Dear Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Members,

The State Board went well. We accomplished a lot. An Orientation was held that benefited members that had been on the Board for a while as well as the new members on the Board. Deanna McFarlan, Rosemary Maulden, and Geri Shaw did a fabulous job getting the orientation done. Our By-laws Committee, Doris Blalock, Barbara Bourque and Terry Waith did a magnificent job on updating our By-Laws. Please tell them how much you appreciate them.

Winter finds us happy that we have accomplished so much so far this year. We had a wonderful Workshop “Action in the Environment” at Lake Blackshear. We did the Tri-Refresher as well as learned what the National, Deep South, and State Projects were all about. We have really begun our knowledge process. We just have to sow that knowledge so that we reap the conservation that we need to be beautiful. We promoted our State Parks and Public Lands while having fun.

Awards are underway now. The yearbooks have been turned into the chairman, Naomi Gerson. We are now working on the other awards. We look forward to bringing home the awards from all categories. Everyone should be recognized for their hard work.

President’s Report has changed; therefore, all presidents should be aware that every club has opportunities to shine in a lot of ways. Looking forward to reading all the President’s Reports as they come into me.

Flower Show School is on the horizon. Garden Study School is going full force. Environmental School is coming soon. We are being offered opportunities to learn and have fun. Join the winning team.

Martha
In support of GCG President Martha Price’s emphasis on Clean Water, please take note of Senate Bill 36 which passed the Georgia Senate during the last legislative session and is being held in the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee. To become law the bill must pass during the 2016 session.

SB 36, sponsored by Senator William Ligon of Brunswick and co-sponsored by several other South Georgia senators, identifies the need for underground water supply protection. It calls for the Department of Natural Resources to promulgate regulations which provide for the protection of underground drinking water.

Please contact your state representative and give him your opinion on this important bill before the session begins in January. For more information, contact your district legislation chairman or Tally Sweat, State Legislation Chairman at tallys@bellsouth.net.

Mary Lovings
Chairman
GCG Special Projects – Water
WOW - the importance of Native Plants is becoming more and more apparent. Our pollinators need help and water conservation is always at the forefront. Native plants are ideally suited for our local environments and therefore can more easily thrive in Georgia – handling the variation in drought and heavy rains that occur here seasonally. The plants have already adapted to the native soil and require less water and they are perfect for attracting local pollinators, providing both nectar and food for their young.

UGA has a program called the Georgia Native Plant Initiative (GNPI) and it is a networking program for promoting the use of Georgia native plants in all kinds of gardening. Macon became the first city in Georgia to take the initiative and use native plants in their public parks and spaces. **Your city or garden club can do the same by planting native plants.**

The Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies is the State Botanic Garden's headquarters for native plant restoration, conservation, education, production and safeguarding.

For further information, check out the following websites:
- Georgia Native Plant Society at [http://gnps.org](http://gnps.org)
- State Botanical Gardens at [http://botgarden.uga.edu](http://botgarden.uga.edu)
- GCG webpage on Native Plants: [http://gardenclub.uga.edu/specialprojects.html](http://gardenclub.uga.edu/specialprojects.html)

**Native Plant Nursery List – GNPI** - If you want to use native plants in a gardening, or restoring project but you don’t know where to purchase plants, plugs, stakes, or seeds, look no further than this list. These specialty nurseries produce quality native plants appropriate for Georgia and the SE US, and they are following ethical collection and production guidelines. Click on this link: [http://botgarden.uga.edu/conserve/nursery.php](http://botgarden.uga.edu/conserve/nursery.php)

Barbara Bourque, GCG Native Plant Chairman [b.bourque@comcast.net](mailto:b.bourque@comcast.net)
Anne Neely-Beck, Camellia Dist. Native Plant Chairman [anbjeb@gmail.com](mailto:anbjeb@gmail.com)

**Macon-Bibb installed native plants raised at the University of Georgia at the Rose Hill Cemetery.**

**Planting ceremony on Nov. 3rd**
Dignitaries attending the planting ceremony included: Stephen Lawson, Macon-Bibb County Parks Director; Heather Alley, Conservation Horticulturist for Mimsie Lanier center for Native Plants at the SBG in Athens; Stephen Reichert, chairman of SBG Board of Advisors; Anne Neely-Beck, GCG Camellia Dist. chairperson for Native plants; Martha Price, President of GCG; and Macon Mayor Robert Reichert.
State Parks hosted the State President’s Workshop and Tri-Refresher, ACTION in the Environment, on November 12th and 13th at Georgia Veterans State Park in Cordele, Georgia. Eighty-eight workshop participants stayed very busy learning about a wide variety of Environmental issues and Conservation efforts related to gardening, landscaping, and the general environment. Each topic and project highlighted one of the areas of specific interest from our National President, the Deep South Region Director, and our own State President. After learning more about the plight of the amphibians and the direct relationship of our actions to their health and well-being, participants dropped leaves of Commitment to Garden for Wildlife in an amphibian bog garden donated by Magnolia District. This bog garden was relocated from the workshop setting to an outdoor setting in the State Park where it will be enjoyed by a local amphibian population and serve to educate Park visitors about how to create their own gardens to support the amphibian population.

SAVE THE DATE!

June 28-29, 2016

Amicolola Falls State Park

Our Second State President’s Workshop

District Chairmen:

Laurel: Carol Brody
Azalea: Peggy Tucker
Oleander: Phyllis Thompson
Camellia: Ellen McCarthy
Magnolia: Rebecca McNeill & Faye Frazier
Dogwood: Rosie Davidson
Redbud: Edith Morton
Legislative, Governmental Affairs

GCG Chairman – Tally Sweat

Join Your Fellow Members for Capitol Conservation Day at our Georgia State Capitol
February 17, 2016

You are invited to join GCG members and representatives of other Georgia Water Coalition member organizations at Capitol Conservation Day 2016 to be held Wednesday, February 17, 2016. The day begins with a breakfast legislation briefing at 8 a.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 201 Washington Street, Atlanta (across the street from the State Capitol). Speakers will include both legislators and GWC legislative team members discussing major environmental issues including SB 36, a groundwater protection bill. Attendees will then go to the Capitol to convey their thoughts on legislation to individual legislators and the governor. The GCG and several individual clubs, namely, Peachtree Garden Club, Druid Hills Garden Club, Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club and Stonehedge Garden Club sponsored last year’s event. A special hotel rate will be available for those wishing to spend an evening in Atlanta prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact Tally Sweat at tallys@bellsouth.net or your district legislation and governmental affairs chairman.

SAVE THE DATE!

GCG’s 88th Annual Convention—A “Gardening Passion”

You are invited to attend
The Garden Club of Georgia’s 88th Annual Convention
April 13-14, 2016

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Annual Meeting & Convention, “Gardening Passion” will be held in Macon at the Marriott City Center and the adjoining Edgar H. Wilson Convention Centre.

The Dogwood District is passionately planning an entertaining 24 hours of fun and education, beginning with several workshops Wednesday afternoon. An Awards Banquet will highlight Wednesday evening, with a business meeting planned for Thursday morning. The Life Member Luncheon at noon will conclude the 2016 convention.
The first President’s Workshop Project was like a magnet to draw garden club members to learn. “ACTION in the Environment” was held at Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Course at the Georgia Veterans State Park in Cordele, Georgia, on November 12-13th. This two day workshop was well attended and successful! We met our goal of 80 and surpassed it with 97 registrations. It was fun and enjoyable as we played State Park Bingo for prizes donated by our president, Martha Price.

A broad range of speakers was introduced who informed us of environmental topics and conservation techniques. These speakers from garden club members, ABAC and UGA professors and the county extension office, covered topics that qualify us for the requirements of a National Tri-Refresher. Thirty-seven individual refresher credits were earned. Inclusive were the President’s topics of Water Awareness, Native plants and The Pollinators.

Marilyn McDonnell, GCG State Park Chairman, kept members busy with a variety of craft activities to take home and share with clubs. Many thanks to Camellia, Magnolia and Oleander District for their financial contribution for specific projects.

SAVE THE DATE for the second of this two year project on June 28-29, 2016 at Amicalola Falls.

Virginia Pennington
Third Vice President
ACTION in the Environment Chairman

The Frightened Frog In appreciation of photography by Dr. John Barnett
THE NATIONAL AND DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUB PROJECTS
AWAKE - ALERT WITH ACTION!

THE NATIONAL PROJECTS- theme -"SERVICE IN ACTION"

Bee Gap - adding pollinator plants to your garden
The Monarch Watch - adding a butterfly Way Station in your garden
The Frightened Frog - utilizing early reader and lessons plans K-3rd grade.

Be a Wildlife Action Hero - committing to gardens for wildlife.

Some of these projects you may recognize as a continuation from the previous year. That is because they are so important and we must take continuous action to establish them in our communities. Others are new.

DEEP SOUTH PROJECTS
-theme-
"SERVICE THROUGH ACTION"

PROJECT- COMMUNITY ACTION!

Encourage your club, council and district to develop ideas of service for the community. Take action with an inventory of your community to evaluate and develop ideas.

Find club projects to PROMOTE education, conservation, and beautification.

The use of National Projects in your community will enrich the quality of life.

Let us build new relationships with other civic organizations and PARTNERSHIP a source of growth and action for community benefit.

Districts are encouraged to promote these themes in meetings and activities.

Your club is where National and Deep South projects begin.

Virginia Pennington, 3rd Vice Pres.
National and Deep South Projects
Join the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge and Make a Difference for Pollinators!

Virginia Pennington, Chairman - National and Deep South Projects

What is it?
A campaign to register a million public and private gardens and landscapes to support the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America.

Why pollinators?
Pollinators are essential to the reproduction of roughly 75% of all flowering plants on Earth and are responsible for 1 in every 3 bites of food we eat, but many species are at risk.

How can I help?
One of the top causes of pollinator decline is habitat loss. Whether you are a farmer of many acres, land manager of a large tract of land, or a gardener with a small lot, you can increase the number of pollinators in your area by making conscious choices to include plants that provide essential habitat and food. Visit our website www.gardenclub.org for more information.

Register your garden today and “BEE” Counted!
Planting for pollinators is the first step – the second is registering your landscape on the S.H.A.R.E. map. Visit http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/ to learn more and get started! When asked, be sure and tell them National Garden Clubs, Inc. sent you!

The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge is a project of The National Pollinator Garden Network (NPGN), an unprecedented collaboration of national, regional, conservation and gardening groups.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is an Inaugural Network Partner of NPGN and supports the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) is a not-for-profit educational organization headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri providing education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. Contact us at 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110, (314) 776-7574. Visit our website at www.gardenclub.org.

Visit www.millionpollinatorgardens.org for more information
INSPIRE YOUR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Ask them to sign the following form to garden for and support wildlife. Attach them to the President’s Project Award Application and send to:
Virginia Pennington, NGC President’s Special Projects Chairman
4804 Cobb Lane
Tifton GA  31794
Send all applications by March 1, 2016

For more information, call or email Virginia, (229-387-0537 / 229-392-0370; vpennington@mchsi.com or go to NGC website, http://gardenclub.org/, click on Projects, then President’s Projects, then Service in Action (under Related Menu items). For award application form click on Section 4.

COMMITMENT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

I am a Proud Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the __________________________ Garden Club, City of ________________, District ________________, State of ________________.

I understand that “Wildlife” includes “all plants, fungi and other organisms which grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans” and I agree to do my part in protecting their environment and increasing their habitat so that they can thrive and prosper!

I will provide food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young in my gardens – I understand that this can be done in even a small container garden and it will still make a huge difference! I will incorporate sustainable gardening practices so that our wildlife will be protected, especially our pollinator friends!

And, I will share the importance of these actions with those around me.

I will BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO!

Signed _______________________________ Date ______________
Print Name _______________________________
Optional:
Address __________________________________________
Phone __________________ E-Mail ________________________

Learn more by going to National Garden Club web page:
“Dollars Educate Scholars”

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has named January as “Scholarship Month”. Our mission of Education is fulfilled through the Scholarship program. In 2014 Scholarships totaled $62,600 to 30 deserving students. Your club can participate with “Dollars Educate Scholars”.

What can we do?

- Each club member gives $1.00 to scholarships.
- Monies collected are given to the club treasurer.
- Funds are deposited to write one check to GCG.
- Send check with transmittal form, (below), before January 31, 2016 to: Susan Turner, Assistant Treasurer, P.O. Box 810 Conyers, 30012.
- Susan will email confirmation to each club.
- 100% participation = points on President’s Report.

Questions?
Dot Williams, Scholarship Chairman 478-477-1742; email d.williams@bellsouth.net or Pat Hathaway, Co-Chairman 706-564-4315; email successaugusta1@aol.com

Thank you for helping the Scholarship Committee to reach our educational goals! You can be proud that you have thrown out a lifeline to deserving students to obtain their education by supporting “Dollars Educate Scholars”.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in February to award scholarships to scholarship applicants. Please submit the information below along with your club’s check to be received before the end of January to be counted in this year’s giving. Thank you!

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

“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 to
Susan Turner P.O. Box 810 Conyers, Georgia 30012.

Name of Garden Club: _____________________________ District: _____________________________

Name and email address of Garden Club President/Representative: _____________________________

Number of Members in your club: _______________ 100% Participation? Circle one: Yes No

Amount Enclosed: $_____________________________
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Honors our Patrons of Scholarships

We wish to acknowledge the Patron of Scholarships donations received during this last giving period of October 1, 2014 and extended through October 14, 2015. We are thankful to our Districts, Clubs and individuals for their contributions. Without your financial support, the funding goals of GCG could not be achieved. Many students are grateful for your help. Our congratulations and appreciation is given to all.

Furman Agee, III
Augusta Council of Garden Clubs
Avondale Estates Garden Club
Bellmere Garden Club
Elizabeth Burnette
Cherokee Rose Garden Club
Kathleen Day
Vicky Day
Druid Hills Garden Club
Evergreen Garden Club of Greater Atlanta
Flower Garden Club, Marietta
Garden Club of Savannah
Naomi Gerson
Sylvia Gibson
Green Thumb Garden Club
Jane Hersey
Landings Garden Club in memory of all deceased members.
Laurel Garden Club, Canton
Lullwater Garden Club
Madora Garden Club in Honor of Margaret Haley.
Robert Medlock, Jr.

Mountain Garden Club
Nancy Hart Garden Club
Neptune Garden Club
North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges
Odum Garden Club
Pine Tree Garden Club, Azalea District
Redbud District
Roswell Garden Club
Samaritan Sunday School Class
Charles Sanders
Deen Day Sanders
Sandy Springs Garden Club
Seven Hills Garden Club
Shenandoah Rose Garden Club in memory of Fleming Boyd
Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Augusta
Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Thomaston
Spalding Garden Club
Town and Country Garden Club, Athens
Village Green Garden Club in Honor of Martha Price.
Watkinsville Garden Club
Robert Williams

A Patron of Scholarship denotes donations of $200.00 or more, up to $999.99 to the GCG General Scholarship Fund.

Certificates of Appreciation are presented to donors at the Annual District Meetings.

Checks are to be made payable to The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. or GCG and mailed to GCG Assistant Treasurer, Susan Turner at 3380 Glencree, NW Conyers Ga 30012.
Please encourage your club members to support the Arboreta, Botanical and Memorial Gardens. Donations of $10.00 or more, if received by March 1st, 2016, will receive a certificate at the Garden Club of Georgia State Convention. Include club name and number, district name, club president’s name and complete address.

Gifts in honor and memorials are encouraged. Please send name and address of person being honored or memorialized and name and address of family or person to receive acknowledgement card.

If you desire an individual or club membership to the State Botanical Garden, please go to GCG’s web site http://gardenclub.uga.edu/ look up state chairmanships in the new GCG Guide then Arboreta, Botanic and Memorial Gardens for the different memberships that you or your club might consider. This site also has instructions of where to send your check for membership.

Thank you for supporting our gardens.

Garden Club of Georgia
Garden Club __________________________ Club# ________ District ____________
President: _______________________________ Phone: __________________________
Treasurer: _______________________________ Phone: __________________________
Check # _______________________________

Donations to the following GCG programs may be sent to the State Treasurer
Make check payable to Garden Club of Georgia and mail to:
Brenda Griner, GCG Treasurer
244 Satilla Drive
Brunswick, Georgia 31523.

Donation Amount $_____________________
Arboreta/Botanical and Memorial Gardens- for Certificate of Appreciation, send $10.00 or more by March 1.
$________.00 donation for the State Botanical Garden in Athens
$________.00 donation for the State Botanical Children’s Garden in Athens
$________.00 for the Atlanta Botanical Gardens
$________.00 for Other Garden - list__________________________________________

Cherokee Garden Library: For Cert. of Appreciation, send $25 or more prior to March 1.
Founder’s Memorial Garden: A certificate will be issued for clubs sending $25 or more prior to March 1.
Why not plan a club field trip to one or more of the gardens listed below, we are fortunate to have so many beautiful gardens here in Georgia.
## Arboretums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arboretum</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lockerly Arboretum</td>
<td>1534 Irwinton Road, Milledgeville 31061</td>
<td>478-452-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith-Gilbert Arboretum</td>
<td>2382 Pine Mountain Road NW, Kennesaw 30152</td>
<td>770-919-0248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Mills Forest</td>
<td>8755 Highway 53, Braselton 30517</td>
<td>706-654-2666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coastal Plain Research Center</td>
<td>2356 Rainwater Road, Tifton 31794</td>
<td>229-386-3351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGA Campus Arboretum</td>
<td>Athens, Georgia 30602, Campus Arboretum Map</td>
<td>706-542-0842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Botanical and Memorial Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Botanical Garden</td>
<td>1345 Piedmont Avenue NE, Atlanta 30309</td>
<td>404-876-5859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Botanical Garden</td>
<td>1911 Sweetbay Drive, Gainesville 30501</td>
<td>404-876-5859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnsley Gardens</td>
<td>1100 Reynolds Street, Augusta 30901</td>
<td>706-724-4443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callaway Gardens</td>
<td>597 Barnsley Garden Road, Adairsville 30103</td>
<td>770-773-7480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham County Garden Center and Botanical Garden</td>
<td>1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah 31406</td>
<td>912-355-3383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Botanical Garden</td>
<td>3603 Weems Road, Columbus 31909</td>
<td>706-327-8400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founders Memorial Garden</td>
<td>UGA Campus, 325 S Lumpkin Street, Athens 30602</td>
<td>706-542-4948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Hamilton Rhododendron Garden</td>
<td>1311 Music Hall Road, Hiawassee 30546</td>
<td>706-896-4191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Station Research and Education Garden</td>
<td>1109 Experiment Street, Griffin 30223</td>
<td>770-228-7243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Perimeter College Botanical Garden</td>
<td>3251 Panthersville Road, Decatur 30034</td>
<td>678-891-2668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Southern Botanical Garden</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University, 1505 Bland Avenue, Statesboro 30548</td>
<td>912-871-1114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs Garden</td>
<td>100 Masse Lane, Fort Valley 31030</td>
<td>478-967-2358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masse Lane Gardens (American Camellia Society)</td>
<td>100 Masse Lane, Fort Valley 31030, <a href="http://www.camellias-acs.com">http://www.camellias-acs.com</a></td>
<td>478-967-2358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State Botanical Garden of Georgia</td>
<td>2450 South Milledge Avenue, Athens 30605</td>
<td>706-542-1244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vines Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville 30052</td>
<td>770-466-7532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waddell Barnes Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>100 College Station Drive, Macon 31206</td>
<td>478-471-2780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Council Dues are Due March 1st**

Garden Club Councils, Consultants Councils (Environmental Consultants, Gardening Consultants, and Landscape Design Consultants) and Flower Show Judges Councils 2016 GCG dues will be due by March 1, 2016. Please make check payable to GCG for $15 and send to GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, Rosemary Maulden, 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick, GA 31525.

Rosemary Maulden
GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman
Natural Disasters

Kay Peacock, GCG Chairman

Natural Disasters refers to devastation created by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms and forest fires etc. The purpose of NGC's Natural Disasters program is to aid states that experience such devastation. As all of you know, a lot of natural disasters have happened in the last few months.

A garden club or clubs may apply to NGC for funds to help replant, restore and beautify a public area that has been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. This restoration project is to be sponsored by the GCG. A member club may receive up to $500 per disaster. The application form can be downloaded from NGC's website: http://www.gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-natural-disasters-usa-fund-application.pdf

This Chairman encourages clubs to make a donation to this worthy project. Checks should be payable to GCG and sent to Brenda Griner, GCG treasurer. 244 Satilla Dr., Brunswick, Ga. 31523 A donation of $25 or more will merit a certificate if received by March 1st. Come on clubs, let's help restore these areas that have been so hard hit by natural disasters.
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN CAN LEAD GCG TO “MEN IN THE MIX”

Diane Harbin, 4th VP
Membership Development

Are you familiar with the term “Subscribing Member”? The membership team, at the recent state board meeting at Unicoi State Park, has launched a campaign to encourage subscribing membership. Why should we encourage subscribing members? As Betty Grimes noted in a recent communication, there are only four states that presently qualify for two scholarships. Georgia is one of those four states. Our membership for GCG is just over 10,000. Should we drop below that 10,000 mark we will not be qualified for this great opportunity. Subscribing members can keep us above that mark. Please look over the information of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. website and become familiar with the subscribing membership opportunities. There are individuals who have the desire to be affiliated with GCG who may not have the time or desire to commit to a regular meeting schedule. It is up to us to contact and recruit those who would benefit from being part of GCG. Subscribing membership is an excellent opportunity to include “men in the mix”. Many husbands of GCG members would be an ideal subscribing member since they are usually there with a helping hand, shoulder or truck when it comes to the many garden club projects.

A Subscribing Member shall be an individual who is committed to the purposes and objectives of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and desires association without the necessity of becoming a member of a local member garden club. A Subscribing Member shall be eligible to participate in all programs and events available to the general membership, shall receive Garden Gateways and other informative membership mailings, but without the privilege of a vote.

Dues are $25.00 for the Subscribing Member and are due by March 1. If unpaid after June 1, a Subscribing Member shall be considered delinquent, dropped from membership, and ineligible for awards competition.
NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership "Penny Pines Program" sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program. Your garden club can participate by contributing $68 to a Penny Pine plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees and/or trees indigenous (Not Just Pine Trees) to a particular damaged area.

For each $68.00 contribution, you will receive a Penny Pines Certificate from National Garden Clubs, Inc. made "In Honor of: ____________ " or “In Memory of: __________" a special someone who you wish to honor. (Certificates will be issued according to information listed on the form below).

GCG is making a concerted effort to raise more money for the Penny Pines Program during this term. We ask each club to seriously consider adding this to your club’s budget. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will benefit the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in our state. Your club also gets credit for participation - see #23 or #50 on the President’s Report of Garden Club Achievements.

Contributions should be for a minimum of $68.00 (or multiples thereof) -
Make checks payable to "NGC- Penny Pines " and mail to:
Barbara Bourque, Penny Pines Chairman for GCG
6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641

Penny Pines Form

Name of Club: ___________________________ Date: ______________
District: _________________________________ State: _______________
Natl. Forest this donation is to benefit: ____________________________
State You wish this donation contributed to

Total $ amount being sent : ___________ Must be in increments of $68.00 each

Please make this Certificate: In Honor of: ___________________________
or In Memory of: ___________________________
Sent by (Name): ___________________________________ Phone No. __________
Address: ___________________________________ City: _______________________
State: _______________ Zip + 4 _______________________
E-Mail: ___________________________
Certificate will be mailed to the above address unless otherwise noted.
FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL
COURSE II

In memory of former GCG President Suzanne Wheeler, North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges is sponsoring a Flower Show School to be held at Bellmere Garden House in Johns Creek. Come and join us March 14-17, 2016 for Course II. Learn the “ins and outs” of flower shows and how to judge floral designs and horticulture. Trece Chancellor, NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor, will exhibit and discuss Creative Designs with minor and moderate abstraction, as well as Creative Mass Designs. If your focus is on horticulture, then you’ll want to come and hear our very own Carolyn Hawkins, NGC Flower Show School Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure Instructor, talk about Daffodils and woody perennials, with an emphasis on Aucuba, and how to grow, show and judge them. She will also present Flower Show Procedure and the rules associated with holding a flower show.

Flower Show School is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in flower design and horticulture. While the primary purpose of these courses is to train those aspiring to become flower show judges, many people attend for information only. Each of the four courses, offered approximately six months apart, includes Horticulture curriculum, Flower Show Procedure and Design instruction. The cost for each course is $130.00 for full-time students and a judge’s special of $90 for the two-day course. Courses need not be taken sequentially, so if you missed Course I, you can begin with Course II and pick up Course I later.

For further information, contact Joy Zaidan, GCG Flower Show Schools Chairman at jzaidan@bellsouth.net or 770-493-8475.

**Mark your calendars for Course III: September 26-29, 2016 and Course IV: March 27-30, 2017**
The Community Wildlife Project (CWP) is a joint effort of GCG and the Department of Natural Resources Non-game Division. Its purpose is to better manage non-game wildlife and plant habitats in rural, urban, and suburban communities seeks to:

- Enhance native nongame animal and plant populations and their habitats in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the state.
- Foster wildlife conservation stewardship and education in Georgia communities.
- Promote respect and appreciation of wildlife in combination with community beautification.
- Improve the quality of life for Georgians living in these communities.

Many of the GCG members and friends have met the qualifications to have their yards certified as wildlife habitats. They are proudly displaying the CWP signs in their yards. Have you completed the forms to see if your yard is qualified? Participation categories include Individual Backyard Certification (revised by DNR), Hummingbird Haven, Nesting Box Certification (Revised by DNR) and Communal Living Backyard Certification (for apartment, condo, townhouse, or assisted living dwellers).

**Remember a certificate will be awarded to the district with the highest certification of the year in both the Backyard and Hummingbird Haven categories based on percentage of membership. Help your district win this award.**

- Individual Backyard Certification ([download application here](#))
- Neighborhood Backyard Certification—*Invite your neighbors to complete a survey*
- Communal Living Backyard Certification—*For apartment, condo, townhouse, or assisted living dwellers* ([download application here](#))
- Community Certification—*An in-depth, multi-faceted program intended to educate the community while creating a diverse and large scale habitat for wildlife*
- Hummingbird Haven - Individual Yard Certification ([download application here](#))
- Neighborhood Box Certification—*Register your neighborhood’s roosting/nesting boxes* ([download application here](#))

Complete the forms available above and see if your yard qualifies to be a "Certified Wildlife Habitat." Once certified, you are eligible to purchase the beautiful metal sign pictured left for $8.00, (if mailed, add $5.75 for postage is). The purchase information for the sign will be included with your letter of certification.

For further information, contact:
Terry Waith, twaith@bellsouth.net, or Jean O'Shields, oshieldsjj@bellsouth.net, GCG Community Wildlife Co-Chairmen.
### DATE REGISTER

#### JANUARY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
<td>GCG Awards Committee Meeting</td>
<td>HQ - Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>GCG F&amp;E Meeting</td>
<td>Milledgeville</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
<td>GCG State Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Dogwood District Board Meeting</td>
<td>Sandy Springs Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Native Plant Symposium</td>
<td>Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Camellia District Board Meeting</td>
<td>Quitman</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oleander District Board Meeting</td>
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#### FEBRUARY 2016

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Magnolia District Board Meeting</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Redbud District Board Meeting</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Azalea District Board Meeting</td>
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<td>GCG Scholarship Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Capitol Conservation Day</td>
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#### MARCH 2016

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<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Tue-Thu</td>
<td>Gardening Study School</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>Mon-Tue</td>
<td>Deep South Convention</td>
<td>Tunica, Mississippi</td>
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<td>14-17</td>
<td>Mon-Thu</td>
<td>The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show School Course II</td>
<td>Bellmere Garden House, Johns Creek</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium</td>
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#### APRIL 2016

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<td>Tue</td>
<td>GCG F&amp;E Meeting</td>
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<td>13-14</td>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
<td>GCG Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>17-23</td>
<td>Sun-Sat</td>
<td>Garden Week in Georgia</td>
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<td>22-23</td>
<td>Fri-Sat</td>
<td>The Garden Club of Savannah's Annual NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens</td>
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<td>Tri-Refresher</td>
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#### MAY 2016

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<td>2-7</td>
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#### JUNE 2016

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<td>6-9</td>
<td>Mon-Thu</td>
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#### JULY 2016

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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Sun-Tue</td>
<td>Flower Show Judges Symposium</td>
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#### AUGUST 2016

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<td>Magnolia District Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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**SEPTEMBER 2016**

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<td>GCG F&amp;E Meeting</td>
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<td>14-15</td>
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<td>26-30</td>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>NGC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Portland ME</td>
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<td>26-29</td>
<td>Mon-Thu</td>
<td>The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show School Course III</td>
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**OCTOBER 2016**

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<td>NGC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Portland ME</td>
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<td>Magnolia District Fall Meeting</td>
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<td>Douglasville</td>
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<td>Azalea District Meeting</td>
<td>Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield</td>
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**JANUARY 2017**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Camellia District Board Meeting</td>
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**FEBRUARY 2017**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>16</td>
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**MARCH 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27-30</td>
<td>Mon-Thu</td>
<td>The Suzanne Wheeler Flower Show School Course IV</td>
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**APRIL 2017**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>Sun-Sat</td>
<td>Garden Week in Georgia</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>GCG F&amp;E Meeting</td>
<td>Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Tue-Thu</td>
<td>GCG State Convention</td>
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**MAY 2017**

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-21</td>
<td>Tue-Sun</td>
<td>National Garden Club Convention</td>
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