Happy New Year to each of you! Good grief we are a busy group of gardeners. There are so many deadlines and activities from which to choose, some days our heads are spinning. Two very big events in the coming months to seriously consider for your club are as follows: first of all be sure to sign up for the WLC Spring Meeting. We are off to Orangeburg Country Club for a full day of roses and more. The ladies have been busily planning this event to be held March 16 and are looking forward to hosting you. While there the winner of the WLC New Member Contest will be drawn and our big prize awarded...so be thinking about a new member or two for your club between now and then too. Second, please consider sponsoring a high school senior from your area for a Scholarship from GCSC for their first year at college. This gift from GCSC is one of our best!!!! Details are available on our website, be sure to read them and apply. See you in the garden!

Sandie Duerksen, District Director WLC...

“Where you have a plot of land, however small, plant a garden. Staying close to the soil is good for the soul.”
—Spencer W. Kimball
Dollars For Scholars

- Every year the Garden Club of South Carolina awards scholarship money to well deserving students who reside within our state.
- West Low Country District has traditionally helped fund the scholarship fund.
- Last year we awarded two scholarships from West Low Country in the amount of $500 each.
- In total from the state the gifts exceeded $20,000 annually.
- Students are selected for this honor from a pool of applications which are submitted by garden clubs within South Carolina.
- The applications for such scholarships are posted on the GCSC website and delivered to Betty Thacker, GCSC Scholarship Chairman. All criteria is posted.
- A committee then reviews each application and awards are determined. In Spring at the GCSC annual meeting winners are announced. This year it will be held in Greenville, SC.
- If you know of a high school senior who is planning a college education please consider giving him or her a chance to be selected. Your gift of time and effort in participating in the project is valued... so please complete an application. Thank you.

West Low Country District Awards-Update
By Anna Sheets- Co-Director WLC District

That January 15, 2017 deadline is just around the corner for all your applications for WLC Awards. There have been some changes- hopefully for the better. I thought I would highlight the changes and encourage some of you to enter some of the categories that had no applications this last year.

If you go to the GCSC Website and look under WLC District, you'll be able to download the application. It’s only 3 pages and the application counts as page 1. Last time there were no applications for Award #3- Garden Therapy, Award #5- Litter Control/Recycling, Award #8- National Garden Week, Award #11- Backyard Habitat, Award #14- Lib Scott Flower Show, and Award # 15 Native Plants.

Here are the changes for this year’s 15 WLC awards. Those not mentioned stay the same. Award #4 Horticulture includes any phase of horticulture including “Plant it Pink” for breast cancer survivors and staging a standard flower show; Award #11 Backyard Habitat also includes pollinator habitats or projects; Award #14 is now the Publication award and covers any written material promoting garden club themes such as newsletters, brochures, cookbooks, etc. and Award #15 Native Plants does not require sending in an art project, but simply a description and a photo of a native plant in your area.

I hope this inspires your club to send in some applications. All first place winners will receive a check for $25.00 at our WLC District Meeting which will be held in Orangeburg, March 16, 2017. Please send them to me by the 15th of January, 2017. Anna Sheets, davidsheets@mindspring.com Phone # 803-279-0272- I’ll be waiting!!

“It was such a pleasure to sink one’s hands into the warm earth, to feel at one’s fingertips the possibilities of the new season.” -Kate Morgan
Congratulations
Elloree Garden Club on your 75th Anniversary

North Augusta Council’s Butterfly Garden Installation

Fall decorations for Williston by the Ivy Garden Club of Williston

-IN EVERY GARDENER THERE IS A CHILD WHO BELIEVES IN THE SEED FAIRY.” Robert Brault
South Carolina is a land of gardens. Blessed with fertile soil and mild winters, South Carolinians have from the earliest days cultivated and tended gardens that with their azaleas, camellias, and jessamine draw visitors from throughout the world.

When my family moved to South Carolina I was convinced we couldn’t grow roses. It was too hot, too humid, too short wintered, and just too sunny. I was in for a big surprise…

As new residents to the area, Denny and I traveled the state visiting historic cities and age old gardens. We have always been gardeners at heart and were anxious to see some inspiration. Guess what… we saw roses. They were growing in all sorts of unexpected spots. We chuckled and claimed it still could never happen in a garden of ours.

One day the doorbell announced a visitor…it was a neighbor who stopped by to welcome us to the neighborhood. In her hand was a glass vase filled with beautiful roses...all grown in her garden. They were so beautiful and touched my heart to think we were being welcomed with a gift that gave us such inspiration.

SO…now we have roses at our place. We are growing the “Rose That Survived Katrina”, a small pink beauty that seems to survive every negative condition possible. I read about her in the NGC publication several years ago. We have the “Julie Child” blooming out front. She is a gorgeous yellow rose that gives us joy every spring and even in December. We have added one more to our mini garden, a “Grimaldi”, soft pink with white stripe that I just can’t stop cutting.

Please join us all on March 16 in Orangeburg to celebrate the roses, we do it daily in our garden, you won’t be disappointed.

Sandie Duerksen,  
WLC District Director

EDISTO GARDENS  
250 Riverside Drive, Orangeburg, SC

Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg is an exquisite road trip for any South Carolinian all year round. This Spring you will have the opportunity to visit this wonderful garden at the conclusion of our WLC Spring Meeting.

When the gardens were first established in the 1920’s, azaleas were planted on just five acres of land. Since then the gardens have blossomed to encompass 175 acres and showcase azaleas, camellias, roses, and centuries old cypress trees.

In 1973 the rose garden became an All-American Rose Selections test garden and features new varieties and award-winning roses. The Orangeburg Festival of Roses is held here in May of each year. Admission is free and the gardens are open seven days a week.

Visitors bring their cameras and a notepad. It is impossible to remember the desired rose for your garden without them. Memories from your visit with be forever. We look forward to seeing you in the garden and at the WLC Spring Meeting on March 16, 2017.
Guidelines: All West Low Country Clubs are eligible to win the grand prize.
Effective Dates: September 1, 2016/ March 15, 2017
PROCEDURE: When a WLC club adds a new member to their roster, they submit an entry form to District Director, Sandie Duerksen….via snail mail or internet. They include their club name, club number, new member name and address, and date of joining. That info is then transferred to an entry card by Sandie and placed in a “drawing box.”
The more names submitted, the greater the chance the club has to win the grand prize. Grand drawing date is March 16, 2017 at WLC Spring District meeting.

Why should we do this?????

- New faces bring...NEW ideas, enthusiasm, knowledge, potential new officers, and friendships.
- Ideas to get them in the door...invite special guests to a holiday party, have a special coffee or tea with each member bringing a guest, wear your garden club name tag around town, welcome new neighbors and share info about your club, volunteer at community activities as a representative of your garden club.
- How...“Step up” the quality of your meetings, always have a GREETER at the door of your meeting. greeting every member as they enter and pick up their name tag...smile, say hello, and make an effort with each other and a guest...remember ATTITUDE makes a difference...it is contagious!
- GOOD LUCK, participate, and WIN the grand prize.
- Sandie Duerksen, WLCDistrict Director- Sanduerk@bellsouth.net  
  165 Double Eagle Ct., Aiken, SC 29803  803-644-5242

Don’t wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.  
Luther Burbank

AN INVITATION
WEST LOW COUNTRY SPRING MEETING
“PROMISE YOU A ROSE GARDEN”
MARCH 16, 2017

Orangeburg Country Club
2745 Griffon Drive, Orangeburg,
Mark your calendar for this fun day in Orangeburg.
Good food, Good friends, and Good fun
Available to all
Plants To Dye For

During the late 1700’s dyeing natural fibers was a typical household chore. However, choices were limited. Two plant materials that were available in South Carolina were indigo (which produced a rich dark blue color) and madder (which makes an orangey-red) color. You were fortunate to have these plants available. They were prized specimens.

Plants from the garden offered other dyeing options too for the lady of the house. Typical garden plants produced yellows, greens, and browns. A dyeing garden grew yellow onion (allium cepa) which produced a light yellow color from its skin. Young shoots from horsetail (equisetum arvense) also produced a shade of yellow. Bracken fern (pteridium acquilinum) made a yellow green color from its unopened shoots. Today this plant is listed as an invasive plant in South Carolina. Many of us still have Bracken fern growing….it is a beauty.

Tansy’s leaves offered another shade of yellow and wild marjoram’s flower heads gave us a bright yellow! Two other plants that are not only beautiful, but useful are Lily of the Valley (convallaria majalis) and Old Man’s Beard, also known as Lichen.

The list goes on and on so….how is your garden growing? Does it offer some dyeing possibilities? Your club may consider a program on plants for dyeing…..you may be surprised at the fun you will have! Just gather up some fabric, heat up the kettle, and have fun…..this is a great Horticulture Program.