

CAMELLIA CONNECTION

Newsletter of Camellia District IV - The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Camellia Connection Winter Issue Deadline: June 1, 2023

2021-2023 Camellia

District Executive Board

Director's Message



**Director
Rita Hightower**

**Co-Director
Cathy Perry**

**Recording Secretary
Vicki Johnson**

**Corresponding
Secretary
Lindsay Day**

**Treasurer
Suzan Bennett**

**Assistant Treasurer
Annelle Moore**

**Parliamentarian
Anita Allen**

**Advisor
Jan Thiese**

Happy New Year Classy Camellias,

I hope everyone had a special Christmas and the New Year is starting off in the right direction.

Two fundraising projects are underway for our District. The first is Flower Show School. At our last board meeting, after much discussion, it was decided we would try to fund a flower show school to be held in Camellia District. We are woefully short of Flower Show Judges, and hope this effort will make it more convenient and, hopefully, more affordable for the people of our area to attend. It was voted on that we would ask each person to make a one-time \$10.00 contribution for this cause. If everyone will contribute, we will have the necessary funding to get this done, without resorting to other types of fundraising. I am asking each club to collect this money from each club member and write one check to Camellia District with a note that it is for the Flower Show School and forward to our District Treasurer. The sooner the funds are raised, the sooner we can begin the process of implementing this school. Thank you in advance for helping our District to be the best we can be.

The other fundraiser is for the State. Each year the State raises its funds with an annual money raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be held at the GCG Convention in Stone Mountain, GA on April 20, 2023. The Grand Prize is \$500.00, Second Prize is \$250.00, and Third Prize is \$125.00. *You do not have to be present to win.* Again, this is the only time the State asks the clubs for money other than your annual dues. Please try to support this effort as well. Tickets will be coming to each club very soon. Instructions will be included in the letter that will accompany the tickets.

We have an upcoming Board Meeting in Dublin, GA on February 10, 2023. The call letter and information will be coming out very shortly. I encourage all chairmen and district officers to please attend. This will be my last Board Meeting as your District Director and I would love to see each of you there.

Our Nominating Committee has been busy preparing the slate of officers for 2023-2025. This slate will be presented at the upcoming Board Meeting. Our new officers will be installed in Stone Mountain at the GCG Convention in April.

Please read the GCG Board Brief for the upcoming GCG activities. This is a good way to know what is going on in the State.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Camellia District Director. I have had some personal challenges that have not allowed me to be present for all the things I would have loved to have attended, but my heart was there with you even though the body was not. I have met and gotten to know some of the most talented, creative, and wonderful people who would not have crossed my path in life otherwise. Just because I am going out as District Director, does not mean I am abandoning the District. I am available and willing to do what I can wherever I can. You will have a great and wonderful whole new team coming in to lead Camellia District. Please give them the support and love that you have showered upon me.

Blessings,

Rita





Mark Your Calendars!

February 10, 2023	District Board Meeting in Dublin, GA
February 15, 2023	Club President's Reports Due
March 1, 2023	Club and Council Dues Deadline to State
March 3, 2023	Blue Star Marker Dedication in Dublin at 1:00 pm
April 16-23, 2023	Garden Week in GA
April 18-20, 2023	GCG State Convention in Stone Mountain, GA
June 4-10, 2023	National Garden Week



Save The Date

Camellia District Garden Clubs
Invite you to attend the Dedication Service for a

Blue Star Memorial Marker

Friday, March 3, 2022

At

1:00 PM

The Dedication will be held at
Rest Area 88 on I-16 West Bound
In Dublin-Laurens County, Georgia

Blue Star Markers are dedicated to honor
All who have served, are serving or will serve in the
United States Armed Forces.

Additional information will be sent in February

Jan Thiese ~ Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman
Camellia District and Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Cell (478) 319-4234

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OUR MISSION OF SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUES

We are now in the GCG scholarship giving period. The Scholarship Committee will meet in February to award scholarships to qualified students who applied this year. These are financially struggling students who may have to drop out of school without your continued support. As the old saying goes, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Your gift, large or small, makes the difference in the direction that a student may take that will affect their life and career forever.

When your club meets in January, please support the "Dollars for Scholars" scholarship program. Each club member is asked to donate one dollar and the monies collected are given to the club treasurer. She writes one check from the club, fills out the form that is on-line and sends it in.

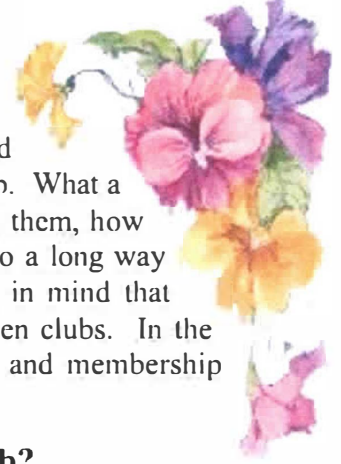
Thank you, Camellia District, for your continued support of the scholarship program. Last year, the district donated \$1,000.00 for a Named Scholarship in honor of former District Directors. The following clubs also donated to the Patron of Scholarships: Trillium Garden Club, Greenbriar Garden Club, Erin Garden Club, Rambler Rose Garden Club, Kilarney Queen Garden Club and Vineville Garden Club.

You are the backbone of the scholarship program and we depend on your continued support to fulfill our Mission of Education. You can support scholarships in many ways: Named Scholarships, Patron of Scholarship, Dollars Educate Scholars, Life Memberships and Amazon Smile with GCG as your Charity of Choice. Visit our website for forms and additional information.

Our mission continues! Join us in making an investment in the future education of our students. They will carry the torch that will affect the future for us all.

Any questions? Contact: Dot Williams
Camellia District Scholarship Chairman
d.williams@bellsouth.net





Increasing Membership

What Does it Mean?

All of us constantly interact with friends, neighbors, and co-workers on a daily basis who are not members of a garden club. What a wonderful opportunity to talk up "Garden Club". What we say to them, how we say it, the impression we give of our club in conversations all go a long way toward getting that particular person to think about joining. Keep in mind that we're responsible for getting new members to join our individual garden clubs. In the eyes of the community, we are **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.** and membership means **YOU and ME!**

How To Get New Members To Join Your Club?

Easy, just ask!

Here are just a few ideas that you many want to try:

1. Ask your neighbor, Sunday School member, or Bridge Club to visit a club meeting.
2. Have club members send invitations to new residents in their neighborhood.
3. Have a Plant Party or Plant Exchange ~ invite the public. Hand out invitations to the club meeting.
4. Print up a flyer on how nice a yard looks and place it on the front door of the home inviting the owner to the next garden club meeting.
5. Start conversations about gardening when in supermarkets and/or garden nursery lines if they are purchasing plants or flowers.
6. Have a *Membership Table* with a sign-up book and club membership information at your garden club's flower show, fund-raisers, and community fairs and events.
7. When someone shows interest, follow up by contacting them and sending them a notice of meetings.
8. And the most important one of all: **MAKE THEM FEEL WANTED AS A MEMBER!**

Have you ever been invited to a club or some type of gathering and no one ever came by and welcomed you? This is a very good way **NOT** to get a new member. A prospective member attending a garden club meeting, should walk away feeling like they are already a part of the garden club. Introduce the prospective member to others during the club's hospitality time. If time permits during the meeting, have the new member tell a little something about themselves, hobbies, and family. Then after the meeting, let them ask questions about the club. Once they joined make them a part of the club. A good "ice-breaking" activity for the new member is to be a *Greeter* at the club meetings. This presents an excellent opportunity to get to know each other. Also, invite the new member to a club function that has high visibility and interaction with other members. This includes social functions, service activities and state/district meetings.

New Member Packets and/or New Member Orientation Sessions

An informed member is an involved member. Once that prospective member joins, we seem to forget to "introduce" them to the joys of being an active garden club member. Periodically throughout the year, invite new members to a gathering to get to know more about the club. This could be a "Dessert Party" at a member's home. Helpful information on the club's history, projects, ideals and mission are all good introductions to your club. If scheduling a New Member Orientation is not possible, then produce a *New Member Packet*. Put your club's by-laws, yearbooks, and any other information that will inform the new member about not only your garden club's activities and projects, but something about the district, state, regional and national's activities and projects. A new member who has been introduced to the garden club's activities and projects is more likely to become more involved and remain active.

Yes, the growing season has arrived! Garden clubs provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral designs, civic and environmental opportunities. Membership is not only the "lifeline" of our organization, but members are the heart and soul of **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

Why Join A Garden Club?

Belonging to a garden club provides wonderful learning opportunities: monthly programs, tours, flower shows, a variety of newsletters, interaction with club members and speakers and the opportunity to attend a participate in events, such as National Garden Clubs schools, refreshers and symposia, and state, region and national conventions. When you join a garden club you see the world.

- To be a member of the largest volunteer organization of its kind in the world.
- To learn more about the environment and what you can do in your own home to improve the quality of life for everyone.
- To be a part of an organization that offers activities for involvement, including flower arranging, horticulture, environmental studies, garden therapy, youth activities, art appreciation and conservation and preservation of natural resources, Historic Preservation of gardens and sites, Habitat for Humanity Landscape projects, Natural Disasters, installing Blue Star Markers, and Historical Trail Markers, Parks & Public Lands Enhancement, Plant Societies, Roadside Beautification, and School grounds improvements, Basic Design Courses, and to participate in Plant it for Pink. To support our Botanical Gardens in Georgia. The list goes on!
- To support an organization that provides scholarships in study fields related to garden objectives, agriculture, ecology, horticulture, landscape architecture horticulture and environmental issues and historic preservation.
- To be a sponsor of youth activities such as Essay Contests, High School Distinguished Service Project, Poetry Contest, Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Youth Sculpture Contest and Girl Scouts Native Plants Patch.
- To belong to an organization that offers continuing education with Flower Show Schools, Symposiums, Landscape Design Schools, Gardening Study Schools and Environmental Studies Schools
- To develop your leadership skills by learning how to educate your community on air quality, beautification, litter control, clean water practices, groundwater protection, landscaping, and legislative issues.
- To be a part of a movement that establishes bird and tree sanctuaries and urban backyard habitats for wildlife and saving our Honey Bees and butterflies.
- To become a better informed citizen by receiving information on pending legislation from your Garden Club, The Garden Club of Georgia and The National Garden Clubs... learning what actions to take to deal with the issues.
- To learn about environmental landscape management and drought resistant native plants, wildflowers, trees and shrubs.
- To support Wildflower and Native plant symposium.

Membership Seeds

All gardens begin with seeds. Even if you plant your garden with seedlings, or starter plants, they first began as a seed. The club membership garden is no different.

We will likely agree on many of the traits our clubs should possess when they are fully developed and ready to "harvest," but because clubs tend to grow from more than one seed, and from different kinds of seeds, there is still much debate about the characteristics of the seeds we should be planting if we truly wish to have a great harvest.

Some of the seeds of club membership seem obvious, even if we sometimes skip over them in our rush to plant "our garden." They might begin with the People seeds, or the Meeting location seed, or perhaps even the Time of day or the Day of the week seeds. These are important seeds to be planting, for sure, but what are some of the other seeds that also need to be planted if we are to have a successful Club harvest?

There are Fun seeds, Caring seeds, Listening seeds, Educational seeds, Silly seeds, Inclusive seeds, Helpful seeds, Inquisitive seeds, Honoring seeds, Leadership seeds, Task or Project seeds, Program seeds, Organizational seeds, and don't forget the Sharing seeds.

These are only some of the seeds you might find in a successful Club's Membership Garden. What are some of the seeds you have planted in your own Club's garden and why are they important?

~Mike Stewart

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow

We are so fortunate to be gardeners because it makes us believers.

In a world where the future often seems cloudy and division marks our society, we gardeners **sow affection** for those who will come after us. They may sit under a tree we planted or enjoy a daffodil from a bulb we set years before.

Our endeavors reflect the need for clean water, healthful air, an enriching earth, and a nourishing environment for all.

We plant lilies and love, peonies and patience, rutabagas and respect, marigolds and meditation, hollyhocks, and hope. **We plant today for tomorrow** because we believe in the future. Gardeners help create a better, more beautiful tomorrow.

We inspire each other by coming together to learn, share, and create.

Nature inspires us. We are concerned about bees that help grow food and flowers, and the birds and butterflies that lighten our hearts.

We're gardeners, you and I, and we're making tomorrow a better place, one blossom at a time.

~Harry Matte

Erin Garden Club Christmas Stocking Project



Erin Garden Club of Dublin members brought approximately 50 Christmas arrangements and Christmas plants to their Christmas Party for their Christmas Stocking project. The club and Agape Hospice staff had discussed the need of Hospice patients receiving care in their family home during Christmas. It was surprising to learn, just in Laurens County, there were approximately 70 Hospice patients receiving care in their private homes. Erin Garden Club decided for this year's Christmas Stocking project to focus on as many Hospice homes as possible. A small arrangement or plant with a card noting that these families and their loved one were being remembered during this Christmas season were delivered by Agape staff.

Douglas Garden Club Hosts Annual District Meeting

The Douglas Garden Club enjoyed hosting the annual Camellia District meeting in October. There was a wonderful turnout and everyone was excited to be able to gather in person again. Guest speaker, John Glosson gave a festive holiday table arranging program and even sang for the group.

DGC would like to thank everyone who helped to make the meeting a great success and those that traveled to be there. Our club hopes you enjoyed your visit to Douglas and that you will come see us again soon!



10 Tasks to Keep Your Garden Growing this Winter

Winter is certainly the time to dream, plan and prepare for next year's garden, but there are a number of tasks you can do out in the garden to keep it growing well through the winter months. Take a look at ten ways to maintain your green thumb through the coldest time of year.

1. Dream, scheme and plan for next season.
2. Pre-order seeds, bulbs and plants for spring.
3. Design a new garden bed, path or feature.
4. Organize your shed or garage.
5. Sharpen and oil your tools.
6. Check stored bulbs and tubers for mold and moisture.
7. Water any containerized plants you are overwintering.
8. Reapply mulch or lay evergreen boughs over sensitive plants in the garden.
9. Reapply animal repellents, if necessary.
10. Maintain water features and bird baths.

Source: <https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/winter/10-tasks-keep-your-garden-growing-winter>

