



FEDERATED FACTS

Publication of Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Editor: Judy Howerton

“3...2...1...LET’S GROW”

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Gardening Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we are all happy to see the end of 2020. This has been a year that has challenged us all. My wish for 2021 is Health, Happiness and Prosperity for each of you. We all are craving the company of each other and it seems that we might have to wait a bit longer before things begin returning to normal. But there is hope on the horizon and a renewed sense of appreciation for family, friends and activity.

As we begin our New Year, it holds lots of promise and energizes us to participate in the things we love and be present with the people who love us. I would like for all of you to join us on January 5th, 2021 via ZOOM for our first meeting of the New Year 2021. We will be announcing our slate of new officers for the 2021-2023 RFGC Board. We still have a few Vice President (1,2,3) spots available and would love for anyone that is interested in learning and participating to join us. We are in great financial shape heading into the new year, which alleviates a great deal of stress on the upcoming Board and will allow them to plan and execute wonderful programs and events for our Gardening Community.

Please join us on January 5th, 2021 at 10am via Zoom to receive financial updates, see some friendly faces and share some joy.

All my best,

Carrie Wilder

RFGC President 2019-2021



LIBRARY SCHEDULE

DATE

December 9-22

December 23-January 5

January 6—January 19

January 20—February 29

February 3-February 16

February 17-March 2

CLUB

Mountain View

Seven Hills

Spade and Trowel

Thistle

Three Rivers

Townview



GARDEN CENTER SCHEDULE

DATE

January

February

March

CLUB

Spade & Trowel

Mt. View

Lavender View

TASK

Refreshments

dish soap & sponges

Refreshments

CALENDAR

January 5

RFGC Meeting

February 18

Laurel District Board Meeting, Cartersville

February 19

Arbor Day in Rome

March 2

RFGC Meeting

April 13-15

GCG Convention

April 18-24

Garden Week in Georgia

Rome Federated Garden Center Updates

By Caroline Alford

Construction is completed on the long awaited accessibility ramp for The Garden Center of The Rome Federated Garden Clubs. A new side door entrance with a ramp has been constructed to provide easier access to our older members from the parking area. During the renovations, the bathroom fixtures were updated with a highrise toilet, sink, faucets, and cabinet. The old back door has been enclosed and new siding placed over the former entrance. All locks have been replaced and new keys given to the garden clubs

The landscaping is being revamped as the New Rome Federation Project. Invasive plants, like nandina, English ivy, and mahonia have been removed already. Plans are being made to replace these with Native plants. All of the garden clubs will be working on this project for the next two years.

See photos from Anita Bridges and Caroline Alford below.



RENOVATIONS TO FEDERATED GARDEN CENTER

2019-2020

1. Professional inspection
2. Added “sister” beams to support under house
3. Repaired and replaced damaged roof shingles
4. Replaced kitchen outlet with ground fault outlet
5. Added smoke alarm
6. Pressure washed stairs and walkways
7. Replaced toilet with high-rise one
8. Replaced vanity
9. Enclosed pipe in bathroom ceiling
10. Pruning and Inspection by Rome Arborist
11. Removed some invasive mahonias and nandinas
12. Removed old closet door and frame
13. Removed closet shelving
14. Removed carpet from closet and hallway
15. Leveled floors
16. Added vinyl tile wood flooring and transitions
17. Removed old back door and closed it up
18. Created new doorway in closet
19. Hardwired motion sensor light over ramp
20. ADA Ramp to parking lot
21. Replaced matching sets of door locks with new keys
22. Build new shelves in closet
23. Purchased new vacuum and broom
24. Replaced sagging ceiling tile
25. Removed black vent pipe (unused)
26. Chimney cap made and to be installed.

2 Year Federated Project - Camellia Garden Club

By Glenda Fincher

- 11/27/2020 Clean up day at the Garden Center (Glenda Fincher, Libby & David Monteith)
- 11/02/2020 Planted the Encore azaleas (Glenda, Libby & Luis)
- 11/03/2020 Planting following Fed. Monthly meeting (Jennifer Kearns, 3 Rivers, Caroline Alford, Mountain View, Anita Bridges, 3 Rivers, Libby Monteith, Camellia)
- 11/05/2020 Additional planting & spreading mulch (Glenda Fincher, Libby & David Monteith & Carrie Wilder)

Plants installed at the Garden Center:

11/02/2020 Facing the parking lots & left of new ramp

Right side of fireplace- 3 large Encore azaleas & 5 small Encore azaleas

Left side of fireplace - 2 large Encore azaleas & 3 small Encore azaleas

11/03/2020 In front of brick containers at Blue Star marker

7 Mona Lavender plants & 5 thyme plants, 12 Dutch Master daffodil bulbs & 12 Tahiti daffodil bulbs)

In brick planters on both sides of the front steps

6 Fool Proof gardenias (3 on each side)

11/05/2020

Behind the Canna Lily plants near the street – St. John's wort (Donated & planted by Carrie Wilder)

In front of and around the metal sign – 3 large Chrysanthemums, 7 Fortune daffodil bulbs,

12 crocus bulbs, pansies, & a Virginia Bluebell (donated by Carrie Wilder)

Left side of the ramp – day lilies & cone flowers (donated by Carrie Wilder) & other donated plants

55 bags of mulch spread

We still have not made a decision about our club, we only have 3-4 members committed to staying active. However we do plan on planting two Camellia plants and with the help of other club members would like to add a butterfly and pollinator garden in the spring. And we will need help maintaining what has been planted. We have gone by a couple of times to water and blow leaves.

Anita has been a big help and we appreciate what all she has done.

A RECAP OF RFGC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020

RFGC supports **GCG "PLANT AMERICA – Nurture The Garden We Call Georgia"** and the Mission "Beautification, Conservation and Education", by various means listed here but not limited to these alone.

BLUE STAR MARKERS

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. strongly supports the **Blue Star Program** with markers and with **flowers planted** around them, as follows:

The Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. located at the Garden Center at 100 E. 8th Street Sponsored by Seven Hills Garden Club.

Camellia Garden Club located at the exit of Heritage Park on Second Avenue.

Lavender View Garden Club located at the intersection of Garden Lakes Blvd and Shoreline Drive.

Mountain View Garden Club located at Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome.

Seven Hills Garden Club located at Sara Hightower Regional Library,

Spade and Trowel Garden Club located at the intersection of Second Avenue and Turner McCall Boulevard.

Thistle Garden Club located at Rotary Park, 1st Ave. and 6th Ave.

Three Rivers Garden Club located on Jackson Hill at the Rome Visitors Center.

Townview Garden Club located at the corner of Broad Street and 5th Ave..

Rome Federation of Garden Clubs Rome, GA sponsored at Government Plaza, Floyd Co Courthouse.

BEAUTIFICATION – GARDENING

Each Club in the Federation has a Civic Improvement project which is a **garden** somewhere in our town that is planted seasonally, maintained and beautifies our town.

The Clock Tower **Federated Garden Project** was completed and dedicated in 2019 and each club has taken a workday as assigned by the project manager to maintain it. Many **monarchs** visited the garden this year. This garden is now a **Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail** with a Marker placed there.

This years **Federated Garden Project** was to renovate the landscaping around the Garden Center and the project was headed by Camellia Garden Club. Old plants were removed, and native plants were placed there.

Plants and/or arrangements are placed in the Library by the clubs of the Federation. Clubs take two-week turns and identify the plant by name as a donation by The Rome Federated Garden Clubs.

Arbor Day was celebrated on February 21. The DAR, Rome Federated Garden Clubs, and City of Rome, Rotarians, Nature Conservancy, and Master Gardeners participate annually. Thirteen Willow Oak trees were planted. Rome is a Tree City and received their 30th flag. Rome is one of 9 cities in Georgia to receive the award.

Members **planted shrubs and flowers** at their respective subdivision entrances.

One Club "**Planted in Pink**" at the Tony E. Warren Cancer Center where they maintain a garden at the entrance to the center and always include pink flowers. The Center has a Women's Breast Center.

Patriotic themed wreath was placed at Blue Star Marker, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Patriot's Day, Veterans Day by Three Rivers Garden Club.

RFGC held a **DAYLILY SALE** at the home of President Carrie Wilder as a fundraiser to help make needed renovation to the Garden Center.

THISTLE collected all the items needed for a Habitat for Humanity dedication.

CONSERVATION

We collect **Coke Cans/Tabs for Ronald McDonald House**.

January Program at Federation meeting was by Jesse D. Chapman, Executive Director, Coosa Valley Basin Initiative and River Keeper.

EDUCATION

NGC's LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL, Course III was held February 12-13 with 29 in attendance.

Educational Programs at our individual club meetings, include programs on hydrangea care, iris care, Lenten rose, and many other plants; presentation by City Arborist; growing herbs and cooking with them; visits to Demonstration Garden at Chieftain Museum, floral design; making bonsai demonstration, pruning program by County Agent; beekeeping, and others.

Allison Waters, Rome Floyd Blight/Litter Task Force presented a program to the Federation in March.

NGC WEEK

National Garden Week was celebrated by erecting banners on Broad Street at Townview's Garden and at the Clock Tower Garden. Individual Clubs planted, weeded, and spruced up their respective gardens around town.

AWARDS

The Federation and the Clubs within it won:

16 awards from The Garden Club of Georgia. RFGC won First for Tree Award, Special Achievement, Website, Arbor Day ; Second for Newsletter.

Deep South Award for Tree Planting and Special Achievement.

NGC First Place for Website.

FIG LEAF PROJECT- COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our county has a **foster care crisis**. This is a **community project** since we no longer have the state mental facility to share stockings and eggs with, we now support the Department of Family and Children Services by collecting needed clothing items for children that have just been picked up and have no possessions with them. We do this in November so some items can be used for Christmas for the children.

Townview Garden Club met with residents of an assisted living center in February to make floral arrangements and valentines with them.

During **2020 Renovations** were made to the **Garden Center** with an accessibility ramp added, new side door entrance for the ramp, bathroom fixtures updated. Locks were replaced and new landscaping.

THE YEAR 2020 FOR SEVEN HILLS

By Jennifer Kearns

The new normal has inspired new ideas for the Seven Hills Garden Club. Our Boys & Girls Club Youth Garden Club planted seeds in pots on February 19. After that last meeting, everything stopped abruptly for the Spring of 2020! Through the summer of 2020, the Executive Board came up with the next year's meetings that would bring us outdoors. We socially distanced at the City Labyrinth in September, with Lisa Smith, Georgia's Rome Office of Tourism, as speaker. Our October meeting was a workday at our Library Garden and the Clock Tower Garden. Through the summer and early fall, both of these gardens were weeded, mulched and planted with pansies for winter color. Pine straw was installed as well at each garden. A divide and share of Clock Tower flowers was held for Federation members in October. Our 2021 meetings will include a visit to the Marshal Forrest, a treasure for the Rome urban community. In 2021, Seven Hills will continue to adapt to make meetings happen while improving our City of Rome.



Asters and Swampflower at the Library Garden.

Workers at the Clock Tower Garden.

Marshall Forest

Marshall Forest has been the scene of much activity this fall. Many community groups have worked together to help make improvements in the forest.

- A crew from Roosterhead Warehouse removed part of the existing fence to make way for access to a bus turnaround.
- Andrew Saville, the son of a Garden Club Member, mowed the Pecan Field in preparation for the driveway.
- The City of Rome Public Works Department constructed the culvert and driveway across from the entrance to Marshall Forest, which will provide better access to the pecan grove and river front parts of the forest.
- Berry College Freshmen worked in the forest to remove invasive species on the annual freshman workday.
- The annual Robert Week Memorial Walk, October 16, 2020, was sponsored by Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful in conjunction with the Young Professionals of the Rome Floyd Chamber of Commerce, The Nature Conservancy, The Garden Club of Georgia, and The Weed Family. Over 60 forest enthusiasts turned out for the walk along the Big Pine Braille Trail led by Owen Kinney, Science Teacher at Darlington School, on the gorgeous fall day.
- News coverage of the walk and the Boy Scout Project was provided by the *Rome News Tribune* with two separate articles.
- Marshall Forest was one of the featured destinations on the Georgia Historic Preservation Ramble on October 17, 2020.
- On Saturday October 17, 2020, Philip Lataif along with members of Boy Scout Troop 113 worked to replace the rotted guide rope posts along the trail. The supplies were provided from contributions made to The Land Trust Marshall Forest by Garden Clubs and individuals across the state.

Marshall Forest still has many things that need to be done to keep the trail well maintained and accessible to the physically impaired.

- Finish replacing the remaining guide rope posts.
- Reinstalling the guide ropes with climbing rope donated by a climbing gym in Marietta.
- Installation of crusher run gravel along the Braille Trail to provide more accessibility to the physically impaired.
- Creation of QR codes to provide trail maps, Forest information, and plant identification photos.

The Nature Conservancy is working on a partnership with Berry College and Shorter University to create learning centers in the Pecan field and over to the Coosa River. The goal is make the Marshall Forest a destination for student field trips.

Your contributions help us keep the Marshall Forest in good condition for visitors. Please don't forget to add Marshall Forest to your club's list of contributions. Deed of Gratitude certificates will be presented to contributors of \$25 or more to Marshall Forest by March 1 of each year. Contact Caroline Alford to schedule a tour of the forest via e-mail at caro-boone@aol.com or by cell phone 706 346-5886.

MY NEW YEAR'S WISH FOR EACH OF YOU

By Judy Howerton

A new year is what most people long for—it is not really the year change they look forward to but the possibility of changing themselves for the better. This year we look forward to a pandemic ending and getting a vaccine injection for corona virus. All of us want to start a year in a good footing. Most believe that a new year entails not only a continuous life but also a fresh beginning and a new lease on life. This lease on life, however, must be used in full.

The new year can be wasted or used for good. What you do each day is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that you have traded for it. You want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure; in order that you shall not regret the price you paid for it.

