

The Azalea Trumpet

Summer 2024



*A publication of the Azalea District--Member of The Garden Club of Georgia,
the Deep South Region, and the National Garden Club*

Dear Amazing Azaleas,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer break by now. Thank all of you so much for the splendid work you did with your President's Reports and Registration in 365. You did an unBEElivable job.



I so enjoyed seeing you at the Convention in Peachtree City where we enjoyed "Bloom in the Heart of Georgia" and the hospitality of the Redbud District. They did a wonderful job! We all enjoyed the company, awards, presentations, and speakers. **[The awards are listed in this Trumpet.]**

**Congratulations to all the winners.
You make me proud!**

On April 20 I was the representative to the Georgia Bird Fest in Athens and promoted GCG as well as learned more about this group.

I have heard from some of you about attending club meetings or events you are holding. I will be attending a Day Lily show in Gray on June 1 and an end of the year picnic on June 6 in Watkinsville.

It was a privilege to be able to install the new officers of the Iris Garden Club in Washington and enjoy their lovely luncheon. I look forward to working with this new group during the summer as they will host our August 20 Azalea District Board Meeting.

Please remember to send me the ways you celebrated Garden Week in Georgia and your plans for National Garden Week. I know you have some great ideas.

Get some well-deserved rest this summer, whether that is working in your gardens, visiting friends and family, or traveling to exotic places. I will Bee Buzzing around this summer, and if you need me or have a question, please feel free to call, text, or email. Thank you all for making my first year as the Azalea District Director such a joy and an education!

Wishing you Happy Days ahead, Jane Edmunds Azalea District Director.



GEORGIA BIRD FEST SUMMIT

Birds Georgia hosted the inaugural Georgia Bird Fest Summit at the Classic Center in Athens, GA on Saturday, April 20, 2024, where bird enthusiasts from across the state shared knowledge about birds and bird related issues in Georgia.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. was invited to have a booth to promote membership and provide information to the birders about gardening. Jane Edmunds, Azalea District Director, manned the booth decorated with beautiful, bearded iris from her garden.



Maudlyn Ann Smith

September 6, 1940—March 18, 2024



Maudlyn Ann Smith passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024, after an extended illness, with her loving husband by her side. Funeral services will be Friday, March 22, 2024, in the chapel of Gray Memorial at 2:00 PM with a visitation for family and friends at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at Cedar Ridge Cemetery. Elder Michael Hataway will officiate.

Maudlyn was born on September 6, 1940, to the late James Frank Gordon Sr., and Annie Jackson at their home on Five Point Road in Jones County. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, James Frank Gordon Jr., Benjamin Andrew Gordon, Robert Allen Gordon, and sister Jacquelyn Sue Gordon. Maudlyn was the oldest of seven girls and took responsibility

for assisting her mother in raising this large family.

Maudlyn was a graduate of Jones County High School. She grew up on the family farms in Wayside, with all the life experiences you would appreciate during that time with a large family. She was a traditional lady as well as a very modern lady for her time, fashionable, intuitive, made her own clothes as well as clothes for the family, and a talented seamstress. She built her first house, bought her first Camaro and wished upon a star for someone to love her and then she met Ed. Maudlyn attended Crandall Business School and developed proficient skills at bookkeeping which she used in her career at the S&S cafeteria home office for forty-four years. She was a member of the Jones County Garden Club and won third place for her day lily entry. Maudlyn and Ed were members of the Gray Square Dance Club where they first met and Ed extended his hand and said, "may I have this dance" beginning their wonderful life together. Generous in spirit to her extended family by always remembering them on their birthdays, holidays, and special occasions with a homemade gift or card. Remembered as well for her holiday fruit cakes. Maudlyn was supportive of Ed's work with the Gray Volunteer Fire Department during his many days away from home training and fire calls.

Linda Haley Harris

January 12, 1944—April 21, 2024



Mrs. Linda Haley Harris, Born in Lavonia, GA, she was the daughter of the late Joe G. Haley and Alice Lorene Walters Haley. Mrs. Harris attended Tift College in Milledgeville and received her Masters from the University of Georgia. Linda was a retired teacher and she taught math for 36 years at both the Mt. Olivet Elementary School and Hart County Middle School, and after her retirement joined the Retired Educators Association. Mrs. Harris was a member of the Pine Tree Garden Club for 50 years where she served as a two-term president, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian. She also served on the Azalea Board as a treasurer and on various committees, and she served on the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. board for the past several terms. Mrs. Harris was a member of the First Baptist Church of Hartwell where she had a perfect attendance record of 44 years, was an alto in the sanctuary choir, member of the Senior Adult Ministry, served on the offering counting committee, served as a deaconess, president of the Hubert Milford Sunday School class, and a member of the Motivated By Love WMU. She also was a member of Ya-Ya's Red Hat Group.

*A life that touches others
goes on forever.*



Chairman Reports

Charlotte White, Azalea District Awards Chairman



Now's the time to be preparing and discussing the Azalea District Awards your club will apply for prior to the September 30 deadline.

All Club Presidents were sent a copy of the Awards Guide last year, and it is a portion of the Azalea District Board Handbook given to all club presidents and Board members. If you can't find a copy, please refer to the Awards Section of the Azalea District Handbook located on the GCG website — www.georgiaclubofgeorgia.org.

Once on the website use the Member Resources pulldown to go to the Personnel Guide. Once that page comes up, look for Azalea District and then find the Azalea District Handbook. On the Table of Contents, you can click on the

Azalea District Awards.

Award winners will be announced at the Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting in Gray, Ga, on October 17, 2024. Many clubs have projects and activities that meet the requirements for awards, yet clubs fail to make application for awards. This year showcase the work you are doing in your clubs and APPLY for AWARDS!!!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Charlotte White, Azalea District Awards Chairman, at 706-829-5008 or ccw3395@aol.com.



CLUBS CAN'T WIN IF THEY DON'T APPLY!

News from Our Clubs



Milledgeville Garden Club

Members of the Milledgeville Garden Club ventured to Athens for a private tour of the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia, home to the Garden Club of Georgia. While guiding the group through the various specialty gardens, Master Gardener Rick Rose entertained them with his quick wit, storytelling ability and knowledge of the gardens. Of particular interest was the extensive Children's Garden with its many hands-on, interactive educational elements. The guided tour was followed by a picnic lunch on the visitor's center patio.

Pictured under the metal entrance to the Flower Gardens are: Linda Poyner, Elizabeth Hines, Carol Grant, Sherrill Jones, Jennifer Pollard and Anne Smart.

It was a great day among garden loving friends, in beautiful surroundings!

Milledgeville Garden Club

We are Honored!

"The Milledgeville Garden Club recently received recognition as a "Garden Club of Excellence" from the Garden Club of Georgia. Shown with the certificate are former club president Kathy Chandler and current president Jennifer Pollard."



Gateways (Social Circle) and Rosemary & Thyme (Loganville) Garden Clubs



Gateways and Rosemary and Thyme Garden Clubs hosted a very informative talk by Dr Jacobus (Jaap) de Roode, from Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Biology Emory University Biology Department of Biology, director of the de Roode Monarch lab and on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Board.



His topic was Monarch Butterflies: Science and Conservation. He talked about infectious diseases, life cycle, travel patterns and how we can attract the Monarchs and pollinators to our garden. Local Garden Clubs and Master Gardeners were invited to this talk. The clubs hope to host more up to date topics regularly

**Beautiful and graceful, varied and enchanting, small but approachable,
butterflies lead you to the sunny side of life. And everyone deserves a little sunshine.**

~Jeffrey Glassberg

Louisville Garden Club Celebrates Seventy-fifth

The Louisville Garden Club celebrated their 75th anniversary on February 7, 2023, with camellias and a high tea. Wearing their pink LGC aprons and pearls, the women of the club enjoyed “high tea” refreshments made by members of the club, before learning how to wax the camellias brought to the meeting from their yards and gardens. Former club member Donna Borders, now of the Dillon, South Carolina Garden Club, showed club members how to dip camellias into wax to preserve them for several days. The effect was captivating with

many varieties of camellias looking almost like they were made of porcelain. The meeting was held at the home of LGC member Tish Easterlin.

The Louisville Garden Club, with approximately 30 members, is actively involved in many community beautification projects, including the planting of hundreds of daffodils in public green spaces, and the continued planting of trees and flowers at the county courthouse. Most recently, the club sponsored the planting of four “Flame Thrower” red bud trees on the grounds of the courthouse.



Milledgeville Garden Club

The Milledgeville Garden Club awarded two “Yard of the Month” Awards to local residents for April/May 2024.

The Certificates of Beautification awards were presented to Mark and Amelia Pelton, pictured; and Ron and Deb Hobbs.

To be eligible for the Yard of the Month, residences yards must be cut, manicured and landscaped by the homeowner, no professional maintenance and be aesthetically appealing. We are proud to have such dedicated neighbors in Milledgeville and Baldwin County who exemplify landscaping beautiful lawns with red Knockout roses, ornamental grasses, shrubs and colorful planters and baskets making for inviting havens to local birds and insects. May their yards continue to delight passersby and inspire us. Job well done, neighbors!

Milledgeville Garden Club

"All About Hydrangeas" by guest speaker Gary Starrett, Owner of Beulahland Hydrangea Gardens & Nursery in Bolingbroke, GA, was awesome!

Using a slide presentation featuring photos of beautiful



hydrangea gardens, he shared details on growing and propagating hydrangeas in his gardens with the Milledgeville Garden Club.

Pictured are Hostesses (L/R) Anne Walden, Mary Nevins, Jane Thompson, Harriett Whipple, Susy Little, Joanne Battle and Connie Moody. Delicious refreshments were then served by these Hostesses inside Rose Hill Mansion at Lockerly Arboretum.



Gray Garden Club

Gray Garden Club had a busy Garden Week in Georgia. We started with the signing of the GWIG proclamation. Members enjoyed the

April meeting with our guest speaker (and family) Jon Jackson from Comfort Farms, placed flowers in public places, played Bingo with the residents of Lynn Haven Health and Rehabilitation, placed GWIG signs at the Chamber of Commerce and the Round Oak Memorial Garden, placed GWIG brochures at the Chamber of Commerce and Tractor Supply, refreshed the PA flower beds at the library, held a clean up day at the Round Oak Memorial Garden, participated in the local Spring Festival selling plants, assisted with Earth Day festivities at the Jones County Pre-K and most importantly, awarded the \$1,000.00 2024 Gray Garden Club Elmyr Henderson Memorial Scholarship to Christy Chambers to pursue her studies in horticulture.



MILLEDGEVILLE GARDEN CLUB

The Milledgeville Garden Club showed its patriotism by refreshing planters at the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville, Georgia this May. Members met on a rainy Friday to bring petunias, geraniums, lamb's ear with its beautiful silver foliage and a variety of red, white, and blue flowering plants to the garden.

It was an opportunity not only to refresh the planters, but to speak with the veterans who take their daily walks. Remembering our fallen heroes and honoring those still with us who served to keep our freedom lest we never forget.



Volunteers present were Gail Pohl, BJ Simpson, Elaine Altman, Sherrill Jones, Linda Poyner, Harriett Whipple, Jan Law, and Sue Wright, Chair of the MGC Garden Therapy.

Iris Garden Club, Augusta



On Friday, May 24, 2024, an Iris Sculpture was unveiled at 5th and Reynolds Streets in downtown Augusta to honor the Iris-Augusta Garden Club and to promote accessible art in the community. The club was formed 75 years ago in 1948 when ten ladies met and decided one of their goals was to “enhance and beautify both public and private grounds.” Their first project was the creation of the Blue Star Garden in downtown Augusta where the Iris Sculpture was placed. The sculpture was designed by Colleen and Wesley Stewart and funded by the Georgia Rehabilitation Institute led by Dennis Skelley, with the Greater Augusta Arts Council supervising the project. Kathy Clark, President of the Iris-Augusta Garden Club welcomed everyone and recognized attendees from the mayor’s office and Greater Augusta Arts Council, city

commissioners, Mr. Skelley, and the artists. She then gave a brief history of Iris-Augusta and the club’s mission to preserve the Blue Star Garden, and to improve it with the addition of a Gold Star marker in 2022. Pat Hathaway, past president, then spoke of how she led the rejuvenation project in 2000. Members of the Arts Council, Mr. Skelley, and the artists spoke briefly. A ribbon cutting ceremony followed. Iris-Augusta members present were: Jean Kernaghan, Pat Hathaway, Pat Donohue, Victoria Pudish, Joyce Haskell, Tina Tanner, Bonnie McClain, and Kathy Clark.

Announcements



Important Notice!

There has been some fraudulent email activity involving some Garden Club of Georgia members.

Some members email contact lists have been compromised and you may receive emails that appear to be coming from them requesting help with a payment (via Venmo, Zelle or any other source) please do not respond to these requests.

WENT TO THE DOCTOR WITH A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING MOLE. HE SAID THEY ALL LOOK THAT WAY AND I SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM IN THE GARDEN.





GEORGIA WATER COALITION

GCG Legislative Update and GA Water Coalition Annual Meeting – Barbara Bourque

The Georgia legislative session ended on March 29th. It is very disappointing to report that HB72- the Okefenokee Protection Act, failed to move out of committee in spite of 95 or more bi-partisan sponsors. The public wants to protect the Swamp. **Our leaders need to listen.** Please continue to contact your State Rep. and Senator to keep up the pressure during the 'off season'. **WRITE to the Governor!** He holds the power to get something done. We hope you wrote to the GA EPD expressing your desire that they deny Twin Pines a permit to mine. Right now, that is our hope, that EPD will develop rules/regs to make mining on Trail Ridge very difficult. The fight over the permits for Twin Pines continues and it will come up again next year – but we need to continue to work hard on this issue.

HB1223 passed – good news – in the fight to better regulate the application of 'soil amendments' on open fields. Too often industrial sludge containing chicken by-products were being sprayed on farmer's fields, causing horrid odors and flies. Or PFAS "forever chemicals" were included. There will be much more on PFAS in coming years.

No Legislation on the Coal Ash issue this session. Hope is that the US EPA will force the GA EPD to require coal ash to be placed in LINED pits, and not issue permits to close ash ponds if coal ash is sitting in unlined pits in groundwater near rivers: at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. near the Ocmulgee River; at Plant Hammond near the Coosa River; and at Plant Yates in Coweta Co. close to the Chattahoochee River.

*"The philosopher who said that work well done never
needs doing over never weeded a garden."*

~Ray Everson



AZALEA DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA AWARD WINNERS

FOR THE YEAR 2023 - PRESENTED IN 2024



AWARD # 4 –BIRD AWARD

Medium Garden Club

1ST Pine Tree GC (Hartwell) Azalea

AWARD # 9 – AWARD OF MERIT INDIVIDUAL NON-MEMBER

Steve and Sharon Scruggs
Nominated by Watkinsville GC Azalea

AWARD # 10 – GARDEN THERAPY AWARD CATEGORY A (OUTSTANDING ACTIVITY)

Large Garden Club

3RD Watkinsville GC Azalea

AWARD # 11NP– NATIVE PLANT AWARD

Medium Garden Club

1ST Pine Tree GC (Hartwell) Azalea

AWARD #13 – CIVIC IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Medium Garden Club

3RD Gray GC Azalea

AWARD #15– HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Medium Garden Club

1ST Pine Tree GC (Hartwell) Azalea

AWARD #16–YEARBOOK

Clubs of 30-44 members:

2ND Spade and Trowel of Augusta Azalea

AWARD #19 – HORTICULTURE PROGRAM AWARD

Large Garden Club

1ST Watkinsville GC Azalea

AWARD #20 – HISTORY AWARD CLUB HISTORIES

1ST 120 years Sharon-Raytown GC Azalea



AWARD #25 – SCRAPBOOK AWARD

CATEGORY I – TRADITIONAL

SCRAPBOOK

Medium Clubs

1ST Pine Tree Garden Club (Hartwell)
Azalea

Large Clubs

1ST Watkinsville Garden Club Azalea

AWARD #37–PUBLICATIONS AWARD

NEWSLETTER (ONE PAGE):

LARGE CLUB

1ST Watkinsville GC Azalea

NEWSLETTER OR MAGAZINE OF 2-12
PAGES:

MEDIUM CLUB

2ND Rose and Dalhia Azalea

CALENDARS

1ST Iris Garden Club (Washington) Azalea

AWARD #39 & 54 – MARKER AWARD

A. INSTALLATION OF A MARKER

Medium Garden Club

1ST Gold Star Marker Gateways GC Azalea

AWARD #43

LITTER/RECYCLING/RECLAMATION

AWARD

Medium Garden Club

3RD Pine Tree GC of Hartwell Azalea

AWARD #51–BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION AWARD

Medium Garden Club

HM Pine Tree GC Hartwell Azalea

AWARD #56 – NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK AWARD

Medium Garden Club

2ND Pine Tree GC Hartwell Azalea

AWARD #J-8 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

1ST Watkinsville GC Azalea



2024 YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS

2024 GCG Sculpture Youth Contest Winners

4th Grade Winners:

1st: TLaiya, Rose and Dahlia Garden Club

3rd: Elizabeth Oyewole, Rose and Dahlia Garden Club

2023-2024 NGC Youth Poetry "I Spy With My Little - Eye Celebrating Our Green World"

Regular Education

2nd Grade:

2nd Elijah Dykes, Gateway Garden Club, Azalea District

3rd Grade:

3rd Caroline Spell, Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Augusta, Azalea District

ESOL English as a Second

1st Grade:

1st Leah Warnken, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

2nd Grade:

2nd Ayan Patel, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

3rd Grade:

2nd Fredley Patrice, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

4th Grade:

2nd Giselle Rivera, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

5th Grade:

1st Moises Ayala, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

2nd Jayden Huynh, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Azalea District

2024 Garden Club of Georgia Smokey Bear Poster Winners

BANKS BOLES
SPADE AND TROWEL GARDEN
CLUB AUGUSTA
AZALEA DISTRICT
Grade 1: First Place



OLIVIA ALBRIGHT
SPADE & TROWEL GARDEN CLUB
AUGUSTA
AZALEA DISTRICT
Grade 2: Third Place

SIDDHARTH MALIK
SPADE & TROWEL GARDEN Club
AZALEA DISTRICT
Grade 2: Second Place

OWEN RAY COUSSENS
PINE NEEDLE GARDEN CLUB
LINCOLNTON AZALEA DISTRICT
Grade 5: Second Place

A helpful guide



Friend who
makes wax and
lots of honey



Friend who is
extra fuzzy and
really loves
flowers



Friend who
pollinates and
eats pests but
needs more
personal space



Thank you for your Scholarship Support ~ You make the difference!

Susan Turner, Scholarship Chairman

glencree@bellsouth.net

Each contribution to scholarships is significant in its importance to our
GCG Mission of Education to deserving Georgia Students.

With sincere thanks to all, we met and **exceeded** our goal to award \$85,000.00 to
our students for their 2024-2025 year of study!

GCG members and friends supported Named Scholarships, Patrons of
Scholarships, Honors and Memorials, General Fund Contributions, Life
Memberships and Dollars Educate Scholars.
Plant Societies are also donating to our program.

Join us at the GCG Annual Convention, April 16-17 in Peachtree City to learn which
District Director will wear the Crown as *Queen of Scholarships!*

On behalf of the GCG Scholarship Committee, we thank you for being a part of the
future of a student who is seeking a life that speaks to our own hearts. These young
people are dedicated to the same mission as The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.,
Beautification, Conservation & Education.

*“The hum of bees is the voice
of the garden.”*

— Elizabeth Lawrence



Native Plant Revolution

Edward Lagucki

Watching ash trees die all around me while beech leaves wither away and buckthorn chokes out the woods that I grew up playing in, I became obsessed with saving my local ecosystem. After college, I pursued the green industry because of this and have worked in many sectors throughout my budding career. From running landscaping crews, managing a garden center, [publishing insect research](#), and running invasive species eradication projects, I have seen the good and the bad. "Big Horticulture" in America often contradicts environmental conservation and ecological preservation goals. Walk into most garden centers nowadays. There is a wonderful display of annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs, but most of what is on the sales floor is non-native or invasive! Drive by a housing development and try to count the number of native species; you will likely count zero if you do not count the name of the development memorializing the nature it replaced.

The horticulture industry has grown with the false notion that humans are separate from nature. Since the dawn of commercial agriculture, humans have been conditioned to think that unless a plant is a cash crop or offers visual appeal, it is a weed or nuisance plant. [Historic shopping habits have reflected this](#). Consumers buy "[pretty, pest-free, and easy](#)" plants instead of ecologically important ones. A great example of a low ecological value plant that most home gardeners adore is the Butterfly Bush - [Buddleja davidii](#). This perennial is native to central China, only offering a food source from nectar to a few species of adult butterflies and moths. The plant leaves [support zero larval species](#) because they [do not provide the nutrients](#) our local populations feed on. "Why feed the adults but not the kids?"

There is a [major nutrition gap](#) for insects in our landscapes; therefore, native species are so critical to the future of gardening. Most native species support tens of larval species, if not hundreds. The goldenrod genus *Solidago* supports over 100 native insect species! Most native plants that are for sale at garden centers are cultivars. Cultivars of native species

have altered flower colors and shapes that may be more attractive to you but are [far less attractive to pollinators](#). Pollinators desire [wild-type native species](#) because they are most familiar with the flower. Not only do we lack a supply of wild-type native species, but vendors have been all-in on [cultivars and invasive species that have been marketed for decades](#) as go-to landscaping plants.

Today, most invasive plant species we fight to control were introduced by exotic plant sales and the shipping of exotic woody plant material from overseas. It is a pattern that has occurred [repeatedly](#) in America, but little has been done to stop it. Vendors and global trade policymakers have not been held accountable. In many cases, landowners must deal with issues caused by invasive plants. The Callery Pear, [Pyrus calleryana](#), is the most recent invasive plant to gain national headlines for being outlawed for sale in most states. The irreparable damage is already here. The species quickly outcompeted native species along wood lines across America.

It is time to revolutionize our relationship with horticulture and understand that humans are a part of nature, not separate from it. Humans' substantial negative impact on the environment proves we are a part of nature. It can sometimes be frustrating, but the native plant revolution has germinated and is rapidly growing. Many small businesses are popping up across the nation to fill this void! From the sale of native seeds and plants to emerging educators preaching the importance of locally sourced native plants, the future is bright. As younger generations continue seeing the suffering cast on our ecosystems by these issues, [they are more inspired to be a part of the change to save our natural heritage!](#) There are many [resources](#) for finding native plants that continue to accelerate our revolution to a happier, healthier plant community.

Edward Lagucki is the director of grounds at a historical English garden estate in Ohio, Lantern Court. He is an ISA-certified arborist. This article reflects on his roles in horticulture and industry trends.



Azalea District Calendar 2024-2025



June 2-4, 2024	National Garden Club Convention	Denver, CO
June 2—8, 2024	National Garden Week	
August 6, 2024	Azalea District Executive Board Meeting	
August 20, 2024	Azalea District Board Meeting	Washington
September 10, 2024	GCG Fall Board Meeting	
September 30, 2024	DEADLINE FOR FALL AZALEA TRUMPET	

Actual footage of me losing all common sense & ditching the budget the minute I step foot in the Garden Center.



“What was paradise, but a garden full of vegetables and herbs and pleasure? Nothing there but delights.”

– William Lawson