Dear Garden Club Members,

Happy Autumn! Whether it’s back to school, back to meetings or simply back to spending evenings outside, I think we can all agree this is a beautiful time of year to be in garden club. In a way we too are going back to school as we sharpen our skills and our knowledge of gardening, landscape and floral design, pollinators and environmental awareness.

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at our garden club kick-starter, the SUMMER EXPO 2019. Our GCSC Officers and Board members truly outdid themselves to give you the most informative and exciting kick off to a year of Gardening FOR Life! Your record attendance and appreciation was well worth all of the volunteer preparations and sponsorship that made the day possible. I look forward to seeing how you blossom with this new initiative.

As promised, we are rolling out several exciting member’s benefits this quarter beginning with our new GCSC user-friendly website, the first editions of The Scoop Newsletter, and our First Friday Conference Calls for club officers. Each of these tools is designed with your needs in mind. As an all-volunteer federation, we understand how eager you are to make the most of your garden club service and we are invested in your success. Together, we make South Carolina greener and more beautiful. Thank you for all that you do!

Happy Gardening!

Trish
The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
501c3 non-profit organization
Website: www.gardenclubofsc.org
4740 Members, 192 Garden Clubs, 18 Councils, 8 Affiliate Organizations

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Mission
The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc., a non-profit organization, is a force for good that promotes all aspects of gardening, focusing on preservation and restoration of historic gardens, conservation and environmental protection of natural resources, education of members and youth organizations, civic beautification, horticulture, and floral design.

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GCSC Affiliates
Audubon SC
Moore Farms and Botanical Garden
Plant, Food, Body: Jenks Farmer
Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
SC Bluebird Society
SC Botanical Garden, Clemson
SC Native Plant Society
SC Wildlife Federation

On the Cover
Front Cover: Tina Buckner's grandson enjoying a late summer sunflower. Photo courtesy Tina Buckner of the Camellia Garden Club in Greer.
Back Cover: GardenFORLife
What does it mean to Garden FOR Life?

Gardeners are proud and passionate growers. We get invigorated when a plant is coaxed back from the dead and throw parties for the night blooming cereus. We're social-media-posting-crazy when the first tomatoes ripen and can search endlessly to identify an unusual new plant that caught our eye.

We are also eternally thirsty for the knowledge and skills that help us to create consistent beauty and productivity in our gardens. After all, “the more we know, the more we grow”.

But there's another aspect to gardening that we can often overlook. Gardening is a beautiful journey toward connection and reconciliation. When we Garden FOR Life, we garden with respect for all life within our care and in exchange, we are rewarded with beautiful and glorious garden experiences.

Think back to your childhood experiences in nature. Did you need to know the botanical name in order to climb the tree? Wasn't the enchantment created more by the roughness of the bark in your hand, hearing birds in the branches and tasting delicious fruit? As adult gardeners, we now know that same tree needs a healthy root zone, steady rainfall, supports hundreds of species and likes a specific pH. Knowing these things makes us better stewards.

But when we forget what it means to be fully present in the garden, to notice the bark and to listen for the birds, we risk losing the greatest gifts of gardening – the awe of life itself and the wonder of our magical connection to everything. To Garden FOR Life is to set the stage for enchantment. It requires a harmonious balance of skill and soulfulness, between work and wonder.

The principle objective is to cultivate life at all levels of the landscape. GardenFORLife gardens are as diverse as the eco-systems they occupy and the gardeners who tend them but they also share many common attributes.

They provide space for pleasing, natural experiences.

They are beautiful and functional.

They maximize native bio-diversity.

They embrace the natural cycle of life.

They minimize footprint.

The appearance can be as wild as a woodland garden or as meticulous as a Japanese garden. The shape and style are up to the garden designer provided they employ native and non-invasive plantings that support the greatest diversity of species.

Gardens are layered from the soil to the canopy in order to provide the largest amount of opportunity for life to flourish. Each layer is designed and organized to become an interdependent plant community and a complete food web. Underground and aquatic life is as important as life above ground and all stages of the lifecycle are allowed to exist within the garden. Most importantly, GardenFORLife gardens are designed to support the harmonious relationship between man and nature by inviting us to reconnect with nature’s splendor. This can be achieved by landscapes that
President’s Projects

GardenFORLife

(continued)

include habitats for wildlife, pollinators and other beneficials while still meeting the needs of the human inhabitants.

Like most sustainable systems, water and carbon are recaptured as much as possible and the soil constantly regenerates itself. Wherever possible, organic methods are used and the system is allowed to dynamically mature over time in order to become a naturally rich, dense eco-system that closely mirrors our local, native ecology.

Join the GardenFORLife Initiative by cultivating life at all levels of your landscape. For more information on this philosophical approach to gardening, go to our website, Instagram or Facebook pages, or tune in to our podcasts on Podbean. Together, we can restore South Carolina’s natural heritage, one garden at a time.

Build a Pollinator Habitat

Fall is the best time to plan and plant a pollinator habitat. Butterfly and bee populations peak before winter and southern migrations draw many others passing through on their way to their winter roost. Gardeners can take stock of which species are most common by creating dense pollinator habitats that include host and nectar plants, leaf mulch and ground-nesting opportunities. Larval host plants such as parsley and dill can be direct-sown and shrubs and spring blooming perennials can be transplanted in time to establish strong roots before winter dormancy.

South Carolina is home to over 165 different species of butterflies, as well as hundreds of moths, bees, wasps, and beetles. Many of the top host plant species are sown this season. Pollinator habitats have the following ingredients:

1. **Leaf Mulch and Compost** - This insures that larva have nesting and over-winter habitat, keeps plants cooler and helps to retain water. As the leaf mulch decomposes, it enriches the soil layer.

2. **Dense Plantings** - The thicker and fuller, the better. Pollinators appreciate multiple plantings placed close together to form communities of plants. This also keeps out unwanted invasives and retains moisture.

3. **Host and Nectar Plants** - The biggest mistake pollinator gardeners make is to only plant nectar plants. Without host plants, you will only attract passersby. The goal is to cultivate a larval nursery. Plant heavily because they will get eaten to the stem.

4. **Meadow Fillers** - Some of the most popular pollinator plants have an understated appearance. These include grasses, mountain mint, Joe Pye weed, boneset, beggarsticks, and clovers. Interspersed among the showstoppers (milkweed, pentas, echinacea, cosmos, zinnias) these complete the meadow effect and provide vital habitat to native bees, lady bugs, lightning bugs and other beneficial insects.

5. **Sun** - Although you can grow pollinator habitats in the shade, full sun is best. Shade gardens are better suited to attract nigh-time pollinators like moths and beetles. Moonflower, four o'clocks, crinums, evening primrose, and many shrubs all offer evening nectar. Try pollinator plants in both areas to maximize your diversity of visitors.
The Power of Federation

The best $8.00 you could spend

Did you know that when you join a federated garden club, you become part of one of the largest non-profit organizations in the world?

The National Garden Club federation is a vast network of nearly 200,000 individual members in over 5000 clubs, in all 50 states and 13 countries. Add to that our 60 national affiliate organizations and 330 international affiliates and you discover our immense federation family, all working as a force for good to educate our membership and make our world more sustainably beautiful.

Federation provides tangible and intangible benefits to every member.

Here are just a few.

YOU

Members are our best asset and the knowledge and relationships that form within our federation are priceless. Young and old, men and women, novice or master, we are some of the kindest, most caring and giving people on the planet and when you join a club, you become a friend for life.

Local Councils

At the local level, federation provides the framework for members to collaborate with other clubs in their area on large community projects, speaker events, and flower shows. It also provides a wealth of educational experts who are willing to present free or low-cost workshops and programs on subjects like gardening, climate change, environmental sustainability, floral design, botanical artistry, wildlife habitats and so much more.

District

South Carolina members belong to one of seven districts. Each district unites the clubs in their area to celebrate local achievements through collaborative projects, district level awards and scholarships.

GCSC

At the state level, members can attend several courses of study, our annual state meeting or convention, as well as our SUMMER EXPO, an all-day educational event free for every member. This year we had 325+ attendees from over 135 clubs enjoy a beautiful day of learning and growing together.

Clubs and Councils are also eligible to apply for up to 50 different state awards, many with monetary prizes and all with bragging rights for a service project well deserved. In addition, clubs may apply for matching grants to
establish, beautify or refurbish Blue/Gold Star Markers which honor our veterans.

Clubs may also apply to become a 501(c)3 under the GCSC Group Exemption and avail themselves of 75+ state chairpersons on important issues and programs.

The state level is where you can really experience the power of our federation. Collectively, we are almost 5000 strong and our voice and our choices make a significant impact on South Carolina. Together we create greenspaces, maintain a memorial garden to honor veterans, support botanical gardens, sponsor Camp Wildwood, provide scholarships and monetary awards to youth. Together we educate the public by the examples we set in our own yards and our own communities. Gardeners trust our guidance and communities appreciate the investment we make in them.

Together we celebrate members’ achievements at our annual awards program.

**SAR**

South Carolina garden club members are part of the South Atlantic Region, a network of clubs from North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. These groups gather once every one or two years to celebrate, honor and educate our members as well as award scholarships to worthy students from our area.

**NGC**

National Garden Club is the hub of the membership wheel and provides organizational oversight and opportunity for collective impact. The “Plant America” initiative asks members to grow a more beautiful and prosperous world, one community at a time. NGC provides grants to assist outstanding projects.

There are programs and projects for every aspect of gardening right at your fingertips on the NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and expert chairpersons to help your programs prosper.

In addition, NGC offers all members the opportunity to attend four schools: Floral Design, Landscape Design, Garden Study, and Environmental Study. These are held several times per year throughout the country and most states offer at least one per year. South Carolina is offering Landscape Design this January followed by Environmental Studies in February.

That’s the power of Federation.
Highway Habitat Initiative
PROJECTED TO START FALL 2020

South Carolina has a rich and diverse ecological heritage worth preserving. The GCSC Civic Development Roadside Beautification Committee is pleased to announce that work to make the Highway Habitat Initiative a reality has a projected start in Fall 2020.

The Highway Habitat Initiative is a GCSC 2019-2021 project dedicated to preserve South Carolina’s native ecological heritage along our highways and byways. In addition to nectar for pollinators native plants will furnish food for their larval stage. The Initiative is similar to the North Carolina Wildflower Program. This 34-year old program owes its start to the Garden Club of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation official who oversees their program advised the best time to seed most perennial spring blooming wildflowers is the first two weeks in October. This is approximately six months prior to anticipated bloom. He also suggested that better results occur when grasses and wildflowers are not managed in the same area. The committee will use this as a timeline to implement the Initiative and hopes it will be up and running in September 2020. The next step will be to meet with the SCDOT head to establish a firm partnership path to move forward.

The committee is confident they are well on the way of fulfilling the goal to beautify our highways and byways in ways that will preserve South Carolina’s ecological heritage, restore its natural beauty and provide critical pollinator habitats along migration corridors.

If you are interested in serving on the Civic Development Roadside Beautification committee, please contact Tonita Perry, committee chair, at tonita_perry@hotmail.com or 704-965-6956.
President’s Projects

Hundred Heroes Campaign

Honoring Gardeners that inspire us to GardenFORLife

Denie Crowder, Chairperson

We are pleased to announce the following Hundred Heros. These people believe in the GardenFORLife philosophy and acknowledge the Hero who introduced them to gardening.

The Hundred Hero campaign has received $3,330 of the $10,000 goal to date. Each nominee will receive a certificate from the Garden Club of South Carolina and the sponsor will receive a thank you letter for the nomination and donation.

There are 23 nominees. They are as follows:

Heros

Sarah Bachman
Bill Bardsley
Russell Bender
Trish Bender
Fannie Miller Gardener
Beatrice Gormley
George Hyams
Betty Jackson
Carolyn King
Sammie Martin
Barbara McCormick

China McSwain Powell
Kristi Reagor
Emmagene Rhodes
Terry Ritchen
Laura Lee Rose
Beth Smoak
Betsy Steele
Emily Stephens
Sara Stone
Mary Eva Wartenberg
Jerry Weise

Sponsors

Sherri Bardsley
Trish Bender
Margaret Blackmer
Linda Bowden
Jan Burch
Sandra Educate
Bender Family
Camelia Garden Club
Betty Jackson
Yvonne Jordan
Carolyn King
Mary Ann Kirby

Sue Lawley
Nancy Newman Limata
Rue Lucas
Goldie Meek
Joyce Moore
Karen Oliver
Mary Reeves
Cynthia Richardson
Betsy Steele
Chris Tertzagian
Kay Williams

http://www.gardenclubofsc.org/hundred-heroes-campaign/
Plant a Native Tree this Arbor Day, December 6, 2019

**Why Plant a Tree?** Trees help clean our air by removing pollution; contribute to our health by reducing stress; provide us with oxygen, through photosynthesis; reduce soil erosion; help clean our drinking water via forested watersheds; reduce the effects of climate change by absorbing CO2 for photosynthesis and storing much of the carbon that is produced; provide cooling via evapotranspiration; reduce energy costs by providing shade; provide vital habitat to wildlife; reduce crime (more trees, less crime); provide a good investment for communities via community trees; and increase our property values. When you plant a tree you are giving a gift to our children!

**Why plant a native tree?** Natives trees are adapted to the climate, soil and hydrology of their native natural environment. They are low maintenance, and once established natives will thrive. They are water saving, usually have fewer diseases, and are much better than exotic trees in promoting native wildlife. This last item needs elaboration. Scientists warn that we are facing a crisis - the loss of biodiversity. We are destroying natural habitats in so many ways and in an accelerated fashion that as much as one-fifth of the world’s biodiversity may be lost by the year 2100. In his book, Bringing Nature Home, Doug Tallamy makes a compelling argument that the plants and animals around us produce the life support we all depend on, they literally sustain us ([bringinnaturehome.net](http://bringingnaturehome.net)). What can we do? Plant native species. They are much better than exotic species in supporting biodiversity, including pollinators and complex food webs.

Large Tree: *Southern Red Oak* 60-80 ft h 60-70 ft w, acidic soil, nice texture, lives well in cities, fruit attracts wildlife, no significant litter.

Medium Tree: *Carolina Silver Bell* 20-40ft h 15-30 ft w, grows in part sun has showy white blooms in spring.

Small Tree: *Carolina Fringetree* to 35 ft, acidic soil, urban tolerant, beautiful showy white blooms in spring, fruits attract birds.

Learn more at the Arbor Day Foundation website: [www.arborday.org/trees/treefacts/](http://www.arborday.org/trees/treefacts/)
Awards
Mary Reeves, Chairman

GCSC, SAR and NGC Awards Deadline: December 10th

GCSC State Awards
Submit to State Awards Chairman Mary Reeves, MaryReevesGCSC@gmail.com

Special State Awards
  Garden For Life Pollinator Award - $150
  SC Native Plant of the Year Award - $100
  Chairman Yvonne Morris ymorris@wetel.net
  Juried Art Contest Theme is ‘Garden For Life’
  Chairman Joy Salter joylsalter@gmail.com

NEW GCSC Awards
  #8 Hundred Heroes Campaign Recognition Award
  #27 Growing Youth Gardeners Club Award $50

Youth Awards - Deadline December 15
  Chairman Sandra Barker sandrabarker13@yahoo.com
  Youth Poetry Contest
  Youth Poster Contest - Smokey The Bear / Woodsy Owl
  Recyclable Sculpture Contest

High School Essay Contest Deadline November 15th
  Chairman Elaine Wade wadeelaine@gmail.com

SAR Special Project -
  "..to Improve Our Communities Through Youth Involvement and Reclaiming Unusable Spaces" southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

NGC Plant America www.gardenclub.org
NGC Winning Awards 2019

Certificates of Merit:

#PUB 2-6 (aiv) Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit, Calendar; Extra-Large Club- “Art in Bloom” – **The Columbia Garden Club**

#PUB 2-8 (aii) Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit, Other Publication; Medium Club “Nesbitt Shoals Park Nature Book” **Upsy-Daisy Garden Club**

#FS-1 Club Standard Flower Show (Purple Rosette Ribbon) “Preserving the Secret Garden”- **Greenville Garden Club**

#FS-14 Council Standard Flower Show (Pink Rosette Ribbon) “A New Beginning” – **Council of Garden Clubs of Greater Charleston**

Certificates of Commendation:

#H-P-2 (aiv) Decoration of an Historic Building- First Place- **The Columbia Garden Club**

#NPW-2 (aii) Civic Project with Native Plants- Runner-up $350 **Lady Slipper Garden Club**

#CB-2 (ai) Community Beautification- First Place- **Driftwood Garden Club**

#CB-2 (av) Community Beautification- First Place- **Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs**

#CS-2 (bii) Kellogg Civic Achievement- First Place- **North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs**

#CS-2 (biv) Kellogg Civic Achievement- First Place- **Greenville Council of Garden Clubs**

#CS-5 (ai) Special Achievement- First Place- **Yellow Jessamine Garden Club**

#CS-5 (aii) Special Achievement- First Place- **Lady Slipper Garden Club**

#CS-5 (aiv) Special Achievement- First Place- **The Garden Club of Charleston**

#CS-5 (bv) Special Achievement- First Place- **Council of Garden Clubs of Greater Charleston**

#EC-1 (b) The Lucile Droegue Mauntel Conservation Award - First Place- **Greenville Council of Garden Clubs**

#EC-3 (ai) The Hazel Johnson Award for Conservation Education- First Place - **Bay Blossom Garden Club**

#EC-4 (ai) The Nannine C. Wallis Award for Birds- First Place- **Driftwood Garden Club**

#FD-2 (ai) Floral Design Program- First Place- **Sunshine Garden Club**

#FD-2 (aiv) Floral Design Program- First Place- **Columbia Garden Club**
NGC Winning Awards 2019

#G-3 (ai) Therapy Gardens-
First Place- **Magnolia Garden Club of Johns Island**

#G-3 (aiv) Therapy Gardens-
First Place- **The Garden Club of Charleston**

#HP-2 (ai) Decoration of an Historic Building-
First Place- **Town and Village Garden Club**

#HP-2 (aii) Decoration of an Historic Building-
First Place- **McCormick Garden Club**

#HP-2 (bv) Decoration of an Historic Building-
First Place- **Greenville Council of Garden Clubs**

#L-4 (a)ii The Doctor William C. Welch Landscape Award-
First Place- **Lady Slipper Garden Club**

#MP-2 (a)ii National Garden Week-
First Place- **Azalea Garden Club of Manning**

#MP-2 (bv) National Garden Week-
First Place- **Greer Council of Garden Clubs**

Certificates of Appreciation:

#PUB 1-4 (c)iii Newsletter 24 + pages- “The South Carolina Gardener” The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

Yearbook Awards:

#YB-1 (under 20 members)- First Place- **Palmetto Garden Club**

#YB-1 (70-99 members)- First Place- **Lake and Hills Garden Club**

#YB-1 (100-299 members)- First Place- **The Columbia Garden Club**

#YB-1 (more than 300 members)- First Place- **The Garden Club of Charleston**

Youth Awards:

NGC Youth Poetry Contest “Pop Goes The Seed”- Collected in Nature’s Magic Show- An Anthology of Poems- First Place Grade 7- Sarah Elizabeth McLeod, Sponsor: St. Matthews Garden Club

NGC Youth Poetry Contest “Pop Goes The Seed”- Collected in Nature’s Magic Show- An Anthology of Poems- First Place Grade 9- Sage Coon, Sponsor: The Yellow Jessamine Garden Club

First Friday Conference Call
Especially for Club Presidents and Officers
2-3 pm 1st Friday of the Month
Hosted by Trish Bender, GCSC Board and Chairmen
Topics: Membership, President’s Projects, Awards, Grants and more!
Dates: Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar 6, Apr. 3, May 1
(515) 604-9300 Code 942735
SAR Winning Awards 2019

SAR#1 Arbor Day Tree Planting/Activities
Sponsor: Geneva Hunt
Over All Winner - SAR#1ii BLUE- Lancaster GC, SC
(Tie) SAR#1i BLUE-Driftwood GC, North Myrtle Beach, SC
AND Chapin GC, Chapin, SC

SAR#2 Bird Protection
Sponsor: Betty Gorrie
Over All Winner - SAR #2ii BLUE- Clarice Wilson GC, Greenville, SC

SAR#3 Protecting Our Pollinators
Sponsor: Bud Qualk
Over All Winner - SAR #3iv BLUE- Garden Club of Charleston, SC
SAR #3ii BLUE- Gardening on the Cay GC, Tega Cay SC
SAR #3iii BLUE- Lake and Hills GC, Salem, SC

SAR#4 Community Beautification/Landscape Design
Sponsor: Marty Bowers
Over All Winner - SAR#4ii BLUE -Lady Slipper GC, Spartanburg, SC
SAR #4iv BLUE- Greenville Council of Garden Clubs, Greenville, SC

SAR#5 Environmental/Conservation
Sponsor: Charlotte Croft
Over All Winner - SAR#5iii BLUE- Lake and Hills GC, Salem, SC
SAR#5i BLUE- Bay Blossom GC, Columbia, SC
SAR#5ii BLUE- Azalea GC of Marion, Marion, SC
SAR#5iv BLUE- Greenville Council of Garden Clubs, Greenville, SC

SAR#6 Garden Therapy/Healing Garden
Sponsor: Lea Ann Terrell
Over All Winner - SAR#6ii BLUE- Lady Slipper GC, Spartanburg, SC
SAR#6i BLUE- Magnolia GC OF John’s Island, SC
SAR#6iv BLUE -The Garden Club OF Charleston SC, Charleston, SC

SAR#7 Garden Therapy Horticulture Project
Sponsor: Karen Prewitt
SAR#7ii BLUE - Gardening on the Cay GC, Tega Cay SC

SAR#11 National Garden Week
Sponsor: Mary Lou Goodman
SAR#11B BLUE -Greer Council of Garden Clubs, Greer, SC

SAR#12 Programs
Sponsor: Dorothy Richardson
Over All Winner - SAR#12Bi BLUE- Magnolia GC of John’s Island, SC
SAR#Biv BLUE - Columbia GC, Columbia, SC

SAR#13 Public Relations
Sponsor: Loy Holt
Over All Winner - SAR#13ii BLUE -Magnolia GC of John’s Island, SC

SAR# 17 “Plant It Pink”
Sponsor: Carolyn Patterson
SAR#17iii BLUE- The Avid Gardeners GC, Hilton Head Island, SC
SAR#17iv BLUE- The Garden Club of Charleston, Charleston, SC
SAR Winning Awards 2019

(Continued)

SAR# 18 “VISION OF BEAUTY” Calendar Sales
Sponsor: Val Storie
SAR#18iv BLUE - The Garden Club of Charleston, Charleston, SC

SAR#22 WEBSITE
Sponsor: Teresa Langley
Over All Winner – SAR#22i BLUE - Magnolia GC of John’s Island, SC
SAR#22iii BLUE - The Avid Gardeners GC, Hilton Head Island, SC

SAR#26 YEARBOOKS
Sponsor: Marilyn Wright
Over All Winner – SAR#26YB-1-1 BLUE - Palmetto GC, Denmark, SC
SAR#26YB-1-5 BLUE - Lake and Hills GC, Salem, SC
SAR#26YB-1-6 BLUE- Columbia GC, Columbia, SC
SAR#26YB-1-7 BLUE -The Garden Club of Charleston, Charleston, SC

SAR#29 YOUTH CLUB AWARD
Sponsor: Sharon Jones
Over All Winner - SAR#28i BLUE- Yaupon GC, North Myrtle Beach, SC
SAR#28iii BLUE - The Avid Gardeners GC, Hilton Head Island, SC
SAR#28iv BLUE - The Garden Club of Charleston, Charleston, SC

SAR#30 NGC YOUTH POETRY
Sponsor: SAR
7th Grade- Sarah Elizabeth McLeod, St. Matthews GC, St Matthews, SC
9th Grade- Sage Coon, The Yellow Jessamine GC, Dillon, SC

SAR# 34 SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION SPECIAL PROJECT
Sponsor: Judy Barnes, SAR Director
Upsy Daisy GC, Spartanburg, SC

Register your camper for Camp Wildwood 2020.
https://www.campwildwoodsc.com/reg1

Thank you Garden Club of South Carolina!!! We love Camp Wildwood. #Campwildwoodsc2019
Memorial Garden
Memorial Garden Veteran’s Outreach Program
Peggy Little Chairman

Honor your veteran with our Memorial Garden Brick

Are you looking for a permanent, heartfelt way to memorialize or honor someone who previously served or presently serves as a member of the armed forces? Tribute pavers not only serve as a celebration of friends and family, but also provide building blocks for our future, helping to ensure that The GCSC Memorial Garden will continue to provide a place of dignity and serenity for the citizens of South Carolina, our community, and all who enter its gates.

Please donate an engraved paver to honor a family member or loved one in his or her memory or honor. Your donation will become a part of the Memorial Garden’s history for years to come. The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) corporation; therefore, all donations are tax deductible.

As dues-paying members of the Garden Club of South Carolina are aware, the GCSC rents the Memorial Garden for weddings and special occasions in order to provide an additional source of revenue, helping to sustain this solely-owned property of GCSC, Inc.

After the monumental task of engineering a drainage system and ensuring the life of the sod in the garden was completed (2019), it was evident that a permanent platform for positioning wedding party members would encourage rentals, and provide stability to venue

Photo © 2014 Schertz Veterans Plaza

Sketch showing paver location by Rebecca Looney, Architect

PLEASE CONSIDER NAMING THE GCSC MEMORIAL GARDEN IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.
participants. The continuation of Landscape Architect, Rebecca Looney, of Columbia, as lead consultant to this project assures us the same high standard of workmanship implemented during this most recent project.

The newly-presented opportunity of the Veteran’s Paver Project brings to mind the true meaning of Memorial Garden, and provides the community the opportunity to remember veterans of all wars. Remembering family members by purchasing these pavers allows the names of veterans to be “front and center” for many years to come. Of course, the sooner you return your check made payable to GCSC, along with your order form, the better chance for select placement will be.

Questions? Contact Peggy Little: 803.577.8599, email peggytlittle@comporium.net
Please mail contribution checks (made payable to GCSC Memorial Garden) to Peggy Little, 1241 Bradford Drive, Lancaster, SC 29720.


Thank you, in advance, for your contribution.

Mary Rogers McMaster and Sam Herskovitz recite their vows in the Memorial Garden. Photo courtesy of Columbia Metropolitan magazine. Photographer: MCG Photography
How many people does it take to decorate our State Christmas tree??

The tree, focal point of the annual Carolighting celebration, is a gift from The Columbia Garden Club with the Garden Club of South Carolina as a major sponsor. Additional in-kind sponsors are Timbertech Inc. of Greer, and Dominion Energy.

The 34-foot Concolor Fir chosen in May will arrive in November. The crew from Timbertech, a Tree Management company, will transport and deliver the tree to the State House grounds by truck. The tree is placed in a permanent stand installed on the grounds in 2006 by The Columbia Garden Club. The Timbertech crane lifts the tree from the truck and sets it in place. Small trees are placed beneath the “giant” tree to fill the empty spaces. The tree is sprayed and treated with a preservative to help it last through the holiday season.

Then, the trusted warriors of our electric company and their “cherry picker” bucket trucks move in! With the assistance of members of The Columbia Garden Club, lights and ornaments are put on the tree. The 11,000 LED lights may require as many as four trucks, and many men managing the trucks and strings of lights. Meanwhile, numerous members of the garden club unpack, repair and prepare the lights and hundreds of oversized ornaments that are placed in bins to go up in the truck buckets. Often a member of the club will go in the bucket to assist in the placement of the ornaments. “Directors” from The Columbia Garden Club guide the placement of every ornament from the ground! Finally, the giant decorated gift boxes are put in place at the base of the tree.

The Carolighting program is planned by a committee and hosted by our Governor with a number of local schools, choirs and talent participating. Everyone now awaits the exciting and dramatic evening of lighting the tree.
Environmental Studies School  SC Series 1  2020-2021

Course 1 South Carolina Botanical Garden, Clemson SC
February 6-7, 2020  10 hours including 2-hour field trip

First of a series of 4 courses over the next 2 years. Locations are planned across the state.
Check the NGC website Schools Handbook for more information
Reference Books: Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy and
Living in the Environment by G. Tyler Miller available on Amazon

Join us for ESS and register for the Greenville County Master Gardener Symposium on February 8, 2020 to hear keynote speaker Douglas Tallamy as he introduces his newest book.

Chair: Karen Allen, saludalake21@aol.com

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A great adventure awaits as we share the warmth and beauty of Greenville, a jewel of a city situated in the Foothills region of South Carolina. We’ll gather to honor our South Atlantic Regional Director and National Garden Club President as well as attend fun and educational garden club events.

One of the highlights of the Convention will be a Tea and Garden Tour where we will honor our special guests Carolyn McCafferty, SAR Director, and Gay Austin, NGC President. The event will be held at the historic Kilgore-Lewis House which was built in the 1830’s and is headquarters for the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. The lovely grounds surrounding the house include an accredited Arboretum and Garden habitat. There will also be an optional downtown garden tour featuring two additional gardens with a SC Master Gardener who will be your guide to narrate and answer questions.

The convention will provide you the opportunity to attend many garden club events such as these must-see programs:

“From the Mountains to the Seashore” program, highlighting South Carolina and presented by Members of Dimensions in Art, a SC Design Study Group.

Special Presentation by Dr. Patrick McMillan, Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden and recipient of the National Garden Club 2019 Award of Excellence.

The Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center, located at 670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 29607 (864-676-9090). We have a special room rate of $139+ tax which includes breakfast, evening drinks, hors d’oeuvres and free parking. This special block of rooms is limited, so please make your hotel reservations early.


Or for phone reservations call 1-800-218-8712; our Group Name is SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION 2020.

We look forward to seeing each of you as we welcome Spring to the upstate of South Carolina.
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Thursday, June 18 – Tuesday, June 23, 2020

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Newport Tour led by “Mrs. Astor”
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Private tour at Heritage Museum & Gardens, North America’s Hydrangea Test Garden
Wine tasting at a Newport vineyard | Sail aboard a 19th c.-style Schooner
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Contact: Joyce Moore, Garden Tour Chair, 864.270.5033
newportgardentour2020@gmail.com
District News

Mark your Calendars and
Make your plans to attend our Spring District Meetings!

Workshops ~ Amazing keynote speakers ~ Local Vendors
Meet the GCSC President, Trish Bender

Coastal: Thursday, Mar 12, 2020
Kingstree, SC
Contact: David Stoudenmire, Chairperson
843-756-6280, 843-333-9642
codirectorcoastaldistrictgcsc@gmail.com

East Low Country: Wednesday, March 11 2020
Clark’s Inn and Restaurant
8920 Old Number Six Highway, Santee, SC
Contact: Susan Shuler, Chairperson
803-496-7690  ~~ scsshuler@yahoo.com

East Piedmont: Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Van Wyck Presbyterian Church
5140 Old Hickory Rd, Lancaster, DSC
Contact: Pat Clancy, Chairperson
803-286-0133  ~~ owlsgreat@yahoo.com

East Sandhills: Thursday, March 26, 2020
Darlington Country Club, Darlington, SC
Contact: Linda Gremillion Beckham
843-615-8287  ~~ lindagremillion@gmail.com
Linda Howle
843-616-2561  ~~ howlelinda@yahoo.com

West Low Country: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 ~
“Bee a Friend to Pollinators”
Open Arms Church
Hampton, SC
Contact: Nancy Karl, District Director
803-649-7906  ~~ nancymkarl@yahoo.com

West Piedmont: Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Tucker’s Restaurant
Anderson, SC
Contact: Joy Tillerson
864-304-9619 (c)  ~~ 864-260-0019 (h)  ~~ mjtillir@bellsouth.net

West Sandhills: Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Hats off to the gardeners and wannabes and those who appreciate garden design and art at the 2nd Annual Driftwood Garden Tour held on Saturday, June 1st. The 2019 self-guided tour featured 10 gardens in the North Myrtle Beach and Little River area. For the second year, La Belle Amie Vineyard and the North Myrtle Beach Historical Museum participated in the Tour. Roughly 100 tour-goers, including members of several Garden Clubs throughout the Coastal District, were treated to delightful and unique pollinator and succulent gardens, native plants, vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, colorful potted plants, shade plants, garden art, and natural wildlife habitats. Giant Leopard Plants (Farfugium, also known as Tractor Seat Plants) were a big hit at the Tidewater homes on Tour. Various hues of Hydrangea in full bloom graced many of the garden beds. Driftwood members handcrafted containers and filled them with pollinator plants to complement each garden on the Tour.

Ticket and garden art proceeds benefit the Driftwood GC’s civic beautification projects. Driftwood is most appreciative of the community support including that of the North Myrtle Beach Times, and Tour sponsors Buds & Blooms Florist, Carolina Greenery, Eagles Nest Golf Club, Elliott Realty, Home Depot, Little Nursery Farm, and Plants Direct. Congratulations to Brenda Stroup, a member of the Georgetown Garden Club, who won the gift basket.
community. According to the NGC, National Garden Week is “an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.” Driftwood’s 2019 National Garden Week theme was “Hats Off to a Southern Garden.”

Between Memorial Day and June 2, handcrafted wreaths were placed at the eight (8) Blue Star Memorial Markers purchased and maintained by Driftwood. The Markers honor the men and women of our past, present and future armed forces.

**Loris Garden Club**

Submitted by Sherry Quick

The Loris Garden Club held its First Annual Luncheon and Auction on Saturday, March 30, 2019. The club membership had determined that this event’s proceeds would be dedicated to this club’s major project “The Thelma Suggs Butterfly Garden at the Blue Star Memorial”. This project is being done in loving memory of charter member and Loris Garden Club’s First President, Thelma Suggs (Mrs. J.R.). Not only was, Mrs. Suggs active in our local club but she served as Coastal District Director and on the State Board of the Garden Club of South Carolina.

Under the leadership of the “Special Projects” Committee, a vision was presented to the entire membership of raising the necessary funds for this major entrance into the City of Loris. This would serve as a focal point to citizens and visitors alike to honor this gracious lady who meant so much to our town. The committee helped to articulate that along with honoring this individual, our club would be enhancing the beauty of Loris through this project located on the Main Street grounds of the American Legion Post.

Through teamwork our members had the opportunity to bond, learn new things, work hard, and have fun all at the same time, while achieving the goal. An added benefit realized was the 100% buy-in of our membership agreeing and carrying out the scope of work.

The members stretched their comfort zone through selling tickets and soliciting gifts and items for the auction from individuals and a supportive business community. Everyone accepted the challenge to design “their”
themed tablescape which included the selection and placement of china, crystal, and silver. Each table setting was highlighted by a centerpiece designed by our members that was auctioned at the conclusion of the luncheon. Good natured competition and rivalry ensued, while at the same time working for “Our Team” – Loris Garden Club. Over one hundred guests from throughout our community were delighted to be served personally by each member.

At the end of the day, with many smiles, Loris Garden Club bid our guests good-bye, cleaned up the Pleasant Meadow Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, and hugged each other as we left and anxiously awaited the financial report of the project. In order to completely re-design the landscaping at the Blue Star Memorial Marker, our membership agreed that we will install water, irrigation, electricity, lighting, raise the planting bed, brick the design area, refurbish the Blue Star marker, provide seating, place memorial stone, and landscape with appropriate plants to attract butterflies.

Loris Garden Club is pleased to announce that the financial goal set for this project was met and exceeded. The project’s infrastructure phase has officially begun, and a tentative completion date established to coincide with the local Loris Bog-Off Festival in October. The formal dedication will be held after all work is completed and Mrs. Suggs’ two children, Mrs. Babb Fowler and Mr. Johnny Suggs, will be invited to the ceremony as special guests to celebrate their mother’s legacy.

The Second Annual Loris Garden Club Luncheon and Auction will be held Saturday, March 28, 2020 at McLeod Loris Center for Health and Fitness. Discussion has begun on the next major project that this luncheon/auction will fund.
Azalea Garden Club - Manning
Submitted by Wanda Johnson

The members of the Azalea Garden Club of Manning celebrated National Garden Club Week by doing what they do best – sharing the joy of local floral beauty with the surrounding community. In preparation for the event, members gathered unused containers and identified, from their own gardens and those of their neighbors, in-season blooms and conditioned greenery.

On the day of the event, the members brought together the items collected and combined their creative talents to produce thirty-nine unique arrangements, each of which was personally delivered by a member to various governmental offices, schools, and other highly trafficked hubs of the community, including the local nursing homes. The members who participated agreed that the true reward was the ability to share the joy of gardening with the community in which we serve. This annual project is a component of the Club’s action plan to implement its mission of encouraging pride in the community through sharing the beauty of gardening. The event was highlighted in the local newspaper.

Pink Dogwood Garden Club
Submitted by Peter Groen

Over this past year the Pink Dogwood Garden Club in Summerton continued to develop and enhance its web site at summertongarden.cositech.net and its Pink Dogwood Garden Club Online Weekly News site. And of course, we maintain a Facebook page and links to the SC Garden Club and other key sites. These might be of interest to other SC garden clubs as they migrate online.
A beautiful creek-side setting combined with a delicious catered lunch provided the perfect occasion to wind up the year for Riverland Terrace Garden Club on May 7, 2019.

Club members gathered at the Riverland Terrace home of Barbara McCormick for lunch on the back porch, cooled by breezes from Wappoo Creek. After the lunch prepared by Hamby Catering, new officers for 2019-2021 were installed and presented with nosegays: Sandee Bauer, president; Lynn Bartosh, second vice president; Maureen Morrissette, first vice president; Kathryn Peevy, treasurer, and Gwen Corinth, secretary.

Sandee Bauer gave her president’s report listing the year's accomplishments including 54+ ribbons for club members' entries in the Fall Flower Show, the installation of our own member Trish Bender as Garden Club of South Carolina president for 2019-2021 at the state meeting April 17 in Beaufort SC, a first-place award from GCSC for the RTGC 2018-2019 yearbook, and new club activities including White Elephant Sale and garden glove sale fundraisers at meetings, two dining out fundraisers at Maybank Public House in Riverland Terrace and a November food drive for James Island Outreach.

Planning is underway for a Holiday House Tour of five Riverland Terrace homes decorated for the season by garden club members and set for Saturday, December 14. The tour will include a holiday boutique market and festive refreshments at Bethany United Methodist Church.

Other goals for 2019-2020 include increasing club involvement with the McLeod Plantation garden project led by Glenda Owens and also more participation in the Fall Flower Show.
Town and Village Garden Club
Submitted by Linda Smith

The small but dynamic Town and Village GC located in the town of Moncks Corner and Village of Pinopolis continues to thrive thanks to the 3 R’s – Recognition, Retention, and Recruitment. Working with the community, the garden club has made its presence known. The club’s signs and business cards follow members wherever they go. Whether it’s making sheep from plant material for the Mepkin Abbey Crèche Festival, doing centerpieces for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Survivor’s Banquet, or giving away free plants at its annual National Garden Week Plant Giveaway, members take the opportunity to make the club known and recruit new members. Many of these new members are retirees who have recently relocated to this area.

One of the club’s most effective projects is monthly floral arrangements displayed at the local public library. Seasonal exhibits make it fun for many of the club’s creative floral designers. The arrangements are on view at the library entrance so no one can miss them – or the club info.

The club’s leadership works diligently every year to offer programs and projects that will appeal to all members, the backyard “diggers” and the designers. Programs featuring beekeepers to biologists also address wildlife, their habitats and other environmental concerns. Field trips, plant exchanges and monthly raffles have boosted meeting attendance and project participation.

Members enjoy a number of projects, including flower shows, co-op gardens and school fairs. Amazingly, two huge fundraisers, a fall and spring bake sale, and every other year a yard sale, support these projects and more.
Gardening on the Cay
Submitted by Nancy Stone

Gardening on the Cay, which covers Tega Cay and Fort Mill, has been busy as bees this spring. We are pleased to share the news that we completed and dedicated a Carolina Fence Garden on the campus of Riverview Elementary School located on Spratt Street in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Site Plans were presented to our membership along with the committees’ planned sponsorship strategy to offset the costs and the club voted to pay the balance. We solicited the donation of goods and services from local businesses and offered sponsorship levels for club members, school neighbors and local businesses.

This project began almost a year ago when we contacted the Principal of RVES, Ms. Annette Chinchilla, to introduce her to our club’s idea for a Carolina Fence Garden as a feature for the main entrance area of the school. We introduced Ms. Chinchilla to our designated landscaper and the conversations began in earnest. After numerous meetings the project came together quickly over spring break when everything fell into place to get the site ready for this beautiful garden. With the coordination of donated goods and services, heavy equipment, the availability of our landscaper and enthusiastic club members we were on our way to fulfilling a dream for the students and faculty of RVES.

In just three days we cleared the area, spread yards of top soil, installed our split rail fence, Wren bird houses and the South Carolina State Stone, blue granite. These components were fully enhanced with the presence of two mature trees which we incorporated into our design along with the planting of Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed-late Spring/Summer, Orange-larval); Monarda didyma (Bee Balm-Summer, Red or Purple-nectar); Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower, Summer-nectar); Phlox subulata (Creeping or Ground Phlox, Spring, Pink-Purple); Sedum “Autumn Joy” (pink, Summer, nectar, covere); Lantana Carmara (Mozelle,
Spring to Fall, yellow/orange-nectar); Carolina Jessamine (Spring, Yellow, Nectar) DO NOT EAT-USE CAUTION; Buddleia davidii (Butterfly Bush, Royal Red and White Alba-nectar); Shasta Daisy; Stella D'Oro Daylily; Brown Eyed Susan; Bee Balm.

Club members were on site during the installation and helped plan and attend the dedication of the garden at the end of the school year. At the request of the Principal the dedication was made in “Loving Memory of Vaughan Christenbury” a beloved member of the teaching staff who passed in 2018. Over 80 individuals were present for the dedication and RVES staff each placed a hand painted stone around the garden in memory of Vaughan Christenbury.

The garden is registered and certified as a National Wildlife Federation School house Habitat; Certified as a Carolina Fence Garden.

Spartanburg Garden Club Council hosted a fund raiser dinner May 2, 2019 at the Twin Lakes Club House. Dinner table designs were created by garden club members. Here are a few of the table settings:

**Summer Seaside**

**Colorful Summer Garden**

**Christmas Excitement**

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Darlington Garden Club  
Submitted by Samantha Lyles

Members of the Darlington Garden Club and guests shared lunch, laughs, and a little friendly competition at the annual Card Day fundraiser, held last week in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church. This special day marked the 70th Anniversary of the Darlington Garden Club, and marked the introduction of the Club’s first state-level officer as Linda Howle stepped up to become 1st Vice President of the Garden Club of South Carolina. The Card Day party included spirited rounds of card and board games, an auction featuring original artwork, plant-themed gifts and many unique items, and a buffet lunch.

Photo (Left): Card Day Auction

Group photo: (from left) The Darlington Garden Club’s Laura Burns, Linda Beckham, Linda Howle, and Lou Kirchen
West Low Country
District Director: Nancy Karl
Co-Director: Kathy New

Garden Club of Aiken
Submitted by Nancy Karl

The Dollhouse is in the Hopelands Gardens of Aiken. Christmas, the Garden Club of Aiken decorates the entire Dollhouse. It is among the many seasonal decorations including an impressive show of Christmas lights.

That’s District Director Nancy Karl in the Bee suit.

West Piedmont District
District Director: Dee LeMay
Co-Director: Lorraine Gerhart

Camellia Garden Club of Greer
Submitted by Camellia Ploof

Garden Club members are more than just gardeners but are also assets to their communities. Rose Marie Jordan, a Camellia Garden Club of Greer member, was recently honored by the Mayor of Greer, Honorable Rick Danner, with a proclamation recognizing her for her years of service to the Greer Community. Rose Marie is responsible for having 43 buildings in Greer added to the National Register of Historic Places including the old Post Office (now home to the Greer Cultural Museum), the Greer Depot, and the entire Trade Street downtown District. The Mayor’s proclamation described her as “an accomplished musician, historian, longtime
member of the Camellia Garden Club, and published author.” She was also honored with a luncheon by several of her garden club members and friends at the Bleu Porch in Greer where a room is named in her honor.

**McCormick Garden Club**
Submitted by: Mary Anne Linsenmayer

The McCormick Garden Club topped off its 70th Anniversary celebration with a festive luncheon meeting hosted by Denise Olson at her home on Lake Thurmond and assisted by garden club members Linda Baker, Teresa Fouch, Becky Ruffner, Dale Gray, Susan Miller, and Charlotte Tallent.

The successful completion of the “Splendor in the Garden” tour of local gardens in May and the Christmas Tour of the Historic Dorn House in December that won not only a state award but also a national award were celebrated and new officers were installed after a scrumptious lunch with elegant table settings was held outside with a marvelous view of the lake. Terry Wiley, outgoing president, conducted the ceremony installing Paula Palaima as president, Bev Malenka as vice president, Phyllis Roth as secretary, Krista Sprague as treasurer, and Terry as historian.

Garden club members are anticipating an exciting year with a variety of interesting programs. We will have landscape design presented by an expert in horticulture and landscape design, a workshop making a flower arrangement by our very own and very talented member Karen Torrey who presented a very popular one two years ago, a presentation about the Savannah Lakes Bluebird Club by President Jack Becker, our Fire Chief and honeybee keeper will speak to us about beekeeping, and our treasurer Krista Sprague, a landscape designer, will talk to us and give us tips about container gardening.
As we start our new year the club is busily making plans for decorating the Dorn House again this year as a part of the town of McCormick’s Holidays on Main celebration in December. It will not be easy to compete with last year’s effort that won the club the state and national awards but the teams are ready to go! In addition to that project plans for a spring garden tour are underway.

Unit One Garden Club
Submitted by Charlotte Cabri

Unit One and families grow together

When Unit One Garden Club agreed to sponsor and staff a planting booth at Family Fun Day, little did the members realize that they would have as much fun as the children and parents attending the event at Greenwood’s Magnolia Park.

Sponsored by Greenwood Diversity Group in conjunction with the South Carolina Festival of Flowers, Family Fun Day was all about building community, and it was accomplished through the volunteer efforts of gardeners, musicians, puppeteers, poets, artists and naturalists.

At Unit One’s Get Growing booth, President Sharlene Greene, dressed in a sunflower suit, welcomed youngsters and adults to pot up free polka dot plants. Members Susie Aufderheide, Connie Carstens, Eleanor Teal, Barbara Reeves and Sharon Westbrook dispensed smiles and information on soil, sun and water needed for the plants.

Assessing the event, Greene said, “I had so much fun. It was nice to be with everyone in a great community service environment. Really think that we may have just taught some folks, big and little, something about planting.”

Aufderheide said, “I think that the thread that unites gardeners is knowing that God provides us with the raw materials and He’s happy when we share them.”

Carstens added, “I felt so good, being with like-minded women, giving to the community. I will do it again next year.”
District News

West Piedmont District (Continued)
District Director: Dee LeMay
Co-Director: Lorraine Gerhart

Knowing Unit One’s commitment to community service, Unit One member Charlotte Cabri, who is also a Greenwood Diversity member, invited the club to sponsor a booth at Family Fun Day.

“The club’s support and enthusiasm were phenomenal,” said Cabri. “The members have truly set a high standard for service.”

Other Unit One projects have included decorating historic Cokesbury College for Christmas open house, planting boxwoods at Cokesbury, garden therapy at National Health Care and making wreaths for the annual Hospice fundraiser.

West Sandhills
District Director: Kay Williams
Co-Director: Karen Galloway

Camden Garden Club - Blue Star Memorial Marker
Submitted by Diane Wenman

When you read “Blue Star Memorial” what do you think of? My thoughts immediately go to the Blue Star Memorial Highway that I drove on through the mountains of North Carolina many years ago but I had no idea what the name stood for. Actually, the Blue Star Memorial (Marker which is found in many states) began in 1944 when the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs planted 8,000 dogwood trees as a living memorial to the veterans who served in World War II.

In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the Continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii! A large metal Blue Star Memorial Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way. What we see today is a program that has expanded to include all the men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the armed forces of the United States. Later, National cemeteries, Veteran’s facilities, parks and gardens were included in the
District News
West Sandhills (Continued)
District Director: Kay Williams
Co-Director: Karen Galloway

Memorial Marker system.

We are lucky to have two such markers in Camden. One is in Hampton Park along DeKalb. It is one of the original Markers with wording that says “World War II” and the sixth Marker erected in South Carolina. The other one is at the Rest Area on Route 20 going east between Exits 92 and 98. We found out that the Camden Garden Club is responsible for the upkeep of these Camden Markers! This was disquieting since the Rest Area Memorial Marker was in terrible disrepair. (see “before” photo).

Fortunately our President Wendy Zemkie found Tom Stellings of “Historical Marker Restoration” and thanks to our Treasury and (hopefully) a grant from the state Garden Club of South Carolina, the Rest Area Marker is once again a beautiful sight to behold (see “after” photo). The Marker in Hampton Park will have to be restored in a few years but is acceptable at present. Notice the red spot in the center. It’s not rust. It stands for the blood spilled during WWII.

We hope to get the city and perhaps the American Legion to contribute to the Hampton Park Marker restoration when the time comes. This is a very significant and sacred memorial to those who have fought for our freedom!

On June 3, 2019 as noted above, Tom Stellings did some research and found that the Hampton Park original marker was the sixth such memorial to be erected in SC. On this date the American Legion honored the Camden Garden Club with a plaque thanking us for the restoration! Our President thanked them for their service.

Chapin Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Award
Submitted by Cindy Chin

Chapin Garden Club has worked approximately two years to develop a Bluebird Trail in Chapin. The project was first introduced to club members
in August 2017 when, then President Cindy Chin, presented the idea to the club.

Since that time, club members have worked to generate community involvement and educate themselves and the community about bluebird habits and what it takes to develop a successful bluebird trail. The trail began as a true “community” trail with over 3 dozen new nesting boxes being placed in area backyards during 2018. In early 2019 Cindy, as Project Chair, approached Chapin Mayor David Knight and Chapin Town Council about the possibility of placing a trail directly behind Town Hall on an open expanse of property which will one day become a town park. Mayor Knight readily agreed.

Funds to purchase 5 nesting box kits were donated by 6 individuals from the community and the trail became a reality on May 20. The club hosted a dedication ceremony at Chapin Town Hall on Thursday July 11. The event attracted Chapin residents (ranging in ages from ages 2 – 82), local dignitaries, and area wildlife and habitat experts. Members were honored to have several individuals travel from varying parts of the state for the occasion. Some notables included West Sandhills District Director Kay Williams and her spouse Pat; 2017-2019 GCSC President Donna Donnelly and spouse Harold; and SC Bluebird Society President Mike DeBruhl.

Garden Club honorary member Ed Chin, who was instrumental in completing the project, dedicated the trail, highlighting the importance of community involvement and the new partnership formed between the garden club and the Town of Chapin. Mayor David Knight enjoyed the honor of “cutting the official blue ribbon” and took great pride in reminding those in attendance that the town of Chapin was deemed a bird sanctuary back in the late 80’s. He remarked the new trail is a great addition to Chapin’s efforts in conservation and preservation. Mayor Knight presented the club with a certificate of appreciation as a Chapin Community Partner.

Mike DeBruhl with the SC Bluebird Society provided expert education, guidance, and encouragement throughout the development of the trail. He commended the garden club and the town on the partnership and presented
a nest box and baffle to the club to increase the number of nesting boxes from 5 to 6. He encouraged working to have Chapin meet criteria to become certified as a bluebird habitat.

2017-2019 Past GCSC President Donna Donnelly, whose theme “Birds of a Feather” inspired the project spoke briefly, congratulated the club on a job well done and provided facts about bluebird habits and other trails around the state.

Following the official ceremony, attendees gathered in the Community Room to enjoy refreshing cool beverages, hotdogs, and brownies as they mingled freely among several educational displays and exhibits. Exhibitors included the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, the Carolina Wildlife Center, and the SC Bluebird Society. As guests gathered information, club member Janet Hurley called for attention with one final presentation. Her presentation stated: “unbeknownst to the Chins and because Cindy as our president, worked tirelessly planning the Chapin Bluebird Trail with Ed as her partner; and as a team Cindy and Ed have done many things to make Chapin the wonderful community we live in – the garden club, in recognition of their tireless efforts, has decided the bluebird trail will be known as the Cindy and Ed Chin Bluebird Trail. The Chins were presented with a beautifully engraved sign denoting the name.

As the program ended, Mike DeBruhl delighted the crowd by leading a guided tour of the nesting boxes along the trail. The tour included a demonstration of how to properly approach, open, and monitor an active bluebird nesting box. SC House Representative Chip Huggins joined the group for the tour and presented a certificate commending the Chapin Garden Club for ongoing efforts to beautify Chapin and bring awareness to local citizens of nature’s wondrous bounty.
Master Calendar of Events

October 1  SC Gardener Deadline - Winter
October 2  First Friday Conference Call
October 3  Judges Club Council Meeting Columbia SC
November 1 First Friday Conference Call
November 11 Veterans Day Celebration Memorial Garden Columbia SC
November 15 High School Essay Deadline
December 6  First Friday Conference Call
December 6  Arbor Day South Carolina
December 10 All Awards Applications Due
December 15 Youth Awards Due
December 15 Grant Applications Due
December 19 Finance Committee Meeting Columbia, SC

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Submission Deadlines

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Photos should be a high resolution and sent as a separate jpg file.

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