



Redbud Reporter

Summer 2024

From the District Director

Flowers of the Caribbean

When my Florida relatives invited me to Puerto Rico (“Port of Riches”) to check out the old Naval Base where they lived 50 years ago – without hesitation I said, “Si!”. From my condo bedroom here I can see the Atlantic Ocean and the sandpit for the golf course – both infinitely entertaining.

But the best part for me is the Caribbean flora. With plenty of warm sunshine and a little rain every day, these plants are in their ideal conditions. My dear aunt-mother, Melba, who lives in Orlando has already introduced me to her favorites – *Tabebuia* (Gold Tree), frangipani (pagoda tree), *Allamanda* (buttercup flower), night-blooming cereus (Queen of the Night), and my favorite *Delonix regia* (royal poinciana tree) aka flamboyant, or flame, tree (photos at bottom right).

Royal poinciana is from the Leguminosae Family and, oddly enough, is not named after Ponce de Leon, who established the first European settlement here in 1508, but after Phillippe de Longvilliers de Poincy, a governor of the West Indies. The tree originates from Madagascar, but specimens were recorded growing wild in Jamaica in 1756. Would it be considered native?

Often reaching 50-60 ft high, with a wide branching habit, it is used for shade on many islands in the region. A strikingly beautiful tree, it blooms in dense clusters which make a solid picture of scarlet orange blossoms. The orchid-like blooms have five petals with one of those white or yellow. After the flowers

have faded, 2-foot long seed pods last for months. These are sometimes used for fuel in Puerto Rico. When the wind blows the dried seed pods make a sound referred to by the men as “women’s tongues”. Melba grew a royal poinciana from seed



and it thrived for several years, even growing back after a few hard freezes until it finally succumbed to the cold. They don't worry about hard freezes in Puerto Rico, hardiness zones 11-13.

I also visited the Jardín de Botánico de la University of Puerto Rico. At least half the garden is for research and not open to the public. Their "public gardens" are very different from our idea of a botanical garden. Instead of flashy plantings with focus on color, design, etc., like the ones back home, their exhibit was all native with a focus on exceptional specimens or collections – like the palm tree exhibit with 125 different types. Mostly green, lush, and more natural looking, it did not disappoint. They also have a pollinator garden area in which almost every plant was the same as ones we use in our pollinator gardens.

I was surprised to learn that Puerto Rico has mountains and was able to visit El Yunque, the rainforest, in the rain by car – a real treat (see photo below).



In local news –

The Redbuds are truly Remarkable and recently I have enjoyed Concord Garden Club's 100th anniversary celebration and the GCG Convention in April. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Co-Chairs Quill Duncan and Bonnie Dudley, and all the many other Redbuds who made this such a special affair!

I also want to thank in advance Chair Gale Thomas and Co-Chair Joy Zaidan for getting the upcoming 51st Yellow Daisy Flower Show off to a roaring start. Thanks also to all the many hands that will make this possible at:

Callanwolde Fine Art Center, August 28-29

And also mark your calendars for:

Redbud District Board Meeting,
in Covington on August 12

Redbud Annual District Meeting,
in Thomaston on October 22

Read about all the other fantastic Redbud Happenings on the following pages of this Reporter.

Stay cool,
Kim Fair
Redbud District Director

Daisy's Movie Mania – 2024 Redbud Flower Show

On August 28-29, 2024 the Redbud District will bring Daisy and all of her friends back to the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center as Daisy showcases her favorite movie titles in **Daisy's Movie Mania**, the Redbud District's 51st National Garden Club Standard Flower Show. Anticipating over 300 horticulture entries and forty-two designs, Daisy has managed to gather some of her faithful friends in Redbud to serve as the "film crew" for this flower show production.

Horticulture exhibits in the flower show are always interesting and educational while allowing us to see what our friends and neighbors across the District are growing. These entries also entice us to make lists of what new plants to add to our home gardens. This year, Daisy once again encourages you to look at your garden and consider which plants you would want to enter into this year's flower show.

In advance of the flower show, Horticulture Entries Chairman Sandy Reed will post a video on the Redbud District website with helpful tips including how to properly prepare your entries for exhibiting. To assist you with properly identifying and submitting your horticulture entries, Sandy will be joined by her Co-Chairman Lynn Malone at Callanwolde on the day of entry acceptance, August 27th. The Schedule for the show will be posted on the [Redbud](#) and [DeKalb Federation](#) websites in late July. Please be sure to use this when filling out your horticulture entry cards.

If you need entry cards, please contact Sandy Reed at sandyreed17@gmail.com or 404-772-2854. Cards will also be available at the Redbud District board meeting on August 12. Additionally, if your club is planning to bring a large number of horticulture entries, it is important to contact Sandy or Quill Duncan (quillduncan@msn.net; 770-414-4766) to schedule an arrival time for August 27, 2024.



The *It's a Wonderful Life* Design Division includes some old favorite creative and traditional designs. With titles like *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* for a table set for three and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* for the petite designs of 8 inches or less, one can't help but wonder what amazing designs this year's designers will showcase. But Daisy and her friends have more surprises in store for you, including the underwater designs in *On the Waterfront*.

Premiering the *Fantasia* Botanical Arts Division, the screenwriters have included *The Lord of the Rings* wreaths, *Vertigo* hanging designs, and *Back to the Future* exploration designs. And as a bonus, this Division includes *The Devil Wears Prada* Artistic Crafts which feature *Cinderella* evening shoe designs and *The Color of Money* purse designs. The Design Entries Chairman for this show is Barbara Crank and she is looking for designers to star in Daisy's tribute to her favorite movies. If you are interested in submitting a design, please contact Barbara at crankp@bellsouth.net or 678-362-5917.

Joining in the celebration of Daisy’s favorite movies, the Education Exhibits will include “*Driving Miss Daisy . . . to Callanwolde*”, the history of Callanwolde’s role in the movie and television industry, and the beautiful Dekalb County Master Gardener’s not-so *Secret Garden* located prominently on the Callanwolde grounds.

The crew is hard at work preparing for **Daisy’s Movie Mania**, but volunteers are needed for the run of the show. Set-up and break-down crews are needed for Monday, August 26 and Thursday August 29. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on either or both days, please contact Janet McGinnis (jmcgi@bellsouth.net or 404-326-0530).

Additional volunteers are needed to serve as Clerks for the judges on August 28. This is a great role that allows you to observe first-hand the judging process of flower show entries, horticulture and design. Previous clerks have stated that serving in this role

“was very educational” and “gave insight into what the judges are looking for” as they evaluated each entry. If you are interested in serving as a clerk, please contact Ann Purr (a.purr@comcst.net or 678-523-8146).

After the judging, the flower show opens to the public and we will need hostesses to greet Daisy’s friends who have come to check out her cinematically inspired botanical trip down memory lane. If you are willing to greet the public and welcome them into this year’s flower show, then please contact Melanie Chastain (mchastain17@yahoo.com or 706-877-2820).

Daisy and her team are excited and looking forward to the presenting this (Academy) award winning flower show to you, your club members, family and friends. Grab your favorite movie treats and meet us at the ticket booth as we join Daisy and venture into her Movie Mania Flower Show August 28-29, 2024.

Flower Show Schedule of Events

August 26, 2024	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Properties delivery and show set up (including skirting tables and assembling signage)
August 27, 2024	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Horticulture , Design, Education, and Botanical Arts entries accepted
August 28, 2024	8:00 am – 9:00 am	Entries of cut perishable blooms and entries of out-of-town persons
	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Clerks training and review
	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Judges Morning Coffee
	10:00 am – 12:45 pm	Judging followed by Judges Luncheon
	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Show open
August 29, 2024	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Show open
	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Show breakdown



A Remarkably Resplendent Year for GCG Scholarships!

Susan Turner, GCG Scholarship Chairman
glencree@bellsouth.net

The *Remarkable Redbuds* made significant contributions to scholarships this past year!

With sincere thanks to you and others from around the state and beyond, we met and ***exceeded*** our goal as we awarded \$85,000.00 to our 2024 applicants for their 2024-2025 year of study!

Once again, please make GCG Scholarships a line item as you plan your budgets over the coming months. Continued donations for Named Scholarships, Patrons of Scholarships, Honors and Memorials, General Fund Contributions, Life Memberships and Dollars Educate Scholars are all appreciated.

Help us financially support the future careers of our Georgia students.

On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee, we thank you for being a part of their lives.

These young people are dedicated to the same mission as The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., *Beautification, Conservation & Education.*



The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. Now open to residents of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida, the project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference for pollinator conservation!

Interested in joining the count this year? Here's how:

1. Sign up for the [newsletter](#).
2. Prepare for the count days on August 23rd and 24th
 - Download the printable [2024 Counting Sheet](#)
 - Check out the [2024 Insect Counting & Identification Guide](#)
 - Review the [Pollinator Census pamphlet](#)
3. Upload your counts to the [Pollinator Census webpage](#). The portal to upload counts will open early on August 23.

How do participants count?

You will be asked to choose a favorite pollinator plant – a plant from your garden that shows insect activity, for example – for counting. You should count and identify the insects that land on the flowers of that plant for 15 minutes. To make sure your counts are included in the database, visit the [Pollinator Census webpage](#) again after counting where you will find a pop-up prompting you to add your information.

Do I count every time an insect lands on a plant even though I know I've already counted that insect?

Yes! We are technically counting insect visits, not just the number of insects, so be sure to count each time any insect lands on your plant – regardless of whether it's been there before.

Can I participate more than once during the 2-day counting period?

Absolutely!

Blooming In the Heart of Georgia . . . Y’All Came!

The 96th Annual Garden Club of Georgia Convention was held April 16-17, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Peachtree City, GA. Hosted by the Redbud District, the event honored our special guest National Garden Club President Brenda Moore and GCG President Lisa Hall and was attended by over 230 guests.

Flowers and floral designs created by designers from all seven districts graced the dining tables and hallways. Educational exhibits were displayed near the meeting rooms. The opening day featured the GCG Board meeting followed by a luncheon attended by the board and registered guests with a floral design demonstration by Lynn Fronk.

Following that gathering, a choice of two workshops offered by four speakers was presented. Attendees had the option of hearing Staci Catron or Jenny Cruse-Sanders at the first session and Moe Hemmings or Carlton Wood at the second session.

The Y’All Come band played for guests during the conversations and cocktails party, and serenaded Brenda Moore with a very special tune selected just for her! Photos by districts were staged before a floral backdrop.

The Awards banquet on Tuesday evening was a fast-paced and exciting event. Wednesday’s business meeting was followed by a luncheon with speaker Abra Lee. Following the luncheon, a unique post-convention Designer’s Challenge showcased designers from all seven districts preparing a floral design on a timed basis before a very appreciative audience.

Do check out the [photos](#) from the convention on the GCG website. Thanks to all who attended our fun and unique convention! “Y’All Came”!

Redbud Members Attend Walkway Dedication



Redbud District members attended the dedication of the C. Burke Day walkway at the State Botanical Gardens in Athens on May 8, 2024.

Seated: Deen Day and Jim Sanders

Standing, left to right: Gale Thomas, Rigby Duncan, Diane Hunter, Kim Fair, Susan Turner, Mary Denney, Bonnie Dudley

News from the Clubs

Care for Birds and Butterflies Nets Awards for Avondale Estates Garden Club

Taking care of birds and butterflies helped put the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) in the winners' circle for the 2024 Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs awards.

In the GCG awards, club member Beth Langhorst won two 1st Place Awards for an individual club member. The first was the GCG Bird Award #4C for her comprehensive and effective work in protecting birds and promoting their welfare, and the second was the GCG Butterfly Conservation Award #51C for her ongoing work on her extensive butterfly garden which provides nectar and host plants for a variety of visiting butterflies. She also received 1st Place and was the Overall winner in the Deep South Region's Bird Award. Beth has won previous awards for her garden which is filled almost entirely with native plants.

In addition to Beth's two 1st Place awards, AEGC won five 1st place awards, two 2nd place awards, and four 3rd place awards from the Garden Club of Georgia. Garden Club of Georgia 1st place awards for large clubs (70-99 members), included:

- GCG Award #8A3 Conservation Project Award (Environmental Speaker Series)
- GCG Award #16 A5 Yearbook Award
- GCG Award #43 A3 Litter/Recycling/Reclamation Award
- GCG Award #53 SM A3 Social Media Award
- GCG Award #60 A3 Garden Week in Georgia

In April AEGC received five 1st Place Awards from the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. Club member Karen Liebert won the individual club member award for Best Butterfly Garden, and Beth Langhorst won 1st Place for the Janet McGinnis Friend of Birds Award, as well as receiving 1st Place for the Highest Scoring entry for that award. The Federation also gave AEGC 1st Place awards for the club's newsletter, which is produced by member Susan Barton, and for the AEGC Website. The Club's fifth 1st Place was in the Special Achievement category for our October 2023 Bonnie Phelps Memorial Tree Walk. We can thank Carolyn Adams and her 2023 Tree Walk Committee for all their work in planning and executing this event. In addition to the Club's 1st place awards, we received four 2nd place and one 3rd place award from the Federation.



Pictured from left are AEGC members Cheryl Sims, Mary Crowell, Karen Liebert, Peggy Burgess, Christi Granger, Club President Patricia Calcagno, Julie Martinez, Beth Wielage, and Susan Barton

Avondale Estates Garden Club Holds Successful Secret Garden Tour

If you loved the Avondale Estates Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour on June 1, or if you missed the event this year, mark your calendars for the first Saturday in June 2026 for your next chance to peer behind the gates of some of the most elaborate gardens in Avondale Estates.

The biennial Avondale Estates Garden Club Secret Garden Tour was a great success with perfect weather, hundreds of guests, dozens of volunteers, and five families who worked for months preparing to open their gardens for the tour.

Guests were invited to stroll through garden gates into private gardens immaculately groomed for the tour. Tickets for the 10 am-3 pm tour were \$20 in advance and \$30 day of tour, making the event one of the main fundraisers for the club.

Sponsors for this year's tour were Coyote's Mexican Grill, Eco Gardens LLC, Finders Keepers Consignments, Carol Reimer, Dearborn Animal Hospital, and Brock Nix.

Proceeds from the Secret Garden Tour and other AECG fundraisers benefit organizations such as the Avondale Estates Elementary School Foundation, the Cherokee Gardens Library at the Atlanta History Center, the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund, and the Dunwoody Nature Center.



National Garden Week Celebration Includes Flowers at Avondale Estates City Hall

When National Garden Week arrives the first week in June, members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club do their best to share the joy of gardening with as many neighbors as possible, especially their friends at the Avondale Estates City Hall.

This year, club member Karen Liebert collected fresh flowers from club members’ gardens around the city and designed a large flower arrangement for the lobby of City Hall.

Giving a new meaning to “locally grown,” Liebert added a sign to the arrangement to indicate that all the flowers were grown by club members within the city limit of Avondale Estates.



AEGC immediate past president Peggy Burgess (left) joined Karen Liebert at City Hall for the flower presentation.

Two Avondale Estates Clubs Decorate Blue Star Marker

Memorial Day marks more than the official beginning of summer. Much more importantly, it sets aside a time for every American to pause, remember, and honor men and women who gave their lives in service to this country.

Each year, the two garden clubs in Avondale Estates — the Avon Garden Club and the Avondale Estates Garden Club — join in a ceremony at the city’s Blue Star Memorial Highway marker to honor the occasion. The two garden clubs alternate years creating a wreath for the marker and planting flowers in the ground beneath it.

On May 24, members of the Avon Garden Club placed a wreath on the city’s Blue Star Memorial Highway sign in front of City Hall. City Commissioner Lisa Shortell, Avon Garden Club President Frank Mullens, and Avondale Estates Garden Club President Patricia Calcagno addressed the

gathering. Members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club planted red, white, and blue flowers at the base of the marker.

The ceremony in Avondale Estates is part of the Blue Star Memorial Project of the National Garden Club in which garden clubs around the country take part in similar ceremonies.



Conyers Garden Club Celebrates National Garden Week

On June 6, 2024 The Conyers Garden Club (CGC) in partnership with the Nancy Guinn Library presented a National Garden Week (NGW) Program on “Carnivorous Plants”. The speaker for this program was Michele Spears, a member of the Avon Garden Club.

The program started with Rockdale County Commission Chairman Oz Nesbitt and the City of Conyers Mayor Vince Evans presenting proclamations recognizing the CGC and their work in the Rockdale/Conyers community and NGW. CGC 1st Vice President and NGW Chairman Jessica Warren accepted the proclamations on behalf of the club.



Speaker Michelle Spears was accompanied by her husband, Tim, who helped her bring in and set up her delightful collection of carnivorous plants. During her presentation, Michelle shared information about the various types of carnivorous plants she had with her. Using a hand puppet and other props, she demonstrated how carnivorous plants trap insects for “eating”.

After her presentation, Michelle answered questions from the children and adults in attendance. The highlight of the program was when the children (and their parents) were invited to

watch a live demonstration as Michelle fed ants to various plants. Many of the kids present were recording the plant feedings on their cell phones. This program was definitely a success and the live demonstration of the plants enjoying edible treats was a hit with all.



Shenandoah Rose Visits Hosta Nursery

On May 15, members of Shenandoah Rose Garden Club traveled to Tyrone, GA to tour Pine Forest Gardens, a nursery specializing in hostas. The owner of the nursery, Richard Jolly, showed us some of the newest hostas, older trusted varieties, and some of his favorites. He told us how he started his nursery business and evolved into specializing in hostas.

All of us were interested in purchasing hostas and Richard helped with each person's selections and provided growing tips. After we loaded up our purchases, he showed us how they pack up plants for shipment.

Pine Forest Gardens does most of its business through mail order but is open to visitors on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 am - 2 pm during the growing season. Visits at other times can be scheduled by contacting the nursery through their website (<https://pineforestgardens.com>). They stock a full range of sizes of hostas, ranging from miniature to giant. Green, blue, chartreuse, yellow and gold-leafed hostas are available, along with many variegated forms of each color.

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Present a Small Standard Flower Show!

"It's All about the B's" was the title of the Small Standard Flower show held on April 9th. Club members Janet McGinnis and Joy Zaidan worked for months on the show creating a beautiful show schedule, ordering the special ribbons, organizing club members, and educating our members on the principles of design techniques and how to prepare horticulture entries for the show. Two workshops were held for members to learn about creating petite and tabletop designs.

On the afternoon before the show, members brought horticulture to be classified and placed in the appropriate categories. Those entering designs placed them on special tables or props created to accent their work.

This show was judged by five GCG certified floral judges and two student judges the morning of the show. Each item was evaluated, and awards were determined based on a set of criteria pertaining to the entry. There were 130 horticulture entries, 8 petite designs and 4 tabletop designs. In addition,

there were two educational exhibits prepared by Melodie Janin and Amie Walsh. One featured an in-depth study of bats and the other focused on the pollination contributions of the honeybee. Amie's honeybee exhibit won the NCG Educational Award, but both were outstanding presentations.



Congratulations to the following winners! Melanie Chastain won Best in Show for her Petite Design and the Smoke Rise Morning Glories Petite Design Award in honor of Charter Member Joy Streater. Joyce Ray won the People’s Choice Tabletop Design Award. Joy Zaidan won the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue-ribbon winning horticulture entries. Janet McGinnis won the Horticulture Excellence Award for her ‘Jesse’s Song’ iris entry.

The following members won an Award of Merit for their horticulture entries: Joy Streater for her azalea, Bonnie Pennington for her Japanese maple, Joy Zaidan for her hosta, and Quill Duncan for her liriopse. Joy Zaidan won the Grower’s Choice for her Chinese evergreen container-grown plant.

Over 60 people attended the show and many entries won blue, red, yellow and white ribbons. Thanks to all the helping hands and hard-working volunteers who made it all possible! It was certainly a labor of love and a beautiful Spring celebration!



Stonecrest Garden Club Celebrates Its First National Garden Week

In celebration of National Garden week, the Stonecrest Garden Club (SGC) teamed up with the Stonecrest Library to present a program on Beekeeping on June 8, 2024.

The program started with comments by the Branch Manager of the Stonecrest Library, Michael Strong, acknowledging and thanking the Stonecrest Garden Club for their partnership in presenting the program. SGC President Gale D. Thomas acknowledged the partnership with thanks to Mr. Strong and the staff of the library. She introduced the program speaker, Danny Harvey, member of the Henry County and Rockdale County Beekeepers Associations. Speaking to the 48 participants, Mr. Harvey gave important procedural tips for beekeeping including: managing the bees; understanding the roles of the various bees in the hive; the nature of swarming; hive maintenance; and the collection of honey.

Many of the adults present were interested in becoming beekeepers and Mr. Harvey answered their questions with detailed information. He also answered the questions posed by the younger participations about the bees, bee stings, and honey. Although the children in attendance were enthralled with the beekeeper's demonstration of how he "suits up" when working with the bees and the beehive box, they were also very excited and delighted to see "upclose" the actual bees "attending" the presentation.



Thomaston Garden Club Beautifies Courthouse

As a project to celebrate Garden Week in Georgia, members of The Thomaston Garden Club partnered with Upson County government officials to beautify the grounds of the Courthouse Square in downtown Thomaston. Members assisted with planting eight flowerbeds and eight Chippendale boxes that flank the four entrances to the courthouse.



Pictured are members: Virginia Alberson; Andrea Abarno; Janice Goins; President Dianne Chastain; and Upson County Facilities Superintendent Seth Morgan, who is also a Subscribing Member of the Club. Not pictured, Upson County Public Buildings/ Facilities Director Paul Nordan.