

## **LHGC Article for the Summer SC Gardener (May 1 Deadline)**

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When William Shakespeare wrote about daffodils over 400 years ago in The Winter's Tale, he didn't have the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC) in mind. But his observation that "Daffodils come before the swallow and take the winds of March with beauty" perfectly describes the LHGC's most recent outing at Gibbs Garden on March 6.

Cold, blustery conditions prevailed at Gibbs Garden's in Ball Ground, Georgia, as nearly 20 LHGC members bundled up in winter coats, cozy headgear, and warm gloves to tour 220-acres of landscaped gardens. But, oh, the reward for such bravery! Brilliant daffodils of various sizes and shapes exploded in shades of yellow, white, and orange across windswept hills. At Gibbs, the daffodil colorfest begins March 1 and extends through April 15. During that time, visitors can view 20 million daffodils of more than 200 different varieties. Depending upon the weather, the early daffodils bloom February 14 - March 10, the mid-bloomers from March 10-24, and the late bloomers from March 24 - April 7.

But daffodils are just the beginning at Gibbs. Colorfests for cherry blossom, dogwood, azalea, fern, rhododendron, rose, hydrangea, waterlily, day lily, crape myrtle, wildflowers, and Japanese maple roll seasonally through the gardens until mid-November. In addition to the daffodil gardens, LHGC members explored 15 other garden venues, including the Waterlily Gardens with a replica of the Monet Bridge. As they strolled past ponds, waterfalls, and landscape art, LHGC members envisioned the splashes of color that each season would soon paint.

At the end of their chilly March tour at Gibbs Garden, ruddy cheeked LHGC members were grateful for a remarkable experience they had shared together in the promise of a beautiful spring.



Just a few of the Lake and Hills Garden Club members who braved the chills of early March to tour the daffodil gardens and 15 other venues at Gibbs Gardens in Georgia.



Sunlight dapples a field of wind-swept *Narcissus* daffodils in early March on the hills of Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground, Georgia.