



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Mission: Beautification ... Conservation ... Education

"Planting Info..."

(N.B. During the previous GCG term, this monthly and rotating by topic publication was titled "Sowing Seeds of Knowledge" and was published monthly to inform and to encourage participation in NGC Schools; back issues of Sowing Seeds are available on the GCG website.)

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VOLUME IV, Issue 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ISSUE - May 2017

"Planting Info ..." - A New Approach to a Continuing Subject: Position Papers"

Theme for 2017-2019 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Position Papers

Astonished was the best reaction of this editor while presenting an informal program on WATER at a respected, established, active and state level and beyond participating GCG club's meeting earlier this year. A few minutes into the presentation, a club member's hand went up and its owner was recognized. Her statement was that she had been a club member since 1974 and had never heard of a Position Paper and wanted to know what one was. It turned out that several others were not or only vaguely aware of them. Some began checking their smart phones and tablets for the GCG website and Position Papers.

That was an instantly a teachable moment, teachable for the speaker, as well as for new Presidents and each club member. **GCG needs a Position Papers review. They are the core of its beliefs and practices. and so, we begin a new series.**

GCG President Jane Hersey quickly agreed to allow the Environmental Studies issues of "**Planting Info...**" to focus on Position Papers for her 2017-2019 term of office. Fortuitously, there will also be eight issues and there are eight Position Papers. which should work out nicely.

Definition: Consider that a Position Paper, also sometimes called a White Paper, defines the beliefs, principles and goals on a given topic for an organization. A Position Paper shows specific examples and details how the Mission is carried out, or as was explained when GCG had *I Believe in Trees* as a theme, the principles of what GCG believes about trees, that members want them conserved and protected and how and what the organization will support as laws seeking such action. In that respect, they are not unlike platform statements. **They are important to all GCG does.**

Origin: GCG member Marian Hill belongs to a GCG club that also is also a member of the Garden Club of America (GCA) of which she has served as National President. Marian urged incoming

President Jaydee Ager to insure that GCG develop Position Papers. They serve as guidelines for many efforts and directives for most state level activities and chairmen. The 2003-2005 Legislative Team with the help of GCG chairmen and recognized experts from creditable conservation organizations was tasked to and prepared the initial Position Papers. **They were agreed to by the committee, approved by active former GCG Presidents, the President, the GCG Executive Board, and the GCG State Board of Directors with the caveat that they would be reviewed during each GCG term and revised if and as necessary.**

Influence: At least one other has developed the Position Paper concept.

Use: GCG papers were revised as needed in 2016. They are especially helpful to the GCG Legislative Team and any member speaking as a member to or communicating with any elected official on any level. They act as a GCG filter for all Bills coming from elected governmental bodies. When GCG members doing volunteer citizen advocacy speak for GCG, it is vital to insure that all statements they make are in compliance with the applicable Position Paper on any can given topic. **Many members wisely put their requests on one side of a letter of request for a vote and print the applicable GCG Position Paper on the back. OR when GCG members visit an elected official, it is helpful to hand the official a hard copy of the applicable Position Paper and to refer to it.**

Location: GCG's Position Papers are embedded on the GCG website. It can take several steps to access them after reaching the home page. **1. On left side of the home page, on the list of topics, first click on Projects & Programs; then click on Legislative Advocacy and Issues; then click on GCG Position Papers and then scroll down to the list with that title and then click on the appropriate Paper. 2. Shorter alternate route: on the second, wider portion of the Home Page, scroll down to the topic listed as GCG Position Papers Revised and click on *Click here*.**

A few environmental news updates: GOOGLE or other search the items that interest you!

1. The U.S. Supreme Court has not yet set a date for hearing the case Florida has brought against Georgia over the use of waters from the Chattahoochee/Flint system.
2. Despite a storm line that stretched from just northeast of Mexico City, a dozen north Georgia counties are still classified in a Level 2 Drought.
3. Atlanta commits to 100% renewable energy by 2035!
4. Georgia's first sea turtle nest for 2017 was found this week on Cumberland Island. Above average nesting for the year is anticipated.

KEEP Reading! KEEP Learning! Apply learning and remember that the source from which you seek information will in great measure determine the information you receive. Print the Position Paper below that follows as a separate page. Then compare it to your club's projects, programs, and efforts listed in your yearbook and see which items you club follows. You may of course continue to email me about this newsletter.

Position Paper 2004: GCG Supports Historic Preservation

Revised 2016

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. supports preservation of the state's historic places buildings, districts, archeological sites, and especially cultural/historic sites. Historic resources face constant pressures; many have been destroyed.

Cultural/historic landscapes are especially fragile; Georgia has more than 50,000 documented archaeological sites “ and those are just the ones that have been identified. The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. supports the following activities to encourage their preservation:

- Laws that require thorough historic and cultural surveys before the construction or expansion of department of transportation projects.
- Identification and evaluation of Georgia's historic landscapes. In order to preserve the state's historic places, it is important to know what they are and why they are significant; i.e., relics like slave cemeteries; Native American burial grounds; Civil War entrenchments; standing historical buildings, and historic gardens.
- Enhancement of Georgia Scenic Byways Program
- Development of educational programs and activities to increase public interest, support, and awareness of preservation of Georgia's historic landscapes and properties.
- Increasing local, state, and national initiatives to identify as well as offer incentives and financial resources to preserve and maintain historic properties.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. supports increased cooperation among and interaction with national, state, and local preservation and conservation groups to promote an appreciation for historic landscapes and to encourage their preservation.

Glossary of Terms

Cultural Landscapes—Geographic areas, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with historic events, activities, or persons.

Historic Landscapes—Areas including residential gardens and community parks, scenic highways, rural communities, institutional grounds, cemeteries, battlefields, and zoological gardens. They are composed of character-defining features, which contribute to the landscapes' physical appearances as they have evolved over time. In addition to vegetation and topography, cultural landscapes may include water features such as ponds, streams, and fountains; circulation features such as roads, paths, steps, and walls; buildings; and furnishings, including fences, benches, lights, and sculptural objects.

Historic Designed Landscapes—Landscapes consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. It may be associated with a significant person/s trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes. Examples include parks, campuses, and estates.

Preservation—The act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features items rather than extensive replacement and new construction.

Definitions are adapted from the National Park Service Preservation Brief #36, "Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment, and Management of Historic Landscapes."