

2023-2025 VOL 4 SPRING 2024



# Magnolia Messenger

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR:**

KAY HAGLER

P. O. BOX 436, Buena Vista, GA  
31803 Cell 706-566-8540 text, call  
Email: haglerkay@gmail.com

**CO-DIRECTOR:**

MARILYN ALDRICH

Cell: 229-314-0892 Email:  
mwaldrich1@aol.com

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

ANN HOWELL

Cell 229-939-1766  
Email: [ahowell01@windstream.net](mailto:ahowell01@windstream.net)

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**

MARY ANN PARKS

Cell: 478-244-1566  
Email: [marymandy5565@outlook.com](mailto:marymandy5565@outlook.com)

**TREASURER: JANIS WEBB**

Cell: 229-938-1451 Email:  
[webb2048@bellsouth.net](mailto:webb2048@bellsouth.net)

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**

BESS HARTLEY

Cell: 229-942-9490  
Email: [besshartley@gmail.com](mailto:besshartley@gmail.com)

**CHAPLAIN: CAROLYN CULPEPPER**

Cell: 229-942-8649

Email:  
[carolyn.hartley41@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn.hartley41@yahoo.com)


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## ***DIRECTORS CORNER***

### ***SPRING 2024***

Hello Magnificent Magnolias!

**Preservation and Your Conservation Actions!**

This District Director attended the Capitol Conservation Day recently. We were all clamoring to give the opinions that we supported to the legislators. One of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s goals is conservation and therefore it is the Districts as well. Look at the issues and discuss them in your meetings. Be knowledgeable. It is important to the conversation of the earth.

Preservation and conservation are processes that protect the environment, but their methods are different. The goal of preservation is to protect the environment from the harmful effects of human activity. Although the words preservation and conservation are often used interchangeably, the two views are

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### ***DIRECTORS CORNER continues:***

are different. Conservation protects the environment through the responsible use of natural resources. Preservation protects the environment from harmful human activities and the loss of something. For example, **conserving** a forest typically involves sustainable logging practices to minimize deforestation. **Preservation** might involve setting aside part or even all of the forest from human development. Earth's natural resources include air, water, soil, minerals, plants, and animals. **Conservation** is the practice of caring for these resources so all living things can benefit from them now and in the future.

You see the world as it is today with cars, houses, roads, wonderful shops, and full grocery stores. Have you looked at natural resources and thought about your grandchildren or generations beyond that? Four hundred years ago there were no cars! Wow, how we have progressed. Well for me 70 plus years ago (and some of you) there were rotary phones, no pants worn to school, no microwaves, and just three channels on TV! What additional items can you list? We have progressed fast in this world. Make it a point to let the legislators know how you feel before the last minute. Participate in actions which do preserve and conserve. Make a TriBoard for the local school about conservation – recycling or for the County Library so young people will continue to become knowledgeable and actionable. Teachers do a great job teaching, but it is a reminder to see something visual for everyone. Now, go work on your conservation actions in your community!

**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, GCG, and National Garden Club, Inc.!

Kay Hagler, District Director 2023-2025

## **Magnolia District Co-Director Message**

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Co-Director and Membership Chairman  
Marilyn Aldrich, Co-Director, and Membership  
February 15, 2024, Magnolia District Board Meeting

Membership matters. Did you know that Scholarship money from NGC is tied to the number of members we have in the state? Membership in the Garden Club of Georgia is important. When we have more members, our message gets out more rapidly and carries farther. And our

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message is important.

Keeping our homes and communities beautiful has eye appeal but also speaks about a love for nature and caring for people, wildlife, and plants. Beauty has a positive impact on our well-being. New life, color, and beauty uplift the soul.

Preserving our resources is essential to the survival of life on planet earth. Through Garden Clubs, we stay connected to legislative issues that impact the water supply, air quality, and promote good agricultural practices. By planting native and nectar plants we promote reproduction and health of our immensely important pollinators. By joining citizen science activities like bird counts and providing wildlife habitat we help identify and sustain animals at risk in our locale. By practicing and promoting a decrease in utilizing single use plastic items we can help protect our environment from trash and slow decomposition of plastics that negatively impact water, air, and food supply. Did you know about 10 % of the petroleum used in the US goes to making plastics?

Educating ourselves, our neighbors, our legislators, and our youth are paramount to keeping focus on our ever-changing environments and the risk associated with being apathetic about the world around use.

Membership does matter. Continue to recruit, retain, and revitalize your club. We must continue to be a presence in our communities and make our voices heard.

Let me reiterate Kay's message that she and I are willing to help clubs complete Membership Registration and using Membership 365. Magnolia District currently has 19 Subscribing Members. Eight of them will be coming up for renewal this Spring. These are memberships given by your club to recognize individuals who are not members but make contributions to your community or organization.

Consider renewing your current subscribing members or giving this special recognition to a community member.

My thanks go to each of you for your time, talent, and resources as you promote Garden Club.

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# Magnolia District News

## Minutes: Magnolia District Board of Director's Meeting February 15, 2024

Recording Secretary, Ann Howell  
First Baptist Church, Buena Vista, Georgia

The Magnolia District Board Meeting, hosted by the Beautiful View Garden Club of Buena Vista, was called to order by Director Kay Hagler at 10 AM. Janis Webb, Treasurer, and registrar stated that 37 members were in attendance and Kay Hagler declared a quorum for the meeting. Inspiration was presented by Carolyn Culpepper followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Claudine Morgan. Director Hagler welcomed all members, introduced District officers, recognized special attendees, and mentioned several members who were absent due to illness. Sheilla Snell was appointed Timekeeper and Tricia Welch and Pat Barnett were appointed to approve the minutes. Tellers selected were Marilyn Aldrich, Mary Ann Parks, and Terry Morgan. Recording Secretary Ann Howell stated that the October 10, 2023, minutes were approved. Corresponding Secretary, Mary Ann Parks, reported on notes sent, received, and shared a special note from young students. Treasurer Janis Webb presented the financial report.

Director Hagler provided members with a detailed agenda including a calendar of events and her report highlighted business completed since February 2023, plans for the 2024 and 2025 Perry Flower Shows, and four new computer tools for improving communication and reporting for the membership (new GCG website, Membership 365, Constant Contact and Jot Form electronic reporting). Members were encouraged to use this new technology to improve communication.

Co-Director Marilyn Aldrich encouraged members to become involved in recruiting members and consideration of subscribing memberships to honor someone important to the club.

Unfinished business included a report that Barbara Stewart has resigned from the Nominating Committee for 2025-2027 due to her husband's death. Previously selected members Kay Lambert and Sondra Hagar and alternates, Marilyn Aldrich and Janice Mohr formed as the Nominating Committee with Marilyn as chairman.

Director Hagler and the Executive Board recommendation for memorials for Rosalynn Carter included monetary contribution to The Carter Care Center Mental Health Program and a monetary contribution for the Institute for Caregivers which have been awarded. The additional recommendation was to establish a marker in Plains in connection to the Butterfly Trail working with Annette Wise and Sewah Studios. After discussion, the motion was stated "To allocate funds to design and install a marker in Plains for the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail no later than April 2025 working with Annette Wise and a Magnolia District committee." The motion passed by vote of 19 Yeah, 3 No.

Nilsa Summey recommended that "Magnolia District establish an annual Scholarship in honor of Rosalyn Carter at Georgia Southwestern State University to begin in the 2024 Fall Semester". The motion was adopted, and a scholarship committee will be appointed to work with GSW State University for details.

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New Business-Youth Poetry Chairman Sherrell Bailey reported 98 entries with 23 entries forwarded to the GCG chairman Jean O'Shields and a total of 17 GCG state winners to be announced at the GCG Convention.

Tricia Welch, Smokey Bear Chairman, reported that five clubs sponsored posters in the Magnolia District with four having winners forwarded to the GCG state level. Winners will be announced at the GCG Convention.

NGC and GCG no longer sponsor a Youth Essay Contest and there were no Youth Sculpture entries this year in Magnolia District.

The Magnolia District Revised Budget was presented and explained to cover expenses of the Perry Flower Show. The members voted to approve Treasurer Janis Webb for the purchase of a CD from Wells Fargo. Janis Webb recommended the formation of a Finance Committee made up of the current Treasurer, a previous treasurer and another member to manage banking issues requiring multiple signatures. Clare Jenkins seconded, and the vote carried. Sybil Willingham recommended that the Finance committee be authorized to rent a safety deposit box if needed. Faye Frazier Seconded and the motion passed.

A recommendation from the Blue Star -Gold Star Committee was presented to establish a Budget Line Item for the Blue Star Memorial and to create two Grants. One grant for the Restoration of a Blue Star -Memorial marker would be submitted with the same application form used by GCG. A second grant would be for the Installation of a Memorial Marker and clubs could apply to help fund installation. All NGC and GCG guidelines must be followed to apply for these grants. The motion passed.

Clare Jenkins recommended that Magnolia District designate a Budget Line for contributions to be made annually to places located in Magnolia District. For the 2024 year the Columbus Botanical Garden and Masee Lane Gardens are recommended. Marilyn Aldrich seconded, and the motion passed.

A request from Annette Wise, Executive Director of the Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Trail was submitted to the Magnolia District to sponsor the May 2024 Symposium in Plains. Faye Frazier formed the motion with Drenda Stereneberg seconding and the motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

Mary Ann Parks- Garden Week in Georgia and National Garden Week.

Faye Frazier- October District Meeting netted a profit, a Basic Design Course in Magnolia District seems possible.

Clare Jenkins – Historic Land Preservation Fundraiser - A profit was made with funds sent to GCG.

Sandra Haga- Pineola Farms – April 20-21,2024.

Reminders of events on the calendar: Director Hagler adjourned the meeting at 12:07 followed by a Blessing by Carolyn Culpepper. Lunch was served.

**All New For 2024**  
**The Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms**  
**April 20th and 21st, 2024**



**Tickets are now on sale! [www.pineola.com/events](http://www.pineola.com/events)**

**Tickets \$20 advance purchase - \$25 at the gate**

**Every Year is a New Design**  
**If you thought last year was amazing, wait to see what**  
**the designers have dreamed up this year. The Flower**  
**Fantasy will be even better including more**  
**Vendors and Expert Speakers.**

**Sponsored by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**  
**Presented By The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, GA**

**This Year's Inspiration**  
**"Gardens Around The World"**

## **Actions in Memory of Rosalynn Carter**

Magnolia District will honor the memory of Rosalynn Carter – a Honorary Life Member of the GCG Board and the only United States of America First Lady from Georgia by memorial donations as follows:

Monetary gift to the Carter Center Mental Health Program, Atlanta, Ga.

Monetary gift to the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers, Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, Ga.

Annual Scholarship in memory of Rosalynn Carter at Georgia Southwestern University, Americus, Ga.

Contribution to the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail in Plains, Georgia for marker or bench in her honor.

## Capitol Conservation Day: **Your time and energy made a difference!**

Tuesday, February 27 – Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director, Kim Fair, Redbud District Director, Georgia Water Coalition members and supporters gathered in Atlanta for the annual Capitol Conservation Day, beginning with breakfast and advocacy training at 8:00 AM. The Georgia Water Coalition holds this event at the Georgia State Capitol. We gathered for orientation, and issue briefings at the Central Presbyterian Church. Then went to the Capitol to meet with legislators about timely water legislation.

### **HB 71 & HB 1338: Protecting the Okefenokee**



Thanks to your advocacy and hard work, House Bill 1338, the meaningless mining moratorium for the Okefenokee, DID NOT survive Crossover Day and is “dead.” Unfortunately, the Okefenokee Protection Act (HB 71) is also dead. This important measure to protect the Okefenokee from future mining proposals achieved historic levels of support with over 95 co-sponsors. But it failed to receive a vote.

Our work to protect the Okefenokee continues. Your steadfast advocacy for the priceless Okefenokee continues to resonate in the halls of the Capitol. Help keep the Wild Heart of Georgia beating by sharing social media posts over the coming weeks. We will add fresh posts each week for you to share with your networks.

**Bill Status:** HB 71 & HB 1338 did not Crossover and are effectively “dead.”

**GWC Position:** The GWC supported HB 71 and opposed the House version of HB 1338.

**HB 1223: Stop the Sludge Dumping :** House Bill 1223 survived Crossover Day with overwhelming support. This is an especially important step in the right direction, but HB 1223 must receive a vote before the end of the session. Industrial wastes

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masquerading as “soil amendments” have been spread on agricultural fields in rural communities, resulting in fish kills, water pollution, and other public health threats. HB 1223 would amend the Georgia Soil Amendment Act (1976) to make it illegal to dump a soil amendment on a property or site that is currently subject to an Environmental Protection Division enforcement action or consent order. Bill Status: HB 1223 survived Crossover Day with overwhelming support (165 Yes – 0 No) and is now in the Senate, where we anticipate broad support. HB 1223 has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. GWC Position: Support

What you can do: Contact members of the Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee and your representative or senator to ask that they vote YES on HB 1223.

Study each issue so you are knowledgeable about the issues.

## **APRIL 14-20, 2024: GARDEN WEEK IN GEORGIA!**

Georgia is graced with numerous historic properties and non-historical gardens. Preservation of these public landscapes and gardens are a focus for Magnolia District and GCG. GCG maintains a relationship and offers ongoing support to restorations and new creations. Your Club’s support funds are important in sustaining and documentation of historic public and private sites throughout the Georgia which have received both national and international recognition. Note Masee Gardens. **MAKE A SIGN TO SUPPORT AND PUBLICIZE GARDEN WEEK IN GEORGIA!** OR put an article in your local newspaper. Support Garden Week in Georgia during April 14-20<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check the box on the President’s report next year! Now, what can your club do for Garden Week? It does not have to be complicated.

## **Memorials for March 2023 to March 2024:**

**To Be acknowledged at The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Convention: Let Kay Hagler know immediately of any additional members who have passed from this life.**



**Ann Elizabeth DuPriest Poss, Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert**  
**Born: February 6, 1928, Passed: June 6, 2023**

**Alice Jane Liddell, Azalea Garden Club of Columbus**  
**Born: December 8, 1935, Passed: August 24, 1923**

**Dr. Shirley Davis Litwhiler, The Azalea Garden Club of Americus**  
**Born: 1937, Passed January 4, 2024.**





## *Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail*

*2024 Spring Symposium: A Tribute to Rosalynn Carter  
and her love of flowers and pollinators*

*May 3, 2024*

*8:30AM - 1:00PM*

*Plains Community Center*

*Plains, Georgia*



We hope you will join us for an exciting symposium in Plains on Friday, May 3, 2024. The symposium will honor Rosalynn Carter's love for Monarch butterflies, pollinators and flowers. Speakers will focus on gardening tips, native plants, habitat for pollinators and providing a healthy environment for all pollinators. In addition to great speakers, we will have 4 plant vendors with 100's of beautiful plants. We will also have plant experts available to talk with you about your soil, plants and gardening questions.

You can register by mail for \$50.00 or online for \$55.00 at [www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org](http://www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org) . All early registrations received by April 1st will be included in a drawing for a Rosalynn Carter Native Azalea gift basket. Seating is limited so register early!

Details about speakers, plant vendors and the event are posted online at [www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org](http://www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org). Contact Annette Wise at [annette@rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org](mailto:annette@rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org) or 229-824-4567

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# Magnolia District Club News

## Remembering and Appreciating the Sacrifices!

### Butler Garden Club's Gold Star Marker

**On February 5, 2024, Sybil Willingham went to the Reynolds Police Department** to check the Gold Star Marker. It was in a shipping box and sealed with



about 20 screws. Chief Holder said he already had his drill charging and to come back the next morning at 9 or 9:30 and we would open the box, I was ready about 8:30 and just waiting for 9 o'clock to go over there when he called. He had the screws loosened and said to come on we open the box. We lifted the top and saw our beautiful marker. There is no damage and no errors, and it is beautiful!!!! Chief Holder was as excited as I was that we are going to be honoring the families who gave up their sons in America's wars. There

is no greater sacrifice than to give one's life for one's country and for those who are left behind, to mourn their loss forever. By Sybil Willingham.

### Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville, Georgia

Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville, Georgia celebrated the beauty of camellias by learning the waxing technique to preserve a nearly lost art. Waxing camellias is a memorable skill which preserves the beauty of the flower for two or three weeks. Creating the porcelain-like bloom of a waxed camellia is simple, but instructions must be followed to the letter to ensure success. Before you begin, note that pink, white, and variegated blooms are usually more successful than red, and that single and semi-double forms will produce a better result than double flower. One must twirl the flower into the heated wax to ensure coverage. Google how to wax!



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**The Butler Garden Club  
&  
Taylor County Historical-Genealogical Society**  
Cordially invite You to join Us on

**Memorial Day  
Monday, May 27, 2024, at  
10:00 a.m.**

For the unveiling and dedication of a

**Gold Star Marker**

In tribute to the families who have lost a loved  
one in defense of our country.

Dedication ceremony will be held at  
**Flint Energies Auditorium**  
3 South Macon Street,  
Reynolds, Georgia

Marker Unveiling in Jullian Knight Park  
Reception following at Trinity Church

**We sincerely hope you can join us.**



## Christmas In The Valley 2023

What began as a simple "Can you give us a best guess Christmas decorations budget estimate" request by the Fort Valley Georgia City Council turned into a request for the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley Georgia to plan, manage and complete a Christmas decorating project for our small town. After taking a detailed inventory of the current Christmas decorations on hand, a Christmas decoration design and a corresponding budget was proposed, and \$50,000 was approved and set aside by the Fort Valley City Council for the Magnolia Garden Club to use. As part of this process the club had to obtain three bids on large ticket items as would any other worker or contractor for the city.

The Magnolia Garden Club members felt there were several key factors to consider in the project. Certainly using as much of the current inventory as possible to keep the cost down, but even more importantly involving the community. Workshops were set up where local citizens along with Magnolia Garden Club members came together and worked revamping wreaths, fluffing garland, unpacking new bows, sorting through old ornaments, etc. Over 40 volunteers worked alongside the Fort Valley Public Works and Fort Valley Utility workers assisting us.

Because the current 40 wreaths the city had been using were purchased in 2003-2004 timeframe, they were tired and in much need of a refresh. The cost of new commercial wreaths was approximately \$400 each, so total replacement was not fiscally possible. Delise Knight, our talented lead designer, devised a way of taking new garland and zip-tying it to an old wreath to make a beautiful new wreath that will last the city another 10-12 years. Each lamp post in the downtown area was decorated with a wreath and garland wrapping the post. Also, we created a new display area for children from old worn items that just need a little love and attention. This area has become one of the favorites of our community. Beautiful displays were created at the Fort Valley City Hall and the Police Department as well as at a historical home, The Troutman House. The project included decorations for 12 different sites in our city along with lite angels that line the light posts through town. Additionally, the club planted 24 hanging baskets with white pansies which the Magnolia Garden Club procured and paid for.

There were lots of challenges and opportunities with this project, and it took lots of hard hours of work. We have received numerous accolades and positive compliments on social media and through newspaper articles highlighting our club's work. Even other towns have visited to see what all the fuss was about. However, the biggest benefits have been the coming together of a community, making new friends that we will keep for a lifetime, adding 5 new members to the Magnolia Garden Club and making our small community shine with the light of the true meaning of Christmas.



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# The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. News



## Garden Club of Georgia 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

### 'Y'all Come'

*"Bloomin' in the Heart of Georgia"*

*April 16-17, 2024*

*Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center*

*Peachtree City, Georgia*

The Redbud District cordially invites you to join us for a refreshing new take on our annual convention. The "Y'all Come" band will be on hand during the convention to entertain you and yes, a luncheon and keynote speaker is on hand the first day to enjoy prior to a wonderful selection of four sessions on a variety of topics. Tuesday will feature a variety of vendors for some fun shopping experiences. That evening we will have district photo gatherings, a cash bar and a buffet dinner followed by our world-famous Awards Event. Wednesday begins with our business meeting followed by the luncheon with special guest National Garden Club President Brenda Moore. Following the convention's conclusion, we will offer for the first time a free Post Convention Seminar entitled "Designers' Challenge"!

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2024

Make Checks Payable to: **GCG 2024 Convention**

Mail Check & Registration Form to: Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033

[Rigbyduncan113@gmail.com](mailto:Rigbyduncan113@gmail.com) – 404-321-1733 (home) – 678-644-9502 (cell)

No refunds after April 1, 2024 – Registration Fee Not Refundable

No registrations accepted after April 7, 2024

#### **Hotel Registrations**

Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW Peachtree City

\$139.00 ++ per night for King or 2 Queen room

To register: Contact IHG Reservations at 1-877-227-6963 and provide the specific dates, the

GROUP NAME:

Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Annual Conference 2024, and GROUP CODE: GCG

Reservation Deadline for Group Rate: March 16, 2024

**REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.GARDENCLUBOFGEORGIA.ORG](http://WWW.GARDENCLUBOFGEORGIA.ORG)**

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# National Garden Club, Inc. News

## PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

**Application Procedure Timeline: Work on the grant application NOW! Have it ready to go! Last minute is always crushing for someone! Do it ahead of time!**

- Plant America Community Project Grant applications are open to NGC member clubs from **April 1 through October 15** of the calendar year to fund new or continuing projects conducted during the following year.
- Committee members review applications and notify grant recipients in **December**.
- **Funds are released in January or February for projects to be implemented during that year.** Project completion must be within approximately one year, but no later than February 28th of the year after funds are received. Final reports are due by April 1 of that year. <https://www.gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants>

### Youth Grant Opportunities

- National Garden Clubs, Inc. is excited to provide a grant opportunity for Garden Clubs working with youth clubs or groups planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators. Youth will learn the importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter, and practicing sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting, and maintaining these pollinator gardens.
- To apply for a grant, complete an **NGC Grant Application**, provide detailed information about the project, and submit your request to the NGC Youth Committee Chairman for approval.
- <https://www.gardenclub.org/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Check Sign up and Details at <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/events-calendar/> : Also, Check out The Facebook and District Webpage.

### 2024

March 19, 20:	The 2024 Deep South Garden Club, Inc. Annual Convention, Gatlinburg, TN
April 2-3:	NGC Landscape Design School Course 3:www. Gardenclub.org
April 5-7:	Valdosta Flower Show: Crescent Garden Center, Valdosta, Ga. (2-7pm)
April 8:	Finance and Executive Committee Spring 2024, Zoom, 1:30pm
April 14-20:	Garden Week In Georgia: Let the public know that It is Garden Week!
April 16- 17:	GCG Convention, Crowne Plaza, Peachtree City:
April 20-21:	Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms: 10 am – 5pm, Pineola Farms, Ft. Valley, GA.
May 3:	Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Spring Symposium:
May 2-6:	National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) Convention
May 27:	Gold Star Marker Memorial Dedication, 8 am Julian Knight Park Reynolds
May 29-30:	NGC Landscape Design School Course 4: gardenclub.org
June 2-4:	National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention, Westminster, Colorado
June 2-8, 2024:	National Garden Week
June 18-21:	GCG Newport Gardens and Glitz Tour
November 2:	Historic Landscape Preservation: Fair Oaks – Marietta Educational Garden Center

#### 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](mailto:haglerkay@gmail.com)

#### Deadlines:

Summer Issue (June, July, August) May 15

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

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

Spring Issue (March, April, May) February 15

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



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