



The Oleander Leaflet

Newsletter of the Oleander District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Oleander District

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Happy Fall Ya'll,

Goodness time has flown by, and it's fall already. Although it's a bit warm, it's nice to see some leaves share their beautiful fall colors with us.

Wow, we did have a wonderful crowd for the Oleander District Meeting at The Landings in October. We had 164 attendees that enjoyed our great speaker Jonathan Barrett from the UGA Botanical Gardens. The planning committee created a wonderful fall setting for us and the basket raffle and silent auctions were a success.

The 2025-2027 Oleander District Officers were voted on at the district meeting. They are Director – Tricia Lawrence, Co-Director – Barbara Cromley, Treasurer – Michelle Ricketson, Recording Sec. – Martha Johnson, and Corresponding Secretary – Irene Michaels. Many thanks to these ladies for accepting these positions. Please give them the support that you have given me. Except for the district director, these officers will be installed at the January 21, 2025, board meeting.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Oleander District Awards. Their hard work paid off and maybe next year even more of you will apply. We had a couple awards that no one applied for this year.

The Oleander Board of Directors contributed \$462.00 to the Richmond Hill Garden Club to help with victims of Storm Debbie. The Richmond Hill club matched those funds. They bought 10 Lowes gift cards and distributed them to 10 families to aid in their rebuilding efforts. Thank you for your thoughtfulness towards others.

Joni Thompson.
Oleander District Director

**“Inspire to Grow Through Beautification, Preservation,
Conservation, Education.”**

Activities Around the District

Subscribing Membership



A Subscribing Member shall be an individual who is committed to the purposes and objectives of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and desires association without the necessity of becoming a member of a local garden club. A Subscribing Member shall be eligible to participate in all programs and events available to the general membership, shall receive Garden Gateways and other informative membership mailings but without the privilege of a vote.

Dues are \$25.00 per year for the Subscribing Member. Reminders will be sent prior to membership expiration. Those unpaid will be dropped from the membership and will be ineligible for awards competition.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Subscribing Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____
 E-mail _____

No need for email or phone contact information if not receiving email notices.

Do you wish to receive regular email notices about all GCG Club Activities? Yes or No

Do you wish to receive our quarterly Garden Gateways magazine? Yes or No

Checks should be made payable to the **Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

Mail to 2450 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens, Ga 30605-1674

706-227-5369 headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

If this is a gift membership, or you were referred by a GCC Club Member, please provide the following information so we may give that club credit for this Subscribing Membership. Thank you.

Garden Club _____ Club # _____ Dist: _____
 Donor/Referred by Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Phone _____

Use this donor address for renewal notification

Clubs or individuals may give an "Honorary Subscribing Membership" to a local dignitary, speaker, community worker/volunteer, etc. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the new Subscribing Member, noting a year's subscription to Garden Gateways, Please check the box and indicate the reason for this gift.

Reason for honor/gift: _____

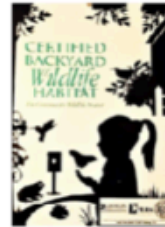
If you would like to give an "Honorary Subscribing Membership" but don't have someone special in mind, send a \$25.00 check, but leave the top section blank. The gift will be awarded for you. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the new Honorary Subscribing Member, noting your donation and a year's subscription to Garden Gateways.

Activities Around the District

Community Wildlife Project

Did you know you can earn certification in the Community Wildlife Project?
 Visit <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/projects-programs-community-wildlife-project/> for applications for Certification in the following:

1. Backyard Certification
2. Hummingbird Haven
3. Gardening with Georgia Native Plants.
4. Creating A Winter Wildlife Wonderland
5. Nesting Boxes



For more information about Georgia native wildlife plantings, please contact Terry Johnson at tjwoodduck@bellsouth.net. Also, please visit [backyardwildlifeconnection](http://backyardwildlifeconnection.com) for information regarding attracting and enjoying backyard wildlife.

Winter Wonderland - <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/CWP-winter-wonderland-appn-2019-1.pdf>

Direct any questions pertaining to hummingbirds to: Terry Johnson
 Community Wildlife Project Coordinator 478-994-2502 or TJWoodDuck@AOL.com

Container Gardening



Native and wildlife plantings can grow in containers as well.

The University of Georgia has produced one of the best sources for information regarding gardening in containers. It is Circular 787 (*Gardening in Containers*). The circular is available online @ Gardening in Containers – UGA Cooperative Extension Circular 787.

Information Regarding This Contact Information:

Melissa Hayes, Georgia DNR - Wildlife Conservation Section -- (478) 994-1438 or email melissa.hayes@dnr.ga.gov;
 Terry Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator, tjwoodduck@bellsouth.net

Information provided on https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CONTAINER-GARDENING-Notes-3_17-FOR-WILDLIFE-APPLICATION.pdf



All information is property of GCG, Inc.

Activities Around the District

To all garden club members



FLOWER  POWER®
FUNDRAISING

Paperwhites: A Classic Accent for Any Christmas Display

Just picture a fluffy bunch of snowy white blooms against red ribbons and green garlands. Paperwhites (*Narcissus tazetta*) offer fragrant tiny white trumpet blooms. They can be forced inside to provide another hit of color to your decor. In warmer climates, you can move them outdoors. Check out this [Southern Living](#) article for the best advice on getting paperwhites to bloom year after year.

Of course, you can get them from our sale. These offers end **December 15**. Shipping will begin the first of November. **All orders placed by December 1st will be shipped in time for Christmas.**

Send the link to your friends, post it on your Facebook page and pass it along to all those folks you've bought popcorn and cookies and pecans from over the years.

Click here to go directly to GCG's market:
<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/show/gardenclubofgeorgia>



Activities Around the District

The Oleander District Board Meeting was held on August 15th in Richmond Hill. The Executive Committee met to discuss business and then each committee gave updates. New Business soon followed with the nominations of the 2025-2027 officers for the Oleander District. After the Executive Board Meeting was adjourned, the board members met to approve the new slate of officers.

The new officers for the 2025-2027 term of the Oleander District are as follows:

Director - Trish Lawrence of Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Garden Club

Co Director - Barbara Cromley of Brooklet Garden Club

Treasurer - Michelle Ricketson of Liberty Live Oaks Garden Club

Recording Secretary - Martha Johnson of Magnolia Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary - Irene Michaels of The Windsor Forest Garden Club and The Pooler Garden Club



2023-2025
District Officers



District Board Members



Activities Around the District

The Oleander District Annual Meeting was recently held on October 16th in Savannah, Georgia at the Palmetto Club in The Landings.



Jonathan Scott Barrett,
Guest Speaker

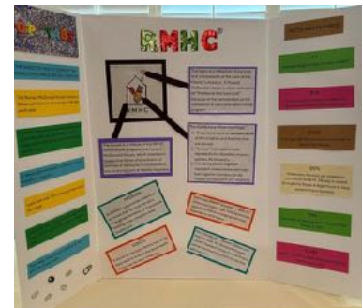
The guest speaker for the event was Johnathon Scott Barrett. Johnathan shared information about many of the upcoming events to take place at the Botanical Garden of Georgia. As an author of three cookbooks, he talked about preparing holiday feasts. He gave an exciting account of his personal cookbooks and his fiction novel. Some of his books and other items were available for purchase, and as a matter of fact, it is my understanding that all of his items were sold out!

The 164+ ladies in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal and of course fellowship with one another while awaiting in anticipation for the announcement of the Oleander District Award winners. See below a few of the photos from the event.



Fonda Ussery of Pine Forest Garden Club Page placed bids on the fabulous Silent Auction entries.

The Landings Garden Club, the Host of the 2024 ODAM did a wonderful job. The centerpieces were beautiful and the meal was delicious. Many of the members enjoyed the silent auction as well as bidding on the basket raffle. The chairmen of the various district board committees provided excellent exhibits. It was a very eventful afternoon with lots of fun and fellowship with the many club members in the Oleander District. Also in attendance were many of the former District Directors and past Presidents of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



Activities Around the District



The Landings Garden Club and Chairman of 2024 ODAM welcomed the group.



Clubs of Excellence were recognized by GCG President, Lisa Hall.



Councils of Excellence were recognized by GCG Council Chairman, Rosemary Mauldin.



Outstanding Garden Club of the Year. Glad Garden Club. L/R Jane Trammel and Sherri Clifton.



Outstanding Member of the Year, Elizabeth Watts of Windsor Forest GC with Awards Co Chair, Mary Ogden.



Awards Co Chair Mary Ogden presents Sandra Williams of Brooklet GC with the Special Achievement Award.



Jane Wood, Brooklet GC accepts award for Outstanding Youth Garden Club of the Year from Mary Ogden, Awards Co Chairman.



Pine Forest GC and The Landings GC tied for the Awards All Star Award presented by Co Chair Mary Ogden.



Awards Co Chair Mary Ogden. presents the Louise Stewart Membership Award to Richmond Hill GC.

Activities Around the District



Garden Club of Savannah was presented the Martha Miller Butterfly Award by Mary Ogden.



The Mary Helen Ray Beautification and Historic Preservation Award was presented to Lee Green and Cindy Meyer of the GC of Savannah.



Mary Virginia Keith of Sea Oats GC was presented the Nelle Pope Horticulture Award.



Great Job Oleanders!

Activities Around the District

Oleander District Awards

Chairman Betty Benner and Co-Chairman Mary Ogden

Nelle Pope Horticulture - To a club or group of clubs that has the best project in the field of Horticulture.

Sea Oats Garden Club

Mary Helen Ray Beautification & Historic Preservation - To the member or club that has made an outstanding impact in the area of Beautification & Historic Preservation.

The Garden Club of Savannah

Martha Miller Butterfly Award - To the club or group of clubs that has made outstanding environmental contributions through planting and maintaining a Butterfly Garden.

The Garden Club of Savannah

Louise Stewart Membership Award - To the club that has recruited the greatest number of new members over the previous year's membership.

Richmond Hill Garden Club

Awards All Star - To the club that applied and/or won the greatest number of GCG, DSGC, and NCG Awards.

Tie: The Landings Garden Club and Pine Forest Garden Club

Outstanding Youth Garden Club of the Year : Youth club programs should be balanced providing instructions in the areas of Horticulture, Environmental Education, and Conservation.

Brooklet Garden Club

Special Achievement Award - To the club with the most outstanding civic project furthering Oleander objectives and projects throughout the club year, or special projects not identified in another award.

Brooklet Garden Club

Outstanding Garden Club of the Year - To the club receiving the highest score on the annual GCG President's Report.

Glad Garden Club

Outstanding Garden Club Member of the Year - To the member who has demonstrated outstanding service to garden related activities and civic improvement.

Elizabeth Watts, Windsor Forest Garden Club

Youth Club Activities Around The District

The Brooklet Garden Club's Youth Jacket Club has been very active since their return to school in early August. The club welcomed faculty and staff back to both Brooklet Elementary and Stilson Elementary Schools with beautiful floral arrangements. The students with assistance of club members picked flowers and greenery from their yards to create the arrangements.



Youth Jacket Club Sponsored by Brooklet Garden Club



In August under the leadership of Stem teacher Mark Petkewick and with the help of club members Faye Hulst, Debbie Page, and Susan Taylor, the class learned about the parts of a plant and how to grow them. Mr. Petkewick taught students how to plant lettuce seeds into a small container to be placed into a tower. This plant tower, also known as a tower garden or window farm is a vertical hydroponic system that uses a nutrient rich water solution to grow plants. Over the last month the students have watched their seeds become a lettuce plant and have recently begun to harvest the lettuce.



Students have been actively cleaning up the raised garden beds and preparing them for fall planting during the month of October and early November. Pansies, snapdragons, and dianthus are always favorites of the youth gardeners.



This month the students studied the life cycle of a peanut. Garden Club members, under the direction of Stem teacher Mark Petkewick and retired teacher and club member Jane Wood, set up small group learning stations. Students learned how to plant and grow peanuts, how to harvest the peanut, and then the different items that a peanut could be used for. Jane Wood had a tasting station where students could decide which they preferred — powdered peanut butter or smooth.



News from Our Clubs

Garden Club of Savannah



The Garden Club of Savannah at its September meeting welcomed **18** new members and had **90** in attendance at a luncheon at the Savannah Golf Club. The flower centerpieces came from the garden of Amy Gaylor Nedriga, who started Elonti Gardens to make beautiful natural bouquets, the proceeds benefiting local charities as well as her charity, Children Inspiring Hope in Ghana. CIH promotes education, supplies clean water, and grows organic vegetables on 8.5 acres in Ghana. A wonderful first meeting of the year, Amy inspired us all.



News from Our Clubs

Green Thumb Garden Club

At their October meeting, Green Thumb Garden Club welcomed guest speaker Shannon Morris, to share with them about The Home Place and Adult Daycare. The club discussed upcoming projects and ideas for the months of November and December.

In November they enjoyed painting Christmas Ornaments and making scented sachets with residents of the Jenkins County Senior Center. It was a great success and was enjoyed by all!



News from Our Clubs

Magnolia Garden Club

The executive board of the Magnolia Garden Club met in August to discuss the direction and plans for the 2024-2025 club year. 2024 is important because the club's primary fundraising event, the biennial Christmas Tour of Homes, takes place this year. It will occur on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm in the Historic District of Brunswick. For more information and to obtain group tickets, email the club at mgctohinfo@gmail.com.



From the left are Jan Galloway, Shelley LaForte, Nora Sue Spencer, Pam Mathis, Linda Flournoy, Pat Ingram, Martha Johnson, Nancy Fluck, and Priscilla Jordahl.

Odum Garden Club

Mrs. Cleo Poppell, Odum Garden Club member, celebrated her 98th birthday at the home of her niece and nephew in Odum! Happy Birthday Mrs Cleo! She has been an active OGC member for over 70 years! (Seated) Mrs Cleo, (L-R) Kay Courson, Anita Jordan, Mary Ogden, Julia Carter.



Odum Garden Club is excited to announce that their club collected 294.5 pounds of pop tabs for the Savannah Ronald McDonald House Charity. Mary Ogden, GC President was excited to share the good news of 1st place with her club.

News from Our Clubs

Millen Garden Club

Millen Garden Council was well represented at the Oleander District Board meeting held August 15th in Richmond Hill. Veronica Cowart, Art Johnson, and Elva Mills represented the Millen Garden Club and Melanie Clark represented the Green Thumb Club. The Oleander District consists of 45 garden clubs across the southeast of Georgia with 1,489 members. Civic beautification and conservation, along with educational scholarships are just a few of the numerous projects the council supports. L/R: Art Johnson, Veronica Cowart, Melanie Clark, and Elva Mills.



In October, the Millen Garden Club members donated Gardening books to the Jenkins County Memorial Library in memory of Bobbie Reid, Janette Keezell, and Diane Wade.

Pictured left to right: Assistant Librarian Timothy Merrier, Elva Mills, Veronica Cowart, Vondesa Lee, and Assistant Librarian Mori Pryor.



News from Our Clubs

Sea Oats Garden Club

The Sea Oats Garden Club of Brunswick held its September meeting at the lovely meeting room at Peppertree where hostess Olivia Holland lives. After a delicious meal catered by Harris Steak House, President Mary Virginia Keith guided the club members in making plans for the many club projects and activities for the coming year. Shown in the picture are club officers. Standing on the floor are President Mary Virginia Keith and Secretary Linda Dunlap and on the step are Kathy Deloach, Treasurer, Sandy Smith, Vice President, Olivia Holland, Parliamentary and Hostess, and Francene Roberson, Awards Chairman.



The October meeting of the Sea Oats Garden Club was held at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Brunswick. The very interesting, timely program was Scams for Seniors to be Aware Of. Speakers were introduced by hostess Annette Neu. Members brought items for the Seafarer's Center. After the meeting, several members went to the Seafarer's Center and prepared 23 boxes for Christmas using the items donated by Club

members. Shown in the picture are hostesses with the speakers, L to R, Barbara Bahlman, Theresa Lane, Special Agent Jeffery Roberts, FBI Atlanta Division, Lydia Hall, Law Enforcement Coordinator U. S. Attorney Southern District of GA, and Annette Neu.



News from Our Clubs

St Marys Garden Club

Cheryl Doster of St. Marys Garden Club delivered Christmas in July donations to the Food Pantry. Twice a year the club collects non perishable food, personal care items, and diapers for the Food Pantry and Camden House. Good job St Marys!



On August 15, Colleen Weinkle, Gail Steier, Mary Ann Intravia, and Freda Malphurs from the St. Marys Garden Club presented the club's Beautification Award to the City of St. Marys for undertaking the project of transforming the median in the downtown St. Marys area near the waterfront from grass to flowering native plants. The City of St. Marys Director of Public Works Department Bobby Mars and his crew were present. In addition, the St. Marys Tree Board members Christine Adamow, Chairperson, Jerre Brumbelow, Ed Torgerson, and Lynn Keene also participated in the event. The Tree Board worked along side the city's Public Works Department crew to prepare the site. The Tree Board and a group of volunteer citizens, The Tree Brigade, were responsible for planting and keeping the new plants weeded and watered.



News from Our Clubs

Windsor Forest Garden Club



“Keep Savannah Beautiful” is a 1979 program which was revamped in 1991 and designed to encourage residents to take pride in their surroundings. Windsor Forest Garden Club designated Tribble Park in their own community as their project to include Bluebird Boxes in the Spring.

There to pick up litter, members couldn't help pulling an occasional weed or two. Old habits die hard!

Pictured in the center, a president who is not shy about telling a member, “You're my favorite.”

Meet my recent favorites!

WFGC Volunteer of the Year - Susan Painter, Volunteer

Extraordinaire - Carole Romig,

Pat Golas - Recording Secretary, Maxine Blackburn - Volunteer

Extraordinaire and Kay Jones - Treasurer.



News from Our Clubs

Brooklet Garden Club

Brooklet Garden Club has been very busy supporting the Statesboro Food Bank, Fostering Bulloch/Hope Chest, and the Statesboro Therapy Dogs through their monthly donations. Due to the extensive damage from Hurricane Helene, many of our members have stepped up to offer not only monetary contributions but to actively participate in hands on support of the relief effort. While our local area has suffered much loss, Western North Carolina as well as parts of Florida have also experienced much devastation. Our community has come together to provide helping hands in the forms of Operation Feed Our Lineman by preparing meals for the lineman, dispatchers, and many other personnel that have traveled great distances to help us restore power to our county and to provide the man power to remove large trees and debris from our area. Many have helped to provide shelter, food, and laundry services for these individuals. In addition to the needs of our local area, our community has gathered many supplies to send to North Carolina and Florida. Matthew 5:16 states "Let Your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." Bulloch County and the Brooklet Garden Club members have answered this call. Thank You for demonstrating your faith through your actions and service to others in need.



Joyce Nesmith, BGC member recently prepared a floral arrangement to be presented to the American Legion Post 90 members in honor of Veterans Day. Pictured L/R: John Daube, First Vice Commander, Sandra Williams, BGC President, Joyce NeSmith, BGC member, Mike Skarhus, Chaplain, and Randy Brigman, Sergeant at Arms.



News from Our Council of Clubs

Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs

The Bulloch County Council of Garden Clubs donated two planters during the month of August to the Statesboro Convention & Visitors Bureau. Pictured 2nd from left, President of the Bulloch Council, is Judy Walker, along with other council members.



The Council also recently made a contribution to Esther's Place, a ministry serving a community of women in need. Checks were given to co founders Lori Brent and Tanya Wright by Carol Tripp and Kay Holland, members of the Council.



Pictured at left is council member, Susan Mullican delivering food to our local Statesboro Food Bank.



Oleander District Director, Joni Thompson with her precious mama, Sophie Jones. Sophie was a member of the Screven County Garden Club for over 65 years. Please join us as we celebrate these ladies that are still active in our clubs. If you have members that are age 80 or over that still participate, send in a photo to Oleander Leaflet Editor Nancy Watson at watson25714@gmail.com and remember to include how long they have been in the garden club.

Magnolia Garden Club

Harriette Miller joined the Magnolia Garden Club 42 years ago when an old friend, her banker Berta Dowdy, took her to her first meeting at Mrs. Paulk's on Albany Street in Brunswick's historic district. Over the years, Harriette has been a steadfast member. She found joy in being with children when the club took them to flower shows and introduced them to the wonders of nature. One of Harriette's most vivid memories is of a child seeing a 40-foot magnolia, touching the tree, smelling the blooms, and then helping the child write a poem about the flowers.



Besides the happiness of seeing her garden club sisters monthly at club meetings, Harriette says these friends are always there for illnesses and funerals. "We enjoy each other's homes and gardens," she says.

Garden Club of Savannah

Pictured L/R: Pamela Potts, new member, Helen Marshall, 15 years
Gale Steves, 11 years, Jane Moore 32 years, Joan Harwood 26 years
and Gloria Eitel 24 years.



Oleander Leaflet Tidbits

All members, 80 years of age or older that are currently active and attending club meetings, please send in photos with a brief description of yourself and how many years you have been active in your garden club. Oleander District Director, Joni Thompson would like to make “Mrs. Sophie’s ‘80s Ladies” a permanent feature in The Oleander Leaflet. Send your photo and information to Oleander Leaflet Editor Nancy Watson at watson25714@gmail.com.

Please send your club activities to Nancy Watson, Oleander Leaflet Editor at watson25714@gmail.com.

June Thomas, Oleander Facebook Editor, Kathy Shields, Oleander Website Coordinator, and I will at times share your club’s submissions on all three social outlets. The **Oleander Leaflet** guidelines are as follows:

Spring Publication: Due April 1 - Publish April 30

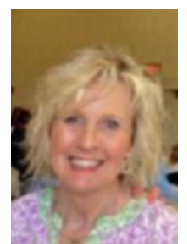
Summer Publication: Due July 1 - Publish July 31

Fall Publication: Due Oct. 1 - Publish October 31

Winter Publication: Due Dec. 1 - Publish December 31

Publishing dates may vary due to quantity of information received.

And just like that, the fall season is upon us and soon to follow will be the Holidays. The temperatures are a little warmer than usual, but then everything about 2024’s weather has been a little unusual, hasn’t it? All of our clubs are in high gear as they participate in various projects to include fall plantings, Tour of Homes, and Holiday Festivities. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season as you spend time with your loved ones. See you in the Winter Edition of the Oleander Leaflet. Remember to send in your club news!



Nancy