

Scuttlebutt, November Edition: Lake and Hills Garden Club

If American poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant was right - that Autumn is the year's last, loveliest smile - then the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) should be grinning from ear to ear. A tour of the Table Rock Tea Company in Pickens, South Carolina absolutely delighted Garden Club members this fall.

Jennifer Lorch, co-founder of Table Rock Tea Company, led 22 Garden Club members on a tour of her tea fields, greenhouse, and factory - all situated on 17 acres in the shadow of Table Rock Mountain. As Garden Club members began their tour, they learned that all tea (green, black, oolong, orange) comes from the same plant, *Camellia sinensis*. When they observed the lush Lazarus tea field, Garden Club members were shocked to find out that during the winter of 2017-2018, the harshest winter in 100 years, all but 14 plants in the fledgling company's first production field were killed. The tea company was devastated and ready to close. And yet like Lazarus, hundreds of tea plants, thought to be dead, came back to life. Much of that life can now be seen in the greenhouse, which is home to approximately 25,000 plants. The tour wrapped up in the factory where the focus was on the oxidation process that results in the type, flavor, and aroma of tea products.

Make plans now to attend the Friday, November 8 meeting of the LHGC in Vista South at The Club at Keowee Key®. Remember to call The Club at 864-944-2151 to make your lunch reservation. Donna LeBrun, owner of City Seed at the Station in Anderson, will lead a Moss Wreath Workshop. The \$28 workshop fee includes a 12 inch grapevine wreath, assorted moss, and some natural decor. While you may wish to provide your own embellishments, felt birds and fairy supplies will be available for purchase. Workshop space is limited to the first 30 participants to register. Contact Laurie Flanagan (614.390.1443) or laurieeflanagan@gmail.com) to register or to be placed on the waitlist.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or attending 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 in the Vista South Ballroom at The Club. The meetings include a program, lunch, and activities that are both informative and enjoyable.



LHGC_Group_Portrait.jpg Lake and Hills Garden Club members toured the Table Rock Tea Company in Pickens, South Carolina as part of a *Let's Go Out and Learn* activity in September.



Jennifer_Lorch_LHGC.jpg Table Rock Tea Company CEO Jennifer Lorch describes her five-year plan to Lake and Hills Garden Club members during their recent tour: more land, more tea fields, and a cafe.

