



Redbud Reporter

Spring 2023

From the District Director

Greetings, Remarkable Redbuds,

As I come to the end of my term, I can truly say it has been a remarkable two years. We started this term during a pandemic and quickly pivoted to accommodate the changing health guidelines and expectations. Your clubs made it work, either gathering inside and outside while maintaining social distance or meeting virtually. You continued to serve your communities with wonderful projects and garden club members were treated to great programs.

Club and council presidents have submitted their annual reports, proof of the great work that your clubs are doing. Additionally, club programs have been well received and the best programs have included those presented by club members and extension agents, and field trips to local gardens. The resulting list of resources for club programs will be shared with each club in a separate communication.

The American Daffodil Society Flower Show, which was held March 10-11, 2023, was a huge success. More information about the Daffodil Flower Show can be found later in this edition of the Redbud Reporter. A "Job well done" to all Redbud members who worked on the flower show committee.

Many of your clubs have elected new officers and are preparing to make plans for the next club year. Garden Week in Georgia is April 16-22, and what better way to celebrate than to attend the GCG Convention in Stone Mountain on April 18-20. The

event promises to be educational and fun. We will vote on Kimberly Fair, our nominee for the 2023-2025 District Director position. The GCG 2023 President-elect, Lisa Hall, and all new GCG executive officers and district directors will be installed during the business meeting. Our other Redbud officers will be installed by Diane Hunter, GCG 2nd Vice-President, during a special evening event. The GCG Award winners will be announced during the Awards Program and we are looking forward to seeing how many Redbud Clubs will take home top awards. The GCG Youth Awards were announced earlier this month, and congratulations to all our young winners.

National Garden Week is June 4-10, 2023. I am looking forward to hearing of the great celebrations, programs and/or projects that your clubs have planned. Please make sure to take plenty of pictures and consider writing an article for the Redbud Reporter or for Garden Gateways.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed serving you as your 2021-2023 District Director. The last two years have been ones of great learning, opportunities to meet many garden club members, and wonderful and memorable experiences. I look forward to working with you and your clubs in the future as we work to support our new GCG and Redbud District leadership.

Gale D. Thomas
Redbud District Director

American Daffodil Society Show

The American Daffodil Society (ADS) Flower Show, a National Garden Clubs (NGC) Standard Flower Show, had as its theme “Drifting Down Daffodil Lane”. Co-Sponsored by The Garden Club of Georgia’s Redbud District, it was held during the ADS’s National Convention at the Crowne Plaza Perimeter Ravinia Hotel in Dunwoody on March 10-11, 2023. With over 2000 daffodils on display, and over 50 adult and youth designs, this show was both remarkable and memorable.

Flower show chairmen included both Redbud District members and ADS members.



Attendees at the well-attended flower show included Dunwoody Mayor, Lynn Deutch, and American Daffodil Society President, Dr. Janet Hickman (pictured here with Redbud’s Joy Zaidan).

Judging of the horticulture was done by the ADS judges.



Judging of the designs was done by NGC and ADS judges. Top winners in the Design division included Fran Myers (NGC Award of Design Excellence and Designer's Choice Award), Joy Zaidan (NGC Table Artistry Award), and Brenda Brettschneider (NGC Petite Award).



Additionally, blue ribbons were won by Lynn Fronk (2), Barbara Crank, Ellen Nicol, Catherine Felton, and Gale D. Thomas (designs are pictured below and on next page in order of winner)-

Voting by show attendees on their favorite design resulted in Joy Zaidan's design being named the People's Choice.





Congratulations to all the winners and to the Redbud District Flower Show members who worked to make this flower show a truly remarkable one!



Left to right: Janet McGinnis and Susan Turner at the American Daffodil Society Show



Remarkable Redbud Youth Shine at American Daffodil Society Flower Show!

Susan Turner, Redbud Youth Activities Chairman

Our Remarkable Redbud Youth joined with their Amazing Azalea District friends to showcase their talents at the recent American Daffodil Society Flower Show, *“Drifting Down Daffodil Lane”*, March 10-11, 2023 in Atlanta. Two Redbud Clubs participated with 24 Designs out of the 29 entered in Youth Division IV – *From the Mountains to the Sea - “Blossoming Daffodilies”*. Way to go Redbud!

Entries were secured by Gale Thomas, Redbud District Director (her talented grandchildren!), Susan Turner, ADS FS Youth Chairman (The Bluebells Youth Garden Club, naturally) and Ann Weiss, Smoke Rise Garden Club (our wonderful youth division champion secured 10 youth designs!). The Bluebells Youth Club, Conyers entered 8 designs and 8 specimens of horticulture. Their fall daffodil planting had shown blooms. A watchful eye was delighted when they kept coming, just in time for the show!

Top Youth Awards were won in both Design and Horticulture. You know all these young people are so thrilled with their many ribbons, showcasing their dedication to this mission! Many accolades were received on the work from these creative young designers. Here is a glimpse of the show’s Youth Division and their class titles interpreted.



Top left: Juniors – “Gather Watery Wonders.”

Top right: Intermediates – “Climb Every Mountain.”

Bottom: High School – “Hike ‘Till You Bike.” Staged on & around a bicycle.



**American Daffodil Society & National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Redbud Horticulture & Design Top Youth Awards**



**NGC Tri-color Top Award winner Kyra Fowler
High School Class in Horticulture**

Kyra Fowler, Age 18, sponsored by Conyers GC, Conyers GA
Received NGC Tri Color Youth Ribbon – High School Class
Section Y Class 4 Replete 4-WP

Kyra received a special presentation from The American Daffodil Society. A horticulture conditioning book entitled *Fitness For Flowers*, compiled by Jeanne Hook Baetjer and illustrated by Joyce Herbst, was gifted to Kyra. This book was donated to the ADS FS by Kirby Fong. Kyra also entered the NGC Design Division. An ADS Blue Ribbon and Award Certificate was also presented.

**NGC Tri-color Top Award winner Evelynne Baskett
Intermediate Class in Design**

Evelynne Baskett, Age 9, sponsored by Conyers GC, Conyers GA

Plant material: Bald Cypress knee, Chrysanthemum, Daffodils,
Gypsophilia, and Nandina. Dried Moss mat was used for an underlay.
An ADS Blue Ribbon and Award Certificate was also presented.



The Daffodil Discovery Zone was a great place for kids who visited the show to have the opportunity to learn about the Life Cycle, up-close and personal with Daffodils.

It was well attended and lots of fun for all. We believe many children gained a lifelong interest and appreciation of Daffodils!



Johns Creek
BEAUTIFICATION
johnscreekbeautification.org
Johns Creek Beautification, Inc. a 501(c)(3) Georgia Non-Profit



GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 6th 2023
9am – 5pm

Drive Yourself / Walking Tour

- Explore 6 exquisite private gardens
- Hear live music from local musicians
- Interact with artists engaged in their craft
- Stroll through Autrey Mill Nature Preserve

*Buy Your
Passes Now!*



SECRET GARDENS

of the **JOHNS CREEK COMMUNITY**

DeKalb Federation Life Member of the Year

The DeKalb Federation honored Susan Turner with its Life Member of the Year Award for 2023 at its annual Life Members Program on February 23, 2023.

Susan Turner is originally from Arlington, Virginia; however, her family moved to Marietta, Georgia in 1970. A 1979 graduate of Oglethorpe University, Susan has previously worked at Saks Fifth Avenue and with a European automotive service center. After a time in commercial real estate, she worked for a Midtown CPA firm for 12 years. It was there she met her husband, and they married in 1994. In 1997 she began working for his company. Last October they celebrated 28 years of marriage.

Susan joined her home garden club, Conyers Garden Club (CGC), in 1999. She has served CGC as President, Parliamentarian, 2nd Vice President, Yearbook Chairman, Communications Chairman, Youth Garden Club (Bluebells) Chairman and on various committees. She is also an active member of The Designers Club, serving as treasurer from 2021-2025.

For DeKalb Federation, she served as Youth Activities Chairman from 2009-2021. From 2017 to present she has served as the Chairman of the Federation's Never Forget 9/11 project, a patriotic memorial tribute to first responders. She has also been responsible for securing the fresh wreath that the Federation places at the memorial each year. From 2021-23 she has served as 3rd Co-Vice President in charge of programs for the Federation.

For the Redbud District, she has served as District Calendar Chairman, Recording Secretary, Scholarships Co-Chairman, Various Youth Chairmanships, Redbud District Flower Show Youth Entries Chairman, and Consultant and Redbud District Flower Show Chairman.

For the Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) State Board, starting in 2007, she has served as Youth Garden Clubs Chairman, Youth Liaison, Youth Team Coordinator, Youth Awards Chairman, Wild & Wonderful Experience Camp Co-Founder, Scholarship Chairman and Co-Chairman. She is also a member of the GCG Headquarters House Trustees. She has previously served as the GCG 3rd Vice President, 2nd Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer.



Left to right: 2023 DeKalb Federation Life Member of the Year Susan Turner and Life Member Program Mistress of Ceremony Bonnie Pennington

Susan is a National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge. Most recently, Susan served on the planning committee and was co-chairman of the Youth Division of the very successful American Daffodil Society Standard Flower Show held March 10-11, 2023.

For fun, Susan enjoys cooking, decorating, gardening, reading and traveling with her husband. She loves spending time with friends and family, including her furry family: Jackson, her outdoor cat, and Missy, a rescue black Lab Retriever mix.

Congratulations, Susan Turner, for a well-deserved recognition.



Former DeKalb Federation Life Members of the Year. Left to right: Rigby Duncan, Diane Hunter, Joy Zaidan, Sandy Suggs, Renie Faulkenberry, Susan Turner (this year's winner), Deanna McFarlan, Ann Purr, Sandy Reed, Quill Duncan, Glendolyn Hallman



IRIS SHOW AND SALE (100+ plants)

presented by

The GEORGIA IRIS SOCIETY

Member of

The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

In cooperation with
THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Saturday, April 22, 2023
Judging 9:30 -11:00 AM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
11am - 4pm
"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"
A STANDARD FLOWER SHOW
Quill Duncan 770 414 4766
Free Entry and Admission

ST. BARTHOLOMEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1790 LAVISTA ROAD NE
ATLANTA, GA 30329



Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail®

2023 Symposium & Native Plant Sale

Plains, Georgia

Friday, May 5, 2023

Symposium Speakers



Dr. Jaap de Roode, PhD

Emory University Department of Biology
Director, de Roode Monarch Lab



Felicity Davis

Georgia Department of Transportation
Landscape Architect
GADOT Wildflower Project



Annette Wise

Founder/President of
Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail®



Bess Hartley

2nd Vice-President
Garden Club of Georgia

*Symposium details are located on our website as well as registration information. www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org
Seating will be limited so book early!*

2023 Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail: Spring Symposium

Plains Community Center
Main Street and Clark Street
Plains, Georgia 31780

Registration Form for Friday, May 5, 2023

A complete agenda and online registration is at www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org

*Sponsored by: The Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail®, Lazy K Nursery,
and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.*

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone #s cell (____) _____ Home (____) _____

Email _____

Plants you are interested in purchasing: _____

RCBT: Trail Garden Name _____ **Garden Number** _____

If you are registered with the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail ((RCBT), list the name of your garden and number as listed on our website.

Each person attending needs to complete a separate form with payment. Registration is \$50.00 per person. Seating is limited so please register early! **To register, please complete this form online with payment or mail your registration form and check for \$50 made payable to the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, P.O. Box 10, Plains, GA 31780.**

Symposium details are online at www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org. The event will be at the Plains Community Center in Plains, Georgia. Lunch is included in the registration fee. For additional information contact Annette Wise 229-824-4567 or Willie Maxwell 229-938-5830.

Lunch choices include a boxed meal with a sandwich, chips, dessert and drink or a garden salad.

- 1. Please mark your choice Sandwich choice: ___Ham ___Turkey **or** ___Garden Salad
salad dressing choice: ___Ranch ___Italian ___Thousand Island
- 2. Drink: ___Water ___Coke ___Diet Coke

8:30AM Registration, Plant Sale and Silent Auction

9:15AM Welcome

9:30AM Speakers/programs

1:30 Closing Remarks – Silent Auction Winners Announced and Door Prizes

Seed Swap (optional) – Bring a packet of homegrown seeds and swap for one you want (label your seed packs!)

Silent Auction – Bid on items in the auction from 8:30AM - 1:00PM

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All profit made from the Silent Auction and Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail plants/items will go directly to establish additional habitat for pollinators and promote the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.



Spalding Garden Club

A Garden Faire

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023
9:00AM - 3:00PM
RAIN OR SHINE

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
2443 MOUNT VERNON RD.
DUNWOODY, GEORGIA

PASS-ALONG PLANTS

SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, HERBS, GROUND COVERS AND MORE

Bake Sale and Picnic Lunch
Second Seasons Resale Shop
Bird Houses, Garden Art, Raffle
Children's Corner

visit us at: www.spaldinggardendub.com



Marshall Forest Land Trust

The Marshall Forest Land Trust Program began as a Bicentennial partnership between NGC and the Nature Conservancy. The goal is to heighten public awareness of the critical need to save our ecologically unique lands. Since 1976 the Marshall Forest has been designated the “Land Trust” project for The Garden Club of Georgia.

Once part of the Cherokee Nation’s lands, Marshall Forest covers 301 acres of pine-hardwood forest in Floyd County, near Rome in northwest Georgia. The site is one of the last remaining stands of old-growth forest in the Ridge and Valley Province, a geographical corridor that runs from Pennsylvania to Alabama. Ranging in elevation from 600 to 900 feet, the site is home to over 300 species of plants and 55 tree species in 3 distinct plant communities: pine-oak, chestnut oak, and mixed hardwood forest.

The forest is home to the largest population in Georgia of the endangered large-flowered skullcap, a perennial herb in the mint family. The site is also home to a wealth of fauna, including frogs, salamanders, at least six species of snake, and dozens of bird species.

Garden Club members can schedule a tour of the beautiful Marshall Forest by contacting Caroline Alford at 706-346-5886. The Nature Conservancy has made many new upgrades to this wonderful forest. Make your donations to Marshall Forest by going to Forms at the GCG website and filling out the form. Your donation of at least \$25.00 will award your club a Deed of Gratitude Certificate.



Top: large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*)

Bottom: Old-growth trees in Marshall Forest

Madison-Morgan Spring Tour of Homes and Gardens

Welcome to the 2023 Spring Tour of Homes and Gardens presented by the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 from 10 AM to 4 PM. One of the region's most popular events, the tour takes place in historic Madison, Georgia, renowned for being one of Georgia's largest designated National Register Historic Districts. We cordially invite you to celebrate the joy of springtime with the Cultural Center!

Experience the living history of Madison while strolling through a collection of the city's finest, architecturally significant private homes and intimate gardens. The self-guided tour features six homes and gardens all within walking distance from the Cultural Center. In addition to the distinguished private homes and gardens, the 1895 graded school building which houses the Cultural Center (tour host), historic churches, and home museums are included in the tour ticket. Together these memorable structures tell the story of a genteel, gracious city - Madison, Georgia. This truly will be a tour to remember!

Whether you're coming for the day or staying for the weekend, you will want to be part of this must-see event. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.mmcc-arts.org or call the Cultural Center at 706-342-4743.

Save now and purchase your tickets today thru April 10 for \$30. Walk-up tickets are available for purchase on April 14 and April 15 for \$40 at the Cultural Center. All attendees begin their tour at the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center located at 434. S. Main St. in Madison, Georgia. The tour is at your leisure; homes open promptly at 10 AM and doors close at 4 PM.

Please see the pictures on the right of some of this year's homes.



Top: Joshua Hill House
Middle: White Lyle Cottage
Bottom: Shea's House

Celebrating Advocates Respecting Earth (C.A.R.E.) Event

Whispering Hills Memorial Nature Preserve is a 140-acre site, which features rare and beautiful plant species, forests, flowering meadows, and rolling streams, as well as horses, riding and walking trails, and a 20-acre natural green cemetery. Beginning with one in 1996, there are currently more than 300 natural green cemeteries across the U.S. Whispering Hills is the third in Georgia and the first South of Atlanta. The Preserve is located at 3550 Mooty Bridge Road in LaGrange.

The first annual C.A.R.E. - Celebrating Advocates Respecting Earth - event will be held on Friday, April 21. This will be a volunteer themed celebration. The next day, Earth Day, April 22, we will celebrate the second anniversary of the Whispering Hills Natural Green Cemetery. This is a big tent event and all who are interested will be welcome.

Please click on the link below to view the evite and to RSVP. Please be sure to click on the arrow to the far right of the picture/card invite to view the agenda and description of the event. The description contains a link to a TED talk explaining the environmental benefits of natural green cemeteries. Also, there is a link to our website that we hope people will browse.

<http://evite.me/e4J1xcDqFe>

Please visit www.whisperinghillspreserve.com and explore the section "About the Land and Flora" which includes a botanical survey of the 20-acre natural green cemetery by L. L. Gaddy, Ph.D., President, Terra Incognita.

Bloodroot – A Native Wildflower

During the first week of March, while Quill Duncan was visiting Dolly May's garden, they found a bloodroot in bloom. They took this lovely photo of the plant. Both Quill and Dolly are members of Smoke Rise Morning Glories.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is a perennial native to eastern North America. A member of the poppy family, it grows 8 to 20 inches tall and has one basal leaf with 5 to 7 lobes. The flowers bloom before the leaves begin to unfurl in spring. The flowers have 8 to 12 delicate white flowers surrounding many yellow stamens. The leaves and flowers sprout from a reddish rhizome that has orange to red sap. The sap is used as a natural red dye by Native American rivercane basketmakers.



Poetic Moments

Spring

by Victoria R. Crosby

As the fertile earth yields
to the warming orb of light
the life force resumes its annual rite.
It is wondrous feeling, warming, melting healing.
Buds gently revealing
the soft colors of their hearts.
Birds returning joyfully, noisily,
back from distant parts.
Chirping early in the morn as the sun rises,
a springtime day is born.
Lying in the green grass gazing at the sky,
watching clouds go drifting by,
I can almost taste the freshness of the pleasant breeze
as it transports the fragrance
from the flowering trees.
As the day grows warmer the perfumed blossoms swell
the bees are intoxicated by their sweet, sweet smell.
Feeling one with the universe lying here
I may just stay until all the stars appear.

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poeticvic@aol.com

Victoria Crosby is a member of Smoke Rise Garden Club. Prior to moving to the Atlanta area, she was Poet Laureate for the city of Glen Cove, New York.

Avondale Estates Plant Sale

Need to replace your rosemary? Is your Loropetalum languishing after our Christmas deep freeze?

Avondale Estates Garden Club will have hundreds of plants at its third annual sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 15, in front of the Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive.

Started in 2021 when indoor fundraisers had to be cancelled, the plant sale was an immediate success and has grown each year. The sale coincides with Garden Week in Georgia, which is usually an ideal time for local gardeners to start digging in the dirt.

According to plant sale co-chairs Susan Barton, Christi Granger, and Donna Tanner, the club will have plants for shade, plants for full sun, popular perennials, native plants and pollinators as well as a selection of herbs, trees, and house plants.

“We’ll be ready to help buyers replace things that didn’t survive the cold, and we hope to help bring some life and joy back into their gardens,” Ms. Tanner said.

The event is a huge team effort of garden club members, with volunteers dividing and cultivating plants from their gardens to contribute to the sale. In addition, the club purchases some plants wholesale, paying attention to ones that are popular here and likely to thrive in the local climate.

The sale will be open rain or shine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Avondale Estates Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 15, 2023

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive



Crowds gather beside Lake Avondale for the 2022 Avondale Estates Garden Club plant sale. This year the event will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 15.

News from the Clubs

Long Lost Treasures Unearthed in Avondale Estates Attic

Nancy Drew would have loved it.

Found, in a dimly lit attic of a nearly 100-year-old house in Avondale Estates, a box with long-forgotten books.

The current owners of the circa 1928 house at 101 Clarendon Avenue, Sarah and Matt Miller, were intrigued. They carried the dusty box downstairs and discovered two yearbooks from 1938-1939 and 1939-1940. Wiping away the dust, they realized the small, paper-bound books chronicled the work of the Avondale Estates Garden Club, founded in 1931 and one of the oldest garden clubs in the state.

Although the books must have been left behind by a previous homeowner, the Millers knew they would be treasured by local historians. Ms. Miller contacted a friend, Michele Spears, who is a member of the Avon Garden Club. Ms. Spears took them to a DeKalb Federation meeting and passed them along to Avondale Estate Garden Club President Peggy Burgess.

Mrs. Burgess, who ended her two-year term as President March 15, knew exactly where the book belonged. The Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta Historical Society is the repository of the club's history, and Staci Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director, was thrilled as well.

In one of the last events of Mrs. Burgess's two-year term, she and incoming President Patricia Calcagno presented the historic books to the library on March 10 to become part of the permanent archives – and protected from the dust and heat of any more attics.



Avondale Estates Garden Club recently donated two of their oldest yearbooks to the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center. Shown above (L-R) Patricia Calcagno, AEGC President; Stacy Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director; and Peggy Burgess, AEGC Immediate Past President.

Avondale Estates Garden Club Celebrates Arbor Day

The Garden Club of Avondale Estates marked Georgia's Arbor Day, Friday, Feb. 17, by joining with the City of Avondale Estates to plant a native water hickory (*Carya aquatica*) at Willis Park.

The event celebrated the city's 39th year as a Tree City USA, and both City Manager Patrick Bryant and Commissioner Lisa Shortell took part.

The tree, donated by resident Davis Dunbar, owner of Redbone Nurseries, was planted in memory of recently deceased Avondale Estates Garden Club member Jennie Leatherbery.

The City's Greenspace Manager Adrian Langston said the selected tree, *Carya aquatica* (water hickory), is a slow-growing bottomland tree that will look very similar to a pecan tree except for its flatter, bitter-tasting nut. It is tolerant of compacted soils and has some shade tolerance. Its selection will begin the wave of succession planting in Willis Park where it will be interplanted among the park's sweetgums and reach maturity as they age out.



Conyers Garden Club Plant America Grant

The Conyers Garden Club (CGC) has an on-going community project at The Light House Village (LHV) Children's Butterfly and Respite Garden in Conyers, Georgia. The LHV is a non-profit organization that (1) provides services and respite care and housing for children and adults with special needs and/or developmentally disabilities and (2) provides transitional housing for displaced women and their children in Rockdale County. A garden area for the enjoyment of the residents and their families has been designated. The CGC and the Rockdale Rotary Club have been working collaboratively in the LHV Children's Butterfly Garden since 2019. In March 2021, it was agreed that the garden needed to be made more child-friendly and pollinator-friendly.

The redesign of the garden required the relocation of existing plants and the purchase of new ones. In support of the Georgia Native Plant Initiative and the NGC's Wildflower and Gardening with Nature programs, over 30 native plants and shrubs were purchased for the garden. Using matching funds from the CGC treasury and the Rotary Club, the initial native plants were all purchased from local native plant specialty nurseries in Conyers (Pixie

Gardens) and Stone Mountain (Cottage Gardens). Each plant was researched for its appropriateness in a children's garden, pollinator potential, aesthetics and child-appeal, environmental and maintenance needs and environmental impact. A massive native plant planting occurred on Fall 2021. In October, CGC applied for a Plant America grant to help cover additional plants and upgrades for the garden. In December the CGC was notified that they had received \$500 from the National Garden Club's Plant America Grants and the official notification and funds were received in January 2022. The money from this grant was earmarked to cover the year's expenses in maintaining and expanding the garden.

In January, The Rotary Club delegate built and installed a storage box (for storing of small tools) and a bluebird house. The CGC Committee Chairman joined the Rotary Club on February 26, 2022 for a workday. Hard pruning of large shrubs, laying of new pavers, and installation of mulch were all accomplished. During March 2022, a CGC member planted the hillside on one side of the garden with wildflower seeds and plants, especially

cosmos seeds. In April, Rotary Club members installed more pavers around the center island of the garden. During the month of April, members of The Rotary Club worked diligently to repair and expand the irrigation system to include all new garden areas.

The CGC committee chairmen did ongoing spring and summer monitoring of the garden to determine which native plants did well in the garden. Those not growing as expected were relocated to different areas of the garden and their growth progress monitored.

CGC members held two workdays last year: May 17 and October 17, 2022. Members of the club worked to pull large weeds and to treat smaller weeds with

weed killer. For the October 17 fall workday, weeding, pruning, plant division, and general maintenance for bedding down the garden occurred. Six 'Limelight' hydrangeas were planted to create a border that would hide unsightly surrounding areas from the view of those visiting the garden. A review of the garden's progress resulted in the recommendation that the bordering shrubbery should be pruned back to allow more sunlight into the garden. In late November, a hard pruning of the shrubbery surrounding the garden was completed by the grounds staff of the facility. This was the final 2022 maintenance for the garden. We are looking forward to seeing the garden's renewed beauty come this spring 2023.

The photos below show the garden in Spring and Summer 2022.



Conyers Garden Club Continues Award-Winning Work in Children's Garden

After an explosion of breath-taking daffodils in the garden earlier in the month, the Conyers Garden Club held its first workday of the year on March 21, 2023. The members of the club met on Tuesday March 21 for a workday at the Light House Village Children's Garden to do light weeding and general spring clean-up. The Rotary Club representative was on hand to meet and to discuss plans for the more labor-intensive work in the garden, including installing landscape mechanics to control the water erosion on garden's hillside. Auvronette Guilbeaux, The Director of Phoenix Pass (the women and children's housing component of the Light House Village) came by to thank the club members for their work maintaining the garden. She complimented the work of the club members, stating that the garden looked beautiful and that the families really enjoyed visiting the area.

The CGC is proud of the work in this garden and this work has been recognized with several awards.



Elms and Roses Council Holds Spring Meeting

The Elms and Roses Council Annual Meeting and 70th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon was held on March 7, 2023 at Bellevue in LaGrange, GA, with over 40 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Dudley, Council President. Thanks were given to Wisteria and Talisman Garden Clubs for hosting the luncheon.

Bonnie gave a brief history of Elms and Roses. This is our 70th anniversary. Originally Elms and Roses was developed to provide women an organization for garden club type activities. There was such widespread interest that in 1953, Elms and Roses was divided into 8 separate clubs or committees, with Elms and Roses becoming the Council for these clubs. The original clubs were: Quelque Fleur, Plumbago, Floribunda, Four O'Clock, Iris, Pine Needle (originally Perennial Six), Talisman, and Firefly. Three of the original clubs are active today. They are Iris, Pine Needle, and Talisman.

A devotional was presented by Elaine Howard from Wisteria Garden Club titled "You Know What You Are? A Gardener!" A prayer followed the devotional.



Left to right: Marjorie Bowling, who installed the new officers; President Kathren Fogg (Pine Needle Garden Club); Vice President Ann Blackwell (Wisteria Garden Club); Secretary Dian Goldwire (Iris Garden Club); and Treasurer Marlene Rhodes (Talisman Garden Club).



The program was presented by David Brown, Hills and Dales Estate floral arranger and greenhouse manager. He made 4 stunning arrangements for a variety of containers from natural material from the estate gardens.

Pine Needle Garden Club Receives Plant America Grant

Before applying for the Plant America Community Project Grant, Pine Needle Garden Club members had no idea that their ongoing community project, called "Heart and Soil," met every qualification criteria for the Plant America grant submission.

The community garden that began as a small "hands-on teaching garden" project in partnership with the Active Life Center in Hogansville, GA soon grew into a larger collaboration with various community groups, including Master Gardeners, Troup County 4-H, Calloway High School Horticulture Department, and local volunteers. Synergy was needed - and encouraged - to assist with physical labor and other aspects required to complete the design and principles of permaculture.

Pine Needle Garden Club members spearheaded the overall design of the garden spot, donating their time, talents, and even plants, to create an appealing outdoor haven, inspiring members of a marginalized community to enjoy the healthy physical and mental benefits of this park-like venue.

"When the Plant America Community Project Grant was mentioned at our October 2022 Redbud district meeting, we only had 3 days left to apply for the grant before the deadline," said Pine Needle Club President Stephanie Culver. "Thankfully, our district director, Gale Thomas, encouraged us to apply and helped to mentor me during the application process," said Culver.

The Pine Needle Garden Club mission and their community project intentions align perfectly with the Plant America Community Project Grant tenets, which are "...to help enhance and beautify our public areas and community gardens... educate adults and children about the joys of gardening and create pride throughout the community... landscaping or environmental projects... horticultural or educational opportunities for the community."

Pine Needle Garden Club was awarded a \$500 grant, based on their estimated budget to help defer the costs of their future plans, which include installation of a rain barrel, more plants, soil and other materials, to incorporate aspects of permaculture gardening in a community green space.



Smoke Rise Morning Glories Win Citizen of the Month

INTUCKER

*Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club
Named Tucker's Citizen of the Month*

Gaye Auman, President of the Mountain Mums GC, nominated the Morning Glories as Tucker's 'Volunteer of the Month'. For several years, the Morning Glories have been awarded the DeKalb Federation Community Service Award. The 32 ladies of this club have been busy serving their community. With the assistance of a School Grounds Improvement Grant, members built raised beds at Smoke Rise Elementary School and filled the beds with fresh soil so students could plant seeds and vegetable starts. The club partnered with the Tucker Methodist Church and crocheted 'mercy mats' for the homeless out of plastic bags. They also maintain the Blue Star marker in front of the old school and add a wreath on patriotic holidays. These ladies never forget our military, as they send hundreds of Christmas cards overseas to the military. A favorite project is the collection of toys for foster children at Christmas donated to Well-Root in Tucker. Members decorate the historic Wells-Brown house in the village of Stone Mountain, constructing wreaths, gate designs, centerpieces and much more using plant material from members' gardens for the period-appropriate designs. The VA hospital is the recipient of socks and underwear, as the Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta.

As you can see, garden clubs do a lot more than just garden. They enrich our community by beautifying areas, mentoring our youth, participating in gardening projects and contributing to local charities, all while making lasting friendships in the neighborhoods where they live.

THE GARDEN ISSUE

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE THAT MAKE TUCKER BEAUTIFUL AND LUSH

Wisteria Garden Club Fellowship Outing

Wisteria Garden Club members Susan Hinson, Sarah Hersey, Leslie Sebaugh, Suzanne Cook, Marjorie Bowling, Elaine Howard, Harriett Wigley, Amy Davis, and guest Abbie Cook enjoyed a day at Oakland Cemetery on March 11.

Beautiful weather accompanied us this day. Elaine led us in prayer before our Chicken Salad Chick picnic lunch in the newly renovated Visitor Center Building to begin our day. A quick walk around let us see the many Spring blooms, including daffodils, lenten roses, dianthus, quince, redbuds, spirea, azalea, tulips, and many dogwoods, just to mention a few! The 90-minute tour loaded us with facts, fables, and history of this 48 acre, almost 200 year old cemetery. It proved truly a lovely and pleasant oasis in the middle of our busy State Capital City.

