



# Redbud Reporter

Winter 2021

## From the District Director

### Happy New Year, Redbud Friends!

Yes, with glad hearts, let us welcome 2021 and say Goodbye to 2020!

Winter in Georgia is a beautiful season and we have much to be grateful for as the ground cools and plants rest in their beds until the warmth returns. Now we can enjoy the mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, wrens and sparrows as they chatter and flit about. Birders note that only in winter do the various species form a united group to forage, water and rest together as they watch for predators. Their sharp calls of distress warn of an incoming hawk or cat as there are many sentries on alert.

I guess you could call it a "Bird Club"!

Hopefully, clubs will begin to meet in person again or resume Zooming to share news, hear speakers, and plan future activities. The Redbud Winter District Meeting will be held on February 8, 2021. Normally that meeting is held at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta; however, we will be Zooming again as we gather. We want to be sure everyone is comfortable and at ease to gather in larger groups before we resume in-person gatherings. We will have several topics on the agenda to cover and hope that you will be able to participate via the virtual format.

Please remember to submit your 2020 President's Reports by the deadline of February 15, 2021. The more information you include in your President's

Report the more you increase your chances to win the coveted Redbud Awards at the next District Meeting. Plus, your club can qualify for a Standard of Excellence Certificate presented by The Garden Club of Georgia President. Please include all your activities and write a narrative to support your many good works. The President's Report has been amended this year to reflect the 2020 pandemic's restrictions and you may receive extra credit for COVID-19 related activities. The report can be accessed by going to [www.gardenclub.uga.edu](http://www.gardenclub.uga.edu) and selecting Forms. Good Luck!

Don't forget! Redbud District along with the Elms and Roses Garden Club Council is sponsoring the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser on October 30, 2021 at Hills and Dales in LaGrange, GA. All the details on the day are on the GCG website under the Historic Landscape Preservation banner. Tickets for the day are \$40 and your support is crucial to the continued funding of our historic landscapes. Additionally, clubs and councils are invited to donate to the fundraising effort. We know it has been a tough year so any amount will be welcome! Please join the fun, buy a ticket and enjoy a special day!

Hope to see you all via Zoom or in person in the coming months and stay healthy and safe!

With gardening gloves in hand,  
Quill Duncan, Redbud District Director



## 2021 Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser

You're cordially invited to LaGrange on October 30, 2021 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm when the Redbud District hosts The Garden Club of Georgia's annual fundraiser benefitting our statewide Historic Landscape Preservation Grant program, now in its twentieth year.

How good it will be to celebrate Fall at Hills and Dales! The magnificent 13,000 square foot home designed by Neel Reid and Hal Hentz was completed in 1916. Today the fourth generation of the Callaway family welcomes visitors to the home, beautifully located in the sunny hills and shady dales of West Central Georgia. Plants dating back to the 1840s, 2 ½ acres of formal dwarf boxwood parterres, and twenty-six different varieties of deciduous magnolias are just a few of the many delights. LaGrange is easily accessed and could be combined with a stay at Callaway Gardens!

The day will feature tours of the historic home and gardens, a lecture by Jo Phillips entitled, "Heirloom Plants for Garden Fragrance," a box lunch, a welcome center with a film on Hills and Dales and a gift shop. The lecture begins at 10:30 and seating is limited to 90 attendees so plan to come early to hear this topic, or you can tour the house or gardens at your leisure upon arrival. To explore more about the property, go to [www.hillsanddales.org](http://www.hillsanddales.org).

To register, please complete the attached form which offers your choices for a box lunch and more details on the day.

Redbud District is looking forward to welcoming you on October 30, 2021!

**“Hills and Dales - A Living Legacy” Registration Form  
October 30, 2021 10:00AM - 3:00PM**

Come join us for a day of exploration of historic gardens and an elegant home!

**Please mail this form with your registration fee of \$40 with a check payable to**

**GCG, Inc. to:**  
Leslie Sebaugh  
LaGrange College Alumni Office  
601 Broad Street  
LaGrange, GA 30240

Your registration fee includes a catered box lunch offered by Creme Fraiche. It will be available from Noon to 1:30 PM. Tables with chairs will be available or you may choose to enjoy lunch seated on the grounds on a bench or a picnic table.

**Please check your choice for lunch and return this form no later than October 10, 2021.**

\_\_\_ Option 1: Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Potato Chip Bag, Pickle Spear, lemon bar and lace cookie

\_\_\_ Option 2: Chunky Chicken Salad, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Pasta Salad, Potato Chip Bag, lemon bar and lace cookie

\_\_\_ Option 3: **(VEGAN OPTION)** Veggie Sandwich-tomatoes, peppers, mushrooms, and squash on French Baguette, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Pickle, Broccoli Salad w/ vegan Mayo, Vegan chocolate chip cookie and Vegan lace cookie

All options include Callaway Blue Bottled Water.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

See you on October 30, 2021 at Hills and Dales 1916 Hills and Dales Drive, LaGrange, GA! See [www.hillsanddales.org](http://www.hillsanddales.org) for directions.

Questions? Contact Quill Duncan 770 414-4766 or [quillduncan@msn.com](mailto:quillduncan@msn.com) or Bonnie Dudley 706 884-3787 [bondudley@yahoo.com](mailto:bondudley@yahoo.com).

## Garden Therapy Program Video

The Fall 2020 issue of Redbud Reporter included an article about the “Nurturing with Nature” garden therapy program at Georgia Regional Hospital. Now you can view a short video in which Jackie Cox, Clinical Licensed Social Worker and Work Program Coordinator at Georgia Regional Hospital, describes the project. The video can be viewed by going to <https://youtu.be/JO74yZ1BXvo>.

Jackie is a member of Smoke Rise Morning Glories. The “Nurturing with Nature” project has been supported by Smoke Rise Morning Glories, DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs and the GCG.

The photo on right is of one of the Recovery Gardens on the hospital grounds. It’s a Japanese themed garden with evergreen conifers and a Tumukeyama Japanese maple.




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## State Convention Cancelled



The GCG Convention, originally planned for April 12-15, 2021 in Valdosta, has been cancelled. GCG President Barbara Bourque said in a recent email “as much as we hate to do so,

*considering all the uncertainty regarding the virus, cancelling at this point is the best option. The health of our members is our primary concern. Postponing the convention was also considered, but should we*

*have to cancel a rescheduled convention, (a very likely possibility) the financial penalties would have been much greater.”*

If you already made hotel reservations, please cancel them.

All the required business functions (election of officers and voting on any recommendations) will be handled via email or Zoom. Dates of Zoom meetings will be announced at a later time.

## Native Plant Symposium

The North Georgia Native Plant Symposium, normally held in Athens at headquarters, will go virtual this year. The theme of this year's symposium is "Monarch Butterfly Conservation". It will be held on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm.

Registration is \$35. An online registration form can be found by going to:

<https://botgarden.uga.edu/event/native-plant-symposium/>

For those who haven't attended the symposium before because of travel difficulties, this is a great opportunity to participate without leaving your home!




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## Le-Conte Woodmanston Report

On June 6, 1977, GCG accepted 63.8 acres of the historic Woodmanston Plantation property, located in Riceboro in Liberty County, Georgia. GCG transferred ownership to the LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation in March of 1992. In April of 1993 the Foundation was granted non-profit tax status and the foundation was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Foundation's mission is to restore the rice

plantation and its gardens. Garden clubs can support this mission and receive a Certificate of Appreciation by donating at least \$25.00 by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mail checks to Friends of LeConte Woodmanston, P.O.Box 179, Midway, GA 31320. See "What to Send Where" in the GCG guide for form.

Carol Weaver, Redbud Chairman

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## Land Trust Marshall Forest

The Land Trust began as a Bicentennial partnership between NGC and The Nature Conservancy. The goal is to heighten public awareness of the critical need to save ecologically unique lands. In 1966 Marshall Forest was selected by the Department of Interior to be Georgia's first "National Landmark". Deed of Gratitude certificates will be given to

garden clubs donating at least \$25.00 by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Check GCG Guide for form. Make check to GCG and mail to Edna McClellan, 180 Pacer Court, Unit 9044, Ellijay, GA. 30540.

Carol Weaver, Redbud Chairman

# How COVID Tried to Stop Christmas!

*by Carey Elder, Green Thumb Garden Club*

Twos months before our annual Christmas party  
 And the committee had their thinking caps on,  
 Not a member was worried  
 Knowing nothing could go wrong!  
 Corrine and DeAnn were narrowing our menu and venue down,  
 When COVID decided to visit our small town!  
 It ended our meetings, our picnic and our Christmas party  
 But it didn't stop us from working any harder!  
 In March, it was decided we couldn't meet anymore  
 Our club would be changed right to the core!  
 We even resorted to having virtual programs and speakers,  
 From Janie and her ornamental pumpkins to the importance  
 Of the River Keepers!

We were unable to meet once a month with our friends  
 But our love of gardening and flowers would never end!  
 We had to get creative, there were still things we could do,  
 so, we decided to give from our hearts to others we knew.  
 In May, a devastating tornado destroyed the eastern part of our town,  
 Members gathered breakfast foods and we served 75 volunteers  
 From counties all around!

In June, we celebrated National Garden Week by creating a virtual garden tour to keep Upson shining  
 And members participated without any whining!  
 It was shared on Facebook for all our friends to see,  
 Just what talented gardeners (especially during a quarantine) we could be!  
 Did the giving stop? No NEVER!

Our members continued to give MORE than EVER!  
 In February, pink flowers were delivered to the radiology department at URMC  
 For Breast Cancer Awareness Month that is especially important to  
 Other women like me!

Thanks to Sandra, two beautiful maple trees were planted beside our Blue Star Marker in Generation Park,  
 In memory of Dr. Sam Brewton, Mayor Hayes Arnold and all veterans who  
 Served our great country with a giving heart!

In October, we decorated the downtown square for fall  
 COVID wouldn't stop us from giving our all!  
 COVID changed Lane's "Rescue Me" Friendsgiving Bash  
 And the annual Christmas parade was gone in a flash!  
 IT didn't stop Green Thumb,  
 Debbie painted bows and wreaths were hung,  
 We were busy as could be!

Sarah even managed to put up our traditional Courthouse tree!  
 We thanked the electrical department, police and sheriff's office with lots of snacks,  
 This was another way for us to give back!  
 We donated money to the House of Care, Penny Pines, River Keepers and much more  
 Keeping up our butterfly garden and selling cookbooks galore!  
 COVID, like the Grinch, won't keep Christmas from coming now!  
 We will keep giving and celebrating somehow!  
 Let's not let COVID take away the giving in our hearts  
 And in 2021, let's continue to do our part!  
 I hope COVID won't keep you and your family from enjoying the Christmas season  
 And celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ...which is the real reason!  
 Tonight, our party would have been here  
 But that doesn't leave us without any cheer.  
 And to our December hostesses have no fear  
 We will gladly let you make it up next year!

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

*With love,  
 Carey*

## Pollinator Plants of the Year

The Garden Club of Georgia is working with the State Botanical Garden to promote the Pollinator Plants of the Year Program. This program annually recognizes four top performing landscape plants

that support pollinators and grow beautifully in a Georgia garden.

The plants were selected last January so nurseries would have time to grow and offer the plants for sale to the public in 2021.

The winners for this year are:

Spring Bloomer – *Conradina*

Summer Bloomer – *Clethra alnifolia* (sweet pepperbush)

Fall Bloomer – *Solidago puberula* (downy goldenrod)

Georgia Native – *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed)





***The GCG Scholarships Committee wishes each of you all the best this Holiday Season and in the New Year!***

**We continue to share our appreciation to all of our contributors and trust you will make Scholarships a part of your giving before year-end...No later than January 2021.**

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. provides scholarships to eligible students majoring in garden and environmental related fields of study enrolled in Accredited Georgia Colleges & Universities.

<http://gardenclub.uga.edu/scholarships.html>

**Our grant recipients are dedicated to our mission of *Beautification, Conservation & Education.***

### **So many ways to contribute to our GCG Scholarships Program**

- Named Scholarships and Patrons of Scholarships
- Contributions for the General Scholarships, Brown Thrasher & Cherokee Rose Funds
- All the above may be given as an Honor or Memorial Contribution
- Participation in the *Dollars Educate Scholars* Fundraiser – Start NOW!
- Life Memberships
- Subscribing Memberships – A Great Holiday Gift with Garden Gateways included!

***Doing any shopping on Amazon this year?***

***Don't forget to make The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. your Preferred Charity with our AmazonSmile Program.***



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Your purchases will provide Scholarships support from The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. **Start shopping at**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-0706724>

**We are here to help with your scholarships questions~**

Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman, 770-922-4411 [glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)

Rosemary Maulden, Assistant Treasurer, 912-267-9623 [rosemarymaulden@bellsouth.net](mailto:rosemarymaulden@bellsouth.net)





The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.  
"Dollars Educate Scholars"

Mark your calendars for January as our Official GCG Scholarship Month!

- Members donating \$1.00 or more now thru January will make a BIG impact on Scholarships.
- *Dollars Educate Scholars* contributions from members are sent thru your garden club treasury.
- Your club treasurer writes one check to GCG to mail along with the completed form to:
- Assistant Treasurer, Rosemary Maulden 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick 31525-9447

*Support your District and your Director in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dollars Educate Scholars Challenge!  
The Winning District with the most contributions for Dollars Educate Scholars by membership percentage will have their Director Honored at the GCG Annual Meeting..*

For additional information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman  
770-922-4411 [glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)

**"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 clubs check for \$1.00 or more per member to Assistant Treasurer, Rosemary Maulden. 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick 31525-9447**

**Please write legibly. Contributions received now through January 2021 will count in this giving period.**

Name of Garden Club:

Club Number:

District:

Garden Club President or Representative Data:

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone number:

Number of Members in your club:

100% Participation? Circle one.      Yes                      No

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman 770-922-4411 [glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net)

## News from the Councils and Clubs

### *DeKalb Federation Honors Front Line Workers*

The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs conducted a drive for holiday cards for front line health care workers at the VA Medical Center in Decatur who are caring for our veterans with COVID-19. The project, named Holidays for Health Care Heroes, was extremely successful as 2,301 cards from 14 garden clubs were delivered to the hospital. With so many cards, there were enough that the

balance was distributed to the hospitalized veterans who were not able to receive visits from their families this holiday season due to social distancing restrictions.

Happy Holidays to all of our Heroes!!

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### *DeKalb Federation Establishes New Pollinator Garden*

Many of you have visited the Dekalb Federation's Garden Center on the grounds of the Callanwolde Estate in Atlanta. For the last sixteen months, a team of garden club volunteers from five garden clubs have been working to restore the grounds around the center. As we know, plants and trees grow and before you know it, they have overgrown or outgrown their spaces. A new plan was devised to refresh and restore the two-acre garden. Happily, this was a team effort with Callanwolde, Dekalb County Parks and Recreation Department, Davey Tree Service, and a hard-working group of garden club volunteers.

We decided that Fall of 2020 was the best time to establish a new pollinator garden to take full advantage of an eastern facing 400 square foot space by the conservatory.

First, the area was cleared of all overgrown plantings. Next, team members visited the Tucker Butterfly Garden on September 11 to meet with the

creators of that garden and get plant recommendations for the Callanwolde space. After that visit, plants that support pollinators were purchased. These were mainly native species, but a few non-native were also included. Plant selections included *Rudbeckia*, *Agastache*, *Monarda*, *Echinacea*, *Echibecka*, *Abelia*, and *Buddleia*.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> a team of eight volunteers tackled the new space. First, we had the "Tilling Twins" make short work of the hard ground and add in soil conditioner. Over 30 new plants were added, ground was mulched, pavers were laid and plants were watered. And before we could tamp down the soil, bees were already on the three blooming red salvias!

This winter we will be installing signage for the garden and in spring we will be adding additional perennials including *Asclepia tuberosa*, or butterfly weed.

Many thanks to the following volunteers and advisors: Dekalb Federation President Sandy Reed (Shenandoah Rose GC); Garden Center Director Ann Purr (Mountain Mums GC); Gale Thomas (Conyers GC); Renie Faulkenberry (Lullwater GC); Deanna McFarlan and Vickey Cooper (Shenandoah Rose GC); Quill Duncan, Kim Fair, Glenndolyn Hallman and Bonnie Pennington (Smoke Rise Morning Glories); and two willing husbands, Steve Duncan and Bill Pennington.

The new pollinator garden is a work in progress. As you can see from the photos, we are happy to be able to create a beautiful oasis for the benefit of our pollinators and visitors!



Right -- Steve Duncan and Bill Pennington (also known as the "Tilling Twins").

Left -- top: Quill Duncan finishes planting an *Abelia*; middle, garden bed before work started; bottom, garden bed after new plants were installed.

## Avon Garden Club Selects a Special Garden of the Month

Like many Garden Clubs, Avon Garden Club in Avondale Estates selects one garden each month to celebrate as the Garden of the Month. The Garden chosen in July 2020 (Linda, Penny, and Jack Abraham on Kensington Rd), has a back story that makes it especially touching. A garden born of love for children, this one is special because of the impact it has had on Penny and her family, as well as on dear friends Thomas and Danielle Royden who live just 12 houses away. Penny was adopted as the Royden family's honorary grandmother, "Nana", when 8-year-old Thomas was just a newborn, and now his sister Keira, 6, is also enjoying the close relationship with her "Nana".

In the verge on the Kensington side, Penny and the children have produced a lovely and ever-changing "sidewalk serenade" for the community to enjoy when walking or driving past their corner with the giant Slash Pine tree. 'Nelly Moser' clematis with supersize flowers in classic mauve and pink, salvias in pinks, purples, blues and reds, Dusty Miller, dahlias, Sunpatiens, Silver and Gold Chrysanthemum with green leaves edged with silver, and other flowers are a symbol of continuity. And, on the corner is a wonderful oakleaf hydrangea whose blooms are spectacular during spring and early summer. (Note: The hydrangea was a gift from our late, beloved garden club member, Nancy Elrod, over 7 years ago. When Penny brought it home to plant, it was so tiny it was held up with a plastic spoon, thus making it possible to fit it in between the pine tree roots.) In late winter passersby can enjoy the *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, whose creamy yellow flower clusters emit an intoxicating fragrance.

Penny is a fan of amending our Georgia red clay with PermaTill® to provide permanent aeration, which she learned about at one of her first garden club programs with us.

Young Thomas developed a special love of plants, especially flowers. Since flowers and colors are such great vehicles for telling stories, Penny encouraged that natural spontaneity. During walks nearby, the three noticed a tree on Lakeshore Drive, and Thomas and Keira named it the "fairy house". Keira began leaving acorn tops around it so that the fairies would have a cup of water and Thomas left "salad greens" for the fairies' dinner.

Today, the Abrahams have several gardens in their yard, including fairy gardens, nurtured by the Royden children and their friends who live on Stratford, lovingly dubbed by Thomas' Dad, "The Stratford Ruffians". On the side and back, the Abrahams have a variety of tomatoes, sunflowers, zinnias, roses, daisies, hydrangeas and herbs.



## *Avondale Estates Garden Club Celebrates the Holidays with Goodies*

On December 4th, the Avondale Estates Garden Club's executive board hosted a Zoom holiday meeting and then dispersed to deliver seasonal goodies to the homes of all members! Santa's favorite flower-loving elves brought cookies, treats, and well wishes to remind everyone that we are still a garden club family. In addition, the executive board used red stockings to collect over \$200 for Dollars Educate Scholars to provide scholarships to horticulturally-inclined college students!

Pictured are: (L-R) Peg Wyse, Alice Guppy, Patricia Calcagno, Nancy Martin, Peggy Burgess, and Jean Kingsbury




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## *Conyers Garden Club's Special Fall*

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the Conyers Garden Club has continued to remain busy this fall. On October 7<sup>th</sup> the club served as the hosts for the Redbud District's Virtual Gathering. Forty-five members, representing 22 clubs, participated in the meeting. Members Susan Turner and Jessica Warren were co-chairmen of the event. Barbara Bourque, President of the Garden Club of Georgia (GCG) was the guest speaker. During the business meeting, Conyers President Gale Thomas was nominated and elected to be the 2021-2023 Redbud's District Director.

Conyers Garden Club was awarded numerous Redbud District Awards recognizing the Club's 2019 accomplishments. These awards included the GCG Standards of Excellence Award and the Jerry Tubbs Club of the Year Award. First place recognitions were received for the Grace Chandler Award and the Margaret Strickland Birds and/or Butterfly

Gardening Program Award. Second place recognition was received for the Redbud Membership Award and the Dorothy Hightower Community Improvement Award. A 3<sup>rd</sup> place award was received for the Garden Week in Georgia Award. One of our projects that won several awards was the work at the Light House Village Children's Butterfly Garden.

The Children's Garden at the Light house Village is a very special project for the Conyers Garden Club. Working with the Rotary Club of Georgia, the club designed the butterfly garden over 12 years ago and continues to schedule regular maintenance and cleanup days to enhance the garden's beauty. On a joint workday on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Conyers Rotary Club held a dedication program at the garden to recognize the work of our club in the Lighthouse Village Children's Butterfly Garden. Rotary Club President, Scott Slaughter, gave a speech that

included the history of the Children’s Garden and highlights of the work of the Conyers Garden Club. The current Community Service Chairman of the Rotary Club, Michael Hutcheson, unveiled a beautiful granite marker to recognize the work of the Conyers Garden Club that was placed in the garden. President Gale Thomas expressed appreciation on behalf of our club. Jeff Beech, Light House Board Chair and the President of the Beech Foundation, thanked both groups for their work in the community.

The Conyers Garden Club held another workday at the Children’s Garden on October 20<sup>th</sup> to do weeding, cleanup and planting of additional plants and seasonal flowers.

We continue to hold monthly virtual meetings and engage in community service projects. Even as we

face the challenges of COVID-19, the club members are very happy to serve our community.




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## *Covington Garden Club Beautifies City’s New Welcome Center*



On November 3, 2020, members of the Covington Garden Club volunteered their expertise by planting flowers in 10 planter boxes at the City of Covington’s new Welcome Center, located at 1143 Oak Street. The club selected low maintenance, drought tolerant plants with seasonal accents to beautify the building’s entrance, as well as the new activity area along Conyers Street. The planter boxes border each end of the now closed driveway between Oak and Davis Streets. One of the many activities undertaken by the Covington Garden Club’s Special Projects Committee, this project was spearheaded by member Cathy Laseter, who was joined by members Laura Faulkner, Sallie Paschal, Loy Summers, and Linda Smith.

## *Redbud District Welcomes New Club, The Garden Club of Senoia*

The Garden Club of Senoia was newly formed in September 2020! Although we are just beginning, our members have not been slow on getting started to beautify our natural parks, gardens and spaces in the city and to educate our community about conservation and the environment. We already have a few exciting projects underway. We've been approved to design and install a Botanical Garden on the Site of the Senoia Area Historical Museum, plant a Native Wildflower Meadow in the City Center, and enhance and manicure the Meditation Garden at our beautiful United Methodist Church. We also have many other plans in the works.

We are well on our way in planning the first Senoia's Spring Garden Tour on May 8, 2021. We hope some of you will be able to attend, see some of the Historical Gardens that will be filled with music, plain air artists, theater on the lawn, and enjoy a bit of bubbly. Please come and enjoy our beautiful city



and stay for the weekend; there are plenty of restaurants, gifts shop and history to amuse you.

We are all very excited as new members of The Garden Club of Georgia and the Redbud District and look forward to learning and getting to know all the other clubs and members. This is an exciting new beginning, and we will start with our garden hats, gloves and a smile on!

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## *Smoke Rise Morning Glories Deck the Halls!*

Each December for the last ten years the Smoke Rise Morning Glories have decorated the historic Wells-Brown House in the village of Stone Mountain. The house was built in the early 1870's and has unusual construction of concrete exterior walls scored to look like stone block, one of a few early examples of this type of construction in the State of Georgia. As you can imagine, it was a fire preventative and certainly a long-lasting technique. The home was donated to the Stone Mountain Historic Society in 2005 and that organization supports many community events.

Smoke Rise Morning Glories members decorate Wells-Brown House. Left to right: MaryAnne Anderson, Bonnie Pennington, Quill Duncan, Joy Zaidan. Not pictured, Glenndolyn Hallman.



Normally, the Stone Mountain Historic Society hosts holiday parties in the home including a lovely tea, but this year all inside events were cancelled. As a result of that restriction, the garden club was asked to only decorate the exterior with period appropriate décor.

Of special interest, the wreath on the front door featured cotton bolls grown by a club member in her Stone Mountain garden. Greenery was harvested from members' gardens and a team of Morning Glories members assembled and installed the door wreath, gate and lamp post arrangement and draped the cedar swag on the Juliet balcony. That balcony offers a perfectly framed view of Stone Mountain amidst the towering oaks, magnolias and cedars. This year the hollies in our area had a bumper crop of beautiful berries which are featured in the many different designs.

As you can see from the photos, it created an elegant and simple theme of holiday cheer!

