



JANUARY 2026

Hello Federation Friends,



Welcome back to a new year of garden club activities!

PLEASE NOTE: If our meeting is cancelled due to weather concerns, we will send a notice the evening before via email!!

Our next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, January 22, 2026**, at 10:30 in the Courtyard at Callanwolde. **Club Presidents**, please share this information with your members.

“Designers Showcase”

In lieu of a Mini-Flower Show, this month we are showcasing five DeKalb Federation member designers: **Diane Hunter, Faye Long, Sandy Reed, Susan Turner, and Gale Thomas**. Each designer will be assigned a specific design type to create. For the program, each will discuss the design parameters and share her design strategy, and plant and container selection for the design.

(Gale Thomas, Programs Chairman)

And don't forget our monthly raffle. **Mountain Mums 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:

Mountain Mums Garden Club

Hospitality Chairmen, **Melanie Chastain and Faye Long**, 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. However, due to the design topic of this month's program, there will not be a Mini-Flower Show. The next show will be in March.



(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.

(Ann Purr, Garden Center Director)



PROJECT FIG LEAF

I continue to collect donations of men's and women's new underwear and socks, and toiletries of any size (full-size especially appreciated), for the residents at Georgia Regional Hospital-Atlanta. In early December I made a trip to the Hospital with a car full of donations from clubs in DeKalb Federation and Redbud District. My contact with the hospital greeted me (**photo below**) and told me that her supervisor had been anxious to hear from us. They know they can depend on us to make that early December donation. As we have stated before, we are the only organization delivering these new donations to the residents. Please continue to bring your donations to our meetings or give me a call if you need me to pick them up (770-630-5539). I plan to make another delivery in the spring.



(**Glenndolyn Hallman, Community Service/Improvement Chairman**)



The Great Backyard Bird Count - February 13-16, 2026

This is now a global event. Take 15 minutes on one, or all the days. The web site www.birdcount.org has clear instructions.

Enjoy becoming a citizen scientist. The data is important. Are the bird numbers holding steady or still declining?

Do go outside, there are so many more birds to be seen than from your window.

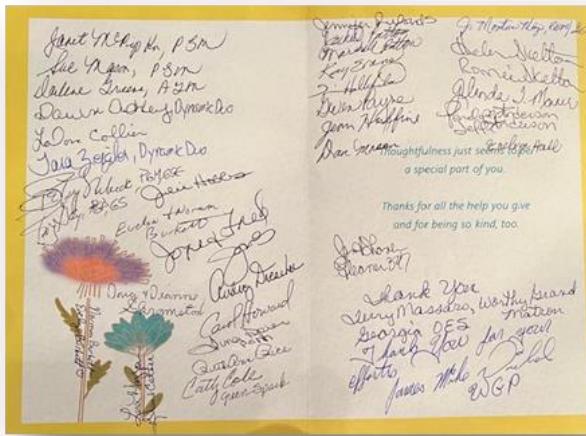
(**Lorene Faulkenberry, Birds and Pollinators Chairman**)



Holidays for Heroes

What a great response we had to our drive for holiday cards for our military heroes! This year club members donated 3421 Holiday cards for our active military personnel overseas. DeKalb Federation partnered with the Order of the Eastern Star to deliver the cards to Fort Gordon. My contact with Eastern Star has told me that they always look forward to our donation because it is so "correct." Always following all the rules. She says we could teach a class on how it is done! Below is a thank you note from the ladies who work with this project. I want to thank all club members who participated in making this a banner year for donations. Start saving those holiday cards for next year!

(Glenndolyn Hallman, Community Service/Improvement 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, for the period April 2025-March 2026. Please bring your tabs to our January or February Federation meeting.

(Glenndolyn Hallman, Pull-A-Tab Chairman)





BOOK SALE ROLLS ON!!

The book sale is back! There will be a book sale at our meeting on **January 22**. 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**)

Leading Lights 21st Anniversary Celebration



Our 21st Anniversary Leading Lights gala was held on Thursday, November 13 and it was a **big** success! 140 guests shopped our several vendors, purchased raffle tickets for our array of baskets and gift cards, and bid on silent auction items, donated by our clubs and businesses. The highlight of the day was the fashion show presented by **Carolee's** in Historic Downtown Norcross. Thanks to our lovely models (pictured below) who showcased the fashions: **Rita Maloof** (Mountain Mums), **Janet McGinnis** (Smoke Rise Morning Glories), **Iwalani Barbazon** (Leafmore Hills), **Carolee Armstrong-Smith** (Fashion Coordinator), **Kathy Rhinehart** (Mountain Mums) **Christi Granger** (Avondale Estates), and **Pat Baumann** (Mountain Mums). And we could not have done it without the help of all our volunteers!

We are grateful to all of you who supported our event, especially the wonderful Callanwolde staff.

(Rigby Duncan, Fundraising Chairman)





BEAUTIFYING THE GARDEN CENTER GROUNDS

January is often the time for gardeners to research, study and dream about their plans for the Spring and Summer growing seasons. Seed and bulb catalogs arrive and show glorious photos of perfect plants in full bloom to whet your appetite for what may come.

This year our 250th birthday as a nation will be celebrated. We have been asked by National Garden Club and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. to:

“Plant Red, White and Blue in Georgia’s Gardens Great and Small”

The chairman of this project is Nilsa Summey from the Magnolia District. She will be collecting photographs of community and private gardens with this theme all year long. A giant collage of photos from all seven districts will be created to celebrate this special occasion. More details on this will be published soon. Her contact information is nilsa.summey@yahoo.com. Nilsa has asked that we start planning our patriotic themed gardens now.



With that in mind, we have ordered our own Plant America garden flag to adorn our garden space at DeKalb Federation headquarters at Callanwolde. Our Federation garden volunteers will begin planning our tribute this winter. We will honor our country with a beautiful display of red, white and blue plantings with the flag as our inspiration.

We will be gardening this winter, weather permitting. If you want to be part of the fun and have suggestions on the new patriotic theme for 2026, contact President Sandy Reed; sandyreed17@gmail.com or Co- Chairman Quill Duncan; quillduncan@msn.com.
(Quill Duncan & Sandy Reed, Landscape Advisory Chairmen)



FEDERATION AWARDS

Federation awards applications are due by **March 1**. Complete details and a fillable application form can be found on the Federation website, www.dekalbfederation.com under **Resources/Forms**. Our Annual Awards Recognition will be held on **April 22**.
(**Glenndolyn Hallman, Awards Chairman**)

FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND DUES FORM

Just a reminder that Presidents' Reports and Club dues of **\$25** are due by **March 1**. Fillable forms can be found on the DeKalb Federation website, www.dekalbfederation.com under **Resources/Forms**.
(**Sandy Reed, Federation President**)

PUBLIC GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Did you know that DeKalb Federation has a grant that supports member clubs in improving public grounds, including school grounds, libraries and other public areas? Up to two \$250 grants are available each year. Grounds Improvement includes beautification as well as environmental education. Last year, projects at Smoke Rise Elementary School and the Tucker Police Station were funded.

To apply, clubs should submit the following: location of the project and how the project was selected; the scope of the project; value to the community and how it will be maintained; club participation in the project; before and after photographs. Clubs may apply for this grant at any time during the year for new or ongoing projects. For more information, contact **Public Grounds Improvement Grants Chairman Sheldon Fleming**, sfleming@stonecrestga.gov.



We now have a Facebook page! Many thanks to 1st Vice President **Dee Montgomery** for setting this up. We'll be using this page to get out information on upcoming events and to highlight Federation projects and programs. Check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579020582892>.

If your club has an activity they'd like to have posted to the site, send it to Sandy Reed (sandyreed17@gmail.com) or Dee Montgomery (deengillie@outlook.com).

(**Sandy Reed, Federation President**)

DeKalb Federation Celebrates America and Life Members!!

Our February Meeting on Thursday, **February 26**, will honor all Life Members of our Federation and honor a new Life Member of the Year. The application form can be found on the Federation website, and is due, along with your tax-deductible check for \$50 by **February 16**, to submit a nominee for this honor, or fill it out for yourself if YOU are not a Life Member. You may honor a friend, a club member, your garden club, a speaker, as a memorial, or someone who has given special support to your club. Please include a short bio of your honoree(s) who will be recognized and presented with a life membership card and pin.

The application form can be found on the Federation website, www.dekalbfederation.com under **Resources/Forms**.

For further information, please contact me at martinezjw@comcast.net; 404-274-5491.

(**Julie Martinez, Life Membership Chairman**)

~ CLUB CORNER ~

CONYERS GARDEN CLUB SHARES THE JOY

Since 2017, the Conyers Garden Club has shared Christmas decorations and joy with various agencies in Conyers/Rockdale Community. The annual program involves the club members sharing the inspirations behind their specific decorated tree or wreath. Even during the COVID pandemic, deliveries were made to open offices after the club members used Zoom to show off photos of their decorated items.

On December 9, CGC held its annual Christmas Share the Joy program. Members of the club brought in decorated miniature trees and various sized wreaths. Afterwards the decorated items were delivered to various county and city offices and agencies: The Rockdale County Sheriff's Department, Conyers Police Department, Rockdale County Fire Department, Piedmont Rockdale Women's Diagnostic Center, Magnolia House Assisted Living and Memory Care Center, the Mayor's Office, Conyers Presbyterian Church (hosts the CGC) office, Rockdale County Extension Office and the Nancy Quinn Memorial Library. (Pictured below are club members with their "joyful" decorations to share!)

(Article Submitted by **Gale Thomas**)



LULLWATER GARDEN CLUB DECORATES FOR THE BIRDS

In December, Lullwater Garden Club members didn't let the rain deter them from holiday decorating for the birds in Lullwater Conservation Garden. Club members brought orange wreaths, persimmons, cranberry garlands, suet ornaments, rice cakes ornaments and peanuts, bird seed, and rolled oats for bird feeders. Later in the month, more items were added and the bird feeders were refilled. A fun time was had by all as we provided food for the birds when their food sources are not as plentiful.

This project was begun by our Club Members in 1934. Last year, we found pictures and newspaper articles in our archives. So, 90 years later, the club members decided to renew the annual holiday decorating of the garden for the birds!

(**Nan Loftis**, President)

Katherine Strong shows the suet feeders she brought!



DUNWOODY GARDEN CLUB HOSTS DOUG TALLAMY

On October 25, the Dunwoody Garden Club sponsored nationally known ecologist, entomologist, author and professor, Dr. Doug Tallamy, to speak about the importance of native plants and what each of us can do to help our fragile ecosystem. This was a free event, held at the Dunwoody High School Auditorium – which is a lovely facility – and over 450 guests attended!

The event was a huge success! The doors were scheduled to open at 3:00 PM, Doug Tallamy presentation at 4:00, followed by a Question-and-Answer session. We had guests arriving at 2:30! In the hallway outside the auditorium, we had tables with representatives from the Georgia Native Plant Society, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Monarchs across Georgia, the Chattahoochee Nature Center and the Dunwoody Nature Center. These groups had great displays and information for our guests.

The club's goal is to encourage healthy environmental stewardship, and we could **not** have selected a better way to educate our guests about the importance of native plants for our ecosystem. Doug Tallamy made a compelling case for the urgent need for everyone to do more to protect our native insects, which provide pollination and food for many mammals and non-mammals. Native plants feed our native insects! We can do this by:

- reducing our lawn space and planting natives
- leaving our leaf litter for them to overwinter
- using motion detectors and/or yellow light bulbs
- stop insecticide/mosquito spraying
- getting rid of invasive plants

Doug doesn't preach we have to get rid of our non-natives. He proposes we eliminate the invasives which choke out the natives, reduce our lawn areas – which provides nothing for the ecosystem, and plant natives. We can make a difference!!!

Our club members hope that you and our guests will spread the word!! Tell family, friends, neighbors, people you run into at the plant nurseries - about the importance of native plants to our ecosystem. If you ever get the chance to hear Doug speak, you will walk away inspired!

(Article Submitted by **Allison Metheny**)



Club President Patsy Newton and Allison Metheny



SMOKE RISE MORNING GLORIES RECYCLE PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES

The Smoke Rise Morning Glories adopted a new recycling project two years ago by donating empty plastic prescription bottles to the DeKalb County Lifeline Animal Shelter. Members collect and save the bottles, remove the labels or cross out their names on the label and bring them to the monthly meetings. The club chairman of this project collects the clean bottles for delivery to the animal shelter every few months.

The Shelter will use the bottles to provide necessary medications to be sent home with the adoptive or foster parents of the shelter dogs or cats. This saves the shelter money as they don't have to purchase as many bottles, and it keeps the still useful objects in circulation. Animal shelters are in every county in Georgia, and this simple project might be a fun and beneficial way to keep reusing those many prescription bottles instead of tossing them.

(Article Submitted by **Quill Duncan**)

HUNTING HILL GARDEN CLUB GIVES BACK

Members of Hunting Hill Garden Club were busy in December with two community projects. We "adopted" 12 deserving children in the Briarlake Elementary School family and helped their families bring them Christmas cheer. Pictured below are the bags of wrapped gifts that filled the back of Chairman **Caye Carscallen's** car.



Following a years-long tradition, on the morning of December 24, volunteers gathered to fill nearly 700 luminary bags with sand and candles and distribute throughout our neighborhood. At 6:30 Christmas Eve, the candles were lit and the entire neighborhood was transformed into a winter wonderland, enjoyed by walkers and drivers alike. Pictured above is some of the assembly team preparing the bags for distribution.

(**Rigby Duncan, Co-President**)



REDBUD DISTRICT NEWS

On **Monday, February 9** at 10:30 a.m., all Board Members and Club/Council Presidents are invited to attend the **Redbud District Winter Board Meeting** in the Courtyard at Callanwolde. Details will be sent in a separate email.

(**Bonnie Dudley, Redbud District Director;** bondudley@yahoo.com)

REDBUD FLORAL DESIGNERS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

On December 2, members of Redbud District's Designers' Judges Study Club joined with members of Creative Studies designers to celebrate the holidays at the annual North Georgia Council of Flower Show Judges (NGCFSJ) Christmas luncheon held at Bellmere. The luncheon followed a holiday themed program highlighting Christmas table centerpieces and holiday themed Botanical Arts designs. With a membership of over 65 flower show judges and student judges, the NGCFSJ offers programs to enhance the skills of the designers. It is also a proud supporter of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Flower Show Schools in Georgia. Attendees are pictured below.

(Article Submitted by **Gale Thomas**)





~ GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA ~

GCG CONVENTION

The Magnolia District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. invite Garden Club members to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s 98th Annual Convention at the Crown Plaza in Peachtree City, Georgia as "**GCG Celebrates America**". The Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center offers the perfect setting for the three days of information, fun, shopping, and fellowship. It has gorgeous outdoor scenery, beautiful lakes, and relaxing accommodations.

On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2026, there will be great workshops for skill development, celebration of garden clubs with awards for projects, and featured speakers to educate members. There will be a raffle for entertainment and a variety of interesting vendors for shopping pleasure. Enjoy the beautiful floral designs by the districts presented for your visual enjoyment plus learn about the educational exhibits which focus on programs of GCG.

Complete information, including the Convention Program, Convention Registration Form, Online Registration, and Hotel Registration may be found on the GCG website: www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org. Put GCG Convention in the search bar. **Please note that the due date for registering is March 14.**

(Rigby Duncan, Convention Registrar)

GCG PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Just a reminder that Garden Club of Georgia annual dues and Presidents' Reports are due by **February 15**. Presidents' Reports are to be completed online. Once submitted, they will automatically be sent to:

GCG State President, Diane Hunter
Redbud District Director, Bonnie Dudley
DeKalb Federation President, Sandy Reed

To access the forms, go to the GCG website, www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org, click on Member Resources/Finance and Administrative Forms. On the left of the screen under Administrative Forms are the instructions and form for the President's Report of Garden Club Achievements.



“Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education”

Join the Century Club and Support Our Celebration

Help defray the costs of our many celebrations in 2028. Donate \$100 and receive a Century Club lapel pin and other benefits.

ACCEPTING \$100 DONATIONS NOW

Mail your \$100 check, payable to GCG to:
Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman
6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641
b.bourque@comcast.net • 404-374-2828

See the GCG Website for details and the donation form.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. “*Dollars Educate Scholars*”

January is the deadline for Scholarship Donations!
Let's wrap up this giving period with Scholarship month!

- Members donating \$1.00 or more now through January will make a BIG impact on Scholarships
- Dollars Educate Scholars contributions from members are given via your garden club treasury
 - Your club treasurer writes one check to GCG to mail along with the completed form to:

GCG Assistant Treasurer, Frank Mullins 1184 Dunwick Dr. Avondale Estates, GA 30002
assttreasurer@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Please support your District and your Director in the 11th Annual Dollars Educate Scholars fundraiser! We will determine the winning District from contributions to Dollars Educate Scholars by funds received from clubs and the percentage of club participation within each district. The form to remit the funds can be found on the GCG website; www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org /Member Resources/Scholarships.

Join the fun at the GCG Annual Convention April 1-3, 2026, Crowne Plaza Atlanta, S.W. 201 Aberdeen Parkway, Peachtree City, GA 30269 Magnolia District will be our hosts, and it will be MAGNIFICENT! We will once again Crown the Queen of Scholarships! For additional information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman 770-922-4411 or 404-502-8147 glencree@bellsouth.net

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 these important dates:

Federation Dates:

January 22	Federation General Meeting, Callanwolde
February 5	Federation Board Meeting Via <i>Zoom & In Person</i>
February 16	Due Date For Life Member Applications
February 13-16	Great Backyard Bird Count
February 26	Federation Life Member Meeting, Callanwolde
March 1	Due Date For Awards Applications
March 1	Due Date For Club Presidents Reports
March 1	Due Date For Dues and Yearbook Info

GCG Dates:

January 31	Due Date For <i>Dollars Educate Scholars</i> Donations
January 31	Due Date For Donations to General Scholarship Fund
February 9	Redbud Winter Board Meeting, Callanwolde
February 15	Due Date for GCG Presidents' Reports/Dues
March 14	Due Date for GCG Convention Registrations
March 16-21	Deep South Convention
April 1-3	GCG 98th Annual Convention, Peachtree City

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