



SEPTEMBER 2025

Hello Federation Friends,



"Happy Fall, Y'all!"

Welcome back to another year of garden club activities and fellowship!

Our next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, September 25, 2025**, at 10:30 in the Courtyard at Callanwolde. (Club Presidents, please share this information with your members.)

At this meeting, we will honor all our Club Presidents as well as our former DeKalb Federation Presidents, so please come to be recognized!

Our program is **Garden Club of Georgia Updates**

The 2025-2027 GCG President, our own **Diane Hunter**, will present a GCG Update. Diane will discuss her theme vision, and goals for this term. She will also share exciting plans for the GCG events, including those for the 2028 100th celebration of the GCG.

(**Gale Thomas**, Programs Vice President)

And, don't forget our monthly raffle. Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club is donating our raffle prize this month! 1 ticket for \$2.00; 3 tickets for \$5.00.



Hospitality Volunteers

The following garden club is responsible for refreshments before our meeting this month:

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

Hospitality Co-Chairman, **Melanie Chastain**, will contact the club(s) prior to the meeting. We will follow the refreshment guidelines outlined in the Federation yearbook.

Mini-Flower Shows are held three times each year: **October, January, and March**, and each exhibitor will follow the same theme – **Seasons!** The next Mini-Flower Show will be held at our October meeting.



(**Sandy Reed**, Mini-Flower Show Chairman)

PLEASE remember to bring **horticulture** “stuff” to swap – seed, plants, or rooted. Be sure to include the name of each plant, and care instructions. Bring some – take some! Also, please bring some plastic grocery bags to carry home your plants.



(**Michèle Spears**, Horticulture Chairman)

GARDEN CENTER NEWS

The Garden Center is available by appointment, so if you need to visit it, please contact me and I will arrange to meet you; a.purr@comcast.net; 770-921-9070.

(Garden Center Director, **Ann Purr**)



BOOK SALE ROLLS ON!!

The book sale is back! There will be a book sale at our meeting on September 25. Bring your donations to add to the table or contact Ann ahead of time and she will pick them up. 770-921-9070; a.purr@comcast.net. The proceeds will be donated to NCG's Natural Disaster Fund.

(Treasurer, **Ann Purr**)



Holidays For Heroes

We hope you have been saving your Holiday Cards! We are, once again, collecting cards for our military heroes around the world. We will need to receive your cards at the **October 23** Federation meeting. This year the cards are going to Fort Gordon for distribution to returning soldiers as they get off the plane, to VA Hospitals, and to military bases overseas.

They take Christmas and Hanukkah cards in English and Spanish and have even taken cards for military dogs!

Please remember the following guidelines:

- Keep envelopes **unsealed**
- A positive message
- Nothing political
- No personal information
- No food
- No postage
- NO GLITTER

Glitter can get into a wound. Several cards wind up in the hands of wounded soldiers. Glitter can also get everywhere and show an enemy where they have been.

You can sign them with the name of your garden club, or simply a message that says, "Thank You for Your Service," or "A Grateful American."

Glenndolyn Hallman is the Chairman of this project, so please contact her at gkh44@aol.com with questions.

Scenes From 2024 Leading Lights



Our Lovely Models (From Left)
Ann Purr • Rita Maloof • Iwalani Barbazon
Christi Granger • Ann Marie White • Meg Walton

The 21st Annual Leading Lights Luncheon, Fashion Show

When – Thursday, **November 13**, 10:30 a.m.

Where – Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

What – Catered Luncheon, Vendors, Raffle Baskets and
Fashion Show Presented by **Carolee's Historic Norcross Boutique**

Invitation and Reservation Form to Follow
(**Rigby Duncan**, Fundraising Chairman)



As we have done for many years, on the morning of September 11, 2025, members of The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. came together to take part in the *Remember 9/11* Ceremony. This ceremony is held annually at the DeKalb County Public Safety Complex in Tucker. The wreath (below) from Conyers Flower Shop was once again beautiful. Members of The Federation are honored to provide this wreath to the members of the DeKalb County First Responders Unit in remembrance, and the unit continues in their appreciation for our thoughtful participation and support. This year marked the 24th year of this heartbreaking National tragedy.

Members from several garden clubs and other friends joined together. Victoria Crosby of Smoke Rise Garden Club and this chairman of Conyers Garden Club were escorted by George Thompson, DCFD Honor Guard. A member of DeKalb County Police Department sang our National Anthem beautifully. Captain Douglas Harms played Amazing Grace and other songs on the bagpipe. Victoria Crosby read her original poem, entitled *A Tribute to Heroes*. This reading continues to be moving and memorable. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Victoria for sharing her poem with us all.

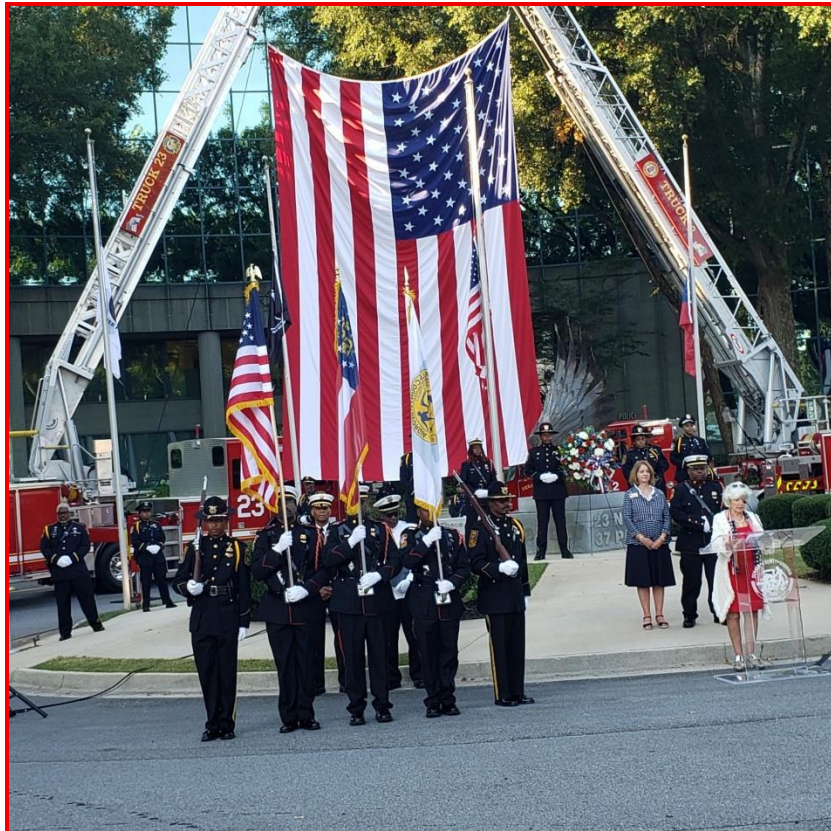
We appreciate all who were able to attend this ceremony. It is certain that all in attendance came away with a deep sense of honor for this occasion and for our Country. Once again, it was heartwarming to see many new Recruits of the Fire Department and Police Department in attendance. We are grateful to the men and women in uniform that serve and protect us each day.

(**Susan Turner**, Never Forget 9/11/2001 Chairman)





Garden Club Members, Friends, and Tucker Mayor and First Lady, Frank and Gaye Auman, with the DeKalb Public Safety Honor Guard



Victoria Crosby and Susan Turner Participating in the Ceremony



BEAUTIFYING THE GARDEN CENTER GROUNDS

Callanwolde Garden Center Grounds Summer Successes!

The DeKalb Federation Garden Center has beautiful grounds that are maintained by a happy team of volunteers from six garden clubs. We meet every few weeks to water, weed and prune and do general upkeep of the garden areas.

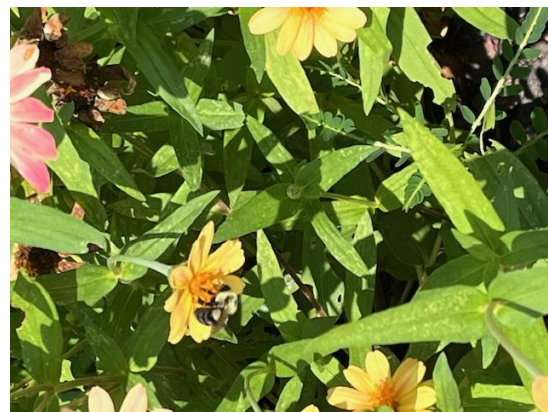
Recently, we met to give the begonias a haircut. Sandy Reed advised us that the begonias would look better longer if we cut them back by half in early August. They are quite drought-tolerant plants and look great in formal containers with the addition this year of caladiums. The caladiums loved the weather we enjoyed this late spring and summer and thrived in the round containers.

The pollinator garden went crazy with weeds in the warm and wet summer days, and we spent half the workday in August just removing their unwelcome selves! One funny addition to our garden and to the formal Callanwolde gardens is the Formosa Lily. It is a tall white lily and spreads by seed. We did not plant it but somehow it found its way into our garden. Like the Easter Lily, it has a very showy tall white cluster of blooms and adds a summery flair to our gardens where so many weddings take place! It looks like a bridal bouquet.

Thanks to the following gardeners for their enthusiastic help: Avon, Frank Mullins; Avondale Estates, Peg Wyse; Lullwater, Renie Faulkenberry; Shenandoah Rose and Smoke Rise Morning Glories, Sandy Reed; Smoke Rise, Dee Montgomery; Smoke Rise Morning Glories, Joy Abrams, Dolly Moy, Kim Fair, Glenndolyn Hallman, Bonnie Pennington, Faye Brown and Quill Duncan. Special thanks to Ann Purr for the ice-cold water and the A/C in the office! If you want to join us, call or email Quill Duncan at 770 414-4766 or quillduncan@msn.com. Fall garden plans are in the works!

(**Quill Duncan** Landscape Advisory Chairman)

Our Zinnias are visited by the Eastern Swallowtail (Georgia State Butterfly) and a bumblebee!





GARDEN THERAPY - NURTURING WITH NATURE

Georgia Regional Hospital Summer 2025 Update

We have exciting news from our friends at Georgia Regional Hospital. This summer DeKalb Federation applied on behalf of Georgia Regional Hospital for a grant, in the amount of \$725, to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Garden Therapy program. The chairman of the Garden Therapy program is Glenndolyn Hallman, and she leads a committee from all seven districts and GCG President Diane Hunter. And happily, Quill Duncan also serves on the committee representing Redbud District. Let's say that we stack the deck just a little bit! The grant was funded, and Smoke Rise Morning Glories member and Activity Therapy Coordinator, Mary Cochran, received the funds in early August.

Bonnie Pennington and Quill Duncan visited the campus in June, and Mary advised us what the hospital garden therapy program would need for the next six months. The grant will fund the following items for the gardens at the Georgia Regional campus: an outdoor umbrella and stand, hose and hose carriage, fall vegetable starts, new blueberry shrubs and a fig tree, and mulch and straw bales to control the weeds and mud in the large vegetable garden. There are plans to do some renovation in the sensory garden and replace some plants that have died, and prune back those plants whose growth has been exuberant!

The summer crop in the vegetable garden was impacted some by our summer weather: rain and then dry spells. Strawberries were the stars this year and a huge hit with residents and staff members at several gatherings.

The staff and patients there benefit greatly from the support and interest we have in their growth and therapy. It is a very rewarding project for all concerned. Thank you, DeKalb Federation Friends for your gracious giving spirit.

(Bonnie Pennington, Quill Duncan, Co-Chairmen)

Blackberries and Blueberries Joined the Strawberries This Year!



PROJECT FIG LEAF



We continue to collect donations of men's and women's **new** underwear and socks, and toiletries of any size for the patients at Georgia Regional Hospital. (**Please, no bars of soap of any size.**) The Hospital has explained that we are the only organization delivering new underwear, and our donation is **greatly** appreciated by staff and residents. Please bring your donations to our October 23 meeting, or you can deliver them to the home of Glenn dolyn Hallman, 2244 Spencers Way, Smoke Rise; 770-630-5539. She will be making a delivery of donated items before the holidays.

(**Glenn dolyn Hallman**, Community Service Chairman)

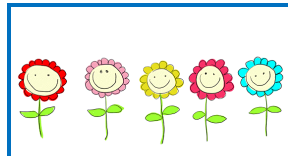


PULL A TAB FOR RONALD MCDONALD

We are continuing to collect aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Many pounds were delivered last spring in grateful appreciation. And remember, there are awards for most tabs collected, for both a small and large club! Please bring your tabs to any Federation meeting.

(**Glenn dolyn Hallman**, Pull-A-Tab Chairman)

The League of Legends



LEGENDS GO LIVE!

At our May meeting, we welcomed the following amazing ladies to our Legends Club of wonderful, long-term dedicated members who have reached the age of 90 during the past year:

Sheila Biggs

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Jeanne Lutz

Smoke Rise Garden Club

Geri Burns

Smoke Rise Morning Glories

Kenny Newman

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Martha Jackson

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Ruth Osborn

Avondale Estates Garden Club

~ CLUB CORNER ~



BLUE STAR MARKER

Lullwater Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Lullwater Conservation Garden on June 14, 2025. The dedication ceremony was led by Lullwater Garden Club President, Nan Loftis, who provided a brief history of Druid Hills subdivision, the club and the garden. GCG Blue Star Marker Chair, Jan Thiese, read the dedication and the marker was then unveiled. GCG President Diane Hunter was present for the dedication.

A Blue Star marker is a memorial that honors all men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It is a part of the Blue Star Memorial Highway system, which began as a way to recognize veterans of World War II. By-Ways Markers are mounted to a boulder or piece of granite and can be placed in civic gardens, parks and historic sites.

Lullwater Garden Club is located in Druid Hills, which is designated as a National Register of Historic Places site. It is known for being the last subdivision designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American Landscape Architecture.

Lullwater Garden Club was formed in 1928 and is a charter member of the Garden Club of Georgia. In 1931, the Lullwater Conservation Garden was established when the Candler Family gave permission to Lullwater Garden Club members to maintain a garden on a 5.25 acre of land located between Lullwater Parkway and Lullwater Road. It was originally known as the Lullwater Conservation Project.

In 1964, at a time when it was not typical for women to buy their own homes, Lullwater Garden Club purchased the land with the deed requirement that it remain a park or beautification area. Club members continue to maintain the park. More on the history of the club and garden can be found at <https://www.lullwaterconservationgarden.com>.

(**Nan Loftis**, Lullwater Garden Club President)

Attendees at Blue Star Marker Dedication





The Conyers Garden Club Sponsors Another Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Basic Floral Design Course

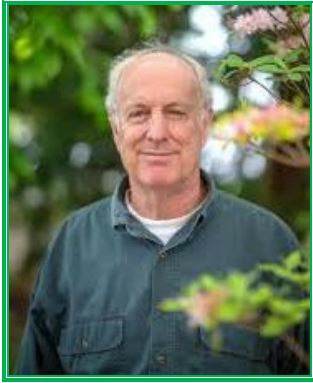
In response to the growing need to train more members in basic floral design, the Conyers Garden Club is sponsoring its third basic design course in Conyers. Previously sponsored courses were held in Griffin and Conyers. The 5-class course covers the National Garden Club, Inc.'s design types and the principles and elements of design. Participants in the current course are members of various DeKalb Federation Clubs: Avondale Estates, Avon, Dunwoody, and Conyers.

Using both lectures and hands-on activities, the instructor, Gale D. Thomas, provides modeling and feedback as each participant works to complete the assigned designs. To date, classes have focused on line designs, basic line designs, mass designs, and table settings. All participants have enthusiastically produced two designs in each class, with appreciation and feedback received from the instructor. In the September 3 class, the students applied the principles and elements information and evaluated four table settings provided by Gale and one of the other students. They then created their own table settings using the applied knowledge. Future classes will focus on creative and petite designs, wreaths, and fruits and vegetables.

If your club is interested in sponsoring a Basic Design Course, please contact The GCG Basic Design Chairman, Edna McClellan, at ednamae@ellijay.com.
(**Gale Thomas, Course Instructor**)



Basic design participants apply information learned about design principles and elements as they evaluate table settings.



Doug Tallamy

*The Dunwoody Garden Club
Invites you to Attend a Special Presentation*

Nature's Best Hope

*Presented by Doug Tallamy
Entomologist, Wildlife Ecologist and Author*

Saturday, October 25, 2025

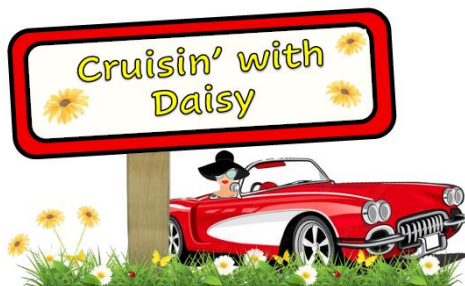
*Presentation at 4:00; Doors Open at 3:00
Dunwoody High School Auditorium*

Attendance is Free but Tickets are Required

Visit Their Website for More Information
www.dunwoodygardenclub.com



~ REDBUD DISTRICT NEWS ~



The 52nd Redbud District Standard Flower Show

"Cruisin' With Daisy"

was held at First United Methodist Church of Tucker Activities Building on Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13, and what a fun show this was! Held in conjunction with the **Cruise in Tucker** event on Main Street, a classic car theme was evident throughout the show. The 36 designs were stunning, and there were 450 pieces of horticulture! There were two educational exhibits, and an interesting addition to this year's show was Botanical Arts awards for Photography, with lots of entries!

Federation members who were Top Exhibitor Award winners will be listed in next month's newsletter.

(**Gale Thomas**, Chairman; **Joy Zaidan**, Co-Chairman)



View From the Entrance



**NGC Awards Table
(Local Awards on Adjacent Table)**



**64TH ANNUAL REDBUD DISTRICT MEETING
AND FABULOUS BASKET RAFFLE!!**

Daisy's Adventures Continue – Join Her on the Ride!

“Cruisin’ With Daisy on the Highway of the Future”

The Ray Highway hosts the nation’s first pollinator-friendly right-of-way solar project located on Exit 14 on I-85 in Troup County, Georgia.

***Guest Speaker—Josh Weaver, Ph.D.
Natural Capital Manager for The Ray***

***Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Registration Due Date – **October 3**, 2025***

***First Baptist Church Griffin Family Life Center
232 S. 8th Street, Griffin, GA 30224***

***Hosted by
The Garden Club of Griffin
The Dogwood Garden Club***

***Honored Guest Diane Hunter, President
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.***

(Registration Form and Raffle Basket Information Attached)

(Bonnie Dudley, Redbud District Director)



~ GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA ~



GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA AWARDS

Just a reminder – GCG Awards previously due on December 1 are now due on November 15. They must be received by State Awards Chairman, Diana Malone, by that date. Most applications can be emailed, but yearbooks need to be mailed and, based on postal delivery problems we are experiencing, any application that is mailed should probably be done by November 1 to ensure timely delivery to Diana.

(Glenn dolyn Hallman, Awards Chairman)



GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIPS

Do we ever tire of saying or hearing that we awarded \$90,000.00 to 15 students this past February 2025?! Their excitement and gratitude are beyond expression what our support means and how invaluable it is now and for generations to come.

Two students received NGC grants of \$3900 each. Lucas Brock, a former grant recipient, is now completing his Ph.D. Tyler Williamson received the NGC Deen Day Sanders Scholarship. Tyler graduated with a UGA Master's Degree in Agribusiness, and continues to work in his family business in Lincolnton. Alana Edwards was the 2025 recipient of one of the two Deep South Garden Clubs Scholarships awarded. This chairman was honored to accept the certificate at the March 2025 DSGC Convention on her behalf.

Alana and Lucas accepted the invitation for luncheon at our GCG Fall State Board Meeting on September 10 in Athens. Both students presented a brief report about their accomplishments and their continuing goals. In addition, a current UGA student and former student of Lucas Brock shared how Mr. Brock advanced and guided his path in Agriculture Environmental Systems (AES) to preserve wildlife and wetlands.

In April we celebrated Monica Bozonier, Dogwood District Director, along with the Dynamic Dogwoods, as she received the crown as Queen of Scholarships at the GCG Convention. We celebrated our 10th year with Dollars Educate Scholars and thank you for supporting this on-going fundraiser.

We look forward to presenting the Named & Patrons of Scholarship Certificates of Appreciation to our clubs and individuals at the October Annual District Meetings. Your

support is recognized by the students, and they are truly thankful to the members of GCG for all gifts of any amount.

We ask that you continue to make Scholarships a part of your giving as you return to meetings with your GCG Clubs, Councils, Federations and Districts. Continued donations for Named Scholarships, Patrons of Scholarships, Honors and Memorials, General Fund Contributions, Life Memberships and Dollars Educate Scholars are all appreciated and make a difference in our giving. Consider a Scholarship Honorarium for a valued club member, speaker, family member or friend.

On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee, we thank you for being a part of their lives. These young people are dedicated to the same mission as The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Beautification, Conservation and Education.

(Susan Turner, GCG Scholarship Chairman – taken from her report to the GCG Board)

It's All About The Youth!

GCG Youth Garden Clubs Digging In with Our Redbud Youth Today and For Future Generations!

Sponsoring a GCG Youth Garden Club may be easier than you think!
Attached are a few ways to begin and program ideas to help you get started.

Whatever you would like to share, the kids are going to love!

Also **attached** is information on the following youth opportunities

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Poetry Contest

Youth Sculpture Contest

(Melody Gaskins, Redbud Youth Chairman, 706-975-6609

melodythompsongaskins@gmail.com)

(Susan Turner, Redbud Youth Co-Chairman, 770-922-4411 (c) 404-502-8147

glencree@bellsouth.net)



Join the Century Club and Support the Celebration of the 100th Birthday of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.! Mail your check for \$100, payable to GCG, to Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman, 6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-2828. Pins will be distributed at the Redbud District Meeting on October 15. Visit the GCG website for details and the donation form.

(Barbara Bourque, 404-374-2828; b.bourque@comcast.net)

CALLANWOLDE CORNER

Jazz on the Lawn

2025 Jazz on the Lawn Musicians:

Only Two Performances Left!

October 4th – Eddie & Mayi Lopez Orquestra Macuba

October 17th – Joe Gransden's Big Band

999 Briarcliff Acquisition – Callanwolde is in the process of acquiring the Metro Church property directly across the street from the mansion.

- Houses dance, drawing and painting, indoor performances
- Expands capacity for veterans' programming and summer camp
- Frees existing space to expand pottery, gallery space, and non-profit collaborations
- Adds 140 parking spaces without cutting down a single tree

Callanwolde Legacy Bricks for Sale

Your brick can include your name, an encouraging message, or pay tribute to a friend or loved one who has been touched by Callanwolde.

Please consider Callanwolde in your charitable giving plans.

- General Support Donation
- Capital Campaign Donation

Additional information on all of this – and more – can be found on the Callanwolde website; www.callanwolde.org.

We look forward to seeing you all at our meetings, and to hearing from you if you have any questions or need additional information.



Please mark your calendars for upcoming **Federation** events:

- Federation General Meeting **September 25**
- Federation Board Meeting **October 2**
- Federation General Meeting **October 23**
- Holidays For Heroes Cards Due by **October 23**
- Project Fig Leaf Donations Due by **October 23**
- Federation Board Meeting **November 6**
- Leading Lights Luncheon and Fashion Show **November 13**

Also, other upcoming garden club events:

- Redbud District Annual Meeting **October 15**
- Due Date to Register for Redbud District Meeting **October 3**
- Dunwoody Garden Club Doug Tallamy Event **October 25**
- Most GCG Awards Applications Due **November 15**

Rigby Duncan
Communications Chairman
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