



leander Leaflets FALL 2022/January 2023

*The Official Newsletter of the Oleander District of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
A member of the National Garden Club, Inc and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.*

Greetings Outstanding Oleanders,



For your director, October was the busiest and the most fun month of the year! We were the first district to hold our annual meeting. What a great team worked together under the leadership of our chairman, Hilda Rushing! Our guests were greeted and registered by Sprig and Dig Garden Club. Refreshments were served by Hope and Hoe and Spade and Trowel Garden Clubs. Our successful basket raffle was handled by Evergreen Garden Club with 21 entries. Our equally successful silent auction was organized by the Millen Garden Club. Exhibits were set up by the Green Thumb Garden Club. The unique table decorations were created by the Brooklet Club. A big thank you to Lori Hurlebaus for our programs! And a shout out to our Oleander officers and

chairmen who all contributed to the success of our meeting! Hilda and I also attended Azalea, Redbud, Magnolia, and Dogwood District Meetings. What a treat to relax and just totally enjoy each of these welcoming events! Congratulations to each club for the awards and certificates that you received for recognition of your achievements!

I would like to recognize two of our Oleander District Awards: Congratulations to Odum Garden Club for being The Outstanding Garden Club of the Year! These hard-working members had the highest score on the annual GCG President's report. Congratulations to Shirley Lewis who was selected as Oleander's Outstanding Garden Club Member! Shirley has also been honored as an Emeritus Member of the Garden Club of Georgia. Thank you, Shirley, for over 52 years of service!

Genelda Reese

Oleander District Director

Protect Our Green Spaces and Plant Us

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*** Additional pictures of the Oleander District Annual Meeting are at end of this newsletter.

The next May Oleander Leaflets will include many events in January thru April - and will include the GCG Award Winners!

Check out the Oleander District facebook page - June Thomas does an amazing job of putting your events on it as soon as she receives them.

NEW: The Garden Club of Georgia has a new website: (be sure to go to .org - not uga)
www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

"SAVE THE DATES" - Registration forms will be sent out at a later date.

April 18-20 - GCG Convention - Stone Mountain - register now online

July 26 - Oleander Awards/Leadership Workshop - Savannah Botanical (Bamboo Gardens)

October 12 - Oleander District Annual Meeting - "Under the Chandelier" - Jesup

The Oleander District Annual Meeting in Statesboro on October 4, 2022







OLEANDER DISTRICT AWARDS





Sara Lewis Horticulture Award
 Created a pollinator habitat that is registered with the Monarch Joint Ventures and Monarch Waystation. Worked with the city to create wildflower gardens in strategic areas in the city.

**Cindie Rigdon
 Morning Glory GC
 Hinesville**



Nelle Pope Horticulture Award

Partnered with multiple organizations, sponsored many fundraisers and applied for a number of grants to earn \$600,000 to design the total horticulture renovation of Forsyth Park in Savannah.

**Trustees' GC of Savannah
Created a beautiful atmosphere
for the locals and visitors.**



Shirley Lewis Environmental Awareness Award

Works with local Keep Beautiful to recycle. Members collect recyclables and transports them quarterly to recycling site in Liberty County.

**Morning Glory Garden Club
Hinesville, GA**



Mary Helen Ray Beautification & Historic Preservation Award

Joined the Cemetery Society in preserving an 1838 cemetery to increase community awareness and raised funds to support the restoration, maintenance of graves and markers as well as restore the landscaping. They served as Spirit Guides on cemetery tours of burial blots of the six secret societies.

**Magnolia Garden Club
Brunswick**



Martha Miller Butterfly Award

Continued work with the county library and other community organizations to turn a cement slab into a Lucious pollinator garden in Library courtyard. The garden will be the site for educational activities, Butterfly days. It was also a site for the Great Pollinator Count where Appling Countians were welcomed to count bugs.

Pine Forest Garden Club, Baxley



Awards All Star

Awards date for this award is obtained from The Garden Club of Georgia's Annual President's Report.

**The Landings Garden Club
(12 GCG, DSGC, & NGC awards)
Savannah, GA**



Outstanding Garden Club of the Year

Information for this award is obtained from The Garden Club of Georgia Annual President's Report which is based on a well balanced program of work. The club with the highest score becomes the Oleander OGCOTY.

**Odum Garden Club
Odum, GA**



Outstanding Garden Club Member

The person for this award is nominated by her peer club. Diversity in many projects & programs along with actively serving on the local, district, state and national boards influence the individual selection. She joined a coastal GA garden club in 1970 to learn how to plant. She has served on more community committees than we have time to list. She has held all positions in her garden club, the county council, served as Oleander DD, and is a Master Flower Show Judge. She we instrumental in procuring 10 acres and the beautiful Reinhart Farmhouse for the SAGCC.

Shirley Lewis
Windsor Forest GC
Outstanding Garden Club Member of the Year

The OLEANDER DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING WAS HOSTED BY THE CLUBS IN BULLOCH AND MILLEN

CLUB NEWS FROM AROUND OLEANDER



Ardasley Park/ Chatham Crescent Garden Club:

The Ardasley Park / Chatham Crescent neighborhood has lost one of its beloved live oak trees in McCauley Park. It was nicknamed Twister by local students for the way its trunk twisted towards the sky. This past summer, a huge limb fell and exposed a hole which was down to its core. The AP/CC Garden Club worked with city leaders to see if it could be saved. However, with the amount of damage it was too dangerous to leave it standing.

Shortly before it was set for removal, Alderman Nick Palumbo put together a Tree Memorial Service. Members from the garden club, neighborhood association, various individuals from the local city government and students from Charles Ellis school were all on hand to share their memories.

Alderman Palumbo had his wedding photos taken under the tree. The Principal from Charles Ellis stated they are about to celebrate their 100th anniversary and up until a few years ago, McCauley Park was their main playground. One of the students has had a yearly family photo taken at the tree. Another said he fell out of the tree on a few occasions.

The students put together a book with their drawings and memories of Twister for everyone at the Memorial to look at.

I mentioned our club was founded in 1927 which was about the same time our neighborhood was being developed. One of our founding members, Mrs. Shelby Myrick, went on to be President of the Garden Club of Georgia. During her tenure, 538,702 were planted in the state of Georgia. I can't help but think she was instrumental in seeing that there were trees planted in McCauley Park in the early 1930's.

The city of Savannah does intend to plant another live oak in its place. A tree planting ceremony is scheduled for spring 2023. Trish Lawrence, President, Ardasley Park/ Chatham Crescent Garden Club

Saint Mary's Garden Club



Members of the Saint Marys Garden Club took part in a Christmas cards workshop following the monthly meeting on November 8. It was a fun event and enjoyed by all.



EAST GA JUDGES COUNCIL

The East GA Judges Council meet on November 21, 2023 at the First United Methodist Church in Swainsboro. Seedling Garden Club members Kay Peacock, Lucille Braswell, and Ann Peebles provided the beautiful table centerpieces and the delicious meal.

Millen Garden Club Council: Mr. Jim Roberts, owner of Southern Traditions Florist in Swainsboro, presented the program for the Millen Garden Council's Joint Meeting Tuesday evening. While building live and silk holiday arrangements, the audience was entertained with stories of his time decorating for Christmas at the White House. After a time of questions, refreshments were served, and many of Mr. Roberts designs were purchased. The Garden Council consists of Green Thumb Garden Club and Millen Garden Club, both part of Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and National Garden Club, Inc..



The Saint Marys Garden Club: worked with the children in putting up a raised garden at Saint Mary's Middle School on November 8. This was a joint effort by the club with students to plant perennial gardens at the school as a STEM project.





GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB:

This year Green Thumb Garden Club is partnering with The Jenkins County Adult Learning Center to add to their landscape. Ms. Annette Cobb, center director, asked for our assistance in beautifying the low-slung, mid-century modern building. Members met one morning and refreshed the raised planter box on the front of the building with new soil. Leaving the existing

lantana, we planted two dwarf loropetalum and pansies for winter color. One loropetalum was planted at the front of the building. Center employees are responsible for keeping the plants watered. We plan to return in the spring and do any maintenance needed, fertilize existing plants, and add two more lantana to the box as requested. This is an on-going project. The City of Millen prunes shrubbery and provides pine straw for mulch.



PINE FOREST GARDEN CLUB brings home awards.

On Oct. 5, several members of the Pine Forest Garden Club traveled to Statesboro for the Oleander District Meeting. During the awards portion of meeting, the PFGC was named a "Club of Excellence" and won first place for the two awards for which they had applied: their work with the Aggies Junior Garden Club at the Appling Elementary School and the Appling County Library Patio Pollinator Garden. In addition, they placed third for the collection of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Shown above with the awards are, l-r, Edie Baxley, club president and Judy Johnson. Also attending were Carrie Kuester and Kendra Spadoni.



Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs

The SACGC had a Fall Plant Sale on Saturday October 22, 2022 at the SACGC Botanical Garden. Many customers showed up to buy nursery plants, daylily plants and pass-a-long plants as well! The Hemerocallis Society sold daylilies and many members donated pass-a-long plants to sell. This helped to support our Botanical Garden and Farmhouse. All enjoyed this biannual fundraiser!





Sea Oats Garden Club The October meeting of the Sea Oats Garden Club in Brunswick was held at Marsh's Edge on St. Simons Island where one of the hostesses lives. The meeting was held in the lovely Main Dining Room and the delicious meal was provided by Chef Jayson.

Guest speaker was Katie Fitzgerald, Golden Isles Patient Advocate. Her talk on "What is a Patient Advocate?" was very interesting and informative.

Hostesses were (l to r) Annette Neu, Diane Ghioto, Sybil D'Amico and Camille Mraz.

Katie Fitzgerald is pictured presenting her program "What is a Patient Advocate?"





GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

Our own Vanessa Reeves presented “What is Propagation” at Green Thumb’s October meeting. She distributed an information sheet with definitions and direction and then demonstrated making cuttings on woody and soft specimens. Green Thumb has several projects coming up in the next two months with The Adult Learning Center, the Senior Citizens Center and The Home Place.

MILLEN GARDEN CLUB COUNCIL

Millen Garden Club Council sold 325 Fair on the Square raffle tickets to help fund their many projects in the city and county. Winning tickets were drawn at the Fair on Saturday for a gift certificate to Cakes by Sara Jo donated by Green Thumb Garden Club and a Fall wreath donated by Millen Garden Club. Picture attached: Drawing Winners, L-R: Judy Taylor, Buddy Pope, Arie Hogan, Kathy Gay





THE GARDEN CLUB OF SAVANNAH

Cindy Howard led the Garden Club of Savannah in a Fall wreath making workshop!

S 1. The October general meeting of the Garden Club of Savannah was a fun make and take fall wreath project. Cindy Howard prepared and led this activity with beautiful results! Every member who signed up took home a beautiful Fall wreath.

2. Tickets sales begin 11/15/22 for the NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens scheduled for April 14&15 2023. For more information go to www.gardenclubofsavannah.org

so much fun and we all went home with gorgeous wreaths!

Jordan Chase and Liz Macfadyen (2 new members) display their creations at the Fall wreath making workshop! Well done girls!



Gail Rountree serving witches brew at Garden Club of Savannah's October Meeting.



Susie Chisholm prepared a beautiful arrangement in a dough bowl for the October General meeting!

NOGS Chair Edna Shelley and Chair Elect Lee Green! Edna has chosen the theme for the year, GARDEN AS ART + ART IN THE GARDEN. We will have various artists painting and displaying in the downtown gardens. We hope to see you there! April 14-15, 2023.



ARDSLEY PARK/ CHATHAM CRESENT GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent Garden Club (Trish Lawrence, Jacqueline Smallwood and Julie van Pelt) have been busy sprucing up the Children's Garden at the Savannah Botanical Garden. The beds received a fresh layer of pine straw and colorful fall plants. The children's pond was revamped with new plantings and a tree slice pathway.





Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent Garden Club has announced the date of their annual fundraiser. The 2023 Tour of Homes & Gardens will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Ardsley Park was developed in 1910 as a residential neighborhood and planned as a twentieth century variant of Oglethorpe's original city plan of Savannah. On this self guided walking tour, you will stroll down oak lined streets and be treated to exquisitely landscaped squares.

Chatham Crescent is a rare example in Georgia of a Beaux Arts influenced type plan with a grand mall, crescent shaped avenues and small circular parks. Built to accommodate the first privately-owned automobiles, these homes boast large gardens and a variety of architectural styles.

Tickets for the tour are \$45 and go on sale soon. All proceeds from the tour go directly to neighborhood beautification projects.

The Garden Club of Pooler had a wonderful Orchid Lecture at the Coastal Gardens on October 12, 2022. The greenhouse was filled with orchids and the tour guide answered our many questions as well as gave us a tour filled with much information. Here are a few of the 21 photos taken today.

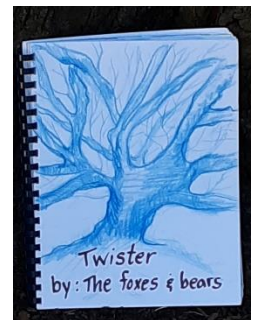




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BULLOCH COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

On December 1, 2022, Pam Childs and Elizabeth Gillespie decorated a patriotic Christmas tree at the Bulloch Co Annex in Statesboro, GA.



The Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs would like to thank Deputy Roy Rountree for putting the topper on the patriotic tree at the Annex in Statesboro,



GA.

On December 1, 2022 Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs members decorated a Christmas tree at the Statesboro courthouse with ornaments made from natural resources. Members are (l-r) Kay Holland, Nancy Watson, Judy Walker, Juanita Morton, Nancy Trawick and Judy Butler.

THE LANDINGS GARDEN CLUB

The Landings Garden Club Gate Decorating Committee organizes six member teams of over 60 volunteers to decorate the gates each year for the Holidays. This tradition has adorned the Gatehouses each year for over a decade to the delight of residents and guests. The Committee Chair Janis Encapera and committee members coordinate with each Gate House Team Captain to fine tune the gate designs, manage inventory by gate, and the storage of the decorations during the year. This year the Main Gatehouse decorations were refurbished with new lights wreaths and garland.



SAVANNAH AREA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

The SACGC Farmhouse outside was decorated for Christmas with fresh greenery and red bows! Each garland was accented with a bow that held a special swag made with a variety of plants so carefully arranged for the holidays! Inside, there was more greenery and red bows plus a Christmas tree decorated in a farmhouse rustic style covered with corn husk angels, sea shells and more!



The Garden Club of Pooler

The Garden Club of Pooler enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party at the Best Western. It started out with their December business meeting, continued with fun entertainment, then a delicious lunch buffet, followed by a prize for the most differently wrapped gift, next a gift exchange, more entertainment, continuous conversation, ending with singing Christmas songs together and lastly, gathering outside for garden books given away by a member.



SEA OATS GARDEN CLUB

Sea Oats Garden Club met recently at the Seafarer's Center in Brunswick. Vicki Weat, Executive Director of Seafarer's, spoke to the club about the history of the founding of the Seafarer's Center. At the end of the meeting, Club members packed over 60 gift bags filled with personal items and snacks for the Seaman in the Brunswick Port.



The **Sea Oats Garden Club** of Brunswick held its February meeting at the Embassy Suites in Brunswick. Guest speaker was Barbara Franklin, Executive Director of SHARE (Speech, Hearing And Rehabilitation Enterprises of Coastal Georgia, Inc.) She explained the purpose of SHARE and talked about the services provided there. Sea Oats Garden Club has an ongoing project at SHARE to maintain the beds at the front and side entrances of the building. Pictured with Franklin are the hostesses for the meeting, (L to R), Theresa Lane, Laura Jane Stanton, Barbara Franklin, and Francene Roberson. Not pictured is hostess Lynn Anderson.



ARDSLEY PARK/CHATHAM CRESENT GARDEN CLUB

The Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent Garden Club is a recipient of a 2022 **Plant America grant**. Over 180 garden clubs from around the United States submitted applications, all were diverse and unique. The award, in the amount of \$1,000 will be used to create a shade garden within the Savannah Arts Academy's Secret Garden.

It all started with a post on Facebook. Someone asked if anyone had any extra plants they would be interested in donating to the school. After a couple of messages back and forth, Trish Lawrence (President of the APCCGC) connected with Dana Brasswell, (teacher and leader of the SAA student run garden club) to see if the two clubs could work together and create something beautiful.

Together they toured the Secret Garden. It's one of two inner courtyards at the Savannah Arts Academy. The garden boasts a small stage used by both the drama and music departments. Students utilize the seating area to study, sketch or creative thinking. Teachers often use the area as an outdoor classroom. Dana mentioned the difficulties with an area under the crosswalk. It's shady and the borders aren't defined. The grounds crew oftentimes mistakes the plantings for weeds and cuts it all back. A perfect location for a small shade garden.

The plan is to define the space with a Belgian block border. Plant Star Jasmine at the base of the metal supports to creep up towards the overhead crosswalk. Fill the space with various shade loving plants for height, color and texture and add two large concrete planters for seasonal plantings. Possibly of a statuary as well.

The timing couldn't be more perfect, according to Dana. The school is currently undergoing major renovations and the current space is the staging area for the construction equipment. Construction is expected to be finished sometime over the summer. Supplies and plants for the new shade garden can be ordered and delivered just in time for the students to start planting in the fall.



SPRIG-N-DIG GARDEN CLUB



The Sprig-N-Dig Garden Club Christmas Brunch on December 13, 2022. Each Member brought a gift bag filled with toiletries, candy, socks, etc. to be given to a person who would not be getting a gift otherwise at the Pineland Mental Health New Beginnings Program, Statesboro, GA.

Statesboro, GA.

The hostesses for this meeting were Anna Beecher, JoAnne White, Diane Long and Jennifer Kimbrell. In the other picture is Hilda Rushing, Bonnie Strange and Genelda Reese.



Oleander Annual District Meeting Photos















Invitation to GCG 95th Convention “Magic on the Mountain”