



THE NORTH CAROLINA
GARDENER

SUMMER 2025

Welcoming the new administration

President, Charles McLendon

“Growing Together”

Communication, Collaboration, Education

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

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

Summer 2025

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Deadlines

Sep 1 - Fall Issue

Dec 1—Winter Issue

March 1—Spring Issue

July 1—Summer (even years)

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.

[WWW.GARDENCLUBOFNC.O
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Cover picture credits:

Margaret Graham

Yaupon Garden Club

Garden Clubs of South Carolina, Inc.



President's Message

Acceptance Remarks: Charles McLendon, May 6, 2025 GCNC Annual Meeting

Madam Past President, Members and Guests:

I can only imagine what the Souls looking down tonight thinking, “what in the world were you thinking putting a man in as our President?!”

As I stand before you today, my heart is filled with both gratitude and Joy. I want to begin by saying thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It is truly an honor to step into the role of President of the Garden Club of North Carolina.

This organization means so much to all of us. It's more than just flowers and gardens- It's about friendship, learning and caring and giving back to our communities and the environment we share.

My theme is ‘Growing Together’ through Communication, Collaboration and Education.

My theme emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge (Communication) Working as a team (Collaboration) and continuously learning (Education) to create a thriving caring organization.

I am excited to lead this years Presidents Project “Plant Native Plants and Trees” Together , we'll help restore beauty, support local ecosystems, and leave a legacy that will grow for generations. It takes special people to plant a tree knowing you may never see it's mature.

Too all of you- thank you for your support, your Passion, and your commitment. Whether you are a large or small club, your contribution matters.

Members Matter!

Upcoming Events

September 3, 2025

Blue Star Rededication/Gold Star Dedication
Goldsboro—Evergreen Garden Club

September 8, 2025

GCNC Board of Directors Meeting
Raleigh—JC Raulston Arboretum

October 2, 2025

District 8 District Meeting with GCNC Officers
Fayetteville NC

October 7, 2025

District 1-2 District Meeting with GCNC Officers
Hickory NC

October 8, 2025

District 3 District Meeting with GCNC Officers
Monroe NC

October 8, 2025

District 10 District Meeting
Raleigh NC

October 9, 2025

District 9 District Meeting with GCNC Officers
Durham NC

October 14, 2025

District 11 District Meeting
Willard NC

October 16, 2025

District 5 District Meeting
TBD

October 21, 2025

District 12 District Meeting with GCNC Officers
Greenville NC

October 27-28, 2025

NCFSJC Symposium
Raleigh—JC Raulston Arboretum

SYMPOSIUM—National Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 27–28, 2025

SYMPOSIUM

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

October 27 - 28, 2025

Sponsored by:
The NCFS Judges Council

***AUTUMN BLOOMS 'N'
HARVEST HUES***



JC RAULSTON ARBORETUM
4415 BERYL RD
RALEIGH, NC 27636

QUESTIONS: CALL LINDA
(919) 440-3314

GENERAL INFORMATION

NC SYMPOSIUM

Raleigh, NC

Sponsored by:
**North Carolina Flower Show
Judges Council**

Symposium Chairman
Linda McLendon

If you have any questions,
please feel free to contact
Linda at (919) 440-3314
McLendonL@aol.com

Monday, October 27, 2025

Allied Topic – Ramada Inn
Contrived Floral Forms
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Gina Jogan - Instructor

SYMPOSIUM—National Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 27—28, 2025

NGC INSTRUCTORS

Sue Kirkman

Sue is an National Garden Club Horticulture and Symposium instructor, from Frankfort, Kentucky. She is a member of The Garden Club of Frankfort, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant, Master Gardener, former American Iris Society judge and a member of several Plant societies. She is a retired College instructor and former State of Kentucky Aging Director.

Gina Jogan

Gina is an National Garden Club Design, Flower Show Procedure, Symposium and Allied Topic Instructor. She is an Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant (Master Emeritus in both). She is Chairman of NGC Flower Show Schools Committee 2025 - 2027. Gina lives in Molino, Florida.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

MONDAY

8:30 - 9:15 REGISTRATION
9:15 - 9:30 WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
9:30 - 11:30 HORTICULTURE - THE THREE
AMIGO'S & FALL COMPOSITES
11:30 - 12:30 LUNCH
12:30 - 2:30 HORTICULTURE
2:30 - 3:00 AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 - 5:00 POINT SCORING EXAM
DINNER ON YOUR OWN

TUESDAY

8:30 - 9:15 REGISTRATION
9:15 - 9:30 WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
9:30 - 11:30 DESIGN - LOW PROFILE
& POT-ET-FLEURS
11:30 - 12:30 LUNCH
12:30 - 2:30 DESIGN
2:30 - 3:00 AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 - 5:00 POINT SCORING EXAM



SYMPOSIUM—National Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 27—28, 2025

LODGING

RAMADA INN

1520 Blue Ridge Parkway
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 267-1197

Room rates \$ 89.00 + taxes
Buffet Breakfast Included
**Deadline to Book Room is
October 14, 2025**

Code: NC Judges Council

The Symposium is open to all those
NC Judges who wish to Refresh/
Audit.

They must complete the
appropriate Form and send to
Joyce Adams at
jadams4207@triad.rr.com
(336) 971-5351

*Judges from out of state, send their
forms to their State Credentials
Chairman to forward to Joyce
Adams to receive credit.*



SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

Registration Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Judging Status

Garden Club

Date of Last Cert /Audit

Full Course with exam \$210.00

Full Course no exam \$205.00

Single day attendance \$105.00

**Includes Lunch Monday and Tuesday*

Total amount \$

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2025

** No Refunds after Oct. 15, 2025*

Mail to: **Connie Goodson**
1320 North New River Drive
Surf City, NC 28445

2024 MASLIN WINNER – CATHY HINSON FRANKLIN-GRIFFIN



Cathy and Harry, husband—May 2024 at the Mars Hill Welcome Center off I-26 at NC/TN line following the Blue Star Memorial Dedication—the first joint project of District 1 & 2 (in collaboration with GCNC and NCDOT).

Cathy Hinson Franklin-Griffin is the second of three daughters born in Newton, North Carolina, to Bill Hinson (Cherokee/German) and Irene Thornton Hinson (Scots-Irish). She grew up in a family of love, music, faith, nature, learning, and leadership. Cathy is a graduate of WPCC (ADN), ECU (BSN and MSN), ASU (MA), and UNC-G (PhD). She practiced as a Registered Nurse in 7 states and overseas during the Vietnam War. Her varied career opportunities included multiple practice, education, administration, presenter, grant-writing, editorial, and policy positions. She currently teaches Nursing Leadership & Health Policy online for Masters in Nursing students. Cathy is very happily married to Rev. Dr. Harry Griffin, has 3 sons (and 3 daughters-in-law), 5 grandchildren, 30+ fur and feather children, loves nature and rural life, family, singing, church, and gardens.

Involvement in Garden Club of North Carolina began in 2006, when Cathy and Harry moved back to Western North Carolina. She joined the Good Earth Garden Club, Newton, NC, (where her mother and sister were members) in 2006. Following retirement from full-time employment, she enjoys filling needs (with collaboration of state, district, club leadership) within the club, within the district(s), and within the state. There are some firsts to that service.

Cathy is the first GCNC member to, within a three year span, serve as Director of two districts simultaneously, coordinate/lead two consecutive state meetings (2023 Fall Board Meeting in Blowing Rock hosted by District 2 – co-led by Planning Committee - and 2024 Annual Meeting in Lake Junaluska hosted by District 1 – co-led with Marilyn Wright and Planning Committee), coordinate/lead 2 District Meetings with State Officers (2022 District 2 in Morganton/Mimosa GC and 2023 District 1 in Brevard/Transylvania GC), and coordinate among District 1-2, GCNC, NCDOT, the funding, erection, and dedication of a Blue Star Memorial at the Mars Hill Welcome Center on the NC/TN line on I-26.

In 2024, a third District Meeting with State Officers was planned for Piney Creek in October. However, Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina on September 27, the meeting was canceled, and food distributed in the area. Cathy serves as District 1-2 Contact Person and Liaison between GCNC (President Linda McLendon, 1st Vice President Charles McLendon, Trustees Chair Brenda Crocker, District Directors) and Western North Carolina garden clubs and gardens.

On the state level in 2023 – 2025, Cathy served as Parliamentarian, Organization Committee Chair, Personnel Committee Chair, Nominating Committee member, Ad hoc DBNG Committee, on Executive Committee, and President Linda McLendon-appointed District Liaison Advisor (Events Coordination Committee Chair with Vicki Corporon, Jackie Horwitz).

Local and District Positions (2020 – 2025):

2020 Vice President of Good Earth Garden Club
2020 – 2023 President of Good Earth Garden Club
2021 - Vice Director of District 2
2022 – 2024 Director of District 2
2023 - 2024 Interim Director of District 1
2024 – Continuing Director District 1-2

State Positions (2023-2025)

GCNC Parliamentarian
Organization Study Committee Chair
Personnel Committee Chair
Nominating Committee Member
Daniel Boone Native Gardens Com. Member
Executive Committee Member
Helene Relief to Western NC - Coordinator
District Liaison Advisor (Events Coord. Com. Chair)

Cathy says, “It is a pleasure and a privilege to know and work alongside the wonderful GEGC members, District 1-2 leaders and members, the District Directors, and the GCNC leadership towards a kinder, more beautiful world.”

Blue/Gold Star Markers

Chair: Paula Hartman paulamhartman1947@gmail.com

Update on Blue and Gold Star Markers

Announcing a Blue Star Memorial Marker will be dedicated on Friday, May 30, at 10:00 am by Whiteville Garden Club. More details will follow.

A Blue Star Marker and Gold Star Families Memorial marker will be dedicated by the Evergreen Garden Club on September 3 in downtown Goldsboro—corner of Spruce and Center. **See calendar for details.**

As the Blue and Gold Star Chair for North Carolina. I am asking for each club to consider placing a marker in his or her town or community. What a great tribute to those who have done so much for us in keeping our freedom. Please contact me at paulamhartman1947@gmail.com or 252 670 3233 Thank you. For "All to see, lest we forget, those who help to keep us free."

2025 GCNC Annual Meeting Recap

May 4, 5, 6, 2025—Winston Salem NC

Hosted by the Garden Clubs of District 4

Highlights:

- 100th Year Celebration
- Century Toast @ Reynolda Gardens
- Installation of new Elected Officers



Annual Meeting—2025



Welcome
Melanie Horton District 4
Director



Deborah Thompson, Annual
Meeting Chairman, District
4 Vice Director



Response—Sunshine Williams



Awards Presentation by Marilyn
Wright, 2VP Awards Chairman

100th Year Celebration



2025 Maslin Award Winner:

Bess Treadwell



Bess Shearer Treadwell was born and raised in Fayetteville, NC. She is a UNC graduate and got her love of gardening from her father, who was always enjoying nature and gardening. Her mother was a founding member of Pine Needles Garden Club in Fayetteville. Pine Needles was Bess' first garden club. She became a flower show judge in 2004. Her husband's job took them to Tampa, FL where she was a member of Tampa Garden Club and was president of Tampa's Old Fashioned Circle and on the board for Tampa Garden Club. She later joined Plant City Garden Club where she held several board positions and chaired a national award winning flower show. While in Florida she was a member of two design study groups and exhibited at Disney's annual EPCOT Flower and Garden Show. Bess returned to North

Carolina for summers and events with Coastal Garden Club in Shallotte, NC. When Bess moved back to North Carolina in 2019, she increased her participation in Coastal Garden Club events and she joined the Raleigh Garden Club. She is a past president of Coastal Garden Club and chaired their flower show in 2023.

In Raleigh Garden Club, Bess was the Floral Design Chairman 2022-2024. She reworked the design workshop program focusing specifically on the basics of floral designs including the Principles and Elements of Design. For each workshop, Bess procured the flowers and plant materials for 30 designs the day before the workshop, prepared them for the next day's class and transported them to Raulston Arboretum and had them waiting for the students' arrival. Each student received hands on instruction about the design for that workshop and went home from the workshop with design knowledge and a beautiful design they had personally done. She is an advocate of design accessories and mechanical aids and teaches her audience how to be creative. She has presented a number of design programs at the Club, District, State and National levels, including at least 35 here in North Carolina. She has often been a workshop breakout presenter at Garden Club of North Carolina State meetings across the state and been a key speaker at District meetings. Bess was a key chair in the 2025 South Atlantic Region Convention and solicited the talent of other creative floral designers for the honorary floral designs as well as creating the honorary design for the National President. For the last five years Bess has had floral designs in the North Carolina Museum of Art's "Art in Bloom" exhibit, winning the People's Choice Award one of those years. Bess has also worked with the Creative Floral Arrangers of America where she first helped with a program in 2006 and taught her own workshop in 2024.

2025-2027 GCNC Administration

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

ELECTED OFFICERS 2025-2027



Charles McLendon
President



Marilyn Wright
1st Vice President
Membership Chairman



Suzanne Gurski
2nd Vice President
Awards Chairman



Frances Cain
3rd Vice President
Youth Chairman



Vicki Corporon
Recording Secretary



Charline Sims
Corresponding Secretary



Laura Oden
Treasurer

2025-2027 GCNC Administration

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC. ELECTED OFFICERS • 2025-2027

President: Charles McLendon919-330-8690
PresidentGCNC@gardenclubofnc.org

BYLAWS, ARTICLE VI, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 1: The President shall ...
4) be an ex-officio member, with power to vote on all committees and boards
except Nominations.

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Third Vice-President: Frances Cain703-217-6975
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Corresponding Secretary: Charline Sims704-507-7404
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2025-2027 GCNC Administration

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Laura Oden, Treasurer, <i>ex-officio</i> no vote	713-306-3987
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2025-2027 GCNC Administration

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2025-2027 GCNC Administration

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Charles McLendon, *ex-officio* with vote

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Vacancy

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Charles McLendon, Ex-officio with vote

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2025-2027 GCNC Administration

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

GCNC Fall Board Meeting 2025

HQ - September 8

JC Raulston

Charles McLendon, 919-330-8690, comclend@gmail.com

GCNC Annual Meeting 2026 –

Location:

Chairman:

Flower Show:

Flower Show Judges:

Lila Petersen Green Leaf Fund:

Vicki Corporon, 919-847-4219, vcorporon@nc.rr.com

501(c)(3) Advisor—2023-2025:

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GCNC District Directors/Vice Directors

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DISTRICT 4	Deborah Thompson 336-978-8408 deborahthompson.nc@gmail.com	Sue Ellen Bennett 336-816-7701 SEBennett3@gmail.com
DISTRICT 5	Kris Clark 216-990-4849 krisclarkdesigns@gmail.com	Sherrie Richmond 336-491-8983 leefrich@northstate.net
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DISTRICT 12	Carolyn Ashbrook 252-452-3147 Ashbrookc1940@gmail.com	Sharon Arnold 252-531-2771 agtag48@gmail.com

GCNC 2024-2025 Award Winners

AWARD	AWARD NAME	PLACE	WINNER	CITY	DIST
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS					
A-1	The Maslin Award	Winner	Bess Treadwell		
A-2	Member Award of Honor	1st Place	NO ENTRIES		
A-3	Award of Excellence	1st Place	Lake Norman GC	Sherrils Ford	2
A-4S	Club of the Year - Membership of 20 or fewer	1st Place	NO ENTRIES		
A-4M	Club of the Year Membership 21 through 50	1st Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	4
A-4M	Club of the Year Membership 21 through 50	2nd Place	Southport Garden Club	Southport	D11
A-4L	Club of the Year Membership of 51 or more	2nd place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
A-5	District With Most Award Applications	Tie	District 10 - District 11		
A-6	Carolyn Ashbrook Special Achievement	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
A-7	James and Frances Parnell Outstanding Innovative Endeavor	1st Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
BEAUTIFICATION					
B-1	Debby Zavadil Beautification		NO ENTRIES		
B-2	Pat Olejar Holiday Decoration		NO ENTRIES		
B-3	All Decked Out Garden Club Award	1st Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	4
B-4	Vickie Kornegay Award		NO ENTRIES		
B-5	Mountain View Garden 'Plant It Pink'	1st Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	4
B-6	Marcy Hege Get Your Green On		NO ENTRIES		
B-7	Charlotte Maddox Notice Small Things	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
B-8	Steel Magnolias Art In Garden		NO ENTRIES		
BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, AND WILDLIFE					
BBW-1	Frances Hunley Bird Award	1st Place	Two Green Thumbs GC	Knightdale	D10
BBW-2	Jenene Curtis Smith Bird Award	1st Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	D4
BBW-2	Jenene Curtis Smith Bird Award	2nd Place	Loblolly Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
BBW-3	Brenda Crocker Bluebird Award		NO ENTRIES		
BBW-4	Hummingbird Award	1st Place	Flower Power Garden Club	Charlotte	D3
BBW-5	Barbara Blackwelder Birds/Btflies & Wildlife		NO ENTRIES		
BBW-6	Karen Suzanne Brenza Butterfly Garden Award	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
BBW-7	Cary Garden Club Garden For Wildlife	1st Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
BBW-8	Gardening for Pollinators		NO ENTRIES		

GCNC 2024-2025 Award Winners

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR AND ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT					
BS RD-1	Rowena P. Sewell Blue Star Memorial Highway Award	1st Place	Cross Creek-Briarwood GC	Fayetteville	D8
BS RD-1	Rowena P. Sewell Blue Star Memorial Highway Award	2nd Place	District1 & District 2 Clubs		
BS RD-2	Gold Star Memorial Award	1st Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
BS RD-2	Gold Star Memorial Award	2nd Place	Cross Creek-Briarwood GC	Fayetteville	D8
CIVIC DEVELOPMENT					
CD-1	Trish Sumners Habitat For Humanity		NO ENTRIES		
CD-2	Viola Kiker Award for Civic Beautification	1st Place	Two Green Thumbs GC	Knightdale	D10
CD-2	Viola Kiker Award for Civic Beautification	2nd Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
CD-3	Public School Beautification	1st Place	Rocky Mount Garden Club	Rocky Mount	D12
CD-4	Daylily GC Daniel Boone Garden		NO ENTRIES		
CD-5	Rose Garden Civic Development Award		NO ENTRIES		
CD-6	Martha Franck Fragrance Garden Award	1st Place	Rich Square Garden Club	Rich Square	D12
CD-6	Martha Franck Fragrance Garden Award	2nd Place	Whiteville Garden Club	Whiteville	D11
CD-7	Friends of The Elizabethan Gardens		NO ENTRIES		
CD-8	North Carolina Arboretum		NO ENTRIES		
CLUB/COUNCIL HISTORY					
CCH-1	Best One Year Club History	1st Place	NO ENTRIES		
CCH-2	Erica Winston Best Five Year Club History	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
EDUCATION					
E-1	Erma Dufel For Youth Education		NO ENTRIES		
E-2	Charlotte Council Education Award	1st Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
E-2	Charlotte Council Education Award	2nd Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
E-3	Sylvia Gatzky Award	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
E-3	Sylvia Gatzky Award	2nd Place	Cross Creek-Briarwood GC	Fayetteville	D8
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS					
EA-1	Conservation Award		NO ENTRIES		
EA-2	Eleanor Yates Nature Conservancy Award	1st Place	Home & Lawn Garden Club	Farmville	D12
EA-3	Margaret Holton Environmental Award	1st Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11

GCNC 2024-2025 Award Winners

FLOWER SHOW					
FS-1	Greensboro Council Flower Show		NO ENTRIES		
FS-2	Lawndale GC Flower Show		NO ENTRIES		
FS-3	Shirley Valentine Creative Holiday		NO ENTRIES		
FS-5	Best Standard FS Schedule W/O Financial Aid		NO ENTRIES		
FS-6	Best Standard FS Schedule W/Financial		NO ENTRIES		
FS-7	Flower Show Award		NO ENTRIES		
FS-8	Marge Comer Horticulture		NO ENTRIES		
FS-9	Small Standard Flower Show		NO ENTRIES		
GARDEN COUNCIL CENTERS					
GCC-1	Ethel Daughtridge Garden Center		NO ENTRIES		
GARDEN THERAPY					
GT-1	Louise Middlebrooks Garden Therapy Award	1st Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	D4
GT-2	Heritage Of Durham Garden Therapy		NO ENTRIES		
GT-3	Asheville GC For Garden Therapy	1st Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
GT-4	Alta Kornegay Award For Garden Therapy	1st Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
GARDENS OF AMER/HISTORIC PRESERVATION					
GA/HP-1	District 12 Conservation and Preservation	1st Place	Roanoke Island Garden Club	Manteo	D12
GA/HP-2	Marie Ashworth Memorial Gardens Award	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
GA/HP-3	Cape Fear GC 100 Anniversary Award	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
HORTICULTURE/COMMUNITY GARDENS					
H/CG-1	Westridge Gardeners Herb Award		NO ENTRIES		
H/CG-2	Dorothy Secrest Pope Award		NO ENTRIES		
H/CG-3	Ginny Parker Succulent Award		NO ENTRIES		
LANDSCAPE DESIGN					
LD-1	Landscape Design		NO ENTRIES		
LD-2	Cary GC Landscape Award		NO ENTRIES		
LD-3	Lake Trace GC Landscape Award		NO ENTRIES		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP					
LM-1	District Largest # of New NGC Life Membership				
LM-2	District Largest # of SAR Life Memberships	1st Place	District 12		
LM-3	District Largest # of GCNC Life Memberships	1st Place	District 11		

GCNC 2024-2025 Award Winners

LITTER CONTROL/RECYCLING					
LC/R-1	Reclaim/Recycle/Reuse Our Nat. Resources		NO ENTRIES		D12
LC/R-2	Marge O'Keeffe Award for Litter Control		NO ENTRIES		
LC/R-3	Linda Schmitt Holiday Decoration		NO ENTRIES		
MEMBERSHIP					
M-1	District With Largest # New Clubs	Tie for 1st	District 2		
M-1	District With Largest # New Clubs	Tie for 1st	District 12		
YOUTH MEMBERSHIP					
YM-1	Marge Pooser Youth Member Award	1st Place	Two Green Thumbs GC	Knightdale	D10
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK					
NGW-1	National Garden Week	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
PROGRAMS					
P-1	Georgia Mixon Program Award		NO ENTRIES		
P-2	Betty Gorrie Media Presentation Award	1st Place	Cross Creek-Briarwood GC	Fayetteville	D8
P-3	Powerpoint Video Program		NO ENTRIES		
PRESS BOOK/PUBLICATIONS					
PB-1	Ruth Yarbrough Publicity Press Book Award	1st Place	Southport Garden Club	Southport	D11
PB-1	Ruth Yarbrough Publicity Press Book Award	2nd Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
PB-2	Marilyn Dutton Newsl /Magazine Publications	1st Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
PB-2	Marilyn Dutton Newsl /Magazine Publications	2nd Place	Trent Woods Garden Club	New Bern	D11
PB-3	Website Award	1st Place	NO ENTRIES		
SCHOLARSHIPS					
S-1	Gail Hill Scholarship	1st Place	Cary Garden Club	Cary	D10
S-2	Judy Barnes Scholarship	1st Place	Cross Creek-Briarwood GC	Fayetteville	D8
TREES					
T-1	Shirley Tuttle Tree Award		NO ENTRIES		
T-2	Hannah Mcneil Mcmillan Arbor Day		NO ENTRIES		
T-3	Arbor Day Award	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
T-3	Arbor Day Award	2nd Place	Two Green Thumbs GC	Knightdale	D10
WILDFLOWER & NATIVE PLANTS					
W/NP 1	Jackie Dellinger Wildflower/Native Plants		NO ENTRIES		

GCNC 2024-2025 Award Winners

YEARBOOKS					
YB-1	Rusty Van Pelt Membership of 100 or more	1st Place	Raleigh Garden Club	Raleigh	D10
YB-2	Margaret D. Barnes Membership of 70-99	1st Place	NO ENTRIES		
YB-3	Catherine Williams Membership of 45-69	1st Place	Harbor Island Garden Club	Wrightsville Bch	D11
YB-3	Catherine Williams Membership of 45-69	2nd Place	Cary Garden Club	Cary	D10
YB-3	Catherine Williams Membership of 45-69	3rd Place	Club of Twenty Gardens GC	Winston-Salem	D4
YB-4	Elma K. Porter Bowden Membership of 44-30	1st Place	Two Green Thumbs GC	Knightdale	D10
YB-4	Elma K. Porter Bowden Membership of 44-30	2nd Place	GC of the Sandhills	Pinehurst/S.Pines	D8
YB-4	Elma K. Porter Bowden Membership of 44-30	3rd Place	Transylvania Garden Club	Brevard	D1
YB-5	Lila Petersen Yrbk Membership of 29-21	1st Place	Monroe Garden Club	Monroe	D3
YB-5	Lila Petersen Yrbk Membership of 29-21	2nd Place	Scotch Gardeners Garden Club	Laurinburg	D8
YB-5	Lila Petersen Yrbk Membership of 29-21	3rd Place	Modern Gardeners GC	Mount Airy	D4
YB-6	Beverly Shearon Yrbk Members 20 or fewer	1st Place	Four Seasons Garden Club	Lillington	D8
YB-6	Beverly Shearon Yrbk Members 20 or fewer	2nd Place	Roxboro Garden Club	Roxboro	D9
YB-6	Beverly Shearon Yrbk Members 20 or fewer	3rd Place	Sardiswood Garden Club	Charlotte	D3
YB-7	Martha Schell Yearbook Cover	1st Place	Cape Fear Garden Club	Wilmington	D11
YB-7	Martha Schell Yearbook Cover	2nd Place	Steel Magnolias Garden Club	Zebulon	D10
YB-7	Martha Schell Yearbook Cover	3rd Place	Rose Garden Club	Liberty	D5

GCNC 2024-2025 Youth Award Winners

Youth Garden Club Awards 2024-25

#2 Horticulture

A – Busy Little Caterpillars	Manuela du Pisanie	New Hanover GC	District 11
2 nd – Busy Bees	Anne Eitelman	New Hanover GC	District 11
B – Garden Bees	Karen Powers	Trent Woods GC	District 11
2 nd -The Little Sprouts	Sheila Wilson	New Hanover GC	District 11

#3 Edible Horticulture

A – Busy Bees	Anne Eitelman	New Hanover GC	District 11
B – Garden Bees	Karen Powers	Trent Woods GC	District 11

4 Civic Development/Beautification

A – Busy Little Caterpillars	Manuela du Pisanie	New Hanover GC	District 11
B – Garden Bees	Karen Powers	Trent Woods GC	District 11
2 nd – The Little Sprouts	Sheila Wilson	New Hanover GC	District 11
D – Bulldog Designs	Jill Clayton	Roxboro GC	District 9

#5 Conservation/Ecology

B – Four Seasons Junior GC	Rebecca Blair	Four Seasons GC	District 8
2 nd – Bee Fresh	Erin Redfern	Roxboro GC	District 9

#6 Wildflowers

B – The Little Sprouts	Shelia Wilson	New Hanover GC	District 11
D – Bulldog Designs	Jill Clayton	Roxboro GC	District 9

#7 Bird Project

A – Busy Little Caterpillars	Manuela du Pisanie	New Hanover GC	District 11
B – The Little Sprouts	Sheila Wilson	New Hanover GC	District 11
2 nd – Garden Bees	Karen Powers	Trent Woods GC	District 11
D – Bulldog Designs	Jill Clayton	Roxboro GC	District 9

#8 Bluebird Drawing

A – Otilie Frers	Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC	District 3
2 nd – Walker Raasch	Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC	District 3
3 rd – Reese Skurla	Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC	District 3
B – Lilli Wegener	The Little Sprouts	New Hanover GC	District 11
2 nd – Malani Rose Logan	The Rosey Girls	Raleigh GC	District 10
3 rd - Emme Skurla	Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC	District 3

GCNC 2024-2025 Youth Award Winners

Honorable Mention – Emilia Cassidy Rowdy McCall	The Little Sprouts The Little Sprouts	New Hanover GC New Hanover GC	District 11 District 11
C - Kayleigh Davenport 2 nd – Banks Cofer	Bulldog Designs Rooty Rascals	Roxboro GC Harbor Island GC	District 9 District 11
D – Emily Nguyen	Bulldog Designs	Roxboro GC	District 9

#9 Cardinal Drawing

A – Laurel Montague 2 nd – Otilie Frers 3 rd – Greyson Gililand	Blazing Bees Blazing Bees Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC Flower Power GC Flower Power GC	District 3 District 3 District 3
Honorable Mention – Reid Montague Owen Pearman	Blazing Bees Blazing Bees	Flower Power GC Flower Power	District 3 District 3
B – Harper Raasch 2 nd – Andre Lependa 3 rd – Sam Johnson	Blazing Bees Blazing Bees The Little Sprouts	Flower Power GC Flower Power GC New Hanover GC	District 3 District 3 District 11
Honorable Mention – Cohen Seidel Lilli Wegener Wilkes Dubiel	The Little Sprouts The Little Sprouts Blazing Bees	New Hanover GC New Hanover GC Flower Power GC	District 11 District 11 District 3
C – Wright Cofer 2 nd – Tucker Lewis	Rooty Rascals Bulldog Designs	Harbor Island GC Roxboro GC	District 11 District 9
D – Jade Torain	Bulldog Designs	Roxboro GC	District 9

#10 Bird Essay

B – Lilli Wegener 2 nd – Lillianne Wegener	The Little Sprouts The Little Sprouts	New Hanover GC New Hanover GC	District 11 District 11
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11 Flower Show

D – Bulldog Designs	Jill Clayton	Roxboro GC	District 9
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#12 Scrapbooks

A – Busy Little Caterpillars	Manuela du Pisanie	New Hanover GC	District 11
B – Blazing Bees 2 nd - Garden Bees	Helen Mayhew Karen Powers	Flower Power GC Trent Woods GC	District 3 District 11

13 Arbor Day

B - The Little Sprouts 2 nd - Bee Fresh	Shelia Wilson Erin Redfern	New Hanover GC Roxboro GC	District 11 District 9
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GCNC 2024-2025 Youth Award Winners

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Award

1st Grade

Winner

Angel Ramon Islas

Sponsored by: Whiteville GC
District 11

Award Sponsor

Sheila Alexander

SAR – 2nd Place

2nd Grade

Lyam Johnson

Sponsored by: Whiteville GC
District 11

Whiteville Garden Club

SAR-Honorable Mention

3rd Grade

Dawson Jenkins

Sponsored by: Ahoskie GC
District 12

Karen Powers

4th Grade

Jethro Bryant

Sponsored by: Coastal GC
District 11

Will Lang

Sar – Honorable Mention

5th Grade

Nadia Bryant

Sponsored by: Fayetteville GC
District 8

Rooty Rascals

SAR: First Place

NGC: Honorable Mention

Youth Poetry Contest

Madlean Straub

Sponsored by: Four Seasons GC
District 8

Amy Bridges

Tech Talk: Cultivating Connection with Zoom Meetings

Submitted by Tina Murphrey—tmurphrey@gmail.com

Steel Magnolias Garden Club

Welcome to "Tech Talk," where we will feature an ongoing series exploring how technology can help your garden club bloom! In our first installment, we're diving into a tool that has become essential for staying connected: Zoom meetings.

Our Steel Magnolias Garden Club (SMGC) in Zebulon embraced Zoom a few years ago when in-person gatherings took an unexpected pause during quarantine. Our resourceful president ensured we continued to meet virtually by setting up Zoom meetings—We even held our annual Christmas ornament exchange online!

Even now that we're back to tending our community gardens and gathering in person, we've found that offering a Zoom option continues to enrich our club. It allows members who can't physically be at club meetings to still participate in our meetings and stay connected to our shared passion.

Many of you have likely already encountered Zoom, whether hosting or attending events. Setting up an account is straightforward. Today, we'll share a few tips and tricks our Technology Committee has learned to make our Zoom meetings successful and enjoyable for everyone.

Getting Started with Zoom: Planting the Seeds for Success

Designate a Zoom Administrator: Our club has a Technology Committee, and the chair is responsible for setting up the Zoom meetings.

Account Options: Basic Zoom accounts are free but limit meeting durations to 40 minutes. For longer meetings, consider a Pro Plan, which currently costs \$15.99 per month or \$160 per year.

Scheduling Made Simple: Once you've registered for a Zoom account (free or paid), scheduling a meeting is easy. Simply click on "Schedule" and follow the intuitive prompts.

Tech Talk: Cultivating Connection with Zoom Meetings

Here's a quick guide to scheduling your first meeting:

Go to the Zoom website and set up or sign into your account

Click on "Meetings."

Select "Schedule a Meeting."

Choose the desired date and time.

Adjust any other settings as needed.

Click "Save."

Once saved, you can copy the meeting link and share it with your fellow garden club members. For more detailed instructions, Zoom offers a comprehensive guide: https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/getting-started-with-meetings?id=zoom_meetings_guide

Club members that attend online can click on the meeting link to join the meeting. They do not need a Zoom account to join.

Essential Equipment: Cultivating a Smooth Experience

Computer: You'll need a computer to run the Zoom meeting.

Chat Monitor: We have a designated person who monitors the "chat room" during our meetings. Members joining via Zoom can type their questions and comments here, and the monitor ensures these are addressed during the meeting.

Camera: To allow our online attendees to see what's happening in the room, we use a camera on a tripod. Another dedicated person manages the camera, adjusting its position as needed to capture the speaker or activities. You can certainly use your phone camera for this! Zoom also provides reviews of various cameras you would like to purchase one: <https://www.zoom.com/en/hardware/?pageSize=12&page=1&collaborationtools=meetings&hardwaredevicetype=cameras>

Tripod: We highly recommend using a phone or camera tripod (available for under \$30) to ensure a stable view for your online participants.

Speakers: Although not required, using auxiliary speakers connected to the laptop helps ensure that Zoom attendees can clearly hear the speakers in the room.

Tech Talk: Cultivating Connection with Zoom Meetings

Collaborative Documents: During our in-person meetings, we often use a projector to display speaker documents and the club agenda. These same documents are attached to the Zoom meeting invitation email. The Zoom administrator also shares their screen to display these visuals for our online members.

Screen Sharing: To share a computer screen with Zoom attendees, look for the 'Share Content' button on the Zoom meeting control panel. On the device you want to share from, open Zoom and select 'Share Screen'.

Closed Captions: Background noise in the meeting room can sometimes make it difficult for Zoom attendees to hear the speaker clearly. Turning on Zoom's closed caption feature can significantly improve accessibility. Here's a link with instructions: https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0058810

Meeting Notes: Zoom also offers a feature to capture notes during your meeting. You can find instructions here: https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0057699

Basic Meeting Etiquette: Cultivating a Respectful Online Space

Here are a few simple guidelines we follow to ensure our hybrid meetings run smoothly:

Announce Yourself: Whether you're speaking in the physical meeting room or joining via Zoom, please announce your name before speaking. This helps everyone follow the conversation.

Microphone Awareness: If you're attending in person and want to speak, be mindful of the location of the Zoom computer's microphone and try to face that direction.

Tech Talk: Cultivating Connection with Zoom Meetings

Food for Thought: Nurturing Your Hybrid Meetings

Here are a few additional points to consider as you integrate Zoom into your garden club meetings:

Speaker Materials: When inviting a guest speaker, ask if their presentation materials can be shared with members, both on Zoom and online.

Online Attendance: Make sure someone takes attendance of the members joining via Zoom.

Online Voting: Establish clear protocols if your club needs to conduct votes online.

Standard Operating Procedures: Develop Standard Operating Procedures for running Zoom meetings so that multiple members feel comfortable managing the technology.

Zoom Orientation: Consider hosting a Zoom orientation session for all club members to help everyone become more familiar with the platform.

Whether you choose to host fully online meetings or use Zoom to connect remote members to your in-person gatherings, we hope this introduction to conducting online Zoom meetings has been helpful.

In our next "Tech Talk," we'll be digging into another essential technological tool: setting up a club email and navigating current privacy standards. Stay tuned, and happy gardening!

Submitted by Tina Murphrey

tmurphrey@gmail.com

Steel Magnolias Garden Club

District 1-2

A Year of Learning and Experiencing Transylvania Garden Club by Suzanne Wojcik

Transylvania Garden Club is looking forward to a great year in gardening filled with learning, experiences and sharing knowledge! Already, the club has met for exciting and informative meetings. The new year of gardening began with a February meeting presentation by Laura Sperry, Transylvania's Local History Librarian, who spoke on the "History of Medicinal Herbs in Appalachia." Laura introduced methods of preservation, ethics of wild crafting, field botany and a guide to basic identification. She also provided information on the practical application and traditional folk methods of using medicinal plants.

March brought the Transylvania Garden Club members together for a visit to Rosman High School to see "How Our Students Learn". The morning began with a lovely brunch prepared by the culinary arts students under the direction of Alexander Williams, RHS Foods teacher. Yogurt parfaits, mini quiches, and delicious desserts were prepared beautifully by these very talented students! Afterwards Heather McNeely, RHS Agriculture teacher,



gave a very informative presentation of the school's agricultural and livestock programs. Heather's passion and enthusiasm was evident during the tour of both the onsite and offsite greenhouses and farm, as well as an introduction of a few of her students! We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and love seeing the future of our agricultural community and environmental stewards.

In April, members met for an engaging presentation, "Moss Magic in Your Landscape - Learning the Secrets of Moss Gardening". Annie Martin, aka Mossin' Annie and proprietor of Mountain Moss, shared garden techniques and alternatives that utilize moss instead of grass. Annie showcased its various uses in landscape design, its aesthetic and environmental advantages, its botanical properties, spe-



District 1-2

cies identification, and maintenance. After the presentation, members were able to purchase moss as well as Annie's book which were personally by her. Mossin' Annie thanked the club for all the support over the years, and the club was equally grateful for her outstanding work in sharing her expertise on the wonderful world of moss.

Spring will end with the Transylvania Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale scheduled for May 10th at the Brevard Ingles parking lot area. The club members are keeping busy potting up plants from their home gardens as well as from Brevard's Railroad Depot Garden of which they maintain. All these plants will be available for sale and all proceeds goes towards local scholarships. The Annual Plant sale has been a huge success for many years and the club is very thankful for the community's support.

The rest of the year's lineup of events, from member garden tours and a visit to Southern Highlands Reserve to presentations on the "Hemlock Restoration Initiative", "Bats in the Backyard" and "Putting your Garden to Bed for the Winter", Transylvania Garden Club will surely be gathering the knowledge and experiences to be the best gardeners and environmental advocates they can be!



District 1 -2



By: Sallie Carr

Sleigh Bells Ring, can you hear them? Well, not quite yet, but the members of the Land O'Sky Garden Club in Hendersonville are well on their way to preparing for our annual Christmas Bazaar. We will have gorgeous decorated live wreaths from our famous Wreath Bar, potted amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs and beautiful bundles of fresh evergreen boughs. We have a team of elves working on Washi jewelry, ornaments and decorative items. Washi paper from Japan is carefully cut and crafted to make these unique gifts. We will have beautifully made mailbox saddles and decorative logs for tabletops. We also will have incredible homemade goodies including iced sugar cookies, cheese logs, yeast rolls and many other delectable treats. All items are crafted by our very talented Land O' Sky elves!

Proceeds from our Bazaar go back into the community. Last year we were able to give to the Veteran's Healing Farm, who were instrumental in helping our local veteran's recover after Hurricane Helene. We also gave a large donation to Bullington Gardens, our local arboretum that had substantial hurricane damage as well. It is a privilege to give back to those in our community that do so much for others. So please, put December 6 from 9-3 on your calendar and come see all the fantastic items we will have for sale located at J&D Produce on Church Street in downtown Hendersonville. Visiting the Land O 'Sky Garden Club Christmas Bazaar will certainly get you in the holiday spirit!



Fresh evergreen Yule logs ready for the fireplace or firepit.

District 1 -2

Land o' Sky Garden Club, Hendersonville North Carolina

By Sallie Carr



Fresh greenery swags with handmade bows.



The potted paperwhites and amaryllis bulbs are always a hit for holiday gifts!



The baked goods sell out fast! Hand-made pinecone wreaths last years.



Come early for the best selections!

District 1-2

Sylva Garden Club Helen Butler, President

On May 6, 2025, we will have our Installation of Officers for 2025-2027. We are using an installation ceremony provided in the National Garden Clubs, Inc , Tools for Success Booklet. Herbs will be used as table centerpieces and for the ceremony.



In May, the planters in Main Street will be changed for the summer! Pictures in the next newsletter



Dividing iris

We are preparing for a summer fundraiser. On June 7, 2025, in Bridge Park, a Plant, Seed and Gardening Accessory Sale will take place. Members have been working for several months getting things ready.



“Nursery” for plant sale

Even though we do not meet in June or July, members will be working at Bi Centennial Park Garden and the Butterfly Garden to help make Sylva beautiful.

District 4

Bermuda Run Garden Club

By Lynette Wikle



Garden club members, lead by Marie Labarowski, 4th from left, stand ready to accept bags of items for the shredder at our spring event.

“A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

Carl Sagan

District 5

Picture of the May 8, 2025 Cedarwood Garden Club meeting in the home of Allison Tally in Jamestown.



This was the last meeting for the year, but many projects continue through the summer. It was a fun occasion for all.

Sherrie M. Richmond

District 5

Our Cedarwood Garden Club was a partner with the town of Jamestown to plant three trees in front of Town Hall for Arbor Day. Below are details and attached are pictures. (Note: Jamestown picked April 10 as their Arbor day for staff and scheduling.) After contacting the Jamestown staff about wanting to contribute to Arbor Day, they embraced the Cedarwood Garden Club as partner for the planting. On April 10, the Arbor Day event was opened by Jose Colon Rivera, the Planning Director, in front of Jamestown Town Hall. After his introduction, the Cedarwood Garden Club President Marian Ditzel expressed appreciation to everyone who came. Member Sherrie Richmond read an original tree poem by Jamestown resident Julia Ebel, who also attended.



For the planting in front of the Town Hall, the Jamestown staff had prepared the sites for three trees and Cedarwood Garden Club members took turns shoveling soil around the trees with many laughs. Though the air was cool and breezy, the laughter and energy of the staff and club members warmed the occasion. With 20 Cedarwood Garden Club members and 5 staff members, it was a well-attended, successful Arbor

Day event in Jamestown. Of course, a club occasion would not be complete without a lunch together. Member Deb Printup



District 5

Cedarwood Garden Club District 5

On Tuesday, March 4th, Marian Ditzel, President of the Cedarwood Garden Club, and Sherrie Richmond, District 5 Director, attended the 100th Anniversary Tea for the Leaksville Garden Club in Eden. Though it is not federated with GCNC, we were invited and honored to attend. On



display throughout the home were historical objects, yearbooks, pictures. The refreshments were divine, and everyone was warm and inviting. It was an exceptional event with many honored guests, to include GCNC President Linda McLendon and 1st Vice-President Charles McLendon, and was quite memorable.



District 8

News from District 8

Shelia Swift District Director

Shelia's husband, Bill, secured the color guard for "Presenting of Colors" at the South Atlantic Region meeting.



JROTC Instructor, Knightdale High School)

1. Photo of: 1SG (Ret.) William Swift, Jr. (JROTC Advisor)

2. Photo of: 1SG (Ret.) Daniel Littlejohn, (with colorguard Army



District 8

Anderson Creek Garden Club

Janelle Nesbit

President

As we reflect on our inaugural year, the Anderson Creek Garden Club is thrilled to share the highlights of our journey, which began with 14 dedicated members and has blossomed to an impressive 27 enthusiastic gardeners by year's end. It has been a year filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit!

Our meetings have been a delightful mix of education and fun. We kicked off our season with a focus on holiday growing and cooking with herbs, where members explored the various culinary uses of herbs while enjoying delicious, fragrant dishes. In the spirit of creativity, we also crafted beautiful swags using greenery gathered from our members' yards and donated cuttings from Christmas tree trimmings.

In January, we took a deep dive into houseplants, where we learned the best practices for keeping our Christmas cacti thriving. The February meeting included a hands-on floral design session led by our local high school FFA students and teachers that sparked many new friendships and shared experiences among our members.

As a new club eager to make a positive impact, we proudly adopted a stretch of highway outside our club area as a service project. We have committed to quarterly roadside cleanups, promoting a cleaner environment and fostering a sense of responsibility within our community. It's heartwarming to see our members come together to make a difference while enjoying the great outdoors.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our next meeting in June, featuring a "Recycled Glass Garden Glow Art Party!" This creative event promises to be a unique opportunity for members to explore their artistic sides while promoting sustainability.

With an entire year of strategic planning behind us, we are eagerly looking forward to continuing our journey of learning and growth. As we join forces with the North Carolina Garden Club (NCGC) and the National Garden Clubs (NGC), we are committed to our mission of enjoying the beauty of flowers, gardening, protecting wildlife, and creating safe and sustainable spaces for all.

We invite fellow garden enthusiasts to join us as we embrace the joys of gardening and community involvement. Here's to many more flourishing years ahead for the Anderson Creek Garden Club!

District 8

Celebrating a Successful First Year: Anderson Creek Garden Club

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
JUNE
GARDEN PARTY
& MEETING
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM | JUNE 10TH 2025
Light Refreshments Served
GLASS GARDEN SCULPTURE PROJECT
\$20 (If you provide your own glass)
\$25 (If we provide glass for you)
Decoupage flower pot craft is offered as an
alternative craft for \$7
**PLEASE RSVP & PAY FOR EITHER
CRAFT BY MAY 15TH**


Zelle

Come join us and turn your gardens into glowing visions of art!



District 8

Celebrating a Successful First Year: Anderson Creek Garden Club



District 8



District 10

Vicki Thompson, Raleigh Garden Club

Art in Bloom NC Museum of Art

Back in Dec 2024, participants receive an envelope that reveals an art piece in the NC Museum of Art. Participants are challenged to create a floral design inspired by the work of art. There are restrictions of size and types of flowers. I've done a few years and each time fall in love with my art piece. This year was no different. The Basilica of St Paul was the art. My art was The Provincial

Roman Synod of 1725, Basilica of St. John Lateran

By Pier Leone Ghezzi



circa 1725. I learned the artist was an original caricature artist. This painting is filled with expressions. Just intriguing. I hope you get to see it one day. The colors were right up my alley. I love roses and so the arrangement had hundreds of them. Ranunculus, glorious Lilly, thistle, allium, agapanthus were some of the flowers used. Each morning before hours participants went in and refreshed the arrangements. Museum environments are rough on flowers.

Very dry air. I really enjoyed arranging, I'm not a professional. I hope you can attend NC Art in bloom. It's an explosion of flowers each Spring.

District 10

By Faith, Not Sight: Dirt Diggers
Youth-led Garden Club
By Karny Farmer

Governor Morehead School (GMS) for the Blind and Visually Impaired was established in 1845. GMS is the state of North Carolina's dedicated school to serve the special needs of visually impaired students and the only residential school in North Carolina with such a mission. Established in January 2025, the Dirt Diggers is a youth-led garden club comprised of student from GMS. Youth gardeners are provided with governance and oversight by the Zebulon, NC Steele Magnolias Garden Club (SMGC – District 10) and nonprofit organization, SEED Community Foundation. Dirt Diggers focus on environmental sustainability through hands-on gardening workshops and guest speaker lessons. The gardeners will tackle large-scale garden design and installation in the 2025/26 school year where raised beds and outdoor collaborative areas will be installed near the student residential grounds. Since the youth gardeners reside on campus Monday through Friday, the beautification and self-maintenance of their garden will be a rewarding opportunity.

In 2025, the youth gardeners primarily focused on gardening fundamentals, types of native plants and potting herbs. Several workshops (e.g., “Fragrant Finds” and “Herb Planting”) were led by the SMGC to encourage and expose the Dirt Diggers to gardening. Through the generosity of donors, volunteers and a grant awarded by Dralla Foundation to the SEED Community Foundation (TSCF), SMGC will collaborate with TSCF to execute an unforgettable end-of-year luncheon and conference for the Dirt Diggers at the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC. The special Dirt Diggers Day will celebrate the accomplishments of the youth gardeners and recognize the 15 youth that comprise the founding garden club members.

Dirt Diggers is a club under the purview of the GMS Student Life Director. The club is unique not only because of the sighted abilities and residential living on campus, but also because 14 of the 15 club members are male students.

GMS' school motto is “**By Faith, Not By Sight**”...Dirt Diggers are exemplary of this!

District 10

Laurel Hills Garden Club May Newsletter By Marie Gardner

At our February meeting of the Laurel Hills Garden Club we explored reducing waste in our landfills by using recycled and up cycled materials to create art and useful items for our homes and gardens. Our speaker, Laurie King, shared ideas for creating beautiful vases, wind chimes, and many other treasures from trash. Items presented by members included a plant cloche/watering reservoir, egg carton seed starters, outdoor oil lamps, and floral design containers, all created from food packaging. One member shared how a beloved antique piano was spared from the local landfill and fashioned into an art sculpture for her home.



In March we began to prepare for our annual neighborhood plant sale, flower design and horticulture show. Members brought plants from their yards and we potted them up in preparation for the upcoming sale in April.

Our April meeting was all about our plant sale and flower show. The show is a small, informal flower show. There is a design section open to club members and the theme was “Colors of the Rainbow”. The horticulture section is open to all neighbors, who are invited to bring cuttings from their yards displayed in a clear glass bottles. Entries could be from shrubs, trees, perennials, annuals, or neophytes. There was no formal judging but visitors to the show were asked to vote for their favorites in each category. I have included a photo of the favorites.

In May, Maureen Hammond, a landscape business and nursery owner, will be teaching us pruning and propagating techniques. This is our final formal meeting of the 2024-2025 year and we will celebrate with a potluck meal following the program. Our club does not meet during the summer months.

District 11



Trent Woods Garden Club

New Bern, North Carolina
District 11, The Garden Club of North Carolina
trentwoodsgardenclub.com

The Garden Bees Community Garden

The Trent Woods Garden Club continued its many years tradition of sponsoring a youth garden club. This past fall, we partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Plains to commence the Garden Bees youth garden club with twenty-one 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. A foundational partnership was made with the Broad Street Christian Church that initially provided the youth garden club with access to six 4' x 8' raised beds to start their gardening experiences. In the fall, the club members planted daffodil, tulip, and iris bulbs, yellow chrysanthemums, and pansies in three of the beds.



In late March, the Boys and Girls Club contracted with the Broad Street Christian Church to move their clubhouse to the church for their after school and summer programs. With the club members being at the church throughout the summer, the church members offered the club access to a large grassy yard, allowing the dream to build a community garden for the youth and their families to become a reality. Most of the club members are on free lunch programs and many of the families experience some food insecurities.

A seed planting session began the project. In about 6 weeks many of the seedlings were seen breaking through the ground, exciting all of the garden's potential to produce a lot of healthy fruits and veggies. The Boys and Girls Club will be offering a summer camp at the Broad Street Christian Church. This allows the club members weekday access to the community garden to keep it watered, weeded, and importantly to harvest the crops. The Boys and Girls Club will hold their after-school program at the Broad Street Christian Church going forward, allowing the youth garden club access to the garden area throughout the school year as they continue to learn about gardening and horticulture.



District 11

from Trent Woods Garden Club, District 11

TWGC volunteers were hard at work preparing and planting the vegetable and herb garden at River Point Nursing Home. The group prepared and amended the soil with organic materials and then laid down a weed shield. The group then went on to plant: tomatoes, peppers, herbs and other veggies. The staff will harvest as the produce ripens and serve to the residents.

Deb Tallman



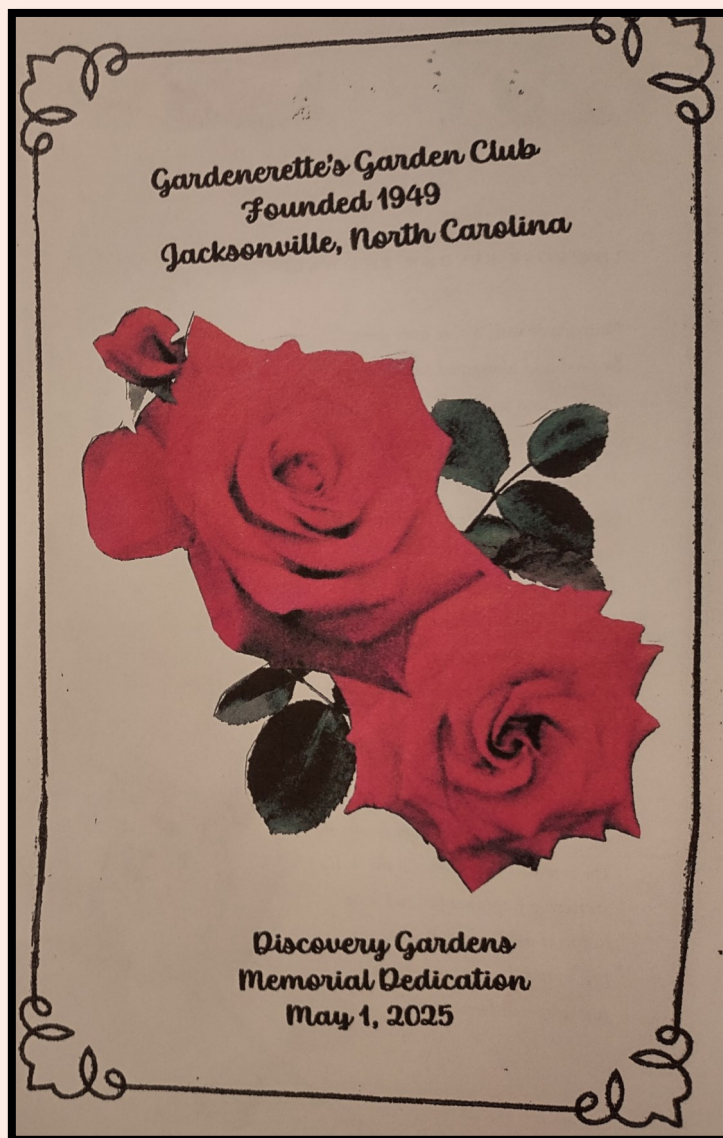
District 11

Gardenerettes Memorial Dedication & Discovery Gardens By Beth Farmer

On May 1st, Gardenerette's Garden Club will meet at the Discovery Gardens, 4024 Richlands Hwy., Jacksonville, NC 28540 for a Brick Memorial Dedication for three members that have passed in the last two years.



Picture of Discovery Garden's Pool House and laid bricks to follow on May 1st following the memorial.



District 11

Bikes and Blooms by Veronica Krub Emerald Isle Garden Club

Our club is sponsoring Bikes and Blooms in coordination with our town of Emerald Isle's Bike the Banks. We have asked local businesses to decorate bicycles with flowers and we'll be decorating a few of our own. It's a wonderful welcome to the bicyclists who will be riding through our town on May 3rd. Our student



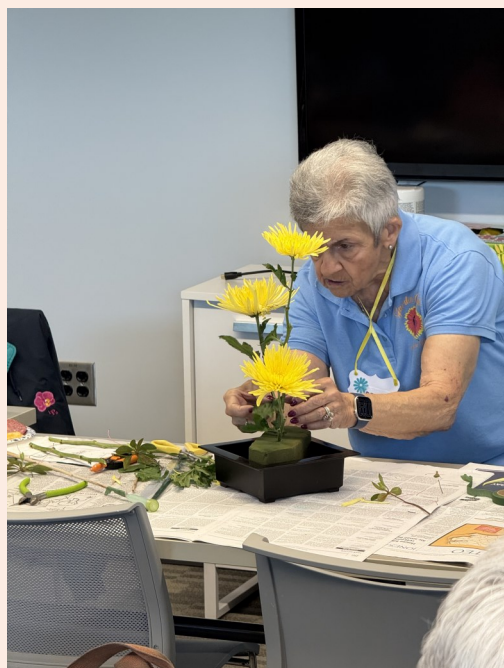
group,
the
Green
Thumbs,
colored
the
posters.



District 11

Springtime Happenings

The Garden Club of New River celebrated Spring with a demonstration of Spring Floral Arrangements from Master Gardener Polly Kopka and a successful annual Plant Sale, raising funds for the Nettie King Memorial Scholarship award.



On April 17th, club member and Master Gardener Polly Kopka gave a wonderful

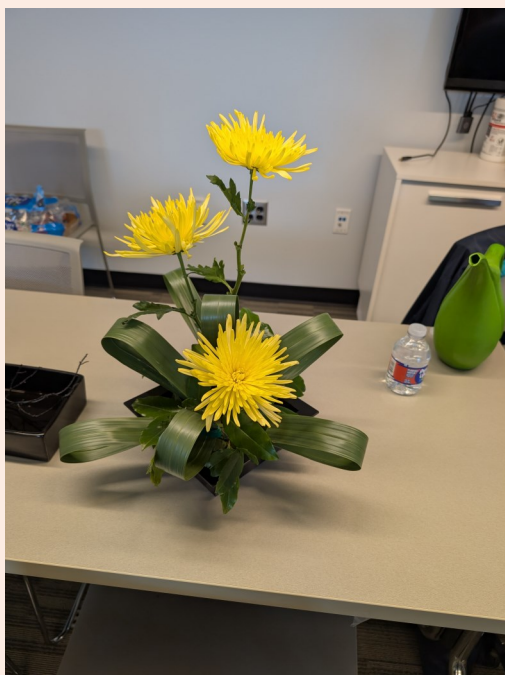
demonstration of Spring Floral arranging.

Among the arrangements was a Japanese-themed centerpiece, using freshly cut azaleas and found branches, a striking vase of underwater red roses, a simple yet elegant treatment of yellow chrysanthemums, and a stunning three-lily arrangement with geometrically cut accent leaves.

She showed proper techniques for soaking oases, selecting the proper vessel and the importance of angles and perspectives. At the end, she offered the flowers she had used for members to take home and practice with.----



District 11



On April 26th, the Garden Club of New River ran their annual Plant Sale to benefit the Nettie King Memorial Scholarship, named after Mrs. Nettie Everett King, from one of the Sneads Ferry founding families.

Miss Nettie always volunteered at the schools in Sneads Ferry. After her passing, the Garden Club named our Scholarship in her honor.

The first plant sale, nearly 25 years ago, brought in approximately \$250 from donated cuttings and plants of the Garden Club's members. Over the years the Sale has grown and now allows us to award \$1000 to one deserving Dixon High School graduating senior each year, as well as to fund other charitable donations.

This year's plant sale included donations from our members including home-grown tomato plants, herbs, succulents, house plants, perennials and trees. Monetary donations from club members also allowed us to purchase discounted wholesale plants from Johnson Nursery in Willard, NC such as mature roses, flats of annuals, and quart-sized perennials. We also received plant donations from Tractor Supply and Pender Pines in Pender County.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, the club made over \$2,100 and everything was sold before 2 P.M.!

Looking forward to an abundant Summer.

District 11

Cape Fear Garden Club 100 2-11-2025

Elaine B. Henson May 1, 2025



Members at St. James Great Hall from Balcony

On February 11, 1925, the twelve charter members of what would become Cape Fear Garden Club met at the Great Hall of St. James Church at Third and Market Streets in Wilmington, NC for the first time. The charter members were also members of the Tuesday Book Club and decided at their January 20, 1925 meeting, that they wanted to

start a garden club, so the February meeting at St. James was planned. They called it simply the Garden Club at first. At their second meeting, it was named Cape Fear Garden Club. By March 11 of 1925, they had a constitution and By-Laws for the Club. CFGC grew quickly from its beginnings; by 1928, it had 80 members, today it has 350.

On February 11, 2025, Cape Fear Garden Club members met for a Tea in the same Great Hall of St. James Church where the charter members met for their first meeting in 1925. The membership also enjoyed a film on the club's history made by member Sydney Penny with help from the program committee. Just before the tea, members planted a tree on the grounds of St. James commemorating the occasion of CFGC's 100th birthday and its history with the church.

Today, our members still proudly carry on the same goals of those first members and more through our Azalea Garden Tour, Civic Improvement Committee, Battery Island Committee, Endowment grants and many other committees who work in the community.

District 11

In the words of our former president, Helen W. McCarl who spoke these words on July 16, 1956 during the occasion of CFGC's 30th Birthday: Celebration:

Let us look back and rejoice in our heritage. May it inspire us to continue the good works of those who have preceded us, and to uphold the good name of the Cape Fear Garden Club.



Tree planting at St. James—members: Frances Parnell, Sarah Anderson, Cathy Poulos, President Delores Hawes, Marcia Doering & Cheryl Hunter



Dressed in 20's style, Betty Norris with our Centennial Banner



(L-R) 2024 GCNC Officers Charles McLendon, Linda McLendon, Marilyn Wright and CFGC Feb 11th Chair Linda Snider

District 12

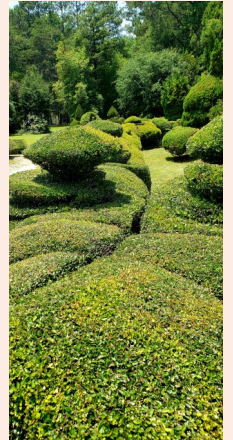


Pedals, Petals & Perseverance: A Garden-Filled Journey from Edisto to Bath

Written by Angela Mason Foster
Washington Garden Club

During National Garden Week, I embarked on a memorable bicycle journey from Edisto Island, South Carolina, to my home in Bath, North Carolina. This adventure allowed me to immerse myself in the natural beauty of the southeastern United States, with stops at some of the region's most enchanting gardens.

My first significant stop was Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina. Established in 1679 by Thomas and Ann Drayton, Magnolia is one of the oldest plantations in the South and has remained under the Drayton family's stewardship for 15 generations. In 1871, Reverend John Grimké Drayton opened the gardens to the public, making them one of Charleston's earliest tourist attractions. The gardens are renowned for their romantic style, featuring azaleas, camellias, and live oaks draped in Spanish moss.



This summer, Magnolia is hosting Sean Kenney's Nature POP!® exhibit, a vibrant display of over 40 sculptures made entirely from more than 800,000 LEGO® bricks. The exhibit includes a majestic fox, colorful birds in mid-flight, and a striking woodpecker, all set against the backdrop of the historic gardens. This fusion of art and nature offers a playful yet thought-provoking experience, highlighting the interconnectedness of ecosystems.



Continuing my journey, I visited the Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. Pearl Fryar, a self-taught topiary artist, began creating his garden in the 1980s using discarded plants from local nurseries. Over the years, he transformed his three-acre yard into a whimsical landscape of over 300 topiaries, each meticulously shaped into abstract forms. Fryar's garden is not only a testament to his artistic vision but also a symbol of perseverance and love, with messages like "Love," "Peace," and "Goodwill" prominently displayed.

The ride itself was as enriching as the destinations. Cycling through the Lowcountry, I was enveloped by the scents of blooming magnolias and the sights of verdant marshes. Each pedal stroke brought me closer to nature, allowing me to appreciate the subtle changes in the landscape. I took time to rest under ancient oaks and converse with fellow travelers, sharing stories and recommendations for hidden garden gems along the way.

me

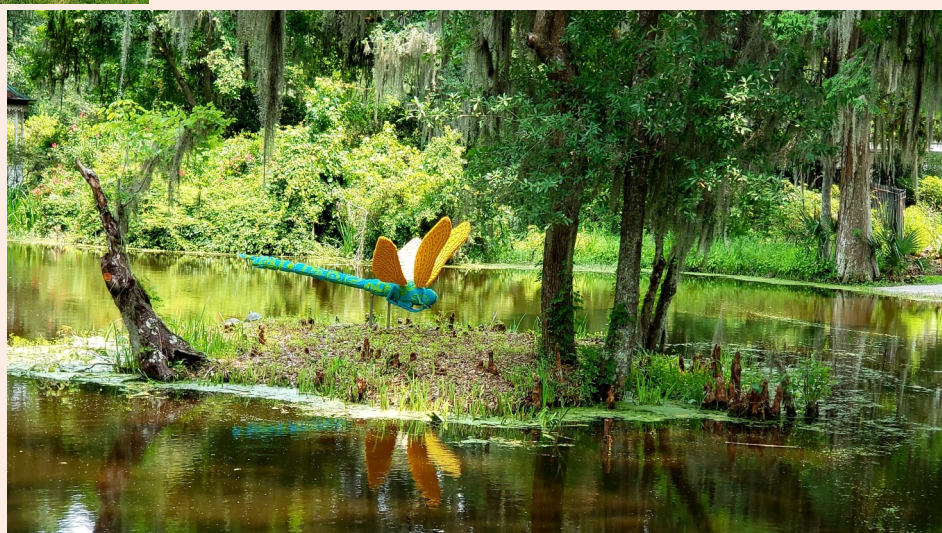


District 12

As I made my way north, I visited several other gardens, each with its unique charm and history. These stops provided not only visual delight but also a deeper understanding of the region's horticultural heritage. From meticulously maintained formal gardens to wildflower meadows buzzing with pollinators, each site offered inspiration and insight.


Returning home to Bath, I felt a renewed sense of connection to the natural world and a deeper appreciation for the artistry and dedication involved in garden cultivation. This journey reinforced the idea that gardens are living museums, preserving history, culture, and biodiversity. I encourage fellow garden enthusiasts to explore these treasures, whether by bike, car, or on foot, and to experience firsthand the serenity and inspiration they offer.

In celebrating National Garden Week, let us honor the visionaries like Reverend Drayton and Pearl Fryar, whose legacies continue to bloom and inspire. Their gardens remind us that with passion and perseverance, we can create spaces of beauty and reflection that endure for generations.



District 12

CD-3



Don't be a litterbug, keep your school clean.

Public School Beautification Award

Donor: Jenene Curtis Smith

**Rocky Mount GC
Rocky Mount - District 12
First Place - \$50**

CD-6



Martha Franck Fragrance Garden, Raleigh NC


Martha Franck Fragrance Garden Award

Donor: Brenda Crocker

**Rich Square GC
Rich Square - District 12
First Place - \$50**

**Whiteville GC
Whiteville - District 11
Second Place**

GA/HP-1



The Farmer's Wife Magazine - circa 1920

District 12 Conservation and Preservation

Donor: Carolyn Ashbrook

**Roanoke Island GC
Manteo - District 12
First Place - \$50**

EA-2



Eleanor Yates
NGC President 1993-1995

Eleanor Yates Nature Conservancy Award

Donor: Sardiswood Garden Club

**Home & Lawn GC
Farmville - District 12
First Place - \$25**

District 12

Title: The Rocky Mount Garden Club Spends A Day At The Elizabethan Gardens

Submitted by: Beth Carlton, Secretary

Chapter: Rocky Mount Garden Club



On Thursday, April 24, 2025, fourteen members of the Rocky Mount Garden Club travelled to the Elizabethan Gardens for their annual field trip. We were treated to a guided tour by Daniel Hossack, Gardens Manager and Jenna Livernois, Programs Manager. Brendon Medlin the Executive Director was kind enough to join us as well. During our tour we learned about

the history of the gardens, programs, new exhibits under construction and the acquisition of several sculptures on site. We were blessed with beautiful weather so the water views were exquisite. After eating lunch, we made our way to the gift shop before heading home. The gardens are for anyone who appreciates history, art, science, or horticulture and is family friendly.



Sarah Morgan takes a break after the walking tour of Elizabethan Gardens

District 12

Rooted in Purpose: Why Garden Clubs Still Matter in 2025

Written by Angela Mason Foster
Washington Garden Club

In a world where artificial intelligence writes headlines, groceries are delivered via apps, and meetings take place through screens, it might seem easy to dismiss garden clubs as relics of a simpler time. The phrase “garden club” may even evoke images of white gloves, tea sets, and outdated etiquette. Yet, garden clubs across North Carolina and beyond are not only still alive—they are blooming with renewed relevance and purpose in 2025. These clubs provide more than flower arranging and fellowship. They are dynamic organizations with meaningful civic impact, environmental responsibility, educational outreach, and community-building at their core.

Shattering the Stereotypes

Let’s begin by addressing the elephant in the garden: outdated perceptions. To many, garden clubs may conjure images of aging social circles bound by rigid tradition. But today’s garden clubs are diverse, inclusive, and evolving. They include teachers, scientists, young parents, retirees, farmers, conservationists, and students. They gather not just to share gardening tips but to lead community projects, educate the public, advocate for pollinator protection, restore native habitats, and engage in local food and sustainability initiatives.

The Garden Club of North Carolina (GCNC), founded in 1925, is a prime example of this evolution. With over 100 years of history, GCNC has moved well beyond simple beautification. Its members maintain civic gardens, contribute to national conservation efforts, support college scholarships in horticulture and environmental science, and partner with organizations like the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Department of Transportation. Today’s garden clubs are action-oriented—focused as much on impact as on aesthetics.

Growing Community in a Disconnected World

We live in an era of digital hyper-connectivity, yet loneliness and isolation are at an all-time high. Garden clubs offer what many modern platforms lack: genuine, in-person human connection. Regular meetings, workshops, field trips, and volunteer projects allow members to form lasting friendships rooted in shared values. A community garden project does more than feed people—it builds bonds. A roadside planting beautifies more than a street—it uplifts a neighborhood.

This face-to-face interaction is especially powerful across generations. Clubs bring together elders with decades of gardening knowledge and younger members with fresh energy and new ideas. Whether mentoring youth through junior garden programs or collaborating on educational outreach in schools, the intergenerational nature of garden clubs fosters meaningful learning and mutual respect.

District 12

Environmental Stewards and Citizen Scientists

Garden clubs are more than flower enthusiasts; they are some of the most active citizen scientists and environmental advocates in their communities. From the beginning, GCNC has embraced conservation as a core mission. In 2025, that mission is more critical than ever.

Through plantings of native species, pollinator garden installations, support for the Blue Star Memorial Highway program, and partnerships in the Roadside Wildflower Program, North Carolina's garden clubs contribute directly to environmental education and sustainability. Clubs host programs on composting, pesticide reduction, habitat restoration, and rain garden installation. They fight invasive species, champion climate-resilient plants, and educate their communities on how to garden responsibly in a changing climate.

These actions ripple outward. A single pollinator garden may seem small, but collectively, garden clubs have restored thousands of acres of healthy habitat across the country. The lessons taught by club programs can change how families manage their home landscapes, ultimately leading to healthier soil, air, and water in our communities.

Education Rooted in Experience

Information is everywhere today—but wisdom is not. Google can tell you when to prune a hydrangea, but it cannot explain why your neighbor's method works better in your microclimate. Garden clubs fill that gap between data and lived experience.

Most clubs offer educational programming each month, drawing on the knowledge of Extension Master Gardeners, landscape professionals, university researchers, and each other. Clubs affiliated with GCNC also sponsor nationally recognized educational programs in landscape design, flower show judging, and environmental studies.

Importantly, these programs are hands-on. They invite participants to get dirty, to touch soil, and to observe changes across the seasons. This experiential learning is something that no digital platform can replace.

Creating Space for Civic Pride and Public Service

Garden clubs have long been the stewards of civic beauty, but today they are so much more. They are integral to public service projects—installing therapeutic gardens at hospitals, supporting food banks through community gardens, advocating for city tree canopy programs, and preserving historic landscapes.

These projects enhance property values, reduce crime, promote mental well-being, and encourage tourism. Through public plantings, memorials, and clean-up campaigns, garden clubs demonstrate that small, local actions have wide-reaching benefits.

District 12

In fact, it is often the garden club—not the city council or the parks department—that plants the first daffodil in a forgotten park or replaces the shrubs outside the public library. These quiet acts of service help communities thrive and show residents that someone cares.

Adapting to the Modern Age

Garden clubs are not immune to change, nor should they be. Many have embraced digital tools for communication, recruitment, and education. Clubs now maintain websites, publish e-newsletters, host webinars, and run Facebook pages to share events and engage younger audiences. Some clubs use apps to track volunteer hours or post updates on plant swaps. These innovations help bridge the gap between tradition and technology.

What hasn't changed is the club's heart: a shared desire to grow something beautiful together.

Why Garden Clubs Still Matter

So, why should garden clubs still exist in 2025? Because they offer what our fast-paced, digital-first culture often lacks:

- **Purposeful connection.** Garden clubs bring people together for a shared cause.
- **Local impact.** They make communities greener, cleaner, and more vibrant.
- **Environmental education.** They teach real-world skills with real-world results.
- **Civic engagement.** They lead by planting seeds of change—literally and figuratively.

Personal enrichment. Gardening feeds the soul, and clubs give it structure and support.
In Closing

The Garden Club of North Carolina and its affiliates across the state are not fading into irrelevance—they are rising to meet the moment. As the climate changes, as communities search for connection, and as people look for ways to make a difference, garden clubs provide an answer grounded in soil, service, and spirit.

Whether you're an experienced horticulturist or someone who's just managed to keep a house-plant alive, there is a place for you. In 2025, garden clubs aren't about perfection—they're about participation. They're not old-fashioned—they're enduring.

So if you've been wondering whether garden clubs still matter, the answer is simple: they matter more than ever.

Summer 2025

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

Sep 1 - Fall Issue

Dec 1—Winter Issue

March 1—Spring Issue

July 1—Summer (even years)

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.