



THE NORTH CAROLINA
GARDENER
WINTER 2024

“Cultivating Inspiration”
Communicate, Educate, Participate

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Member: National Garden Clubs, Inc. (South Atlantic Region)

Winter 2024
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region

GCNC

Organized 1925

Federated 1930

Incorporated 1940

Our mission is to provide education, resources, and networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

WWW.GARDENCLUBOFNC.ORG



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Deadlines

November 1 - Winter Issue

February 1—Spring Issue

May 1—Summer Issue

August 1—Fall Issue

To submit articles, events and items of interest for submission to The NC Gardener, please send an email to Karen Doersam, Editor at

ncgardener@gardenclubofnc.org

Submission Guidelines

- Articles to be plain text email or word doc..
- Photos should be high resolution jpg
- Email Subject in include “article for NC Gardener” and Club Name
- Email Body to include District, Garden Club, and submitter name
- Editor reserves the right to edit any article due to space constraints, duplication, clarity and accuracy.



Linda McLendon
GCNC President

President's Message

*With best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving
and a very Merry Christmas.*

Let's all "Remember the Reason for the Season"

May you all be Blessed

Linda

EVENTS—Installation Year

What's on the agenda in the upcoming months for garden club members? Never again will you have the opportunity to attend a South Atlantic Regional meeting, a 100th year celebration event of GCNC, and a meeting of the National Garden Club - all within driving distance

**MARCH 9 - 10
RALEIGH , NC
2025 SAR CONVENTION
HOSTED
BY NORTH CAROLINA**



**MAY 4 - 6
WINSTON-SALEM NC
ANNUAL MEETING OF GCNC
AND 100 YEAR
CELEBRATION**



**MAY 18-21
NORTH CHARLESTON S.C.
ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE NATION GARDEN
CLUBS, INC.**



GCNC Board News

Charles McLendon—GCNC 1st Vice President/ Membership Chair



Giving and expecting nothing in return.

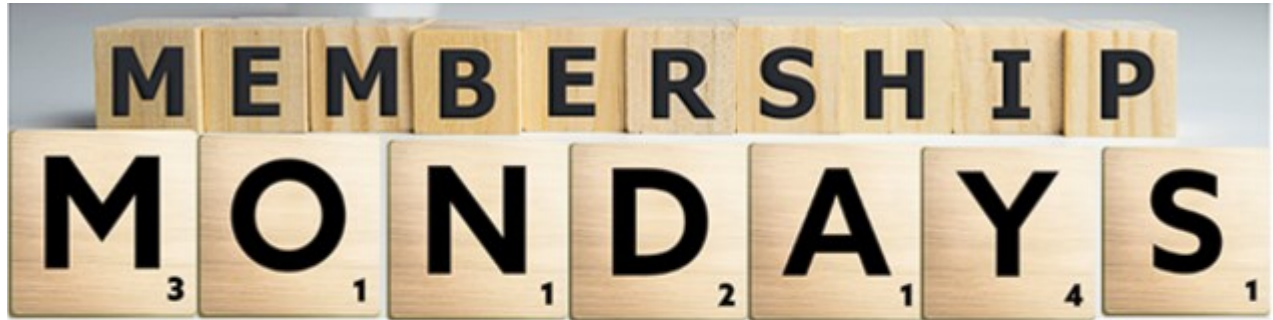
This is a beautiful message of community and compassion. It highlights the incredible power of coming together to support one another in times of need. Garden Clubs in North Carolina have truly exemplified the essence of selflessness and generosity by stepping up for fellow members affected by the hurricane in WNC.

The dedication and outpouring of love, prayers, and resources not only reflect the spirit of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., but also inspire others to join in this meaningful work. When Garden Clubs from other states reach out to offer help, it shows that kindness knows no borders and that shared values can unite us all.

For those questioning their role or purpose in being part of the Garden Club, this moment serves as a powerful reminder: it's not just about gardening—it's about cultivating a community that deeply cares for one another, creating lasting bonds rooted in love and support.

Thanks for all you do for the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

GCNC Board News



**Unless you have toooooo many members –
you need this..... Come join us!**

Newly reformatted

Membership Mondays

Presented by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Membership/Leadership Committee

ZOOM meetings

Beginning October 7 at 1:00 pm EDT

and the first Monday/month
thereafter except for December

Marilyn Wright— as Historian

What a difference 80 years makes! Here is a page from the first NC Gardener:

TREASURER'S REPORT

1930-1931

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand June 1 st 1930	\$ 61.30
Dues from Clubs	210.25
Total Receipts	\$271.55

DISBURSEMENTS

To Creative Print Shop (Constitution and By-Laws)	\$ 14.60
To Rhodes Press (Stationery)	10.30
To Mrs. Albert Fowler (Dues to Nat. Council)	45.00
To Rhodes Press (Stationery)	6.26
To Mrs. S. H. Tomlinson (Exp., etc., for year)	25.03

Total Disbursements ----- \$100.08

Balance on hand April 23rd 1931 \$171.47

*Anson County failed to pay

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

Little did anyone think that when the azaleas were in bloom at Airlie and the Garden Club held its annual meeting, the Legislature would still be in session.

The only pleasure which your Chairman of Legislation-acting on advice from the North Carolina Woman's Legislative Council-undertook to sponsor was the regulation of Billboards. The Woman's Legislative Council intended to introduce a bill for this purpose but finding that the revenue bill included a section on the taxing and regulation of billboards, which seemed to them a good measure, they decided to give their support to it. A hearing was arranged before the joint revenue committee, at which Mr. Struthers Burt, Dr. Clarence Poe and Mrs. Edward Land spoke for the proponents of the measure. The Garden Club was represented at this hearing which took place on February third.

You do not need me to tell you what has happened to the revenue bill, and today, April twenty-third, the fate of the taxing and regulation of billboards is still undecided.

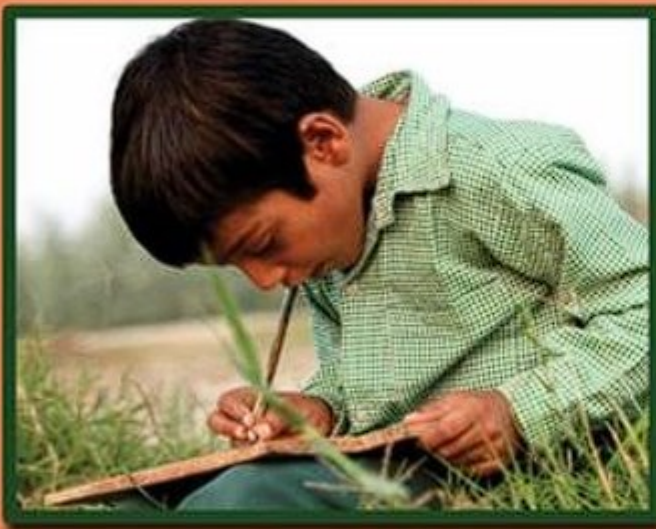
Respectfully submitted,

ELLEN DORTCH SHORE.

Suzanne Gurski—GCNC 3rd Vice President, Youth Chair

NGC 2025 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

MY GARDEN HAS VEGETABLES TO SPARE THAT I CAN SHARE



HELPING FIGHT HUNGER BY SHARING VEGETABLES FROM OUR GARDEN

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Grade K– Grade 12

General Education, Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages

who are either

NGC Youth Club members

or ANY kid when sponsored

by a local affiliated NGC garden club

For details go to

www.gardenclub.org

Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities

OR your state garden club's website!

CLUB ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRPERSON: OBSERVE YOUR STATE DEADLINE

For more information email:
James Pavelka, NGC Poetry Contest Chairperson
jamespavelka@comcast.net

The rules for the contest can be found at:

https://gardenclubofnc.org/poetry_contest

Send your entries by January 1st to:

Suzanne Gurski
3006 Boverie St SW
Shallotte, NC 28470

Let's show the other states North Carolina rocks!!

Blue/Gold Star Markers

Chair: Paula Hartman

We just received word that the prices of the Blue and Gold Star Markers will be increased by approximately 3 % as of January 1, 2025.

If your club is interested in ordering a marker, please send the application to Paula Hartman, NC Chair, by the end of December. You DO NOT need to send the check in with the application. Just the application to me to approve it.

And as far as date of dedication, just write in an approximate date at least 4 months out.

Call me 252 670 3233 or email paulamhartman1947@gmail.com with any questions .

"All to see, lest we forget, those who help to keep us free."

[Blue-gold-star-tri-fold-brochure](#)

Blue/Gold Star Memorial Marker News

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER
DEDICATION SPEECH GIVEN BY PAULA HART-
MAN, GCNC BLUE/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MAK-
ER CHAIRMAN

SEPT 17, 2024- CITY PARK OF HAVELOCK
GOOD MORNING DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, VET-
ERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. I
AM PAULA HARTMAN, NC BLUE AND GOLD STAR
CHAIRPERSON

WELCOME TO THE DEDICATION OF THIS GOLD
STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER
LAST YEAR WE PLACED A BLUE STAR MEMORIAL
MARKER HERE IN HONOR OF THOSE SERVICEMEN
AND WOMEN WHO SERVED, ARE SERVING AND
WILL SERVE AND TODAY

TRENT WOODS GARDEN CLUB IS GRATEFUL THAT
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HAVE
AGREED TO SPONSOR THIS GOLD STAR MARKER
TO HONOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO LOST A LOVED
ONE IN DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY
FIRST, THOUGH, MAY I PLACE SOME PERSPEC-
TIVE ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE GARDEN
CLUB IN THIS ENDEAVOR

At the close of World War 11, National Garden
Clubs were seeking a suitable means of honoring
our servicemen and women. The Blue Star Me-
morial Highway Marker program began with plac-
ing markers on highways to honor those who
served in World War 11, but it was enlarged to
include all servicemen and women who had
served, were serving and would serve in the
Armed Forces. The project was named for the
Blue Star in the service flag which hung in win-
dows of homes and businesses to honor their
sons and daughters away from home. This pro-
gram was the first project done by the National
Garden Clubs on a national scale. As the patri-
otism and support grew, a smaller marker, a BY-
Way Marker, was introduced and placed in neigh-
borhood parks, civic and historical grounds. A

third marker was then added to be placed beyond
highways to include VA Centers, hospitals and National
Cemeteries and named Blue Star Memorial Marker.
Garden clubs wanted to show everyone we had not
forgotten our men and women who were serving all
over of the world. Only federated garden club have
the distinction of placing Blue and Gold Star markers.
In 2015, the National Garden Club was approached to
design and install a Gold Star marker identical to the
Blue Star markers but with a different focus. They re-
placed the blue star with a gold star (following the tra-
dition of placing a gold star when the loved one died in
wartime) This marker is similar to the Blue Star but the
Gold Star Families Memorial Markers has the inscrip-
tion, "A Tribute to All Gold Star Families Honor-Hope-
Healing." There are more than 1.7 million family mem-
bers fitting the description of a Gold Star family. The
Gold Star wives are active in bringing the message of
hope and support to remind us of the price of freedom
in the loss of their loved ones. Gold Star Dedications
include representatives of the Gold Star Families –
wives, husbands, mothers, sisters who share their sto-
ries with the attendees. Today we will hear from a
Gold Star Mother, Trish Slape. These markers serve as
a lasting tribute to fallen heroes by providing a place
for the families and communities to remember and
honor their child's sacrifice.

placing this Gold Star Families Memorial Marker here
at the City Park of Havelock for area residents, visitors,
veterans and active duty to see and remember.
I thank you for joining in this dedication and hope you
will keep all our men and women close to your heart
today and always as we remember I thank you for
joining in this dedication and hope you will keep all
our men and women close to your heart today and
always as we remember

ALL TO SEE, LESS WE FORGET, THOSE WHO HELP
TO KEEP US FREE

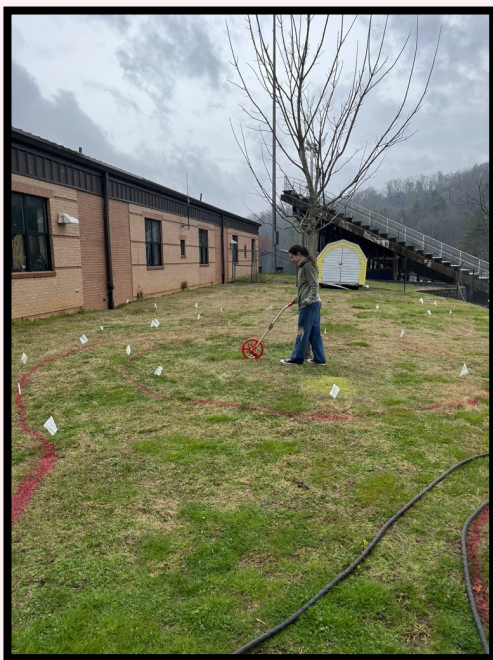
Blue/Gold Star Memorial Marker News

Paula Hartman and members of Trent Woods Garden Club gather at City Park of Havelock to dedicate a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker on September 27, 2024.



Exciting Endeavors: District 1

The Brevard HS Garden has been an exciting undertaking. I have volunteered 26 hours on this project working closely with the BHS GC President, Amara Campanini. The area we beautified was all turf with one tree. Amara and I planned and laid out the beds. I gave Amara resources, and my drawing tools to research and plan with the club the types of plants they wanted to see in their student common area. The students visited the garden center where I was employed, and as we toured the grounds, I described the plants and their attributes, and they took notes. The students then huddled and discussed and chose the plant for the flower beds. The next step was killing the turf and prepping the beds for planting. The students got to experience the laborious job of scraping turf and loosening the compacted soil! Oddly enough, the vermiculture in the soil is active! That was encouraging. The next step was to place the plants and start planting them! As we focused on using mostly natives in the garden, we also decided not to bring in soil and to experiment by allowing the perennials and mulch to amend the soil. Success! The soil is already richer! In addition to the two beautiful flower beds and one ornamental grass bed, there are raised garden beds for food crops, a garden shed that a BHS GC member painted, and the students will be composting. One student made garden benches that have been placed under the tree for hanging out, outdoor meetings and classes. At this time, I am mentoring the students on how to care for the plants. The students have not only learned about plants and installing them, but budgeting and planning has been a big factor in this project as well. The students raised funds, and have researched and purchased all the items to make this idea come to fruition.



project!

Kim Antrim, District 1, Vice-Director

I am extremely proud of these students and this

District 1

WAYNESVILLE GARDEN CLUB RESPONDS TO HELENE

Waynesville's Club's garden helps repair Lake Junaluska.



Picture shows devastation: benches and tree



Mary Barrett and Cherry helping to clean the shoreline of Lake Junaluska

District 1

Gardener's Digital Article: Waynesville Garden Club: August -October 2024

October 28, 2024

Dr. Cherry Stone: District 1 Contact

The month of October has been a time of loss, remembrance and thanksgiving. The priority of our club has been to support those businesses and people around us affected by Hurricane Helene. Our prayers go out to all those who were severely affected.

Our club members have worked and continue to work to provide support to our surrounding communities.

Pictures will be attached to this article of some of our efforts.

- + Bobbi Trufant worked at the extension farms to glean food for evacuees.
- + Mary Barrett and Cherry Stone and neighbors helped in the cleaning up of the Lake Junaluska shoreline.
- + Kim Powers assisted by Cherry Stone supported and continue to add assistance a dog trainer/boarder in her devastated store in Clyde.
- + All members, including Bobbi Trufant and Vickie Gibert and their neighbors, have been involved in providing water and funds for those in need by loading and unloading trucks of food, clothing and other supplies.

District 2

Lake Norman Garden Club



LKN Garden Club hosted their Annual Plant Sale, raising over \$3000.00 for scholarships to graduating seniors in our community that are continuing their education in Agriculture and Life Sciences. Over 25 members shared over 300 plants (75 varieties) of plants from their gardens, perennials, shrubs, succulents, bake sale and home-made garden treasures. This year, the membership opted to have a children's

planting table and invited several Master Gardeners from the NC Extension office to answer questions from our customers. The Plant Sale was held on Saturday, Sept 7th.

Our LKN Garden Club has been approved by Catawba County to develop and install a pollinator garden for the Sherrills Ford Library in Sherrills Ford. Our club is partnering with the Friends of the Library to develop and install an outdoor garden area (approx. 2500 sq ft). These gardens will showcase a variety of NC native plants that feed, shelter and sustain our local pollinators including butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

During the month of October, our LKN Garden Club cleared out existing plants and weeds and began preparing the beds for spring plantings. A landscape design committee has been formed and the design phase has begun. Plans include also a seating area for library patrons, entrance planters and the development of an interactive signage for children and patrons.



Lake Norman Garden Club
Welcome to the Garden Club of
North Carolina. We love having
you with us.

District 2



In the News...

**The Friends of the Library
and the LKN Garden Club of
Sherrills Ford are
partnering to bring a
Pollinator Café
to our Sherrills Ford Library
Spring 2025**



This outdoor garden area (approx. 2500 sq ft) will showcase a variety of North Carolina native plants that feed, shelter and sustain our local pollinators including butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Outdoor seating and interactive educational opportunities will be available within the garden area for all of our library patrons to enjoy.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful project or find out more about our clubs, please go to:

SherrillsFordFOL@gmail.com (Friends of Library)

LKNgarden@gmail.com (LKN Garden Club)



District 3

District 3 Fall Meeting, October 26th



DISTRICT 3

Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs gather at their meeting house – the Betty Little house - for a catered lunch

Catching up on news:

Charline Sims (l)

Judy Barnes (c)

Jill Rogers, District Director—Right

District 3

District 3 Fall Meeting, October 26th

DISTRICT 3—Highlights



The Council Presidents and Presidents of most of the District 3 clubs gave reports highlighting favorite programs, projects and tours. The value of these reports became obvious as people eagerly wrote down the names of places to tour and speakers to engage for future meetings and activities. Full reports of each club were collected in a booklet and given to each president providing more ideas.

The main business included a vote on what District 3 will do for table favors for the SAR meeting in March, and how we want to organize for the District 3 meeting in 2025. We decided that all clubs will be involved in some way, and most signed up at the meeting to do specific tasks such as decorations, centerpieces, and registration. We have a lovely venue planned and a probable caterer.

Naturalist Bob Senn of South Carolina, gave the program, **Wildlife and Wildflowers of the Carolinas**. Bob shared many interesting and unusual facts about the animals he has studied.

District 3

Davidson Garden Club

Davidson Garden Club Invests in Local Park to Create Unique Educational Spaces

Davidson Garden Club (DGC), based in Davidson, NC, aims to promote and educate about gardening, offers an annual horticultural symposium, and participates in beautifying the town of Davidson.



In 2020, DGC partnered with another non-profit agency, the Davidson Lands Conservancy, to work with a landscape architecture firm to implement multiple recreation and education spaces at a new Davidson town park, Beaty Park. The park inhabits 20 acres of undeveloped land that was purchased by the Town of Davidson and earmarked for conservation & recreation purposes.

Beginning in 2020, Davidson Garden Club members identified the native plants (trees, shrubs, ground covers, wild flowers, and bog-pond) in the woodlands, wetlands, and pond areas of the park, which can be used toward future plantings.

Members also designed & planted educational beds that include a medicinal garden, xeriscape and rock garden, monarch butterfly garden, ornamental grasses, and 'unusual' plants for home landscaping, as well as a walkable 'maze' with native pollinating plants. Each garden space has a QR code that links to content specific to those plant species and garden purposes. Additionally, twenty woodland trees were labeled with their species names and QR codes linking to information on the Davidson Lands Conservancy's website.

Recently, garden club volunteers worked in the park's wooded spaces to create a number of 'woodland hut' structures (similar to a tepee) from fallen limbs for children to explore and 'stumpery gardens' made from decaying wood and native woodland plants like ferns, trilliums, and other treasures. Plans for other park features have been proposed that include a tunnel-like maze, interactive art structure, and swinging bridge.



DGC members also continue to nurture the flower beds to get them further established.

The Davidson Garden Club is joined by a number of other local non-profit and professional organizations that volunteer time and resources to Beaty Park in order to make it a beautiful space for town members of all ages.

We invite you to follow the Davidson Garden Club's efforts on Instagram [@thedavidsongardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/thedavidsongardenclub).

District 5



FASHION SHOW AND HIGH TEA

Hosted by Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc

Fashions presented by: BELKS

Music by Carter Bradley, Pianist

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2024

2:00 – 4:00 TICKETS \$40

STARMOUNT FOREST COUNTRY CLUB

1 SAM SNEAD DRIVE

GREENSBORO

To purchase tickets contact :

candyaessner1@gmail.com

336-580-6617



District 5

The Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs had a great attendance at their Fall Gardening Seminar, held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the Greensboro Science Center in the Sail Room.

Wiz Horner, Deputy Administrator, Retired, Agriculture Research Service, USDA, had served with the US National Arboretum and brought to us slides of beauty of The US National Arboretum in a program on US National Arboretum, - Where Science Meets Beauty". The Arboretum had sent him the newest pictures to present to us and they were gorgeous! Sally Pagliai, Landscape Architectural Designer, presented a program "Designing with Nature, the Ultimate Inspiration." She showed pictures of her works from around the world, working with nature and it was awe inspiring. She finished off by describing the work that she and Mary Magrinat did in turning the wastelands around Wesley Long Hospital and Cone Cancer Center in Greensboro into the beautiful Healing Gardens that stand next to the Cancer Center now. Six hours of programs and lunch with old and new friends.



Gail Hill

District 8



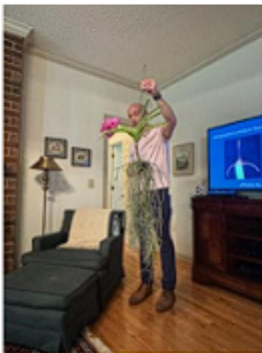
NEWS FROM BRIAR CREEK DISTRICT 8



On October 22, 2024, the Cross Creek Briarwood Garden Club convened to recognize excellence, showcasing presentations from our two 2024 scholarship recipients (Debi Long and James Hollenbeck), who are excelling at FTCC (Fayetteville Technical Community College) Horticultural School. **Paul Monroe's donation** enabled us to grant these scholarships, filling us with pride and reinforcing our commitment to nurturing talent.

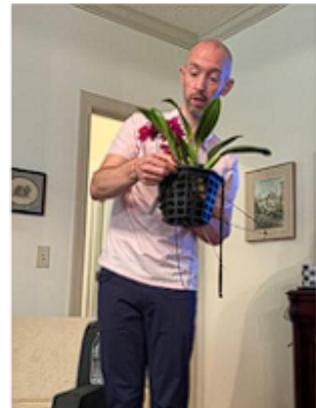
JASON HARPSTER VISITS COTTONLAND GARDEN CLUB IN DISTRICT 8

Jason Harpster came to our October garden club meeting and shared his ventures with us and taught us so much about his expertise and how to grow orchids.



Harpster became interested in orchids while completing his undergraduate studies at UNC-Asheville. He later received an MBA from UNC-Greensboro and, in 2010, joined his family's business, Central Security Systems, where he maintains his greenhouse. Harpster estimates he has around 300 different species and counting hybrids, his full collection runs close to 2,000 plants.

"Central Security has been very supportive, sponsoring the orchids, awards and names. It is a way we can give back to the community," he said. "Friends and customers are welcome to make an appointment with me if they'd like a tour of the greenhouse and to see the orchids that are in bloom."



Carolina Caddell – President of Cottonland Garden Club

District 8



The Four Seasons Garden Club in Lillington, NC participated in the Boone Trail Ruritan Craft Fair. The members brought hand made crafts and a variety of plants to sell to raise funds for beautification projects in the area.

Becky Blair

The entire GCNC Family would like to recognize and welcome our newest Garden Club in District 8.

Name: Anderson Creek Garden Club
Located in Spring Lake ,NC.
14 Members.
President Janelle D. Nesbit.



District 8

GARDEN CLUBS IN FAYETTEVILLE REMEMBER THE FALLEN

Cross Creek GC sponsored the Blue Star Memorial in 1956.

Cross Creek-Briarwood GC is sponsoring the Gold Star Memorial 2024

Cross Creek and Cross Creek-Briarwood remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and the families who lost their loved one.



Gold Star mother Darlene Figueroa prepares to ring the Gold Star bell for her late son. (Photos – Bill Kirby Jr.)



Patti Elliott, left, and Gloria Leggett, unveil Gold Star Memorial on Friday at Freedom Memorial Park in downtown Fayetteville. Aiding was Col. John Wilcox, left, garrison commander of Fort Liberty, and Command Sgt Major Greg Semmes.

The memorials are both located at the Airborne Museum in Fayetteville – a fitting place for the Markers to be placed with ceremony.



Established in August 2000, the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) is a first-class institution that efficiently and effectively captures, preserves, exhibits, and presents the material culture and heritage of the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Forces from 1940 and into the future. The Museum celebrates over 80 years of Army Airborne and Special Operations history and honors our nation's Soldiers – past, present, and future.

District 9

THE HILLSBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN 1925. WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

100 YEARS OF GARDENING TOGETHER.

DECEMBER 2024 - WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN OUR COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PARADE WITH A FLOAT.

JANUARY 6 - MARCH 31, 2025. EXHIBIT AT THE ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. HGC THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. FREE TO THE COMMUNITY

MAY 3, 2025 - HILLSBOROUGH GARDEN TOUR. WE HAVE 9 BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE GARDENS THAT WILL BE OPEN TO VISITORS ON THE TOUR. SEVERAL HISTORICAL HOME GARDENS WILL BE FEATURED. COST \$35.

JUNE 2025 - CHILDREN'S PLAY GEARED FOR FAMILIES. PARTNERING WITH LOCAL THEATRICAL COMPANY BACKYARD THEATRICALS. ONE OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS IS WRITING THE PLAY. FREE TO THE COMMUNITY.

OCTOBER 2025 - MEMBER/GUEST PRIVATE DINNER CELEBRATION. KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS BRYCE LANE. CLOSED EVENT

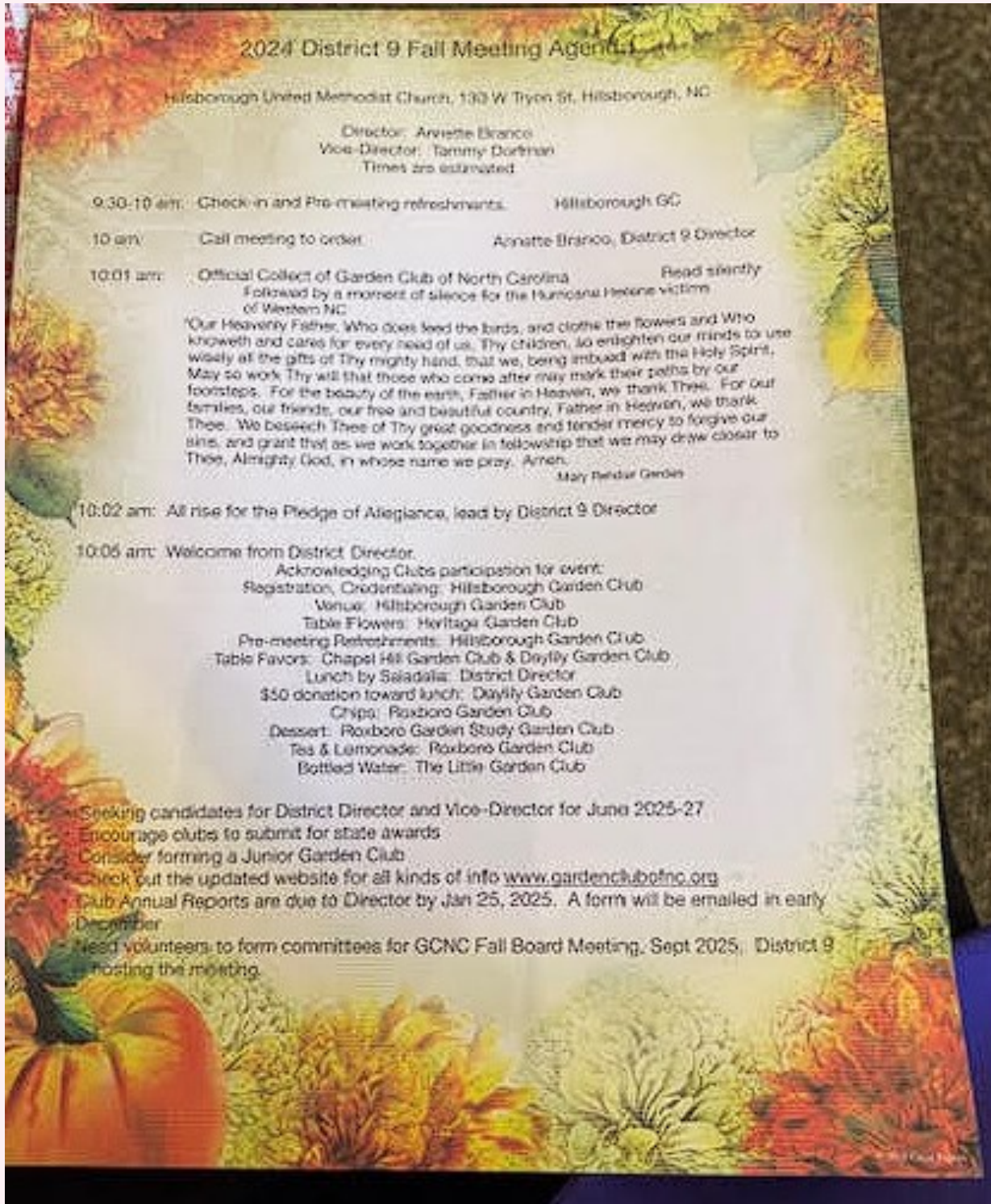
CONTACT

TAMMY DORFMAN
tamdorf@aol.com

HILLSBOROUGH
GARDEN CLUB
DISTRICT 9

District 9

District 9 Fall Meeting News



District 9

District 9 Fall Meeting News



District 9

District 9 Fall Meeting News

Fun with Driftwood Garden Club President, Charles Leverett (right), District 9 Director -Annette Branco (center) and Tammy Dorfman (left), Vice-Director



District 9

District 9 Fall Meeting News



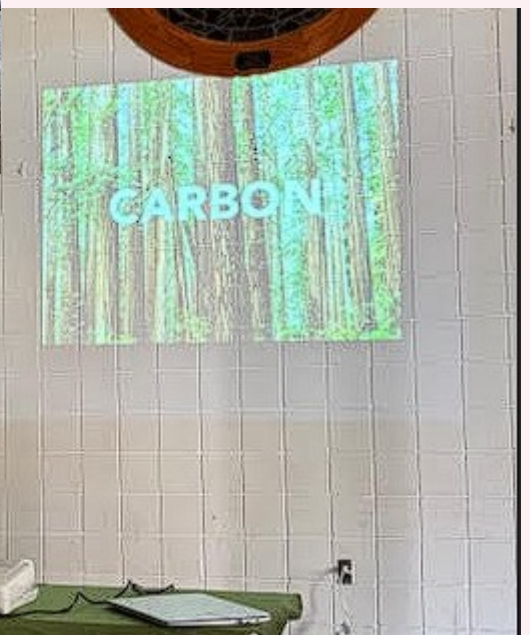
Past and present District 9 Directors
Brenda Pollard (left) and Annette Branco
(right)

District 9

District 9 Fall Meeting News

Guest Speaker: Basil Camu, Treecologist & Wizard of Things.

When you ask Basil what he thinks about himself, he'll tell you he is incredibly lucky. He has family he loves dearly, friends and colleagues who inspire him, and every day he gets to care for trees, soil, and flowers. He pursues his purpose and passions as the co-founder of Leaf & Limb and Project Pando. He is a Treecologist, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Duke graduate, Wizard of Things, and author of "From Wasteland to Wonder - Easy Ways to Help Heal Earth in the Sub/Urban Landscape."



District 9

Hillsborough Methodist Church, venue



Dist 9 Director and Vice-Director, holding book gifted to each attendee from speaker

District 10

District 10 News

The Fall Meeting of District 10 was held at the JC Raulston Arboretum and featured a presentation by Helen Yoest, Gardening Expert/Author on the subject of her latest book, "Beginner's Guide to Garden Planning and Designing." A good time was had by all and District Director Joyce Moses and Vice Director Marie Martin led an excellent meeting. We were honored to host the GCNC officers this year.



Cary Garden Club, Cary NC

Since our first September meeting we have added more than 10 new members to our roster, with at least 5 guests per monthly meeting. This is due to the distribution around town of a newly designed tri-fold brochure and the use of Spotlight (an on-line newsletter) to highlight our club. We have had two articles and one podcast in Spotlight to date. We are also using the local gardening magazines to promote our meetings by putting a listing in the events section. Our day trips for September and October included Cloer Family Vineyard in Apex and the Camellia Forest Nursery and Tea House in Chapel Hill. November 20th we are hosting our annual Silent Auction fundraiser, this year the theme is Paris, it is always great fun and our Holiday Party on December 3rd at the NC State University Club is one of our members favorite events. In January we will start our new Horticulture program with classes at local nurseries on topics like: Soil Amending and Planting a Vegetable Garden, we hope to offer 4 per year from January through April.

Fuquay-Varina Garden Club, Fuquay-Varina NC

In 2024 the Club awarded two scholarships of \$2500 each to high school seniors who will attend a college in the area of horticulture or other gardening related field of study. Other Club activities included our Adopt A Highway Roadside Clean-up and our monthly educational programs.

District 10

Hidden Hills Garden Club, Raleigh NC

Care of the garden space on both sides of the entrance to Swift Drive from Avent Ferry Drive has been under our Club's supervision since in 1977, and it is our one major program effort as well as one of our neighborhood responsibilities. The trees surrounding the property are smothering some of the flora originally planted. Iris, Lamb's Ears, small grasses, day lilies, camellias and other spring flowering plants are not adequate to add colorful interest to the area during the recent hot summers. Consequently, several of this year's monthly meetings were led by landscape architect Hayes Johnson to study recently reworked local gardens. Our club hopes to identify appropriate drought-resistant plants for the future.

Laurel Hills Garden Club, Raleigh NC

The first meeting of the 2024-25 Laurel Hills Garden Club year was presented by Colleen Bockhahn on "Planting Trees and Shrubs for Birds". Colleen was a wonderful and engaging speaker and gave us lots of great information. This meeting happened to be an Open House—we invited all of Laurel Hills and it attracted four new members.

Laurel Hills is in west Raleigh and is described as: Laurel Hills was developed in the early 1950's by J.Y. Phelps. Our neighborhood was named for the beautiful mountain laurel that grew on the undeveloped hills of this land. Laurel Hills still has plant material that usually grows in the mountains, like galax, arbutus, rhododendron, wild azalea, lady slippers, ginger and blood root. These native plants were the inspiration for many of the street names in our neighborhood. The residents of Laurel Hills are imbued with a community and neighborly spirit, and the LHGC that grew out of this spirit is still going strong today.

District 10

For several years the LHGC has held our October meeting (and again in 2024) at a member's home who does amazing Halloween displays. This meeting includes a tour of her home (inside and outside) and our program. You see why everyone goes wild over her decor.



Every December, the club members decorate the entrance to Laurel Hills for the holidays. We make all of these decorations as well.



Making the decorations for the neighborhood is a fun club event.



The decorations in place from last year.

District 10

Raleigh Garden Club, Raleigh NC

The four cornerstones of our Club are Horticulture, Floral Design, Civic Improvement and Environmental Concerns. Each has an elected chair to set up programs for the year.

The Horticulture Group toured the Research Trials at JC Raulston Arboretum. Thousands of the newest annuals and tender perennials grown were in flower! This display garden is an official AAS (All American Selections) testing site to evaluate plants for seed and plug companies around the world and provides results to homeowners and nurserymen.



Decorating Transitions LifeCare Hospice and the Historic Polk House for the Holidays is a gift in the spirit of civic beautification.

At Transitions LifeCare, we approach the holidays with a nonsectarian theme of Winter Wonderland. We also have to be careful of what materials we use due to the often fragile health of the residents. For instance, we can't use live plants or greenery, and everything must be child-safe. The décor focuses on simple designs and materials to create a peaceful, pleasing holiday ambiance for those residing at and visiting the facility.

Bare branch trees are decorated with lots of small faux birds. After decorating, we hold a special luncheon for the staff and volunteers of Transitions LifeCare.

The L. L. Polk house in downtown Raleigh is decorated in a traditional Victorian Christmas, with fresh wreaths, swags, assorted greenery and bows. Two artificial trees donned old-time ornaments and newer twinkle lights on opposite sides of the long, front porch. It was a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit.



Winter Wonderland at TLC Hospice



Decorating the Polk House last Christmas

District 10

This year's environmental group is focusing on.... Gardening! Our September meeting had the topic of Habitat Gardening for Pollinators and Wildlife and was attended by over 40 members who discussed tips and experiences on 5 different topics: Biodiversity, Natives vs Nativars, Controlling Wildness, Techniques for environmental gardening, and Resources for Finding Native Plants.



The Floral Design group tackled a Cascading Design on a Candlestick with flowers supplied for everyone. The yellow lilies and the mums came from the florist, and the remaining plant material from various gardens in the GC tradition.



We are very proud of our Rosey Girls Youth Garden Club which won the Youth Club of the Year award from NGC last year. Thirteen girls signed up to participate this season. We reviewed membership rules for behavior and each girl signed our Membership Pledge to do her best to follow them. One skill we'll be focusing on this year is learning the names and functions of garden tools. We'll introduce a different tool each month.



Sandy Purvis, Co-Chair, helping Rosey Girls plant carrot and arugula seeds.

Two Green Thumbs Garden Club, Knightdale NC

The Club is off to a great start for the year. We have added a new member who met the club at our last Spring Plant Sale. We participated in Knightdale's Fall Fest, where we sold mums. Other town events on our upcoming calendar include hosting the annual Veteran's Day Program at our Blue & Gold Star Memorial, walking in the Christmas Parade, laying memorial wreaths with Wreaths Across America, leading Arbor Day, and our Spring Plant Sale, which is our biggest fundraising event.

This year our club is focusing on monthly educational programs that are hands-on demonstrations. For example, our first meeting was a rousing plant exchange of house plants, which is outside the wheelhouse for many of our members. Everyone took home

District 10

a new plant to learn about. We will also have flower arranging, constructing grape vine wreaths, and working with shade gardens.

Other news includes work within our THREE Jr Garden Clubs: Jr Two Green Thumbs at Doral Academy, Scouts 365, and Ladybugs & Grasshoppers. We also have two of our members involved with the NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. We are looking forward to partnership in assisting with the upcoming SAR Meeting in Spring. We are the Treasurer for the event, as well as hosting the meet and greet reception for the SAR Director, State Presidents, Club Presidents and more. We hope to see you there!

Finally, we are excited to celebrate our 25-year club anniversary next September. So, between our monthly club presentations, two club social events, monthly club field trips, three youth clubs, five town events, maintaining 12 flowerbeds, recruiting new members, and building friendships - Two Green Thumbs is ready for a fun and full year!

Steel Magnolias Garden Club, Zebulon NC

Our club enjoys participating hands-on and we will hold a workshop on how to use plant materials to create holiday swags and centerpieces. Our annual "Dirty Hands Plant Exchange" is a favorite. The Club continues to maintain a large garden at the Zebulon Public Library, a Wildflower of the Year Garden, a Nature Trail and a Butterfly Garden at the Zebulon Community Park, as well as seasonal plants at the entrance to the Zebulon Chamber of Commerce and in pots in downtown.

We participate in several community events each year including Spring Fest, Candy Cane Lane and Arbor Day. Our major fundraiser to support all our efforts is our annual plant sale. We also sell pecans in the fall that is used to fund an annual scholarship of \$1000 to a local high school senior.

District 10

LAUREL HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS
AT WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

One of the continuing projects of the Laurel Hills Garden Club from 1961-present is to establish and maintain our subdivision entrance. District 10



Ripening
grapefruit in Wake
County.
Curt Lunchick



District 11



Cape Fear Garden Club, Wilmington, NC Celebrates Centennial

On February 11, 2025, Cape Fear Garden Club will celebrate its 100th birthday. In 1925, February 11th, the club held its first meeting at St. James Episcopal Church Great Hall in Wilmington, NC.

Twelve Charter members met that day with 18 more members led by President Mrs. Martha Dunn Martin.

The members planned to write a simple constitution and by-laws to present at the March meeting. At that first meeting it was called the Garden Club; it was named Cape Fear Garden Club at their 3rd meeting in April, 1925.

On February 11, 2025 Cape Fear Garden Club will have a Tea at St. James Great Hall in the same space where the members met for the first time one hundred years ago. CFGC has other activities planned culminating with their May Luncheon which will feature a Decades Fashion Show 1925-2025.



MRS. N. H. MARTIN
Organizing President
1925-1927

District 11



Winter Wonderland Holiday Tea

Friday, December 6th, 2:00 – 4:00

Sponsored by:



NEW HANOVER
Garden Club

Event at: Seagate Baptist Church
6115 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea of savory and sweet treats in a unique setting while listening to holiday music. Be prepared for an afternoon delight while you are entertained by renowned NGC floral judge Graceann Phillips as she presents a program on “Tablescaping for the Holidays”. Start your holiday shopping by picking up an amaryllis or Christmas Cactus.

Buy tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/bd8ezt7> for \$50. Purchase an individual ticket or reserve a table for 8. Each table will be uniquely decorated, and a People’s Choice Award will be given.

All proceeds will support the community work of the New Hanover Garden Club, a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Projects include landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes, garden maintenance at an area nursing home, sponsorship of three youth garden clubs, support for Meals on Wheels.



District 11

Good Morning all,
The New Bern Garden Club has been working
On a number of projects but I would venture
to say restoring the Judge Gaston Office continues to keep us busy. We recently had new
back steps added by member George Celinski.
Bren Harris is in charge of our restoration and
Joanne Celinski and Shane Burke have added
A beautiful Butterfly garden! We hope to have it
Ready for New Bern's house and garden tour
This coming spring.



NEWS FROM NEW BERN GARDEN CLUB DISTRICT 11

Mike Batten - President



November 2024

Gardening for Wildlife Committee
Cape Fear Garden Club

As of October 2024, the **City of Wilmington is Certified as a Wildlife Habitat Community!** Many members of the Gardening for Wildlife Committee worked tirelessly to achieve set requirements by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in outreach, education, advocacy and administrative goals.

Please "Save the Date" and mark your calendars as we plan to celebrate this achievement of City Certification during our Centennial Year on:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 am, Thalian Hall Ballroom

District 11

LOBLOLLY GARDEN CLUB WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM

to the Harbor Island Garden Club on the huge [project](#) they have undertaken at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington.

The program will be in February.

For more information, contact Loblolly president Joan Miller: tootiepop2@ec.rr.com

Editor's note:

Loblolly Garden club of Wilmington works closely with Eric Kozen – superintendent of Oakdale Cemetery and former president of Cape Fear Garden Club – to enhance the charm and beauty of Oakdale cemetery. The Club has planted hundreds of bulbs and other blooming



flowers along the entrance to Oakdale and inside the butterfly garden. Club members water



and weed as needed.

Eric has shared a few of his stunning photographs of Oakdale Cemetery.



Our Celebrated History

Oakdale Cemetery was chartered on December 27, [1852](#) by the General Assembly of North Carolina. The founders purchased 65 acres for \$1,100. The acreage now has grown to about 100 acres of natural beauty. Created during the era of the Rural Cemetery Movement in the US, Oakdale was the first in the state, only fitting for the most populous city in the state at the time. It was five blocks beyond the town boundaries.

Oakdale has several specialized areas: the yellow fever section, with its few markers, dates from the epidemic of 1862; the enclosed Hebrew Cemetery, established in 1855; a Masonic section; at least one area reserved for Odd Fellows; and an area to which the burials at Front Street Methodist Church (congregation now known as Grace Methodist Church) were moved following the fire of 1886. There even is a plot set aside for



individuals who have no other family.

Rose O'Neal Greenhow

(1813–October 1, 1864)

Famous Confederate spy during the American Civil War. Died of drowning in Cape Fear River. Buried in Oakdale Cemetery



District 11

Loblolly Garden Club , Wilmington NC celebrated its 8th Birthday as a Federated Club at the September 17th meeting.

Marie Ashworth, one of the founding members and a Past President led the celebration after the regular monthly meeting.



District 12

Thank you for your hospitality, Rich Square. From left to right, Opal Brown, Gail Glover, Sarah Ivey, Clara Parker, Carolyn Ashbrook, and Gayle Hollingsworth.



As a District Director, it is always a pleasure to visit a garden club. I attended the October meeting of the Rich Square Garden Club that was hosted by Sarah Ivey, Club President in her home. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and lively conversation before the business meeting. Their biggest project and a great fundraiser is the lighting of luminaries purchased by residents of Rich Square and surrounding neighborhoods. The project is a major attraction and very popular with the club expecting to sell between 600 and 700 luminaries this year. They have sponsored this event for many years to the delight of everyone involved.

The Rich Square garden club has 13 members who meet once a month from September until May. They publish an attractive yearbook that includes meeting information, membership names and a "Horticulturist's Note for the Current Month". For December, the note reads, "a good substitute for lime is wood ash, so after the ashes of a wood fire have grown cold, sprinkle a light application on garden beds that high acidic concentrations (low PH).

District Directors become acquainted with club presidents and many of their members by working with them during the club year. Hopefully, I can visit more of our clubs in the upcoming year. I really enjoyed the visit to Rich Square, the ride on N. 258 was beautiful with the cotton fields and colorful leaves.

There is so much news to be shared from the clubs in District 12, I hope to be invited by another club very soon. Hopefully, all our garden clubs will take advantage of this new "Gardener Newsletter" to keep in touch and share ideas!

*May your holidays be merry and bright with best wishes for a happy new year, take care,
Carolyn Ashbrook, District 12 Director*

District 12

In October, the Rocky Mount Garden Club completed a hurricane relief project for the victims of Hurricane Helene in the western part of our state. The project, called Operation Firefly, provided glow stick lanterns to victims of the hurricane in higher elevations who were still without power days after the storm.

Club members collected clean gallon milk jugs or other clear containers with a handle and a top. Glow sticks were purchased at the Dollar Tree or ordered from Amazon. These glow sticks were placed inside the containers. When activated, 30 six-inch glow sticks per container will provide light for thirty days.

The jugs and glow sticks were collected at the club's October meeting. Attached is a picture of club members holding their donations.



Submitted by Patsy Pridgen, President
Rocky Mount Garden Club



THANK YOU Rocky Mount Garden Club for caring about our fellow members in their time of need.