

2023-2025 VOL 7 WINTER 2024-2025

## Magnolia Messenger

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## **DIRECTORS CORNER**

## Winter 2024 - 2025

The Magnolia District has been busy as usual. This District Director has thoroughly enjoyed visits during October 2024 to the District's annual meetings. Wow! What a whirlwind of travel! Each District was unique but also alike as they represent the communities of Georgia which are a part of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. We are all southerners and Georgians; alike and different in many ways.

GCG is hosting the Deep South Convention on March 11-13, 2025, in Valdosta and each District was delegated a job. Magnolia District's job is to see that each District has a design entry to represent the states of the Deep South Garden Club, Inc. Magnolia District must construct a design to represent Florida. We have this managed! Other Districts will construct flora designs to represent other states. GCG is happy to let everyone see how lovely Georgia is and we know that everyone attending the Deep south Convention will have a marvelous time.

Magnolia District worked on many community projects this year, and some turned in award applications for the community work they

#### **DIRECTORS CORNER continues**

achieved by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (hopefully). Magnolia does an outstanding number of community projects but do not complete applications for awards. That is simply fine. The Community knows how the local garden club impacted the local community. This was the year of a date change for when the applications were due to the Awards Chairperson. (The Awards Chairperson has a hard job, and we appreciate her and her Co-Chairman very much.)

The Camellia and Magnolia District Flower Show held at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia was cancelled for 2024 due to a hurricane striking Georgia. The program will be held next year barring any hurricane events impacting the Georgia areas who participate in the event.

Magnolia District has made a difference in promoting such things as pollinators, native, plants, bees and butterflies, and other programs of GCG and The National Garden Club. We know that in Georgia, we are concerned about the Okefenokee Swamp, and other environmental factors. Different Garden Clubs have different concerns. Knowledge is where it begins. We obtain knowledge and sow the seeds to make a difference. We are Magnolia District making a difference in our communities and learning about the environment as we go in order to promote Beautification, Conservation, and Education!

## **MAGNOLIA DISTRICT NEWS**

#### MAGNOLIA DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

## **Magnolia District Annual Board Meeting Minutes:**

MINUTES: Magnolia District Annual Meeting, 10.23.2024 Recording Secretary, Ann Howell Doublegate Country Club, Albany, GA

The Magnolia District Annual Meeting, held at the Doublegate Country Club and hosted by the Albany Garden Club was called to order by Director Kay Hagler at 10 AM with a brief welcome. The inspiration was given by Chaplain Carolyn Culpepper and was followed with a song "For The Beauty of the Earth" by Carolyn and her mother, Bess Hartley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eileen Najjar. Director Hagler read the Credentials Report, declared a quorum for the meeting, and gave the definition of who was qualified to vote. Joyce Bridges-Judkins, Albany Garden Club President, welcomed the attendees and the members of the hosting Albany Garden Club were introduced.

Garden Club of Georgia President, Lisa Hall, reminded members of the Deep South Convention which will be held in Valdosta March 11-13, 2025, and the GCG Convention which will be held in Augusta on April 29-30, 2025. She reviewed accomplishments of GCG including Membership 365, financial software, improved Garden Gateways, revised Bylaws, \$85,000 in college scholarships, GCG schools and many shared projects. Clubs with anniversaries of 75 years or more were presented with certificates. These clubs were Dogwood, Azaela, Camellia, Butler, Oglethorpe, Ft. Gaines, and Tea Olive.

Kay Hagler introduced the Head Table, Honor tables and special guests. Meeting appointments were Timekeeper, Bobbie Liggett; Tellers- Marilyn Aldrich, Mary Ann Parks, and Terry Morgan; Approval of Plant your Community with Beautification, Conservation, and Education!

Minutes – Kathy Hicks and Willie Maxwell. Ann Howell, Recording Secretary, reported that the minutes of the August Board Meeting were approved. Mary Ann Parks, Corresponding Secretary, reported on notes that were sent. Director Kay Hagler read a statement that the June 2023 – May 2024 Financial report had been sent to Gerri Shaw, GCG Treasurer, and had received approval.

Director Kay Hagler reviewed the activity of Magnolia District including memorials for Rosalynn Carter, Blue Star restorations, Gold Star marker dedication, bluebird nesting box restoration in Columbus, scholarships to students at Georgia Southwestern University, the Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms and several Youth winners at the GCG, Deep South and National Garden Club levels.

Co-Director Marilyn Aldrich reported that membership included 495 registered and 20 Subscribing members. Clubs were asked to register new members with GCG so that new members will be counted and can receive the Garden Gateways, Magnolia Messenger, and other communications. Clubs were encouraged to keep records of when a member joined and acknowledge years of loyalty and pay GCG dues for Honorary members. Suggestions to enlist at least one subscribing member for each club and to help organize new clubs will help GCG to Recruit, Retain and Revitalize.

New business: A motion from Claire Jenkins and the Historic Landscape Preservation Committee that "Magnolia District contribute \$100 annually to the GCG Historic Landscape Preservation program" was passed. Marilyn Aldrich and the Nominating Committee (Sandra Haga, Janice Mohr, and Kay Lambert) presented the list of district officers for 2025-2027: Director-Marilyn Aldrich, Co-Director-Ann Howell, Treasurer -Janis Webb and Recording Secretary- Drenda Sternenberg. The list of officers for 2025-2027 was approved by vote.

Cheryl Briscoe thanked Magnolia District for the yearly contribution to HLP and announced that the Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser for 2024 will be held in Marietta on November 2. Janice Cliett read a list of changes for the 2024 GCG Awards Submissions including new November 15 deadlines for some awards, the extension of grades 9-12 for Youth poetry and improvement in the delivery of monetary awards to youth winners. Jane Edmunds issued an invitation to the April 29-30, 2025, GCG Convention in Augusta .

GCG President Lisa Hall presented several awards including Standard of Excellence certificates to twelve clubs, the Sumter Federation and Columbus Council. Willie Maxwell accepted the NGC award for the 2023 Magnolia/ Camellia Flower Show. Jean O'Shields and Kay Hagler presented Magnolia District awards. Camellia Garden Club in Cuthbert and Village Green Garden Club in Byron tied for the Club of the Year award. Rainbow Garden Club in Ellaville received the Ronald McDonald Pull Tab award and Dogwood Garden Club of Americus received the Attendance award for the Annual District Meeting.

Marilyn Aldrich presented certificates for members who had served for 25+ years and 50+ years. Faye Fraizer announced that a Basic Design course will be scheduled in Americus in the spring or summer of 2025. Door prizes were awarded, and the Lunch Blessing was presented by Chaplain Carolyn Culpepper.

Derrell Humphries of Leesburg designed a table centerpiece and a large wreath which were given as door prizes. Following the awards of the Raffle items the meeting was dismissed.

## **Magnolia Co-Director**

**Membership Matters:** Garden clubs are essential to our communities. The work you do for your communities can leave a lasting impression on so many lives. Many people see it; but do not know that it is volunteer work. Your work is appreciated but may never be recognized as GARDEN Club work! Keep doing your volunteer work. It REALLY is much appreciated. Well Done, Dear Members!!!

## Magnolia District Outstanding Garden Club of The Year AWARD Goes To TWO CLUBS!

The Magnolia District Outstanding Garden Club Award of The Year shall be presented annually to the most outstanding garden club in Magnolia District as determined by the District Director based on the President's Report for the previous year. This year there was a tie for First Place. Lisa Hall, GCG President presented the First Place Winners with their Certificates at the Magnolia District Annual Fall Meeting 2024. I guess we can cut the silver platter in half and then weld it back together. A better idea is 6 months each.

The <u>First Place</u> for Magnolia District's <u>Outstanding Garden Club Of The Year</u> was a tie! <u>The Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert and The Village Green</u>

Garden Club of Byron.



It was during late 2022 and early 2023 when garden clubs found themselves planning for the year 2023 based on the principles of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., listed on the President's report. The year 2023 was a great year for many garden clubbers. They met the most unbelievable challenges and incredible opportunities to serve, that a community could request of them. When you

stand and report what occurred during the year, one is unable to think of everything that happened from January 1 to December 31 of a year let alone get it all in the checked boxes. Two Garden Clubs were tied for First Place as Outstanding Magnolia District Garden Clubs of the Year! WOW! Photo above: (L to R) GCG President, Lisa Hall, presented the First Place Awards to Bonnie Bowlin of Village Green Garden Club of

Byron and to Bobbie Liggett of Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert! Smiles were everywhere!



Second Place was just one point less on The President's report than the First-Place winners. Fort Gaines Home and Garden Club (FGH&GC) of Fort Gaines joyfully accepts The Second-Place award for Outstanding Garden Club of the Year! The photo left, (left to right) is FGH&GC President, Caroline Hartley Culpepper, receiving the award from GCG President, Lisa Hall. I know you see the smiles and joy!

<u>Third Place</u> was awarded to <u>Rainbow</u>

Garden Club of Ellaville, Georgia which again was just 1 point lower than the Second Place and two points lower than First Place. Happiness is shown in the big smile that Faye Frazier, President of the Rainbow Garden Club gives as she receives the Third Place Certificate from GCG President, Lisa Hall. Photo right: Lisa Hall and Faye Frazier, President of Rainbow Garden Club.

Hard work, service to community, love, and laughter blesses our souls as we serve our communities. Blessing Your Community is the positive impact in your community through sharing Beautification, Conservation, and Education.





Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville.

## RONALD MCDONALD PULL-A-TAB AWARD

The Ronald McDonald Pull-A- Tab Award will be based on records maintained by the Trisha Welch, Magnolia Pull Tab District Chairman for the poundage of pull tabs turned in during the year. Photo left: Trisha Welch presents the Ronald McDonald trophy to Faye Frazier, President of

#### First Place Winner: RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB, ELLAVILLE

Second Place Winner: DAFFODIL GARDEN CLUB, ALBANY

Third Place Winner: OGLETHORPE GARDEN CLUB, OGLETHORPE

ATTENDANCE AWARD for the Magnolia District Annual Meeting



The Magnolia District Attendance Award is 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 due date. Host clubs are not eligible for this award. No application is necessary. THE Attendance Award for the 2024 Annual Magnolia District Meeting goes to the:

#### **DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICUS**

## Magnolia District "GCG's Standard of Excellence Clubs" for 2023

Village Green Garden Club of Byron Fort Gaines Home and Garden Club of Fort Gaines Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville Oglethorpe Garden Club of Oglethorpe Early Bloomers Garden Club of Americus Butler Garden Club of Butler Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert

Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley Vienna Garden Club of Vienna Beautiful View Garden Club of Buena Vista The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus



Below: Joyce Bridges, President Albany GC





This special thank you note from Magnolia District members to the Albany Garden Club Members holds

appreciation more than any words can say. Thank you, Dear Ladies, for HOSTING the Magnolia District Annual Meetina October! You kindest among the

people we have known, and you will never be forgotten for the

Figure 1: Linda Snider

thoughtfulness showed. you Thank You for

your gracious hostessing and hard work to bring us joy! You did an outstanding job!



Figure 4: L to R: Cheryl Bullard and Beth Hall



THANK YOU!



#### **BASIC DESIGN I CLASSES**



Faye Frazier of South Georgia Designing Women, and Rainbow Garden Club of Ellaville announces a basic floral design workshop to be held in Americus, Georgia. Date, site, and fees yet to be determined.

Have you ever wanted to make a design for your dining table? For your foyer? for your garden club meeting? for a neighbor who is ill? Do you know the difference between traditional designs and creative designs? In 2025, you will have the opportunity to study Basic Design I. Magnolia District will have Basic Design I classes in Americus! Planning is currently being done to determine class dates, costs, and specific location. Additional information will be sent to club presidents via email who will share the information with their respective club members.

#### BRING YOUR PULL TABS TO ALL MAGNOLIA DISTRICT MEETINGS! Or get them to

Magnolia District Pull Tab Chairman: Tricia Welch: pkwelch5@yahoo.com: 1249 Jake Smith Rd., Oglethorpe, GA 31068, 478-472-8800



#### **BRING A FRIEND!**

Trisha Welch, Magnolia District Smokey Bear Poster Contest Chairperson brought Smokey Bear with her to the Magnolia District Annual Fall meeting. I could not get him to give me an autograph. Smokey stated that he had to ask Trisha if he could give autographs. Trisha stated she did not know what he was talking about, but I could take all of the materials I wanted. Do you see the surprised look on Smokey's face?



# Magnolia Club News The Early Bloomers Garden Club



The Early Bloomers Garden Club received a grant from the "Community on My Mind Fund" to help clean up and revitalize the Trinity Pool and Garden at Oak Grove Cemetery in Americus, Ga. Established around 1859, Oak Grove is one of the oldest active cemeteries in the state of

Georgia and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since September 1979.

The Trinity Pool and Garden is located prominently within the oldest section of Oak Grove Cemetery and was established around 1880.

This small garden area is surrounded by rock walls covered in fig ivy, with a pool/fountain as its focal point. The pool is unique and similar in shape to the trinity knot or Irish knot and has a fountain in the center. The garden





had become neglected and was desperately in need of "a good cleanup" to remove weeds, dead bushes, and trees. Many of the large rocks surrounding the pool were missing or had been moved about haphazardly. The benches, steps and edges of the pool needed power washing to clean them up. With help from the grant funds, we were able to begin the major cleanup of the garden and fountain. Once the power washing, dead tree limbs and bushes were removed, members took over to restore the garden to a glorious and serene place. We discovered that the area around the fountain had previously had gravel around it. Members sprayed and worked to remove the grass and weeds that had overgrown that area.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a workday, and members trimmed the fig ivy on the steps and

rock walls. We weeded the area,

raked up dead leaves and grass, and trimmed bushes and tree limbs. Then we put out bales of pine straw around the large oak tree and surrounding beds. We put bags of gravel in the area surrounding the fountain. The next day pentas and asters were planted on the upper ledge of the garden. The transformation of this garden was beautiful and so rewarding.

Americus hosted the Georgia Historic Trust's Fall Ramble later that week and Oak Grove Cemetery was one of the historic venues for guests to tour. Since the Trinity Pool and Garden is located close to the main entrance of the cemetery; it was viewed by many people as they walked/drove around. Because of the hard work the Early Bloomers put in, the Trinity Pool and Garden is once again a quiet, serene place for visitors to sit and enjoy its beauty.



## Want to Keep Deer From Eating Your Garden?

**Here's What to Plant!!!** Check the internet for a dozen plus plants which deer will not eat; but you do know that the deer do appreciate the salad buffet that you provide for them? They need food, also!

#### **RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB**



Rainbow Garden Club joined forces with several entities in Schley County to create its annual fall display. Schley County Family Connections received funds from the Ferst Foundation to promote reading in Schley County. Every child from birth to age five will receive a free book each month. The FFA class built a wooden frame in which Rainbow GC placed chrysanthemums; members watered the mums almost daily during the hot, dry fall season. A local artist painted and installed signage for the fall display. A newspaper box was donated, painted, and housed age-appropriate books for children. Children could select books to read from the box and return the books for others to read. Rainbow GC believes in not only planting seeds for vegetable garden and flowers but also believes in planting "seeds" for literacy.



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## Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert Celebrated Its 75th Anniversary



The Camellia Garden Club of Cuthbert celebrated its 75th anniversary on November 13, 2024, with a luncheon and program at Andrew College. Members welcomed guests from numerous garden clubs in Georgia. Carolyn Culpepper, Magnolia District Chaplain, provided the devotional. Featured speaker was Kay Hagler, Magnolia District Director of the Garden Club of Georgia who recognized Camellia Garden Club as First Place 2023 Outstanding Garden Club of the Year. On display were yearbooks, minutes, and scrapbooks dating from 1949 when the club was formed. Special recognition was given to those present who have been members of the Camellia Garden Club for over twenty-five years: Patricia Goodman, Annette Nichols, and Brenda Rice; and those who have been members over fifty years: Allene Boyett, Evelyn Hester, Bobbie Liggett, and Pat Prescott.

#### **NEED A MEETING PROJECT: PROGRAM?**

**CONSIDER:** 

Community Wildlife Project—CWP, Earn certification in the CWP Backyard Projects Go to: https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/projects-programs-community-wildlife project/ to download the 5 Backyard Certification Applications:

- 1. Backyard Certification
- 3. Gardening with Georgia Native Plants
- 5. Nesting Boxes

- 2. Hummingbird Haven
- 4. Creating A Winter Wildlife Wonderland
- 6. Container Gardening for Wildlife Certification

### Winchester Garden Club makes Pies fit for A King!



#### Winchester Garden Club Recipe

Sing a song of sixpence, A pocket full of rye, Four and 20 Blackbirds, Baked in a pie! When the pie was opened,

The Birds began to sing-Wasn't that a dainty dish To set before the King?

BRING ON THE CROWS! IS **their** words at the bottom of the recipe!

## BE HONEST: WOULD YOU PURCHASE A PIE FROM THIS FACE?

The JoAnn Holt Scarecrow walking trail of 28 entries supports an annual fundraiser for the Columbus BOOtanical Garden's not so scary Halloween on October 27, 2024, from 1:00PM – 6:00 PM. The entries are from local businesses, schools, garden clubs, individuals, etc. Individuals can VOTE for their favorite scarecrow in the fun competitive community contest. Scarecrow winners will be announced on October 27, 2024! We know who we are voting for! Families can Trick -or-Treat in a safe environment surrounded by the beauty of nature! Games, educational activities, CANDY, and a LIVE BAT program are part of the fun.

Now, have YOU tried the Winchester Garden Club Pie Recipe? Follow it carefully!



Are the pies for sale, you ask? I do not know if the pies are for sale or not! That fact was not mentioned. Contact Winchester Garden Club for more information! The President is Terry Morgan. There are two pies in the pie safe which probably are for sale. Winchester Garden Club of Columbus, Georgia.

## Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. News

# From Penny Pines to Plant-A-Tree

s some of you may already be familiar with this program when it was called Penny Pines, the new name "Plant-A-Tree" better reflects the program's mission and will help us reach a wider audience.

Additionally, we are also making changes to the donation process to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Even if you are already familiar with the original Penny Pines program, please read through the changes below.

#### DONATION AMOUNT

Previously, we required donations in increments of \$68.00. Donors can now contribute any amount, starting from as little as \$50 to as large as \$10,000. This change provides greater flexibility for donors and enables a wider range of people to participate in the program.

## GCG 100th Anniversary

Planning is in process so we can celebrate with JOY! Janice Cliett is Magnolia District's GCG 100th Anniversary Chairperson with Nilsa Summey as Co-Chairman. The powers that be - wish to have a fantastic 100th Anniversary Celebration (of course) in 2028, and that requires quite a bit of advance planning.

## Garden Club of Georgia 97th Annual **Convention** 2025

April 29, 2025 @ 8:00 am - April 30, 2025 @ 5:00 pm
The Garden Club of Georgia will host the 2025 annual convention in Augusta, Georgia. Pre and post seminars will be available.

### Deep South Garden Clubs Inc., 62nd Annual Convention:

"Charms of the South" March 11-13, 2025; Valdosta, Georgia

REMINDER: Per: GCG President, Lisa Hall: GCG is asking that your Garden Club consider donating \$25.00 to fund the DSGC convention. The convention center, hotels and tour venues were spared from extreme damage by Hurricane Helene. Many in the area have suffered greatly and are still in recovery mode. Normally GCG would appeal to local merchants but due to the damage in the area their dollars will be redirected. The Deep South Region does not provide monetary assistance in producing the DSGC convention. Donations of any size are welcome from \$10 on up! Donations checks to be made out to "DSGC Convention" with "Donation" noted on check. All donations will be recognized in the Convention Program. Please send any contributions to: Suzan Bennett, DSGC Convention Treasurer, 5866 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA 31210.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST FOR AID!



# Just a Bit of History: The Yule Log! (They come in chocolate, also.)

Historic, decorative, edible, - there is a story behind them all. Burning of the Log: The Celts believed that, for twelve days at the end of December, the sun stood still (which is why the days grew shorter and shorter). If they could keep

the Yule logs burning bright for those twelve days, then the sun would be persuaded to move again, and make the days grow longer. If a Yule Log went out, then there would be cursed luck. For Christians, the symbolism of the Yule log was that it represented the need to keep the stable warm for the Infant Christ.

Now, the AI on my computer states, "Oak or ash is what the Yule Log should be unless it is chocolate! Traditionally, the Yule log should be a piece of hardwood, often oak or ash, known for its slow-burning properties and symbolic meanings. Oak represents strength and endurance, while ash is linked to protection and healing."

## National Garden Club, Inc. News PLANT AMERICA Application Procedure Timeline

- 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 member 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.



Plant your Community with Beautification, Conservation, and Education!

## LOOKING FORWARD: SAVE THE DATE & PLAN TO ATTEND

Club Presidents, please email the MAGNOLIA MESSENGER to your members as the newsletter <u>will not be sent out by any other</u> method. Thank you for distributing the Magnolia Messenger!

November 1, 2024- Received by February 1, 2025		Garden Club of Georgia scholarship application.	gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership- scholarships/
			For additional information contact Susan Turner, Scholarships Chairman
January 31	2025	<b>Dollars For Scholars Donation Deadline</b>	770-922-4411 glencree@bellsouth.net
February 13	2025	Magnolia District Board Meeting	Butler, Georgia
February 15	2025	Club President Reports Deadline	
March 1	2025	Club, Councils, Federations Dues	
		Deep South Garden Club Convention and Tri	Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. March 11-
March 11, 12, 13	2025	Fresher; Flower Show	13, 2025, in Valdosta, Georgia
April 20-26	2025	Garden Week in Georgia	
April 25	2025	Arbor Day 2025	
	2025		
April 29- 30		Garden Club of Georgia 97th Annual Convention	Augusta, GA
May 18 - 22		National Garden Club Annual Convention	Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC
June 2-8, 2025	2025	National Garden Week	

#### MAGNOLIA DISTRICT Magnolia Messenger

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Magnolia Messenger Deadlines: Fall Issue (Sep. Oct. Nov.) August 15 Winter Issue (Dec. Jan. Feb.) November 15 Spring Issue (Mar. April May) February 15 Summer Issue (June, July, August) May 15

