

## Final | LHGC Article for June Scuttlebutt

Lake and Hill Garden Club's (LHGC) President Lynn Pode provided the Club with a theme when she began her presidency in January 2019: *Gardeners Root Our Community*. Little did Lynn know how important her signature theme would become or how creatively it would be utilized during the 2020 global pandemic.

The LHGC “rooted our community” by continuing to engage our membership through two projects, Garden Pals and Spotlight. The Garden Pals project entails one member creating a small floral arrangement and dropping the flowers with a signed note on the porch of another member. The flowers might be accompanied by another small gift or humorous cartoon. Pictures of the Garden Club recipient and her flowers are posted on the Club's Facebook page with the tagline: *Garden Pals: While Apart, We are Together*. A second project, Spotlight, introduces new members to the entire LHGC. Spotlight profiles, available in both video and PDF formats, introduce members who joined the LHGC since 2019. The Spotlight profiles feature information about where members lived previously, how long they have lived in Keowee Key, their children and grandchildren, and their past employment. Spotlight also features the favorite activities of new members and answers the question: How did you get involved in the LHGC? Both projects brighten the lives of our membership while keeping momentum high in the Club.

The Table Rock Tea Company is another way example of President Lynn Pode's theme at work. Several LHGC members literally “rooted” the community on three occasions. On site at the Tea Company, LHGC members potted seedlings, a lot of seedlings. . . in fact, over 2,000 seedlings! Steve and Jennifer Lorch, Table Rock Tea Company owners, refer to LHGC members Lynn Pode, Laura Havran, Denise Doyle, Nancy Tilley, Nan Donovan and Julie Hoppock as their “A Team.” A wonderful way to help out a local business and uplift spirits at the same time.

Even though the annual conventions for the Garden Club of South Carolina and the South Atlantic Region were cancelled due to the pandemic, the awards presentation continued. The LHGC received 10, first-place awards: Lucy B. Pomeroy Historic Preservation (Hunnicutt Cemetery), National Garden Club Week Activities, Backyard Wildlife Habitats, Publicity Press Book, Conservation of Natural Resources Program, Club Public Program Award (Cherokee Trail Trees), Civic Achievement (Birds and Blooms at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation), Holiday Beautification (Keowee Key Holiday Decorations), GardenFORLife Pollinator (Birds and Blooms at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation), and Club Yearbook. The LHGC also received three, second-place awards: Arbor Day (tree planting at Seneca schools), Garden Therapy (making floral arrangements with nursing home residents), and Publication (Hunnicutt Cemetery brochure). At the South Atlantic Region, the LHGC received three awards: Hunnicutt Cemetery

Historic Preservation, Arbor Day Celebration at Seneca Schools (Honorable Mention), and Club Yearbook (Honorable Mention).

As the June meeting is uncertain and the LHGC normally does not meet in July and August, look for a LHGC eBlast as to when meetings will resume. If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or attending as a guest, please contact membership chairs Diana Beane (304) 546-9110 or Edna Melamed at (864)944-8791.



**Table Rock Tea Company Planting.jpg** LHGC members (L-R) Laura Havran, Nancy Tilley, Edna Melamed, Denise Doyle, and Lynn Pode pot seedlings at The Table Rock Tea Company all while donning masks / gloves and maintaining proper social distancing.