Hilda Rushing - District Director  I am very proud to be the director in a district whose hard-working members are so enthusiastically committed to civic beautification projects, public education with respect to horticulture, ecology and the conservation of natural resources, and junior nature activities. That’s what we’re here to share, and that’s what we’re all about.

Here’s a little bit about my background: I was born and raised in Mitchell County (near Camilla), Georgia. I graduated from Georgia Southern University where I met my husband, Billy; consequently, we made Statesboro our home.

I’ve been a member of Sprig ‘n Dig Garden Club in Statesboro since 2005, where I served as president twice and secretary three terms. I served on the Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs as secretary and am the Immediate Past President, having served four years. I have chaired two Standard Flower Shows in Statesboro and served on the Oleander Board since 2011.

I am presently serving on the City of Statesboro Beautification Commission Board and Georgia Southern University Botanical Garden Board. I am active in my church and other clubs in Statesboro. My hobbies are gardening and tennis. I have two daughters and six grandchildren.

My Oleander theme is “It’s our Earth – Let’s make a Difference”. I’m challenging all Oleanders to make a difference to keep our earth beautiful by conserving our natural resources and educating our families and the public on the importance of being good stewards of our earth. Remember to “pull that tab”, recycle those cans, plastic bags, plastic containers, bottles, etc. It starts with US!!
Kim T. Anderson, District Co-Director, is also 2015-17 President of the Metter Garden Club, where she has been a member since 2009. Kim is from Kerrville, Texas. She followed in her father’s footsteps with her career in federal service, but she inherited her mother’s love of gardening, landscaping, floral and interior design. Her mother was a tenured member of multiple garden clubs, including clubs in Kerrville and Dallas, Texas. Her paternal grandfather was recognized for his cactus gardens in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and Kim continues his tradition growing heirloom cactus descended from those in his Mexico gardens. Additionally, her paternal great grandmother was an avid gardener at their home in Fort Worth, Texas, where she was renowned for her stunning gardens. With this horticultural heritage, it is no surprise that her President’s theme for the Metter Garden Club is Commemorate Our Past, Celebrate Our Future.

Officer Spotlight

Mary C. Ogden is one BUSY lady!! She fills multiple roles in local, county, district, and state Garden Clubs. In Oleander she serves as Corresponding Secretary, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl & Youth Poetry Contest Chairperson; for GCG Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairperson; Wayne County Council President; and last but certainly not least, Odum Garden Club, she is Parliamentarian, Publicity & Membership Chairman, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl/Youth Poetry/High School Essay Chairperson!! She is a member of the elite GCG Life Member group. She was named the 2014 Outstanding Oleander Member of the Year and the Wayne County Council named her 2015 Wayne County Citizen of the Year. You’d think she eats, sleeps and breathes Garden Club activities. However, she is an avid world traveler and was spotlighted for her travels in the prestigious Wayne County Living Magazine!! She has been married 50 years to her best friend, Lonnie, and is co-owner of two rescue dogs and one mean cat. They live on a small farm where they enjoy growing a vegetable garden and fishing at their catfish pond.
Hello, I am Geri Shaw, Oleander District Treasurer. As a member of the GCG State Board I am Board Liaison/Development & Protocol co-chairman. I am also Treasurer of St. Marys Garden Club. I moved to St Marys from Connecticut in 2011 where I was a member of the Haddam Garden Club.

In addition to my Garden Club activities, I also volunteer at the Humane Society, support St. Marys Little Theatre and St. Marys Railroad. I enjoy playing Mah Jongg with my friends and taking care of my two small dogs.

Marilyn Cheney serves as Parliamentarian and Wildlife Resources & Endangered Species. She is the Immediate Past Director of the Oleander District. She is a member of the Reidsville Garden Club.

Lisa Hall is the recording secretary for the district, Publications Awards Chairman for the state, also awards chair and parliamentarian for Landings Garden Club. I have no life because all I do is say YES and volunteer! I am a master gardener but it is tough to garden in the deep south with deer that eat things they are not supposed to like, salt spray and marsh muck which is like trying to grow plants in nuclear waste or sand and way too much sun. And I thought the red clay of Atlanta was tough....HA! The thing about the place I live is that the people are so nice and so much fun. The grueling work does have its fun times!!
Shirley Lewis

is our District Advisor who served as Director from 1985-87, GCG State Convention Chair in 1987, 1994 and 2001, and Deep South Regional Convention Chairman in 2013. She is a Life Member of GCG, DSR and NGC. Other credentials include Master Gardening Consultant, Environmental Education Facilitator and Team Leader, USDA Forest Service EE Facilitator and Team Leader, Master Flower Show Judge and an accredited Landscape Design Consultant. To learn more contact her at jandslewis@comcast.net

Francene Roberson,

As Chairman of Garden Centers, I will catalog the District Garden Centers and Mini Centers. On the district level I have been Awards and Photo Archives Chairman. Locally I’ve served as president of Sea Oats Garden Club in Brunswick. I enjoyed planning and working on various community beautification projects. Most recently we received a Community on My Mind grant which we used to beautify the grounds of the Share Speech Hearing and Rehabilitation of Coastal GA. I enjoy all aspects of local and district Garden Clubs.

Kay Peacock

is the Oleander Awards Workshop Chairman and the GCG Natural Disasters Chairperson. She served as the 1999-2001 Oleander District Director and has served on the board continuously since 1997.

Outstanding Oleander Board
I'm Lori Hurlebaus, my position is Oleander Listserv Manager. I am a member of Brooklet Garden Club. I am on the Bulloch Council Flower Show Committee and on the Oleander Webpage Committee. I have a deep desire to create whether it is sewing, drawing, painting, crafting, planting or floral design. My head is crammed with ideas!

Dixie Diffenderfer is a member of The Landings Garden Club. She is the Backyard Wildlife Habitat chairman for the Oleander District. Although this district chairmanship is a new GCG designation, the Landings Garden Club initiated and gained community certification several years ago. The focus is to encourage homeowners living within a community to enhance their properties for the benefit and preservation of wildlife: birds, turtles, butterflies, wildflowers, etc. Dixie is a retired English teacher from Lakeside High School in the Atlanta area. She enjoys volunteer work in her community and church as well as travel and family.

Kathryn Rachels Fowler, As chairman of Ways and Means, I sell Oleander items like member pins, garden gloves, insulated bags, and our beautiful "new" note cards at our meetings. I encourage all garden clubs to bring lots of goodies to sell at the Country Store. Those who don’t are "required" to give $25.00 towards this fundraiser. This money stays in our district; be sure your club registers @ the Country Store. Look for my sales table at the Oleander District Autumn Splendor meeting this year in Rincon. I love wildflowers, photographing them and always wants to be the person who finds the rare one. I won 3rd in the 2015 GCG Wildflower Photo Contest. My love for kittens is well known. We have 33 rescues!! BUT I do NOT want any more.!!
Lynn Anderson

Garden Therapy Chairman, of the Sea Oats Garden Club in Brunswick, will work with the State Chairman to promote the therapeutic aspects of gardening. The program provides gardening activities for clients at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville. Expenses are supported by contributions from local garden clubs to the Garden Therapy Program. Clubs giving $25 or more before March 1 receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Many clubs participate in providing Christmas stocking and Easter Egg pockets for clients at the regional psychiatric hospital.

Joyce St. Clair

of St. Marys Garden Club, Special Projects GCG: Ban plastic Bags. I am in charge of the BAN PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT-Oleander District. I hope to educate GCG members about the dangers of plastic bags so they will avoid using them. In turn, by sharing this knowledge with family and friends, more will become aware of the problems created by use of plastic bags. I have been in the St. Marys Garden Club for 10 years and it has become a special part of my life. I joined it shortly after we moved here from Marietta, GA. I have enjoyed meeting the other members and participating in garden club activities. I was VP for 4 years and president for 2 years. We do projects in our little town, and it makes me very proud to know that I helped make our town prettier. It has been fun to meet other people from GCG.
Leslee Bowler, your Legislative Affairs Chairman, will alert your Garden Club of important environmental issues that need your attention. Clean water. Clean air. Things we take for granted. But we shouldn’t. GCG was a founding member of the GA Water Coalition (GWC), which works to keep Georgia's waters clean. Many waters in GA do not meet the minimum standards for drinking, fishing and swimming. When Oleander Garden Clubs get involved by contacting their legislators, they can help make a difference. Get involved, don’t think someone else is going to do it. A phone call, an email, a few minutes of your time can make a difference. Leslee became involved in legislative matters after Megan Desrosiers of One Hundred Miles did a program for the Landings Garden Club.

Joni C. Thompson, Greetings everyone! I am responsible for the Conservation of Birds and Butterflies. My hope is that each club will have a program to promote habitats for each over the next two years. Then, toot your own horn, and share what you’ve done with the rest of us. Share an outline and pictures on the Oleander newsletter. Please consider bird feeders and houses, establishing monarch way stations, share milkweed seeds through the district country store, make nesting boxes for butterflies and so much more. Have fun observing and protecting the beauties.

Barbara Hunnicutt from Metter Garden Club, is the Community Wildlife Project, Historical Trail Markers and Blue Star Markers Chairman.
Sherle Beck, Civic Improvement/Community on my Mind Chairman. I receive three state awards books of evidence, Cemetery Award, Civic Improvement Awards, and Holiday Decorations Awards. Our committee judges them and sends to the GCG Awards Committee. I also facilitate Community on my Mind applications which is a matching grant application received from Garden Clubs around our state. I'm a member of Blythe Island Garden Club and Glynn County Council.

Leslie Riggins is the Website Manager and Website Committee Chair. She is a website and graphic designer, a technical writer, and former environmental land use planner. She is in her second term as club president of the Ruby Riggins Camellia Garden Club in Jesup and is secretary for the Wayne County Garden Club Council. She hails from the San Francisco area but is married to a Jesup native (grandson of Ruby Riggins, for whom the club is named), loves being a part of the Garden Club of Georgia, and is very happy to call Jesup and southeast Georgia her home.

Nancy Trawick is Youth Garden Clubs Chairperson. My responsibilities are promoting and supporting Youth Garden Clubs throughout the District. I hope to be able to encourage more sponsorship and start more Youth Clubs in our District. I am Vice President of Brooklet Garden Club.
Paula Karrh, from Swainsboro, has been gardening almost her whole life and had been in garden club for over fifty years. It is absolutely her favorite thing to do besides read. She serves as the chairman of the #61 Tree Award and of the #Arbor Day Award. She urges all of the garden clubs in Oleander to plant trees and celebrate Arbor Day so that we can make Oleander District and Georgia more beautiful.

Winette Almon
Cherokee Garden Library, Atlanta History Center, houses over 28,000 books, photographs, manuscripts, seed catalogs & landscape drawings. It serves as a research center & promotes the study of gardening and garden history through lectures, workshops, exhibits, and collaborative projects with community partners. It is supported by the GCG. Donations continue to offer resources and programs. Garden clubs are encouraged to support the center with donations. “What to Give Where” in the Guide tells where to send your $25 donation. Winette is the founder of the Spartina Garden Club in Townsend.

Rosemary Maulden
Oleander and GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, Deep South Region Youth Sculpture Chairman. This chairman encourages councils to apply for GCG Award #31 Garden Club Councils due February 1, pay GCG dues by March 1, and send in Annual Club Council Activity Report by March 15 to be eligible to receive Standard of Excellence. Rosemary has been an advocate for Youth, currently founding member of a Foundation that recognizes youth in local schools for outstanding deeds.
Sara Lanier, Club/Council Officers Workshop Chairman is a former DSR director, GCG President, Oleander Director, President of Neptune Garden Club & St. Simons Council (2 terms). Life member of GCG, DSR, & NGC. She has led Club Officers Workshops for the last 8 years. She has attended The Environmental Studies School, Garden Studies School and Basic Design School. She was named 1993 Oleander District "Outstanding Garden Club Member". She is a member of St. Simons Presbyterian Church, DAR, United Daughters of the Confederacy and National Society of the War of 1812, St. Simons Beautification Council, Keep Brunswick/Golden Isles Beautiful Clean Sweep Board & Glynn County Tree Board.

Awards deadline October 1!!
Tabatha Higgs
I am the Chaplain for the Oleander District of GCG. I retired from teaching school after 33 years. My greatest joy in life is spending time with family. I also enjoy reading, painting, gardening and anything crafty.

Phyllis Thompson, Oleander Chairman of the Georgia State Parks and Historic Lands, is past President of the Glennville Garden Club. I’m very excited about our state parks; they provide so much for our GA families. Juan Thompson, my husband, and I raised our children going to state parks & now they take their children. We have our family get-togethers at state parks and rent adjacent cabins so the kids can run between the cabins. I hope you will take an interest in parks near you. The Park Director, I have been told, will be happy to do a program for your club. If your club needs state park or historic lands information, please let me know. Email me @ jthompson00@windstream.net

Sandi Channel & Anna Downey
Cherokee Garden Club co-presidents this year. Sandi Channell who is repeating as President will serve two years with a new co-president. Sandi and Anna are both Brunswick natives and have grandmothers mothers & mothers-in-law who were members of the Cherokee Garden Club.
June Thomas, Oleander Leaflets Editor, is the Odum Garden Club president (6th consecutive year), Wayne County Council Yearbook Editor and Garden Therapy Chair. She is actively seeking employment so she can have a day off!! Get your club in the Oleander SPOTLIGHT!! Send news to junewinnthomas@gmail.com

Judy McWhorter, of the Seedling Garden Club in Swainsboro, is chairperson of both Basic Design and Natural Disasters. She has been active in garden club since 1975 and a Flower Show Judge since 1985. The first Basic Design Course was held in Athens this week. Date of the 2nd course will be set soon. No other courses are planned. If you would like to sponsor/host a series of five Basic Design classes please contact Judy @ .478-237-9465 orjudymc@ncr.com

Deborah Hardage is the Community, Herb, and Vegetable gardening District Chairman, State Chair Organic Gardening & District Chairman. She is a member of Pine Forest Garden Club, Baxley, Ga and is the immediate past president. A Florida native, I left the hot but breezy Treasure Coast five years ago to relocate to South Georgia. My husband and I have a 55 acre organic blueberry farm in Alma and are members of Georgia Organics and Georgia Grown. I love to travel and make new friends along the way. My friends and family keep me sane!
Linda Coleman, Metter Garden Club Chair of Remembrances Committee, is Oleander Historian and Archivist. (She recently broke her leg and is in the hospital for PT)

District Awards due October 1

Bobbie Reid of the Millen Garden Club serves as Oleander Flower Show Schedules Chairperson.

Patricia Dekle, Environmental: Energy Conservation, Natural Resources, Land Use Chairperson, is 1st Vice President of the Metter Garden Club.

Country Store items to Rincon!!!
Sarah Williams, Pull-A-Tab Chairperson, says we want Oleander to win the 2016 & 2017 GCG Pull-A-Tab contest. A Savannah native, she admits that even though she knew little about gardening, she was elected president of the Brooklet Garden Club when it was formed in 2009. She is President of the Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs. Other interests are quilting and crafting. She is active in the Brooklet United Methodist Church.

Lana Lanier is the Horticulture Native Plants, Wildflowers, and Xeriscaping Chair. I am a member in the Metter Garden Club. I am a retired educator. I love the outdoors. I would rather dig a whole and stick a flower in it than do anything inside. Can’t stand to throw away anything that might be a future plant (seeds, cuttings, baby plants). I also love hunting deer & turkeys with my husband & son. In fact we’re busy getting ready for deer season right now.

Joanne Nesmith, School Grounds Improvement Chairperson, is from Statesboro.

The Country Store needs you...well...your STUFF

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Sharon Herrin is the GCG Expressions Calendar Chairman. In the Odum Garden Club, Sharon chairs the Garden Therapy project, Expressions Calendars, and the Peaches to Beaches Yard Sale Event. She is active in every event that OGC sponsors. She loves to garden and is an avid traveler.

Geneva Nichols, Litter and Recycling Chairman, is President of Dogwood Garden Club in Jesup. She is Parliamentarian of the Wayne County Council as well as Immediate Past President. She is an active community leader having served several terms on the Jesup City Council. She was Oleander Director in 1997-99 and has served on the board for many years.

Willie Burch, Scrapbook Chairman, is Vice President of the Lily Garden Club in Screven, GA and Wayne County Council Treasurer. She has served on the Oleander board and the Wayne County Council for years. As a farmer’s wife, she practices garden club principles every day of her life.
Christie Roller is Oleander Roadside Beautification Chairman and a member of Mt. Vernon Garden Club.

Calvin Moses hails from Soperton Garden Club and he serves as Oleander Habitat for Humanity Chair.

The Oleander Country Store needs canned goods, dried floral pieces, crafts, potted plants, bulbs, etc.. We love buying each others STUFF!!!

Oleander Chairman Positions Available:
Scholarships Chair and GCG Children’s Garden
If interested, please contact Director, Hilda Rushing
rushighl@hotmail.com

Remember Ronald in Rincon

Awards Application deadline October 1
**Additional Chairman**

**Shannon Floyd**- Arboreta, Botanical Memorial Gardens

**Barbara Priest**- Environmental; Air & Water Quality; Metter Garden Club

**Elaine Boyd**- Horticulture Container, Indoor Gardening; Metter Garden Club

**Suzette Nesmith**- Land Trust, Marshall Forest & LeConte Woodmanston; Spartina Garden Club

**James Huskey**- Public Relations & Publicity

**Pam Alexander**- Yearbooks

**Mildred Tuck**- Youth Essay Contest
Oleander District Annual Meeting

Planning Committee puts final touches on Annual Meeting to be held at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon on October 20.

Registration information is in August 2015 Oleander Leaflets.


Needed: Goods for Country Store In Rincon. ❤️ to shop!!

Bring home the GOLD
Get those award apps in ASAP!!

Remember Ronald in Rincon
Oleander Club Officers Workshop
44 Attendees

Seated (L-R) Nancy Trawick, Lori Hurlebaus
Back (L-R) Sandra Williams, Martha Price, Susan Mulligan, Juanita Morton.
Above-Betty Waller, Brenda Helmly, Kay Peacock, Rosemary Maulden, Sherle Beck & Joyce St. Clair

Right-Nancy Trawick, Lori Hurlebaus, Lynn Anderson & Geri Shaw

Below-Tabatha Higgs, Jean Skinner, Joni Thompson, Bobbie Reid, Judy McWhorter & Paula Karrh
Special Guest-GCG President-Martha Price

Clockwise: Top-Workshop Presenters & Special Guests; Jesup Garden Club members; Odum Garden Club participants; Pine Forest Garden Club officers

Oleander Awards Workshop
Swainsboro, GA
54 Participants
Kay Peacock, chairman

Remember Ronald in Rincon
Odum Garden Club rallies around Mayor Brian Nipper as he signs the National Garden Week proclamation at their Annual Recognition Supper.
The Movers & Shakers of Odum Garden Club

(Right) Sharon Herrin & Mary Ogden present Oleander & GCG Smokey Bear award to 5th grader, Leanna Cooper, at Odum Elementary Honors Day.

(Above) Brenda Westberry (L) is recognized for her generous “Pull a Tab & Save” efforts supporting OGC. Harriett Cooper (R) made the presentation.

Bring those tabs to Rincon

(Right) Odum Garden Club hosted a reception for the dignitaries and guests at Odum Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony. The children were provided cookies in their respective classrooms. (L-R) Marcia Carter, Mary Ann Griffis, Anita Jordan, Debra Fenn, Jill Harris & Delinda Pattie
Odum Garden Club hosted a Fishing Expedition for Jesup Health Care & Rehab clients. (Below) Betty Benner and her fishing partner caught the most!! Members helped bait hooks and unhook fish. They also provided snacks and beverages. The event was held at the Pond House of members, Jill Harris and Anita Jordan. JHR is OGC Garden Therapy ongoing project.
THE GCG CHILDREN’S GARDEN

For children young and old everywhere, the State Botanical Garden in Athens is building a 21st century Children’s Garden. Operating under the realization that today’s children are better connected to a virtual world of technology than to the natural world, this garden reaches out to hundreds of children and teachers with the message of environmental stewardship.

One enters the garden through the Georgia Discovery Plaza, an arc-like amphitheater which features a giant colorful map of Georgia introducing families and school groups to the geography, culture, ecology, and natural history of our state. There will be a wonderful underground den of roots and soils, a multi-level tree house village, forest adventure, bogs and a wetland water ferry, outdoor galleries, work spaces and theaters, and a two-part Garden of Wonder with programmed zones for the really young. The Busy Bees zone is for 1 and 2-year-olds to explore nature in a safe, age-appropriate way. Sweet Peas zone for 3 and 4-year-olds features a bee-dance pavement design, a green maze, and a flowery meadow which provides the opportunity for children to learn about our pollinators’ behavior as they trace the flight of a bumble bee. The Dig and Grow zone will introduce children to the lifelong love of planting and gardening. A canopy walk high up in the trees will give a bird’s eye view of the garden’s ecosystem. It is only in our helping children acquire a love of nature and a deep intuitive understanding of our natural world that we can assure that the future of our earth will follow a course of sustainable development.

Marianne McConnell
Cassina Garden Club’s Annual Christmas Bake Sale & Emporium at the Cabins

Cassina Garden Club is proud to announce a celebration of restoration and Christmas joy on Saturday, December 5th. Our Annual Christmas Bake Sale and Emporium will be held at our historic tabby cabins on Gascoigne Bluff, St. Simons Island, from 9:00-2:00. In addition to wonderful things to buy, the Tea Cabin will be on display to show off its newly restored tabby and stucco exterior and its fascinating interior secrets which are to be revealed. After a year of work by Tidewater Preservation, Inc., Cassina is excited to share the progress made in restoring these precious cabins for posterity with a festive celebration open without charge to the public.

Bring your Christmas list. Our Bake Sale, the best in the Southeast, will offer a wide variety of baked goods, candies, jellies, preserves and fresh local citrus fruits—everything you will need for stocking stuffers and grand desserts for the table. Our Christmas Emporium will feature permanent Christmas trees, unique ornaments, bows, decorative pots, and freshly cut local greenery.

Please join Cassina Garden Club in St. Simons for a day filled with scrumptious baked goods, shopping and Christmas cheer at our historic tabby cabins!
Save the Date
Pine Forest Garden Club
Baxley, GA
Christmas Tour of Homes
Sunday, December 6, 2015
More info:
pfgcbaxleyga@gmail.com

Please Join Us
Wayne County Garden Club Council
Christmas Tour of Homes
Sunday, December 13, 2015
More info
bcscott@bellsouth.net
Telfair in Bloom
April 14-17, 2016
Join us for the inaugural event, Telfair in Bloom, April 14-17, 2016 at Telfair Museums in Historic Downtown Savannah. Inspired by an event initiated by the Museum of Fine Art, Boston decades ago – Art in Bloom. Its success has made it an annual event for many museums across the country. For more info: http://bit.ly/1PkP2gV.

Telfair in Bloom will be a festival of art and flowers! Museum curators will choose paintings, sculptures and works of decorative art. Floral designers will interpret the art by creating arrangements to display. Also an opening party, a lecture by a nationally-recognized speaker followed by a luncheon, plus additional lectures, demonstrations and a children’s workshop.

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in this project which will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Oleander District’s top floral designers. No entry fee. The works of art and designers will be matched through a lottery system.

To participate or for more information contact: Lisa Hall 912-598-9504 or hall7796@bellsouth.net or Genie Ogden 912-897-2220 or genieogden@bellsouth.net

Telfair in Bloom urges Garden Clubs to participate in this spectacular event. Call or email Lisa or Genie for more info.
Community, Herb, & Vegetable Gardening
Deborah Hardage, GCG Chairman
pfgcbaxleyga@gmail.com

Apply for GCG Herb Award (#41) Due December 1st  Apply to: Deborah Hardage @ pfgcbaxleyga@gmail.com Silver perpetual trophy given by Country Hills Garden Club, Atlanta, in honor of Jaconette D. Williams, for her outstanding contribution in growing and use of herbs. Award is given to an individual member or garden club for the most comprehensive activity or program on herb lore, culture or program, plant exhibit or demonstration on herbs.

Herbs such as basil, lemon balm, chamomile, dandelion, dill, and sage are examples of bee favorites. Many pollinators are tiny and like plants with tiny flowers; plant thymes, mints, oregano, and rosemary to attract them. Larger pollinators, especially big bumblebees, prefer plants with larger and sturdier flowers such as lavender, sage, bee balm, stingless nettle, and anise hyssop. We don’t often think of butterflies as pollinators. Butterflies are the happiest in sipping on flowers planted in areas with good sun and little or no wind. Consider planting chives, thyme, marjoram, catmint, mint, chives, or parsley. You could also plant herbs with flowers in umbels such as dill, yarrow, caraway, and Echinacea for them to feast on. Another overlooked pollinator is a hummingbird. They like bee balm, comfrey, and lavender, mallow, globe thistle, and find pineapple sage irresistible. Some herbs do double duty, attracting both pollinators and parasitic wasps and hoverflies. If you don’t have a lot of space, consider planting chamomile, dill, anise, or parsley to lure both kinds of beneficial to your garden. Herbs are considered one of the easiest groups of plants to grow, and once established, most are considered low maintenance; they do very well with little water or fertilizer. While herbs are adaptable to a range of soil and growing conditions, most don’t do well in poorly drained soil. One other point to consider regarding soil, heavy clay is a challenging environment for most herbs. Consider planting herbs in raised beds or amending existing soil with well-composted organic matter to improve its porosity. Another limiting factor is the amount of sun available to them; if the site receives less than 6-8 hours of sun a day, look for another site or consider herbs that can handle light shade. The sun/shade factor is especially important for pollinators, including honeybees, since most of them are attracted to plants that flower in full sun conditions. Don’t forget to place a shallow bowl or saucer of water in your garden for hard-working pollinators!

Community Gardens are collaborative projects created by members of the community; residents share in both the maintenance and rewards of the garden. The gardens produce food that is local, affordable, and in-season. They also create important biodiversity in cities, supporting insects and birds, creating habitat, filtering air and buffering noise. “About 20,000 community gardens exist nationwide, and the number continues to rise,” said Bobby Wilson, president of the American Community Gardening Association and a University of Georgia cooperative extension agent. Given the warm climate and long growing season in Georgia community gardens are thriving! From Metro Atlanta to Dalton, Warner Robbins, Savannah, Athens, Augusta, Carrolton and Valdosta, people come together from all walks of life to help make approximately 360 community and school gardens a success. Many gardens serve as important community gathering and educational spaces while others provide important access to fresh vegetables in areas with limited access to produce. Becky Griffen, UGA Extension Community and School Garden Coordinator, has compiled lists of community and school gardens all over the state. She suggests garden clubs contact their county Extension agent to find a community garden in their area. Find your extension agent http://extension.uga.edu/about/county/ or read her blog http://blog.extension.uga.edu/communitygardening/ The simple act of planting a garden can create positive environmental, economic, and social impacts on a neighborhood. Community gardens foster cultural understanding and an awareness of the environment around us.

What can you, as a Garden Club of Georgia member, do? Volunteer

NGC 2015-2017 special projects focus on Preserving and Nurturing our Bio-Indicators by reversing the population decline in pollinator species: “Bee a Wildlife Action Hero” encourages members to become actively involved; BeeGAP initiative designed to increase the awareness of native bees and encourage efforts to increase bee population; the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge- a campaign to register a million public and private gardens and landscapes to support pollinators are just a few of the programs the NGC encourages state garden club members to do. ALL of these projects can be accomplished by planting an herb garden! When it comes to vegetable and fruit production, pollinating insects are the very lifeblood of the garden. For the majority of food plants they’re 100% necessary, so it’s important to make pollinators at home in the garden and encourage them to stay. Many herbs produce flowers that are completely irresistible to pollinating insects, as well as an unlimited number of wildlife species including native bee species, honeybees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Herbs are a solution to the need expressed by many beekeepers to increase nectar availability in an area. Herbs are versatile blooming the same year they’re planted in many cases. With sufficient variety, an herb garden can have plants in bloom 10 months of the year, providing nectar and pollen sources for honeybees.
"When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow but the gardeners themselves."  **Ken Druse**  To celebrate the Cherokee Garden Library's 40th anniversary, the Garden Library hosts gardening superstar, Ken Druse. Called “the guru of natural gardening” by *The New York Times*, Ken Druse is a celebrated lecturer, photographer, and author. He has a dynamic weekly radio show and podcast called “Ken Druse—The Real Dirt” ([http://www.kendruse.typepad.com/](http://www.kendruse.typepad.com/)), and he writes frequently for the *The New York Times, Martha Stewart Living, House Beautiful*, and many others publications. Ken Druse is best known for his eighteen engaging gardening books. With the tremendous success of his books, including *The Natural Garden, The Natural Shade Garden, The Natural Habitat Garden, The Collector’s Garden, Making More Plants: The Science, Art, and Joy of Propagation, The Passion for Gardening, and Planthropology*, Ken Druse is America’s best-loved gardener. *Making More Plants* is a bestseller and winner of The American Horticultural Society’s 2001 “Best Book of the Year” and the Garden Writers Association of America’s 2001 “Award of the Year,” its highest honor. The American Horticultural Society listed *The Natural Habitat Garden* among the best books of all times. His groundbreaking book, *The Natural Garden*, initiated a design movement that continues to grow in popularity today. An organic gardener, writer, photographer, designer, and naturalist, Ken Druse’s passion is to inspire and empower others to make gardening part of a balanced life, and to enhance their community through taking care of their piece of the earth. In *The Passion for Gardening*, Druse writes: “Tending the soil with busy hands sets the mind free to dream and can soothe the spirit like no other pursuit.” His most recent work, *The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change*, is receiving rave reviews. Due to the exceptional artistic quality of his photography, the Archives of American Gardens at The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, acquired the Ken Druse Garden Photography Collection in fall 2013. This extensive photographic collection of garden and plant images includes several thousand transparencies and slides documenting over 300 gardens across the United States. Druse captured these stunning images to illustrate his books, newspaper, and magazine articles for publications, like *The New York Times* and *House & Garden*, and to post on his own blog. Ken Druse’s 2012 hit is *Natural Companions: The Garden Lover’s Guide to Plant Combinations*. In *Natural Companions*, Druse presents recipes for perfect plant pairings using diverse species that look great together and bloom at the same time. *Natural Companions* features more than one hundred special botanical images of amazing depth and color. This is a book all garden lovers must have. Communicating the pleasures and importance of the natural world is always Druse’s main emphasis. Through his books, lectures, and weekly radio show and podcasts, Druse calls attention to the world of plants that surround us, sustain us, and lift our spirits. In *The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden*, he shares a sentiment of all true dirt gardeners: “The only way to avoid the pangs of withdrawal from an addiction like gardening is to garden more. This is one habit I have no intention of breaking.” **Individual tickets** are $25. **Patron levels** are $250 (2 tickets), $500 (2 tickets) and $1,000 (4 tickets). Wednesday, October 14. Atlanta History Center/Cherokee  Garden Library