Dear GCG Members,

Thanksgiving is upon us and we will be gathering with our family and friends to give thanks for our many blessings. Near the top of the list is being thankful that we live in a country where we enjoy freedom. I write this letter on a day that I had the privilege of attending a Gold Star Memorial Marker dedication ceremony in Augusta. The Garden Arts GC, just a small club of 18 members, took on this most worthwhile project of raising funds to install a Gold Star Marker in a prominent place at the I-20 Visitor/Welcome Center as one drives into Georgia from South Carolina. It was an emotional ceremony, for all those in attendance realized we were honoring military families who lost a loved one defending our great nation. The marker serves as a lasting tribute to our Gold Star Families. We wish to thank all our clubs who have installed a Blue or Gold Star Marker in their communities, and for those clubs who contribute to the BSM Restoration Fund, which helps clubs refurbish older markers that have suffered from age. We encourage all clubs to erect a marker in their city/town.

What a whirlwind Fall we had. All 7 Districts hosted fantastic Fall Meetings and it was fun to travel with many officers/state board chairmen who drove the circuit to support each district. We were very impressed to hear about all the activities that the clubs in each district were doing. Many awards were presented, and the programs were fantastic. We have an amazing group of District Directors leading our clubs. It’s going to be a great term. It was a pleasure for me to be able to present the many NGC Award Certificates that we rec’d at the NGC spring convention and announce the clubs/individuals who donated funds for Patron of Scholarships or Named Scholarships. Our club members are so very generous and we appreciate it greatly. It was gratifying to see so many clubs represented at the Fall Meetings, joining together to support and learn from one another. If you didn’t happen to attend your Fall Meeting, please plan on doing so next year. You will be happy you did.

Club activities are well underway. We hope you will apply for awards - application deadline is Dec. 1 for most of them. As always, we are encouraging membership growth - as well as asking you to mentor new clubs. Remember grant money is available to help defray the cost of putting on programs for new clubs. Plant Native Plants in your yard and in your community. Contact our GCG State Chairmen for help. They are eager to help you with your projects as we “Nurture the Garden We Call Georgia.”

We hope you all have a Blessed Holiday Season with your family and friends, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Barbara
Alert
All Flower Show Awards entries must be turned into The GCG Flower Show Awards Chairman by December 1, 2019.
This means in the chairman’s hands by December 1, 2019.
Looking forward to the wonderful entries.
Entries go to: Martha Price, Chairman.

Garden Club Councils Dates

February 1st    **GCG Award #31 Garden Club Council Award** - may be awarded to the Garden Club Council which, in proportion to its size, has performed the greatest service to its community or best single project furthering the objectives of GCG. GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, Rosemary Maulden, will receive the entries. Refer to GCG Guide for other awards councils may enter due December 1st and February 1st.

March 1st      **GCG annual Council dues** are to be sent to GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, Rosemary Maulden, by March 1st. Please make check payable to GCG for $15.00.

March 15th    **Annual Club Council Activity Report** is due to GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, Rosemary Maulden, by March 15th to be eligible for Standard of Excellence Certificate. Send a copy of report to your District Director and GCG President.

Rosemary Maulden
GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL, COURSE 3 & 4
TO BE OFFERED IN ROME, GEORGIA

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. will be offering the Landscape Design School Course 3 and 4 in Rome, Georgia at the ECO Center. Dates for the schools are February 12-13, 2020 and April 28-29, 2020. Each two-day school will be $100.00 and it includes breakfast bar, snacks and lunch for each day.

Landscape Design Schools offer a series of four 10-hour courses. The courses cover learning about our ecosystem, the principles and elements of landscape design, the landscape design process, the history of landscape design and designing for the environment, and many other topics.

Since its founding in 1958, professional instructors have maintained the high standards originally incorporated in the study program. In addition to acquiring the tools for making their own gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain, students have been motivated to serve in political decision-making areas where awareness of the impact of a well-designed landscape can enhance the beauty and enjoyment of life in the public arena.

The courses are intended primarily for garden club members but are open to the general public. They may be sponsored by member clubs, groups of clubs, councils, districts and state garden clubs. Garden club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of NGC Landscape Design Consultant. To maintain Consultant status, continuing education is required. Single-subject and Multiple Refreshers provide advanced study opportunities and the occasion to interface with other Consultants. Participation in Consultant Councils is encouraged as one means of using the knowledge gained from this educational program.

More information and Registration Form is available at www.rome federatedgardenclubs.com under the “News” tab. Chairwoman is Jo Hernandez (jelaynejewelry@comcast.net) Caroline Alford is the Treasurer.
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Cordially Invites You to The 92\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Convention Blossoming in Macon

Wednesday and Thursday March 25 and 26, 2020 Macon Marriott City Center

Please join us in Macon on the eve of the famous Cherry Blossom Festival which begins on Friday, March 27, 2020

The meeting will feature two presentations:
• \textit{Ikebana} by Elaine Flanagan and Jho-Ju Tu
• \textit{Cherry Blossom Time In Macon} by Jan Thiese and Susi Keller, former Cherry Blossom Senior Queens

Enjoy many other activities, including a vendor market, a luncheon, and an awards dinner

Proudly hosted by the Laurel District Welcome to all Georgia Garden Clubs and their members
Scholarships

NOW is the time to support Scholarships! Within the coming weeks, students will be gathering their information and writing letters to complete their applications. Colleges, Universities and professors are being advised of this wonderful opportunity.

It all comes together in February when we receive applications and tally the funds we have received from your generous donations to scholarships. General Fund; Patrons; Named Scholarships; Dollars Educate Scholars, as well as interest income from our Cherokee Rose and Brown Thrasher accounts, truly do add up! It is exciting to note that The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has given over 1 million dollars since the inception of our scholarships program.

Yes, we have big shoes to fill! Information is forthcoming on our new fundraising opportunities. We are very appreciative to Sharon & Mary Denney for their generous contribution of Gardenia plants that were sold at the October District meetings. Many thanks to our district directors and to all who supported and purchased from this campaign, raising $1,000.00 for scholarships! Sharon & Mary, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dollars Educate Scholars continues. Last year the program raised $2,918.85 with 83 clubs contributing to this fundraiser. Let’s think about one dollar or more to help our deserving students. Which Director will wear the crown this April for highest percentage amount of district donations?

Thank you notes and letters have been received from students. Each one is well written and heartfelt. Our scholarships program helps these young people to further their education to make their dreams and goals in life a reality. Your commitment to scholarships is so very appreciated by these students. Thank you for your support of scholarships!

Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman
770.922.4411 glencree@bellsouth.net
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
“Dollars Educate Scholars”
Mark your calendars for January as our Official GCG Scholarship Month!

- Members donating $1.00 or more now thru January make an impact on our Scholarships Mission.
- Contributions from members are given via your garden club treasury.
- Your club treasurer writes one check to GCG to mail along with the completed form to:
- Assistant Treasurer, Rosemary Maulden 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick 31525-9447

Support your District and your Director in the 4th Annual Dollars Educate Scholars Challenge!
The Winning District with the most contributions for Dollars Educate Scholars by membership percentage will have their Director Honored at the GCG Annual Meeting in March, 2020.

For additional information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman 770-922-4411 glencree@bellsouth.net

“Dollars Educate Scholars”
TRANSMITTAL FORM
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. OR GCG

Please complete the following information and mail with your club’s check for $1.00 per member, or any amount you desire, to Assistant Treasurer, Rosemary Maulden. 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick 31525-9447
Please write legibly. Contributions received now through January, 2020 will count in this giving period.

Name of Garden Club:

Club Number: District:

Garden Club President or Representative Data:

Name: Title:

Email: Phone number:

Number of Members in your club:

100% Participation? Circle one. Yes No

Amount Enclosed: $__________________

Questions? Contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman 770-922-4411 glencree@bellsouth.net
Dear Garden Club Members, family and friends:

We have exciting news to share and hope you will participate and help us spread the word. Please feel free to forward this email to others and encourage your family and friends to search our assigned listing “The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.” when they shop with Amazon.

Support the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarships Fundraising through the AmazonSmile Program.

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Your shopping will provide Scholarships support from The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. Start shopping at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-0706724

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. provides scholarships to eligible students majoring in garden and environmental related fields of study enrolled in accredited Georgia Colleges and Universities. For information, including scholarships application, visit our website at http://gardenclub.uga.edu/scholarships.html

Your contribution to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. through the AmazonSmile program benefits these deserving students. Their mission is the same as ours: Beautification, Conservation and Education. Thank you for designating The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. as your charitable organization! For further scholarships information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman glencree@bellsouth.net
National Garden Clubs Grants Available

In Conjunction with Plant America 2 companies are offering grants of products!

Espoma
Espoma is teaming up with NGC to help communities Plant America with $250 grants of Espoma plant foods and potting soils. Visit the NGC website. Click on Projects and then click on grants and then Espoma to read more about the program:
or go directly to Espoma; https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/.

Applications are accepted between October 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.

Ames Garden Tools
Ames has grants of garden tools of up to $250 available for local community gardening projects during 2020. Visit the NGC website for information on this program. Click on Projects and then click on grants and then Ames Garden Tools:

All grant applications must be received by March 1, 2020.

For questions or assistance contact:
Lisa Hall
NGC Projects Chairman, GCG 2nd VP
Hall7796@bellsouth.net
404-414-6496
Dear State Presidents,

I am very excited about our new project Plant America with Trees (PAT). In the November issue of KIT Gay Austin announced PAT and my PAT article is also included. I have a longer article on PAT appearing in TNG Winter edition. A summary of that article is attached.

KIT and TNG are valuable tools, but only if the information is passed on to club members. In some cases, KIT is passed on from Presidents to District Directors to Council and/or Club Presidents. The chain often breaks down. Many Club Presidents just don’t share KIT and TNG with their members. I am asking you and your state board members to include Plant America with Trees in your direct communications with your clubs.

Many of your clubs are already planting native trees, but not as part of our nationwide effort. Blue Star Marker landscaping and many community beautification projects can be part of Plant America with Trees. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts earning their Native Plant Badges, 4-H members, Master Gardeners, church groups, historical societies and many other organizations need garden club members’ expertise and may have suitable sites for plantings.

If you already have a native plant chairman or tree chairman on your state board, I would love to hear from them. Your clubs may need information on the best native trees to plant in their areas. In some places it may be difficult to find native tree saplings for sale. On a state level some of these problems can be addressed, but Plant America with Trees also stands by to assist.

You will see a bibliography at the end of the attached document. I would like to expand this, especially by including region-specific references. I live in South Carolina, so you see that the book list needs titles from other parts of the country.

PAT is compatible with many NGC schools and projects, probably with some of yours. Just a word or two in your regular communications, newsletters or websites could bring home this point. Please encourage members to share their tree planting on your state and NGC social media.

Last, but not least, please appoint someone to be your tree counter and send me their name and email. Individual members and clubs should email their plantings to them, so we can keep track of our progress nationwide. All we need for our NGC count is number of trees, species and location (city and state).

Many thanks for planting native trees,
Victoria Bergesen
NGC Climate Change Chairman
Thanksgiving Fun with Flowers

Marge Willis
Fun with Flowers Chairman, GCG

I LOVE Thanksgiving! It is about football, counting our blessings, being with family and good food! LOVE decorating for Thanksgiving! You don't have to know the art of arranging flowers to create a beautiful centerpiece for the dining room table. A thankful walk around your yard, a few small pumpkins/gourds and a low container is all you will need.

Collect in your yard pinecones, fresh sprigs of hardy greenery such as boxwood, Pittosporum, cedar, Little Gem magnolia to name a few. Get a low container, like in the attached picture. I have what my mama called a bread bowl (a wooden bowl that our parents/grandparents would mix dough in for bread). Don't have one, a casserole dish or even a piece of weathered wood works great. Using small pumpkins (what is called Pie Pumpkins) and/or any type of Fall colorful gourds, place them in/on your container. Once you have them placed, just tuck sprigs of greenery between and around. A pinecone here and there, maybe a little Spanish moss draping around and down (pull moss from trees not from ground unless you want to have redbugs). That is it! You can put a few candles around, advise using the ones that are glass contained or better yet, BATTERY OPERATED.

Have Fun with Flowers during this thankful holiday.

GOBBLE GOBBLE and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Give Thanks!

The End