



NORCROSS GARDEN CLUB

Application Year **2019**

Members **88**

MEMBERSHIP

Club organized February 19, 1931

Total membership on January 1, 2019 = 81 Membership increased ten percent to 88 as of December 1, 2019

At this time we are not limiting our membership number.

Annual dues: \$35 per member

CLUB FINANCES

Amount of dues; how club activities are funded with brief description of fundraiser

Club activities are funded by an annual spring plant sale and rental of the clubhouse cottage. Total number of rentals 18

List of donations and/or contributions made by club:

\$1,000 for a named scholarship through the Garden Club of Georgia. For the first time our membership has been honored to save enough money through the sale of rescued plants donated by the city of Norcross and members' small monthly donations to sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship to a college student.

\$81 Dollars for Scholars/State Scholarship Fund

\$25 Friends of SBG/Athens

\$25 Garden Therapy to State

\$25 Marshall Forest

\$25 National Disaster

\$25 Roadside Beautification

\$25 State Parks & Public Lands

\$100 Support our Local Community Garden with two raised vegetable garden beds

\$350 Sponsored two youth and one adult counselor to attend the Wild and Wonderful Experience Camp, Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield July 21 – 23

\$20 Cost of Bee Workshop on June 22

\$20 Ice Cream with edible flowers for Youth Pollinator Census

\$363 Local Garden Therapy

\$72 Donations to Dogwood District

Donated two car loads of plants to the Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Plant Sale

Donated plants from membership and purchased plants for the Norcross Co-op Ministry

Donated plants from membership to the Annandale Fall Plant Sale

Donated plants from membership to the Hudgens Center for Art & Learning

SERVICES PROVIDED BY CLUB

For members and/or community (i.e. newsletters, yearbook, publicity, lectures, exhibits, garden center, etc.)

COMMUNICATION:

Our award-winning website, [www. NorcrossGardenClub.org](http://www.NorcrossGardenClub.org) continues to evolve this year with the addition of several authors and improved use of social media. In addition, we provide a quarterly club newsletter, which

is distributed not only to club members but members in the community who attend our annual plant sale. Frequent emails with photos are sent to membership from the most recent project, and this year, we have utilized texting for a number of opportunities and last minute changes. We now accept RSVPs via text, and expect the use of texting to become more frequent as our members become more accustomed to it. A printed agenda with monthly garden tips, upcoming events and more are distributed at each program meeting.

This year we set out to improve our communications with the City of Norcross and Sustainable Norcross who organize the Norcross Community Market. We invited both to participate with us at our Annual Plant Sale, and were pleased when the City of Norcross donated plants, and the Community Market set up tents with items for sale. Being connected provides additional opportunities for us to learn from each other, and support one another in ways that add wisdom, support and resources to our growing community in Norcross.

We made and/or improved on other communications in and around Norcross this past year. More about those efforts below, but our outreach also included:

- Discovery Garden Park
- Norcross Co-op Ministry
- Annandale Village
- Norcross City Hall
- Peachtree Corners City Hall
- Peachtree Elementary School
- Summerour Middle School
- Gardens for Growing Community
- Johnson Dean Forest Preserve
- Hudgens Center for Art & Learning
- Norcross Bee City
- Sustainable Norcross
- Girl Scout Troop 2676
- Gwinnett Cty Master Gardeners
- Rivers Alive Clean Up
- Kudzu Art Zone and Gallery



EDUCATION:

We provide an educational program meeting eight months out of the year. An additional photography class, MEMBERSHIP CLUB FINANCES SERVICES PROVIDED BY CLUB with a fee, was offered and subsidized by the club. The opportunity for members to carpool to educational programs at Fulton Federation and Dogwood District meetings were available.

We provided five educational field trips.

Work days in the cottage garden also provide an opportunity for education.

We provided four youth educational workshops at the Norcross Community Market throughout the summer in addition to a youth pollinator count program for the Georgia census in Discovery Garden in August

A club member organized an Arbor Day educator/speaker and the club provided funds for a tree to be planted on the school grounds of Summerour Middle School.

We worked with Girl Scout Troop 2676 to earn their Silver Award.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION of CLUBHOUSE COTTAGE: We own and maintain a one-hundred-year-old plus clubhouse cottage in historic downtown Norcross. Preservation/conservation is an ongoing effort. We provided public meeting/educational space, rental space to the community and gratis meeting space to Country Hills Garden Club.

BEAUTIFICATION & EDUCATION IN THE COTTAGE GARDEN & COMMUNITIES:

Along with the clubhouse cottage we maintain a cottage garden which provides opportunity for horticulture knowledge to members and the community. The past several years our focus has been on native and pollinator plantings. The perennial plants, annual flowers, shrubs and trees have been chosen carefully to create a sustainable habitat for butterflies, other pollinators and non-game wildlife. Our annual plant sale is a gateway to our involvement with the community. The garden is open to the public and we educate visitors by identifying plants with plant markers. The hillside garden is a pedestrian cut through and we are always pleased to see guests visit and snap photos.

See three other beautification projects under specific projects with the Norcross Co-op Ministry, Hudgens Center, and Peachtree Elementary.

GARDEN THERAPY & EDUCATION FOR ANNANDALE VILLAGERS

We have partnered with Annandale Villagers, adults with developmental disabilities and brain injuries, in various ways:



Plant Sale Partnership: One member has taken on the management of the campus greenhouse. She regularly holds classes with the Villagers teaching them all of the basics of planting seeds, watering, transplanting seedlings, etc. The Villagers successfully grew a variety of tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and flowers and have sold them at our annual plant sale the past two years to support the ongoing greenhouse endeavor.

Annandale Fall Plant Sale: This past fall club members contributed plants from our gardens to support the Annandale Fall Plant Sale. One hundred percent of the money raised went to support the greenhouse and horticultural activities.

Discovery Garden Park: Club members organize and participate in monthly activities in the Norcross Discovery Garden Park with the Annandale Villagers. Activities include watering, digging and planting, weeding, a craft activity and snacks. One of our members is pleased to be known as the “Cookie Lady”.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

We supported our local youth to summer camp and provided a GCG named scholarship. See more above under Club Finances.



CLUB PROGRAMS

January 14 “Lunch & Learn” Speakers: Staci L. Catron and Mary Ann Eaddy

“Seeking Eden” *A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens*

Seeking Eden promotes an awareness of, and appreciation for, Georgia's rich garden heritage. Updated and expanded they shared stories of nearly thirty designed landscapes first identified in the early twentieth-century publication *Garden History of Georgia, 1733–1933*.

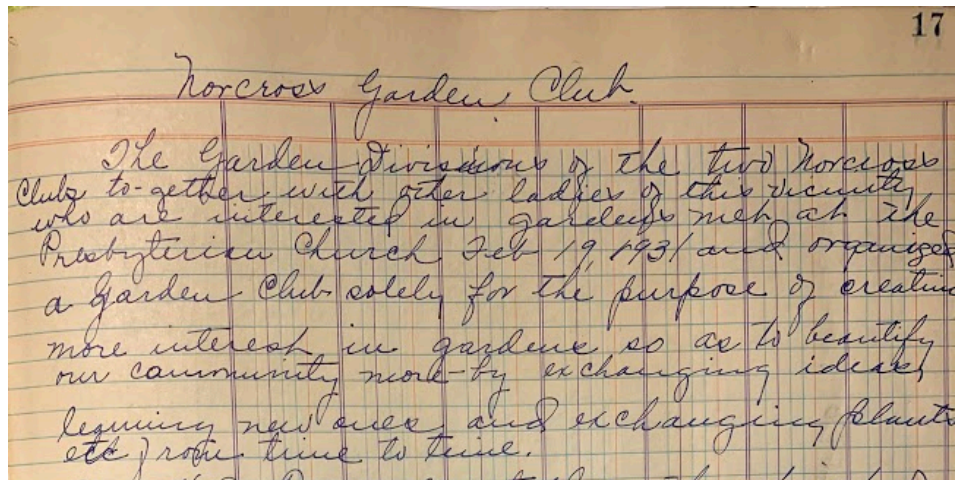
February 11 – 7pm Evening

Meeting Speaker: Gene Ramsey

Norcross Garden Club celebrated its 88th anniversary with a

dedication of a foot bridge to beloved member Marian Lang, and a lively presentation by local historian Gene Ramsey about our garden club roots. The garden club recently learned that it dated back to 1931 after records of the club were discovered in the attic by the Jackson family when they

moved into their historic Norcross home. Before being deeded to Norcross Garden Club in 1978, the property was Dr. Walker's medical office in the early 1900's; Norcross Civic Improvement Club in the 1920's; and Ida Wootten's music and elocution studio in the 1940's.



March 4 – 11:15 am “Lunch & Learn” Speakers: Members Jill Swenson and Gail Thompson both shared a story on “A Favorite Plant from the Landscape” Jill spoke about peonies and Gail spoke about Japanese Maples.

April 8 – 7pm Speaker: Member Jolyn Barrow presented a PowerPoint presentation on “A Visit to Keukenhof”, known as the Garden of Europe in the Netherlands.

April 28 – A special interest Photo Workshop with Eric Bowles who taught members how to take better photos using our mobile phone or simple camera. Program was subsidized by club with seven members participating.

May 16 – End of Year Celebration at Discovery Garden Park Speakers: Members Pearline Brown, Jane Cunningham, & Sandra Pagano presented a program on “Herbs”. Each brought a prepared dish on the herb of their choice and shared its characteristics.

September 9 – 7pm Speaker: Barbara Dorfman, Georgia Native Plant Society, “Why Native Plants?” The focus of program was on the process of sustaining wildlife habitats using native plants in Georgia. Barbara discussed bee, birds, butterflies habitat loss and how we have to take responsibility to restore habitats through our gardens.

October 14 – 11:15 am “Lunch & Learn” Johnnie Hadley, Greater Atlanta Begonia Society

“Begonias 101 and their Propagation” Johnnie spoke about the different types of begonias and demonstrated the various ways to propagate them.



CLUB PROGRAMS: continued

November 11 – 7pm Posy Henson, Flowers by Posy, “Posy’s Postbox – A Winter Arrangement for Your Mailbox” Posy designed a mailbox arrangement using Arizona Cypress, Cryptomeria, boxwood, cedar, rosemary, white pine pinecones, China berries, Brunia, pomegranate, and pheasant feathers.

December 9 – 6pm “Celebrating the Season” A Christmas social gathering at Kudzu Art Zone & Gallery included a sing-along, socializing and dinner.

Business Meetings

January 24 • February 28 • March 26 • April 25 • August 27 • September 24 • October 22

No business meetings in May, June, July, November and December

Due to the length of the organizational business meetings, business meetings have been separated from the program meeting. We strongly encourage members to attend the business meetings. Information from these meetings are communicated as follows: an agenda is emailed before the business meeting, approved minutes are emailed and posted on the website after the meeting, brief business information is presented at the program meeting, and a printed program with upcoming events are distributed at the program meeting.

Field Trips – Five field trips were planned throughout the year.

January 24/25 – St. Phillip’s Cathedral Antique & Flower Show – This show is a festival of art, antiques and floral and interior design held annually to benefit a designated charity. It is sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women and one of our members participated in the Flower Show. Twelve members attended January 24, and seven members attended on January 25.

February 19 – Massee Lane Gardens – A nine acre botanical gardens with its focus on camellias. It’s located at the American Camellia Society headquarters in Ft. Valley, GA. We organized this trip with the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation “Senior Trips” coordinator. Attendees: 4 members plus 31 Senior residents of Gwinnett County



June 5

Daybreak Flower Farm, Loganville

Owner Gail Zorn demonstrated proper lavender harvesting techniques while sharing her business strategy, planting schedule, as well as successes and failures of various plant varieties. A bonus event included picking blueberries at Tuckaway Blueberry Farm.

Attendees: 8 members, 1 guest

July 18

Rainbeau Orchids, Milton

Owner Sue Baker shared her knowledge and expertise as we toured the nursery. Attendees: 13

November 5 – Thompson Mills Forest at Georgia State Arboretum, Braselton, GA

This arboretum, a collection of trees for research and education, features nearly all of Georgia’s 214 native trees which grow along side exotic trees from around the world. Assistant Forest Resources Manager and tour guide Bill Lott stated, “These trees from all over the world grow peacefully here together - no fighting, no fussing. If only people could do the same.” Attendees: 6

CLUB PROJECTS

Brief description of projects. If continuing project, must show work done in current year. I.e., civic improvement, garden therapy, youth, flower show, etc.

1 *Continuing Project*

Year around

Care & Maintenance of Clubhouse Cottage and Garden is a year 'round project. The Norcross Garden Club owns and maintains a one-hundred-year-old plus clubhouse cottage, along with the cottage gardens at 33 College Street, Norcross, GA 30071. Maintenance of the cottage and gardens is continuous. Members volunteer in the garden regularly to prune, weed, plant, mulch, water, and more. Unfortunately, it's difficult to maneuver a wheel barrel in and out of this hillside garden. We united manpower forces by implementing our 2nd "Bucket Brigade" event to blanket the garden with mulch. "Many hands make light work." We emptied two truckloads of mulch in just over an hour. Our youngest member and artist painted a new club sign just weeks before giving birth to her first child. This fall we removed a hazardous stepping stone path and replaced it with a metal border and fill it in with mini slate chips.



2

February 14

An Arbor Day Celebration was held at Summerour Middle School, in partnership with non-profit organization Gardens for growing Community. Club member Tixie Fowler planned the activities for the students and had a local certified Arborist, Rick Barnes, from Downey trees come and share his expertise. The club purchased a persimmon tree for the project.



3

March 26 • April 23 • May 7

We helped Girl Scout Troop 2676 earn the Silver Award while educating the girls on local native plants and giving instruction on proper planting techniques. Cutleaf and purple coneflowers, beauty berry, Grancy greybeard fringe tree, Georgia Asters and Oakleaf Hydrangea, were among several native plants installed in the local Johnson Dean Forest Preserve.

4 Continuing Project

April 12 - 13

The club's plant sale project is undertaken annually for a number of reasons. Its goals have evolved in recent years. At one time the primary goal was to supply funds for the garden club to maintain the historic house which has been owned by the garden club for 41 years. It is an old building and has all the problems that come with such a place. We are proud of our history in this building and our place in the town of Norcross. Improvements and maintenance to this building and its grounds do require ongoing income, dedication and involvement by the members. The goals for the sale have shifted perspective in recent years as our membership and their interests and needs have changed. While operating expenses are still primary this sale is now viewed as an opportunity for horticultural knowledge, working as a team and as a gateway to our involvement with our community. The income is good but the outcomes of knowledge and community connectivity are great. This year we invited Annandale Village and the Norcross Community Market to participate in our sale. Annandale provided plants grown from their greenhouse which is also supervised by a Norcross Garden Club member, and the community market set up tents with items for sale. The City of Norcross donated a large number of plants that our members dug up and replanted for the sale. We provided expert advice from Master Gardeners throughout the two day sale.



5

April 21 to 27 – Garden Week in Georgia

During this week, as mentioned above in project 3 we worked with Girl Scout Troop 2676. We also spent time tidying up remaining plants from the plant sale, repotting and re-labeling those whose tags had gone missing. Two car loads of plants were contributed to the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners for their annual plant sale on April 27.

6 Continuing Project

We maintain two raised vegetable beds in Discovery Garden Park. This is year around project with two planting seasons. We call these raised beds our "experimental gardens". They are an educational opportunity for our membership. This spring we purchased plants from the Annandale Villagers at our plant sale and planted them in the DGP beds with the results of harvesting heirloom tomatoes.





7 Continuing Project

April thru October

Garden Therapy with Annandale Villagers at Discovery Garden

This project was included above under service provided by the club. We are in year four of this initiative where we work in partnership with Norcross members of the Discovery Garden Park members, community, and the staff at Annandale. Our club helps to coordinate activities, provide assistance to the Villagers, and contributes to the cost of activities.



8 Continuing Project

June 3

National Garden Week June 2 - 8

Our project was to create awareness of the week by creating four arrangements in the rotunda of Norcross City Hall.

The arrangements were on display for the entire week with members checking them throughout the week to keep them hydrated and looking good. It was decided to share the awareness with the citizens of Peachtree Corners, where one third of the club members reside. Peachtree Corners recently became incorporated and Peachtree Corners new City Hall was a perfect second venue to promote National Garden Week.



9

June 3, 12, and 22

Bee Conservation Workshop

Two prep project days were organized to create habitat – paper straws, to be used at the Bee House Workshop, on June 22, at the Norcross Community Market. Several “worker bees” (the Norcross Earth Team, parents, and club members: 33 participants these two days) joined forces. The Bee Conservation Workshop was held in partnership with Norcross Bee City and Sustainable Norcross. The activity was for both adults and youth alike. Master Gardener Dee Scarpellino educated participants on the importance of native bee pollinators, their habitat, and favorite plants. She showed how to build a correct bee house which must provide a minimum housing space of 6” in length. Most bee houses on the market are incorrect. All went home with their very own bee house. Five members orchestrated the event while several others participated in the two prep workshops leading up to the 22.



10

June 29 • July 1 • and continued thru December

Beautification Project - A group of members created new container plantings for the Norcross Co-op Ministry. Remaining plants from the spring plant sale, a collection of plants from the city, as well as additional plants requested from member's gardens filled the eleven containers. Very little financial expense went into creating beauty at the Co-op. Only soil and a few small cypress and lantana plants were purchased. The club donated a rain barrel which they installed and secured. Members rotated watering thru December, until the Co-op moved to a new location in December. 12 Members participated in this project.

11 *Continuing Project*

July 27 • August 3 • August 17

Norcross Community Market Children's Activities
We encouraged fun and creative ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle through art at the Norcross Community Market Children's Activity tent. Garden Club members collected recyclables and the youth designed sculptures at all three sessions. Participants in 4th to 8th grade were given the option to enter their designs in the annual Garden Club of Georgia Youth Sculpture Contest. At two of the three activity days the youth were also given the opportunity to build and bedazzle a reusable chalkboard door hanger. Total membership participation these three days was 14 with several other members donating recyclables.



12

August 24

Great Georgia Pollinator Count at Discovery Garden Park

Members of the Norcross Youth Garden Club, the Norcross Earth Team, their parents, and club members met for the GREAT GEORGIA POLLINATOR CENSUS in Discovery Garden Park in Norcross. We first learned about the pollinators we might see and then each citizen scientist chose a favorite pollinator plant that was blooming in the garden for counting. Each counted and recorded all the insects that landed on that plant during a 15-minute period. Norcross Garden Club members then tallied the counts and uploaded the data to a special University of Georgia (UGA) webpage. The information was used for researchers to see a snapshot of which pollinators are at work in Georgia on that date. 23 Participants in all: 11 youth, 4 club members, plus 8 additional adults



13

August – November

Membership Project for the Garden Club of Georgia
Formally titled "Nurture the Garden We Call Georgia" the scarecrow was created for GCG by members of the Norcross Garden Club (Dogwood District), who used recycled plastics and metals, clothing and fabric scraps and even swimming noodles to create this whimsical creature. We wanted a scarecrow that would illustrate GCG's slogan of 'Beautification, Conservation, Education' in a way that was fun and inviting. The result was this sweet 'goddess' made entirely from recycled items, or items from those 'project boxes' everyone seems to collect in their basement or garage." Participants: 4 members created the Goddess while other members collected recyclables. The Dogwood District provided additional green tabs.



14

September

Annandale Villagers Horticulture & Greenhouse Participation
Member Teresa Stoker organized a Fall Perennial Plant Sale at Annandale Village. Members donated perennials from their gardens. One hundred percent of the proceeds went to support Annandale's Horticulture and Greenhouse Programs. Teresa was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" at their 50th Anniversary Dinner and Awards program that followed the fall plant sale. Participants: 12

15
October 9

Dogwood District Annual Meeting
Members donated a number of items that were arranged in three baskets entered in the raffle. The theme of the baskets was birding. In addition, members contributed two centerpieces.

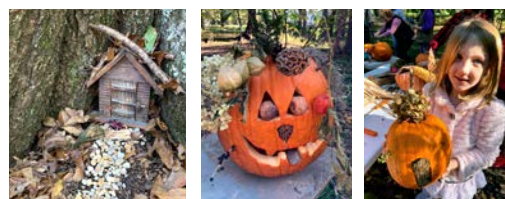
16
October 28 & 29

Beautification Project – A group of members created seven new container plantings for the Hudgens Center for Art & Learning, Duluth We planned, shopped and planted the containers. Some plants were donated by membership other were financed by Hudgens. 7 Participants



17
November 3

“The Enchanted Forest”
An Environmental Education Experience for Young Children
“The Enchanted Forest” offered 2 hours of nature-based fun which included repurposing leftover Halloween pumpkins as fairy houses. The creations were constructed using natural items found during a nature hike, supplemented by lichens, flowers and shells collected in advance by club members. Leading the hike, was a club member/storyteller who suggested what was happening behind the six fairy doors found throughout the forest. Imaginations ran wild. Inspired by the storytelling and excited by their finds during the hike, participants were surprised to discover tables set up in a clearing along the forest trail, creating a woodland studio. Although most of the participants were between the ages of 6 and 13, both they and their parents reported a magical afternoon spent playing, relaxing and learning in the forest. This project was in partnership with Gardens for Growing Community, Georgia



Association of Conservation Districts,
and Gwinnett County Soil and Water
Conservation District.

18
November 12 & 21

Beautification Project – A group of members planted several new container plantings for Peachtree Elementary, Peachtree Corners . A requested return visit was fulfilled to plant cabbages, Swiss chard and two flats of pansies. 4 Participants



19

November 16

Norcross Garden Club supports “Rivers Alive!” Conservation Program

We had a record turn out this year! Thanks to the amazing and energetic students from Norcross High School, South Gwinnett High School Friends, and Radloff Middle School, plus hardworking volunteers from International Paper and our club members = we collected 45 tires, 53+ bags of trash and beaucoup miscellaneous stuff....an estimated 2500 lbs of trash pulled from a tributary of Beaver Ruin Creek (near the gateway sign on Norcross-Tucker Rd). Norcross Parks Dept had the tires recycled and properly disposed of the rest of the nasty stuff. 4 Members Participants plus husbands, friends and many many students



20

November - December

A November collection of feminine hygiene products and toilet paper as well as a December collection of new hats, scarves, gloves, and socks was arranged by members after a call from Norcross Co-op Ministry that these items were needed by members of the community. Club members also collect plastic grocery bags throughout the year for the Co-op and aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

CLUB REPRESENTATION

Number of members attending, type of participations, if applicable – State Convention, District Meeting, other State sponsored programs or workshops

Fulton Federation Meetings

March 11– Speaker: Gloria Woody “Hummingbird Habitat” – 1 Attendee

May 9 – Speaker: Carol Wright “Landscaping with Color using Natives and Other Plants” – 3 Attendees

September 9 – Speaker: John Kreiner, Dahlia Society of GA, “All About Dahlias” – 4 Attendees

November 11– Speaker: Ricardo Dixon, Northpark Florist “Decorating for the Holidays” – 2 Attendees

Dogwood District Meetings

January 8 Board Meeting – 3 Attendees

June 18 Leadership/Awards Workshop – 5 Attendees

August 13 Board Meeting – 3 Attendees

October 9 – Fall Annual Mtg & Luncheon – Cherokee Country Club – 9 Attendees

Members with District Chairmanships – 5 Chairmen: Horticulture • Penny Pines • Land Trust/Marshall Forest • Community Wildlife Project • Youth Coordinator

Garden Club of Georgia

February 20 – Capitol Conservation Day – 2 Participants

March 11 to 13 – Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention – Attendees – 2 Participants

April 16 to 18 – State Convention, “Gardening on My Mind”, Columbus, GA – 5 Participants

June 31 – Community Wildlife Workshop, Dept of Natural Resources, in Rum Creek, GA – 1 Participant

August 8/9 – National Garden Clubs Landscape Design School Course 1 – 3 Participants

Nov. 20/21 – National Garden Clubs Landscape Design School Course 2 – 2 Participants

October 1 – 2 State Board Meeting – 3 Participants