

Dogwood District



Board Handbook

2023-2025

**Monica Bozonier,
District Director**

*“Thyme to Blossom our Friendships
and Knowledge Through Gardening”*

Introduction

Congratulations on being asked to serve on the Dogwood District Board of Directors! Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to furthering the garden club movement. Serving on this Board is a privilege and a responsibility.

Dogwood District was formed in 1959 and is one of seven Districts in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG). The other Districts in GCG are Laurel, Oleander, Camellia, Magnolia, Azalea, and Redbud.



Districts are also assigned a number, beginning with Laurel District in the north (I), going south along the eastern state line through the Azalea District (II) and the Oleander District (III) along the coast. Heading west from there, Camellia District (IV) is in the south-central part of the state and Magnolia District (V) covers the southwestern section. Heading back north toward the Atlanta area, the Dogwood District (VI) encompasses the Atlanta metro area, and the Redbud District (VII) takes in the area surrounding Atlanta to the south and east.

Currently, the Dogwood District has approximately 2012 members in 40 clubs. The district clubs are in the counties of Fulton, Douglas, Carroll, and Haralson plus any other member garden clubs that have petitioned and been accepted into Dogwood District.

The Dogwood District Theme

*Thyme to Blossom our Friendships and Knowledge
Through Gardening*



What Is the Dogwood Executive Committee?

In October of even numbered years, each District elects a slate of officers. The person leading the district is called the District Director. Serving along with the Director are a Co-Director, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and two Advisors. The District Director is installed at the ceremony when the GCG Officers are installed at the State Convention in the spring of odd numbered years. The other District Officers are installed separate district ceremonies at State Convention. The officers all become “official” when the State installation is held.

What Is the Dogwood District Board?

Shortly after being elected, the incoming District Director invites people to serve on the District Board during the upcoming term. The Committee Chairmanships to be filled correspond to the State Chairmanships. The description of each Chairmanship is in the *GCG Guide*. The State Chairman

passes information to the District Chairman. The District Chairman passes information to the District Clubs. District Chairmen are encouraged to contact the corresponding State Chairman during the summer beginning their term of office to introduce themselves and find out any specifics needed for their role at the district level. State chairmen are listed in the GCG Personnel *Guide* on the GCG website (under Member Resources) along with their contact information.

Dogwood District Board Members, including club and council presidents, are automatically voting delegates at the Dogwood District Board meetings and at the annual Dogwood District meetings.

Members of the Board of Directors of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the members of the Board of Directors of Dogwood District serve for a two-year term.



What Are the Duties of Dogwood District Board Members?

The GCG *Guide* is the official handbook of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. The GCG *Guide* can be viewed and downloaded on the GCG website:

<https://www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>

Each Dogwood District Board member should view the GCG *Personnel Guide* and print any necessary sections as needed.

As previously mentioned, guidelines for each of the Chairmen are given in the *Guide*. Look for these under the “State Chairmanships” document under **Member Resources/GCG Personnel Guide** on the website in the **GCG and District Boards and Councils** section.

Just as the Dogwood District Board member is expected to be familiar with the GCG *Guide*, he/she is expected to be familiar with the Dogwood District Policies and Procedures. You will find that in a later section of this booklet as well as on the Dogwood District webpage, accessed from the GCG website.

As a member of the Dogwood District Board of Directors, a person is in a position of leadership in the district. He/she should be willing to help member clubs and club members in any way that they may be asked.

Dogwood District Board members are expected to attend four District Board meetings during the two years. These meetings are usually held in August or September and in January or February. These meetings are hosted by different clubs. In addition, Board members are expected to attend both Dogwood District Fall Annual meetings and to prepare a display about their Chairmanship. These meetings are held in October of each year. The meeting place rotates through the district.

Board members are asked to donate \$10.00 for the annual meeting in lieu of donating a \$15-\$20 door prize. Board members will be notified when they need to donate at the first Board meeting of the term.

Board members should make every effort to attend the annual convention of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. It is

usually held in April. The meeting place rotates throughout the state.

Board members are volunteers and are not paid for their work. The Board member is responsible for paying for his/her own registration and meals at functions, for travel to and from meetings, and for any costs associated with preparing a display and/or handouts.

District Funds

Clubs do not pay District dues. The District must hold fund-raisers to support the expenditures in the District Annual Budget. District Board members are encouraged to support these fund-raisers and to encourage their club members to support them, too.

How Do I Give Information to Clubs?

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the seven GCG Districts make use of our website to post information, and emails to send out notices and newsletters. Doing this saves time, trees, and money. As a member of the Dogwood District Board, your name and email address will be placed on the Dogwood District email distribution list to receive emails. This is our primary means of communication.

All District Board members are welcome to send garden club related messages via the distribution list by sending the communication to the District Director requesting this service. The Director will approve as appropriate and forward to the District distribution list (Constant Contact) manager for electronic distribution. Messages go out quickly this way to all Board members, including the club and council presidents. It is the responsibility of each club/council president to forward messages to their membership as

requested since those members are typically not part of the distribution list group.

Each club and council that submitted an email contact is on the distribution list. If you do not have access to a computer and/or the internet, you might have an email buddy – a person in your club who is on the Dogwood District distribution list who would be willing to pass messages to you via the phone. You can always contact the District Director or the Dogwood District distribution list (Constant Contact) Chairman and ask one of them to pass your message along to clubs. Do not be afraid to be on the Dogwood District List. It is used for garden club business only – no jokes, no personal messages, and no chain letters.

It is a good idea to put the Dogwood District distribution list email address in your email address book. Even with this precaution, you may need to check your spam folder regularly as some of our members find legitimate Garden Club distribution list messages in those folders from time to time. The messages for this term will come from our District distribution list manager, Barbara Bourque, b.bourque@comcast.net.



Our Affiliations

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is a member of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. (DSGC) and Nation Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC).

The “head” of NGC is called the National President. There are 3 Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. All State Presidents are members of the Board of Directors of NGC.



The National Board of Directors meets four times in the two-year term. These meetings may be anywhere in the United States. However, the first National Board meeting of every term is held in St. Louis, MO, home of NGC. Members do not receive any compensation for serving on the National Board. Members may apply for a position on the Board through the NGC website.

State garden clubs pay dues to NGC. These dues are a set amount per each State Garden Club member.

NGC is divided into eight Regions – New England, Central Atlantic, South Atlantic, Deep South, Central, South Central, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific.

Georgia is part of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. The other states in the Deep South Region are Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida.

Each Region has an annual convention. The DS Convention is usually held in March. The location for this convention rotates through the six member states. States do not pay dues to the Region.

The “head” of each Region is called the Director. Other Regional Officers are the Alternate Director, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Historian. The presidents of the six state garden clubs are members of the Regional Board. The Regional Chairmanships correspond to the State Chairmanships. Regional Chairmen pass information to State Chairmen in the same way that State Chairmen pass information to District Chairmen. The DS Board serves a two-year term that coincides with the two-year term of NGC, GCG and Dogwood District. Regional Board members attend one Board meeting each of the two years of their term. DS Board members receive no compensation.



Club Membership

Each garden club registers annually with The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. This is done between January 1 and March 1. A form is sent from Headquarters to the club president and/or treasurer for completion and return.

It is important that any changes in club president and treasurer offices be updated to keep the state records accurate. Since club years sometimes differ from the GCG year, this can be confusing. If you have questions, please contact your District Director for clarification. Annual dues per member are set by the GCG and include the amount paid to NGC for each member. The dues are submitted to Headquarters along with the Club roster/registration form by the deadline of March 1.



GCG Headquarters House in Athens

Life Memberships

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. all have honorary Life Membership programs. GCG Life Memberships are \$100.00 which is divided equally between the GCG Scholarship Fund and the Headquarters House Unrestricted Endowment Fund. Deep South Life Memberships are \$50.00 which goes to the DS Scholarship Fund. NGC Life Memberships are \$200 which is divided equally between the NGC Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home Endowment Fund.

Life Memberships are often presented to honor a garden club member, or you or your family can make you a Life Member. To become a Life Member, contact the Dogwood District Life Membership Chairman. Life Members receive special recognition at meetings and are all listed in the GCG *Guide*.

Other Special Memberships

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has established a special membership category for anyone who shares our interest in gardening and related areas, wishes to support GCG, but cannot for whatever reason – find the time to join/participate in a Garden Club. This is called a *Subscribing Membership*. A subscribing membership is \$25 per year and may be purchased at any time. These may be given as gifts or purchased directly by the subscribing member. Subscribing members are welcome at all GCG conventions, workshops, and other meetings. They receive all GCG publications and have a paid membership in NGC just as a regular garden club member. The subscribing member does not have voting privileges. The form for this membership type is located on the GCG web page under the Forms section in the Membership category.

Plant Societies and Affiliates are also valued members of GCG. A Plant Society Member is a horticultural society committed to the purposes and objectives of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and desiring association as a group to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. An Affiliate Member is a non-profit organization that shares common goals with GCG and wishes to formalize its association with the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. A Plant Society or Affiliate Member shall be eligible to participate in select programs, events, and schools available to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s general membership but does not have the privilege of a vote. The organization President shall receive *Garden Gateways*. The

Plant Society or Affiliate may list an announcement of its shows one time per year at no charge in *Garden Gateways*. They may advertise in the District and State newsletters and have major events and meeting schedules publicized on the GCG distribution list. Newsletter editors and distribution list managers reserve the right to limit space. Annual dues are \$15 for a Plant Society or Affiliate Membership and are due by March 1.

Publications

Both the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. have quarterly publications. GCG's publication is *Garden Gateways* and is sent to every dues paying member of GCG. *Garden Gateways*, including extra content, will also be posted to the GCG website.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. also publishes quarterly newsletters which are distributed via distribution list and posted to the GCG website.

The *National Gardener* is the quarterly NGC publication. Garden club members have access to *National Gardener* on the NGC website at <http://gardenclub.org/national-gardener-online>.



Schools

NGC offers certification in four schools – Flower Show School, Gardening School, Landscape Design School, and Environmental School. These schools are usually sponsored by districts/councils and are held throughout the state as well as online. Each school is made up of four two-day courses. Dates and places for these courses are advertised in *Garden Gateways* and on the NGC website. Those

completing the Flower Show School requirements become certified Flower Show Judges. Those who have completed the other 3 schools are NGC Certified Consultants. All are listed in the *GCG Guide*. To remain certified, consultants must refresh these courses every five years.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. sponsors four other courses. These are all fun courses – no tests and no refreshing. These courses are Basic Design I, Basic Design II, Basic Horticulture, and Landscaping for Fun. These courses are usually sponsored by clubs and/or councils. Watch for announcements of upcoming courses in *Garden Gateways* and via the distribution list.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to Dogwood District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Please visit the following website addresses for additional information:

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

For the GCG Personnel Guide only –

Requires a password- get

from District Director

The rest of the website does not require a password.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

<http://www.dsgardenclubs.com>

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.gardenclub.org



Former Dogwood District Directors

2021-2023	Chris Adams
2019-2021	Debbie Vann
2017-2019	Lib Thompson
2015-2017	Rosie Davidson
2013-2015	Helen Grogan
2011-2013	Mary Ann Bryant
2009-2011	Terry Waith
2007-2009	JoAnn Jones
2006-2007	Lisa Robinson
2005-2006	Barbara Taylor
2003-2005	Lee Dunn
2001-2003	Carol Van Sickle*
1999-2001	Mickie Holton
1997-1999	Betty Benson
1991-1993	Marsha Webb
1989-1991	Ruthellen Anderson
1985-1987	Naomi Gerson
1983-1985	Emily Fawcett*
1975-1977	Elizabeth Youngs

*Deceased

Dogwood District Board 2023-2025

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

MONICA BOZONIER

nubianprincess53@charter.net

DISTRICT CO- DIRECTOR

CHRISTY NOVELLAS

cnovellas@aol.com

TREASURER

CHRISTY ROBERTS

marobe.100@yahoo.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

GINNY WOLF

RECORDING SECRETARY

OPEN

PARLIAMENTARIAN

BARBARA BOURQUE

b.bourque@comcast.net

