

# FEDERATED FACTS

“ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION, EDUCATE YOUTH, AND ENJOY GARDEN CLUB”

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.

## Romans Attend Laurel Awards Workshop

August, 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 3

An awards meeting was the reason for a fun trip to Blue Ridge. The group had an opportunity to enjoy shopping and eating at a local restaurant before traveling to Caroline Alford's beautiful cabin. The setting was perfect for members from different garden clubs to share ideas and discuss the activities of their local club. The award meeting was held in Hiawassee. Much information

on applying for awards was given. All members of the group realized that the awards are easily applied for since all the information is online [www.uga.edu/gardenclubs](http://www.uga.edu/gardenclubs). The first of the awards to apply for is #16 Yearbook. Each club will submit their own yearbook during this administration. The yearbook must be submitted and arrive prior to October 15.

Suzanne Wheeler, GCG State President presented greetings and posed for a group photo with the RFGC group and Helen Huddleston, State Awards Chairman.

### Inside this issue

Garden Therapy	2
Ways to make \$\$\$\$\$	2
Help for environment	2
Community Grown	3
A Fair Booth for RFGC3	
Calendar	4
Pumpkin Run!	4



Memorial Garden, Veterans Home, CSH



Fountain at  
Veterans  
Home, CSH  
Article on  
page 2

## Laurel District Officers' Workshop

RFGC officers will travel to Cartersville, Georgia on August 19 for the District Officers workshop to be conducted by Sara Lanier, former GCG president and immediate past

Deep South Regional Director. Ms. Lanier has valuable information for the management of the offices. The members from Rome who attend will find data that will be useful for the coming two years. For more information, contact your club's officers.

## Garden Therapy Workshop

Submitted by Ann Bridges, GT Committee

The Garden Therapy Committee held an Orientation meeting in Milledgeville August 8th and 9th, 2013. The purpose of the meeting with staff from hospitals and the Veterans Home was to discuss the status of Garden Therapy which provides funds for gardening activities for clients at regional psychiatric hospitals in Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Thomasville, Savannah, and Milledgeville.

The meeting was chaired by Diane Harbin, Garden Therapy Chairman, who welcomed the thirty persons in attendance including Suzanne Wheeler, State President, The Garden Club of Georgia.

Following a luncheon provided by the Central State Hospital, a tour of the hospital and Veterans home

was given. Attendees were able to see the gardens at the Veterans Home and the work being done at the greenhouse using garden therapy funds. A stop was made at the Mary Brown Pavilion and Garden, which provides a place for privacy and beauty for clients at Central State, also a garden club project. The Veterans cemetery and the Cedar Lane Cemetery and other buildings at Central State were included on the tour of the almost 1750 acre complex.

The group heard from Dan Howell, CEO of Central State Hospital, about plans to close the Craig Center by December, 2013. Mr. Howell answered questions concerning this as well as other concerns.

Representatives from some of the other state hospitals were also in attendance and expressed their gratitude to The Garden Club of Georgia for providing funds to enable them to build raised beds, vegetable gardens and other projects that promotes the therapeutic aspect of gardening.

The meeting ended with a Dutch Treat Dinner that was enjoyed at the Milledgeville County Club before returning home.

**"Keep your motivation high; it will help you overcome difficulties in life. Don't expect people to come and solve your problems. You have to make plans for yourself."**

### How Can We Save?

**Save what?** This is a question that probably came to mind when you saw the title. Save, or conserve, is something that we all should and can do. How can you help RFGC save? The recycling of ink cartridges will help the environment and bring much needed funds to RFGC. Please bring any used ink jet cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phone etc. to the August 26 RFGC meeting. Not

planning on going? Please drop them off with your president, who should attend.

**How can your club save money?** Think about contributing

**Need a cookbook?  
RFGC still has a supply.  
These need to be sold!  
Contact Carolyn Walker**

### MAKE MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB!!!

Coosa Valley Fair Horticulture Show is right around the corner. Now is the time to start repotting your container plants and feeding them for a show of color. Cut and potted specimens will need to be entered on Sunday, Sept. 29th and cut roses on Monday, Sept. 30th. The schedule of the fair will come out in early September in the Rome News. Be sure to read the show rules concerning which classes you plan to enter your horticulture so that you can fill out your entry card before you get to the fairgrounds. Entry cards will be available at the Aug. 26 Federation meeting so that the presidents can take them back to their club meeting in September.

See you at the Fair! Connie Burnes, Fair Liaison

to RFGC to support the website. Your club has a page where you can list the data that is important to your members. This would be a way to communicate without having to host your own website. While the site: [www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com](http://www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com) is wonderful and we do hope an award winner, it is not free to publish. If your club could make a monetary donation (\$50 suggested), this would offset the cost of the site.

## "Community Grown"

Suzanne Wheeler's theme is "Scatter Joy as We Bloom and Grow". What an appropriate thought for us to implement.

Community gardens' aim is to create gardens in vacant lots, encourage civic groups, churches, neighborhoods, schools, etc. to plant vegetables, to enjoy and share. Be positive, be pro-active, involve groups, and of course, your garden club as the catalyst for a meaningful project.

Enlist Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. for seed packets, nurseries for mature plants, landscape architects who are willing to share expert advice about how and when. You can

auction raised beds for proceeds to buy good dirt and provide water. Think safety, continuity, and long term commitment Use your imagination and let's get a plan in place for spring! Remember to document your work by using the local newspaper and apply for awards.

Let's all catch the enthusiasm of our president. Our communities need to know we care. So put on your gardening hat and gloves - and let's DIG IN THE DIRT!!!!

Submitted by: Carolyn Walker

### Meet an RFGC Officer:

Rita Smith was born and was raised in Rome Georgia, helping her mother in their beauty salon. A graduate of West Rome High School, she attended Georgia Highlands and graduated with an Associate degree in Marketing.

A retired public educator, with thirty seven years of service with the City of Rome Fire Department Rita enjoys traveling, camping and spending time with her husband of fifteen years, Greg Cain, a native of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Greg is an Emergency Response Consultant with a company in Fort Payne, Alabama. In between traveling, camping, and spending time her husband Rita enjoys being with her son, Justin, who is employed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Technician.

Rita also enjoys entertaining in her home as well as spending time with her family. Rita is involved with many activities in and outside the community with various organizations such as Floyd County Safe Kids, Rome/Floyd County Commission on Children and Youth, a member of the Camellia Garden Club, and presently serves as the RFGC First Vice President.

## Going to the Fair? Check out RFGC Booth

In an effort to publicize the activities of The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., the officers have reserved a booth in the exhibit hall that will compete in the "community" category. Our goal is to have a "fun" day constructing the exhibit and a productive outcome of having the community understand some of our projects. Rita

Smith, First VP, has taken on this challenge. If she approaches your group for help in gathering materials or actually working on September 29<sup>th</sup> to construct the booth, please be there with a helping

**"RFGC will have a fair booth entry!"**  
Wow! What an idea: publicity, fun, and possibly profit!

hand. If you have a membership brochure that you would like to have included, please bring it to the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If we do a really creative job, we might get a ribbon (award) and earn a little money. This is just another way to add to our treasury without sales.

### Diane's Diggings



The dog days of summer are fast coming to an end. Your officers have been hard at work. I know individual clubs have been doing the same plus attending workshops and planning for the upcoming year. Judy and Don Howerton have

updated and redesigned our website. They have done an outstanding job. Be sure to look at the site and let them know what you think.

We have been looking for better and less labor intensive ways to maintain and grow our treasury, such as the recycling program detailed in this issue of Federated Facts. We have reserved a booth at the Coosa Valley Fair. Rita Smith has taken the lead for

this project. If she calls on you please respond positively. Anyone with other ideas, please contact me.

Our first Federation meeting is Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at the Garden Center. Townview will be our host club. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

*Diane*



**Tri-Refresher –  
Augusta, Georgia  
October 4-5, 2013**

**Registration Form – Must be  
post-marked no later than  
Sept. 24, 2013**

Registration Fee: \$65.00 for course  
plus \$5.00 for each school  
for which you are refreshing.

Need more information, contact  
Judy Kirkland at 706-556-3417

[jukirkland@knology.net](mailto:jukirkland@knology.net)

Make check payable to  
**LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
CONSULTANTS**



Rita Smith Cain with  
husband Greg at the  
beach.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Meetings:

August 22, Laurel District Board Meeting, Rome  
August 26, RFGC Meeting, Garden Center  
September 29, Coosa Valley Fair Entries  
September 29, Build RFGC Booth in Exhibit Hall  
September 30, Coosa Valley Fair Rose Entries

Garden Center:

August 26, 2013 Townview Refreshments  
September, 2013 Three Rivers  
Paper Towels and Bathroom Supplies

Library Arrangement:

August 12 – August 25 Townview  
August 26 – September 8 Camellia  
September 9 – September 22  
African Violet Study Group  
September 23 – October 6 Lavender View

**Do you have a report, request, or information that needs to  
be shared at the Federated meeting on August 26? If so  
please contact Diane Harbin at [dianejharbin@comcast.net](mailto:dianejharbin@comcast.net).  
You will be limited to a 2 minute presentation. You are  
welcome to prepare a handout.**

**We're on the Web!**

[www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com](http://www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com)

## Pumpkin on the Run!



The vine from single pumpkin seed  
continues to grow. It is approximately 31'  
feet with 2 good sized pumpkins and many  
blooms. The grandson of a Townview  
member checks it daily and is excited that  
he might have a fair entry!



**We are looking for your  
entry in the  
Rose competition at the  
Coosa Valley Fair.**

A \$200 grant is just waiting to be claimed for  
your club projects. Details are listed on page  
138 of the Garden Club of Georgia Handbook.  
Communication from the state indicates that  
not a single application has been submitted.  
Mary Kate Minge,  
District Community- on- My Mind Chairman