

# Key Notes

South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 6 January 2025



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*And Plant Seeds For New Clubs!*

Dear Friends,

It seems that fall wanted to stick around longer than usual this year, but now we know that winter is here. Even with the hustle and bustle of the holidays, winter is a time to rest up in anticipation of spring and what it brings! This is a time I like to bake and make my pecan pralines, enjoy popcorn and chocolate, drink good coffee and tea, and just enjoy being inside. I hope to catch up on some reading and get a few things done around the house like finally hanging those pictures and hemming those slacks. While we are inside and less active, why don't you and I make some contacts to help grow our local club membership and perhaps help start a new club?

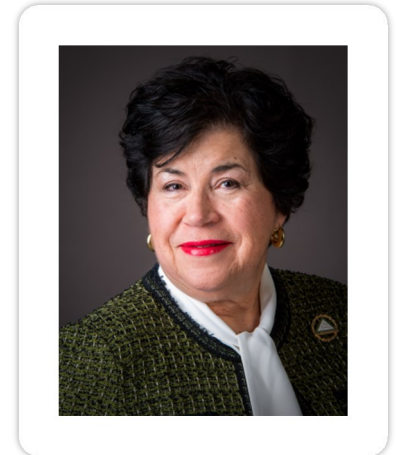
I have attended several zoom meetings since our state district meetings. Our sister state, North Carolina, will host the 2025 SAR Convention and the co-chairs, Frances Cane and Marilyn Wright, along with the rest of their Dream Team Committee, have been planning and zooming for months now. Please plan to attend to get to know fellow garden club members from all our five sister states. NGC President Brenda Moore will be installing Linda Howle as the next SAR Director. We are in for a great time!

The SAR Bylaws are being reviewed for corrections and possible changes. And fundraisers are being considered to help with awards and scholarships.

Please know that Ms. Dorothy Richardson would love to send you a SAR Life Membership Pin! Additionally, this is a way to honor a friend or fellow club member and the funds are used for our scholarships.

I would be remiss if I did not ask for continued prayers for all those impacted by the heavy rains this past fall. Areas in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, along with areas in Virginia and West Virginia, were inundated with the rain, causing unheard of damage to so much of the land and the people. Updates show that progress is slow largely because federal aid has not been available as it should have been. Please continue to keep in your prayers and give to those organizations who have been there to provide meals and other necessities. Winter weather must make their circumstances even more difficult.

Thank you for all you do to take care of our world and its people. I look forward to seeing you at convention!



**Carcille C. Burchette**  
**2023-2025 Director**

### **A SPECIAL NOTE**

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I let you know Marty Bowers passed away last night after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Most of you probably don't know she was ill or taking treatments. She kept trudging on, serving as an inspiration to her family, friends, church, and community.

It is anticipated that a memorial service will be held sometime in February, and I will share the information as soon as I receive it. Her son Chris and wife Nicki have been caring for her. Please uplift them with your prayers for comfort and strength during this difficult time.

Chris is requesting any pictures of his mother be sent to him by text, 480.399.2696, or email, cbowers.moc@gmail.com, as he prepares for Marty's service.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of Marty's family,

Carcille



## PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES



The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.  
Susan Throneberry  
Theme: "Go Green...Plant Kentucky!  
Plant Kindness and Beauty, Harvest a Garden of  
Friends."

The winter season is a time to recoup and rest and for most of us, a time to revamp and plan your garden for the coming season. My email is full of advertisements asking me to purchase popular plants and try newly developed varieties. But as I browse through the ads, I look forward to spring and the appearance of my favorites, perennials. As I get older, I realize those plants are dependable, usually grow without much assistance on my part and provide food and shelter to our pollinators along with beauty for us to enjoy. I can compare those plants with our gardening friends. They share their knowledge (and usually seeds and plants), show up when they are called on and most are wonderful cooks who will provide delicious refreshments and open their homes for our meetings. Their friendship is valued for what they share in experience and most members have been a part of their clubs, The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. and National Garden Club for many years. The holidays gave me opportunities to visit with those clubs for Christmas teas, pinning ceremonies at club meetings and tours of historic venues to enjoy decorations from natural materials in our Bluegrass state. What a pleasure to experience their hospitality and see faces of both longtime acquaintances and new friends! The new year provides hope to grow garden clubs by inviting family, neighbors, friends and even acquaintances you meet while chatting in line at the grocery store to meetings. Growth is essential not only to build membership, but it provides education to our community and as we work on projects and programs, those efforts are visible and appreciated by others. Attendance at meetings keep everyone updated and involved. Youth clubs are vital to keep our youth involved in protecting our environment and instilling a love of nature. While we spend these cold, sometimes dreary days, let's use the time to stay in contact with our members, hold planning meetings for the upcoming days until the weather permits gardening again, perhaps take an online or in person class and continue to support our clubs! Lucy Maude Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables* wrote "That is one good thing about this world .. there are always sure to be more springs." Enjoy these restful days!

## PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

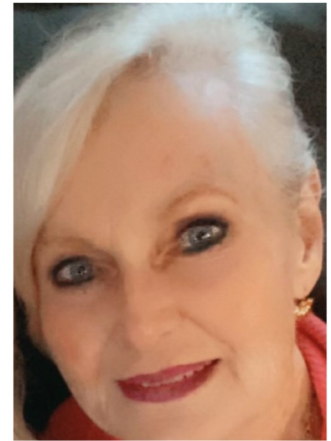
### AND THEMES

(Continue)

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

Linda McLendon ,

Theme: "Cultivating Inspiration" in Gardening by Communicating, Educating and Participating ”



I hope you all are doing fine and enjoying this winter season! Burr, but “Baby it’s cold outside.” Hope you are warm and cozy as I try to be.

There is a lot of hustling and bustling going on this Christmas season with shoppers hurrying along just to find that special gift for that Special someone. We all have wonderful family and friends to help us to celebrate “The Reason for the Season” with Blessings galore.

I would like to say “Happy New Year, 2025 to you all. I hope your year will be a very Blessed and Happy one. Many wonderful events are coming up in 2025.

First: North Carolina is hosting the 2025 South Atlantic Region (SAR) Convention on March 9-10, 2025 in Raleigh, NC at the Embassy Suites. It is going to be a very special event with Carcille Burchette, our own South Atlantic Regional Director presiding. We also will be honored by having our National Garden Clubs, Inc., President, Brenda Moore attending. We are all looking forward to this SAR Convention and many, many plans are being made to help us make it one of the Best ever had. Registration is on line now.

Second: Our 2025 Annual Garden Club of North Carolina 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Convention will be held on May 4-6, 2025, in Winston Salem, NC where it first began. We will be having a Birthday Party, a Fashion Show with period costumes/clothes from 1925 to 2025. A Flower Show is also being planned. It will be Awesome, and I hope you will be able to come. I will promise you a GOOD time! Registration is on line now.

Third: Our National Garden Clubs, Inc., 2025 Convention will be held on May 18-21, 2025, in North Charleston, SC where our own SAR Donna Donnelly will be installed as our 2025-2027 NGC, Inc, National President. We certainly do not want to miss that for sure. Congratulations to you, Donna!

In North Carolina we are very Proud of our new quarterly “The North Carolina Gardener, which is a Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter edition. It is on line and can also be printed if you want a hard copy. It consists of news and events from our Officers, Districts and Club members. It is a chance to brag or tell of a special upcoming event or any news they wish to share. It is a great way of communicating.

Our Life Membership project is booming with new Life members joining NC, SAR and National. I am so happy we have increased and are continuing to increase our Life Members.

Our NC website is such a Blessing and is full of useful information. You can reach us at [gardenclubofnc.org](http://gardenclubofnc.org). Look us up, we are very user friendly.

My thanks to all for allowing me to be the President of “The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., and being a member of our South Atlantic Region. It is indeed an Honor!

Remember to keep “Cultivating Inspiration” by Communicating, Educating and Participating in Gardening.

## PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES



The Garden Club of South Carolina.

David E. Stoudenmire, Jr. , President

Theme: "Legacy Gardening" Past - Present - Future "

This fall has been filled with many wonderful and positive projects and events going on throughout our state in our local clubs! Thank you to all the many clubs I have been fortunate to share programs with and attend their meetings and celebrations. I would like to share with you some of the areas I have been able to travel to and the GCSC Sponsored statewide events.

- For the second year, I enjoyed giving the Opening Welcome to our Landscape Design School in Charleston. What an awesome turnout and a jam-packed schedule of dynamic speakers/training. Congratulations to all our NGC Schools sponsoring yearly training so that our members may work on their achievement in completing these programs and becoming consultants, judges, etc. Our very own Karen Oliver, Horticulture Chairman joins Victoria Bergsen on achieving the Five Star Honor Level after completing all areas of the NGC Schools. Karen will be recognized at our GCSC Convention in April and awarded her certificate at the NGC Convention in May in North Charleston.
- The GCSC State Veterans Program Recognition was held on Monday, November 4th. What a special day that was for recognizing all the Veterans that could attend and highlighting ten Veterans that are members of a local federated club with the Quilts of Valor Presentation. All Veterans received a long stem red rose as a symbol of GCSC's appreciation and respect for them by our three Vice Presidents. We were honored to have the following special individuals speak at our program: Congressman Joe Wilson, First Lady Peggy McMaster, American Legion State Commander Bruce Donegen, and LT. Colonel Scott Harr from Ft. Jackson. Music was performed by the Ft. Jackson brass Ensemble as well as harpist Nina Brooks who performed during the reception a medley of patriotic songs with Elaine Reese our soloist. Various GCSC Officers participated and a special thanks goes to the Memorial Garden Trustees and The Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia for providing the refreshments and hosting the event. It was a special day in the life of our organization that we will not forget as we paid tribute to these brave men and women who have served and are serving in our armed forces.
- Our State Arbor Day under the direction of Chairman Mark Cockerille was held on December 6th, a bright, beautiful and chilly Friday. The program was a reminder of the importance of trees to our environment and the overall beauty of this earth. In appreciation for her years of service as chairman of the Memorial Gardens, the flowering dogwood tree was placed in the Memorial Garden in honor of retiring chairman, Peggy Little. Delicious refreshments were prepared by the Arbor Day Chairman and enjoyed by all. Next, what a wonderful way to highlight the importance of trees than through a recognition program highlighting significant trees in the Columbia area on Arbor Day. This event was held immediately following our Arbor Day Program in the Memorial Garden. The Palmetto Garden Club of Denmark hosted their Arbor Program indoors due to the cold day in the Jim Harrison Gallery. The Crape Myrtle that was planted was in honor of our State Chaplain, Mary Rivers. Many individuals including NGC President Elect, Donna Donnelly spoke about the many contributions Mary has given in her community, garden club, church and to her family and friends. Just a few weeks later Mary Rivers celebrated the occasion of her 90th birthday. What a remarkable lady who remains active making a difference wherever she is.

**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS  
AND THEMES**  
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The Garden Club of South Carolina.

David E. Stoudenmire, Jr. , President

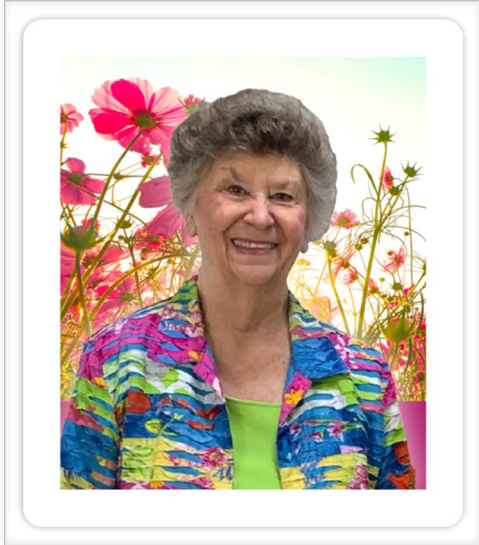
Theme: "Legacy Gardening" Past - Present - Future "

- Our partnership with the Garden Club of Columbia to co-sponsor our SC State Christmas tree continues to grow. Our continued cost sharing of the tree was aided by the 50/50 cost sharing of the purchase of the new LED lights for our State Tree. Joining with members of Columbia Garden Club, other GCSC members ventured to Columbia on November 18th to help decorate the tree. We all were delighted that the Garden Club Council provided delicious hot chocolate, coffee, and pastries to a team of individuals there to get the tree decorated and ready for the Governor's Annual Carolighting ceremony on November 24th when citizens and visitors alike enjoyed a extra beautiful site with the new light glowing and additional new ornaments to add to the ones bought last year. A large group from GCSC traveled to Columbia to represent our organization as we joined the Governor and First Lady McMaster in an evening ushering in the Christmas Season.
- As I close this report, I can't complete this without expressing some thoughts on the passing of our good friend, fellow garden member, and 3rd Vice President and State Awards Chairman, Sandra Morris Duerksen. I think all of us were caught off guard when Sandie was diagnosed with brain cancer around Thanksgiving. Our prayers immediately went to focus on asking for healing for her. As Sandie has always exhibited her courage and that of her beloved husband for 60 years, Denny, she faced what soon became evident of another form of healing, that of everlasting healing. Her children Bruce and Chrissie were both able to be home during these few weeks after Sandie went to the hospital, but passed peacefully, on the 22nd of December, Sandie embarked on her crossing into a far better place than any of us can experience on this side. She is free of all pain, illness, etc. and now enjoys beautiful, perfect gardens we can only dream about with our heavenly Father, and all her loved ones and friends that have already made that journey. Many of us had the opportunity to gather with her family at her "Celebration of Life." While we were all hurt because of our loss of having Sandie here, we all enjoyed the service celebrating her rich life and many accomplishments. Due to Sandie's love of our garden club federation and her passion for our Scholarship Program helping many young people, Denny asked if GCSC would accept the money that would come in as memorials be given to our Scholarship Program in her name to help more young people. This was taken to our Finance Committee and accepted. The Scholarship Chairman, Sandy Barker, and committee will work on setting up the guidelines and upon getting the memorials in, will look to get the word out for next year's applicants. It has been amazing to see the work she had completed up until the time of her hospitalization for our awards program. A committee that she set up, scheduled in September for our January judging, copied and filed award applications as they arrived, etc. all preparing to complete her duties effectively and efficiently. Special thanks to all the individuals that have picked up extra assignments to complete these tasks. You are all an awesome loving group of individuals that I am honored to have as friends and my garden club family.
- God Bless You, One and All

## PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

### AND THEMES

(Continue)



The Garden Club of Virginia, Inc.

Val Storie, President

Theme: Every Person Makes A Difference

**Happy New Year SAR,**

The new year, brings a new chapter and tons of new memories we can make together! I am so grateful that you could be part of VFGC to celebrate the coming year! May all your hopeful wishes follow you everywhere you go through the new year.

VFGC's loss of Marty Bowers has a profound effect on many of us. She was an integral part of many, her club in Moneta, Blue Ridge district, VFGC, SAR and NGC. She was a mentor, a friend and had a heart of gold. She will be missed.

Later this month we will have our first Virtual Club meeting...all may certainly join and hear what is hoped to be accomplished. This will just be a preliminary start...will need officers, meeting and educational decisions.

This is the "lull" before all the club meeting, district meeting and conventions start. However, the meetings are the best part of being a president, officer or member. We are all here to learn and have great social times.

We are certainly looking forward to the SAR Convention in Raliegh. Thank you, North Carolina. Virginia had many flower shows last year, a major increase...I hope there are many more this year. I know of a couple of clubs who are having a flower show that has not had one in years. Three cheers to these clubs.

VFGC's newsletter Rooted comes out monthly and the ODG magazine quarterly. Both are great sources of information and ways to keep current on VFGC, club and district news. The VFGC Convention will be around the corner. April 27-28, a Sunday/Monday. There will be a flower show, outstanding speakers and of course vendors. The Westin is a lovely hotel in Richmond. One more thought, please remember every person makes a difference and you have...for this I am grateful.

**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS  
AND THEMES**  
(Continue)

The Garden Club of West Virginia, Inc.  
Martha Hilton, President  
Theme: "Go Green,, Grow With the Flow"



From the Wild, Wonderful World of Snow West Virginia Garden Club is looking forward to seeing all of our Gardening friends in March at the SAR Convention in Raleigh. The members of WVGCI had a busy Holiday Season not only planning and decorating our various towns for the Season but rolling out a new Fundraiser – A Rhododendron flower with the State of WV in the middle!



We've sold out ut have ordered more as they have become a wonderful gift anytime of the year!

The State Convention Committee has gotten their itinerary in order for our upcoming State meeting as well as tentative plans for the 2026 SAR Convention at Blennerhassat Hotel in Parkersburg, WV. We will be presenting a little about both in Raleigh, NC. This State President is also your Awards Chairperson and look forward to seeing all of the awards that you'll be sending my way for our judges to review! Best of luck to all!

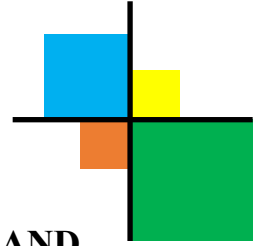
From all of us in West Virginia, may this be a peaceful and joyful Year for you and your

May your days be filled with love, friendship & gratitude,



## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



### BEES. BUTTERFLY PRESERVATION, POLLINATOR GARDENS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

SAR Chair, Dina Braniff  
439 Walker Lane  
Washington, WV 26181-3616  
304.481-8872 : [dina.braniff@gmail.com](mailto:dina.braniff@gmail.com)

My article for this issue of Key Notes, South Atlantic Region Garden Clubs, Inc. relates to things to do during the cold winter months supporting Bees, Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens and Endangered Species.

In reflection of your gardening efforts and successes or failures in your 2024 garden activities take time to take note the things you did that worked better and explore alternative ideas for those things you did that didn't measure up to your expectations.

My February hip replacement changed the course of how I would garden, and I planned to turn my efforts to container gardening. I have nice front and back porches, a lovely breeze way between my home and garage, and an uncovered area outside of my walk-out basement garage door. So, spaces were plentiful.

Little did I realize that increased prices of annuals were more of a hinderance that my hip-replacement. When annuals started appearing on garden center shelves, I was still going to physical therapy twice a week. This provided me the opportunity to head straight for the garden center after p/t. All my container garden annuals were from the 75% off section at the garden center. All my containers were already prepared with soil and placed where they would stay all summer. I admit that I was using many different varieties and colors than my typical thrillers, fillers and spillers. The plants needed extra attention (most usually from lack of watering). I planted the plants in the container gardens each day after returning home. It became necessary as I brought home new plants to rearrange some of the plants in the containers. It literally took two months before I was done with my twice weekly trips to the garden center, and I almost always stuck to the 75% off plan.

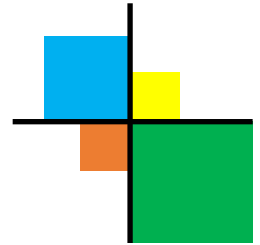
I used saucers under all my pots and here lies one of my best successes of this past year's efforts! The bees came to water at the saucers of all my planters. No one was stung and everyone noticed the bees. This turned out to be a garden lesson for visitors. I refrained from using fertilizers since the saucers became the bees frequent watering spots.

I have humming bird feeders on the back porch and in gardens along the sidewalks in the front and back of my home. Hummingbirds are frequent visitors, and I intentionally planted that porch's planters with red flowering plants (hummers favorite color plants). With the variation in the feeder heights and planter heights, we had hummers everywhere! This was another giant success. I am thankful to say a neighbor asked his if his son could come photograph my gardens.

My WV Lubeck Acres Garden Club took a road trip to a Marietta Ohio landscaping business that hosted a

## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

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butterfly garden. It is considered an important tourist destination. I took a picture of one of their butterfly watering stations and have included it, in case you might want to make one. This was a hot space during midday, so they refreshed the water hourly.

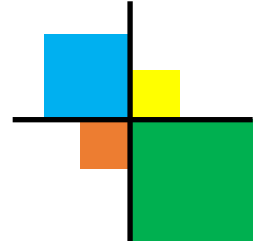
We just celebrated the first day of winter and my wishes for you are to enjoy today and plan for tomorrow. Spring will be here before we know it! And one last note, our combined efforts on Bees, Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens and Endangered Species need to be shared every chance we get! Happy New Year!



## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)

### BIRDS



Gail Hill, Chairman

[Bgthill\\_gail@aol.com](mailto:Bgthill_gail@aol.com)

336-292-8007

### How Do Birds Survive the Winter

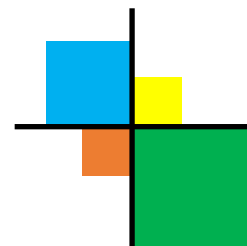
Birds create air pockets by fluffing their feathers out to retain heat in their body. They also coat their feathers with the oil produced from uropygial glands to protect themselves from getting wet in cold winter. Some birds flock together in trees or shrubs at night to exchange body heat. Other small birds, like hummingbirds and chickadees, enter into torpor mode to lower their body temperature.

Although all birds have a body temperature of around 105-degree F (40 degree C) – higher than humans, they use many winter adaptation techniques to keep themselves warm in harsh winter weather. Here are some of the useful techniques that birds often follow to survive in the winter.

1. **Shivering:** birds shiver to increase their metabolic rate, and therefore, generate more body temperature to stay warm for a short period.
2. **Fluffing Feathers:** birds create air pockets around their bodies by fluffing their feathers to get remarkable insulation against cold. Besides, many birds grow some extra downy feathers before winter to give themselves thicker protection in cold climates.
3. **Preening:** All birds have oil producing glands, also known as uropygial glands or preen glands, near the base of their tails. They coat their feathers with special oil to make them waterproof. This helps birds stay dry and warm in wet winter weather.
4. **Roosting and Cuddling:** Some small birds, such as bluebirds, tree swallows, titmice, chickadees, and larger birds, like ring-billed gulls and American crows, flock together in shrubs and trees at night to share body temperatures. However, cavity nesters, including nuthatches, sparrows, and downy woodpeckers, use dense foliage, tree cavities, or empty birdhouses for cuddling to stay warm.
5. **Tucking Bills and Feet:** many birds, such as ducks, pelicans, geese, swans, and gulls, conserve their body temperature, standing on one leg or covering both legs with their feathers to stay warm. Birds, like Canada geese, tuck their bills into the shoulder feathers to breathe warm air into their body.
6. **Gaining Extra Fat:** Some small birds, like finches and chickadees, increase more than 10 percent of body weight in the late summer or fall to survive the harsh winter climates. They gain fat so that it can serve as both energy source and insulation.
7. **Sunning:** Many overwintering birds take heat from the sun on winter days. They expose their backs to the sun, raising their feathers as much as possible and spreading their wings and tail to heat their body and feathers.
8. **Entering Torpor:** To conserve energy during cold nights, many animals go into hibernation, but some birds enter torpor. Torpor is a state of mini-hibernation that helps reduce birds' metabolic rate, body temperature, and the requirement many calories to survive in winter. Winter hummingbirds, swifts, and chickadees can lower their body temperature up to 60-degree F when they're in torpor,
9. **Storing Food for Winter:** Since natural food sources are not so abundant in winter, many birds store enough food before winter. For example, Black-capped Chickadees store many foods in hundreds of spots so that they can find them later. Besides, birds change their dietary preference to consume higher energy foods, such as black oil sunflower seed and suet, to keep their body warm on cold winter nights.

Aren't our birds really smart? I think they are great!

## CHAIRMAN REPORTS CONTINUE



### Environmental Education / Recycling

Karen Padgett Prewitt

#### Grassroots Green : The Environmental Footprint of the Holidays

By the time you receive this newsletter Christmas will be over. The thoughts I wanted and needed to share with you about reducing your environmental footprint before the holidays began, would have needed to be sent in the September newsletter. That seemed a bit early for me to start sounding like Ebenezer Scrooge... so I will belatedly share a few observations and facts to try and encourage us all to plan better for 2025.

A few days ago we drove out of the historic district here in Charleston to attend a Christmas party in a bedroom community. We were stunned to discover the proliferation of both ordinary and more expensive houses bedecked to the rafters with exterior lighting. In yard after yard it seemed that there was a competition to see who could use the most strings of lights. Lights were not restricted to outlining the front door frame. Every variation in the house's multiple rooflines were outlined, as well as porch railings, stair handrails, the front walkway to the house, all the azaleas and shrubs, all the tree trunks, and even multiple hanging light balls from the trees competing with the Spanish moss! Talk about circuit overload! Not to mention next month's electric bill !

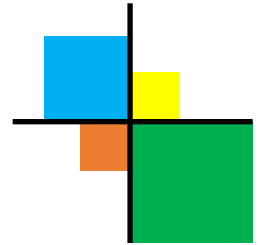
As we returned home to our own neighborhood later that evening it seemed as though it was not so much a return to the historic district, but rather a return in a time capsule to an era in this country where we cared more about being resourceful and saving. A time where we were brought up caring about each other and appreciating and protecting the beautiful physical world we have been blessed with, and not this "Made in China" extravagance.

The sedate but festive doorways in this neighborhood are bedecked with simple garlands of live greenery and wreaths, flanked by cheerful window boxes of pansies and colorful plants that bring joy to the passer by. Maybe it is because my birthday was a few days ago that my senior citizen thoughts have now strayed into 'The Past'... but I pondered ... when exactly was it that we let things go so astray? When did we cease to care less about our world and more about a hedonistic lifestyle? When did *Less is More* get replaced with *More is Better*?

Each year, this orgy of decorating and consumerism for the holiday season has surpassed the totals for the previous years, and this epidemic is apparently being fueled by a healthy economy and media blitz. We need to take a few steps back and reconsider what these excesses are doing to our planet. In closing, let me share a few statistics that underscore my Ebenezer observations.

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(Continue)



need to take a few steps back and reconsider what these excesses are doing to our planet. In closing, let me share a few statistics that underscore my Ebenezer observations.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas 64 million TONS of food are wasted. If recycled paper was used to wrap presents, the amount of paper saved would cover 45,000 football fields. If every family would re-use ribbons, 38 thousand miles of ribbon could tie a bow around the entire planet. A six foot live tree sent to the landfill produces 16 kilograms (one kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds - i.e.35.2 pounds ) of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as methane gas.

As your Environmental Education chair I endeavor to practice what I preach and have purchased living plants to gift to friends and neighbors . It saves wrapping. When I do wrap a gift I reuse the fronts of old Christmas cards to embellish plain paper. Hopefully one of my photos can be incorporated in this article.

As garden club members and the largest volunteer organization in this country, we can use our personal examples to influence others and truly make a difference in our world.

“

Be the change you want to see in the World”

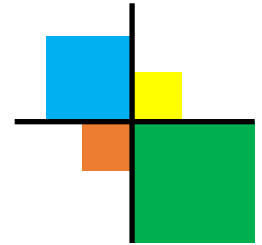


Best wishes  
for the  
New Year 2025!



## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

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### GARDENING

#### Children's Gardens/School Gardens

Eaton, Glenda  
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Glasgow, KY 42141  
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It has been unusually busy of course at this time of year. Glasgow Garden Club was asked to be Grand Marshal of Glasgow, Ky. Christmas Parade. It is largest nighttime parade in Ky. There were 160 entries this year. Our club allowed our Jr. Garden Club members to help decorate and to ride on the float if they desired. They were singing Christmas Carols and wishing everyone Merry Christmas the entire two miles of the parade. One of the little girls said “ This was the best night of my life “. It was a wonderful night full of memories. Always include kids whenever you can with your club. They are our future.



#### Gardening Schools Report

Charles McLendon  
SAR Gardening School Chairperson  
NGC GS AC SC/P Regions  
mclendonc@nc.rr.com

We are closing out 2024 and getting ready for an exciting 2025.

We currently do not have any Gardening Schools scheduled within SAR States.

We do have Gardening Schools scheduled on the NGC Website. Most are in-person schools. There will be online Gardening schools coming available soon.

While the weather is cold outside is a terrific opportunity to refresh or take one of the NGC Schools. You will find Gardening, Landscape Design and Environmental schools.

Via zoom online soon. You will have the opportunity to hear from some impressive presenters and instructors. There is something for everyone, where it be Zoom, Hybrid or in-person schools.

Take this opportunity to gain experience and grow, share with your clubs and community.

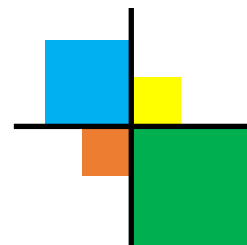
If I can help you in any way with school questions just let me know.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Gardening.

## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



### HORTICULTURE REPORT

The winter season is a time to recoup and rest and for most of us, a time to revamp and plan your garden for the coming season. My email is full of advertisements asking me to purchase popular plants and try newly developed varieties. But as I browse through the ads, I look forward to spring and the appearance of my favorites, perennials. As I get older, I realize those plants are dependable, usually grow without much assistance on my part and provide food and shelter to our pollinators along with beauty for us to enjoy. I can compare those plants with our gardening friends. They share their knowledge (and usually seeds and plants), show up when they are called on and most are wonderful cooks who will provide delicious refreshments and open their homes for our meetings. Their friendship is valued for what they share in experience and most members have been a part of their clubs, The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. and National Garden Club for many years.

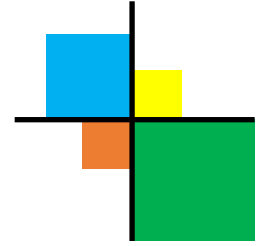
The holidays gave me opportunities to visit with those clubs for Christmas teas, pinning ceremonies at club meetings and tours of historic venues to enjoy decorations from natural materials in our Bluegrass state. What a pleasure to experience their hospitality and see faces of both longtime acquaintances and new friends! The new year provides hope to grow garden clubs by inviting family, neighbors, friends and even acquaintances you meet while chatting in line at the grocery store to meetings. Growth is essential not only to build membership, but it provides education to our community and as we work on projects and programs, those efforts are visible and appreciated by others. Attendance at meetings keep everyone updated and involved. Youth clubs are vital to keep our youth involved in protecting our environment and instilling a love of nature.

While we spend these cold, sometimes dreary days, let's use the time to stay in contact with our members, hold planning meetings for the upcoming days until the weather permits gardening again, perhaps take an online or in person class and continue to support our clubs! Lucy Maude Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables* wrote "That is one good thing about this world .. there are always sure to be more springs." Enjoy these restful days!

Bud Qualk  
NGC Corresponding Secretary  
SAR Horticulture Chairman  
GCofKY Arboriculture Chairman  
GCofKY Disaster RE-LEAF Chairman  
GCofKY National Disaster Grant committee Chairman  
President of the Laurel Oak Garden Club  
President of the McCracken Co Master Gardeners

## CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Dorothy Richardson, SAR Life Memberships Chairman

Phone: Cell-843-430-5205 Home-843-756-7413

[dwrich30@sccoast.net](mailto:dwrich30@sccoast.net)

### SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

I have enjoyed serving as SAR Life Membership Chairman for several years. This Chairman attended the SAR Convention in Greenville, SC March 17-20, 2024. I encouraged the attendees to go back to their state and promote the Life Memberships.

The SAR Life Membership supports The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college. This Chairman attended the SAR Convention in Greenville, SC March 17-20, 2024. I encouraged the attendees to go back to their state and promote the Life Memberships.

The SAR Life Membership supports The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college.

During January 2024-December 2024 12 SAR Life Memberships were received. The scholarships will enable students to further their education. Thanks to each one that purchased one.

This Chairman encouraged each one to purchase a Life Membership.

**REMEMBER: LIFE MEMBERSHIPS= SCHOLARSHIPS**



### NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Dixon, Mary H.

National Garden Week

757-934-3420 h 757-407-6885 c

[mdixon2643@aol.com](mailto:mdixon2643@aol.com)

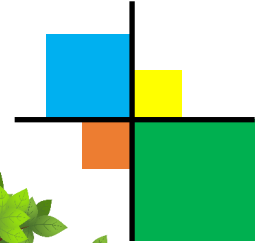


**National Garden Week will be June 1 – 7, 2025.**

This year National Garden Week is June 1-7, 2025. There is time to plan an event and carry it out. Please check out the possible award available to apply for and the requirements on the National Garden Clubs website. But even if you don't plan to do that plan an event to let your neighbors know that it is a special week and advertise your club. May get some new members! Let me know about your event.

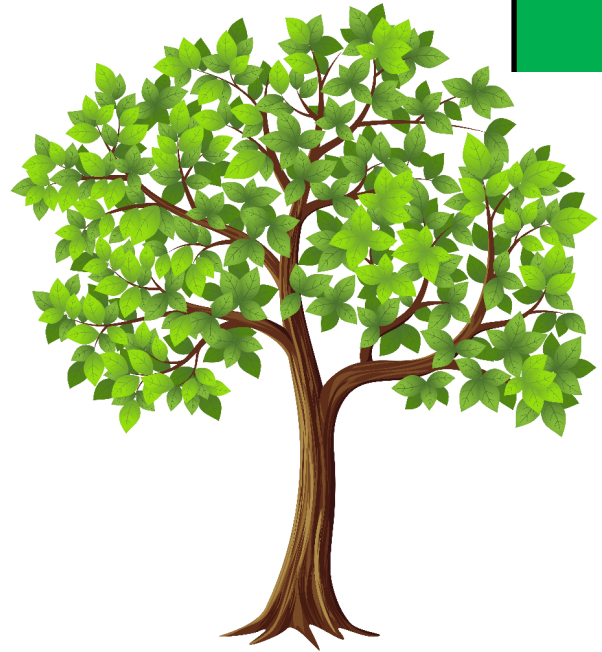


**CHAIRMAN REPORTS**  
**CONTINUE**



Janice Clem, Penny Pines Chairman  
tchokie@aol.com.  
540-977-1713 - home  
540-309-5596 - cell

**PLANT-A-TREE**



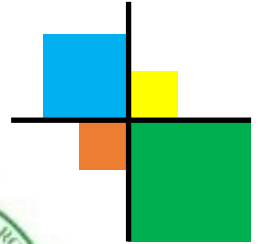
Many thanks to all the garden clubs and individuals that made contributions to NGC's Plant-A-Tree project (formerly known as Penny Pines) this year! Each contribution helps replant areas devastated by wildfires, droughts, and floods in our National Forests.

Please continue to make donations in any amount from \$50.00 to \$10,000. You may designate a specific National Forest to which you prefer the donation to be used. Otherwise, the Forest Service will use the donated funds where they are most needed.

NGC Headquarters will prepare and mail a certificate through May 31, 2025. After this date, certificates will no longer be mailed. Headquarters will offer digital certificates which donors can customize and then print. Be sure to include an email address when making a donation so that Headquarters can send a tax receipt and online certificate links and instructions.

Visit National Garden Club's website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) to donate online or to download the fillable Plant-A-Tree form. Click on "Programs" in the ribbon on the home page, then select Plant-A-Tree.

# The South Atlantic Region



## Member States



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*Don't forget the Key Notes Articles*

*Please submit your reports using Times New Roman 12 pt format. and ready for print, I will not rewrite your reports. Thanks you*

*Key Notes issues Deadline*

**March 20 Next due date**

*June 20*

*September 20*

*December 20*

*Please submit your articles by email to [toddie1904@aol.com](mailto:toddie1904@aol.com)*

*Sharon Jones O'Connell*

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Please Share This Newsletter With Clubs In  
Your State And With Members Of The State  
Boards .Thank You

# 2025 SAR CONVENTION

December 13, 2025

Dear Friends,

I am excited to invite you and your state garden club members to the 2025 SAR Convention March 9-10, 2025 at Embassy Suites in Raleigh, North Carolina!

Under the leadership of President Linda McLendon and her dedicated Dream Team, headed by convention co-chairs Frances Cain and Marilyn Wright, this event promises to be both memorable and enjoyable. A wide range of wonderful activities and events is being carefully planned for us in Raleigh.

This planning comes despite the challenges faced by western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee after the devastating hurricane rains earlier this fall. Amidst these efforts, preparations are also underway for the 100th anniversary celebration of GCNC—proving that sometimes, these moments of focus can be a welcome blessing.

Please share this invitation with all your state's members. Encourage them and their guests to register for this special two-day convention. One of the highlights will be witnessing Linda Howle from South Carolina being installed as SAR Director by NGC President Brenda Moore.

President Linda, along with Frances and Marilyn, warmly invites us all to join them for two days of education, inspiration, and enjoyment. On behalf of our sister state, North Carolina, it is my pleasure to extend this invitation to an event where new friendships can be made and old ones renewed.

*Carcille Carloftis Burchette*

SAR DIRECTOR, 2023-2025

2025 SAR Convention Registration Form: [Registration Link](#)

Program Booklet Ad Form Link: [Program Booklet Ad Form Link](#)

Preliminary Schedule Link: [Preliminary Schedule Link](#)