

Garden club works on project to 'beautify' Seneca library

BY LAUREN PIERCE
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SENECA — A local garden club set a goal to enhance the look of the Seneca Library this year. Lake and Hills Garden Club members and their husbands installed two boulders and 22 plants — including blue star juniper, carissa holly, yuletide camellia, pink muhly grass and variegated jasp sedge — at the library on March 6.

The effort is part of the club's 2021 Library Beautification Project, co-presidents Laurie Flanagan and Karen Pfaff said.

"Our garden club has always had projects in the Keowee Key area, because that's where we're based," Pfaff said. "As Laurie and I became presidents, we really felt that we wanted to reach out further into the community."

The duo said county officials excavated old holly roots to get the grounds ready for planting, local realtor Ethan Churchill used his tractor to move the boulders and a local landscape architect donated his time to draw up a landscape plan.

The plants were donated by Andrew Head. Pfaff and Flanagan said they wanted to "help out" in the community.

"This year our garden club's theme is 'Grow, Go and Give,'" Pfaff said. "This project was to help grow and give back to the community, and that's what we're here for."

"The mission of our garden club is to promote civic beauty," Flanagan added. "We didn't do it for recognition. We both believe in education, and at the heart, libraries are really important to a community. If we could help in any way to make it a more beautiful place that



Members of the Lake and Hills Garden Club and their husbands stand outside the Seneca Library after installing 22 plants and two boulders near the front door of the library on March 6. Shown, from left, are Cathy Waite, co-treasurer Ginny Cooper, Laurie Churchill, co-president Laurie Flanagan, co-president Karen Pfaff and Judy Tradd.

people would like to visit, that's great."

And the club plans to do more.

"The project will continue in December when South Carolina celebrates Arbor Day," Flanagan said. "We're going to plant about four trees, because there used to be two big trees out on the library's front lawn, but due to the horrific storms that have come through, they're gone."

"With the tornado, it was definitely a step backward in many ways," Pfaff added. "This side of town needs a little more lifting up than others."

The club worked closely with county library director Blair Hinson.

"We went to Blair, who

just jumped on it," Pfaff said. "He told us anything we wanted to do, he'd be happy to have us do it. We met with him and (Seneca branch manager) Emily Whitmire and walked the property and heard their wish list."

Hinson said he was "grateful for their hard work."

"The landscaping in Seneca has been a concern of ours for a while, and losing some of our larger trees to the hurricane in 2017 and the tornado last year meant that the whole block was getting pretty bare-looking," Hinson said. "They are going to continue to water and nurse those new plants along for a while until they take, so

we are very thankful that they will be continuing to work with us."

The club's goal was to put no maintenance effort on the library staff.

"These are low-maintenance, drought-resistant plants, but to get them started we'll come by and water them as need be," Flanagan said.



On the left is a "before" photo of the Seneca Library's plot next to the front entrance where weeds were sprouting up. On the right is an "after" picture showing the plants and boulders the Lake and Hills Garden Club installed on March 6.

Pfaff and Flanagan are "proud" of how the project came together.

"I think that's one of the things I've enjoyed about this project and why I'm so proud of it," Flanagan

said. "We involved so many members of the community way beyond our club. It was a community effort."

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