

JOIN US

Membership Development

Summer, 2015

Something to think about.

Comparing our minds to gardens:

James Allen, a nineteenth-century English author compares our minds to gardens. Left untended, he said, they will become filled with weeds.

A man's mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but where cultivated or neglected, it must and will bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless seeds will fall therein and will continue to produce their kind.

Just as a gardener cultivates his plot, keeping it free from weeds, and growing flowers, and fruit which he require, so may a man tend the garden of his mind, weeding out all the wrong useless and impure thoughts, and cultivating toward perfection the flowers and fruits of right, useful pure thought. By pursuing this process, a man sooner or later discovers that he is the master gardener of his soul, the director of his life.

Being garden club member is therapeutic on so many levels: social, emotional, and mental. Gardening is good for us all. Let's encourage others to garden.

Is Time a Factor?

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

YOUTH



One of the activities that brought great enjoyment has been the involvement in the Youth Garden program. It has been gratifying to see what these young individuals are learning and what gardeners can share. There are so many retired teachers in our state who would be excited to work with youth again. This could be a way to encourage that population to: **Join Us as we "Leap Into Action," while we "Sow Seeds of Knowledge and Reap Conservation with Beauty."**

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.

The GCG would enjoy your membership in an active organized garden club but the benefits of being a subscribing member are varied. (From the GCG website) Please contact us for more information, if you are interest in being a subscribing member.

Did You Know?

As nearly 200,000 men and women of all ages and backgrounds across the nation can attest, the rewards of belonging to a garden club go far beyond the pure pleasure of growing things. While joining a local garden club is indeed a great way to “green” your thumb, membership also provides an opportunity to expand your interests and build lifelong friendships while bettering your community and the environment. Individual garden clubs focus on particular local interests while also enjoying the opportunity to network regionally (through state organizations) and nationally (through National Garden Clubs, Inc.). In general, each local garden club determines its specific programs, which are tailored

to members’ interests as well as area needs. Clubs offer an enjoyable variety of educational, environmental, social and civic projects that attract a diverse membership. Through providing stimulating, informative and relevant programming for today’s world, local garden clubs continue to thrive from generation to generation. (From the NGC website.)



Do remember that we want to include **Penny Pines** in our membership efforts. Contact Barbara Bourque (b.bourque@comcast.net) for more information on Penny Pines.



THOUGHTS FROM SARA LANIER'S PRESENTATION

No matter how important the work of your garden club is, no matter how vital the services your club performs are, no matter how great the potential for fun and fellowship your club has . . .

none of your club’s strengths can be accomplished without active membership. **Active membership is THE KEY.** Active, involved, and interested members will unlock the doors of success and growth for your club.

MEMBERSHIP

KEY WORDS:

Retention—Keep old one

Extension—Get new one

Recognition—Praise the jobs well done

Retain members by:

- 🌿 Interesting programs
- 🌿 Friendly and pleasant meetings
- 🌿 Fun and worthwhile projects

Recruit members:

- 🌿 How to get new members—ask them
- 🌿 Have a special day for members to bring their friends
- 🌿 Search for quality not quantity

Recognize:

- 🌿 Delegate jobs
- 🌿 Let them do the work
- 🌿 Praise them and thank them

MEMBERSHIP involves leadership in two ways:

- 🌿 1. We must recruit new members and help them become active.
- 🌿 2. We must stimulate active participation on the part of every member.

Diane Harbin, GCG 4th VP,
Membership Development
dianejharbin@comcast.net
Kathy Donahue, Join Us Editor