

Wildflower Bunch Garden Club

Big Canoe, Georgia

Historical Timeline: 1993 - 2016

The Beginning

On July 7th, 1993 a group of gardening friends gathered at Ardis McCain's home to form a garden club. Sara Lee was elected president. Dues were set at \$10 per member, Dr. Robert Platt would be the first speaker, Deer Away was suggested for deer control, and kudzu was already a topic of concern. During the September meeting, the members chose our name, The Wildflower Bunch, suggested by Clara McNay in the contest held for this purpose. At their last meeting of the year on November 3rd, the group started planning for a native plant sale in the spring.

1994

Much of the club's work this year focused on developing a club charter, including the following:

- Nominating Committee would offer the presidency to the vice-president
- Additional officers included a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary as well as the existing treasurer and programs chair
- Three absences during the club calendar resulted in loss of membership
- Fields trips were additional to the regular calendar
- Membership was limited to 40 paid members
- The calendar year ran from September through May
 - An annual award for the home that best represented the natural environment was established
 - The members also declined planting on Cherokee 9 because they did not "want to dig in other people's dirt."
- President: Ardis McCain (September '94 - May '95)

1995

- This year the club selected a club flower, the black-eyed susan; a tree, the sourwood; and a bird, the hummingbird
- The first winners of the BCWBGC Woodland Award were Avis and George Buckley
- Dues were raised from \$10 to \$15 to cover the costs of the yearbook each member received
- President: Tige Donald (September '95 - May '96)

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1996

- The club decided to donate \$200 to the Oglethorpe Wilderness Land Trust and \$300 to Hope House
- Woodland Award: George and Jane Mathews
- President: Lucretia Davenport (September '96 - May '97)

1997

- This year the club seemed to be rethinking some policies and purposes, including:
 - A long-range planning committee to study the future of the club whose membership was growing
 - By-Law changes enlarged the objectives of the club and members could join at any time
 - The meeting format was changed so that the speaker would be first and then free to leave
- Bill White, chairman of the ACC, was a speaker, reviewing the current status of home construction and regulations
- Jim Gibbs was the guest Speaker in March
- Woodland Award: Norman and Tige Donald
- President: Sue Gagliardi (September '97 - May '98)

1998

- Wildflower Bunch decided to begin year round programs, thus including the summer months
- The term for board officers remained September to May when they were installed
- The Sunshine Committee was inaugurated with a mission to provide comfort to members
 - Upon a member's death a tree (\$100. or less) would be planted inside the gates
- Woodland Award: Dottie Tate
 - Winners were offered a choice of signs, hanging or in ground
- President: Shirley Almond (September '98 - May '99)

1999

- This year the WFB Board decided to reconfigure the club's calendar year:
 - Since January and February are bad weather and low attendance months, the club voted to begin in March and run through the December meeting
 - The By-Laws were updated to reflect the change

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- 2000 would be a changeover year; 2001 would run on the March to December calendar
- The duties of officers were discussed and clarified
- The board also determined that donations should go to organizations that best follow the club's Objectives
- Woodland Award: Joyce Newhouse
- President: Joan Lee (September '99 - May '00)

2000

- This was the transition year for the club, changing from the September- May format to the new March-December format in 2001
- Since the year was really a half year, dues were set at \$7.50
- Woodland Award: Joan Lee
- President: Claudine Eastman (September - December '00)

2001

- A joint board meeting was held in January to facilitate the changeover
 - Excellent planning allowed the new calendar year to unfold seamlessly
- A change in the By-Laws for membership allowed all Big Canoe residents, *including men*, to join WFB
- Woodland Award: Ann Owens
- President: Helen Buckelew, 2001

2002

- With summer travel and the July 4th celebrations, the board decided to remove the July general meeting from the calendar.
- The board began discussions for an ongoing Wildflower Bunch project in Big Canoe.
 - Markers for Indian Trail trees and help with McDaniel Meadows were suggested possibilities
- The board discussed strategies to encourage deer population reduction and management
- The board initiated a drive for donations of horticulture materials and references in the Chapel library
- Woodland Award: Mary Ann Tippet
- President: Vida Andersen, 2002

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2003

- Wildflower Bunch commences work with the AECD to revise the Approved Plants and Trees Lists
 - Framed pictures of Woodland Award winners will be hung in the AECD offices as good examples of compliancy
- Wildflower Bunch cannot be a 501-C3 since we are not open to the public
- Tree signs for the 60 identified Indian Trail trees have been ordered
 - Randy and Edith Woodley, both Native Americans will attend the dedication of the installation of the tree signs
- Woodland Award: Bob and Mickey Schluenz
- President: Nancy Popp, 2003

2004

- In response to the significant damage from the 2002 tornado, the Wildflower Bunch settled on a beautification project
 - At first it was referred to as the Arbor or Arboretum, but later became the Garden Trail when working with the POA
 - The tract of land above the Playfield and below Wilderness Parkway was officially "given" to the club to reburish within the AECD guidelines
- Woodland Award: Joan and Burt Prater
- President: Patsy Wohlwend, 2004

2005

- The club continued to determine the character and content of the Garden Trail
 - Copper signage tags were approved
 - The board approved by a vote the final name for the area, Wildflower Bunch Garden Trail
 - Determination of the final design was set for early 2006.
- Woodland Award: David and Frances Haakmeester
- President: Donna Wright, 2005

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2006

- The Garden Trail continued to be a primary focus for the club with the board struggling over issues such as layout, watering, and clearing the spaces
 - The Bog Garden and Butterfly Garden were identified as the initial projects
- Woodland Award: Al and Helen Buckelew
- President: Pam Epstein 2006

2007

- The Garden Trail remained the primary endeavor for the club with watering and manpower being major issues
 - By-Laws and Policies were changed to accommodate the trail's role in the WFB year
 - By Oktoberfest the Trail had been improved significantly and could be opened for visitors to enjoy
- The club made its first official visit to Gibbs Gardens in the spring to view the daffodils
- The Plant Sale moved to the Wildcat Pavilion
- Woodland Award: Richard and Donna Wright
- President: Pam Epstein 2007

2008

- The club decided to try a fall plant sale
- The club also conducted a member survey to help the board plan for 2009.
- The club invited POA candidates to participate in a forum discussion at the October general meeting
- Woodland Award: Win and Jan Cates
- President: Jean Lomax 2008

2009

- The club was asked to enhance the appearance of the Main Gate area
 - The endeavor was eventually stalled while planning about the structure itself was finalized
- The club took on responsibility for the Hillside area of the Meadows to help the Conservation Task Force restore the entire area.
- A Fall Tree Sale was tried

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- The club made its own calendar to sell to members
- Woodland Award: John and Margaret Bryan
- President: Gordon Griffith 2009

2010

- Non-resident membership was considered and passed
- WFB established a website
- The Flower Power award to be given to members who make exceptional contributions to the club was established
- Woodland Award: Lauren Grant
- President: Cindy Bonner 2010

2011

- The guidelines for non-resident membership were finalized
- Due to a major mudslide virtually destroying the southern end of the Garden Trail, the area of the Garden Trail was reduced
- Membership reached a robust 213
- Woodland Award: Larry Miller
- President: Anita Rosen 2011

2012

- The monthly membership meeting was moved to the clubhouse
- The scrapbook was eliminated, archiving on the website instead
- Electronic communication, instead of paper, commenced
- Garden Tour and Woodland Award combined into one activity
- Membership drive at the Plant Sale approved
- The Handover Party to facilitate board transition moved to a board member's home shortly after the December general meeting
- President: John Lomax 2012

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2013

- e-meetings were approved if necessary
- "A Time to Share" as the December closing event was approved
- WFB undertook improving the Postal Facility grounds
- The July Plant Swap moved to October and was replaced by an evening Flash Feast event in July
- President: Sandy Boring 2013

2014

- A new member ambassador program was started
- The Garden Trail was officially returned to the POA's management
- Storage facility issues were resolved by a member offering basement space
 - Documents stored at the Chapel were culled and moved
- "Coffee in the Garden" before membership meetings was initiated
- By-Laws were given a major update to reflect how the club was operating
- An overview of the upcoming year in the form of bi-fold brochure was initiated
- President: Judy Kaufman, 2014

2015

- Board meeting minutes will be stored on the website with a specific password for access
- The By-Laws were changed to allow a board position to be filled by two members, operating as co-chairs
- President: Eunice Nichols, 2015

2016

- The WFB website became the hub of communication, information, and history
- Creation of a flow chart of communication was undertaken
- A Timeline of the Club's history was written and posted on the website
- Extra photos and miscellany about the club will be stored until 2018 for use in a possible 25 year celebration of WFB
- Co-Presidents: John Lomax & Judy Kaufman 2016