



MARCH 2024

Hello Federation Friends,



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, March 28**, at 10:30 in the Courtyard at Callanwolde. Our program will be ***The Joy of Bee Keeping***. Virginia Webb and her late husband, Carl, have won numerous local, state, national, and international awards for their harvest over the years, including four gold medals for Best Honey in the World at the World Honey Show. Her farm in Clarkesville, Georgia, contains 225 hives, housing between 12 to 16 million bees and producing tons of delicious honey for customers worldwide. Virginia has been teaching bee keeping at the John C. Campbell Folk School for fifteen years. DFGC members will have an opportunity to taste samples of Mtn. Honey as well as purchase it after the presentation. Virginia only accepts cash or checks. Check prices for honey under shop at <https://mtnhoney.com/>.

(Nancy Martin, Programs Chairman)

And don't forget our monthly raffle. Lullwater Garden Club is donating our raffle prize this month!

1 ticket for \$2.00; 3 tickets for \$5.00.

(Rigby Duncan, Fundraising Chairman)

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS

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

Lullwater Garden Club

Participating clubs will be contacted before the meeting.

(Christi Granger, Chairman)



LIFE MEMBER CEREMONY

At our annual **Federation Life Member Recognition Luncheon** held last month, we honored the following nine new Life Members, bringing our total to **395!** DeKalb Federation donates the life membership funds to the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund which benefits Georgia college students majoring in garden-related areas. This year the following were recognized by their garden clubs:

Avon Garden Club

Mary Lou Newcott-Oechsner

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Helen Dorroh

Sandy Sirmans

The Designers Judges' Study Club

Commemorating their 60th Anniversary

Lullwater Garden Club

Nan Loftis

Mountain Mums Garden Club

Connie Henry

Jean Weathers

Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club

Dolly Moy

Stonecrest Garden Club

Sheldon Fleming

The Life Member Program highlight was the presentation of the DeKalb Federation 2024 Life Member of the Year to **Gale D. Thomas**. Gale is currently President of both Conyers and Stonecrest Garden Clubs, DeKalb Federation Recording Secretary, Former Redbud District Director, and current GCG Corresponding Secretary.

Here is what the Conyers Garden Club presented:

Harry Firestone asserted that, "You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself." Our honoree gives the best of herself in so many ways. She has a plethora of enviable attributes, gifts, and talents. These emerged as a youngster and have been nurtured by self-determination and guidance.

Our honoree has scholastic accomplishments and innate abilities that she shares freely and willingly. She matriculated in college earning academic scholarships and subsequently earned a PH D. She is laser focused in doing tasks with excellence.

Professionally, she led a team of highly trained and skilled individuals who assessed, planned, and strategized educational and behavioral goals for children and adults. She taught multiple and invaluable life lessons to many audiences. Her visionary leadership and forward thinking afforded opportunities to excel in her career.

Personally, she is family oriented and intentionally goes about making memories with her family. Specifically, with her four grandchildren as they have entered some specimens in flower shows. She encourages their creativity by having them actively participate in her greeting card business. Her time with them and her daughter is reserved for quality versus the quantity of time. She encourages her grandchildren to be creative, kind, and studious. After all, the fruit does not fall far from the tree. She epitomizes integrity, creativity, discipline, tenacity, and lifelong learning.

She is also an active member of a highly regarded and prominent sorority and has held leadership positions. She also works to support the mission of her church. She has longevity as a servant leader.

Regarding the garden clubs, she is a member of three clubs and serves as president of two clubs. Her skills are remarkable and extraordinary. She is dedicated to the education of gardening and qualifies as a master gardener and floral designer. She has held leadership positions at the local, district, Federation and state levels. She serves on several boards. She has chaired and given oversight to various committees at different levels. She has been recognized and honored with numerous awards from the garden clubs for her accomplishments.

She embraces the heart of our garden club and continues to serve in key roles.

Our honoree "Aspires to Inspire."

Congratulations, **Gale**, for a well-deserved recognition! Below (from left) **Quill Duncan**, Federation President; **Gale Thomas**, Life Member of the Year; and **Peggy Burgess**, Federation Life Member Chairman.



GARDEN CENTER NEWS

The Garden Center continues to be closed; however, 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**)



FEDERATION PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND ANNUAL DUES

Thanks to all of the clubs who have submitted their President's Club Activity Report and paid their annual dues. If you have not done so, please send them in as soon as possible.

(Federation President, **Quill Duncan**)



FEDERATION AWARDS

Thanks to everyone who submitted awards applications! We received 44 applications from 11 clubs, and the Awards Committee has met and judged the awards. We are really looking forward to our Awards Luncheon next month when we. . .



The Winners!!

Applause Applause! It is time for your club to sparkle and shine at our Annual Awards Luncheon on Thursday, **April 25** in the Courtyard at Callanwolde. Invitations have been distributed and the due date for reservations is **April 18**. We will be recognizing lots of winners, enjoying a delicious catered lunch, and *celebrating*, so we should have an exciting time! Invitations have been sent electronically, and we have also attached one for your convenience.

(Awards Committee, **Glennolyn Joy, Rigby, Gale and Peggy**)



ROLLING BOOK SALE ROLLS ON!!

The book sale is on! We will bring a selection of **300 books** to our meeting this month to sell at minimal prices, most of which are priced at \$2.00. The proceeds will be donated to NCG's Natural Disaster Fund.

(Treasurer, **Ann Purr**)

The League of Legends



OUR LEGENDS RETURN!

Celebrate our Legends! This May join us in celebration of accomplishments. Meet our new club presidents and celebrate our longtime members. On May 30 we'll add another crop of amazing ladies to our Legends Club. We created the club in 2017 to honor those wonderful, long-term, dedicated members who've reach the age of 90 during the past year, June 2023 through May 2024. We're asking club members to scan your old and new rosters and identify the amazing women who've given so much inspiration to your clubs and the Federation. Don't worry if you've found that you've missed someone; just send their names along, too. Each honoree will get special recognition and a special PowerPoint presentation with their accomplishments. We're asking nominators to gather a little bit of information about each honoree – comments, a couple of photos. Each honoree will have roughly four slides.

Each member will get a lovely certificate, a framed copy of Michele Spears' invitation and listing in the yearbook and garden center.

Send your information and/or questions to Diane Hunter (drmchunter@yahoo.com, 404-992-7381) no later than **April 28, 2024**.

Information Requested:

Local Club and Person Nominating

Legend's Name

Legend's Mailing Address

Legend's Phone

Legend's email, if any

Two or Three Member Comments About the Legend

Two or Three Photos of the Member From Any Time Period

Thanks for making this an amazing event!
(Legends Chairman, **Diane Hunter**)

Mark Your Calendars – for our Annual Federation Sale of



Donated Jewelry and Gently Used Purses

at our May 30 General Meeting

“Bring your Bling” to the March and April Meetings,
(Fundraising Chairman **Rigby Duncan**)



The Great Backyard Bird Count – February 16-19, 2024

Final numbers for the [2024 Great Backyard Bird Count](#) are in! What a phenomenal year with more species of birds reported than ever before.

GBBC 2024 in a Snapshot:

- 7,920 species of birds identified
- 210 countries or subregions
- 384,416 eBird checklists
- 313,874 Merlin Bird IDs (step-by-step, sound, or photo)
- 164,740 photos, videos, and sounds added to Macaulay Library
- 642,003 estimated global participants
- 385 reported community events

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

~ CLUB CORNER ~

We would like to feature the activities and accomplishments of our member clubs, so please send your articles and photos to rigbyduncan113@gmail.com!



You are invited to the **Dunwoody Garden Club's** 46th annual card party, luncheon, “**Swing Into Spring,**” location as in recent years, the spacious Fellowship Hall at Dunwoody United Methodist Church, [1548 Mount Vernon Rd](http://www.dunwoodygardenclub.com), on **April 5 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Tickets are \$35 each for a light breakfast and coffee, delicious lunch, Chico's spring fashion show, silent auction, along with your games, fellowship, and fun. This is our only fundraiser every year and it allows the Dunwoody Garden Club to continue its many projects to help beautify Dunwoody and environs. Tickets can be purchased on our website, www.dunwoodygardenclub.com. Ticket purchase deadline is Monday, **March 25**. The Dunwoody Garden Club appreciates your support and look forward to seeing you on April 5. Any questions, call Bonnie at 770-639-3510. *"We Dig Dunwoody!"*

Conyers Garden Club Turns 75

On February 13, 2024, the Conyers Garden Club celebrated 75 years of service to the Rockdale/Conyers Community. In recognition of this momentous occasion, recognitions and proclamations were received during the club's meeting from the Rockdale County Commissioners and the City of Conyers Mayor. Immediately following the meeting, the club members had a small and intimate luncheon at the nearby Thai restaurant where they were joined by former members and honored guests, Kim Fair, Redbud District Director, and Quill Duncan, DeKalb Federation President for a luncheon and program. During the program, led by First V.P. Jessica Warren and Awards Chairman, Susan Turner, previous club presidents shared their favorite memories of their time in leadership. The program and luncheon were enjoyed by all.

Additionally, in recognition of Valentine's Day, club members presented boxes of cookies to various government and civic offices. The cookie treats were delivered or presented to the nine fire stations, the Mayor's Office and the County Commissioners Office, the local Piedmont Rockdale Hospital, Rockdale Sheriff's Office and Conyers Police Station. Additional cookie treats were presented to the Nancy Guinn Memorial Library and the First Presbyterian Church, which hosts the club's monthly meetings. The February cookie deliveries are an annual activity of the club.



Conyers Garden Club Members Receiving 75th Anniversary Proclamation From Conyers Mayor Vince Evans

Lakeside Supports Project Fig Leaf

Katie Sanio, granddaughter of Valley Garden Club member, **Betty Jeanne Byrd**, recently organized a drive, in support of **Project Fig Leaf**, to collect toiletries for the patients at Georgia Regional Hospital. Participating were the Beta Club and National Honor Society at Lakeside High School. We are so very appreciative of the support we have received from these organizations, who also donated many holiday cards for our **Holidays for Heroes** project last fall.

Katie is pictured below loading donated items into Glenndolyn's car.
(**Glenndolyn Hallman**, Community Service Chairman)





REDBUD DISTRICT NEWS

Remarkable Redbuds have been very busy making the final arrangements for The Garden Club of Georgia Convention next month at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Peachtree City. We hope that many of you will be able to attend, **but remember** -



- to send in your registration!! The due date is **March 31**, and you can register on-line at www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org. The link is at the bottom of the Home Page, or you can register by check using the Convention Registration Form attached to this newsletter.

Questions? Please contact Convention Chairman, Quill Duncan, quillduncan@msn.com, or Convention Registrar, Rigby Duncan, rigbyduncan113@gmail.com.

Y'all Come!!



~ GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA ~

IT'S CONVENTION SEASON – One Last Reminder!!



**The Garden Club of Georgia's 96th Annual Convention
Hosted by Redbud District
April 16-17, 2024
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Peachtree City**



SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of The Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Committee recently met and reviewed 21 applications of 14 students applying for GCG, Deep South, and NGC scholarships. The total amount awarded was **\$85,000**.

Thank you so much for your support of scholarships. It means the world to our students!

(**Susan Turner**, GCG Scholarship Chairman)

CALLANWOLDE CORNER

Callanwolde Spring Concert Series

Callanwolde is proud to host the 2024 Spring Concert Series in our beautiful outdoor amphitheater. The Callanwolde Amphitheater provides an intimate atmosphere to spend time with friends, unwind, and experience an evening of live music surrounded by the natural beauty of the Callanwolde Estate. Guests are invited to bring blankets, chairs, food and drinks. The amphitheater features VIP tables and General Admission lawn seating. Complete details may be found at www.callanwolde.org.

2024 Series Schedule

March 22nd – Alanna Royale

April 5th – Phillip Michael Scales

April 19th – Russell Cook & the Sweet Teeth

May 3rd – Ruby Velle & the Soulphonics

Complete details may be found at www.callanwolde.org.

Be sure to check their website for a complete list of available classes: dance, pottery, gardening, and media craft.



It's Salsa Night at Callanwolde – a Night of Cuban Music and Dance!

Friday, March 29

Experience the fun of a salsa dance party in the historic Callanwolde mansion! Dancers of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend. New to Salsa? No problem! Come early for a beginner's bachata class at 6:00pm followed by a salsa class at 6:30pm. DJs will play from 7:00-10:00pm - mostly salsa with a sprinkle of bachata!

Classes begin at 6:00, DJs and dancing from 7:00-10:00pm. Entry is \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. Advance tickets are suggested as space is limited. Free parking. This event is all ages. Soft drinks and water available for purchase at the bar. Beer & wine may be purchased with ID.

Email dance@callanwolde.org for questions or more info.

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, Callanwolde **March 28**
- Federation Board Meeting, Garden Center/**Zoom April 4**
- Dunwoody Garden Club Fundraiser **April 5**
- Reservation due date for Awards Luncheon **April 18**
- Annual Awards Celebration, Callanwolde **April 25**
- Federation Board Meeting, Garden Center/**Zoom May 2**
- Federation General Meeting, Callanwolde **May 30**
- Legends Club Recognition Ceremony **May 30**
- Recognition of Club Presidents **May 30**
- Jewelry and Purse Sale **May 30**

Also, other upcoming garden club events:

- Garden Week in Georgia, **April 14-20**
- GCG 96th Annual Convention, Peachtree City **April 16-17**
- NGC National Convention, Denver **May 2-5**

Rigby Duncan
Communications Chairman
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