

SOUTHERN PINES GARDEN CLUB

A SANDHILLS TRADITION SINCE 1948

HOME GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY • APRIL 5th • 2025

Southern Pines Garden Club

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Community Garden Clubs: More Relevant Than Ever

In an era where technological advances often dominate the headlines, community garden clubs—such as the Southern Pines Garden Club—are quietly blooming, offering vital benefits to individuals and communities alike. As concerns about environmental stewardship, landscape preservation, and mental health continue to grow, these local clubs provide an invaluable space for engagement, education, and connection.

A Legacy of Community Projects

The Southern Pines Garden Club leads a wide range of impactful community projects. These include the restoration and upkeep of Woodlawn Cemetery, home to over 175 veterans; the Weymouth Equestrians youth riding program, which provides life-changing experiences to local children; the creation of the area's first Sensory Garden at Sandhills Horticultural Gardens; the Healing Garden at Clara McLean House; and the underwriting of school garden projects throughout the region. The club also organizes Operation Christmas Tree, delivering holiday cheer to families in need. These projects showcase the Garden Club's deep commitment to beautification, education, and community well-being.

Supporting Local History

Proceeds from the Southern Pines Garden Club Home & Garden Tour directly benefit the landscaping and beautification of Woodlawn Cemetery in West Southern Pines, one of the first incorporated Black townships in North Carolina (1923). This historic neighborhood cemetery is listed on the N.C. Historic Black Cemetery Registry and is the final resting place of more than 175 veterans. Since its founding in 1928, it has served as a focal point for memorial and veteran services throughout the year. The Southern Pines Land & Housing Trust now cares for this tranquil burial ground, shaded by towering pines.

Promoting Community Well-Being and Education

The Southern Pines Garden Club supports numerous local projects that enhance both community well-being and educational opportunities. Among its initiatives is the Weymouth Equestrians youth riding program in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. This free six-week after-school program for children in grades six through twelve not only introduces them to equestrian caregiving skills and offers life-changing experiences.

In addition, the Southern Pines Garden Club has launched the area's first Sensory Garden, a children's garden located at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. This unique space features plantings that appeal to all five senses, creating an enriching environment for children of all abilities. The garden is free and open to the public.

The Garden Club also underwrites school garden projects across the community, supporting the development of outdoor classrooms that teach food literacy, respect for food production, and the importance of environmental stewardship. As Kathy Byron, a garden educator, said: "The power of the garden is that it can teach food literacy, bring people together, and make learning real and relevant."

A Tradition of Giving Back

The Garden Club's philanthropic spirit extends beyond horticulture. Through its "Operation Christmas Tree" initiative, the Southern Pines Garden Club delivered 60 Christmas trees, along with decorations, holiday hams, and books, to families in need at the Northern Moore Family Resource Center. It also supports the Healing Garden at Clara McLean House, a hospitality house for families receiving care at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital or FirstHealth Hospice.

A Catalyst for Community Engagement

Founded in 1948, the Southern Pines Garden Club has long been a pillar of the local community. Its dedication to beautification, education, and charitable works demonstrates how garden clubs are more relevant today than ever. As communities seek greener, healthier, and more sustainable futures, garden clubs like this one continue to make a lasting impact.

For more information on how to support the Southern Pines Garden Club and its various initiatives, please find details at thesouthernpinesgardenclub.com.

About the Southern Pines Garden Club:

The Southern Pines Garden Club, founded in 1948, is dedicated to the beautification, sustainability, and enrichment of the local community. Through a variety of initiatives, including historic preservation, youth education programs, and support for local landscape initiatives, the club fosters a deeper connection between people and nature.