



THE NORTH CAROLINA
GARDENER
SPRING 2025

“Cultivating Inspiration”
Communicate, Educate, Participate

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

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

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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

Nov 1 - Winter Issue
Feb 1—Spring Issue
May 1—Summer Issue
August 1—Fall Issue

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Linda McLendon
GCNC President



President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees that are blooming and showing us that Spring will soon be here.



Linda



Charles McLendon

GCNC 1st Vice President/Membership Chair



Charles O McLendon

🔒 Top contributor · January 14 · 🌐



Congratulations Hillsborough Garden Club



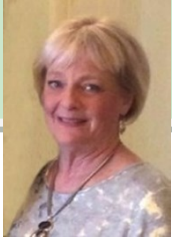
PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

David Robson

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants. Close to \$50,000 has been awarded for projects ranging from landscaping to community gardens to pollinator gardens. Grants ranged from \$300 to \$2,000. Look for the 2026 application on the NGC website after June 1, 2025. Thank you for supporting your communities and the [PLANT AMERICA Community Projects Grant](#) program.

David Robson, of Illinois, chairs the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Committee.

Blue Star GC	Garden Club of Alabama	Weeders and Seeders GC of Ligonier	Federation Garden Club of Maryland
Magnolia Springs GC	Garden Club of Alabama	Sudbury GC	Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
Ripon GC	California Garden Clubs	Bay Springs GC	Garden Clubs of Mississippi
Fort Lauderdale	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs	Hernando GC	Garden Clubs of Mississippi
Moringa Circle of Fort Lauderdale GC	Florida Federation of Garden Clubs	Rolling Fork GC	Garden Clubs of Mississippi
Azalea GC of Columbus	Georgia Garden Club	Maryville GC	Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri
Greensboro GC	Georgia Garden Club	Hillsborough GC	Garden Club of North Carolina
Spade and Trowel GC	Georgia Garden Club	GC of Yorktown	Federated Garden Clubs of New York State
Bloomington-Normal GC	Garden Clubs of Illinois	Northview Buckeye GC	Garden Club of Ohio
Bull Valley GC	Garden Clubs of Illinois	Tulsa GC	Oklahoma Garden Clubs
Boone County GC	Garden Club of Kentucky	GC of Forest Hills	Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Washington GC	Louisiana Garden Club Federation	Green Gardeners of Fayette Ct.	Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Evergreen GC	Federated Garden Club of Maryland	Orangeburg Council GC	Garden Club of South Carolina



Marilyn Wright— GCNC 2VP

WHY GARDENING MAKES YOU HAPPY

(From the desk of your 2nd vice president)

In the bleak midwinter: Frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
And now long wished for spring is come: How altered is the scene! The trees and shrubs are
dressed in bloom, the earth arrayed in green.

March – early spring, - is a good time to assess the goals of your club. What do you want to accomplish when spring arrives? What events do you want to plan? What changes do you need to make in the club organization? As the anticipation of spring weather increase each day with outside temperatures, make plans to add to the club membership. Here are two good arguments for being gardeners.

*1

We like to garden, so we join a garden club. Being outside in the sun and fresh air is good for the physical health, but this activity is also good for our mental health. Scientist have researched extensively why people like to farm and garden.

Research conclusions:

Getting your hands dirty in the garden can increase your serotonin levels. Contact with soil and a specific soil bacterium, *Mycobacterium vaccae*, triggers the release of serotonin in our brain according to research. Serotonin is a happy chemical, a natural anti-depressant and strengthens the immune system. Lack of serotonin in the brain causes depression. So, we are happy when we are out in our gardens.



*2

Another interesting bit of research relates to the release of dopamine in the brain when we harvest products from the garden.

The researchers hypothesize that this response evolved over nearly 200,000 years of hunter gathering, that when food was found (gathered or hunted) a flush of dopamine released in the reward center of brain triggered a state of bliss or mild euphoria. The dopamine release can be triggered by sight (seeing a fruit or berry) and smell as well as **by the action of plucking the fruit.**



So, tell your friends: “Come outside and join us. It will make you healthy, happy, and wise.
Join our garden club.



Suzanne Gurski—GCNC 3rd Vice President, Youth Chair

SAVE YOURSELF – GO PLAY IN THE DIRT

Engaging in outdoor activities provides multiple health benefits. Regular outdoor activities can be lifesaving. A lack of exposure to the outdoors creates “nature-deficit disorder.” Yes, it’s real. “Nature-deficit disorder” is the concept that people, especially children, are spending less time outdoors, leading to a range of behavioral and health issues including increased stress, diminished creativity, and lower overall well-being. Other recent studies show that microbes found in the soil contribute to better human health.

SO SAVE YOURSELF – go play in the dirt!

Or better yet, SAVE THE CHILDREN AND TEACH GARDENING, ECOLOGY, OR POLLINATORS. Start a youth garden club and garden together. While sharing your gardening knowledge you are passing on to future generations a love for Mother Earth.

SAVE OUR PLANET!!

Over the past year decade garden clubs have expressed interest in starting youth garden clubs but have found difficulty in locating interested young people or experienced challenges collaborating with schools. A simpler approach might be to find an existing club or group of young people. Many of our youth garden clubs have found success working with Head Start programs, current clubs or scout troops or after-school clubs. Our current roster of youth garden clubs includes 2 high school clubs, several Head Start programs, scout troops, 4H clubs, even a day care center. An advantage to finding an existing club is that these organizations have in-place teachers/leaders. As the sponsoring federated garden club your members can volunteer with these organizations to enable larger, more complex projects, suggest interesting programs, help finance projects or just volunteer and have fun. Good educators are always searching for interesting experiences for their students. You have the knowledge and experience to share. Plus, it’s fun!

Remember a GCNC youth garden club must have 4 members and meet 5 times per year. Easy requirements. The easy to complete Application to start a Youth Garden Club is on the GCNC website under Youth or Forms headings. Feel free to contact me at suzanne@gurski.com if I can help. I always have time to help start a new club.

— *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.



The Garden Club of North Carolina 100th Annual Meeting Registration Form

May 4 - 6, 2025 - Winston-Salem, NC

The Garden Clubs of District 4 invite you to the 100th annual meeting of The Garden Club of North Carolina. We are delighted to have you *Celebrate in the Piedmont* with us as we begin *Blooming into the Next Century*.

This three-day meeting will be packed with workshops, pop-up shops, speakers, a standard flower show, a Decades Parade, plus a Century Toast in a beautifully and recently restored 1913 Lord & Burnham Greenhouse, overlooking the spectacular Reynolda Gardens. You won't want to miss this opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow NC gardeners while *Celebrating in the Piedmont!*

WHERE: Embassy Suites, 460 N. Cherry Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

WHEN: Sunday, May 4th - Tuesday, May 6th, 2025

Registration form: <https://form.jotform.com/250361053748152>

Sponsorship form: <https://form.jotform.com/250506206985156>

Vendor form: <https://form.jotform.com/250508326443150>

Link to tentative schedule: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L29hCXvFJU3xaYjh3w0h3zNINqmER650/view?usp=sharing>



Preliminary Schedule of Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, May 4</u> Registration opens 10 am Meetings begin at 12:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flower Show Entries 8 - 11 am● Flower Show Open 1 - 9 pm● Pop-Up Shops Open 12 pm - 6 pm● Finance Committee Meeting● Investment Committee Meeting● Trustee Committee Meeting● 100th Year Celebration & President's Reception● Dinner and Awards● Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monday, May 5</u> Registration opens 7 am Meetings begin at 8 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flower Show Open 8 am - 6 pm● Pop-Up Shops Open 10 am - 6 pm● Business Meeting● Club Presidents' Meeting● Judges Council Meeting● Luncheon and Speaker-Drake Fowler, Executive Director of The North Carolina Arboretum-Asheville● Gardening Workshops● Dinner and Awards● Century Toast at the Brown Family Conservatory in Reynolda Gardens
<p><u>Tuesday, May 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flower Show Open 8 - 11 am<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Business Meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Memorials● Results & Reports● New Officers Installation	

REGISTRATION FEES:

3 Day (Sunday through Tuesday) Registration Fee: \$260

- Includes Sunday's 100th Celebration, President's Reception* and dinner, Monday Lunch with speaker, Monday Workshops, Monday Dinner, Monday Century Toast

1 Day (Monday) Registration Fee: \$100

- Includes Monday Lunch with speaker, Monday Workshops, and Century Toast at Reynolda Gardens (Monday Dinner is on your own)

1 Day (Monday with Dinner) Registration Fee: \$150

- Includes Monday Lunch with speaker, Monday Workshops, Monday Dinner at Embassy Suites, and Century Toast at Reynolda Gardens

*Cash Bar

For Hotel Guests only: Complimentary made-to-order breakfast, coffee, and tea will be available each morning; complimentary evening reception

[Click here for an interactive map of downtown Winston-Salem](#) with restaurants and more listed.

[Click here for information about shops and restaurants at Reynolda Village](#), where the Century Toast will take place on Monday evening.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 28. After March 28, there will be a late fee of \$40 for 3-day registrations and \$25 for 1-day registrations, provided space is available.

HOTEL BOOKING:

You can reserve and purchase a hotel room at a special rate of \$149 a night for a 1- or 2-bed suite. Please visit the following link to book your hotel room:

[Embassy Suites GCNC Annual Meeting Booking](#)

If you prefer to make your hotel reservation over the phone, you may call 1-336-724-2300. Be sure to mention that you are part of the Garden Club of NC Annual Meeting group block.

DEADLINE TO BOOK HOTEL ROOM AT THIS RATE IS THURSDAY, APRIL 4

For questions regarding Registration, please contact Deborah Thompson (District 4 Vice-Director) at district4gcnc@gmail.com.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: We have several options for becoming a sponsor of this event. Net proceeds will benefit the restoration of public/nonprofit gardens in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene.

[Click here to purchase a sponsorship online.](#) For questions or more information about sponsorships, contact Leah Crowley at leahcrowley@gmail.com.

VENDOR/POP-UP SHOPS: We have limited Vendor/Pop-Up Shop space available, tables are \$75.

[Click here to purchase a vendor table online.](#) For questions or more information about vendors, contact Christine Storch at christinekstorch@gmail.com.

FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE:

[Click here for the Flower Show schedule and information](#) on how to participate. For questions or more information about the flower show, contact Diane Bauman at leeverb@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

[Start Online Registration](#)

Please complete all information. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 28. After March 28, there will be a late fee of \$40 for 3-day registrations and \$25 for 1-day registrations, provided space is available.

If you prefer to mail a check, please [click here for a printable registration form](#).



NC Wildflower of the Year



ANNOUNCING THE 2025 NC WILDFLOWER
OF THE YEAR

Common Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*)

We are excited to announce this year's North Carolina Wildflower of the Year, common blue curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*). This annual member of the mint family grows in dry woodlands and roadsides in eastern North America.

LEARN MORE →



Celebrating More Than 40 years!

The North Carolina Wildflower of the Year program is managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden with some financial support from the [Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.](#) Started in 1982, this program celebrates one southeastern native wildflower each year by collecting, cleaning and distributing thousands of packets of its seed to interested parties throughout our region.

[Learn more about each of the Wildflower of the Year species here.](#)

From the desk of Marilyn Wright



We're excited! The 100th Year History book (2000 – 2025) of the Garden Club of North Carolina will be hot the presses the end of February.

The book will cost \$20 and will be on sale at state meetings, district meetings, and available in the Raleigh office. For \$25 a book can be ordered and mailed. You will be able to have copies mailed to friends and family as well. A note can be included with the gift.

Soon a book order form for mailing will appear on the website. Payment will be check/cash. Checks should be made out to

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
c/o Ruth Garver

P.O. Box 33520, Raleigh, NC 27636

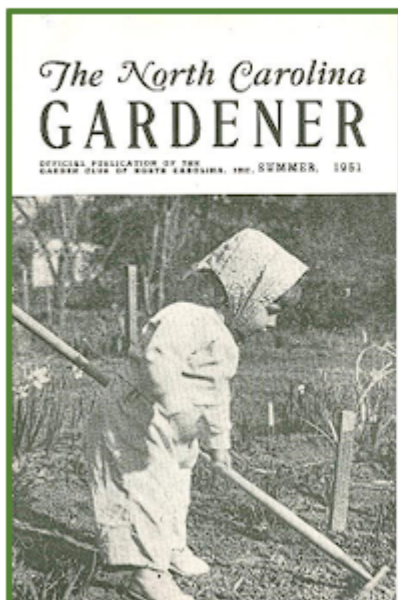
At the larger meetings we hope to make credit card purchase available through the use of "Square"

For mailed copies and other information, contact

Marilyn Wright – editor
8318 Dunes Ridge Place
Sunset Beach, NC 28468

wrightmb04@gmail.com 828-964-6415

LOOKING BACKWARD



When a picture is worth a thousand words.....

The first Gardener was printed in 1931. It was a cut and dried publication – focusing on information and little on personal interest. Gradually the Gardener changed. While it remained black and

white, more pictures appeared and special notes of interest were included within the pages. There seemed to be a genuine effort to reach out to the clubs across the state and keep members informed about upcoming events.

An annual subscription costs 25 cents and the Gardener was published quarterly. The president of GCNC always served as Circulation Manager.

The 1951 edition featured "cute-as-pie" Patricia Anne Mankin, 18-month-old daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Mankin of Winston Salem. That was worth the 25 cents.

GCNC Committee News

Ways and Means

WINNER OF THE VALENTINE RAFFLE FOR NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CONDO



Billie Oakley, our finance chairman, is all smiles because she won the Valentine's Day raffle for a three night, 4 day trip to North Myrtle Beach. The fund raiser was sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee, and money will be used to sponsor special activities for the State Garden Club – such as the District Directors' retreat in May.

\$25 well spent – right Billie?



Billy Oakley, husband, and friends arrive at North Myrtle Beach condo on the beach (10th) floor, ready to enjoy a Valentine's weekend. Billy won the valentine raffle sponsored by GCNC Ways and Means committee.

Marilyn Wright— as Historian

A BACKWARD GLANCE

Junior Garden Clubs were organized by various state clubs within five years of the establishment of the Garden Club of North Carolina. Dedicated, energetic, creative senior members organized and sustained these junior groups in an effort to pass on to the younger generation an appreciation of gardens and an inclination towards public service.



Pictured here are two junior clubs from yesteryear engaging in garden projects.

It should be Spring!



ARBOR DAY IN THE SNOW

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE.

Transylvania Junior Gardeners of Brevard wrapped up in their coats and earmuffs to plant a tree for Arbor Day – in the snow!

Now it's Spring!

Project District 8- *The Forest Hills Junior Gardeners of Durham* are shown in a scene taken from a play "The Gardener's Dream." The play was written by Mrs. W. F. Frank, the originator and sponsor of the Fragrance Garden for the blind.



The CHARACTERS are:
The Gardener, with rake,
Louise Jennings
Gardener's friend,
Scott Skinner
Tulip, *Grace White*,
Iris, *Debra Miller*
Naughty Little Rabbit:
Ashley Little

GCNC Affiliates News



Wilmington Cape Fear
Rose Society

Invites you to our 22nd Annual

Rose Garden Tour

Saturday May 3rd, 2025

9 am to 5 pm

Free & open to the public

Come tour our rose gardens & speak
with garden owners about growing roses in the south.



www.wcfrs.org



Map QR

— *Blue/Gold Star Markers* —

Chair: Paula Hartman paulamhartman1947@gmail.com

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

Blue and Gold Star Marker Types



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER



Blue Star Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and other civic locations approved by the NGC Blue/Gold Star Chair.



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY MARKER



Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker are permitted on highways and highway rest areas.



GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKER



Gold Star Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and other civic locations approved by the NGC Blue/Gold Star Chair.

— *Blue/Gold Star Markers* —

Chair: Paula Hartman paulamhartman1947@gmail.com

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

Blue and Gold Star Marker Types



BLUE STAR BY-WAY MARKER



Blue Star By-Way Markers are permitted in parks, historic sites and other civic locations.



GOLD STAR BY-WAY MARKER



Gold Star By-Way Markers are permitted in parks, historic sites and other civic locations.

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the garden club movement for more than 70 years. National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial Markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces.

— *Blue/Gold Star Markers* —

Chair: Paula Hartman

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](#)

Markers dedication this administration 2023-2025:

Date	Club/Location	Marker Type/Quantity
9/1/2023	Garden Club of New River Sneeds Ferry, NC Sneeds Ferry Bbranch Library Onslow County Commissioners	Bmemorial/1
9/1/2023	Garden Club of New River Sneeds Ferry, NC Sneeds ferry Branch Library Onslow County Commissioners	GMemorial/1
11/11/2023	The Cary Garden Club The Town of Cary	Bmemorial/1
11/12/2023	Lady Banks Garden Club, Dudley, N.C. Dudley Christian Church, Dudley, N.C. 230 O'Berry Road Dudley, N.C. 28333	BMemorial/1
11/12/2023	Lady Banks Garden Club, Dudley, N.C. Dudley Christian Church, Dudley, N.C. 230 O'Berry Road Dudley, N.C. 28333	GMemorial/1
5/3/2024	Cross Creek - Briarwood Garden Club Cumberland County Veterans Council NC State Elks Association Freedom Memorial Park Fayetteville, NC	GMemorial/1

— *Blue/Gold Star Markers* —

Markers dedication this administration 2023-2025:

Date	Club/Location	Marker Type/Quantity
5/18/2024	District 1 and District 2 Garden Clubs Western North Carolina Garden Club of North Carolina NC Department of Transportation Madison County Welcome Center 6178 I-26 West Mars Hill, NC 28754	BMemorial/1
5/25/2024	Cedarwood Garden Club Town of Jamestown, NC Wren Miller Park 101 Guilford Road Jamestown, NC 27282	Gby-Way/1
5/27/2024	The Cary Garden Club The Town of Cary 1517 North Harrison Avenue Cary, NC 27513	GMemorial/1
9/5/2024	Trent Woods Garden Club Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26 NC City of Havelock The City of Havelock Appearance Committee Havelock City Park 198 Cunningham Blvd. Havelock, NC 28532	GMemorial/1
9/29/2024	Trent Woods Garden Club Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26 NC City of Havelock The City of Havelock Appearance Committee Havelock City Park 198 Cunningham Blvd Havelock, NC 28532	BMemorial/1

District 1

Waynesville Garden Club

Supporting Our Community and Garden Club Members After the Devastation of Helene

Activities and Events for Healing and Renewal

In the wake of the devastation wrought by Helene, our community and the members of the Waynesville Garden Club have shown remarkable resilience and unity. To aid in the healing process, we have planned a series of activities and events aimed at supporting each other and rebuilding our cherished community gardens.

Sharing Experiences

This fall, we reached out to our Waynesville Garden Club membership, encouraging members to come together and share their experiences. These gatherings provided a safe space for everyone to express their feelings, offer support, and find solace in the company of fellow gardeners. Members gathered at a White Elephant celebration to uplift our spirits. It has been heartening to witness the strength and compassion within our community, as we collectively navigate this challenging time.

Refurbishing Community Gardens

Recognizing the importance of our community gardens as a source of beauty and tranquility, we worked together to develop plans for their refurbishment. Through collaborative efforts and help from NC garden clubs with funds and credit cards for such materials as perennials and mulch, etc., we are devising a comprehensive strategy to restore these green spaces to their former glory. Volunteers have come forward with their time, skills, and resources, ensuring that our gardens will once again flourish and serve as a symbol of hope and renewal.

District 1



Supporting Community Members

Understanding that the needs of our community members extend beyond the gardens, we have also planned actions to provide broader support. Whether it is assisting with home repairs, offering emotional support, or providing essential supplies, our commitment to helping each other remains steadfast. By addressing these needs, we aim to foster a sense of security and well-being within our community. Sylvia Lonnee and Charlotte Casey decorated a Christmas tree at the Waynesville Library. The Waynesville Garden Club sponsored a bouquet making meeting, in which all members participated and planned by Mary Hansen and Cherry Stone, to make 100 flower/evergreen bouquets for Meals on Wheels. Afterwards we had a celebration sing along. Also, we voted to split \$1,000 between Mountain Projects Heating Fund, Haywood Christian Ministries, and Pathways to help those in need during the winter.

Looking Forward to the New Year

As we look to the future, we are filled with optimism and determination. The New Year holds the promise of new beginnings and continued growth. We are excited to see the fruits of our labor as our community gardens bloom once more and our bonds of friendship deepen.

Together, we will emerge from this period of adversity stronger and more connected than ever before. The Waynesville Garden Club and our broader community are united in our efforts to heal, rebuild, and thrive.

District 1

Sylva Garden Club

Helen Butler, President



We planned a Thank You Luncheon to recognize people in our community who support us throughout the year. Unfortunately, we had to cancel due to Hurricane Helene.

In October, a group of young people from an after school program,



helped us with the planters on Main Street. Before the plantings, Wanda Romig, 1st VP, spent time with them to explain "how to plant for success". This included choosing a healthy plant, fertilization, mulching and watering.



District 1



At our November Meeting, Minda Daughtry demonstrated how to make Fall Wreaths using dried vines, flowers and grasses. Members brought materials they had collected for the project.



In November, students from the Early College Program at Smokey Mountain HS helped spread mulch at Bi Centennial Park.

Meanwhile, The Sylva Garden Club Members were selling pecans to support our many project's. It was a busy Fall.



District 2

Transylvania Garden Club, Brevard North Carolina

Betsy Grant, President

We celebrated the 2024 Theme, Renew-Recycle-Relearn- REJOICE with a very Special Holiday Luncheon. Several members decorated the tables with greenery from their yards and materials from their homes. Every member Rejoiced in an outfit that sparkled.

The first meeting of 2025 will have a presentation on Native Medicinal Plants in Appalachia.



District 2

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AT LAKE LURE

Cathy Franklin Griffin, district director of district 1 and 2, contacted the folks at Lake Lure about the future plans for restoring the Rainbow Bridge. This was the response:

On Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 11:04:00 AM EST, Kathy Tanner <kathyt3@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Cathy! Thank you so very much for getting in touch and thinking of us. Our loss was massive, almost all the gardens are gone and we lost the land on the west end of the bridge, losing 8 gardens in those spaces including the rainbow bridge. We still have hope that some if not all of the bridge itself maybe be restored. FEMA's historic preservation team is looking at it and did a site visit before Thanksgiving. Our plans are to work this winter designing new gardens so your donations will be such a massive help. We also are in the process of completing our new Education Center and will be designing the gardens around it this winter. We hope to start planting this Spring. I am going to forward your letter and incredible offer of support to our Board of Directors. One garden that we had was the Wildflower of the Year. It was one of the ones I tended. We will see if anything comes up in that space this Spring. I loved taking care of that garden and educating visitors on those native plants. Any donations to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge can be made by mailing to: P.O. box 125 Lake Lure 28746 or through our website in the support tab. We also are appreciative of you getting the word out to your contacts for help for us. We have been heartbroken but are now excited about the future of our gardens and towns.

Cheers, Kathy Tanner



Pet owners visited the bridge after a beloved fur baby died and attached their collar to the bridge. It was a very special place.

District 2

Lake Norman Garden Club



Our Lake Norman Garden Club came together for our Annual Christmas Celebration at the beautiful home of Cindy Guildy in Denver, NC. Lots of wonderful food, fellowship and of course, our Christmas Trivia Games. This year the theme was Christmas Movies...



Our Community Service Project Committee is busy with the coordination and design of a Pollinator Garden at the Sherrills Ford Library, in Sherrills Ford, NC. In November, members of our committee Michele Petit and Karen Katile and Donna Smith headed to Burnsville, NC to the Carolina Native Plant Nursery. Burnsville was ravaged by Hurricane Helene. Due to the flood waters, Carolina Native Plant Nursery was unable to commercially sell plants that were

affected by the flood waters. However, they graciously donated all plants to various nonprofit organizations in the area. We were able to select over 104 native plants, 15 varieties for our community project at the library.

Thank you!

District 2

Lake Norman Garden Club

Fall 2024 included several workdays removing overgrown juniper ground cover in the library at the Sherrills Ford Library. The design committee met in 2025, and plans are underway for planting in March 2025. More to come



District 3



Come Grow With Us

Plant Sale 2025

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
8:00AM-12:00PM

CORNER OF N. MAIN STREET
& EAST STATESVILLE AVE.
MOORESVILLE, NC 28115
CASH, VENMO AND ZELLE ACCEPTED



**A variety of Annuals,
Perennials, Vegetables, Shrubs
Bulbs, Herbs, Succulents.**

**Ask an Expert
Gardener Booth**

Plus a large selection of Dahlias!

The Mooreville Garden Club supports the beautification of Mooreville through various town, school and community projects.

*If you would be interested in donating plants please contact Debbie 810-513-5987
See us on Facebook: Mooreville Garden Club*

District 3



Mooresville Garden Club

February 7 at 8:34 AM · 🌐



We were honored to serve the community and had a blast doing it! We prepared and distributed snack baskets to all Fire/EMS stations in Mooresville. A small token of our appreciation for their hard work!!



District 3

Davidson Horticultural Symposium



Join us as we discover innovative garden designs, knockout native plants, and beautiful recycled landscapes. This inspiring all-day event at Davidson College is the perfect start to Spring.

MARCH 11, 2025

**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS:
DISCOVERING THE UNUSUAL,
UNFAMILIAR AND UNEXPECTED**

More information and registration at
www.davidsonsymposium.org

District 4

District 4

Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County

Some might argue that winter is the best time of year, though you may disagree! As winter settles in, with its bone-chilling winds or, more recently, its blanket of snow over the Piedmont, only the warmth of our homes and a comforting cup of our favorite beverage can bring us solace. Still, we can all agree that winter transforms the landscape, serving as a powerful symbol of retreat and rejuvenation as we prepare for the rite of spring.

A proud member of District 4, The Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County is preparing for an exciting spring. From our annual plant sale to hosting of the 100th celebration of the Garden Club of North Carolina's annual meeting, The Council is actively living our mission to protect, preserve, and beautify our environment.



Upcoming Events for Spring 2025

Clean & Green School Judging
Throughout April

Plant Sale Pre-Order Pick Up
Saturday, April 12



Arbor Day Celebration
Thursday, April 24

Garden Club of North Carolina State Meeting
Celebrate in the Piedmont
Blooming into the Next Century
Sunday - Tuesday, May 4-6



To learn more about the Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County visit our website at www.gardenclubcouncil.org. For the latest information, follow us on Instagram and Facebook at @gardenclubcouncil.



District 5



Sherrie Richmond , District 5

The officers of Cedarwood Garden Club of Jamestown met at the home of President Marian Ditzel. After enjoying delicious refreshments, they discussed possible Arbor Day projects, programs for the future and fund-raising ideas.

From left to right: Marian Ditzel, President; Sherrie Richmond, 1st Vice President; Deb Printup, 2nd Vice President; Sharla Gardner, Treasurer; Myra Slone, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Becky Cooke, Secretary.

District 8

DISTRICT 8

SANDHILLS GARDEN CLUB STAGES AN EXCITING EVENT IN MARCH

Blooming Art is Back in Bloom!

For one fabulous weekend, an abundance of flowers and art will be on display as the Garden Club of the Sandhills ushers in the spring flowering season by hosting the 2025 “Blooming Art” exhibit at the historic Arts Council Galleries at Campbell House in Southern Pines, Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday March 30, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The inspiration for this art exhibit evolved from the very popular North Carolina Museum of Art showcase called “Art in Bloom” which annually interprets art via flowers in a growing gallery trend. The “Blooming Art” exhibit is our local Sandhills approach.

Our 2025 exhibit will feature professional floral designers, talented local garden club members and local artists. Each will choose a painting or object d’art and create a floral arrangement interpreting the artwork. While the interpretative florals are inspired primarily by the works of local artists, quite a few interesting pieces are from private collections.

Blooming Art is presented by the Garden Club of the Sandhills, and since its founding in 1966, the club has supported scholarships for students and countless programs preserving our natural resources, beautifying our public areas and providing an appreciation of horticulture. The proceeds from this event will provide continuing support for Moore County horticultural projects, the SCC Horticulture Gardens as well as horticultural programs for the Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills.

Tickets are \$20 and available at The Sandhills Woman’s Exchange and DuneBerry in Pinehurst and The Arts Council Galleries at Campbell House, Southern Pines



District 8

Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://ticketmesandhills.com/events/blooming-art-3-29-2025> or at the door.



District 8



The New Hanover Garden Club of District 8 hosted a Winter Wonderland Holiday Tea in December, featuring beautiful tables, delicious treats and a program on Tablescaping. Proceeds will be used to fund our three junior garden clubs and landscape the entrance to a new 35 home Habitat for Humanity development in Wilmington.

Barb Bittler

District 8

Cottonland Garden Club District 8

Carolina Caddell - president



We enjoyed a wonderful program by Mary Stone with Wagram Bee Apiary in December had and a very special Christmas social

District 9

Hillsborough Garden Club Tammy Dorfman –President

More information about our 100th anniversary...

Our club was established in 1925, and we have planned a year full of events to commemorate our anniversary. Our year is aptly titled "100 Years of Gardening Together".

We have several special events planned for the year. We are kicking off the celebration by entering a float in our town Holiday Parade. The parade committee is hard at work designing and creating a beautiful float themed "Gardening Through the Seasons".

On January 8th, a museum exhibit will open at the Orange County Historical Museum. On display will be yearbooks and other memorabilia dating back to 1939, many from the 1940s and on to the current years. Past club members created several scrapbooks with photos, newspaper clippings, letters, and awards, which will be used as the backdrop to beautiful vases, tea sets, and other vintage items which harken back to the day when meetings were more formal and held in member's homes. The exhibit will also include an art show featuring member-created art in watercolor and oil paintings, pottery, quilts, and more. We are excited to share our history with you. The museum is open to all at no charge.

Our signature event is the Hillsborough Garden Tour, which will occur on May 3, 2025. This year's tour features ten stunning private gardens. Visitors will be treated to tucked-away treasures in some of our community's oldest and most well-loved gardens. Seven of the homes on the tour are over 100 years old and are over 100 years old and are revered in our historically-rich community.

Garden Tour, 100 Years of Gardening Together. Saturday, May 3, 2025. Hillsborough, NC. Contact: Frances Harris. Committee: Val Blettner, Bonnie Maddux, Pat O'Reilly, Sharon Billings, Tammy Dorfman, Peregrine Kavros, Alice Bohlen

District 9

The Heritage Garden Club, part of District 9 GCNC, started off 2025 with our January meeting. We have 24 members and 15 attended the meeting, along with 5 guests. We begin each meeting with a reading of the Collect, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Our speaker was Michelle Rawlings, a horticulturalist at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens for the past 21 years and works in the Culbertson Asiatic Arboretum. Her presentation was on chrysanthemums. She provided a history on Asian mums, insights into hybridization and varieties, along with propagation details she uses at Duke Gardens. She answered our member questions and then refreshments were enjoyed while we conducted our business meeting.

Minutes were read by our Secretary, Lilla Gutay, from our past meeting and accepted. A report was made by our Treasurer, Patsy Morgan, who also provided refreshments with her sister, Jennie Bridges, a club member. District 9 Director and Heritage GC President, Annette Branco, discussed District 9 activities and passed around the Club Annual Report to be filled in by members. That report was submitted, along with all other Club Reports received, to Charles McLendon, 1st Vice-President and Membership Chair for GCNC. Our Community Projects Chair, Kim Blatz, reported on the food drive we participated in during December 2024 and donated food worth 126 meals and we passed the hat at our Christmas Luncheon and donated \$86, plus the refund the club received back from our donation to the District Fall Board Meeting in October, 2024.

A gift certificate was presented to Annette Branco in appreciation of her 6 years of service as our President.

Announcements were made on upcoming NGC, SAR, and GCNC meetings and attendance was encouraged. District 9 is hosting the GCNC Fall Meeting in Sept 2025 and a venue is close to a contract and a third of the Heritage GC members have agreed to help with the details to pull off such a meeting. All District 9 Club Presidents have been reminded of the meeting since the Board Meeting in October 2024. More details will be sent to the 13 other clubs in District 9. Please watch for the announcement of this meeting.

All of our meetings are conducted in this manner and we usually stay under 2 hours of duration. Our meetings are held at St Paul's Lutheran Church, for which we provide a donation for each meeting. Our year runs September-August, with no meetings June-Aug, except the Executive Board meetings to plan the next year.



District 10

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10



District 10 is proud to announce that we have an official logo! District 10 is comprised of the Counties of Franklin, Johnston and Wake. Our garden clubs include Cary: Cary GC; Fuquay-Varina: Fuquay-Varina GC; Knightdale: Two Green Thumbs GC; Raleigh: Brookhaven Night Golden GC, Countryside GC, Hidden Hills GC, Raleigh GC, Starmount Golden GC; Wendell: Hoe 'N Hope GC; Zebulon: Rooted GC, Steel Magnolias GC. We also have the following Youth Garden Clubs - Raleigh GC - The Rosey Girls; Laurel Hills GC - The Buggy Bunch, Two Green Thumbs GC - Scouts BSA

Troop 365, Doral Academy of NC Environmental Club.

RALEIGH GARDEN CLUB



Our Civics chair put together a lovely tour at historic Oakview Farm and we enjoyed the traditional decorations for the holiday and good fun together.

The Environmental Group met in January for a documentary movie on the life and garden design of Piet Oudolf, who transformed the landscape world back in the 1990s with his naturalistic plantings. He is the designer of the New York city Highline garden, as well as many others. The film was wonderful and

everyone in the group would recommend it for any garden club... it was the perfect inspiration for beginning a new season in the garden.

District 10



LAUREL HILLS GARDEN CLUB

The November meeting of the 2024-2025 Laurel Hills Garden Club was a tour of a local nursery. Homewood Nursery for years has propagated poinsettias from seedlings for sale during the holiday season. We were given a behind the scenes look at their work area and process. The variety of colors and leaf shape was amazing. After the tour, we enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant.



Two Green Thumbs Garden Club

Two Green Thumbs Garden Club will have its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10, 7am-1pm at Knightdale Station Park, Knightdale, NC. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. All plants are from our members' gardens, mostly perennials, a few house plants and herbs.

District 10

The Raleigh Garden Club Is Turning 100

The Raleigh Garden Club will mark its 100th anniversary on March 13, 2025 - which falls in Women's History Month. Since its founding as a women's organization, The Raleigh Garden Club has had an outsize impact on Raleigh's landscape. RGC members have used their collective green thumb to beautify the City of Raleigh through roadsides and park improvements, planting over

4600 trees, and the cultivation of public and pri-



On March 13th, 2025, The Raleigh Garden Club celebrates 100 years of gardening and bonding.

vate gardens, including the famed Raleigh Rose Garden, Dix Chapel Garden, and Raleigh Historic Landmark Isabelle Bowen Henderson's garden.

District 10

Theodore Zettle

From Fuquay Varina Garden Club District 10

First snow in 3 years !



District 11

Tidbits from District 11

Garden Clubs of District 11 have been busy with many programs and projects as they are set to send the best of the best to me. I am looking forward to reading about all their interesting activities within the club and community. I thank you all again for your impressive response to the needs of the garden clubs on the western side of North Carolina who are still recuperating from the storms.

As the chairperson of the Blue and Gold Star markers, the prices of these markers have increased 3% as of January first 2025. The Highway and Memorial Markers are now \$3000. Remember that raising the funds is not difficult. There are many civic and patriotic minded organizations who will donate funds for a marker to be placed in their community or on the highway near their town.

We have 2 markers pending:

Whiteville GC has a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker set for this spring, dedication TBA

Evergreen GC – Gold Star Families Memorial Marker; dedication TBA in May; We will also be re-dedicating the Blue Star Highway Marker which was on Old Hwy 70 and now will be moved to Downtown Goldsboro to complement the new Gold Star.

Sewah Studio, the manufacturer of the markers, is behind in production. Candace Well, National Blue and Gold Star Chair, will contact the studio and find out the time line for the delivery of these markers.

As always, please contact me with questions, and keep our servicemen and women in your thoughts and prayers as they continue,

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

District 11

PLANT SALE IN DISTRICT 11



Coastal Garden Club has an update for their annual plant sale which will be held this spring. The Town of Shallotte has provided dates for the farmers market, so the Club will join the market event on **May 10**. You can buy someone special a plant for Mothers Day.

The market will be held in Mulberry Park, which has a pavilion that is reserved for Coastal Garden Club

This is an important fundraiser for Coastal Garden Club and money goes to fund a scholarship.

Typically, the plants come from private gardens or propagations, but there will also be seedlings and container gardens. Garden items such as pots, tools and decor – gently used and priced to sell – will be added features. The ladies intend to offer house plant cuttings free with purchase, so you can set some aside as you prune them to root them in small pots.

Join Coastal Garden at the Mulberry Park on Main Street in Shallotte May 10.



District 11

Cape Fear Garden Club in Wilmington is preparing for its Centennial which officially begins on February 11, 2025.



A few weeks ago, the City of Wilmington installed our bright pink Centennial flags on some of the street light poles in the city. We love seeing them when we go downtown! Our Centennial co-chairs, Susan Nettleman and Gloria Ezzell, went to City Hall on January 7th to receive a proclamation

celebrating 100 years of service from our Mayor Bill Saffo.

District 11

New Bern Garden Club District 11 Michael Batten - President

The New Bern Garden Club will be part of this year's New Bern Heritage Homes Tour. We have been stewards of The Judge Wm. Gaston Law Office for many years. It has been an ongoing project for our club and we are very happy to be part of this event. The building goes back to 1825. We also have added a butterfly garden to the JGO. Also, next year we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary, having started in 1926 as part of the New Bern Woman's Club.



Judge William Gaston Law Office

1926 New Bern Garden Club Celebrates 100 Years



Tryon Palace

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

ed landscape architect Morley Jeffers Williams in the 1950s and represent the formal garden style of 18th-century Britain.

Plan a visit next year to New Bern, North Carolina in 2025. Enjoy Tryon Palace and the Palace gardens. Included here is information from Tryon Palace website explaining the significance of the Palace Gardens.

16 Acres of Gardens to Explore!

Stroll down our garden paths and step back into a bygone era. Encompassing more than 16 acres of gardens and landscapes, the Palace Gardens were designed by not-

The formal "parterre" gardens of the Maude Moore Latham Garden and the Gertrude Carraway Garden display clipped hedges, flowers and paths in patterns. Our spring display includes daffodils, tulips and many other spring flowers. The Kellenberger Garden reflects the Colonial era with arrangements of marigolds and celosia which were popular in the 18th century.

District 11

The formal “parterre” gardens of the Maude Moore Latham Garden and the Gertrude Carraway Garden display clipped hedges, flowers and paths in patterns. Our spring display includes daffodils, tulips and many other spring flowers. The Kellenberger Garden reflects the Colonial era with arrangements of marigolds and celosia which were popular in the 18th century. There is always an abundance of herbs and vegetables growing in the Kitchen Garden.

Also included in our site are gardens surrounding three historic houses - one with a formal lawn and camellia collection, town garden and swept yard/working garden. Three additional gardens reveal the splendor of Victoria era. The Etteinne Mitchell Riverside Garden includes a diversity of native plants, which are both beautiful and play an important role in the eco-system. The plants selected survive both periods of flooding and of dry soil, and provide food and shelter for numerous animals.



District 11

Trent Woods Garden Club

Garden Therapy December 2024 by Karen Kimble

TWGC volunteers had a festive time when they visited the residents at Navion in December. Everyone had fun making holiday bud vases and small floral arrangements. After all the designing, a well-deserved snack of juice and cookies was enjoyed by everyone. Our visit concluded with the singing of classic Christmas carols.



Paula Hartman (center) District Director for 11

District 11



Garden Bees Youth Garden Club Sponsored by Trent Woods Garden Club District 11

Collard greens are commonly eaten as part of a Southern tradition to bring forth good luck and prosperity in the new year.

Collard greens are extremely nutrient-rich, contributing ample amounts of vitamins A, K, B-6 and C, calcium, iron, and magnesium.

The Garden Bees crop of collard greens that was started as seeds in September and transplanted into one of the garden plots in October, grew and flourished over the past couple of months. Today, the large outer leaves were harvested, leaving the young, central leaves undisturbed to allow them to mature into a future crop. The club members washed, removed the central stems, and tore the leaves into smaller pieces. The greens were placed in an Insta Pot with chicken broth and spices. After 25 minutes of steaming, the tender greens were devoured by the members, several of them enjoying two and three helpings. Although collards were not a new food for most of the kids, many voiced how surprised they were at how delicious the greens were and more importantly how proud (and a few amazed) they were that they had grown them.



District 12

ENGLEWOOD GARDEN CLUB #268 —Rocky Mount, NC

SAR Life Membership recipient, Elsie Sears

Elsie has been a member of the Englewood GC for 65 years. She served as club historian and as a flower show judge. Elsie continues to participate in Englewood's activities.



District 12

GCNC Gardener – Article for Spring 2025 Gardener – TEG Shakespeare Herb Garden

District 12

Roanoke Island Garden Club (RIGC)

Submitted by Beverly Firme, RIGC Member

Roanoke Island Garden Club – Spring Planting at the Shakespeare Herb Garden

If you're visiting The Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo this Spring please stop by the Shakespeare Herb Garden in the front courtyard of the Gardens. During the Summer and Fall of 2024 the Roanoke Island Garden Club (RIGC) began replanting this historic herb garden and is poised to complete their replanting this Spring. The replanting is based on a design created by RIGC members working together with Dan Hossack, Gardens Manager. The new design showcasing herbs and flowers mentioned in Shakespeare's writings contains elements of traditional Elizabethan herb garden design – symmetry, order and the use of vivid color.



The Shakespeare Herb Garden during Fall 2024 Planted with Wild Thyme, Rosemary, Calendula, Yarrow, Marigold, Winter Savory, and Johnny Jump Ups (left) and Lavendar, Sage, Hyssop, Chives, Winter Savory and Johnny Jump Ups (right).

District 12

During the Summer and Fall of 2024 RIGC members planted the following herbs and flowers in the four quadrants of the Shakespeare Herb Garden. Herbs and flowers selected are well suited to the area's coastal climate, will provide color throughout the year, and are the varieties closest to those planted by the Elizabethans:

Aloe	Johnny Jump Ups	Rosemary
Calendula	Lavendar	Sage
Chives	Marigold	Thyme (Wild)
Chamomile (Roman)	Parsley	Winter Savory
Hyssop		Yarrow (Yellow)

The Spring replanting will complete the herb garden's design and will include:

Bee Balm	Mustard (Wild)
Carroway	Saffron Crocus
Cowslip	Sweet Marjoram
Fennel (Bronze and Florence)	Yarrow (White)

Two pomegranate trees will also be planted in the Shakespeare Herb Garden this Spring as fruit trees were often planted in Elizabethan herb gardens. Pomegranate trees grow well in the Garden's coastal climate and will provide additional color during Fall and Winter. Dan Hossack secured a donation of pomegranate trees from North Carolina State University for the Shakespeare Herb Garden. The trees arrived as seedlings but will be tall enough for planting this spring and will take three years to mature, allowing visitors the chance to note their progress.

Once the Spring planting is completed the RIGC will help maintain the herb garden by weeding, watering and keeping herbs trimmed. The Elizabethan Gardens will add new signage to the Shakespeare Herb Gar-



Herb Garden Group Members Plant Herbs and Flowers in the Shakespeare Herb Garden.

District 12

Rocky Mount Garden Club Celebrates 90 Years of History

The Rocky Mount Garden Club celebrated its 90th anniversary in December with an afternoon tea. North Carolina Garden Club President Linda McLendon, State First Vice President Charles McLendon, and District 12 Director Carolyn Ashbrook attended as special guests.



District 12



To acknowledge the club's 90-year history, many of the members dressed in vintage clothing complemented by hats and gloves. Each table was set with china and a centerpiece selected by a table hostess. Long-time active member Brenda Crocker highlighted the club's achievements over the years, and Dr. Dan Crocker played a selection of Christmas songs

and classic tunes on his trumpet.



The Rocky Mount Garden Club was organized in 1934 by a small group of women who saw a need for civic beautification in the area. Two members of the Rocky Mount Garden Club have served as state president. Mrs. Ethel Daughtridge was elected in 1959, and Mrs. Brenda Crocker began her term in 2019.

District 12

RICH SQUARE GC #277—Rich Square

Sarah Ivey

On Monday, December 16th, the Rich Square Garden Club had their annual luminary lighting in the downtown area. This is the Club's major fundraiser each year.

This year they sold 722 luminaries. Each luminary has "in memory of" or "in honor of" and the name of the individual written in it.

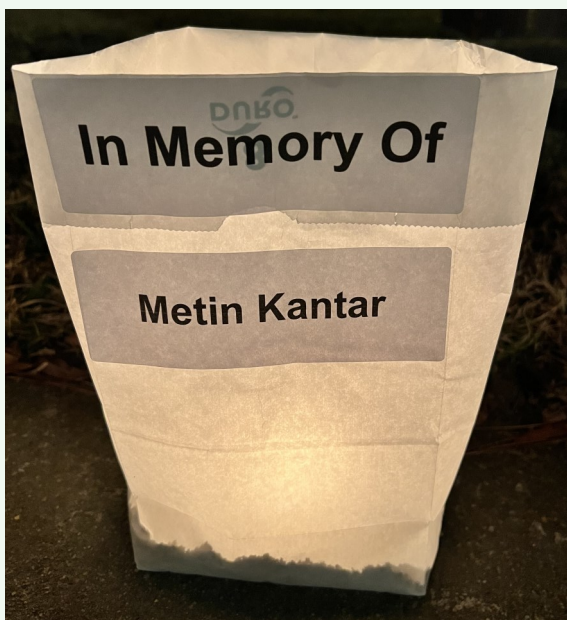


GCNC District 12



RICH SQUARE GC #277— Rich Square

The members prepare the bags with the names, sand and candles and place them along sidewalks. During the time the luminaries are lit, the members enjoy a light meal while people come to walk around the luminaries remembering loved ones and friends.



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Member
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.

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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.