

Garden Club...from Page 1A



L-R: Longtime Garden Club Member Kathryn Litton, Club President Margaret Lynch and Regent Annette Hoppood of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

meeting, and he talked about the work that the club does for the county and what it means to have them around and taking care of the plants of the area.

"I'm very proud of our Garden Club and all that they do and all that they have done here for us," Paris said. "I hope maybe this 80th birthday will inspire people to get out and start helping. Thank you, Kathryn (Litton), for your leadership in helping to keep the Garden Club going."

Added Paris, "My mother was big into the Garden Club. She was involved well before I was born. Every weekend, it seemed like there was a flower show somewhere, and she drug me to flower shows all over the area.

"I spent a lot of my young life going to fairs and being a part of the Garden Club, so I became really appreciative of everything they have to do with our environment and how beautiful they make our town and country and this beautiful place we live in."

For his part, Mayor Jim Conley thanked the group for the work its members have done over the years in making Blairsville beautiful.

"It's good to see the turnout of people here today," Conley said. "Before we ever did the streetscape around the

square in Blairsville, every time a season changed, lord, that Garden Club, they were digging up everything they could get their hands on.

"I just can't tell you ladies how much it means to myself as the mayor and to our city and the council. Y'all always kept the square looking beautiful. They don't participate in the square and planting much anymore, but they sure do participate in our Arbor Day every year.

"Every year, we keep getting more years behind us; we celebrated our 26th year of Arbor Day this year. And when Kathryn Litton gets something on her mind, you better agree to it. I love her to death; she is a remarkable lady, and she knows her garden and she knows her plants."

Litton, who has been a member of the club for 40 years, gave the background of the Garden Club and how it has changed over the years.

"We have given scholarships to students that have gone to study agriculture or some of the sciences and other related fields," Litton said. "For a number of years we have done that, and one year, we were able to carry one girl through all four years, because her father had died and her mother was holding down

three jobs while raising two children.

"She graduated with honors holding down two jobs herself, and now she works on the State 4-H Advisory System at the University of Georgia.

"We used to have programs at the schools, but now the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center has programs for all the students, grades 1-7, I believe, throughout the region.

"Our Garden Club makes up money from our sales that we have, and we donate money to help carry on the education over at the Experiment Station."

Concluding the occasion Saturday afternoon, Litton highlighted the many incredible accomplishments and awards of the longstanding organization, showcasing a table of records and other historical documents for attendees to peruse following the program.

Annette Hoppood of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution also presented a certificate of award that day in honor of the club's 80th year.

The Garden Club will continue to work toward keeping the area beautiful and informing students and the community about the importance of native plants.

Campbell...from Page 1A



L-R: W.C. Nelson, Sonny Hinson, birthday boy Don Campbell and John Hamler on Tuesday, March 3.
Photo by Mark Smith

Blairsville for the Hill family after he retired from corporate aviation. He and W.C. Nelson of Nelson Tractor, also a pilot, have been friends for a great many years.

Among some of the 25-plus guests celebrating

Campbell's birthday that Tuesday were W.C. Nelson and other longtime friends, including retired Blairsville Municipal Airport Manager John Hamler and local flight instructor Sonny Hinson.

Also present was U.S.

Air Force veteran and Martin Campbell Field Manager Alan Froesch.

Hamler said they would all be getting together for Campbell's 100th and 110th birthdays, granted, of course, "we're around that long."

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