



# Redbud Reporter

Summer 2023

## From the District Director

### Hello Remarkable Redbuds!

My name is Kim Fair and I was installed as the new Redbud District Director at the Garden Club of Georgia Convention in April. I take on this responsibility with great humility, as I am not nearly as experienced as my fellow board members with the working of the system. But I also come with great enthusiasm for what we might accomplish given our historical legacy of beautification, education, and conservation. My theme for the next two years is **Preserve for the Future – Leave It Better Than You Found It.**

I grew up on a farm in Mississippi and have always had a love for plants, animals, and wild nature. One of my favorite childhood memories is when my grandfather retired and there were no more fields to look after, he turned to flower gardening. During every visit he would tour me around the yard and show off his newest blossoms. They were exotic things to me and they came from a faraway special place called Hastings in Atlanta.

I retired from teaching high school mathematics in 2013. I admit I did not know what Garden Clubs did. My image was women in hats and white gloves eating little cucumber sandwiches and talking about roses. While interning to get my Master Gardener Volunteer certification, I met my neighbor, Quill Duncan. She invited me to visit the Smoke Rise Morning Glories and I was blown away by the sheer volume of volunteer work and charity support that was their standard, not to mention the gardening



programs and opportunities to bring gardens to the Community.

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories, although a great club, are not unique. Club members all across Georgia are doing all kinds of important work in their neighborhoods and beyond. I think we need to toot our own horns more. If more people knew what garden clubs really do, our membership numbers

would be soaring. Please take a few minutes to email me what your club is doing, so we can spread the word. This brings recognition for your club and inspiration to others about what can be done. The Garden Clubs of Georgia are a powerful force for all manner of beautification, conservation, and education here in our state and beyond.

Mark your calendars for the many exciting Redbud events coming this summer and fall-- noted in this Reporter. There are new changes to the awards application process and other procedures. Please register for the Awards and Leadership Conference (July 18) for information on these changes as well

as great information on many aspects of Garden Club leadership. Our Summer Redbud Board Meeting is on August 14, Yellow Daisy Flower Show is September 20-21 and the Annual Redbud District Meeting with special guest GCG President Lisa Hall is on October 17.

My theme for these next two years is: **Preserve for the Future—Leave It Better Than You Found It.** I want to encourage all our club members to use your Redbud District and Garden Club of Georgia resources to help support your ideas and initiatives to: Preserve for the Future and make this a Better Georgia Than We Found It.

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## Blue Star Marker in Smoke Rise, Georgia

For many years, Blue Star Markers have graced our byways, rest areas and school grounds in tribute to our Armed Forces. The marker in this photo is located on the grounds of Smoke Rise Elementary School's former location. Three Redbud Clubs: Smoke Rise, Mountain Mums and Smoke Rise Morning Glories sponsored this marker.

The Blue Star Program honors all men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC, Inc.) adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were placed along the way. The Blue Star was adopted because it had become an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war as well as in churches and businesses.

Every Memorial Day and every Veteran's Day we place a wreath on the marker to honor those men and women who defended our nation.

Thank you to all of you who have served and to your families who have served to protect and defend our great country. We know that freedom is not free.





**Dogwood District and Redbud District  
Awards and Leadership Workshop  
Presented by The Garden Club of Georgia  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023  
Bellmere Garden House  
10777 Bell Road  
Duluth, GA 30097**



**Cost: \$30 - Includes both workshops, lunch, and hand-out materials**

Presidents, Club Officers, Project Chairmen, Club Liaisons, and other club members are encouraged to attend these workshops. The workshop will run from 10:00 to 2:00. Topics to be discussed include leadership skills, officer's duties, running a meeting using parliamentary procedure, the revised President's Report, educational events being planned, grants available to clubs, the new GCG website, membership and applying for awards from The National Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Georgia, Dogwood District and Redbud District. We have a jam-packed agenda with lots of new information!

**Leadership & Awards Presenters: GCG Officers**

For Awards Workshops: You will receive a printed copy of the new GCG Awards Handbook and will learn the new process for applying for GCG Awards. If you wish to work on an actual award application at the workshop, please bring your laptop, a downloaded GCG Award Application Form and any photos and information that you wish to use in the application. All venues do not have Wi-Fi to use, so please download the GCG Awards Application before coming to the workshop. We will have time in the presentation for tips about preparing an application.

**Registration and Coffee begins at 9:30 am.  
Workshops start promptly at 10:00 am  
Registration form is on next page.  
Directions follow**

**2023 Dogwood District and Redbud District  
Awards and Leadership Workshop  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023**

Please send your Registration and check for \$30  
Made payable to Redbud District to:

Rigby Duncan  
2800 Hunting Hill Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-1504  
678-644-9502

Email: [rigbyduncan113@gmail.com](mailto:rigbyduncan113@gmail.com)

**Deadline date for registration is Monday, July 3, 2023**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle your box lunch choice:**

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ham Sandwich           | 3. Turkey Sandwich |
| 2. Chicken Salad Sandwich | 4. Vegetarian Wrap |

**Dietary Restrictions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration and coffee begins at 9:30 am.**

**Directions to Bellmere from Atlanta area:**

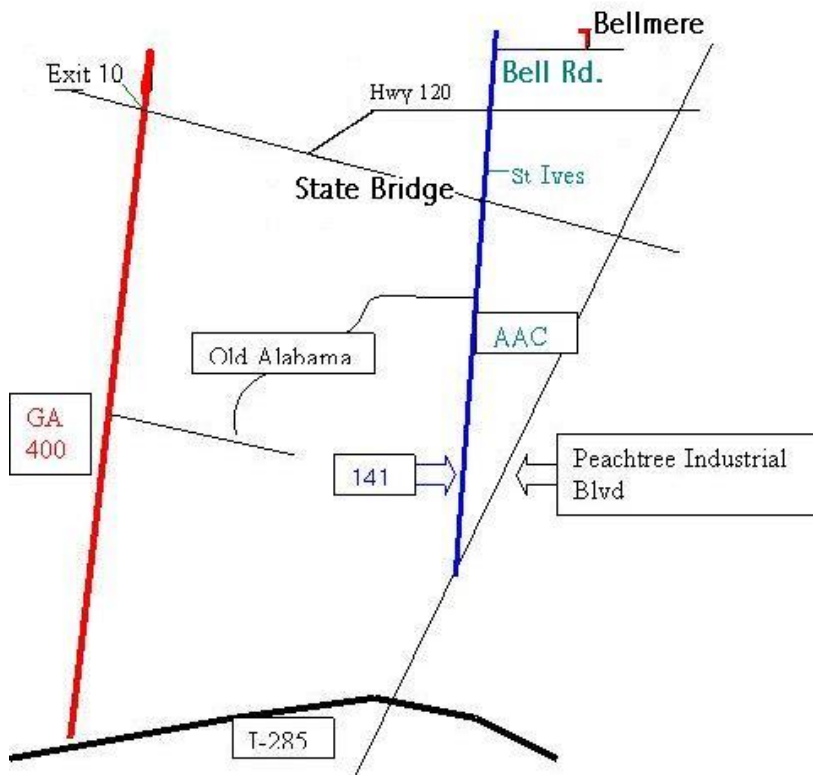
**From I-285 – Take the Hwy 141 & Peachtree Industrial exit 31B North.**

When Peachtree Industrial and 141 split, **stay left** on Hwy 141 toward Dahlonega & Cumming. Stay on Hwy 141. It is Peachtree Parkway and then changes name to Medlock Bridge Road, but it is still Hwy 141.

You will pass the Forum Shopping Center on your left. Cross the Chattahoochee River. Pass the Atlanta Athletic Club on your right. Cross State Bridge Road. Pass St. Ives Country Club on your right. Cross Hwy 120 (Abbott’s Bridge Road). **The very next right is Bell Road.** Make a right turn. John’s Creek Methodist Church is on this corner. Travel on Bell Road approx ½ mile. On your left watch for a black mailbox with the address 10777 Bell Road. A small sign says Bellmere. Turn in the driveway. Go through the gate and down scenic driveway. You will see sign on left directing you to parking lot for the Garden House.

**From GA 400 going North** - Take Exit 10 Milton Pkwy (Hwy 120) and turn right. You can either take a left when Hwy 120 turns left, or stay straight on State Bridge until you get to Hwy 141. Turn left, go past St Ives, past Hwy 120 and **the very next right is Bell Road.** Make a right turn. John’s Creek Methodist Church is on this corner. Travel on Bell Road approx ½ mile. On your left, watch for a black mailbox with the address **10777 Bell Road**. A small sign says Bellmere. Turn in the driveway, go through the gate, and down scenic driveway. You will see sign on left directing you to parking lot for the Garden House.

Bellmere Garden House, 10777 Bell Road, Duluth, GA



## Yellow Daisy Flower Show

A Celebration is coming...and it's Redbud District's **50<sup>th</sup> Flower Show, entitled *Decades of Daisy!*** Daisy will be attending the show and will be wearing a new, GOLD fashionable outfit she made for this momentous event. **YOU**, too, are invited to participate and attend Daisy's historic 50<sup>th</sup> celebration September 20-21, 2023 at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. Come join the celebration and a delightful tour through the many years Daisy has enchanted us, *Bewitched* us, taken us *Round the Mountain*, taught us to *Dig Art*, shown her *Patriotism*, *Rocked the Mountain*, shared her *Cookin* and *Driven* her way into our hearts.

We're excited that GCG President Lisa Hall has accepted Redbud's invitation to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with Callanwolde Executive Director Andrew Keenan and Redbud District Director Kim Fair. Please join us for cake and punch immediately following the official opening of the flower show at 1:00 pm on September 20.

This 50<sup>th</sup> flower show will have something for everyone! If you are a dig-in-the dirt gardener, you will be delighted with the more than 300 entries of horticulture. Checking out the horticulture exhibits is a great way to see what does well in our area. Better yet, plan to enter a few horticulture specimens, perhaps a cutting from a prized plant in your garden. Horticulture Classification Chairman Sandy Reed will be in attendance ready to help you submit and identify your horticulture. It's always exciting to win a ribbon. If your club has a large number of horticulture entries, we can better serve you if you will please contact Sandy Reed prior to the show to schedule an arrival time ([sandyreed17@gmail.com](mailto:sandyreed17@gmail.com); c.404-772-2854).

Serving as a clerk for the flower show gives you an opportunity first-hand to be in the inner circle working with the judges. Ann Purr is again serving as Clerk's Chairman and is seeking volunteers. Please



support the show by signing up to be a clerk ([a.purr@comcast.net](mailto:a.purr@comcast.net); h.770-921-9070, c.678-523-8146).

The flower show will also feature 40 designs, some traditional like a mass design from *Monet's Garden* and others artsy and creative like *The Hall of Mirrors*. This year's exhibitors are asked to create a design in a large shadow box in *Picasso's Cube* with an opening in the front for you to peek in to view the design. You can *Meet the Artist* by doing a functional table for one person. Twelve of the designs will be petites, no larger than 7-9". These are always a favorite for the public. Only about half of the design classes have been filled, so please contact Diane Hunter to see which design openings are available ([drmchunter@yahoo.com](mailto:drmchunter@yahoo.com); c.404-992-7381).

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people and would like to volunteer as a hostess, please contact

Hostess Chairman Ellen Nichol ([enichol482@gmail.com](mailto:enichol482@gmail.com); c.770-845-2387). She is ready to sign you up for a 2-hour shift.

Educational exhibits will focus on recycling and *Going Green* while another will educate the viewer on Protecting Our Pollinators in their *Flights of Fancy*. All educational exhibits have been secured. Questions regarding educational exhibits may be directed to Gale Thomas at [galedthomas@gmail.com](mailto:galedthomas@gmail.com); c. 404-790-7101.

Youth Chairman, Susan Turner ([glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net), h.770-922-4411, c.404-502-8147) asks that you encourage your children or grandchildren to visit the show or to enter a design. Pre-registration is required with the Youth Chairman. Pre-school to ages 18 may enter the Youth Design Division where they will do a design interpreting class titles such as *Art Class, Music and Geometry*.

We're excited to include a Sponsored Groups Section this year. Members from the Olivia Haydel Senior Center in Conyers will show off their talents by creating a floral design in a shoe or incorporating a time piece or clock part in the *Hands of Time* class.

The show committee could use your help in setting up, skirting the tables and participating in staging activities on Monday, September 18, 2023. Please let Staging Chairman, Janet McGinnis, know if you are available to set up or tear down the show ([jmcgi@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmcgi@bellsouth.net); c. 404-326-0530, h. 770-939-8878). For your convenience, a chart detailing the Schedule of Events can be found below.

Suggest that your club members attend the show as a field trip and make a fun day of it. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. It's free, and I promise you won't regret a blooming moment.

Joy Zaidan, Show Chairman  
Gale Thomas, Show Co-Chairman

**FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Mon., Sept. 18, 2023	10:00 am - 3:00 pm <i>(choose your time slot)</i>	Properties delivered early morning Show set-up, skirt tables, assemble signage
Tue., Sept. 19, 2023	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Design, Hort, Ed. and Youth entries accepted
Wed., Sept. 20, 2023	8:00 am – 9:00 am 9:30 am – 10:00 am 10:00 am – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Hort entries of blooms & out of town people Judges Morning Coffee Judging followed by Judges luncheon Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with cake and punch Show open
Thur., Sept. 21, 2023	10:00 am – 5:00 pm 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Show open Teardown

# GREAT SOUTHEAST



# Pollinator Census

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census will be held August 19-20, 2023. Previously known as the Great Georgia Pollinator Census, the project has expanded this year to include North and South Carolina along with Georgia.

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia and first opened to the public in 2019. The project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference for pollinator conservation! Watch this [video](#) to learn more about how to join the count.

Need help identifying your pollinators? Go to [Resources](#), where you can download the *2023 Insect Counting and Identification Guide*. You will also find the *Counting Sheet* on this webpage. That information and much more can be found at the <https://gsepc.org> site.

Please encourage your club members to participate in this important event. And, for those of you who are members of The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, there is an additional incentive – there is a new award this year for clubs who count the most pollinators! So get out there and COUNT!

**How to Count**  
in the  
GREAT SOUTHEAST  
**Pollinator Census**

- 1 Catch the latest buzz**  
Before the count begins, check out [GSePC.org](https://gsepc.org).
- 2 Pick your plant**  
Choose a favorite pollinator plant to monitor.
- 3 Get to counting**  
Keep count of each insect that lands on your plant for 15 minutes.
- 4 Share the results**  
Fly on over to [GSePC.org](https://gsepc.org) and upload your count to the website.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION





## Redbud Youth News

**Welcome to Melodie Janin  
Our New Youth Garden Clubs Chairman!  
678-633-0219 [melodiejanin@yahoo.com](mailto:melodiejanin@yahoo.com)**

**Your Redbud District Youth Chairmen continue to be ready,  
willing & able to assist you in connecting with young people  
as they Explore the Great Outdoors!**

### **Kuddos to the Kiddos!**

Our Remarkable Redbud Youth brought home awards in all our GCG Sponsored Contests! Congratulations to our winners and sponsoring clubs. Green Thumb Garden Club, Thomaston and Conyers GC, Conyers, presented entries from young people in several grades.

#### **GCG/ DSGC & NGC Youth Awards**

##### **#J-10 Smokey Bear/Woody Owl Poster Contest**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Kate Creamer, Green Thumb Garden Club  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Keaton Lonecke, Green Thumb Garden Club

GCG 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
GCG 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

##### **#J-11 Youth Poetry Contest**

Theme: *Seeds, Trees & Bees...Oh MY – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature.*

Kindergarten – Mackenzie Boyington, Conyers GC, Bluebells Youth Club  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Madison Boyington, Conyers GC, Bluebells Youth Club

1<sup>st</sup> Place GCG, DSGS & NGC  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place GCG

##### **#J-12 NGC Youth Sculpture Contest**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Aniyah Bell, Conyers, Bluebells Youth Club  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ariana Bradley, Granddaughter of Gale Thomas  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Zoey Messenger, Conyers GC, Bluebells Youth Club

1<sup>st</sup> Place, GCG, DSGS & NGC  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place GCG  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place GCG

#### **NGC 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Sculpture by Aniyah Bell, entitled “Flower City”**

Dried plant materials were used to create this Topiary design. Styrofoam was used to stabilize the paper towel roll. Ribbon dresses up the towel roll ‘trunk’.

Materials used: black plastic mushroom container, paper towel roll, Styrofoam, ribbon, tissue paper, dried palm frond, hydrangea and pinecones.





**Mackenzie Boyington, Kindergarten 1<sup>st</sup> Place NGC Poetry Contest**

*We love her imaginative lesson on our wee bees!*

**Bees and Trees**

Bee's go buzz

They go in a hive

Black, yellow and striped outside.

Bees fly in the air.

Bees make honey.

Good to taste.

They are tiny.

Queen Bee loves her workers.

People go to the hives to get honey

People eat the honey

In winter they stay inside

So Bears don't find them.



**NGC & GCG offers wonderful opportunities to become involved in educating youth as they participate in contests. Encourage entries this summer and be ahead of the upcoming December & January 1<sup>st</sup> deadlines.**

**Email or U.S. Mail entries, as indicated, to designated chairmen early and avoid the hustle & bustle of autumn activities!**

**Redbud Youth Chairman Melodie Janin 678-633-0219 [melodiejanin@yahoo.com](mailto:melodiejanin@yahoo.com)  
Redbud Youth Co-Chairman Susan Turner 770-922-4411 [glen Cree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glen Cree@bellsouth.net)**

### **YOUTH POETRY CONTEST 2023-2024**

#### ***THEME:***

***"I Spy With My Little Eye, Something Green Outside – Celebrating Our Green World"***

Eligibility – General Education, Special Education and English as a Second Language. Open to Kindergarten through Ninth Grade. Visit <https://gardenclub.org/youth-contests> for details & updated guidelines. Email typed entries to Melodie Janin, Redbud Youth Chair **by Dec. 1**

### **SMOKEY BEAR & WOOSDY OWL POSTER CONTEST**

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to participate in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest. Enjoy a fun and creative project while teaching these important messages.

**Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message:  
*Only you Can Prevent Wildfires!***

**Woosdy Owl posters must include Woosdy's conservation message:  
*Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!***

Visit <https://gardenclub.org/youth-contests> for all Poster Rules and Tips.  
Entries via US Mail to Melodie Janin, 809 Pine Ridge Bend, Stone Mountain. 30087  
Entries are due December 1<sup>st</sup> [melodiejanin@yahoo.com](mailto:melodiejanin@yahoo.com) 678-633-0219

### **YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST**

**Encourages fun & creative ways to *Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.***

***Due date January 1 - Info at <https://gardenclub.org/youth-contests>***


Judy Johnson, 31 Dogwood Dr., Baxley, GA 31513. 912-367-7779 C: 912-278-1953  
[judyjohnson1953@gmail.com](mailto:judyjohnson1953@gmail.com) Entries may be sent to [awardschairmangcga@gmail.com](mailto:awardschairmangcga@gmail.com)




## *Calling All Remarkable Redbud Youth!*


*The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Redbud District Flower Show is coming to Callanwolde  
September 20-21, 2023!*


Please help to make this wonderful celebration for Daisy a show to remember!  
Youth entries are always a treat and well-received by  
all who visit our flower show.


 Entries dates are Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 1 - 6 pm and Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> 8 - 9 am.  
Judging is on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

 Our Youth Section requests only Design entries this year, ages pre-school – age 18.

 Advance registration with the Youth chairman is requested so space is available.

 Attached is a sneak peek of Division IV, Youth Section A.  
The Flower Show schedule will be available soon on the website [www.redbuddistrict.com](http://www.redbuddistrict.com)

 Watch for further details via email.

 Contact Susan Turner, FS Youth Chairman for information and to register Youth Design entries.  
[glencree@bellsouth.net](mailto:glencree@bellsouth.net) 404-502-8147.

## “Daisy through the Ages”

### Section A. **Ring the School Bell** (1989)

#### Eligible for the NGC Youth Award

A total of three NGC Top Youth Awards may be awarded in the Youth Design Division, Section A, if merited. Winning exhibits must be the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibits and score 90 or above. One award may be given in each of the following age categories:

Juniors: pre-school through age 7

Intermediates: ages 8 through 12

High School: ages 13 through 18

Youth designs will be staged in front of windows on a dark wood oval table 110” L x 58” W x 31” H in a space not to exceed 12” square with no height restriction. Table will be covered with a gray cloth and a white topper bordered with gold confetti dots. Exhibitor may use fresh, dried or a combination of fresh and dried plant material.

#### **Class 1. Art Class** (Juniors) (1992)

Create a **Design** incorporating something you may use or find in an art class.

#### **Class 2. Sounds of Music** (Intermediates) (1985)

Create a **Design** interpreting a favorite song, musical instrument, or anything you imagine fulfills the meaning of the class title.

#### **Class 3. Geometry** (High School)

Create a **Design** relating lines, angles and/or shapes.

Susan Turner, Youth Consultant/Chairman, c. 404-502-8147; glencree@bellsouth.net

## Redbud Clubs Win GCG Awards

Award #1 – The Garden Club of Georgia Trophy	Avondale Estate GC
Award #7 – Special Achievement (large club)	HM – Avondale Estates GG
Award #10 – Garden Therapy (Council)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #11 – Native Plants (small clubs)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #13 – Civic Improvement (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #13 – Civic Improvement (large club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (under 20 members)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (30-44 members)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Smoke Rise Morning Glories
Award #16 – Yearbook (45-69 members)	3 <sup>rd</sup> place – Avon GC
Award #16 – Yearbook (70-99 members)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #19 – Horticulture Program (medium club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place (tie) – Avon GC
Award #19 – Horticulture Program (medium club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place (tie) – Green Thumb GC
Award #23 – Standard Flower Show Schedule (21-35 members)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Designers
Award #23 – Standard Flower Show Schedule (District)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Redbud District
Award #26 – Poem (for Adults by Adult)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Rosemary Cox, Avon GC
Award #26 – Poem (for Adults by Adult)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Victoria Crosby, Smoke Rise GC
Award #26 – Poem (for Adults by Adult)	HM – Carlee Miller, Conyers GC
Award #26 – Poem (for Children by Adult)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Susan Turner, Conyers GC
Award #31-A-3 – Garden Club Council	1 <sup>st</sup> place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #36 – Educational Exhibit Achievement	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #37 – Newsletter (large club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #37 – Newsletter (Council)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – DeKalb Federation of GC
Award #37 – Newsletter (District)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Redbud District
Award #39C – Marker (large club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #40 – Gardens for the Challenged (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #43 – Litter/Pollution Control (medium club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Avon GC
Award #43 – Litter/Pollution Control (large club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #46 – Public Relations (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Shenandoah Rose GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (small club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #47 – DVD/CD/Flash Drive Program (large club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Mountain Mums GC
Award #49 – Holiday Decorations (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #49 – Holiday Decorations (medium club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Green Thumb GC
Award #51 – Butterfly Conservation (individual)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Frank Mullins, Avondale Estates
Award #53 SM – Social Media (large club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC
Award #56 – National Garden Week (small club)	1 <sup>st</sup> place – Conyers GC
Award #56 – National Garden Week (large club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Avondale Estate GC
Award #57 – Junior &/or Intermediate Activities (medium club)	HM – Green Thumb GC
Award #60 – Garden Week in Georgia (large club)	2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Avondale Estates GC

## Ode to Hydrangeas

by Victoria R. Crosby

I am no stranger to the beautiful hydrangea.  
In shades of blue and purple they have grown  
in every garden of my own.

They often start out pink when planted,  
but this you cannot take for granted,  
as it's the PH of the soil that determines the hue,  
so you may think that you have pink  
but it may just turn out to be blue.

If your soil has a PH that's on the acidic side  
you will have deep blue flowers, in which you can take pride.

If your soil is more alkaline in its composition  
your beautiful pink flowers may win a garden competition.

A vinegar solution is an effective contribution  
to make the flowers shades of purple, lavender and blue,  
or you could make it alkaline, by adding some garden lime,  
but it's really up to you.

Hydrangeas like a lot of water, and a little shade,  
and as the days grow cooler the colors will start to fade.  
So enjoy your summer flowers whatever their color tone,  
and be thankful that you have a lovely garden of your own.

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## Historic Landscape Preservation

*Look Ahead and Save the Date...*

*Saturday, November 4, 2023...11:00AM - 2:00PM*

The GCG 2023 Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser will be held at Masee Lane Gardens, home of the American Camellia Society. We'll travel to 100 Masee Lane in Fort Valley, GA 31030 where we will tour seven specialty gardens and view the world-famous Boehm Porcelain Collection. Luncheon and a speaker will be included. Sponsored this year by Magnolia District, more details will be available nearer the date.




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## Focus on Natives – Oakleaf Hydrangea

The oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is one of our most beautiful native plants. Native to the Southeastern U.S., it is a deciduous shrub that adds four-season interest to the garden.

Named for the deeply lobed oak-like foliage, this multi-stemmed shrub grows 4 – 8 feet tall and wide. In late spring to early summer, it is covered with large panicles of white flowers. The flowers open white, gradually turning pale pink as they age. In fall, the foliage turns shades of red and purple. The cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark is revealed after the leaves drop, creating winter interest.

Oakleaf hydrangeas are fairly easy to grow, especially once established. While they benefit from some shade during hot summer afternoons, they can take a lot of sun as long as they are well-watered. The more sun the plants receive, the more compact the plant and the heavier the flowering. If you have an oakleaf hydrangea that doesn't

produce many flowers, it may be getting too much shade.

Oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood (last's years growth). This means they should be pruned right after flowering. Potential flowers will be removed if you prune in fall though spring.

The only major pest problem oakleaf hydrangeas suffer from is root rot. They definitely need to be planted in a well-drained area! Once established, they should only need watering under drought conditions.

Several new cultivars of oakleaf hydrangea have been introduced in recent years. One of the most popular, 'Ruby Slippers', was bred by one of our own members – Sandy Reed, Redbud Reporter editor and member of Shenandoah Rose Garden Club – while she was employed by the US National Arboretum.



‘Ruby Slippers’ is known for its compact plant habit, large upright flower heads, flowers that age to deep pink, and foliage that turns bright red in the fall. Only reaching 4 to 4.5 feet tall and wide at maturity, it is a great choice for small gardens.

The photos below are of ‘Ruby Slippers’. The one the left was taken recently at the Tucker Butterfly Garden, which is maintained by DeKalb County Master Gardeners. The pink flower coloration will continue to darken, as shown in the photo on the right.



Some other cultivars you might be interested in are ‘Munchkin’ and ‘Queen of Hearts’. Both were also bred by Sandy Reed. ‘Munchkin’ is a very compact, plant, reaching only 3 to 3.5 feet at maturity. Its flowers turn pale pink as they age (photo below).



Unlike ‘Ruby Slippers’ and ‘Munchkin’, ‘Queen of Hearts’ needs a larger garden as it will reach 6-8 feet tall and wide at maturity. It’s worth the space, as the large, upright flower heads are very eye-catching (photo below)! It flowers a week or two after other oakleaf hydrangeas, extending the season. The white flowers gradually turn ivory and then a dark pink.



Whatever oakleaf hydrangea you decide to grow – whether one of the new cultivars or old standards like ‘Snow Queen’ and ‘Snowflake’ – you’ll find it a great addition to your native garden!

**Redbud District  
Summer Board Meeting**

August 14, 2023, 10:30 am

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center  
890 Briarcliff Road, Atlanta

Please bring a dish to share for  
our covered dish luncheon.

## News from the Clubs

### *Avondale Estates Garden Club Honors Two as Life Members*

Digging in the dirt is just one way garden club members like Donna Tanner and Peg Wyse make their community a better place.

For the two Avondale Estates Garden Club members named Life Members of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs this spring, hard work included using financial skills to organize and manage the club's income and expenses (Peg Wyse) and serving as co-chair of the club's annual plant sale (Donna Tanner).

Ms. Wyse served three years as treasurer of the club and turned over the books this year with a hefty surplus of funds. Ms. Tanner has served as Horticulture Chair since 2018, was co-chair of the Plant Sale for three years, and worked on various committees including the Tree Walk, Secret Garden Tour, and the Holiday Bazaar.

Both received unanimous support for their years of work and leadership, along with praise and thanks from outgoing club president Peggy Burgess, who said both Life Members are women who "never say no" when asked to help with projects.

Ms. Tanner and Ms. Wyse each discovered gardening early in life.

Ms. Tanner says her love of gardening is second nature; her parents were raised on farms in north central Texas, her family always growing vegetables, flowers, and fruit. She was born in Pasadena, Texas, and raised in Houston.

Ms. Tanner and her husband Joe have two daughters who they raised in central Texas before relocating their family to the high desert climate of the southern Sierras. Moving a lot of rock and earth—and always adapting—she has planted

gardens every place her family has called home. She always practiced organic gardening methods, and always with her two girls by her side so they could sample fresh produce straight from the yard. Plentiful personal gardens led her to begin selling wreaths and flowers to local shops, eventually cultivating and selling herbs and native plants on organic farms and at farmers markets.

Ms. Wyse, who grew up in St. Louis, started out "as a kid, planting tulips beside the patio" of her home. "I've been gardening pretty much all my life," she said. After college at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, where she majored in music, she and a friend hiked around the British Isles, picking up a travel bug that has never left her. She was hired by Delta Air Lines and eventually was transferred to Atlanta in 1984, where she found a home in Avondale Estates. This spring she traveled to Spain and Portugal to visit friends. In addition to the garden club, she is active in Gardeners for the Common Good, Avondale Action, and Sistahs in the Dale (a neighborhood singing group). Ms. Wyse lists her hobbies as: gardening, fixing things, gardening, organizing things, gardening, hiking, gardening, traveling, and gardening.



Avondale Estates GC new Life Members, Donna Tanner (left) and Peg Wyse (right)

## *All-Girl Boy Scouts of America Troop Teams Up with AEGC*

Spreading mulch in the Totem Garden at Avondale Estates Elementary School May 6 was the first of what girls in Scout Troop 4475 hope will be many service projects in conjunction with the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC).

The troop for girls ages 11-17 was chartered in 2021. Boy Scouts of America opened membership to girls in 2017 under the name Scouts BSA. The all-girl troops share space and equipment with a troop of boys and proceed through all the levels of scouting, up to and including the rank of Eagle.

“When one of our board members suggested the partnership, we were thrilled,” AEGC President Patricia Calcagno said. “The girls made quick work of spreading mulch at the Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School, and they are enthusiastic about working with us in the future.”

Troop 4475, which is partnered with all-boys Troop 134, volunteered to assist the AEGC with service projects, and members look forward to learning about gardening from club members.

Assistant Patrol Leader Allison Bombardier, 12, of Avondale Estates, invites girls to attend Troop 4475’s open house at 7:15 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Scout Hut behind First Baptist Church in Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave. Pack 4475 meets at the same location and is open to girls in grades K-5.

“I’ve loved learning scouting skills like camping and cooking outside, and I’m working hard to get to the rank of Eagle,” she said. Allison is a rising seventh grader at Hess Academy.

After school starts in August, the troop plans to assist Garden Club members with upcoming projects such as the club’s Tree Walk Oct. 28 and plant sale in April.

For more information about Troop 4475, contact Carroll Moy Knabe at [scoutmaster4475@gmail.com](mailto:scoutmaster4475@gmail.com) or 404-213-8371.



Top: Girls from Troop 4475 volunteer the week before Veterans Day to place American flags on the graves of military veterans in Decatur Cemetery. Pictured are: Violet Webb, Allison Bombardier, Heather Rudich, and Lila Becker.

Bottom: Members of Troop 4475 spreads mulch in the Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School. From left: Scouts Catherine Dederick, Ezri Bluth, Lila Becker, Miriam Bailey and Allison Bombardier, with AEGC President Patricia Calcagno and club member Linda Corbett.

## *Conyers Garden Club Celebrates National Garden Week*

Celebrating National Garden Week (NGW) is the highlight and culminating event of the Conyers Garden Club (CGC). Members work collaboratively with the staff of the local library to present programs designed for school-aged children and their parents. National Garden Week is designed to educate others about the impact of gardening on our community and society. One aspect of gardening is understanding the importance of all creatures sharing our world and the roles that they play in our ecology. This year, the CGC program was on Backyard Birds.

Proclamations recognizing the National Garden Week and the CGC's work in the community were presented by Rockdale County Commissioner Chairman Oz Nesbitt and Conyers Mayor Vince Evans. These proclamations were accepted by NGW Chairman and GCG 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Jessica Warren.

CGC President and NGW Co-Chairman Gale D. Thomas then led the participants in a discussion about the birds often seen in their backyards. Focusing on the familiar colors and sounds of commonly seen birds as markers for bird identification, she encouraged group participation.

After a lively discussion that set the foundation for the planned bird watch and count, the children and their parents moved to the library's outdoor classroom. After brief instructions, and using information provided by the Georgia Audubon Society, the participants were given the assignment to identify and count birds observed in the area surrounding the library. After a designated time period, the group reconvened and the children were encouraged to share information gathered during their bird count.

The program concluded with each child receiving bagged refreshments, coloring books and a handout on birds.



## Shenandoah Rose Visits Gainesville Location of ABG

The Shenandoah Rose Garden Club enjoyed a May meeting and field trip to the Gainesville location of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. If you have not yet been there, we recommend it as a garden to visit.

The Gainesville satellite location opened in 2015. According to an AJC article on May 1, 2015, “it stretches across 168 acres, more than five times the size of the Atlanta space.” The heart of the garden is the compact 5-acre space, part of the initial phase.

It also includes an amphitheater, a children’s garden, and a “5,000-square-foot greenhouse that is one of the largest conservation nurseries in the Southeast . . . These nurseries also supply plants for the gardens in Atlanta and Gainesville. Out of the 1,200 specimens growing in Gainesville, 400 were germinated in the nursery.”

It is a trip worth repeating! On the left, you can see a few of the lovely plantings we saw in bloom.

A special part of our trip was a chance to visit with former member Phyllis Frey. Phyllis was a long-time member of Shenandoah Rose. Two years ago, she and her husband Terry moved from their Atlanta home to an active-55 community in Gainesville. It was great to reconnect with her and to visit the beautiful community garden in her neighborhood. Raised beds assigned to residents were surrounded by in-ground beds of perennials. As you can see in the photo below, a beautiful space!



Clockwise from top left: ‘Dark Towers’ beardtongue (*Penstemon*); banana shrub (*Magnolia figo*); ‘Mutabilis’ china rose (*Rosa chinensis*); ‘Goldflame’ spirea (*Spirea x bumalda*)

## Smoke Rise Morning Glories and STEM Students

Smoke Rise Elementary School has a very active STEM program for students in all classes at the school. The Morning Glories have enjoyed the association with the school for many years at the former location and now at the new school. Ms. Cummings, who is the STEM teacher for the school, has been our contact, inviting the club to continue our support and participate when possible with school activities. The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs provided a matching grant to the Morning Glories to help fund the garden activities last year and we will be reaching out to them for additional funding in the 2023-24 school year.

This May we were invited to help the students plant seeds in the four raised beds that were installed last year. We have planted a series of vegetables and



flowers over the past year in the beds but our sudden December cold and later freezes really zapped the plants. The students in the photo are planting seeds that were donated by Garden Club of Georgia. These seeds are the same wildflowers that the Georgia Department of Transportation uses on the state highways. This summer parents and students are expected to water the flower and vegetable beds when possible.

Club members Kim Fair (Redbud District Director), Melodie Janin (Redbud Youth Chairman), Glendolyn Hallman (Redbud Awards Co-Chairman) and Quill Duncan (Redbud Advisor) helped the students and enjoyed the interaction with them on a bright and sunny day.

