop on planning a flower garden.
- Plan a workshop or educational event at your local library for children in your community.

- Visit a garden in your area with your club. Invite friends.
- Work with a local senior care home to plan a vegetable garden.
- Plan an activity with school students.
- Donate a plant or flower arrangement to a government agency. Place a National Garden Week Poster with it, which can be downloaded from the National Garden Club's Official Website.

Create an enjoyable experience with your club during National Garden Week. Send your pictures and event summaries to Sandy Reed, Editor of the Redbud Reporter sandyreed17@gmail.com and Gale Thomas, Redbud District Director, galedthomas@gmail.com.

We look forward to exciting celebrations!



National Garden Clubs, Inc.
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK
PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

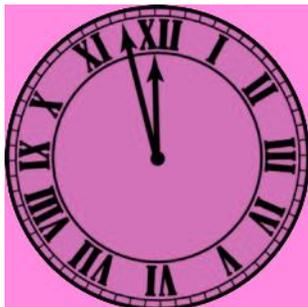
Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 5-11 as National Garden Week.

Mary Warshauer,
2021-2023 President, NGC, Inc.



Remarkable Redbuds - Now Is The Time!

January is officially GCG Scholarships Month. Scholarship contributions may still be received for the current giving period.

We are grateful to all who have contributed to Scholarships! On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee, we thank you for your continued generosity.

We will count donations received soon towards our upcoming Grants awarded in February 2022.

This includes *Dollars Educate Scholars!* This friendly district competition will ultimately crown one District Director at our GCG Convention, April 12 & 13, 2022 in Macon as the *Queen of Scholarships!* *Our Redbud Director Gale Thomas would love to receive this crown!*

We know many students will be appreciative for your support of their education and their future.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS, PATRON OF SCHOLARSHIPS, GENERAL DONATIONS, HONORS & MEMORIALS, DOLLARS EDUCATE SCHOLARS FUNDRAISER, AMAZONSMILE AND LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Visit the GCG website for information and appropriate forms to make your Scholarship donations: <https://gardenclub.uga.edu/scholarships.html>

Questions? Contact Susan Turner, Scholarship Chairman 770-922-4411
glencree@bellsouth.net

Edna McClellan, Assistant Treasurer 706-889-1230 ednamae@ellijay.com

Gardening in Macon

*the ninety-fourth annual convention of
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.*

APRIL 12 -13, 2022 | MACON, GEORGIA

Hosted by the Oleander District



2022 GCG State Convention: “Gardening in Macon”

Oleander District invites garden club members to the 94th Annual GCG Convention at Marriott Macon City Center on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, 2022. The Oleander District proudly hosts “Gardening in Macon”. Our special guest is NGC President Mary Warshauer.

Attendees will be treated to informative and fun featured speakers. The Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday evening, followed by a business meeting on Wednesday morning. The convention will conclude with Membership celebration luncheon, which is open to all.

Welcome back since we have not been able to have our convention for the past two years. Come join us for fun and exciting experience seeing and visiting with garden club friends from all over the state.

The registration form is on the next page

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

**Marriott Macon City Center
240 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31212**

Individual attendees call Marriott reservations at 800-228-9290 or locally at 478-621-5300.

1. Identify yourself as a Garden Club of Georgia member
2. Provide the specific dates of your reservation

- King/Queen Room rates: \$129.00 + state and local taxes + \$5 Lodging Fee.
- Discounted parking of \$5 per night
- Check-in time: 4:30 p.m. – Check-out time: 11:00 a.m.
- Cancellations may be made up to 48 hours prior to arrival with no charge.

Deadline for hotel registration: on or before March 18, 2022, to receive group rate.



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. • 94th Annual Convention

“Gardening in Macon”

April 12-13, 2022

The Marriott Macon City Center welcomes the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 • Phone 478-621-5300

Official Registration Form • Registration Deadline: March 28, 2022

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Badge Name Preference _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (w/area code) _____ E-mail _____

Club _____ District _____

How long have you been a member of a garden club in GCG? _____ years as of April 2022.

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: *All GCG Board Members, all GCG Life Members and one member from each club are Voting Delegates; please check *Voting Delegate* box if applicable.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President | <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> My First GCG Convention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Voting Delegate* | <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member |

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REGISTER (please check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> PACKAGE PLAN includes registration fee, Awards Banquet and Membership Luncheon		
PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL \$110.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> PART-TIME PLAN		
Awards Banquet	\$58.00	\$ _____
Membership Luncheon	\$42.00	\$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE (required)	\$15.00	\$ _____
PART-TIME PLAN TOTAL		\$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION COSTS \$ _____

Late Registration Fee (Postmarked after March 28th include extra \$15.00) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Make Check Payable to: GCG 2022 CONVENTION

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Elizabeth Gillespie, 734 Mockingbird Lane, Claxton, GA 30417
flamingo954@yahoo.com, 478-957-1308

No Refunds After April 1, 2022 • Registration Fee Not Refundable

On-Line Registration will be available in January on our GCG website – accepting payment by credit card.

Results of Pollinator Census

The results of the 2021 Great Georgia Pollinator Census are in and can be viewed at <https://ggapc.org/2021-great-georgia-pollinator-census-results>. Nearly 6000 Georgians participated in this year’s survey, with over 111,000 insects recorded. A county-by-county summary is available

and shows that both DeKalb and Rockdale (Conyers) Counties were well represented. Results from these two counties and the entire state are given below. Results of the previous two years can also be found on the census website.

	DeKalb County	Rockdale County	Georgia
Number of Counters	489	359	5941
Carpenter bees	1846	99	8282
Bumble bees	8442	143	23250
Honey bees	2470	71	8818
Small bees	1891	128	14391
Wasps	1543	260	10828
Flies	918	263	12115
Butterflies/Moths	1885	185	16502
Other insects	1513	399	17557
Total insects	20508	1548	111743

News from the Clubs and Councils

Avondale Estates Garden Club Falls Perfectly into Place

The downturn in temperatures has caused many things to cool off--except for the Avondale Estates Garden Club! The organization has been red-hot with new activities from a significant donation to the Cherokee Garden Library, an October meeting all about recycling, the annual Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk, and more!

AEGC has long held an extensive collection of scrapbooks and other documents that cataloged the club’s activities and life in Avondale Estates from the

very early days. Community pool memberships were \$2.50 per year, and our signature *Abelia* hedge was in its infancy! And in an effort to preserve these pieces of history for future generations, the club determined that it was necessary to compile all of our remaining artifacts and donate them to the Cherokee Garden Library located at Atlanta History Center for proper storage among their collections. President Peggy Burgess deeded the items to Staci Catron, the director of the library on October 8th.



city of Avondale Estates to become designated as an official arboretum city. Attendees took several different routes and excursions around town led by professional arborists who were able to shed some light on our canopy and what makes our collection of trees unique.

It isn't all business with these floral friends, though. Several members took a trip to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to check out the installation of different fall scarecrows! It's a sight to see and would be enjoyed by everyone. The club's executive board also planned their annual Holiday Luncheon, a grand party enjoyed by members each year and organized by the officers. The silver was polished and the china came out for this special occasion, a long-standing tradition that pays homage to the more formal beginnings in the olden days of AEGC.

As you cuddle up by the fireplace with a nice blanket and a warm beverage this fall, know that AEGC sends warmth and affection to all of our friends and supporters!

In October, Dottie Davis, dubbed the Queen of Plastics by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, came to speak to the group about recycling. Dottie works at the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials, better known as CHaRM, in Atlanta. AEGC has organized several caravans of members that have visited CHaRM, calling the visits the Recycling Rodeo! Members learned all kinds of information about what is and is not recyclable and what the items are used for in their next life. Members were encouraged to ask everything they ever wanted to know, but were too afraid to ask!

Later in October, the garden club hosted its annual Tree Walk. This year, the Tree Walk was renamed the Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk in honor of our late member who was instrumental in founding the event. AEGC donated the first 30 of many tree markers that have been installed to signify trees of note, with more markers planned. This will allow the



Conyers Garden Club Ushers in the Christmas Season

For its November community service project, the Conyers Garden Club spread holiday cheer by decorating the doors, windows, office, and community room at the Light House Village's Phoenix Pass Housing Community. Phoenix Pass is a nonprofit organization for women and their children experiencing temporary homelessness to reestablish self-sufficiency in a residential setting. Members of the club decorated a 9-foot tree with traditional and vintage ornaments, beautiful red bow tree toppers and a tree skirt. The club placed wreaths and other decorative trimmings throughout the office and on the inside and outside doors. The festive decorations will serve to usher in the Christmas season for the residents of Phoenix Pass.



Standing left to right: Juanita Barron, Jessica Warren, Susan Turner, Jackie Thorne, Denise Jeffries. Seated: Kathy Williams

"Miss Loy" Celebrates 70 Years with Covington Garden Club

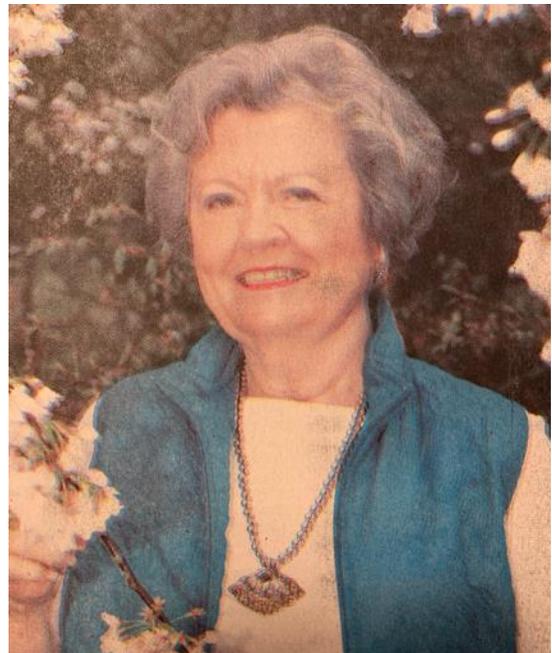
"Grandmama, I need you to come look at one of my camellias in the front yard- something isn't right."

"Grandmama, what tree do you think will do best in our courtyard?"

"Grandmama, we are having a party- can you please come do the flowers?"

These are just a few of the questions that I, Loy Turner, have called on my grandmother, Loy Summers, to help me with over my adult years. She is affectionately known as "Miss Loy" to most folks, but when my grandfather was alive, he referred to us as "Big Loy" and "Little Loy". For the sake of simplicity here, she will be referred to a BL and I will be LL.

This year marks my grandmother, Loy Summers, 70th year in the Covington Garden Club. I have been fortunate to share this with her for the past twenty



years. She has given her time and talent with friends, family, and especially her fellow Covington Garden Club members during this time and continues to learn and expand her knowledge when it comes to all things gardening and trees. There was a time that she would save me clippings from magazines or would mark pages in books but now more of her suggestions come in the form of blog post, websites and YouTube videos that she emails me.

Grandmother's journey in the Covington Garden Club began in 1952. I sat down with her late summer to ask her a few questions about her time in the Club:

LL- "Where was the first meeting you attended and who invited you?"

BL- "Oh, I'm not sure who's house we were at, but back then all the meetings were held in members' homes. Lillie Mae Pratt had invited me to attend my first meeting and was who put me up for membership. Lillie Mae taught me a good deal about arranging flowers."

(Fun fact- Miss Lillie Mae was a fixture in my childhood as she lived next door to my great grandmother.)

LL- "What was the most challenging thing about joining the Garden Club?"

BL- "Getting used to the Flower Shows. We had to do one arrangement in a white box called a niche. It was stressful coming up with a design and getting ready for the shows; however, I did come to enjoy them."

LL- "What has been your proudest moment in the Covington Garden Club?"

BL- "Being nominated for and being awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Redbud District was a wonderful honor."

LL- "What about being in the Covington Garden Club has brought you the most joy?"

BL- "Sharing the love of plants and gardening. Everything in my yard has come from friends. What a gift it is to walk around my garden and remember

my friends. I also loved attending the conventions and my times serving as president."

LL- "What other highlights do you have from your time in the Covington Garden Club?"

BL- "Being appointed to the Clean and Beautiful Board of Newton County by our president, Mary Cohen, as the Covington Garden Club's representative. This led to serving on the Covington Tree Board, which I have chaired for the last thirty years. I also was part of starting the "Miniature Garden Club" which was a garden club for younger women in the community."

LL- "What would be a tip you would give a more novice garden club member?"

BL- "You have to keep learning and you have to do a little something every day. Even now, I try to do a little something in my yard each day. Or if I am not at home, I am thinking about what I could do next. Sometimes I feel like I've created a monster," she laughed.

Grandmother's yard is definitely NOT a monster but a beautiful picture of how a passion and love of flowers and gardening come to life. The Covington Garden Club is joyful to be celebrating Miss Loy's 70 years in our club!



Loy Summers at the Covington Garden Club's 25th anniversary, 1954.

DeKalb Federation Gets Taken to the Pond

DeKalb Federation was treated to a presentation, “From Pot to Pond” by John Magyar, an aquamarine biologist, formerly of Georgia Aquarium, now owner of Universal Aquatics. John has worked with aquatic animals, including whale sharks, in public zoo and aquarium collections. He has specialized in building above and underwater exhibits for these venues. Now, as owner of Universal Aquatics, he specializes in water features, including pondless waterfalls, fish ponds, installations, designs, and maintenance. John’s work was recently featured on the Georgia Public Broadcast (GPB) *Georgia Outdoors Backyard Ponds*.

His presentation for DeKalb Federation included videos and graphics of ponds and other water features built by both himself and others. Commentary of the pictures of unique designs included the mechanics of each water feature. John emphasized the importance of plants in designing an aquatic feature for gardens and yards. He treated the meeting participants to a beautiful video of the extensive pondless stone waterfall he and his son installed in their backyard. The finale of the presentation was a collection of pictures of the stunningly beautiful large sandstone and water feature, which included lovely plants, he and others installed at Shaquille O’Neal’s Henry County home.

Dunwoody Garden Club Had a Busy Fall

Although things are still not quite back to normal, we are at least gathering, socializing, and learning. Our fall programs have been excellent! We’ve learned “Why Native Plants are Important in Our Landscapes”, all about “Wildflowers and Native Plants”, and had the Chattahoochee River Keeper talk to us about “The State of the Chattahoochee River”. We took field trips to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area at Island Ford and walked the beautiful three-mile trail. We had a guided tour of Oakland cemetery, which is filled with so much interesting history. And of course, then we lunched at a restaurant across the street – aptly named Six Feet Under! The garden club had a new project this year – holiday decorating. Members donated money and/or holiday decorations, and ten members gathered and made holiday wreaths, swags, and table decorations for five assisted living homes, the Dunwoody Nature Center, and a few homebound garden club members. It was a lot of work, a lot of fun and we hope our creations bring joy to those who see them.





Our members are generous all year round but especially during the holiday season! We donated over 700 pounds of food to the Community Action Center Pantry, provided over \$1000 in Christmas gifts for the Dunwoody Police Department Christmas for Kids event, and at last count, have contributed \$500 towards the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Program. The girl in the photo is Lily, a member's granddaughter, who helped with the toy collection.

SAVE THE DATE! The club's annual Card Party, Luncheon, Fashion Show and Silent Auction – *is back*. Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Dunwoody United Methodist Church, 1548 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody, from 10:00 -2:00. Tickets are \$30, and a purchase form can be found on our website – dunwoodygardenclub.com, under the card party tab. If you have any questions please contact our fundraiser Chair – Bonnie Barton, at bonniebarton@bellsouth.net, or 770-639-3510.

Please join us sometime. The club welcomes visitors! Check out our website for meeting information. Note - a Spring 'must do' is our member garden tour in April.

Shenandoah Rose Stays Active This Fall

Shenandoah Rose Garden Club had a very active fall. In October, we visited the Atlanta Botanical Garden to see the "Scarecrows in the Garden" exhibit. What made this visit special was that we got to see a scarecrow entry created by our own Dianne Smith and her two grandsons. In Dianne's words, here are her comments about entering the contest:

"For the fourth year, a fun family project for Dianne and Buz Smith with their grandsons is entering a creation in the "Scarecrows in the Garden" at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. This year's entry is named, "Bee Love". It features a lattice background



with bees colored by the boys, fall foliage and flowers as background to a bee dressed in the boys' clothes. We have never won an award, but we have lots of fun and great memories!"

We called on Dianne again in November – this time to present a program to our club on “Monet’s Garden”. Dianne and her husband Buz have visited France several times and toured Monet’s Garden at Givency twice. Dianne is an excellent photographer and made good use of her camera while she was there. Monet referred to his garden as his “greatest accomplishment” and, based on the images Dianne showed, I think our members would agree!

In December, we turned to charitable activities. As in previous years, our club adopted a family through the Initiative for Affordable Housing. We provided \$500 in toys and clothing for two young boys and gift cards for their single-parent mother. We also stuffed stocking with candy and personal care items for patients at Our Lady of Perpetual Help hospice.

We also took a little time in December to celebrate the holidays and our friendship with a party at the home of Vickey Cooper! Shenandoah Rose member Karen Fishman treated us to a demonstration of Ikebana design. Karen has been taking lessons in this Japanese floral design technique for several years. While she brought along a few store-bought items, most of the plant material she used in her designs came from Vickey’s garden.



One of the many photographs Dianne Smith took while touring Monet’s garden.



Karen Fishman demonstrates Ikebana design to Shenandoah Rose Garden Club.



Left to right: Shenandoah Rose members Cheryl Davis, Barbara Adam, Dianne Smith, Barbara Maaskant and Phyllis Frey pose with “Bee Love” at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Decking the Halls of Wells Brown in Stone Mountain 2021

Since 2010, the Smoke Rise Morning Glories have had the joy of decorating the historic Wells Brown home in Stone Mountain Village. This December fourteen club members gathered to create and install period appropriate décor to highlight the Victorian home. Built in the 1870's, this landmark with its Juliet balcony with a view of Stone Mountain is now owned by the Stone Mountain Historic Society. The house is actually constructed of concrete scored and painted to appear to be stone and was one of three examples of early concrete construction in the village and one of the few examples in the state of Georgia. The fireproof construction was a very important invention for the times.

Club members used garland draped on the balcony and also for the interior staircase bannister. The wreath was composed of boxwood, aucuba, mahonia, apples and pinecones. Mantles were dressed with Leland cypress, juniper and hemlock and dried hydrangeas. A classic fruit centerpiece with apples and oranges added seasonal color and the cloved orange pomanders provided a lovely spicy scent to the rooms. Club members donated the materials and collected the greenery from our own gardens.

What a fun tradition that helps the community celebrate the holidays and showcases our natural world so beautifully. Over the holidays, the home was the scene of several parties and gatherings to honor local community members and host the Historic Society.

