Dynamic Dogwood Members,

Keeping up with the fast pace and passion of the Dogwood clubs has kept me smiling. The Privilege of representing you for the past two years has been a joyful journey filled with learning and sharing. Your support has been amazing.

You have invited me into your homes for meetings and fun and have allowed me to share in your celebrations. You have participated in the success of the “1-2-3 Success” objectives – include programs/projects to improve knowledge of water, plant natives and increase CWP certifications. Am I happy or what! You’ve purchased bulbs and calendars and have supported the “Bagging for Scholarships” initiative. You were there for the District Meetings – purchased bulbs, baskets and donated funds to make for enjoyable times for all. Increased donations to the Cherokee Library, Garden Therapy and Scholarship funds prove an intense enthusiasm for the past, present and future of the GCG mission: beautification, conservation and education. Sharing your projects with the Garden Club organization by applying for and bringing home Awards insures that all know just how “Dynamic” you are. You are encouraged to keep moving onward and upward.

“Georgia’s Coastal Magic”, the 87th Annual Convention of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will be held April 15-17, 2015, at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. Do sign up to join me for the Dogwood District Breakfast and District Installation on Thursday morning, April 16th. It will be your first official chance to show support for the Incoming Dynamic Dogwood administration. See the Winter Issue of Garden Gateways pages 16-18 for information and registration form.

The final event of the season is the Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Fundraiser. Sponsored this year by our Dogwood District for GCG. We will welcome author Andrea Wulf at Ansley Golf Club on April 22, 2015. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. See more information inside this newsletter. Hurry! Ticket availability is limited.

It has been my honor to serve as your Director. You are wonderful and oh so Dynamic.

Sincerely,

Helen
2015 State Convention: “Georgia's Coastal Magic”

Oleander District is pleased to host the 2015 State Convention on April 15-17 at Jekyll Island Convention Center. Hotel accommodations will be at the beautiful new Westin Hotel.

We look forward to a three-day convention featuring exciting speakers, informative workshops, and most interesting tours to the Sea Turtle Center and the Historic District. Besides the opportunity to enjoy the Jekyll Island experience, we will have our award ceremony and wonderful vendors to provide for your shopping pleasure.

Encourage your club members to save the date, and join us on the magical Georgia coast for a memorable convention experience. There is so much to see and do in the area - you will want to stay longer! Registration forms are in Garden Gateways or on the GCG website http://gardenclub.uga.edu/pdfs/gcgconvregis2015.pdf

The Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way, Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: 912-635-4545

Deadline for Hotel Reservations - March 14, 2015, 5 pm
The Group Room Rates for The Garden Club of Georgia are:
1 King or 2 Queen Beds (1-2 persons) - $159 plus tax  Additional persons $25 each
Request Special Rate for: GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

Wildflower Digital Photo Contest
Deadline is March 10, 2015

Attention!!!! GCG is sponsoring a Photo Contest through which we hope to create an appreciation of our wonderful Wildflower Heritage. We wish to encourage you to go outdoors and view/photograph wildflower beauty and share that with others. Winners of the contest will be announced at the 2015 GCG Spring Convention.

GO WILD FOR WILDFLOWERS! Go to the GCG website for more details and rules for entering the contest. Then go outdoors and photograph your favorite wildflowers. Use the application in WORD to submit your digital photographs via email. Many of our members have already submitted entries.

Questions? Contact Wildflower Chairman, Evelyina Rogers rogers2767@bellsouth.net

(Random wildflower photos on internet.)
The Home of the Alpharetta Garden Club
Mary Muir-Reelitz

The Mansell House and Gardens in Alpharetta, GA, is the home of the Alpharetta Garden Club (AGC) which meets every 4th Tuesday from September to May at the Mansell House. During the summer there are no formal meetings, but members meet to take care of the gardens.

The 1910 vintage Victorian farm house was moved from Mansell Road to this new home in Wills Park in 1993. Two years later the Alpharetta Historical Society asked AGC to help establish a perennial garden. Three months later roses, stunning annuals and perennials were blooming! Then bulbs and perennials from members’ gardens were added. Next trees and shrubs were planted—many rescued from demolished house sites in Alpharetta. In 1996 and 1997 additional beds, irrigation systems and hardscape were added; hundreds of hours of “playing in the dirt” created the Mansell House and Gardens. In these three years the gardens became an award-winning garden which continues to be used today for weddings, receptions and many community events.

In 2006 AGC member Polly Hallock donated “The Naiads”- bronze sculptures of two water nymphs created by Glenn Goodacre, a world-renowned artist from Santa Fe, New Mexico. The statues add a wonderful piece of art into the Gardens.

AGC continues to maintain these gardens as well as the pots at the Alpharetta Library and the Alpharetta Adult Center. In Spring 2015 AGC will again hold a plant sale at the Mansell House. “Pass along plants” from members’ gardens will be sold to the public.

At our October meeting, we honored one of our members, Marian Bagwell, who was 100 years young on Oct 17th. Our program was “Marian- Queen for the Day”. Marian has been a member of the club since 1975. Marian is still very active in the community and her church and plays the piano beautifully!
COUNTRY HILLS GARDEN CLUB

The Country Hills Garden Club provided the Vegetable Garden for the Calvary Children’s Home, Vaughn Campus. We provided the soil, fencing, wood for raised beds, plants and seeds. The next year we extended the garden to an open field. These pictures are the final results from our collaborative efforts with the Home.

Choolja, Regina, Susan, Winnie, Monica, Ouida – Katrina, Jen, Jan, Johnetta and Chrissie

Open field garden

Opening ceremony

A Fairy Garden created by Speaker Winnie White

SCHOOL GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Contact schools in your area to learn of possible projects. Several suggestions are: Landscaping, Butterfly Gardens or a Wildflower Trail, working with the students for clean-up days or other litter projects. There are many awards that can be applied for related to School Grounds. More information, call:

EMILY FAWCETT - 404-355-9710.
President Monica Bozonier at September meeting with Becky Mensinger making a “Living Wreath”

The next meeting will be on March 9, 2015, 10 a.m. at Canterbury Court. The program will be “How to Garden with Children – Making it Fun and Exciting”. Speakers: Chris Adams and Kathy Kennedy. Club presidents and members are invited to attend.

The Awards Luncheon will be on May 14 at Ansley. Program: “Native Plants for Gardens and Vases.”

Dues are due to FFGC by March 1.
SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 22, 2015

The Garden Club of Georgia’s Dogwood District will host the
Historic Landscape and Garden Grant Fundraising Lecture

Presenting Andrea Wulf

Author of
The Brother Gardeners
Botany, Empire &
The Birth of an Obsession

Ansley Golf Club
Atlanta, GA
7 p.m.

Reception and book signing to follow

We hope you and your clubs will help support this Historic Landscape and Garden Fundraiser! Since Dogwood District is hosting this event, we know you will not only plan on attending but hopefully you or your club will become a sponsor of the event! Ticket order forms have been sent out on the listserv – or are on the GCG Website. http://gardenclub.uga.edu/pdfs/wulflecture042215.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact:
Rosie Davidson (wldrosie1@gmail.com),
Pam Covington (PamCovinton1929@gmail.com) or
Karen Manzini (karenmanzini@aol.com).

Get your Dogwood District Lapel Pin

The Dogwood District lapel pin represents a “pink” dogwood in honor of the “Plant It Pink” project. Please support this fundraiser by purchasing a Dogwood District Lapel Pin. The cost is only $5 each. Buy one for all your members. Presidents, this would make a great gift for your board members. Thanks for supporting this fundraiser.

Contact: Sally Holcombe, 770-436-9883, smholcombe@hotmail.com.
GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club held their annual Holiday Luncheon at the Ansley Golf and Country Club. The remodeling of the Country Club is complete. The carolers were there to greet us, and a good time was had by all!

On November 10, 2014, Green Thumb Garden Club hosted the Fulton Federation Meeting. The topic was “Cooking with Herbs”. Thanks ladies!

Mrs. Sarah Smith
Green Thumb Garden Club
(Inactive Member)
Celebrates 100 Years Old - February 16, 2015
Happy Birthday!
Spalding Garden Club's Community Improvement service project focuses on enhancing the grounds of the Post Office at Dunwoody Village. The large growth of vines, trees and shrubs that was growing wild along the retaining wall facing Key Worth Bank was removed. The roots of the vines were deeply attached to the wall and were growing in the cracks of the wall and in the drainage holes. A large amount of trash was removed. Crepe myrtles growing along the island where the mail box drop off is located were pruned. Several of these well-established shrubs had trees growing in the middle of them...the trees were cut out. Many of them were over 15 feet tall. The parking lots were cleaned of leaves and residue. Future plans are to tackle the trees growing along the southern wall of the building, clean the drains, remove trash, leaves and debris, edge the grass and shape the juniper in the final phase of the project. Diane Wilkes, community service chair, worked with a group to tackle this enhancement project.

CONVENTIONS

Deep South Convention: "Sweet Home Alabama", March 24-26, 2015, Birmingham, Alabama
Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35243-1946 (205) 968-3775

GCG State Convention: “Georgia's Coastal Magic”, April 15 – 17, Jekyll Island. There will be installation of district officers at the District Breakfast on Thursday morning.

Six Roswell Garden Club members participated in the Roswell Going Green Expo on February 7, 2015. They displayed “going green ideas” that a family can do. Literature with many “green” ideas were handed out. One member discussed methods to amend the soil using shredded newspaper and other items. Crafts done at the expo: 1) Book marks made of recycled cereal box or other cardboard box strips, construction paper strips and paper flowers glued on. 2) Recycled artificial flowers glued onto pens which could be given as a gift to mom or grandmother. 3) “Rain shakers’ made using recycled toilet paper rolls, round circles of fabrics, rice and beans, and rubber bands to hold on the fabric. Four children’s gardening books were given out during four drawings. Baggies with materials for projects to do at home were given out.

REMINDER

Landscape Design Classes
Course III, April 20-21, 2015
Course IV, May 4-5-6, 2015
Check GCG website for more details.

SMILE, IT IS FREE
A smile is cheer from you to me,
the cost is nothing it’s given for free.
They console the weary and gladden the sad.
And can make someone happy when they are mad.
Unlike blessings in which we pray
it's the only thing you keep when you give it away.
Heather Black
Roswell Garden Club
Spring Tea Presents

“In My Spring Bonnet”

Roswell Adult Recreation Center
830 Grimes Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30075

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Silent Auction
Design/Decorate your Spring Bonnet
Enter “Best Spring Bonnet” Contest
Wonderful prizes awarded to best bonnet in each category:
Elegant, Whimsical & Vintage

Invite friends, family, and neighbors to join you for a wonderful afternoon
of fun, tea and delicious delights!

Tickets $25.00 (non-refundable). Cash or checks payable to the Roswell Garden Club.
Advance Ticket Purchase Only: By Friday, March 20, 2015.
Non-Profit Organization 501(c)3.
Contact Roswell Adult Recreation Center 770-641-3950 or Debbie 770-378-1982.
Making a World of Difference —Choices Matter—

There is still time to apply for this NGC award and show how community actions can make a difference. Select an area of conservation that is of local concern. Create a project to help solve a problem - and partner with other community organizations, thereby working together toward a common goal. NGC is providing cash awards to clubs who achieve excellence in one of the five areas mentioned below.

**AIR**

Air projects may include:
Energy Conservation, Solar or Wind topics.

**LAND**

Project options are endless:
All Planting, Gardening, Native Plants, Roadside Beautification, Organic Gardening, Wildflowers, Garden Therapy.

**WATER**

Water Project suggestions:
Xeriscaping, Rain Gardens, Or Aquatic Ecosystems

**WILDLIFE**

Why not work on a project with Bees, Butterflies, Endangered Species or Pollinators? Read the material on BeeGAP and start your own Mason Bee colony.

**FOREST**

Anything Tree related:
Protecting and Preserving Native Forests, Combating Invasive Shrubs and Trees—just a few suggestions.

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**TABs PROJECT**

Pull your tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Recycled beverage tabs help your local Ronald McDonald House, a “home away from home” for families of children with serious illnesses who are undergoing treatment at nearby medical facilities.

Mark your bags of tabs with the name of your garden club. **Nola Hawkinson** will pick them up at Fulton Federation meetings and Dogwood District meetings.
GEORGIA NATIVE PLANT

Rhododendron canescens Piedmont Azalea

By far, the most common azalea in the South is Rhododendron canescens, the Piedmont azalea. Found from North Carolina to Florida and west to Texas, it is frequently referred to as “bush honeysuckle.” While many native azaleas are known by that designation, this species in particular deserves it. It is fragrant, and the blooms are similar to those of wild honeysuckles. The blooms range in color from pure white to light pink to bright pink. It grows up to 15 feet tall and is usually found close to moist areas along creeks and gullies. Extensive colonies can be found throughout Georgia. Many of these plants do not bloom, for in order to set buds, this species requires more light than some of the other native azaleas. These azaleas put on a beautiful show in the spring, covered with fragrant pink blooms. Some of these plants are almost in full sun and most have developed a more pleasing, rounder, more compact shape than those growing in full shade.


Penny Pines

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a "Penny Pines Program" partnership 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 to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe (Not Just Pine Trees). You may designate a specific State you wish to have benefit from this contribution.

Questions? Contact Barbara at b.bourque@comcast.net
770-889-2596 (h) 404-374-2828 (cell)

Checks should be made out to the National Garden Club and donations mailed to:
Barbara Bourque
GCG Penny Pines Chairman
6445 Holland Drive
Cumming, GA 30041-4641
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 9  Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs meeting
March 10  Deadline for Wildflower Photography Contest
March 24 – 26  Deep South Region Convention
March 25  Roswell Garden Club Tea Fundraiser
April 15 – 17  GCG Convention, Jekyll Island
April 19 – 25  Garden Week in Georgia
April 20 – 21  Course III, Landscape Design Class
April 22  Dogwood District Historic Landscape/Garden Grant Fundraiser and Lecture
May 4, 5, 6  Course IV, Landscape Design Class
May 12 – 18  National Garden Clubs Convention
May 14  Fulton Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Awards Luncheon, Ansley

Please send your articles and photos to:  Dialogue Editor, Carolyn Herndon, carolynhrgc@gmail.com.  Deadline for Spring issue is May 22, 2015.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Prayers and thoughts continue for our GCG President
Suzanne Wheeler