

The Azalea Trumpet

Winter 2024



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



Dear Friends,

what a BEE-autiful Fall! So many people to thank so much travel. After Helene, I set off on journeys to the annual district meetings across the state and arrived at the best in Gray, GA. It was wonderful - the food was delicious and the company better. A special thanks to the Gray Garden Club, Carrington woods Garden Club, and the

Milledgeville Garden Club for all your hard work. We had a great meeting, and many awards were handed out.

with new officers elected, you may be receiving phone calls as Jan Stewart begins to work on her Board of Directors. I am still trying to visit as many of your clubs as possible.

we have been busy with the Floral Design Classes which are being held from the first Wednesday in November to the first Wednesday in March. The classes are sponsored by the Augusta Council of Garden Clubs with expert instructor, Lynn Fronk, leading the class. When I visited the Union Point Garden Club the next week, some of the happy members brought their designs to share.

we are looking forward to our next Board meeting in February. It will be held at the A. H. Stephens State Park on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 10:00 am. Registration information will be coming out around the first of the New Year. 2025 will be here before we know it!

Bee a part of the GCG State Convention on April 29 and 30 in Augusta. Fly down to Valdosta in March for the Deep South Convention. There is always a sanctioned flower show at the Deep South Convention.

I am so thankful for you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I have enjoyed my visits with your clubs and am looking forward to visiting more of you.

Happy Holidays!
Jane



Joyce Chafin Brown



Joyce Ann Chafin Brown, 80, of Sharon, Georgia passed away on April 3, 2024. She was born on May 12, 1943, to the late Austin K. Chafin and Elmyra Patterson Chafin.

Joyce was an active member of her community. She was a member of the Sharon-Raytown Garden Club, Sharon City Council, served on the board for the Taliaferro County Library and was the church treasurer for South

Liberty Presbyterian Church in Sharon, Georgia.

Joyce was an avid gardener who found joy in tending to her beautiful flowers and plants. She took great pride in mowing her grass with her zero-turn mower, keeping her yard immaculate. Cooking was another passion of hers, and she loved looking through cookbooks to find new recipes to try. Joyce was also a huge Elvis fan and enjoyed listening to his music.

Elaine Clark Smith



Elaine Clark Smith passed away on September 28, 2024, following a seven-month battle with breast cancer. She was a pillar of the Augusta community and leaves behind a legacy of altruistic commitment that will be felt for generations to come. Elaine's passion for improving literacy within the community lead her to start the Elaine Clark Smith Literacy Endowment. Elaine also served in extended leadership roles in First Tee of Augusta, Sacred Heart Culture Centre, and was a long-term foundation board member for former University Hospital. She also held a state leadership position in Garden Clubs of Georgia and was an active member in the local garden club Spade and Trowel.

Chairman Reports

Azalea District Awards Chairman, Charlotte White



AWARDS! AWARDS! AWARDS!

At the Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting at the Gray Methodist Church in Gray, GA on October 17, 2024, the Azalea District Awards were given out. There are numerous pictures showing the winners in this *Azalea Trumpet*, but just to make sure every winner is recognized, the award winners appear below:

AWARD 1 – The Dollie T. Harper Outstanding Member Award – Ruth Hartzog – Gray Garden Club

AWARD 2 – Ellen Schneider Goodrich Outstanding Garden Club Award – Pine Tree Garden Club of Hartwell

AWARD 3 – Azalea District Attendance Award – Union Point Garden Club

AWARD 5 – The Maxine Shapiro Goldstein Garden Therapy Award – Watkinsville Garden Club

AWARD 7 – The Jeanne Lyons Mathis Civic Improvement Award – Pine Tree Garden Club of Hartwell

AWARD 9 – The Suzanne Wheeler Bird and/or Butterfly Gardening Program Award – Pine Tree Garden Club of Hartwell

AWARD 11 – The Katherine Stewart Allen Youth Activities Award – Watkinsville Garden Club

AWARD 12 – The Florence Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award – Jane Hersey for 2022
Betty Davis for 2024

AWARD 13 – The Betty Davis Membership Award – Burkeland Garden Club

AWARD 14 – The Azalea District Native Plant Award – Azalea Garden Club

Thank you to all the clubs applying for awards this year. As you may notice, some of the winners won the same award in 2024 as in 2023. This shows that these clubs continue to do award worthy projects, and they complete the applications for the awards. Your club will never appear on this list if you do not apply to be the award winner! Ask any award winner, you must **apply** to **win**.



**Betty Davis,
GCG “Plant A
Tree”
Chairman**



New! Penny Pines is Now Plant-a-Tree

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is changing the name of their Penny Pines project to **Plant-A-Tree**. The new name better reflects the program’s mission and will help reach a wider audience. The donation process will make it more accessible and user-friendly.

DONATION AMOUNT – Previously, donations were required in increments of \$68.00. Donors can now contribute any amount starting from as little as \$50.00 to as large as \$10,000.00.

CERTIFICATES – As of May 31, 2025 NGC will no longer be providing mailed certificates to donors. In an effort to “Go Green” they will be offering digital certificates that donors can customize and print out themselves. Donors are asked to provide their email address (even if donating by check) so that NGC can electronically send out tax receipts and online certificate links/instructions.

DONATING TO SPECIFIED FORESTS-You may choose to have your donation go to where it’s most needed or you may select a National Forest; however, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need.

All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most--the places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought and other forest disturbances.

To donate online, download the new Plant-A-Tree donation form, or for more information on the program, visit: [Plant-a-Tree](#).

For GCG records, email your Club name, District and amount of donation to:

Betty Davis
GCG Plant-a-Tree Chairman
Bettyboop2315@yahoo.com

Bess Hartley, 2nd Vice President, Sponsorship Chairman



FLOWER  **POWER**®
FUNDRAISING

We've just opened the Holiday catalog and you will be amazed!

Showcase your style and show your love for GCG by participating in the Holiday Fundraiser! Purchase beautiful amaryllis and paperwhites just in time for the holiday season. The sale ends **December 15**. Shipping will begin the first of November. **All orders placed by December 1st will be shipped in time for Christmas.**

Consider the waxed amaryllis. Encased in wax, these bulbs need no water. There is no planting either. You simply place it in a sunny location and just watch it grow. Waxed amaryllis make a great gift for everyone. No green thumb needed!

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:

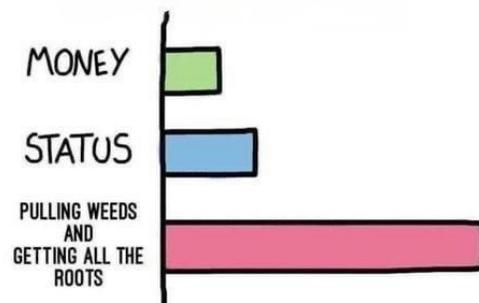
<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/marketplace/discover/?shop=garden+club+of+georgia>

These premium bulbs are unique and hearty. Take a look at just a few offerings below.



Note: It may be too late to order for Christmas, but it's not too late for Valentine's Day!

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



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Azalea District CWP Chairman, Molly Kimler

Community Wildlife Project

The Community Wildlife Project (CWP) is a joint project of GCG and the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Conservation Section. Its purpose is to better manage Non-game Wildlife and plant habitat in rural, urban, and suburban communities. This is a project Terry Johnson, Retired DNR and GCG, he was the speaker for the 2024 Azalea District Fall Meeting.



Some of the criteria for the CWP are

- *Attracting birds and pollinators by planting wildflowers
- *Ensuring wetlands protection
- *Utilizing native trees and shrubs in landscape
- *Educating the public on wildlife needs through nature trails and classrooms
- *Attracting non-game animals to private and public lands by creating nesting islands in brush, rock piles and tree cavities.

Gardening for Wildlife is now easier than ever and so many ways to certify your yard or patio as a Community Wildlife Project.



This project has been in Georgia for about 30 years. You don't have to be a Garden Club Member to participate in the CWP. So encourage your neighbors and friends to be part of the CWP. It is a win-win situation! By caring for and protecting our wildlife through Backyard Habitats, this also creates wonderful viewing environments, a learning tool for members and friends.

It started out as the certification for your yard and over the years we have added other certifications:

Community Wildlife Project Back Yard Certification -- sign

Hummingbird Haven -- Sticker

Backyard Nest Box Project -- Sticker

Creating A Winter Wildlife Wonderland -- sticker

Gardening with Georgia Native Plants -- Sticker

Container Gardens -- Sticker

Suggestions to keep in mind: Most Wild plants grow well in containers. The ones that struggle are the long-rooted plants. Some plants are not wildlife-friendly and might not produce nectar for pollinators. So, keep that in mind and less weeding. Great for apartments or condos.

As the Azalea District CWP Chairman I will be glad to come speak to your club and work with you on the certification forms so you to can be a Community Wildlife Certified Yard

Molly Kimler

mollykimler@gmail.com



WANT MORE BUTTERFLIES?

<i>Prunus</i>	<i>Quercus</i>			<i>Salix</i>	
CHERRY & PLUM NATIVE TO YOUR AREA	OAK NATIVE TO YOUR AREA			WILLOW NATIVE TO YOUR AREA	
<i>Aster</i>	<i>Solidago</i>			<i>Helianthus</i>	
ASTER NATIVE TO YOUR AREA	GOLDENROD NATIVE TO YOUR AREA			SUNFLOWER NATIVE TO YOUR AREA	

PLANT THESE KEYSTONE SPECIES TO FEED CATERPILLARS AND SEE MORE BUTTERFLIES!
pollinator friendly yards on facebook

News from Our Clubs

Milledgeville Garden Club

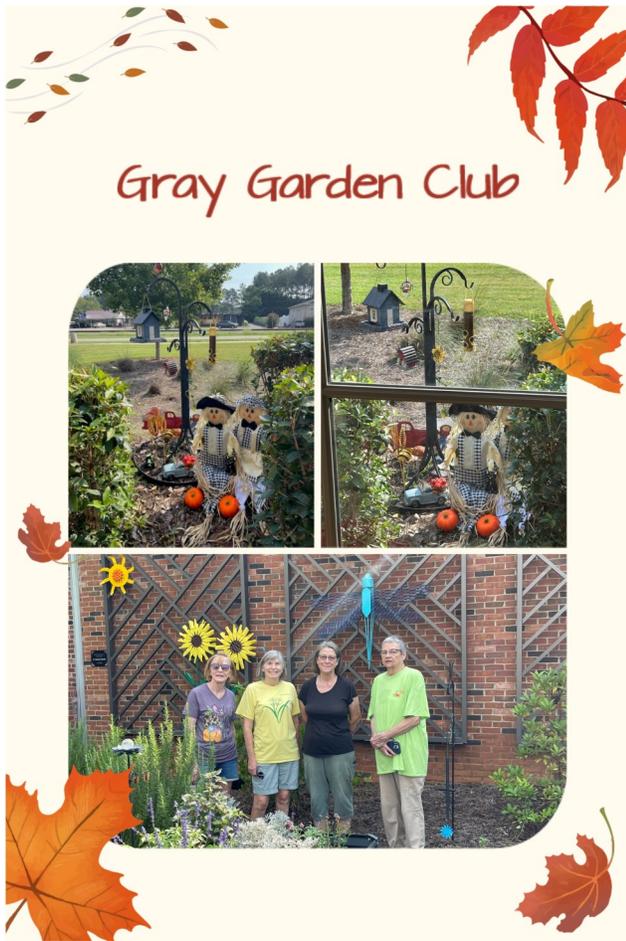


Milledgeville Garden Club “Celebrates”

What a lovely day it was for the “Welcome Back Luncheon” of The Milledgeville Garden Club. A large crowd gathered for fun, food, and fellowship, and to make exciting plans for the upcoming year on beautifying our hometown.

Hostesses for the event held at First Baptist Church were (L/R): Betti Hodges, Harriett Whipple, Jo Dunn, BJ Simpson and Kathy Chandler.





Gray Garden Club

Gray Garden Club spent an early Fall morning refurbishing the fairy garden, outside the Children's Library window, at the Jones County Library. The club looks forward to our seasonal changes as much as the children!

Afterwards the group spruced up the Plant America raised beds behind the library to get them ready for Winter planting.



Rose & Dahlia Garden Club

The Rose & Dahlia's Youth Outreach Committee shared a "Pumpkin Pa-looza" with the Growing Seeds after-school club at Downtown Academy in early October. We had a fantastic afternoon sharing about pumpkins (and other gourds) and pansies, exploring the lifecycle of the pumpkin, taste testing roasted pumpkin seeds, making Pumpkin Pie in a Bag, and more. We had a fun time sharing garden knowledge and enjoying time together.



Gray Garden Club

October and November were busy for GGC. We refurbished the gardens at the library and with the Milledgeville Garden Clubs, hosted the Azalea District Meeting. In November we prepared 100 Goody Bags and manned a booth for the Jones County Veterans Appreciation Day. our November program was hands-on making fabric pumpkins and last but not least we refurbished the pots at the animal shelter.

A good time was had by all!





Sharon-Raytown Garden Club

Sharon-Raytown Garden Club (SRGC) members participated in the 2024 Alexander H. Stephens State Park “Christmas in the Park” in Crawfordville, GA. Displays from various volunteer organizations and businesses in Taliaferro County decorate the former baseball field at the AHS State Park each year. You can view the displays on Friday – Sunday starting November 29th – December 25th. You will also find a bonfire, hot chocolate and movies for children. A \$5.00 charge per car to enter the park.

Jan Stewart, president of the SRGC visited the park on opening night with husband, Randy.

Announcements

Dear club presidents, board members.

It's become an almost everyday occurrence to receive suspect e-mails from your "friends" and other club members. Criminals are trawling your contact lists and publicly available e-mail addresses to attempt to steal from you.

Rest assured that our own databases are safe.

Chris Adams has prepared an excellent explanation of what is happening and how you can avoid being a victim. It can be retrieved by clicking on the button above.

As we all know, **never, never, never** click on a suspicious e-mail. These e-mails give little information or are demanding. The "from" fields are fake: just hover your cursor over the name, if you see a mishmash of numbers and letters, it's a fake. If you still have doubts, pick up the phone and call the "sender."

Lisa

Lisa Hall
404-414-6496
President, 2023-2025
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

**Phishing and
Spoofing Information**

Look Who's New!



Azalea District Officers for 2025-2027

At the 2024 Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting in Gray, GA, on Thursday, October 17, the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee composed of Peggy Tucker, Chairman, Molly Kimler and Beth Wiseman were nominated and duly elected by the voting membership present at the meeting. The newly elected officers will be installed at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting in Crawfordville, GA on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The new Azalea District Director will be installed with the other new District Directors at the GCG State Convention in Augusta, April 29 and 30, 2025.



Scenes from the 65th Annual Fall Azalea District Meeting October 17, 2024



Barbara Bourque, GCG Legislative Chairman
and
Bill Sapp
SELC Senior Attorney and Chair of the Okefenokee Protection Alliance



There is exciting news to share in our fight to protect the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge from a reckless mining plan.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is proposing to expand the acquisition boundary of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. This means extending portions of the refuge's border to improve the health of one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world. The expansion would include the site of a proposed mine along Trail Ridge, safeguarding it from this reckless project.

If finalized, this means willing landowners included in the proposed new boundary could have their property become part of the refuge.

Why is this so important? Trail Ridge is the eastern edge of the swamp and is no place for a mine — without Trail Ridge, there is no Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

By proposing to expand the boundary, FWS acknowledges Trail Ridge's importance to the wildlife and habitat the refuge was created to protect. Conserving the lands within the proposed refuge would:

- Strengthen protection of the refuge's sensitive water levels.
- Mitigate catastrophic wildfire and drought impacts.

Help provide habitat for the gopher tortoise and provide opportunities to restore habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker and tricolored bat.

While this is an extraordinary development, it does not single handedly stop the current mining threat the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge faces. Any day the Georgia Department of Natural Resources could issue permits that put Twin Pines Minerals, LLC one step closer to mining on Trail Ridge.

We're committed to defending the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for the people and wildlife that depend on it.



Azalea District Calendar 2025 -2026



February 18, 2025	Azalea District Winter Board Meeting	Crawfordville
February 28, 2025	DEADLINE FOR THE Spring Azalea trumpet	
March 11—13, 2025	Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention	Valdosta
April 20—26, 2025	Garden Week in Georgia	
April 29—30, 2025	Garden Club of Georgia 97th Annual Convention	Augusta