

The Azalea Trumpet

Spring 2025



*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,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your District Director! It has been a busy and BEEautiful experience, and I am enormously proud of my 47 Clubs and Councils.

I have visited 17 of my clubs and attended 14 District Meetings all over the state and district. I have enjoyed wonderful programs and installed officers as well as meeting many of you. All my travels have been rewarded by increased knowledge of all that you do to promote and enhance the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. You are an amazing group! You welcomed me and made me feel at home. I am profoundly grateful for all your support!

I have had four great board meetings in my district and would like to thank Greensboro Garden Club, Louisville Garden Club, Iris Garden Club of Washington, and Sharon-Raytown Garden Club for hosting these meetings. I was astounded at all you did to make these meetings wonderful.



Jane receiving her gift from the District from Co-Director Ina Hopkins.

I have been supported by my great Executive Board. I could not have done it without your expert support. Thank you, Ina Hopkins, Betty Hotchkiss, Jan Stewart, Sherley Selman, Charlotte White, Doris Blalock and Mary Byrd. I never asked for anything of you that you didn't do with great fervor.

Betty Davis, our Immediate Past and Former Azalea District Director, has advised me and worked with me at every turn. She also took on the responsibility of Chairing my first Annual Fall District Meeting in Augusta, and she and Molly Kimler are chairing the GCG Convention, also to be held in Augusta on April 29 and 30, 2025. I hope that all of you are making plans to attend the GCG Convention. It will be an educational and fun event with great speakers. Vickie Bilderback took the responsibility of chairing my last Annual Fall District Meeting in Gray with help from the Milledgeville clubs.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Lisa Hall, President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., my "Sisters" (the Director of the other six Districts of the GCG), the GCG Officers and Board who have helped and guided me through all the tough times.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you, and my hope is that you will support our new Azalea District Director, Jan Stewart, as you have supported me.

Sincerely, *Jane*



Chairman Reports

Bess Hartley, Chairman Fundraising; Garden Club of Georgia



FLOWER POWER®

FUNDRAISING



The Spring Program for Flower Power is here!

There are even more items available to select other than beautiful perennials. Included are cut flower

bouquet seed mats, hummingbird and butterfly vertical gardens, ground covers, vegetables, herbs,

and gardening supplies.

Check it out! Order NOW. Shipment begins April 1- May 15.

Thank you for contributing to GCG fundraiser.

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 market:

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/gardenclubofgeorgia>

Link will not work, as this is a photo

Bess Hartley
GCG 2 nd Vice President
Fundraising Chairman

**G C G Annual Convention, Betty Davis, Chairman;
Molly Kimler, Co-Chairman**



Azalea District cordially invites you to join us to learn more about the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees. On the day you arrive vendors will be set up for you to have a fun shopping experience before gathering for a luncheon to enjoy a delicious meal and hear about the beginning of the Augusta National Golf Club and Trees from our keynote speaker. Next we have two breakout sessions where you will learn more about the birds & the flowers to entertain dinner guests. Immediately following you can tour the Morris Museum of Art where you can enjoy the art displays and also visit the gift shop. You can also travel down to the end of Riverwalk and see the Bonnie McClain Perennial Garden which is sponsored and maintained by clubs of the Augusta Council. A third option will be to enjoy a Designers' Challenge! That evening we will have district photos, a cash bar, and a fine evening dinner as you have a brief glimpse of some rare spider lilies on the river. Then our world-famous Awards Event will take place. Following the Business Meeting on Wednesday morning we will conclude the convention with our installation luncheon and speaker presenting the photographic beauty of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Tuesday's Keynote speaker at the luncheon is Stan Byrdy, author, journalist & Augusta historian. Byrdy's work has appeared on CNN, ESPN, The Weather Channel, PBS and ABC affiliates nationwide. When he came to Augusta in 1985 as a sports anchor he became involved with the Master's Golf Tournament and in 2005 authored "The Augusta National Golf Club" and he will tell us how The Club came about from Berckman's Nursery. His latest offering "The Brilliance of Berckmans" is set for release in 2025 and hopefully will be for sale at Convention.

In the afternoon two breakout sessions will be offered. The first session will feature Vera Stewart, a nationally recognized TV personality, two-time cookbook author, and entrepreneur whose career in the food and hospitality industries spans four decades. Vera graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Home Economics Education in 1974. Launching her career in the 1980's, she has become a household name with ventures that included a bakery and café, and a national mail order business for her signature cakes and casseroles. She currently has the syndicated "The VeryVera Show" in its 13th season, the "VeryVera Cooking Camp" which has completed its 21st year, and "VERA," a multi-scooped hospitality service for patrons of the Masters tournament. With a passion for Southern dishes passed down through generations, her manifold business endeavors have inspired people all over the nation to create memories in the kitchen. Vera's philosophy is based on a winning attitude and passion for perfection. Vera will have her two cookbooks for sale.

Immediately following Vera, the second session will feature Glen and Gail Hendry. Glen serves on the board of directors for the South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS), is a lifetime member since 2010, and heads up the Trails Committee. Glen and Gail monitor the Hitchcock Woods Trails in Aiken, SC which consists of 86 bluebird nest boxes and 12 screech owl boxes. Glen does the statistical reporting for the SCBS, including supplying the data to the Cornell Nest Watch program. Glen received a B.S. in Geology in 1976 from The Pennsylvania State University. He met his wife in an underground uranium mine in New Mexico where Gail was a miner (drilling, pacing dynamite, and blasting the rocks). Gail received her RN from Augusta College in 1994. Both are retired now (but working harder than ever!!)

The speaker at the Awards Banquet is Owen Navaree. Owen graduated from Augusta University with a bachelor's degree in biology. He started his botanical career at the Augusta National nursery pruning their famous azalea bushes in the summer of 2021. He began working at Phinzy Center for Water Sciences in May of 2023 as a researcher working to study and restore the Rocky Spider Shoal Lilies in the Savannah River. He got his passion for wildlife from hunting and fishing in the Augusta area with his family

Wednesday's luncheon speaker is Mark Albertin. Mark was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He moved south to Georgia in 1986 and has loved his transplanted home as if it were his birthplace. Mark has had a camera around his neck since he was a teenager, eventually starting his own darkroom. He has an associate's degree in printing and publishing and since 1999 had focused on documentary films, many of which have aired on PBS or screened at film festivals across the country. His first book, containing photographs around Georgia and South Carolina called, "Along the Fall Line" was released in January 2024. He will be speaking on the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge which is the topic of his 2nd book due out in April-May 2025



Convention Schedule

Monday, April 28

5 pm	General Setup begins
6:30 pm	Riverboat Cocktail Cruise & Board Dinner

Tuesday, April 29

8:30 – 7:00 pm	Vendors open
10:00 – 11:30	GCG Board Meeting
12:00 – 2:00	Luncheon, Stan Byrdy “History of the Masters” speaker
2:30 – 3:15	Workshop – Vera Stewart “In Good Taste”
3:15 – 4:00	Workshop – Glen and Gail Hendry “Bluebird Haven”
4:00 – 5:00	Optional Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designer’s Challenge ○ Perennial Garden Visit ○ Morris Museum
5:30 – 6:15	District Group Photos
6:00 – 7:00	Cocktail Hour
7:00 – 10:00	Awards Banquet, speaker Owen Navarre “Rare Spider Lili

Wednesday, April 30

8:30 – 9:30	NGC Consultant Councils Meeting (Environmental, Garden Landscape Design)
10:00 – 11:30	GCG Business Meeting
12:00 – 2:00	Installation Luncheon, Denise Thorne installing; speaker I Albertin “The Okefenokee”

GCG 2025 Convention Mail-in Registration

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Badge Name Preference _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name/phone # _____

Club Name _____ District _____

Credentials (Please check ALL that apply)

____ State President	____ Club President	____ State Board Member	____ Former National President
____ Member	____ District Director	____ State Life Member	____ National Board Member
____ Guest	____ District Board Member	____ Former Deep South Director	____ National Life Member
____ Voting Delegate (All GCG Board Members, GCG Life Members and 1 member from each club)	____ Council President	____ Deep South Board Member	
____ First GCG Convention	____ Former State President	____ Deep South Life Member	

Special Dietary Needs: _____

PACKAGE PLAN Includes registration fee, Tuesday luncheon, Breakout sessions, Awards Banquet and Wednesday Installation Luncheon.

PACKAGE PLAN TOTAL..... \$190 \$ _____

PART-TIME PLAN: No extra fee for breakout sessions

REGISTRATION FEE per day\$30 \$ _____

Tuesday Opening Luncheon.....\$45 \$ _____

Tuesday Award Banquet\$60 \$ _____

Wednesday installation Luncheon.....\$45 \$ _____

PART TIME PLAN TOTAL.....\$ _____

REGISTRATION COST..... \$ _____

Late Registration fee (postmarked after April 18th) \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED..... \$ _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 18, 2025

Make Check Payable to: **GCG 2025 CONVENTION**

Mail Check & Registration form to:

**Jan Stewart, 722 Nancy Gunn Cir SE
Crawfordville, GA 30631**

For Information contact Jan at janlamerle50@gmail.com, 706-401-8650 (cell)

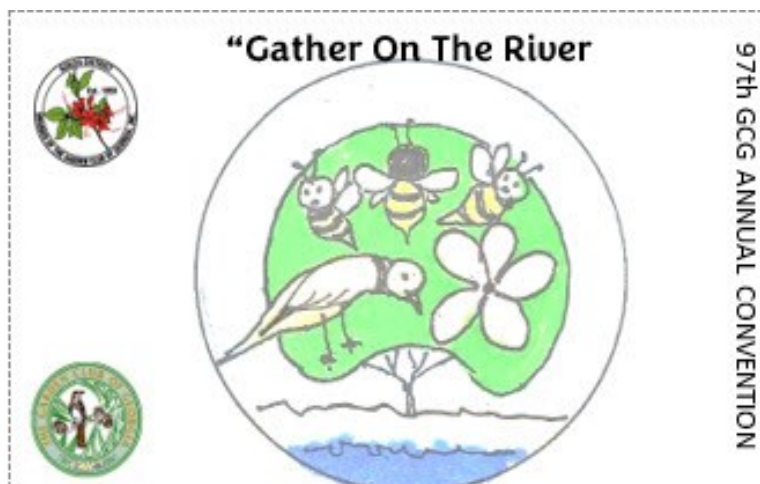
No refunds after April 10, 2025 – Registration fee not refundable,
No registration accepted after April 21st

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center
2 Tenth Street, Augusta, GA 30901 706-469-5055
Request The Garden Club of Georgia Convention rate

OR online at

[Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center](#)



Pull A Tab for Ronald McDonald Chairman, Ann Wright



Pull those POP TABS OFF!

Each tab you save goes to helping a family stay at the Ronald McDonald House as their child recovers from a serious illness. It may seem like a small act, but the tabs provide extra revenue that can help make up for the donations that families cannot make. So please, let's all show that we care about the Ronald McDonald House and the wonderful work they do for all the families.



Azalea Trumpet Editor Needed!

Most of you are aware that Ruth Hartzog is the Azalea District Editor for the **Azalea Trumpet**. After many years of working on the Trumpet and winning many awards, Ruth has decided to retire as the editor. This will be Ruth's last publication. Thank you, Ruth!

If you or someone in your club is great with the computers and also likes to do newsletter, Azalea District needs you. The Trumpet is published quarterly and emailed out to club members.

If interested or want to nominate someone, please call Jan Stewart at 706-401-8650.

If you have questions on what is involved in putting a newsletter together, you can contact Ruth at (ncrd537@hotmail.com).

News from Our Clubs

Milledgeville Garden Club



Ana Edwards, MGC President-Elect

It was a day full of excitement as Milledgeville Garden Club members gathered to share their love of beauty with tenants of 5 local Nursing Homes.

Pictured is Ana Edwards, MGC's President-Elect, one of the 50 club members participating in spreading holiday cheer.

Group Leaders were:

Chaplinwood- Holly Williams; The Cottages- Doriann McEver; Savannah Court- Sharon Williams; Green Acres- Carol McRae; and Fellowship Home-Collene Dalrymple.

Serving the delicious Brunch were Hostesses: Connie Moody, Debbie Davis, Denise Monica, Sylvia Moore, Sharon Williams, Barbie Pressas, Jimmie Speir, Kathy Stewart and Jan Law.

"It was a blessed day for all", said Jennifer Pollard, MGC President.

Ladies' GC, Athens

"The Fascinating World of Fungi"

In February, Ladies' GC was fortunate to have an amazing program brought to us by Sam Landes of Marietta (an integral member of the Mushroom Club of Georgia) that both enthralled and educated us. If any of us thought we knew much about fungi, particularly mushrooms, we were in for a surprise. Sam Landes, affectionately referred to as the 'One Man Show,' took the stage in our meeting room and taught us otherwise! Besides showcasing the intricate beauty of these creations in the natural world, Sam gave us a fantastic overview of all things fungi, including edible uses (or not), medicinal uses, and even their role in environmental cleanup and pest control. As an added bonus, we also had the option of having Sam guide us step-by-step in creating our own oyster mushroom bags to take home.

Sam grew up in Central Illinois where his mother took him morel mushroom hunting beginning at the age of 5, and he is a retired Montessori School teacher (lucky kids who were in his classroom!). Sam and his wife Cornelia are both members of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) and enjoy traveling around the country joining other mushroom enthusiasts in hunting for mushrooms. Sam really appreciates the opportunity to share his knowledge and passion about all things fungi.



Please contact Carol Reap of Ladies' GC for further information. (calgalcrr@gmail.com)

Sam with his *woodland cottage* of mushrooms

in-

Gray Garden Club



Gray Garden Club had a busy but enjoyable Winter season. On Tuesday, December 3, 2024, the group had their annual Christmas gathering at Trish Ann's, with food and fellowship.

Stockings and Fig Leaf items were collected, along with a huge box for Toys for Tots.

The February fourth meeting brought the installation of Gray Garden Club's 2025—2027 Officers. L-R: Vicki Bilderback, Out going President; Kay Cummings, President; Ruth Hartzog, Secretary; Faith Kildow, Parliamentarian and Doris Comer Treasurer.

Vice-president Betty Hotchkiss is not pictured.

On Arbor Day in Georgia, February 21, 2025, Gray Garden Club planted a native Red Bud tree in front of the Jones County Library, in memory of Maudlyn Smith, a much loved and missed member.

MILLEDGEVILLE GARDEN CLUB



Once again, the Milledgeville community and clubs have come together to give each Veteran at the Veterans Home in Milledgeville a hand-colored card and \$10 to spend as they wish.

Pictured are David and Steven smiling big as they happily receive their cards.

Thanks to the Milledgeville Garden Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and members of the community for making this possible.

The Milledgeville Garden Club awards

“Yard of the Month” certificates to local residents for December 2024.

The Certificates of Beautification award was awarded to The Burrell's of 730 Habersham Street, Milledgeville.

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 many florals, ornamental grasses, shrubs and colorful planters and baskets making for inviting havens for local birds and insects.

May their yards continue to delight passersby and inspire us. Job well done, neighbors!

Rose and Dahlia Garden Club



Rose & Dahlia member Marietta Lynch was a big winner in the Azalea District's recent fundraiser - "Buy a Bee" for \$5 and enter to win \$100. Our Club President Becky Reynolds presented Marietta with her check at our February meeting. Marietta's grand dog "Bea" must have been her lucky charm!



Rosemary and Thyme Garden Club



L-R Sandra Callahan - Treasurer, Molly Kimler - Secretary, Joy Shelnutt - Vice-President, Teal McKinney - President, Peggy Tucker - GCG immediate Past President

Peggy Tucker installed the 2025-2027 Officers of the Rosemary & Thyme Garden Club in Loganville on February 2 at the O'Kelly Library in Loganville . Peggy used different butterflies with for each office and presented each officer a welcome sign (welcoming them to holding an office) and a butterfly of their office. It was a beautiful program, and Peggy gave an update to what GCG is doing.

This club began in 2019 while small in number but growing every year. They have invited speakers from GCG and Azalea District chairmen, the DNR Linda May. Rosemary & Thyme cosponsored with Gateways Garden Club of Social Circle, a Monarch Butterfly Program by Dr. Jaap de Roode.

The club also hosts a spring plant sale to fund the club and receive new members .

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." ~ Henry Van Dyke

WARRENTON GARDEN CLUB

The Warrenton Garden Club presented the COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD to Palmer and Louise Hadden at the Warren County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet for 2025. This award is given to recognize individuals in the Warren County community who are volunteers in a variety of activities, who embody kindness and concern to their fellow citizens and who strive to make their community a great place for all to live.



L to R: Charlotte White; Warrenton Garden Club President Lauren Williams Mazer; Dianne Rickli; Jane Edmunds, Azalea District Director and club member; Babs Davis; Toby Peebles; Louise and Palmer Hadden.



If you plant just one thing this spring, make it a native plant. A single milkweed will be a host to monarch butterflies. A single sunflower feeds bees and birds. A single bee balm plant will feed hummingbirds. A single flower can change everything.



Milledgeville Garden Club



Celebrates the Holidays at Rosehill Mansion

It was a magical day at "Rose Hill Mansion" in Lockerly Arboretum, where the Milledgeville Garden Club celebrated Christmas in all its splendor. This 1800's antebellum home is listed on the National Registry of historic places, and thanks to ours and other Garden Club volunteers, it was decorated to the hilt for the holidays.

Delicious refreshments were served by Party Hostesses: (L/R) Kathy Chandler, Jane Thompson, Anne Walden, Joanne Battle, and Mary Nevins.

More than 60 new Children's Books were brought as gifts for delivery to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Milledgeville and Gray.

It was truly a happy and blessed day and got everyone into the Christmas Spirit.

The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs



The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs hosted the Garden Club of Georgia's Basic Design Classes Units 1-5 at the Warren Road Community Center. All twenty-two students enjoyed the classes and are eager to enroll in the GCG Basic Design Course 2.

The classes are for people who want to bring the joy of arranging flowers, fruit, vegetables, and foliage into their homes for enjoyment. This is a fun, casual course with no tests.

Unit I is a study of line and line mass designs. Basic design principles are taught and students complete designs that are critiqued at the end of class. Unit II is mass and foliage designs with the addition of material on color harmonies. Unit III involves table designs. Unit IV makes use of fruits and vegetables and adds the creative touch of a featured object. Unit V is a study of creative designs,

Announcements



Monarchs Across Georgia 2025 POLLINATOR SYMPOSIUM

*Creating Landscapes for Beauty,
Biodiversity & Ecological Benefits*

**Saturday, May 17, 2025
9 AM - 3 PM**

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
GCG Headquarters Terrace Room
2450 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605

Cost - \$85 includes catered box lunch
and full agenda



Keynote speaker Heather Holm, pollinator
conservationist and award-winning
author pollinatorsnativeplants.com

Plant

I really just want 1 ~~drink~~ but if god
wants me to have 3 then 27 it is



The Winners of the "Buy A Bee"

Azalea District

Fundraiser are:

Jennifer Shuford

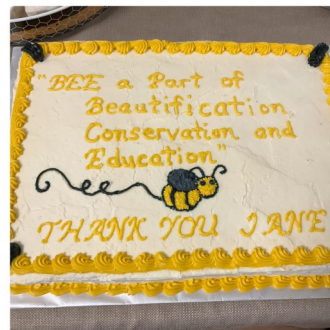
Marietta Lynd

Annette Bridges

Scenes from the Azalea District Board Meeting

February 18, 2025

Crawfordville, Georgia



HONEY IS A MEDICINE

Honey for cold



- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

Honey for detox



- 1/2 tbsp honey
- 1 cup herbal tea

Honey for sinus



- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar

Honey for weight loss



- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 3 drops lemon juice

Honey for cough



- 8 tbsp honey
- 4tsp lemon juice

Honey for toothache



- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp cinnamon





*L-R: Jane Edmonds, District Director;
Jan Stewart Distict Director Elect;
Carol Reap, District Co-Director,
Stephanie Corley, Recording Secretary;*

*Pam Hendricks, Treasurer;
Sherley Selmen Assistant Treasuurer
and Charlotte White, Corresponding Secretary*

*Azalea District Board Members
2025 - 2027*



Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail®

2025 Symposium & Native Plant Sale

Plains, Georgia

Friday, May 2, 2025

Symposium Keynote Speaker

Dr. Allan Armitage

*Well known as a writer, speaker and researcher
through out the world*

Emeritus Professor of Horticulture at UGA



From Chaos to Contentment

-the making of a garden -

Come join Dr A as he shares his garden journey with us. For better or worse, he and his wife, Susan, started talking about the D word as their children grew older. The D word is downsizing, an endeavor that has become more and more common with boomers and older clientele. Having left a lovely well-established garden in the country, they found themselves in possession of a cottage that needed a little work and a garden that was nonexistent.

Dr A will explain how he put this small intown garden together, and the plants he felt provided the most impact and the least maintenance. He will show the pain and frustration along with the joy and beauty as the bare ground was transformed in a comfortable garden.

This is a talk more about plant choices than plant design. There are no major water features, no mountains in the background and nothing but a rather forlorn fence between neighbors. However, when even the finest landscape designers visit, they too sit back and enjoy the vista.

Dr A will discuss his favorite small trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and other garden features and how they interact together. Not all plants he mentions will thrive in south Georgia, but you will enjoy the time spent with one of the nation's finest Horticulturists.

Register online at www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org Seating is limited!

Sponsors: Lazy K Nursery and Magnolia District of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

2025 RCBT Spring Symposium and Plant Sale

Registration Form for Friday, May 2, 2025

8:30AM - 2:30PM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Registration per person \$65.00

Late registration after **April 1** is **\$70.00** per person. Seating is limited so please register early!

Lunch (check one choice) Chick-fil-A sandwich Market Salad (no meat) Cobb salad/chicken

Salad Dressing (check one choice) Balsamic vinaigrette Ranch or Italian

Drink Coke Diet Coke Water

Do you have a garden registered with the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail? _____ **Garden number** _____

Symposium details are online at www.rosalynncarterbutterflytrail.org . You can register online or print the form and mail it with your check to RCBT, PO Box 10, Plains, GA 31780. is included in the registration fee. The symposium will be held in Plains at the Plains Community Center at Clark and Main Street. We will have 4 plant vendors with 100s of beautiful plants. For additional information contact Annette Wise 229-824-4567.

8:30AM **Plant Sale and Silent Auction begin**

9:15AM **Welcome and Announcements**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Allan Armitage - Horticulturist and Author

Speakers: Melissa Montgomery - Rosalynn Carter's Personal Assistant 1985-2023

Dr. Jaap deRoode - Monarch Expert and Author

Annette Wise – Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail

All profit made from the Silent Auction and Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail plants/items will go directly to establish additional habitat for pollinators or promote the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

Seating is limited, book early!

8th Annual Ball Ground Garden Club

PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL



Saturday May 10th
9:00 to 3:00pm



Web Address: [Plant Festival|
Ballgroundgardenclub](http://PlantFestival|Ballgroundgardenclub)

FREE EVENT

The Festival is located at
the famous Ball Ground
Botanical Garden:
Large supply and selection
of plants,
Guided tours of our
Botanical Garden,
Raffles,
40 local vendors (food,
drink, shopping)

215 Valley Street
Ball Ground, GA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Finalizes Plan for a Minor Expansion of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Boundary



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced, January 3, 2025, its final decision to expand the acquisition boundary of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge by approximately 22,000 acres. The new acquisition boundary includes lands currently held by a variety of owners within a 1-mile fuel reduction zone adjacent to the refuge. Potential conservation actions on the lands within the boundary expansion could strengthen protection of the hydrological integrity of the swamp, provide habitat for the gopher tortoise, mitigate impacts of wildfires, and provide opportunities for longleaf pine restoration to benefit the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The expanded boundary allows the Service to potentially offer priority public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and education to the more than 400,000 annual visitors to the refuge, thereby driving a growing ecotourism economy within the community.

Today's decision follows the Department's [recent announcement](#) that Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge will be nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List. If designated, the refuge would join the list recognizing 1,223 cultural and natural sites of universal importance, such as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall in China, and the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador.

During a 55-day public scoping period, which included an in-person public meeting and a virtual meeting, the public submitted approximately 30,000 comments including individuals from 36 countries and all 50 states, including Washington D.C., Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Comments, which were generally supportive of the proposal, represented the views of approximately 40 non-governmental organizations, one Tribal Nation, seven government officials, and the general public.

Minor boundary modifications were made to correct mapping errors and to ensure the proposed area was acceptable to all landowners in the area. The minor boundary expansion enables the Service to work with willing landowners to explore voluntary conservation actions, including potential acquisition or conservation easements, that would further protect the refuge's globally significant freshwater wetland system and wildlife habitat.

The response received during the public comment period is a testament to just how special Okefenokee is, not just to our local community, but to people all over the nation and around the world,” said Michael Lusk, refuge manager at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. “We appreciate the commitment to conserving this landscape. This minor expansion will help further conservation efforts for the swamp along with the threatened and endangered species that inhabit it.”

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, located in Folkston, Georgia, is the headwaters of the Suwannee and St. Mary’s rivers. The refuge provides habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. It is world renowned for its amphibian populations, which are bio-indicators of global health. The refuge has 353,981 acres of National Wilderness Area within the refuge boundaries. Additionally, it is a Wetland of International Importance

(RAMSAR Convention – 1971) due to the Okefenokee Swamp’s global significance. The refuge receives approximately 400,000 annual visits, with 10 percent of those visits from international guests from more than 46 different countries. The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge also helps support an average of \$39.2 million on recreation spent annually, which includes supporting 826 jobs associated with that recreation and \$17.5 million in job-related income.

For more information on the expansion, go to <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

Every year I need to be reminded again and again...



Editors Note:

This is the last Trumpet that I will edit. I want to thank all Clubs, Chairmen and Directors for your support and contributions in the last eight years, you did all the hard work! It was a great ride.

Without the support of Janet Carn, Diane Hunter, Marilyn McDonnell and Charlotte White, I would have jumped off a ledge.

To quote Bess Hartley—
"Stick a fork in me, I'm done".





Azalea District Calendar 2025 -2027



March 5, 2025	Native Plant Symposium	Athen
March 7—8, 2025	Georgia Daffodil Society's Flower Show	Atlanta
March 11—13, 2025	Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention	Valdosta
March 19, 2025	Basic Design Course I	Conyers
April 5, 2025	Columbus Council Gold Star Marker Dedication	Columbus
April 12, 2025	APCC Garden Club Home & Garden Show	Savannah
April 16, 2025	Basic Design Course I	Conyers
April 20—26, 2025	Garden Week in Georgia	
April 25-26, 2025	NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens	Savannah
April 26, 2025	Alpharetta G C Plant Sale	Alpharetta
April 29—30, 2025	Garden Club of Georgia 97th Annual Convention	Augusta
May 2, 2025	Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Symposium & Plant Sale	Plains
May 4, 2025	Capitol Meeting Day	Atlanta
May 7, 2025	Cherokee Garden Library Celebrates Fifty Years	
May 17, 2025	Sea Oats G C Blue Star Marker Dedication	Brunswick
May 17, 2025	Pollinator Symposium GCG Headquarters	Athens
May 18 – 22,2025	National Garden Club Convention	Charleston, SC
May 19, 2025	Basic Design Course I	Conyers
May 24, 2025	Magnolia G C Pond Tour	Cartersville
May 27, 2025	Belmere G C Blue Star Marker Dedication	Alpharetta
June 1—7, 2025	National Garden Week	