

Lake and Hills Garden Club

April showers bring May flowers and nothing could be truer in Keowee Key! Among some of the first beauties to pop this year were daffodils, azaleas, irises, and billowing wisteria.

Residents are enjoying a wide palette of colors and hues throughout our community as the many florals continue to unfold into their seasonal bloom.



Figure 1 The raised garden project team including Kathy McGovern, Peggy Gates, Ann Cramer, Jenny Leisinger, Kathleen Fosha, Project Lead Laurie Churchill and President Lynn Pode, paused to assemble their equipment. Nancy Tilley, not included in the photo, was also part of the crew.

Raised Bed Project

At the end of March, eight of the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LGHC) members began working on one of this year's main projects, a raised bed at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation. Project Lead Laurie Churchill and team started by cleaning the existing raised garden beds, as well as the many birdhouses adorning resident's windows. The Club has ordered new birdhouses to replace some of the older crumbling structures and kits for residents to build new

bluebird houses. The Club also ordered edible plants for planting in the raised beds at the end of April. The raised beds provide easy access for residents to visit.

The Bluebird of Happiness

At the LHGC April meeting, members learned about creating an environment to raise bluebirds in their backyards. Local resident and proprietor of For the Birds, Terry Allen, shared his personal experience and ideas about how to create favorable conditions for encouraging these feathered friends to adopt our backyards as suitable habitats. Many LHGC members find observing the complete "circle of life" of our backyard birds to be a very rewarding pastime.

Figure 2 Bluebird eggs incubate in a nest constructed in an LHGC member's backyard bluebird house located in Keowee Key.



Gibbs Gardens

Located in one of the highest crests in the northeast Cherokee County of Georgia, lies 220 acres of the beautiful Gibbs Gardens. Garden Club members will be taking a day trip to enjoy the splendor of 16 different gardens on May 14th. Members who are interested in participating and have not signed up yet can contact Laurie Flanagan at 614-390-1443 or email at: laurieflanagan@gmail.com.

May Meeting and Butterfly Poles

Join us for our next meeting on Friday, May 10th at 11:30 a.m. (arrive at 11:15 for social time) at the Event Center. Remember to call the Club at 864-944-2151 to make your lunch reservation. Local artist Diana Winuk will explain to members how to make Butterfly Towers and how to attract these beautiful pollinators to our yards. A workshop will follow for members to create their own butterfly habitats. Due to the high level of interest in this topic, the workshop is currently full; however, you may contact Karen Pfaff at kpffaff01@sbcglobal.net if you would like to be placed on the wait list.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or attending the meeting as a guest, please contact membership chairs, Diana Beane at 304-546-9110 or Edna Melamed at 864-944-8791. Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at the Event Center.