



*Protect.
Beautify.
Educate.
Collaborate.*

Tryon Garden Club
Tryon NC

The Garden Club of North
Carolina

2019-20 Yearbook

Club Information

Affiliations

- Blue Ridge National Heritage Site
- The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. (District 1)
- National Garden Clubs, Inc. (South Atlantic Region)
- North Carolina Birding Trail Site
- The Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens

Contact Info



Mailing Address:
PO Box 245, Tryon, NC 28782

pearsonsfallsinfo@gmail.com

Pearson's Falls and Glen Address:
2748 Pearson Falls Rd
Saluda, NC 28773
828-749-3031

Website: www.pearsonsfalls.org

63 Paid and 3 Honorary Members

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs President

Gay L. Austin
405 Marion Avenue
McComb, MS 39648-2709
601-684-3952 (H)
601-248-7661 (C)
gaylaustin@gmail.com

Theme: Plant America

NGC Headquarters

4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-776-7574
www.gardenclub.org

South Atlantic Region Director

Carolyn S. McCafferty
206 Blaney Avenue
Moundsville, WV 26041-1007
304-218-4190
dancrlyn@aol.com

Theme: Jump at Every Opportunity

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org



The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

GCNC President

Brenda Crocker
PO Box 7847
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
252-443-6513 (H)
252-903-0749 (C)
bcrocker3358@embarqmail.com

Theme: Engage with others as you would engage with your plants

District 1 Director

Elaine Hefner
enhefner@bellsouth.net

GCNC Meetings

Fall Board Meeting:

September 9-10, 2018
Fayetteville, NC

District 1 Meeting:

October 14, 2019
Flat Rock, NC

Annual Meeting:

April 19-20, 2020
Cary, NC



For District 1 and NC State information, visit www.gardenclubofnc.org

Message from Susan

As we begin our 91st year since the founding of our club, we continue to have an active board and membership. Our dedicated officers, committee chairs, and advisors work hard to keep the club vibrant and relevant. Our members step up in droves to volunteer on committees. Thank you all.

On October 17, 2018, we celebrated our 90th anniversary with a lunch at the Orchard Inn in Saluda. Each attendee received a commemorative vase made by local potter Tyson Graham. Our speaker was Dr. Patrick McMillan, who narrated our outstanding video, *Pearson's Falls – A Beautiful Place*. Dr. McMillan led a walk at Pearson's Falls after the lunch. We included the community in the celebration with a free day at the falls on October 24th. The Tryon Arts Center featured the falls on their annual Morris the Horse Christmas ornament.

Two major achievements this past year were the renovation of the Garden House at the falls, led by Gretchen Morris and Andy Ruff, and improved lighting and irrigation at the Depot Garden in downtown Tryon, spearheaded by Denise Barthold. The results are outstanding!

In March, Bob Tobey and Lucy Brannon were interviewed about Pearson's Falls on the CBS affiliate WSPA. They appeared on Your Carolina with Jack and Megan. Their informative talk increased awareness of our beautiful natural resource across the Western Carolinas.

This October 14th, we are excited to partner with the Daffy-Jills Garden Club to host the Garden Club of North Carolina District 1 meeting. Dr. McMillan will be the featured speaker.

Susan Kelley
President, Tryon Garden Club, Inc.



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Pearson's Falls and Glen

In the calendar year 2018, more than 25,000 visitors entered our gates.

Pearson's Falls and Glen hosts a myriad of events, in addition to our new and returning guests. Last year, we hosted nature walks led by six experts, eight school, church, youth, and garden groups, one family reunion, and five weddings!

Winter weather proved challenging last year, between hurricanes and devastating snow in December. Our intrepid staff cleaned up after the storms, including removing a large tree trunk that ended up leaning vertically against the falls.

We expanded the footprint of Pearson's Falls and Glen with the purchase of 6.97 acres of adjacent, road-front property. This addition, which will remain untouched (except for the never-ending task of pulling English ivy), will be a buffer for our entrance, gatehouse, and parking area, which were next to original property line. As a bonus, we so far have identified seven new plants on the property, adding to our extensive and diverse inventory of native species.

We completed a major renovation of our Garden House, which serves as an educational and meeting center, as well as a place for our visitors with special needs to enjoy the Pearson's Falls experience if they cannot manage the walk to the falls. If you can't get to the falls, the next best thing is viewing our *Pearson's Falls – A Beautiful Place* video on a large-screen TV!

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The Depot Garden

The Depot Garden team continues to amaze us all with their hard work and creativity. The garden is a favorite oasis in downtown Tryon.



TGC won the Garden Club of North Carolina 2019 Karen Suzanne Brenza Butterfly Garden Award for the Depot Garden's Monarch Waystation. Last August, we spotted the first of many Monarch caterpillars on the butterfly weed!

Improvements to the garden include:

- Installing new sprinkler heads to reach dry areas of the garden
- Adding large rocks from Pearson's Falls to the garden (Thank you, Andy Ruff!)
- Replacing the lighting with low-voltage path lighting and adding three post lanterns, making the garden a lovely place to visit at night
- Installing a new split-rail fence
- Adding a grapevine trellis (built by our own Jack Carlock!)



Please include the Depot Garden in your visit to the Falls!

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Education for All Ages

Our adult educational programs continue to receive positive feedback from members and guests. Whether we are featuring docent-led Walk & Talk programs and nature walks led by experts at Pearson's Falls, events at venues in downtown Tryon, or hosting public presentations at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, TGC provides high-quality content for our members and community.

In October, we had two events for local schools. Polk Central Elementary School first graders enjoyed the walk to the falls. Andy Ruff devised a scavenger hunt to keep the children engaged. Then Tryon Elementary School third grade students visited for an educational tour, with volunteer docents stationed along the trail to the falls to teach the students about the wonders they were seeing. In May, Sunny View Elementary School K-3 students enjoyed a tour and fun activities.

Our education committee is hard at work to involve more Polk County schools in our programs.



Tryon Elementary School third grade students and teachers

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Community Involvement

Jim Hawkins, Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Tryon, reached out to the TGC, inviting the club to be part of the church's Grace It Forward program. They gave the club \$200 to be used for free Pearson's Falls and Glen admission for the first 40 visitors who arrived. In return, the club gave each visitor a card, explaining the program and asking recipients to continue the mission in their own way. The passes were distributed to wonderful responses.

On October 9, 2018, TGC Civic Beautification Committee volunteers worked with the Tryon Downtown Development Association and Polk County High School agriculture students, refreshing 45 planters on Trade Street with cold-hardy annuals. On May 10, 2019, we turned around and planted summer annuals!



On May 9, 2019, we staffed a table at the I-28 Welcome Center in Columbus, celebrating Tourism Day. Joy and Jerry Soderquist set up displays and volunteers handed out brochures and literature. We offered free admission to veterans on in November and gave romantic couples two-for-one admission on Valentine's Day. We also opened the gates for free admission on October 24th to commemorate our 90th Anniversary celebration.

Information about the Tryon Garden Club and a free pass to Pearson's Falls and Glen is included in the Welcome Wagon gift bags for new residents.

Since 1928, the Tryon Garden Club, Inc. has been affiliated with the Garden Club of North Carolina and the National Garden Club of America



On a local level, TGC has had a rich history of promoting civic beautification, preservation, education, and community partnerships. During the early years, the members took an active part as role models to other newly established garden clubs by purchasing Pearson's Falls and Glen, a native botanical sanctuary.

TGC strives to improve the quality of the Pearson's Falls experience. In recent years, we built the first public composting restrooms in Western North Carolina, which features a green roof planted with native plants. In the past year, we renovated the Garden House and made it a state-of-the-art visitor and meeting center.

We continue to provide leadership by fostering awareness and appreciation of the natural world – preserving Pearson's Falls and Glen for future generations.

Tryon Garden Club/Pearson's Falls Highlights 1928-1981
Pastel Watercolors by members Elizabeth Martin and
Josette Jolley

Unless otherwise noted, meetings begin at 1:00, with snacks and refreshments served at 1:30 p.m. Programs start promptly at 2:00 pm.

September 18, 2019 – Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE)

Dustin Smith, Curator of Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, and Invertebrates at the North Carolina Zoo, *Protecting Hellbenders*

October 14, 2019 – Mountain Lodge & Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC

Garden Club, WNC meeting, Patrick McMillan speaker, *Gardening with Wild American Eyes*

October 16, 2019 – FENCE

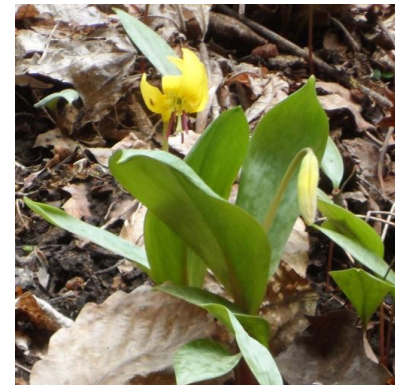
Eleanor Owen and Matt Jones, *Hardscape in the Garden with Pottery of Matt Jones*

November 20, 2019 - Pearson's Falls (members and invited guests only)

Amanda McNulty, Clemson Extension Horticulture Agent and host/producer of *Making It Grow*

December 2019 – FENCE (members and invited guests only)

6:00-8:00 pm – Annual Holiday Gathering



Unless otherwise noted, meetings begin at 1:00, with snacks and refreshments served at 1:30 p.m. Programs start promptly at 2:00 pm.

January 15, 2020 – FENCE

David Campbell, discussing the book *An Inventory of the Significant Natural Areas of Polk County, North Carolina*, David Campbell, author, and Pan Torlina, contributor

February 19, 2020 – FENCE

Steve Bennett, *Wetlands, Long Leaf Pines*

March 18, 2020 – FENCE

Rick Huffman, founder of SC Native Plant Society

April 15, 2020 - Pearson's Falls (members and invited guests only)

Donna Wise, *Mark Catesby, Colonial Naturalist*

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

12:00 pm – Annual members meeting and luncheon

Tryon Garden Club/Pearson's Falls Highlights 1928-1981
Pastel Watercolors by members Elizabeth Martin and
Josette Jolley



2019-2020 Officers/Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Susan Kelley
Secretary	Jackie Weedon
Treasurer	Carol Newton

Standing Committees

Civic Beautification Chair	Denise Barthold
Development Chair	Carol Newton
Education Chair	Cam Brandon
Finance Chair	Carol Newton
Hospitality Chair Co-Chair	Denny Crowe
Hospitality Chair Co-Chair	Donna Wise
Marketing/Website Chair	Ann Wendling
Membership Co-Chair	Donna Southworth
Membership Co-Chair	Jackie Weedon
Pearson's Falls Chair	Bob Tobey
Programs Chair	Eva Pratt
Special Events	Joanie Newman

Outgoing Board Members

- Kathleen Hamilton, Treasurer
- Linda Lovelace, Special Events
- Ceille Welch, Hospitality

Outgoing Advisors

- Lucy Brannon, Publicity
- Jerry Soderquist, Liaison

thank
you!

2019-2020 Advisors

Publicity	Janet Peterson
Docents	Virginia Meador
Archivist	Joy Soderquist

Committee Assignments

Executive Board

Susan Kelley (President)
 Carol Newton (Treasurer)
 Jackie Weedon (Secretary)

Civic Beautification

Denise Barthold (Chair)
 Jackie Burke
 Jack Carlock
 Sharon Cross
 Jane Darby
 Karen Hipp
 Jaclyn LaDue
 Nell Long
 Linda Lovelace
 Joanie Newman
 Beth Rounds
 Virginia Sechrest
 Jean Shumway
 Kathleen Sousa
 Donna Southworth
 Ann Wendling
 Corrie Woods

Development/Grant Admin

Carol Newton (Chair)
 Piper Close
 Mary Reeves
 Beth Rounds
 Jackie Weedon

Education

Cam Brandon (Chair)
 Jackie Burke
 Linda Eiserloh
 Annie Ewing
 Jaclyn LaDue
 Gail Marshall (fall-early spring)
 Virginia Meador
 Gretchen Morris
 Joy Soderquist

Education: Docent Program

Virginia Meador (Head Docent)
 Lucy Brannon
 Sandy Bruenner
 Jackie Burke
 Marion Crouse
 Linda Eiserloh
 Annie Ewing
 Carol McCall
 Gretchen Morris
 Mary Reeves
 Bob Tobey
 Jim Welch

Finance

Carol Newton (Chair)
 Bob Tobey

Historian/Archives

Joy Soderquist (Head Archivist)
 Mike McCue
 Barbara Oklesen
 Robin Rice
 Jerry Soderquist

Hospitality

Denny Crowe (Co-Chair)
 Donna Wise (Co-Chair)
 Cam Brandon
 Jack Carlock
 Sharon Cross
 Jane Darby
 Karen Hipp
 Rhonda King
 Beth Laughridge
 Gail Marshall (fall-early spring)
 Carol Meeske
 Gretchen Morris
 Janet Peterson
 Virginia Sechrest
 Jean Shumway
 Carol Jean Vosburgh
 Jackie Weedon
 Ceille Welch

Marketing/Publicity

Ann Wendling (Chair)
 Janet Peterson (Publicity)
 Piper Close

Membership/Yearbook

Donna Southworth (Co-Chair)
 Jackie Weedon (Co-Chair)

Newsletter

Donna Southworth

Programs

Eva Pratt (Chair)
 Jaclyn LaDue

Pearson's Falls and Glen

Bob Tobey (Chair)

Pearson's Falls: Fill-In Gate Duty

Alan Batchelder
 Norma Batchelder
 Lucy Brannon
 Patricia Gass
 Susan Kelley
 Jaclyn LaDue
 Gayle Lane
 Virginia Meador
 Gretchen Morris
 Eva Pratt
 Mary Reeves
 Garland Rice
 Virginia Sechrest
 Donna Southworth
 Bob Tobey
 Linda Watts

Special Events

Joanie Newman (Chair)
 Gretchen Morris
 Jean Shumway
 Jim Welch

Pearson's Falls: Special Projects

Lucy Brannon
 Sandy Bruenner
 Jackie Burke
 Jack Carlock
 Jane Darby
 Annie Ewing
 Karen Hipp
 Jaclyn LaDue
 Linda Lovelace
 Carol McCall
 Gretchen Morris
 Eva Pratt (pulling ivy)
 Sam Pratt (pulling ivy)
 Robin Rice
 Patsy Ryan (pulling ivy/invasives)
 Virginia Sechrest
 Kathleen Sousa
 Donna Southworth
 Bob Tobey
 Ceille Welch
 Jim Welch
 Corrie Woods

PF: Rack Card Distribution

Linda Eiserloh
 Annie Ewing
 Patricia Gass
 Judith Gosser
 Susan Kelley
 Carol McCall
 Gretchen Morris
 Patsy Ryan (Polk County only)
 Joy Soderquist
 Kathleen Sousa

NOTES

Katie Raynor is here just a short time but would be happy to help when needed – she didn't pick a specific committee



Linda Lovelace, Denise Barthold, and Ann Wendling supervising planting summer annuals in downtown Tryon



Andy Ruff and Tryon Elementary School third grade students



We're on TV! WSPA hosts Jack Roper and Megan Heidelberg on the left, our own Lucy Brannon and Bob Tobey on the right



At the annual member's meeting, clockwise from lower left, Joanna Wilson, Sandy Bruenner, Donna Southworth, Linda Eiserloh, Jim Welch, Kathleen Sousa

A Strong and Engaged Club



Pulling ivy at the glen: (1st row) Susan Kelley, Carol McCall, Jane Darby, Jackie Burke, Kathleen Sousa, Donna Southworth, (2nd row) Patsy Ryan, Bob Tobey, Sam Pratt, and Gene Justice



Dr. Gillian Newberry (with headset), Annie Ewing, Sam Pratt, Nell Long, Marion Crouse, and Carol McCall



Linda Eiserloh and Gretchen Morris decked out at the Christmas party

Celebrating Our 90th!



At the 90th Anniversary celebration on October 17, 2018: Front row: Ceille Baird Welch, Carol McCall, Kathleen Sousa, Susan Kelley, Joanna Wilson, Rhonda King, Delia Tittle, Donna Wise, Gail Marshall. Row 2: Jim Welch, Jane Darby, Linda Lovelace, Mary Reeves, Nell Long, Jackie Burke, Ann Wendling, Jean Shumway, Carol Meeske, Carol Jean Vosburgh, Norma Batchelder, Janet Peterson, Joy Soderquist. Row 3: Barbara Oklesen, Jack Carlock, Kathleen Hamilton, Dr. Patrick McMillan, Robin Rice, Elizabeth Nager, Jean Pettigrew, Marion Crouse, Pat Gass, Alan Batchelder, Gene Justice, Virginia Meador, Jerry Soderquist. Back row: Joanie Newman, Heidi Shull, Angie Bross, GCNC District 1 Director Elaine Hefner, Jackie Weedon, Gretchen Morris, Corrie Woods, Beth Laughridge, Cam Brandon, Bob Tobey, Gayle Lane, Lucy Brannon, MaryAnn Sloan, Janie Marlow, Linda Eiserloh, Andy Ruff, Beth Rounds, Mike McCue, Garland Rice



Beauty
Everywhere!



Through the climbing hydrangea arbor into the Depot Garden



Spring bloom at Pearson's Falls



The falls at dusk

Pearson's Falls Staff

We are privileged to have a great team in Andy and Gene. They treat each visitor as a guest in their home and take care of every detail to make Pearson's Falls and Glen a delight to all. In fact, our Facebook ratings and feedback comments often include comments on our wonderful gatekeepers. Thank you, Andy and Gene!

Thanks also to the Pearson's Falls Chair, Bob Tobey, and his team of volunteers, who contribute their time to Pearson's Falls.

Andy Ruff
Operations Manager



Gene Justice
Part-time Gatekeeper



Founded in 1928, the Tryon Garden Club purchased Pearson's Falls and Glen in 1931, to preserve this rare treasure for future generations.

Pearson's Falls and Glen boasts over 350 species of rare wildflowers and other plants.

We have over 2700 engaged Facebook followers with a 4.9 rating!

We have had over 8600 views of *Pearson's Falls – A Beautiful Place* on YouTube!



www.blueridgeheritagetrail.com



Pearson's Falls and Glen continues to attract visitors of all ages. Many young families enjoy the short walk with their kids and others come to enjoy our "oasis." The next generation is making memories!