



Redbud Reporter

Winter 2023

From the District Director

Greetings, Remarkable Redbuds!!

I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and that your new year is off to an auspicious start. The last days of December were true winterly ones here in Redbud District. But rather than go dormant like our many plants, the winter months are the time that we tend to focus on getting ready for our major spring projects: community and school gardens; Garden Therapy projects; recycling efforts; field trips; Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden Week; community service projects; and elections of new officers. I hope that you and your club are planning to highlight your activities in articles submitted to the Redbud Reporter, GCG's Garden Gateways, and/or your local newspaper. We want to make sure that your community service and club programs are recognized. This serves to highlight your club's accomplishments and it is a great new member recruitment tool!

On October 11, 2022, we had an outstanding Redbud District Annual Meeting hosted by the Elms and Roses Garden Clubs Council under the leadership of Council President and Meeting Chairperson Bonnie Dudley. Members of the Pine Needle, Talisman and Wisteria Garden Clubs treated us to a beautifully decorated meeting venue. The speaker, Abra Lee, was dynamic. We were joined by GCG President Peggy Tucker, many of the GCG Board members, and members of the Troop County Extension Service. It was great to see so many of you

in person after the last couple of years of virtual meetings. Our meeting was highlighted in the Winter 2022-2023 edition of the GCG's Garden Gateway (pages 24-25) and I hope that each of you had a chance to read the article. Thanks to Bonnie Dudley for submitting this wonderful article.

President Peggy Tucker also mentioned our meeting in her letter on page 2 of this same publication. Remarkable Redbuds Rock!!!

We are in the awards cycle in Garden Club of Georgia. Most of the GCG awards applications were due December 1, but there are still some due in February. I hope that your club has submitted your projects for awards consideration. The GCG Awards Program will be held in April 2023 during the GCG's Annual Convention.

Registration for the GCG's 95th Annual Convention was included in the Winter 2022/23 edition of Garden Gateways. This convention will be held Stone Mountain's Evergreen Lakeside resort and will include interesting speakers, exhibits, and vendors. Convention highlights will be the election and installation of the GCG's 2023-2025 Officers, including our own Kimberly Fair, and the GCG Awards Program. I hope that you will consider registering and attending this convention. The winners of the GCG Cash Raffle will also be announced at this meeting, so please make sure that you have purchased your raffle ticket.

Our President's Annual Reports are due in February and Redbud Club Presidents are strongly encouraged to include an addendum with detailed summaries of your programs and projects. Remember the majority of Redbud District Awards come from the information provided in the President's Report. These awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in October. More details on that meeting will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

This is an important time in most of our clubs as members of the nominating committee are gearing up to identify potential new leaders and/or evaluating current leaders for another term. The nominating committees' tasks seem difficult because too often the committee members are faced with a challenge of finding willing persons to serve. This is also the challenge that our GCG President-Elect Lisa Hall and our incoming District Director Kimberly Fair, will face as they begin to build their respective Boards. I would like to ask that

if you are contacted regarding serving as an officer or board member, that you take some time to consider your talents and time and what you are able to offer to the organization before you give a response. Each of us has something of value to offer our clubs and district, so please consider serving in a leadership role. I hope that if you are contacted, that you will say "Yes" to being nominated or selected for a leadership role in your local club(s), council, Redbud District and/or GCG.

In closing, I want to thank you for all that you have done to make Redbud District a remarkable one, especially with the community service work that you have done in your respective communities.

Happy New Year!

Gale D. Thomas
Redbud District Director

2022 Annual Redbud District Meeting

The 61st Annual Redbud District Meeting was held on October 11 in LaGrange. Elms and Roses Council hosted the meeting, and they outdid themselves with the table decorations. Each table had a different, fall-themed centerpiece and club members' personal china, crystal, linens and cutlery. The effect was beautiful and worth traveling to LaGrange to see!

The guest speaker was horticulturist Abra Lee, who presented a slideshow "Garden Club Legacy – Hidden in Plain Sight". She gave an inspiring talk on how black women had made their mark on American horticultural history. Other highlights of the meeting were the silent auction of a loaded wheelbarrow, raffle drawings of gift baskets, and selection of the 50/50 raffle winners.





Congratulations to Redbud Award Winners

Award 1: Jerry Tubb Award of the Year
Conyers Garden Club

Award 2: Grace Chandler Award
Winner: Wisteria Garden Club

Award 4: Lullwater Gavel Award
1st Place: Avondale Estates Garden Club
2nd Place: Conyers Garden Club
3rd Place: Dunwoody Garden Club

Award 5: Gladys Manning Garden Therapy Award
1st Place: Pine Needle Garden Club
2nd Place: Conyers Garden Club

Award 6: Rita Compher Scholarship Award
1st Place: Designers Club
2nd Place: Smoke Rise Garden Club

Award 7: Dorothy W. Hightower Community Improvement Award
1st Place: Pine Needle Garden Club
2nd Place: Green Thumb Garden Club
3rd Place: Dunwoody Garden Club
Honorable Mention: Hunting Hill Garden Club
Honorable Mention: Shenandoah Rose Garden Club

Award 10: Margaret Strickland Birds and/or Butterfly Gardening

1st Place: Conyers Garden Club

2nd Place: Spade and Trowel Garden Club

3rd Place: Mimosa Garden Club

Award 13: Dian Goldwire Attendance Award

Winner: Pine Needle Garden Club

Award 14: Deanna McFarlan Club Newsletter

1st Place: Avondale Estates Garden Club

2nd Place: Dunwoody Garden Club

3rd Place: Driftwood Garden Club

Honorable Mention: Hunting Hill Garden Club

Award 15: Mary Helen Lindsay Youth Award

1st Place: Conyers Garden Club

2nd Place: Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

Award 17: Lorraine Loftis Redbud Membership Award

1st Place: Avondale Estates Garden Club

2nd Place: Pine Needle Garden Club

3rd Place: Satsuki Garden Club

Award 18: National Garden Week Award

Conyers Garden Club

Award 19: Garden Week in Georgia Award

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Criteria for each award can be found on the redbuddistrict.com website. Awards not listed were not awarded.

Standard of Excellence

(Score of 30 and higher on the 2021 GCG Annual President's Report)

Clubs

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Conyers Garden Club

Driftwood Garden Club

Green Thumb Garden Club

Lullwater Garden Club

Mimosa Garden Club

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

Wisteria Garden Club

Spade and Trowel Garden Club

Councils

DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Elms and Roses Garden Clubs Council

West Central Georgia Council

Flower Show School Up and Running

Almost 40 attendees from four states kicked off Course I of The Garden Club of Georgia's Flower Show School. One instructor used the word "awesome" to describe the class of 27 students.

"That pretty much sums up the energy and enthusiasm and smarts displayed by class members," Anna Burns, Flower Show School chairman said. "After two and a half days students were still smiling when they approached the final exam in design. Our instructors and volunteers did an excellent job preparing students prior to taking the course. We have a more supportive student-centered approach than in past years. Volunteers are serving as mentors for students and communicating with them on an ongoing basis."

Held in late August at the Marietta Educational Garden Center, Course I of Flower Show School was the first of four courses in the series, which will conclude in 2024. Course II is scheduled for April 23-26, 2023 in Marietta.

Sponsors include the North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges, Creative Study Club, The

Designers Club, Rome Federated Garden Clubs and Laurel and Redbud Districts of The Garden Club of Georgia.

Students are welcome to begin Flower Show School now with Course II, although they would have to take Course I eventually. Anna says, "We have pledged ourselves to catch up students who opt to begin the school with Course II. Look for registration materials at the end of the year to sign up."



Deep South Convention



The 2023 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention will be held March 9-12, 2023 at the Hilton New Orleans Airport in Kenner, Louisiana. Sponsored by the Louisiana Garden Club Federation (LGCF), the theme of the convention is "A Mindful Gardener – A Journey Through the Senses".

In addition to the convention, the LGCF is sponsoring a NGC Tri-refresher on March 8.

The schedule of events, registration and hotel information and forms can be found at: <https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/convention>.

Save the Date
April 18-20, 2023



The Garden Club of Georgia's 95th Annual Convention
Hosted by Dogwood District
April 18-20, 2023
Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Conference Center
Stone Mountain

Beautiful setting. Great room rates.
Afternoon workshops, Fantastic Speakers,
Wonderful Vendors for your shopping pleasure.
Mark your calendars now. Exciting details will be announced.

WIN**WIN****WIN****\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$****G C G C A S H R A F F L E**

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will have a **Cash Raffle** again this year (2022-2023) as its only fundraiser. Garden club members from each district are encouraged to participate and support this fundraising effort.

Each District has been given tickets to sell. As an incentive to sell their tickets, a \$250 bonus will be given to each district that sells 350 tickets. Additional tickets will be available.

Both garden club members and non-members may participate in the raffle

Cost of Tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Cash Prizes to be given at the 2023 Convention

\$500 first prize

\$ 250 second prize

\$ 125 third prize

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT AT THE DRAWING TO WIN



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
“Dollars Educate Scholars”



Mark your calendars for January as our Official GCG Scholarship Month!

- Members donating \$1.00 or more now thru January will make a BIG impact on Scholarships.
- *Dollars Educate Scholars* contributions from members are given thru your garden club treasury.
- Your club treasurer writes one check to GCG to mail along with the completed form to:
- Assistant Treasurer, Edna McClellan, 180 Pacer Court, Unit 9044, Ellijay GA 30540

*Please support your District and your Director in the 8th Annual Dollars Educate Scholars fundraiser!
We will determine the winning District from contributions to Dollars Educate Scholars
by funds and the percentage of district club participation.*

*Join the fun at the GCG Annual Meeting Hosted by Dogwood District April 18-20, 2023
Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Convention Center, Stone Mountain.
We will once again Crown the Queen of Scholarships!
For additional information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman
770-922-4411 glencree@bellsouth.net*

“Dollars Educate Scholars”
TRANSMITTAL FORM

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. OR GCG

Please complete the following information and mail with your clubs check for \$1.00 or more per member to Assistant Treasurer, Edna McClellan, 180 Pacer Court, Unit 9044, Ellijay GA 30540

Please write legibly. Contributions received now through January 2023 will count in this giving period.

Name of Garden Club:

Club Number:

District:

Garden Club President or Representative Data:

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone number:

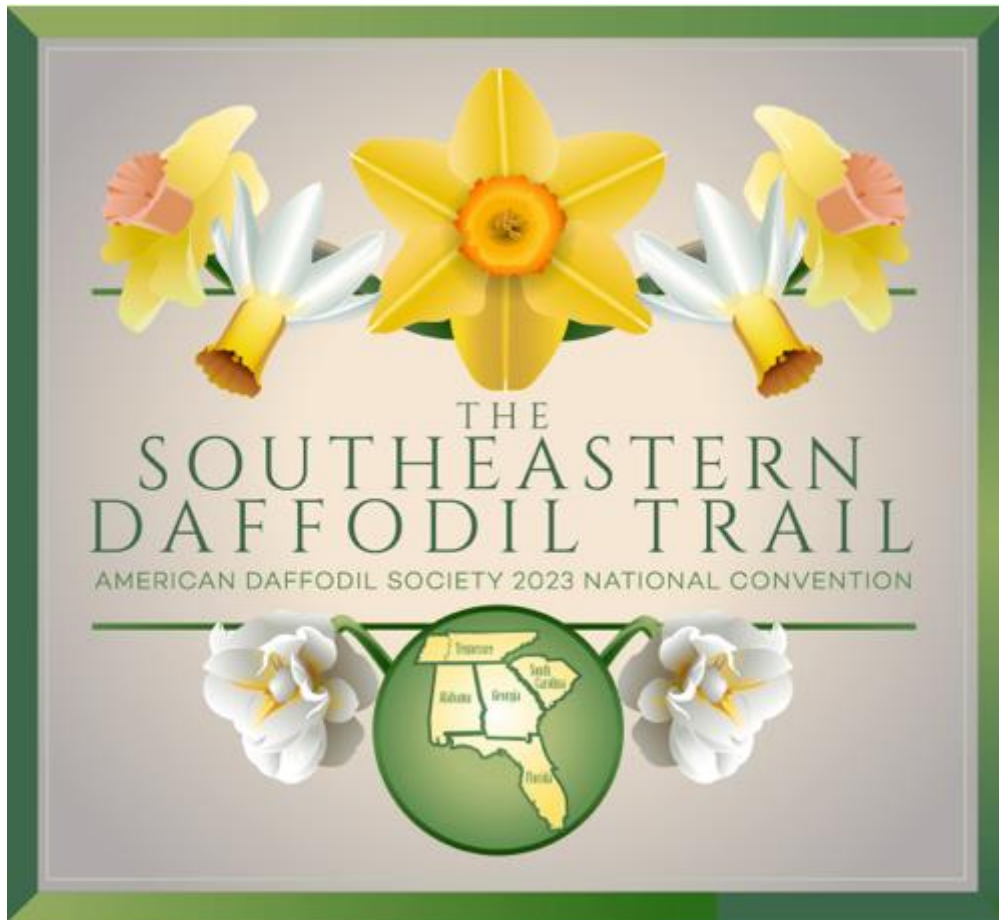
Number of Members in your club:

100% Participation? Circle one. Yes No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

National Daffodil Convention



Our friends with the Georgia Daffodil Society and the American Daffodil Society are hosting their Annual Convention in Atlanta on March 10-12, 2023.

This Standard Flower Show will be held in conjunction with the American Daffodil Society Annual Convention at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia.

For more information, go to:
<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/national-convention/2023-national-convention/>

Youth News

Several members of the Bluebells Youth Garden Club, sponsored by Conyers Garden Club, received their awards from the recent Redbud District Flower Show.

One Top Youth Award was won by Mckenzie Boyington, age 5, for her lovely design. All the girls were simply delighted with their ribbons and the comments received.



The Bluebells Youth Garden Club planted daffodils at the church where they meet in Conyers. They are excited about participating in the upcoming American Daffodil Society Youth Division.

DeKalb Federation Holds Successful Leading Lights

The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs held its Leading Lights Luncheon and Fundraiser on November 17, 2022 at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. This is the first time that this event has been held since 2019, having been cancelled the past 2 years due to COVID. It was great to be able to get back together for this fun event.



After arriving, the 120 guests had time to browse through the vendor booths and raffle baskets. During the delicious catered luncheon, we were treated to a fashion show by Chico's of North Point Village. Models included our own Ann Purr, Diane Hunter, Christi Granger and Janet McGinnis. Following the lunch, door prizes were given out and gift basket raffle winners drawn.



Environmental Responsibility Programs Kick Off 2023 for Avondale Estates Garden Club

Mark your calendars now for Jan. 31, Feb. 8, and March 22 for a three-part speaker series on environmental responsibility.

Subjects are sustainable gardening, improving water quality, and collectively handling water volumes and quality through the efforts of our municipal authorities. Each of three programs will be free and open to the public. Events will be **at the Lake House at 59 Lakeshore in Avondale at 7 p.m.** and sponsored by the Avondale Estates Garden Club.

The series starts Tuesday, Jan 31 with **Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast** by Susan M. Varlamoff, retired director of the UGA Office of Environmental Sciences. Ms. Varlamoff is a Gwinnett County Master Gardener and author of the book, "Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast," which will be for sale at the event.

In Ms. Varlamoff's book and her presentation, she helps gardeners understand how the environment can be damaged by the choices they make.

In a review of Varlamoff's book on Goodreads, Linda Nelson, President National Garden Clubs, Inc., wrote that the book, "Captures in clear, easy-to-understand language how our gardening choices impact the environment—from water to soil to the creatures that inhabit them."

Goodreads also says the book "is a vividly illustrated guide that offers simple techniques to help conserve water, reduce pollutants, and mitigate climate change while increasing biodiversity and attracting pollinators and wildlife. Gardeners will be inspired and empowered to protect and enhance the local ecology as they cultivate a resilient landscape featuring native plants, colorful flowers and trees,

and even organically grown fruits and vegetables. And for those who cherish their emerald lawns, Susan Varlamoff provides tips for keeping it green *and* environmentally sound."

On Feb. 8, Becky Griffin, Master of Plant Protection and Pest Management, from the UGA-Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center in Blairsville will discuss **Preventing Water Pollution in our Gardens.**

Closing out the series on March 22, Kristen Moretz, Avondale Estates Capital Projects Construction and Maintenance Director, will speak on the city's **Storm Water Studies, Plans and Projects.**



Susan Varlamoff, author of 'Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast,' will speak at 7 p.m. Jan. 31, at the Lakehouse at 59 Lakeshore Drive. The meeting is free and open to the public.

News from the Clubs

Avondale Estates Garden Club Celebrates Successful Holiday Bazaar

Getting in the spirit of the holidays early, volunteers from Avondale Estates Garden Club responded with enthusiasm. The all-day event on Nov. 12 was a huge success thanks to dozens of club members contributing time and merchandise.

“For the day of the event, we had 30 volunteers working, as well as 18 members who provided baked goods and 14 who provided plants. Many others contributed the hundreds of items that we sold,” Julie Martinez, chair of the event, said.

Items sold ranged from baked goods to hand-made and painted blue bird houses, holiday décor and Christmas sweaters, children’s gift items, jewelry, tea sets and flower pots, and even University of Georgia and Georgia Tech socks.

AEGC President Peggy Burgess said, “It is my pleasure to thank everyone who helped to provide the fantastic success of AEGC’S Holiday Bazaar! We made \$5,600 and lots of wonderful memories!!! With that, we will be looking for more opportunities to enrich our community.”

Julie Martinez added, “While it’s technically a fundraiser, it’s also a wonderful way to ring in the

holidays as well as a tremendous team building and bonding experience.” The Holiday Bazaar “builds community and tends to build up the fiber of our club,” she said.

Funds raised will be disbursed to projects and nonprofit organizations that promote environmental awareness and community and beautification.



AEGC President Peggy Burgess with pottery items offered for sale at the AEGC Holiday Bazaar.

Grant Applications Accepted by Avondale Estates Garden Club

The application process has opened for two \$500 grants from Avondale Estates Garden Club. AEGC is requesting applications from Avondale Estates-based groups or organizations. The funds are to be spent on projects that adhere to the club’s mission “to promote the love of gardening, floral design civic

responsibility, and the protections of the natural environment.”

For grant details and application forms go to the Avondale Estates Garden Club Facebook page or email Tyler Weaver at tyleraweaver@icloud.com. Deadline for application is Feb. 28, 2023.

Avondale Estates GC Holiday Luncheon Features Festive Table Designs

Table design took center stage at Avondale Estates Garden Club's holiday luncheon Dec. 3 when board members decorated tables with their own china to fit a holiday theme.

Club President Peggy Burgess said the idea for individually decorated tables came from a Redbud District meeting in October in LaGrange. Members attending were so impressed by the tables they asked the club's board if members would like to volunteer their design skills. The response was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic, Ms. Burgess said.

Tables featured festive tableware, from Christmas china to Depression ware collections. Centerpieces used fresh flowers, fruit, a miniature illuminated Christmas tree, and even pink lollipops.

The annual luncheon is a Garden Club of Avondale Estates tradition when board members cook and serve food to the members. The event was held this year at the Lake House that overlooks Lake Avondale.



Left: Pink Candy Christmas was the theme of a table designed by Alice Murray and Kathy Hatfield.

Right top: Cardinals were the theme of this table designed by Scott Legg, Julie Martinez, Peggy Burgess and Patricia Calcagno.

Right bottom: A white Christmas tree with miniature lights is focus of table designed by Betty Britton, Melba Castillo, and Judith Coffey.



Avondale Estates Garden Club Donates \$10,000 to Educational and Service Organizations

Financially, 2022 was a very good year for the Avondale Estates Garden Club. Several fundraising events exceeded expectations including the spring Plant Sale and the Secret Garden Tour. When the group found itself well ahead of budget, members voted to give away \$10,000.

With an eye on fulfilling its mission of investing in educational and service opportunities to “inspire the appreciation of the various horticultural arts and promote an awareness of environmental responsibility,” the work of giving away money began.

Club member Tyler Weaver led the effort, and his team proposed groups and amounts for donations, and the Board of Directors and members agreed to the following:

Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship \$1,500

Oakland Cemetery \$500

Decatur City Cemetery \$500

Dunwoody Nature Center \$500

CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) \$1,000

Avondale Estates Clock Tower Plantings \$500

Cherokee Garden Library at Atlanta History Center \$1,000

Georgia State Botanical Gardens \$500

Avondale Elementary School Foundation \$1,500

Environmental Speaker Series \$1,500

Grants for Local Organizations 2 at \$500 each



Avondale Estates Garden Club President Peggy Burgess presents \$1,000 check to Center for Hard to Recycle Materials founder/director, Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe, along with Peg Wyse, Helen Dorroh, and Bob Stewart.

Driftwood Garden Club Decorates Newnan

Driftwood Garden Club created a mass floral arrangement in Downtown Newnan to welcome visitors to their town for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Newnan Ramble Tour.

The idea of a mass floral arrangement in a city trash can by the garden club was well received by the community and others.

Other clubs might be interested in this type of project of community service.



Smoke Rise Morning Glories Deck the Halls 2022!

For a number of years, the Morning Glories have decorated the historic Wells Brown House located in nearby Stone Mountain Village. The house was built in 1870 and is now owned by the Stone Mountain Historic Society. On the First of December, the club arrived on a sunny but chilly day to add period appropriate décor to the exterior and interior of the home. Each year we vary the decorations but always try to use natural materials fresh or dried from our own gardens.

We use juniper, magnolia, holly, Leland cypress, pinecones and other greenery. We also add fruits and dried hydrangeas to the front door, mantles, banister and a swag of greenery to the Juliet balcony. That balcony perfectly frames the famous carving on the face of Stone Mountain.

One fun touch we have included for many years is the delightful scent of clove-studded fresh oranges perfected by our member, Marsha Pittard. The

oranges are added to bowls and to mantles to add bright color and scent in the home.



The entire décor team is lead by Glendolyn Hallman who organizes the club each December to create the festive designs. In all, over fifteen members made wreaths, attached garland, tied bows, created mantle tableaus, fashioned the classic Williamsburg fresh fruit tree and tidied up.

The very next day the Historic Society held their annual Holiday party. Perfect timing! And, we will be back in early January to take it all down and recycle and reuse what we can for next year's seasonal décor. It was lots of fun and a wonderful way to kick off the holidays with garden club friends!



Wisteria Garden Club Prepares "Survival" Bags

Wisteria Garden Club, Elms and Roses Council, LaGrange, GA, successfully completed their 2022 Ways and Means Project on December 4. Finals "Survival" Bags (of study supplies and snacks) for LaGrange College Students were sold, bagged and delivered to the student Post Office for distribution.

Pictured (l-r) are members: Bonnie Dudley, Elaine Howard, Marjorie Bowling, Genie Sutton, Alicia Nixon, Suzanne Cook, Harriet Wigley, Robin Copeland, and Ann Blackwell.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023

