



The North Carolina Gardener

**“Growing Together”
Winter 2026**

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

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

Winter 2026-Vol. 92 No.1



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ELECTED OFFICERS 2025-2027

PRESIDENT

Charles McLendon
PresidentGCNC@gardenclubofnc.org

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Wright
firstvp@gardenclubofnc.org

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Suzanne Gurski
secondvp@gardenclubofnc.org

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

Frances Cain
thirdvp@gardenclubofnc.org

TREASURER

Laura Oden
treasurer@gardenclubofnc.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Vicki Corporon
sec@gardenclubofnc.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Charline Sims
correspondingsec@gardenclubofnc.org

PARLIMENTARIAN

Tish Hatem
parliamentarian@gardenclubofnc.org

CHAPLAIN

Cathy Green
Chaplain@gardenclubofnc.org



GCNC AFFILIATES

**Flower Show Judges
Council of North Carolina**

Diana Bauman
leeverb@hotmail.com

**Wilmington Cape Fear
Rose Society**

www.wcfrs.org
Denise H. Miller
denise_28411@yahoo.com

The Elizabethan Gardens

1411 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC
info@elizabethangardens.org
www.elizabethangardens.org

Member

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region

GCNC

Organized 1925
Federated 1930
Incorporated 1940

www.GARDENCLUBIFNC.ORG

CIRCULATION MANAGER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

Ruth Garver
Office Manager

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00AM-4:00PM

Tel: 919-593-6319
Email:Office@gardenclubofnc.org

EDITOR

Karen Doersam
ncgardener@gardenclubofnc.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Marilyn Wright
firstvp@gardenclubofnc.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
Landes Rigby
landesgcncpublicity@gmail.com

Our mission is to provide education, resources, and networking opportunities for our members and to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

We're trying something new!

Publicity Chair
Landes Rigby



Welcome 2026! I moved North Carolina 2 years ago and continue to be amazed by the variety our great state has to offer. As a member of the Coastal Garden Club I am learning best practices for maintaining my garden/yard in the harsh coastal climate, acquiring new skills in the principles of floral design while getting involved in the community. Pulling together submissions for this publication I am looking forward to traveling to many of the upcoming events we are hosting across the state this year!

With the Winter 2026 Gardener issue we are trying an updated format that we hope will direct you to the most relevant club information from across the state. I want to thank everyone for their submissions and for using the new Jotform process! This is the best way for us to securely and efficiently gather content for future newsletter editions. For your next submission please go to our website: gardenclubofnc.org and find the GCNC Newsletter Article submission form (Jotform) under the Publications tab on the home page. Any club member can send in a submission. The primary purpose of the Gardener Quarterly publication is to share the amazing things we are doing at a local level, celebrate our accomplishments and provide ideas and inspiration for other clubs looking to expand or update their programs. The new Save the Date calendar will give us the opportunity to plan travel to club sponsored events. (Who doesn't want to come to the beach in April to check out the Coastal Garden Club's Quilted Flowers show?)

If I missed your submission in this issue, I will work to improve for the next time. Please be sure to include the names of members along with a photo title when you submit pictures. If you have any suggestions or recommendations on what you would like to include in the newsletter please let me know: landesgcncpublicity@gmail.com.

Wishing you a fruitful gardening season! Landes

Gardener Quarterly Newsletter Schedule:

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Spring (Apr-Jun)	March 1	April 1
Summer (Jul-Sep)	June 1	Jul 1
Fall (Oct-Dec)	September 1	October 1
Winter (Jan-Mar)	December 1	January 1

President's Message

Charles McLendon



Growing Together Through Communication, Collaboration, and Education

As we welcome a new and exciting year for the Garden Club of North Carolina, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your continued support, dedication, and commitment to your local clubs and our organization as a whole.

Our theme for this year—“Growing Together Through Communication, Collaboration, and Education”—reflects both who we are and where we are going. Strong communication keeps us connected and informed. Meaningful collaboration allows us to share ideas, talents, and resources. Ongoing education equips us to grow as gardeners, leaders, and stewards of our communities and environment.

Across North Carolina, your work continues to make a difference. From beautification projects and environmental efforts to civic engagement and educational programs, you are enriching the communities where we live and strengthening the bonds that unite us as garden club members. Your service not only enhances our landscapes but also inspires others to care for and protect our wonderful state.

As we move forward together this year, may we embrace new opportunities, support one another, and remain open to learning and growing—both individually and collectively. I look forward to all we will accomplish together and to celebrating the impact of our shared efforts.

Thank you for all that you do and for being such an important part of the Garden Club of North Carolina.

With gratitude and best wishes for a successful year ahead,

Charles McLendon, President
Garden Club of North Carolina

What is TLC?

Info from 1st VP Marilyn Wright



A **TOMORROW'S LEGACY CONTRIBUTION** is a worthy action taken by a garden club or individual to support the Garden Club of North Carolina's state-wide community projects. Seven agencies receive funds from the **TLC** program. The \$70 contribution is divided among:

- Daniel Boone Native Gardens
- GCNC Scholarship Fund
- J. C. Raulston Arboretum
- Martha Franck Fragrance Gardens
- NC Botanical Gardens
- The Elizabethan Gardens
- The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina



Donors and individuals can choose how the money is divided. The club or individual is honored with a **TOMORROW'S LEGACY CERTIFICATE**.

How did this program begin?

Our earliest mention of TLC is found in Ruth Shipp Yarbrough's description of her two-year presidency as GCNC president (1983-1985). The next GCNC president, Jackie Rogers describes the program as a way to recognize GCNC's Sixtieth Year Anniversary in 1985 by encouraging members to actively participate in worthwhile programs. In 1985 the Nature Conservancy was added to Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Martha Franck Fragrance Gardens and the Elizabethan Gardens.

Today, when a club receives a Tomorrow's Legacy Certificate, they have shown responsible stewardship and a willingness to support the Garden Club of North Carolina's worthy endeavors.

Marilyn Wright

First Vice President

Historian

Garden Journaling: A Gardener's Time Machine

by Angela Foster
Washington Garden Club



Every member of our garden club has a story tucked somewhere between a row of tomatoes or beneath the branches of a favorite hydrangea. Perhaps it's the cutting that bloomed against all odds, the swallowtail caterpillar that faithfully returned, or the first crisp lettuce harvested before Easter. Yet as each new spring arrives, those small triumphs and mysteries tend to blur. Planting dates fade, weather quirks get forgotten, and the names of exceptional varieties slip from memory.

A simple garden journal changes that. It is, in many ways, a gardener's time machine—one that allows us to revisit seasons past, understand our landscape more intimately, and plant with greater confidence.

Why Reflecting Matters

Winter offers gardeners a welcome pause. Beds rest, tools are cleaned, and we finally have a moment to think. January, especially, invites us to review last year's notes and begin shaping the year ahead. Journaling transforms casual observations into meaningful patterns: When did the daffodils actually open? Which hydrangeas handled the heat best? Was that fungal issue due to rainfall or irrigation?

This practice becomes your personal phenology record, charting local bloom times, wildlife activity, and seasonal rhythms that are unique to your garden.

What to Include

There is no single "right" way to journal. Some gardeners sketch and write reflections; others rely on charts or lists. Consider including:

Garden layouts and sketches

Document bed arrangements, spacing, and combinations that flourished or failed.

Plant profiles

Note variety names, sources, planting dates, bloom periods, and standout traits.

Weather notes

Track rainfall, frost dates, and unusual temperature swings.

Bloom and harvest timing

Over years, these patterns reveal how your microclimate is shifting.

Successes and lessons learned

From pest outbreaks to surprise triumphs, each becomes a helpful guide for future seasons.

Inspirational ideas

Save catalog clippings, design sketches, or notes from club tours and workshops.

Garden Journaling Continued...

Paper or Digital?

Both are wonderful. A sturdy notebook and a good pen invite reflection. Digital tools—such as GrowVeg, Planta, or a simple spreadsheet—offer reminders and easy organization. Choose the method that encourages consistency

Journal with Emotional Roots

Beyond data, journaling deepens our connection to the garden. Many gardeners describe it as a mindfulness practice—one that slows us down and helps us notice the subtle beauty of each season. Over time, a journal becomes an heirloom, preserving family stories alongside plant records. It captures the heart of a garden as much as the facts.

Using the Past to Plan Ahead

As you page through last year's notes, you'll find practical guidance for the year ahead:

Rotate crops to reduce disease.

Plan succession plantings based on last year's harvest windows.

Identify perennials that need dividing.

Track wildlife and pollinator activity across seasons.

Your journal becomes a personalized gardening encyclopedia—one far more useful than any general guidebook.

Easy Ways to Begin This Winter

Start with a year-end summary.

Create sections for months or plant groups.

Add quick snapshots from your phone.

Keep expectations realistic—small, consistent notes are enough.

Revisit your journal seasonally as part of your gardening rhythm.

Your Journal as a Climate Record

Garden journals also serve a larger purpose. Collected notes—such as first blooms or frost dates—mirror broader environmental changes. These observations help scientists understand shifting climate patterns, and gardeners across the country are increasingly contributing to citizen-science efforts.

Why January Is Ideal

Seed catalogues are arriving, ideas are stirring, and the garden is quiet enough to reflect.

This is the perfect moment to look back with clarity and look forward with purpose.

Garden Journaling Continued...

Final Thoughts

Every garden holds stories worth preserving. A thoughtfully kept journal ensures they won't be lost. As you prepare for another season of color, fragrance, and discovery, take a few minutes to record what you've learned. One day, when you turn a page and find a note about the first hummingbird or a favorite rose, the garden will come alive again right in your hands.

Suggested Reading

The Garden Journal, Planner and Log Book — Joy Larkcom

A Year in the Garden — Phaidon Editors

Keeping a Nature Journal — Clare Walker Leslie

NC State Extension: "Garden Journals and Planning Tools" (content.ces.ncsu.edu)



Save the Date:

Upcoming Club Events from Around the State
Mark Your Calendar!



March 10, DAVIDSON HORTICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM XL presented by the Davidson Garden Club

March 18-22 , ART IN BLOOM Raleigh (NO FLYER)

March 20-21, SOUTHERN ATLANTIC REGION (SAR) CONVENTION West Virginia, Parkersburg, WV

April 8-12 AZELEA FESTIVAL Wilmington, Azelea Festival (NO FLYER)

April 10, PLANT & ATTIC SALE presented by the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs

April 24-25 QUILTED FLOWERS FLOWER SHOW presented by the Coastal Garden Club

April 25 IN FULL BLOOM GARDEN TOUR presented by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Garden Club

May 4-6 NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL CONVENTION, St Louis MO (NO FLYER)

May 17-18 GARDEN CLUB NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING-A Celebration In Bloom, Greensboro

October 26-28 FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL 1, JC Roulston Arboretum, Raleigh

Save the Date: March 10 Davidson Horticultural Symposium XL

The Davidson Garden Club Presents
DAVIDSON HORTICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM XL

40 YEARS:

Celebrating the Ever-Changing Garden

Are you seeking to renew your passion for gardening? Do you find yourself navigating an overwhelming array of garden literature, presentations, and media, yet still searching for meaningful guidance? You are cordially invited to join us as we answer these questions and celebrate four decades of growth and transformation. In honor of the enduring and ever-changing nature of the garden, we welcome you to celebrate with us.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Bryce Lane, NCSU Professor Emeritus, Producer/Host “In the Garden with Bryce Lane”

The Joy of Gardening: The Power of Plants to Change Your Point of View

Preston Montague, Landscape Architect & Artist

Towards Ecosystem Service Potential: A Framework for Decision-Making in the Garden

Rebecca Sweet, Garden Designer & Principal of Harmony in The Garden & Author

Refresh Your Garden Design: Simple Strategies to Wake a Weary Garden

Bobby Mottern, Director of Horticulture, Sarah P. Duke Gardens

The Sarah P. Duke Gardens: Where Craft and Nature Coalesce

For more info and to register online beginning December 15, 2025:

WWW.DAVIDSONSYMPOSIUM.ORG



Save the date: March 18-22 Art In Bloom

About

This event features the stunning creativity of floral designers from across the state and beyond who interpret works of art in the People's Collection. Art in Bloom is a five-day floral fundraiser in support of the North Carolina Museum of Art

Art in Bloom, Presented by PNC

Dates: March 18, 2026 - March 22, 2026

Recurrence: Recurring daily

Presenting Organization: PNC

Venue: [North Carolina Museum of Art](#)

Location: [West Raleigh](#)

Address: 2110 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: [919.715.5923](tel:919.715.5923)

Times: Wed., 10am-3pm; Thurs., 10am-5pm; Fri., 11am-7pm; Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-5pm

Admission: \$40 Members, \$50 Non-members; Free for children six and under



Save the Date: March 20-21 Southern Atlantic Region(SAR) Convention



**SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION
The Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg, WV
March 20-21, 2026**

The West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. and Linda Howle, our SAR Director are excited to invite you to the South Atlantic Region Annual Convention at The Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg, WV. This year's theme is "A Garden for All," emphasizing the idea that we are better together in a garden for everyone.

Our SAR Finance, Executive Committees and the Board of Directors will meet on Friday morning. We will have a luncheon that is not included in the package pricing but may be purchased Ala Carte. A variety of engaging events are planned. Starting with an opening tea at the Parkersburg Art Center where Youth Art will be on display. That evening we will kick off with a celebration of our nation's 250th birthday with Red, White, and Blue Birthday dinner, we are asking everyone to celebrate by wearing Red, White and Blue. The following day begins with a continental breakfast, then on to the SAR General Session. Attendees will also enjoy a SAR Awards Lunch and Tara Ranson speaking on membership. The afternoon will include three workshops designed to enhance knowledge and skills, culminating in the Vintage Design Dinner on Saturday. We are asking attendees to wear vintage attire, jewelry or a hat.

Save the date: April 10
Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs (D3)



Plant and Attic Sale!

The Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs

1820 East Seventh Street

Friday, April 10

10 AM to 3 PM

Saturday, April 11

9 to Noon

Please pay by cash, Zelle, or Venmo.

Come find a new treasure! Our prices are great! We have favorite perennials and planters, home and garden tools, home décor, art and craft supplies, collectible and vintage items, quilts, books and games, children's toys, jewelry and more.

Save the date: April 24-25

Coastal Garden Club (D11) presents Quilted Flowers Show

QUILTED FLOWERS



National Garden Club Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by Coastal Garden Club

Member of:

National Garden Clubs

South Atlantic Region Garden Clubs

Garden Club of North Carolina – District 11

Friday, April 24, 2026 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, April 25, 2026 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Shallotte Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall

5070 Main Street

Shallotte, North Carolina 28470

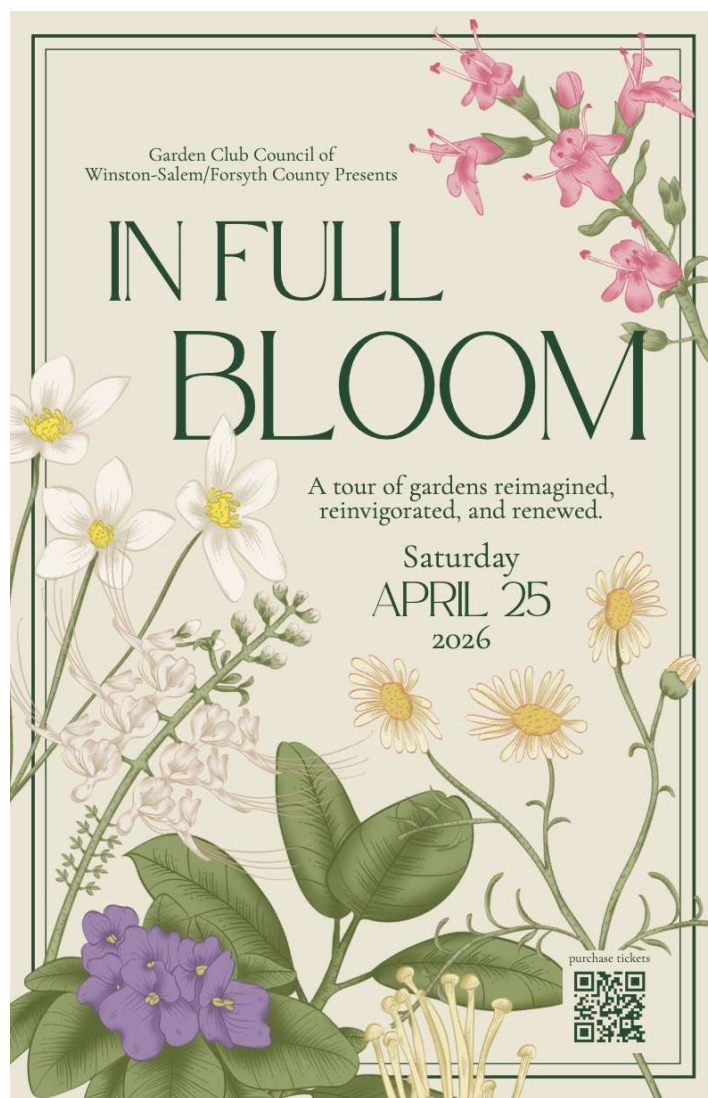
Open and Free to the Public

Save the date: April 25

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Garden Club (D4) presents In Full Bloom garden tour

The Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County proudly announces our upcoming garden tour, **In Full Bloom**, taking place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10am-4pm, rain or shine. This highly anticipated one-day, biennial tour invites the public to experience some of our area's most inspiring private gardens while celebrating our shared appreciation for nature, design, and transformation. Each garden on this year's tour has been carefully cultivated over time - reimagined, reinvigorated, and renewed - and now stands in full bloom, as a showpiece of beauty and creativity.

As our primary fundraiser for the Council, the net proceeds allow the Council to provide grants for community beautification, restoration and conservation activities and projects within Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Through these grants the Council can make a visible impact across our parks, schools, and public and nonprofit spaces. For more information and tickets, visit wsgardentour.org.



Save the date: May 17-18
Garden Club of North Carolina Annual Spring Meeting



SAVE THE DATE

GARDEN CLUB OF NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

A CELEBRATION IN BLOOM

MAY 17-18, 2026
HILTON GARDEN INN AIRPORT
238 NC HWY 68 S
GREENSBORO, NC



Save the Date: October 26-28 Flower Show School 1



FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL 1

North Carolina will be offering Flower Show School 1 next October 26, 27, and 28 2026 at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, N.C.

If you have ever thought about becoming a NGC Flower Show Judge, this is the perfect time to begin. You may attend to become a Flower Show Judge, to learn how to put on a Flower Show, or gain knowledge on flower design and horticulture. You may also audit the classes.

A suggestion for all our Garden Clubs is to set aside in your budget scholarship money to send one or more of your members to Flower Show School. By doing this, you will build enthusiasm as well as bring in more knowledge to elevate your club.

To become a Flower Show Judge, you must attend 4 courses taken no sooner than 4 months apart with each course having 2-3 days. Each course is designed to cover all aspects of a flower show and how to become a NGC Flower Show Judge.

Our instructors have extensive knowledge in the courses they teach. The curriculum is in Horticulture, Design, and Flower Show Procedure.

Why have a flower show? They stimulate interest in growing and showing horticulture, creating floral design and most of all expressing our members creativity. A flower show brings your community together through displaying floral designs, horticulture labeled botanically, youth and sponsored groups, and in botanical arts which include crafts, collages, fairy gardens, dried flowers, wearable art, and photography.

When planning a flower show and you have not had 1 in 5 years, you may reach out to the Judges Council to have NGC Flower Show Judge come along side your club as a mentor for your show.

Feel free to contact me for questions. Looking forward your club sending new student to Flower Show 1 in October 2026.

Mary Vacek, Flower Show School Chairman, NC

936-689-0328

Mary.o.vacek@icloud.com



D1-2 Asheville Garden Club Native Plant Nursery Tour

The Native Plant Nursery is located on 18+ acres near Burnsville, NC. They specialize in native azaleas and rhododendrons from seed. The nursery was devastated by Hurricane Helene and have slowly recovered. The Asheville Garden Club took the self guided tour and looked at the seed house, the propagation area, and a special area where we saw the tissue culture azaleas.



D1-2 Asheville Garden Club City Forester Presentation



D1-2 Lake Norman Garden Club Fall Harvest

Our LKNGC has been busy with several projects, adoption of a new Youth Garden Club, and educational programs. Here are just some of the highlights:

Beautification Projects

Our club planted a pollinator garden at Mountain Creek Park on October 14th. The park was gracious to offer our club a small plot to continue the beautiful work the park has started by having only native plants throughout the grounds. We had a small group of members, plant over 10 different species of plants for the park. The park will maintain this bed going forward.

Our club has finalized the signage for the Sherrills Ford Library Pollinator Garden project, which began during Fall 24. The expansion of this garden will begin during Jan 26, with Phase III. Working with the Sheriffs dept, who currently owns the property, we have been able to transfer a bird bath, mill stones and metal benches from a previous garden site in Sherrills Ford that will be incorporated into our garden design.



Permanent Sign



Educational Programs

In October our club was fortunate to have Allison Redfoot from the Mooresville Garden Club to share her love and knowledge of Japanese Gardens. Excellent program, and Allison is a real gem for our gardening community.

In November we had Donna Mull and Jake Haynes, both from the NC Catawba County Extension Office present Growing and Using Herbs. Excellent program! For our November program, we used one of the tips shared by NCGC to create a flier to invite guests to our program. We had several inquiries about the program, and 2 guests at the November meeting.

Fall Harvest... Lake Norman Garden Club continued

New Members

Our club has 6 new members this fall. A lot of this was driven by our First VP, Kathy Bradham and Jean Dearborn, who did a tremendous job in following up on a sign-up of interest we had at our Sept plant sale.

Sherrills Ford Elementary Garden Club

Our club officially adopted and is sponsoring the Sherrills Ford Elementary Garden Club through the NCGC. I was able to attend one of their first meetings, and Amanda Currie and Brittany Burgin, both science teachers at the school, are doing a great job with the 18 students (2-5th grade). Plans are for our team to work with the club in developing a pollinator garden for the school and also advising on what plants to plant and sale at their spring plant sale.



shirt
design

Our Christmas celebration is at Donna Mallory's beautiful home on Dec15th. On behalf of our club to yours, we wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season full of family, great food and of course lots of blooms!

D4 District Meeting Thursday, October , Reynolda House Auditorium

District 4 held their Fall Board Meeting on October 2, 2025. The district is made up of six counties and 27 clubs and we are a part of the South Atlantic Region. The meeting was well attended. The beautiful table arrangements were made by various clubs, following a fall theme.

Debbie Liniville, President of Old Salem Garden Club chaired the committee to judge the district's yearbook submissions. Winners were announced at the meeting. They are, Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem Forsyth County, Club of Twenty Gardens, Old Salem Garden Club, Village Home and Garden Club and Mountain View Gardner's Garden Club. Their yearbooks were submitted for next level judging.

Tomorrow's Legacy and Honor Roll awards were distributed.

The main program was a presentation by the District Director and the Vice District Director on Awards and Scholarships available through GCNC and the benefits of being an affiliated club with GCNC. Clubs were encouraged to apply for awards and scholarships. Examples of awards were highlighted and instructions on how to apply were provided

The beautiful flower arrangements were auctioned at the conclusion of the meeting with the proceeds of \$600.00 going to Western North Carolina for Hurricane relief.



D4 District Meeting continued



D4 Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County



What a wonderful way to celebrate our 94th birthday than awarding our fellow citizens that make our community beautiful. Under the leadership of GCC Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful (KWSB) Chair, Aldona Towner successfully coordinated volunteers to judge 32 flower beds located throughout Winston-Salem. The flower bed program is a Council key project and is in partnership with the city's KWSB. Joining us to celebrate this year's winners was the program's Executive Director, Andy Szabat.

Check Presentation with Windsor Jewelers Francie Bray and Mimi Bennett accepted a check on behalf of the Garden Club Council from Rob Simon, President of Windsor Jewelers for \$3,280 from the Elizabeth Locke Event in October.



D8 Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club Dedicated Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker

A Living Tribute: Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club Dedicates Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker

On a solemn and sunlit Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, the Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club unveiled a powerful new symbol of perpetual gratitude: a Blue Star Memorial Highway marker. The dedication ceremony, held at Freedom Memorial Park, was a profound community event that blended patriotic reverence with horticultural honor, drawing local officials, veterans, and residents together in a shared act of remembrance.

The event commenced with a call to unity as Cumberland County Commissioners Chairman Kirk DeViere led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, setting a reverent tone for the morning. This was followed by a central and symbolic wreath-laying at the base of the new highway marker. Chairman DeViere carried the wreath and was joined by Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club President Penny Maxwell in its placement. This visual gesture served as a lasting emblem of the community's gratitude and the Garden Club's commitment to this national program of tribute.

The program was enriched by deeply meaningful performances and speeches. Veteran community leader Ann Provencher addressed the assembled crowd, speaking to the importance of the Blue Star Memorial Highway sign as a living, enduring tribute to those who serve. The emotional weight of the day was carried by music, with Giles Blankenship stirring patriotism with a powerful rendition of "God Bless the USA." The hauntingly beautiful sounds of Doug Elwell's bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace" filled the park, followed by the poignant echo of Taps, played by Bugler Geron Gambill, offering a moment of silent reflection for lives lost.

A unique and heartfelt highlight was the recitation of a "Toast to the Flag" by Paul Monroe. This traditional tribute added a layer of historical reverence, reminding all present of the values and freedoms the flag represents—values defended by the veterans being honored.

Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club Dedicated Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker continued

The successful dedication stands as a testament to the leadership of the Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club and its President, Penny Maxwell. The collaboration with local leadership, exemplified by Chairman deViere's active participation, underscores how garden clubs can serve as vital catalysts for community patriotism and remembrance.

This new Blue Star Memorial Highway marker, now standing proudly next to Freedom Memorial Park, is more than a sign; it is a permanent, living tribute. It ensures that every traveler and visitor will be reminded of the service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces. Through this project, the Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club has not only beautified North Carolina but has also cemented a legacy of honor for generations to come.



D8 Anderson Creek Garden Club

Branching Out: News from the Anderson Creek Garden Club

Celebrating Partnerships, Progress, and Growth in Our First Year

As the vibrant colors of autumn give way to the crisp beginnings of winter, the Anderson Creek Garden Club (ACGC) reflects on a season filled with meaningful connections, shared learning, and inspiring accomplishments. Our fall calendar was bustling with opportunities to deepen our horticultural knowledge, strengthen community ties, and lay the groundwork for future projects. We are thrilled to share our progress and celebrate the collective efforts that have made our first year as a club so rewarding.

A Season of Collaboration and Learning

This fall, our club embraced numerous opportunities for growth and outreach. In October, we were honored to support and co-host the District 8 meeting, an event that brought together garden enthusiasts from across the region. The gathering was a resounding success, thanks in large part to an engaging presentation by Frank Heinrich, whose expertise captivated attendees. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to every ACGC member who contributed to this event—whether by crafting elegant decorations, managing invitations, assisting with setup, or greeting guests. Your dedication and teamwork embody the spirit of our club.



D8 Anderson Creek Garden Club continued

One of the most memorable events this season was our October 21st meeting, which featured a dynamic partnership with Western Harnett High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. Students and their instructor led hands-on demonstrations, sharing their passion for agriculture and horticulture with our members. The collaboration was both educational and heartwarming, offering a glimpse into the future of gardening through the eyes of talented young leaders. Attendees also enjoyed a creative floral pumpkin design activity, blending art and nature into beautiful autumn displays. This event reinforced the importance of nurturing relationships with local youth and supporting educational initiatives that align with our mission.

Another highlight was our first-anniversary celebration on November 18th. We marked this milestone with a special presentation titled "Beyond the Canopy: Understanding the Pine Forest Ecosystem," delivered by Mr. Jacob Wheeler, Harnett County Ranger with the NC Forest Service, alongside a fellow ranger. The program offered fascinating insights into the complexity and beauty of our local pine forests, emphasizing the role of native plants and sustainable practices. The meeting, held during the day to accommodate more members, was well-attended and enriched by thoughtful discussions and light refreshments. It was a fitting tribute to a year of growth, learning, and camaraderie.

Progress on the Gold Star Memorial Project

We are pleased to announce that, following the end of the recent government shutdown, our club has scheduled a meeting to advance the Gold Star Memorial project. The proposed site at the corner of Highway 87 and Nursery Road will be reviewed formally, and we are optimistic about confirming the location soon. This project honors the families of fallen military heroes, and we are committed to seeing it through with the respect and dedication it deserves.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported this initiative and look forward to sharing more updates as the project develops.



D8 Anderson Creek Garden Club continued



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

As we look ahead, we invite all members to participate in our upcoming events:

December 16, 6:30 PM: Nature-Themed Christmas Social. Join us for a festive evening of homemade treats, holiday cheer, and nature-inspired decorations.

January 10, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM: Roadside Cleanup. Help us beautify our community while enjoying fresh air and fellowship.

January 20, 11:00 AM: “Growing Orchids!” Program. Discover the secrets to cultivating these exquisite flowers from an expert presenter.

Acknowledgments and Gratitude

A special note of thanks to our fundraising co-chairs, Julie Smolin and Laura Carney, who organized our first online bulb fundraiser. Their efforts raised \$300 for the club, proving that every contribution—big or small—makes a difference. We also extend our appreciation to all members who volunteered their time, talents, and resources this season. Your enthusiasm and commitment are the roots of our success.

As we continue to grow together, we remain dedicated to our mission of promoting gardening, conservation, and community engagement. Thank you for being part of the ACGC family.

Warmly,

The Anderson Creek Garden Club

D9 District Fall Meeting, Durham



Billie Oakley (financial chair GCNC),
Annette Branco D9 Director



Officers: Frances Cain, Suzanne Gurski, Marilyn Wright

D10 Steel Magnolias Garden Club: Dirt Diggers Parade

Steel Magnolias Garden Club (District 10) sponsors the Dirt Diggers Youth Garden Club at the Governor Moorhead School for the Visually Impaired. On November 13th the school held its first ever Homecoming Parade and the Dirt Diggers participated. The parade lined up and walked the entire school grounds led by the marching band from nearby Shaw University. Parents, neighbors and guests from the Leadership Academy (adjacent to the school) lined the route and cheered as the students proudly displayed signs, costumes and banners that told the story of their affiliated group. The students are housed at the school during the week therefore most of them have more than one club affiliation. Our club is relatively new, formed last January with fifteen members. Two members graduated in 2025, leaving thirteen, so we were very proud to have four of them elect to walk as representatives of the Dirt Diggers Youth Garden Club.

Our group consisted of the four boys from the Dirt Diggers, Gail Domaleski, SMGC President, Judy Ann Ramsey, Vice President, and Karyn Farmer SMGC Community Outreach Chair and representative the SEED Community Foundation, one our club partnering organizations. Gary Domaleski, the President's husband walked along as our group photographer!

It was especially exciting to walk past two of the buildings on campus that the club leaders decorated. The décor included several live plants that the students are charged with keeping fresh. Seeing the vibrant mums on the steps and the porches as we paraded past means the students are taking this task to heart and following through.

We are very proud of all the club members and are looking forward to recruiting some new faces in January.



D11 Coastal Garden Club Shallotte Dedicated Henry Rehder Memorial Tree

Coastal Garden Club Tree Dedication for Henry Rehder (1950-2025)

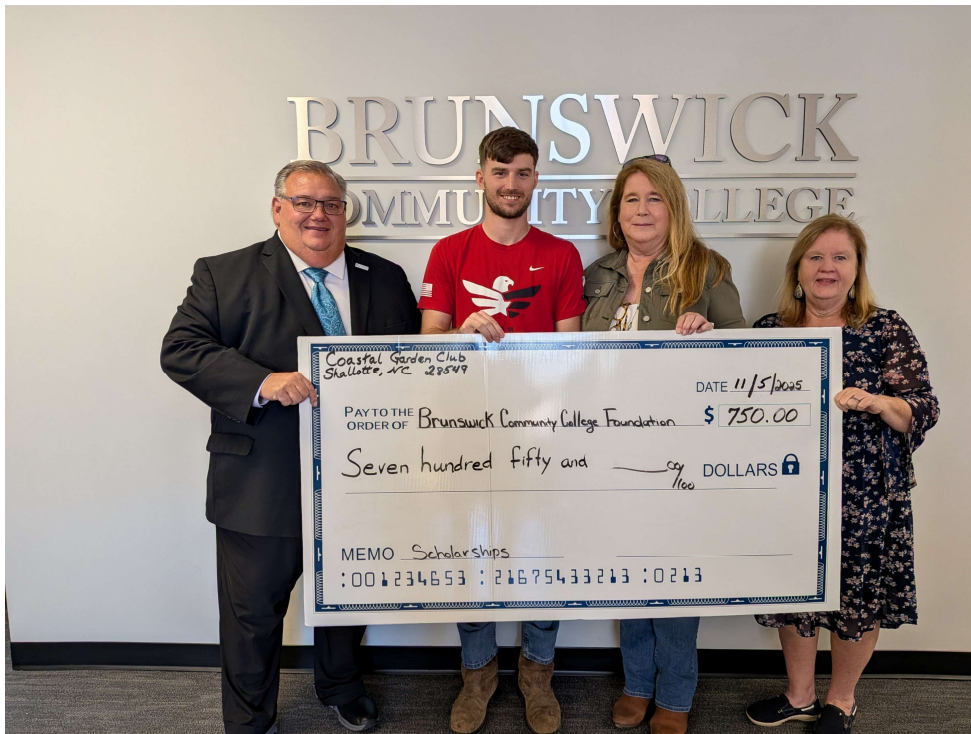
The Coastal Garden Club met earlier this week to dedicate a Redbud tree planted in Mulberry Park to one of their members, Henry Rehder (1950-2025). Per the words of his friend and fellow member, Rowena Sewell: “we have planted and are dedicating this tree today not as a final farewell, but as a living memorial to our fellow garden club member, Henry Rehder. Trees symbolize life, renewal, and resilience, and just as this tree will weather storms and reach for the sky, so too with the memories of Henry continue to provide inspiration. In planting this tree, we are committing to tend to this tree so that its roots grow deep and its branches spread wide as a constant reminder of his dedication to our club, to horticulture, and to Mother Earth.” Henry left a legacy of kindness, passion, faith and generosity—a life well lived and a spirit that will be deeply missed.



D11 Coastal Garden Club Shallotte 2025 Scholarship Award

Joseph Qualls Receives Coastal Garden Club 2025 Scholarship

Horticulture student and Army Veteran, Joseph Qualls, is the recipient of the 2025 Coastal Garden Club scholarship awarded by the Brunswick Community College Foundation. In addition to his academic pursuits, Joseph launched a non-profit program named Ashes to Leaves in 2024 to honor the memory of his sister. The vision for his foundation is to establish community and memorial gardens to help Veterans, families and seniors in need by providing free locally grown food. His business model will include rental income from community “grow beds” along with donations and sponsorships. Joseph is always looking for volunteers and can be reached through his Facebook page Ashes to Leaves. Congratulations Joseph!



D11 Trent Woods Garden Club Gold Star Memorial Dedication

Trent Woods Garden Club
cordially invites you to a
Gold Star Families
Memorial Dedication
Wednesday December 10, 2025
11:00 am
at
Clarks Road Rest Area, Route 70 W
New Bern NC 28560
Reception immediately following ceremony
RSVP by December 3rd to
chairbluestarnc@gmail.com



D11 Cape Fear Garden Club Hosts Centennial Christmas Tea



The Cape Fear Garden Club was delighted to host its Centennial Christmas Tea at the Wise Alumni House, a historic mansion built in 1909 now owned by [UNCW](#), an annual Holiday event filled with beauty, creativity, and holiday spirit.

The afternoon was made especially memorable thanks to the work of many talented members. Our Flower Arranging Committee created stunning displays throughout the home, while our hospitality team treated guests to an array of delicious seasonal refreshments. Adding to the celebration were exquisite, hand-painted Centennial Christmas ornaments created by Pink Petal Promotions, which made for a truly special keepsake.

We were especially honored to have several of our Past Presidents welcoming guests at the door, a meaningful reminder of the leadership and dedication that have shaped our club for generations. A group photo in front of the historic Wise House captured the spirit of the occasion and will be featured in the club's upcoming Centennial Book, to be released soon.

The Centennial Christmas Tea was a joyful reflection of what the Cape Fear Garden Club has represented for 100 years—service, creativity, and community. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain inspired by the generations of members who continue to grow in knowledge, imagination, talents, and friendships through the work of our many committees.

We wish our fellow garden club members across North Carolina a blessed holiday season and a very happy New Year.

D11 Cape Fear Garden Club Hosts Centennial Christmas Tea



D11 Emerald Isle Club Member Memorial Posts

The Emerald Isle Garden Club had purchased a bench in the town to commemorate members who have passed away. The town adds small plaques to the bench with their names. One of our members had the idea to add color to the area by installing garden posts and a bird house in their honor. The club got together on Wednesday afternoons to paint them for five weeks. The result is three beautifully painted garden posts placed around the bench.

We held a celebration event on November 9 th , 2025, to remember the three members whom we lost. Their families attended and we toasted to them with sparkling cider. It was a wonderful way to get our members and their families together, as well as beautify a part of our community.



D 11 Emerald Isle Garden Club continued



D12 Washington

Community Collaboration Blooms at Brown Library

Community Collaboration Blooms at Brown Library

On Saturday, November 8, members of Scouts BSA Troop 99 of Washington, N.C., partnered with volunteers from the Washington Garden Club to plant a new collection of azaleas in the Brown Library Meditation Garden. Their combined efforts brought fresh color and renewed life to one of the community's most peaceful public spaces.

The Washington Garden Club received the azaleas through the WRAL Azalea Celebration, an annual program that supports nonprofit organizations across North Carolina by donating azaleas to enhance community landscapes. Participating groups are also eligible for the A.J. Fletcher Award, which recognizes outstanding care and maintenance of landscaping projects created with WRAL azaleas. The award honors A.J. Fletcher, founder of Capitol Broadcasting Company and creator of the renowned WRAL Gardens in Raleigh.

Scouts BSA Troop 99, sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Washington, is well known for its commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement. The church also sponsors Cub Scout Pack 99, which serves youth from kindergarten through fifth grade. Troop 99 participates in numerous service initiatives throughout the year, from food drives to educational outdoor programs, and regularly celebrates the accomplishments of its new Eagle Scouts.

The planting at Brown Library reflects a shared dedication among local organizations to beautifying public spaces and fostering civic pride. The Washington Garden Club extends its appreciation to Troop 99 and all volunteers whose hard work helped brighten the Meditation Garden for the seasons ahead.



**D12 Rocky Mount Garden Club
Veterans Day Wreaths (no article?)**



D12 Rocky Mount Garden Club continued



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CIRCULATION MANAGER

STATE HEADQUARTERS
Ruth Garver
Office Manager

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00AM-4:00PM

Tel: 919-593-6319
Email: Office@gardenclubofnc.org

Member

National Garden Clubs, Inc
South Atlantic Region

GCNC
Organized 1925
Federated 1930
Incorporated 1940

www.gardenclubofnc.org

NGC Environmental School

Roxanna Champagne
roxannachamp@cox.net

NGC Landscape Design Schools

Carol Yee
mscyee@hotmail.com

NGC Flower Show Schools

Gina Jogan
[gnjoganhanhandle.rr.com](mailto:gnojoganhanhandle.rr.com)

NGC President

Donna Donnelly
dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org

SAR Director

Linda Howle (SC)
howellinda@yahoo.com

EDITOR

Karen Doersam
ncgardener@gardenclubofnc.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Marilyn Wright
firstvp@gardenclubofnc.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
Landes Rigby
landesgcncpublicity@gmail.com

Gardener Quarterly Newsletter Schedule:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Publish Date</u>
Spring (Apr-Jun)	March 1	April 1
Summer (Jul-Sep)	June 1	Jul 1
Fall (Oct-Dec)	September 1	October 1
Winter (Jan-Mar)	December 1	January 1

Submission topic ideas:

Save the date future events, successful fundraisers, new/ongoing community projects. Memorials, editorial/noteworthy member authored articles pertaining to gardening, floral design and community involvement. Any topic that would appeal to our club members.

Our mission is to provide education, resources, and networking opportunities for our members and to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.