2023-2025 VOL 3 WINTER 2024



Magnolia Messenger

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DIRECTORS CORNER Winter 2024

Hello Magnificent Magnolias!

"Plant your community with, Beautification, Conservation, Education."

What an outstanding and wonderful Magnolia District Annual Fall meeting we had on October 17, 2023! Faye Frazier and her planning committee worked diligently and efficiently to put together a great day. The sun was shining and lit up the day like a Christmas tree. The evening before was a dinner gathering with fellowship and chatter previously unheard. Thank you, Magnolia Garden Club Members, for the contributions of fabulous baskets, and gifts to the Magnolia Members and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. attendees. You proved one of the many reasons you are the Magnificent Magnolia Garden Club Members. The educational exhibits were outstanding. Thank you, District Chairmen and congratulations to all the awards winners for the district awards.

DIRECTORS CORNER continues:

During October 2023, I made the GCG rounds but missed two of the Annual District meetings due to a major auto problem. Each District Celebration was unique and outstanding. It was a joy to attend the GCG District Annual meetings for 2023. It was interesting to see the little differences in each one. It has been a pleasure to get to know the other district directors and share ideas.

Winter Season is here with the blessed Christmas Season and The New Year of 2024 to come. Each period is blessed with family and friends' fellowship. As Garden Clubbers, your New Year will be off to a time of promising Garden Club friendships and events.

The days to come will truly be busy ones. Take time to rest and instead of going dormant like the plants and earth, the winter months are time for us to focus on getting ready for winter and spring projects: community and school gardens; Garden Therapy projects; recycling efforts; field trips; Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden Week; community service projects; and elections of new officers. I hope that you and your club are planning to highlight your activities in articles submitted to Magnolia District for the Magnolia District Newsletter, GCG's Garden Gateways, GCG's Website, and GCG's Facebook plus the local newspaper. We want to make sure that your community service and club programs are recognized. This serves to highlight your club's accomplishments and to give other clubs great ideas.

On February 15, 2024, the Magnolia District Winter Meeting will be hosted by the Beautiful View Garden Club under the Leadership of Ann Howell, First VP and Claudine Morgan, Second VP, plus Members of the Beautiful View Garden Club in Buena Vista, Georgia. Plan to attend. All are welcome and will be blessed with fellowship and knowledge.

Business at the February 2024 meeting will include:

- 1. CD for Magnolia District.
- 2. Memorial of the life of Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady of the United States.
- 3. Goals of Magnolia District.
- 4. Questions from the Clubs!

We will have finished most of the award's cycles by December 1, 2023. I trust that if your Club did not do an GCG Awards Application that you will focus on that in 2024. Magnolia District has your Club's back and can aid you with the application. So, in 2024 let us have 21 awards applications from Magnolia District. Most of the GCG awards applications were due December 1, but there are still some due in February. I hope that your club has submitted your projects for awards consideration in 2024.

Registration for the GCG's Annual Convention to be held April 16th and 17, 2024 is on the GCG website and in your Garden Gateways. Included will be interesting speakers, exhibits, and vendors. I hope that you will consider registering and attending this convention.

Now, do remember that on FEBRUARY 15TH 2024, that each Garden Club of Magnolia District's President report is due! In January, during the hibernations period, let us get it completed and submitted now! You can send it any time prior to February 15th.

This is an important time in most of our clubs as members of the nominating committee are gearing up to identify potential new leaders and/or evaluating current leaders for another term. The nominating committees' tasks seem difficult because too often the committee members are faced with the challenge of finding willing people to serve. Let the committee know that you are willing to serve. Each of us has something of value to offer our clubs and district, so please consider serving in a leadership role. I hope that if you are contacted, that you will say "Yes" to being nominated or selected for a leadership role in your local club(s), council, Magnolia District and/or GCG. Call the nominating committee to tell them that you are willing to serve in some position.

In closing, I want to thank you for all that you have done to make Magnolia District a remarkable one, especially with the community service work that you have done in your respective communities. Celebrate your life and the New Year! Know that you can make a difference just with the small things that you do!

GCG is highlighting the slogan Membership is Key to GCG! Remember to Recruit, Retain, and Revitalize! Follow the 3 Rs for the health of your club, Magnolia District, and GCG!

Kay Hagler, District Director 2023-2025

Magnolia District Co-Director Message

Federated with the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. in 1928, the Albany Garden Club is the oldest Magnolia District federated garden club. In 1891, the Ladies Garden Club of Athens, Georgia was founded. Within 37 years, the Albany Garden Club joined the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. In 1936, the National Council of State Garden Clubs recognized the Ladies Garden Club of Athens as America's first garden club.

1	MAGNOLIA	05-005	ALBANY GARDEN CLUB	ALBANY	DOUGHERTY	1/1/1928
2	MAGNOLIA	05-485	VIENNA GARDEN CLUB	VIENNA	DOOLY	8/16/1934
3	MAGNOLIA	05-380	FORT GAINES HOME AND GARDEN CLUB	FORT GAINES	CLAY	1/1/1936
3	MAGNOLIA	05-440	OGLETHORPE GARDEN CLUB	OGLETHORPE	MACON	1/1/1936

The table demonstrates according to records, Vienna Garden Club is the second oldest federated club With Fort Gaines Homes and Garden Club and Oglethorpe Garden Club being in third position! Those numbers are longevity! Congratulations to those Clubs for their years of service and friendship!

Magnolia District News ONE OF MAGNOLIA DISTRICT OBJECTIVES 2023-2025

PLANT GEORGIA PLANT MAGNOLIA PLANT AMERICA Magnolia District will seek to have each garden club plant 3 lacecap hydrangeas or three native shrubs for pollinators. The planting time period runs from January 1 to December 31 of 2023. We will continue the count in 2024 and 2025! The clubs can count individual members of their club plantings of pollinator shrubs in their individual yards. They can also count the pollinator shrubs planted by the clubs on government - nonprofit - or private property: pollinator shrubs count wherever they were planted.

- a. Some Hydrangeas are sterile. Not all hydrangeas are pollinator friendly.
- b. Shrubs or Hydrangeas will require less care in the long term than an annual pollinator garden and should be there for years to come.

If you have planted three pollinator shrubs, please let me know! Send photo and or

article to <u>haglerkay@gmail.com.</u> We would like to keep track of how many are planted in Magnolia District!

- 1. Beautiful View Garden Club planted three Cherry Explosion Hydrangeas at the Marion County Courthouse.
- 2. Has your club planted pollinator shrubs or a new pollinator garden?



Count your birds and help out the Scientists.



Gaye Wyrick, Environmental, Birds Chairman:

Get your cameras ready, it is time for Bird Spotter! The Cornell Lab and Wild Birds Unlimited are teaming up to give you a great way to share your photos and win prizes. **Enter your favorite photo from now until February 4th** (one entry per person). Feederwatch will select 10 of our favorites, and then let you all be the judge: you will be able to vote for the winners among our 10 picks until March 18th. *Note: You can submit any photo you have taken at any time, but it must be submitted by February 4th, 2024, to The Cornell Lab https://feederwatch.org/contests/: Submit photos to https://feederwatch.org/contests/ and to haglerkay@gmail.com. The photo contest is with Cornell University through Feederwatch.org.* Magnolia District will also host a photo Contest with the winner of the bird photos submitted. The contest photos for Magnolia District should be sent to <u>haglerkay@gmail.com</u>. Enjoy and participate in the contest! Deadline for submission of photos to Magnolia District is February 4, 2024.

WHAT IS FEEDERWATCH?

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. **You do not even need a feeder!** All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds. **The schedule is completely flexible.** Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and to contribute to a continental dataset of bird distribution and abundance. **THERE IS A COST OF \$18.00 TO PARTICIPATE IN** Feederwatch! It is a joyful task. Check out the website: https://feederwatch.org/



Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count:

Great Backyard Bird Count is February 16 - February 19th. You can get more information from https://www.birdcount.org/participate There is no fee.

Time For Club Planning Based ON THE GCG President Report

The President's Report for Garden Club Achievements Reporting during the period January 1-December 31, 2024, will be due by February 15, 2025. On or before Febr4uary 15, 2024, your club will submit the President's report for 2023. Pay attention that the reports are for the January 1-December 31 period. So now is the time to take a good look and review how in 2024 you can achieve the "Standard of Excellence" award. Take time to plan! More about this under GCG area.



What A Difference A Day Makes! The Blue Star Marker on Hwy 27 at the Naval Civil War Museum

On an outstanding day in December of 2023, the Blue Star Marker located on Highway 27 at the Naval Civil War Museum in Columbus, Georgia got a wonderful face lift by restoration expert, Tom Stelling. The marker went from remarkably aged to youthful in

the course of one day! May it now age slowly

and gracefully for a good many years!

The Columbus Council of Garden Clubs of Columbus Georgia installed the Columbus, Georgia Blue Star Marker on November 28, 1978. It has aged well. The photos show the aged version and the renovated version. Information by Nilsa Summey, GCG 4th Vice President.



Invitation To The District Board Meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024

The Magnolia District Of

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



District Board Meeting 9:30 am Registration

February 15, 2024 10:00 am Meeting

OFFICIAL CALL LETTER First Baptist Church of Buena Vista 135 4th Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia 31803

RSVP by: Wednesday, February 8, 2024

To: Magnolia District Board Members, Garden Club Presidents, Club Members, and Interested Parties From: Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director

Magnolia District Board Meeting Registration

MEETING: THURSDAY, February 15, 2024 Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 8, 2024

NAME:		
HOME ADDRESS:		
HOME PHONE:	CELL:	
EMAIL:		
GARDEN CLUB/CITY:		
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:		

FOOD ALLERGY/IES, SPECIAL DIET NEEDS ONLY: Meal is buffet. Please list any needs.

ASAP: Please complete the registration form and include your check for \$25.00 payable to "Magnolia District" and mail to:

Janis Webb, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719 Contact: webb2048@bellsouth.net : 229-938-1451

PLEASE check all that apply:

District Director	GCG President	GCG Board Member
Former District Director	Former GCG President	GCG Life Member
District Board Member	Club President	DSGC Board Member
Former District Board Member	Club Voting Delegate	DSGC Life Member
Council President	Club Member	NGC Board Member
Former Council President	First Time Attendee	NGC Life Member

The Magnolia District Awards for 2023 presented at the Magnolia District Annual Meeting on October 10th, 2023



OUTSTANDING GARDEN CLUB AWARD: The Magnolia District Outstanding Garden Club Award shall be awarded annually to the most outstanding garden club in Magnolia District as determined by the District Director based on the President's Report. Additional photos may be submitted to the District Director by garden clubs if desired along with the President's report. Photo left: L to R: Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director awards The Magnolia District Outstanding Garden Club of the Year to Sherrell Bailey, President of Dogwood Garden Club, Americus while Lisa Hall, GCG President passes the trophy to Sherrell Bailey.

Magnolia District Outstanding Garden Club of the year is: Dogwood Garden Club, Americus

Second Place: Magnolia Garden Club, Fort Valley (05-390) Third Place: Camellia Garden Club, Cuthbert (05-340)

The RONALD McDonald PULL-A-TAB AWARD goes to: Oglethorpe Garden Club, Oglethorpe

2nd Place Winner: Magnolia Garden Club, Fort Valley 3rd Place Winner: Azalea Garden Club, Americus

The RONALD McDonald PULL-A-TAB AWARD: The Ronald McDonald Pull-A- Tab Award is based on records maintained by the District Chair for the award for collected poundage of pull tabs during the year. Photo right: L to R: Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director, presents the award to Tricia Welch, President Oglethorpe Garden Club as Lisa Hall, GCG President presents the trophy to Tricia Welch.



ATTENDANCE AWARD for the ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING



ATTENDANCE AWARD: The Magnolia District Attendance Award shall be awarded annually to the garden club having the highest percentage of members present at the Magnolia District Meeting in October. Club membership number shall be determined by dues paid as of the preceding March 1. Host clubs are not eligible for this award. No application is necessary. Photo left: L to R: Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director presents the

certificate to Sybil Willingham, President of the Butler Garden Club, center as Lisa Hall, GCG President presents the trophy to Sybil Willingham.

The ATTENDANCE AWARD Goes To: Butler Garden Club Of Butler

Congratulations to All of The Winners!



Magnolia District Host GCG Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser

Magnolia District hosted The Garden Club of Georgia's, Historic Landscape event at Massee Lane Gardens, which is the Historic Headquarters of the American Camellia Society on November 4, 2023. Sam Welborn was the speaker who brought laughter and knowledge to his presentation. Photo left: L to R: Clare Jenkins, Magnolia District Preservation Chairman welcomes Sam Welborn, Member of the Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society.

Massee Lane Gardens is an International Garden of Excellence, and a Georgia Camellia Trail garden.

Brick walkways lead visitors through a self-guided tour of one of the world's finest camellia collections. Known as the "Winter Rose," camellias bloom from September through March. Something is always blooming at Massee Lane, no matter the season. If you have not made a trip to the site, you have missed a joyful pleasure.

Do not miss the Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, Formal Camellia Garden, Camellia Species Garden, Children's Garden, Environmental Garden, Camellia Seedling Garden, Camellia Sun Trial Garden, and Native Azalea Garden. There are also two museum galleries that showcase Edward Marshall Boehm porcelain sculptures in botanical, wildlife, religious and military themes. Photo right middle, L to R: GCG's Historic Preservation Chairperson, Pam Hendrix presents Sam Welborn with a Certificate of Appreciation.





Photo left: L to R: Clare Jenkins,

welcomes Ft. Valley's City Manager, James Wood center who is introduced to Sam Wellborn. Now let me tell you a little about the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative. Georgia's garden heritage is linked to the state's early history. As the last of the original thirteen colonies to be settled, Georgia's colonial period began with James Oglethorpe per historians. Oglethorpe led the expedition of colonists that landed in early 1733 and he heavily recruited settlers in England and other parts of Europe. Since the 1930's GCG has been actively involved with various aspects of

preserving Georgia's landscape history. For the past twenty years, one of the GCG signature programs is the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative (GHLI). GHLI is a collaboration among The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, and the University of Georgia, College of Environment + Design, Historic Preservation Program. The purpose of the GHLI is to conduct a statewide inventory of historic gardens and landscapes of Georgia.

There were over 160 gardens identified in the <u>Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933</u> Compiled by Loraine M. Cooney. The good news is that a third exists and retains much of their historic design, with many of the gardens thriving. So that is 1733-1933.

In 1996 The Garden Club of Georgia launched the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser to support a matching grant for the restoration of historic, non-profit, public landscapes and gardens in Georgia. To date, historic landscapes have received matching grants from this fund totaling more than \$250,000. Fundraisers are held in each district in rotation to highlight the many impressive historic garden sites in the state. In the Magnolia District there are three public gardens listed in Columbus, Georgia, one at Massee Lane Gardens and three in Albany Georgia. Let us see if you can google those for the correct answers or just check the Georgia Historic Gardens website.

Membership is Key to GCG, Magnolia District, and your garden club! Remember to Recruit, Retain, and Revitalize! Follow the 3 Rs for the health of your club, Magnolia District, and GCG!

Magnolia District Club News

Making a Difference



Recently the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs (CCGC) contributed two \$1000 donations to local nonprofit community organizations whose missions align with NGC and GCG.

The historic **Wynn House** provides educational, cultural, and intellectual activities and programs benefiting the community and serves as the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs meeting facility, as well as local community groups. Currently the Wynn House is undergoing extensive renovations together with plans to supplement and enhance the existing gardens with native

plantings. Colonel Wynn built this Greek Revival home between 1838-39. In 1852, Henry Hurt bought the house, enlarged it, and added marble fireplaces. He sold it in 1855 to Hines Holt. The house is on the National Register of Historical Sites.

Additionally, the Mercy Med Health Services provides a multitude of healthcare services, classes,

and programs to those in need and serves the local community thru an urban farm and farmer's market at their location. This donation will be used to purchase a paper pot transplanter and a seeder to enable rapid row transplant of seedlings and seed sowing to assist in efficient, effective vegetable planting.

This past fall, the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs allocated \$5000 for gifts of \$1000 each to five community non-profits for enhancing or supplementing their existing gardens. Recipients are The Wynn House, where our CCGC meetings are held, Merci Med Farm, which provides



nutritional produce at an affordable price to the needy in our area, Columbus Hospice for entry way beautification, Columbus City Museum Olmsted Garden for additional plantings, and Trees Columbus, for supplying new plantings to the tree canopy at Lake Bottom Park.

Photo above right: CCGC members presenting a check to Keith Sims, Merci Med Farm director. Recipients are very appreciative and have been asked to provide us with updates on the selections. It is a goal of CCGC to continue in a like manner to use funds for our beatification, education and conservation Garden Club, Inc. mission. Barbara Stewart, President, Columbus Council of Garden Clubs.

The Butler Garden Club



magnificent, especially the blazing star. Pictured above left to right back row are: Jansa Hobbs, Nancy Wolf, Marilyn Aldrich, Gayle Wyrick, Pam Weldon, Sherry Laymance, Joann Albritton, Sybil Willingham front row left to right: Paige Dykstra and Hal Massie. Photo right: Blazing Star.

The Butler Garden Club toured the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area: West of and near Junction City October 14, 2023. Hal Massie and Paige Dykstra guided the members and their guests in learning about Sandhills ecosystem. The wildflowers were



Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert



Camellia Garden Club The of Cuthbert partnered with other organizations and the city of Cuthbert to decorate the historic square with beautiful lighted Christmas trees and garlands. The club also refurbished large planters on the square and flowers in Cuthbert's Iris Gardens in preparation for two jazz festivals, and the annual Crossroads Festival where the Camellia Garden Club held a raffle for a beautiful ornamental basket



The Chaplain's Message: Not all birds fly south! Watching beautiful birds during the winter months can be very entertaining. We are fortunate in south Georgia to have birds year-round. This time of year, as the temperatures drop, they are busy foraging for food and seeking out water. Here are a few tips to help encourage our feathered friends to stick around for a while and survive the cold weather. There are three basic elements for attracting birds into the garden: food, shelter, and water. While putting out birdseed and a birdbath are sure winners, there are also many plants that



Plant your Community with Beautification, Conserva

Pictured is a chickadee. (Photo from istockphoto.com)

birds seek out and inhabit that help protect them against strong winds. Interestingly, they do not become dependent on feeders, because only 15-25% of their food intake comes from feeders. Studies indicate that birds with access to feeders can have a much higher winter survival rate during prolonged cold winters.

Birds take shelter in the protective boughs of evergreens or within any shrubs that provide thick growth. Some take shelter on the ground under the warm boughs. They especially appreciate a stand of several evergreens massed together. Many birds also take shelter from the wind in an empty birdhouse. Chickadees and downy woodpeckers especially enjoy enclosed cavities. Clean out your birdhouses of any old nesting material at the end of the summer. To help prevent disease and possible parasite infestation, wipe them down or spray them with a ten percent Clorox solution and then hang them back up again. Feed and water our feathered friends if you can. (Information from multiple sources)

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." — Psalm 91:4

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. News

New Club Incentives

The Garden Club of Georgia will offer grants of up to \$100 per fiscal year to a new club for the first 2 years of their existence to help defray the cost of providing programs, including speakers or materials necessary for those programs. New clubs must request these funds using the grant application form available on the GCG Website. Monies to come from the GCG General Fund.

If your club would like to mentor a new group – a new garden club – a group of afterschool schoolteachers friends– a group of friends, then contact Marilyn Aldrich at: Cell: 229-314-0892 Email: <u>mwaldrich1@aol.com</u> for information.

Magnolia District Standard of Excellence Clubs

The Garden Club of Georgia's Standards of Excellence Club Award is designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills for Garden Clubs members to develop proficiency in aligning with the National Garden Club and the GCG's objectives. The determining factor is the club's President Report. Use the report starting January 1 of each year to determine projects and objectives in your community! The Project Benchmarks on the Presidents Report for the NGC and GCG Literacy – Projects plus the follow up work is a framework the garden clubs use as the core of the standards to determine content and process skills for clubs. The standards focus on a limited number of core disciplinary ideas and crosscutting concepts which will help your garden club focus on garden club objectives.

Report: Magnolia District Standard of Excellence Clubs Nilsa Summey, Magnolia DD

Based on the received 2022 President's Report of Garden Club Achievements,

Magnolia District has eight (8) Standard of Excellence Clubs:

Butler GC (Butler) 05-150 – 32 points Camellia GC (Cuthbert) 05-340 – 34 points Dogwood GC (Americus) 05-075 – 36 points Fort Gaines Home and GC (Fort Gaines) 05-380 – 31 points Magnolia GC (Fort Valley) 05-390 – 35 points Oglethorpe GC (Oglethorpe) 05-440 – 32 points Vienna GC (Vienna) 05-485 – 30 points Village Green GC (Byron) 05-155 – 31 points

Congratulations!

Plan your year now to reach 30 plus points for the 2024 year!

***PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 2.15.24: The same form will be used for next 2024! GCG is getting ready to add a link to a **Jotform** for the President's report! That way, you can fill it out and submit the report completely online. There will be an email notification sent via Constant Contact with the link and instructions. Keep a watch out for it. Arianne Knowlton, Headquarters House Office Manager

National Garden Club, Inc. News

Have you tried the NGC Webinars for a garden club program? Check out the Webinar series at <u>Video</u> <u>Café | National Garden Clubs, Inc.</u> Sign up for the invitations for webinars which are sent by email to National Gardener subscribers. To receive invitations for future webinars by email, sign up under the <u>webinar section.</u> If you have questions regarding NGC Webinars, please contact: **Lauren Beck**, **Virtual Resources Chairman** at <u>laurenbeck.stl@gmail.com</u>.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR Activities for your Calendar and Club Participation!

	<u>calendar/</u> : Also Check out The Facebook and District Webpage.
January 17, 2024:	GCG Finance and Executive Winter Meeting: Zoom: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
February 15,2024:	Club Presidents' Report Deadline: Submit online. Watch for the information.
February 16-19:	http://www.birdcount.org
February 25-28, 2024:	Flower Show School: gardenclubofgeorgia.org/events-calendar
March 1, 2024:	Club Dues Deadline to be received in GCG Office. Mail so they will arrive in FEB
March 19, 20, 2024:	The 2024 Deep South Garden Club, Inc. Annual Convention
April 8, 2024:	Finance and Executive Committee Spring 2024, Zoom
April 14-20, 2024:	Garden Week In Georgia
April 16, 17, 2024:	GCG Convention
May 2-6,2024:	National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) Convention
June 2-8, 2024:	National Garden Week





MAGNOLIA DISTRICT Magnolia Messenger Kay Hagler, P O Box 436, Buena Vista, Ga 31803 Telephone: Cell for text of voice 706-566-8540 Email: haglerkay@gmail.com Deadlines:

Spring Issue (March, April, May) February 15

Summer Issue (June, July, August) May 15

Fall Issue (Sep. Oct. Nov.) August 15

Winter Issue (Dec. Jan. Feb.) November 15

Enjoy and Share! Presidents, please send to your members. They will not receive the Messenger unless you distribute it. Enjoy Winter 2024!

