



2023-2025 VOL 1 SUMMER 2025

Magnolia Messenger

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2025-2027

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DIRECTORS CORNER

Summer 2025

Greetings Magnificent Magnolias!

Our 2025-2027 term for the Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia has begun. As we begin, we need to take a moment to look back and say “thank you” to **Kay Hagler** for all the wonderful leadership she provided for the 2023-2025 term. We also extend heartfelt thanks to **Mary Ann Parks**, who took on the responsibility of Magnolia District Corresponding Secretary for many years.

The Magnolia District theme for 2025-2027 is “Healthier Environment, Healthier You with Beautification, Conservation, and Education”. This theme amplifies the relationship we have with the world around us and our responsibility as stewards of the natural beauty, wildlife, clean water, and clean air.

With this theme we have chosen goals to reflect those responsibilities. Keep these goals in mind as you plan your 2025-2027 club calendar.

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DIRECTORS CORNER continues:

Goal 1: Magnolia District Clubs will educate members and their community about the importance of pollinators. Clubs will plant native plants that feed, host and support bees, butterflies, and birds in our district.

Goal 2: Magnolia District Clubs and club members will become familiar with the negative impact of plastic on our air, water, and soil. Club members will identify ways to reduce utilizing single use plastics and implement strategies to reduce dependence on single use plastic at home, at meetings, and in the community.

Goal 3: Magnolia District Clubs will celebrate the United States of America's 250th anniversary (2026) by planting red, white, and blue gardens at their homes and in their communities.

All 23 clubs, the Sumter Federation, and Columbus Council have registered for the coming year. Plans are well underway for the joint Camellia and Magnolia Districts Leadership and Awards Workshop to be held June 16 in Cordele. See the calendar for dates and places for summer district board meeting in August and annual district meeting October 8th.

In 2026, the Magnolia District will host the Garden Club of Georgia Convention. Kay Hagler is our convention chair and is working on details. Additionally, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Groundwork is already underway for the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club of Georgia in 2028.

As we direct our energy to planning meetings, projects, and programs—we must remember to take time for fun and sharing with others. **By:** Marilyn Aldrich, Magnolia District Director, 2025-2027.

Magnolia District Co-Director Report

After serving as Recording Secretary for four terms, I have agreed to serve as Co-Director and my emphasis will be on improving membership in all clubs in Magnolia District. The National Garden Clubs, Inc., held several Zoom meetings during the past few months and some interesting information was provided. While most of our clubs are smaller than those in the larger cities, we can still find ways to increase our membership. Clubs must create an environment to foster growth by placing emphasis on gardening, providing interesting programs and projects and by recruiting and retaining energetic members. To quote Nilsa Summey, the 2021-2023 Magnolia District Director and the 2023-2025 GCG Fourth Vice President in charge of GCG membership, "MEMBERSHIP IS KEY TO GCG... WE MUST RECRUIT, RETAIN AND REVITALIZE" in order to grow. I will share some of the NGC suggestions in several issues of the Magnolia Messenger. Some of the tips to grow membership were simple. Have fun. Create a welcoming atmosphere. Invite friends, neighbors, extended family members to meetings and special events. Have food. Keep it simple. Have varied programs. Secure dynamic speakers. Include members to present a program on their special gardening interest. Plan efficient business meetings

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to allow adequate time for the program. Have no drama or gossip. Remember TO HAVE FUN. **By:** Ann Howell, Magnolia District, Co-Director, 2025-2027.

MAGNOLIA DISTRICT NEWS

New Leadership for Magnolia District!

Marilyn Aldrich installed as Magnolia District Director!



At the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) convention held in Augusta, Georgia, April 29th – 30th, **Marilyn Aldrich**, Magnolia District's Co-Director for 2023-2025 was installed as the 2025 – 2027 Magnolia District Director! Congratulations to Marilyn

for her new position as Magnolia District Director. Marilyn Aldrich and Ann Howell, Magnolia District Co-Director for 2025-2027 will be members of the GCG Board. Photo above. Denise Thorne, Deep South Garden Club, 2025-2027, installs the seven new Garden Club of Georgia District Directors. L to R: Bonnie Dudley (Redbud District), Christie Novellas (Dogwood District), **Marilyn Aldrich (Magnolia District)**, Melodie Smith (Camellia District), Martha Cobb (Oleander District), Jan Stewart (Azalea District), and Merrell Holden (Laural District). Congratulations to the new leadership! Enjoy your term in office.

During February 2025 Magnolia District Board meeting, the elected slate of officers were installed by Parliamentarian, Bess Hartley for Magnolia District as follows.



For the period of 2025 to 2027 District Director: Marilyn Aldrich, Co-Director: Ann Howell (Stand In: Sandra Haga), Recording Secretary: Drenda Sternenberg, Janis Webb, Treasurer: Corresponding Secretary: Marideane Maxwell (Stand In Willie Maxwell, Parliamentarian: Bess Hartley (Stand In Janice Cliett), and Chaplain: Carolyn

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Culpepper. Congratulations to the new leadership of Magnolia District! Enjoy your term in office!



The Camellia and Magnolia Districts invite
District Garden Club Officers and All
Garden Club Members to



THE
**2025 Awards and Leadership
Workshop**
Monday, June 16, 2025

Presented by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the Camellia and Magnolia District

Special Guest:
2025-2027 GCG
President, Diane Hunter

Place
South Georgia Technical College
402 Midway Road
229-271-4040
Cordele, GA 31015

Registration and coffee at 9:30 A. M. The workshop begins at 10:00 AM and runs through 2 PM.

This workshop is open to ALL Garden Club Members. New Garden Club Officers are encouraged to attend. Please have at least one member of each garden club represented so they can receive and share the information. Due to printing limitations and providing lunch, only preregistered attendees can be accommodated.

Registration Due BY Monday JUNE 2, 2025 to avoid an additional \$5 late fee; or an additional \$10 late fee if not registered by date of Workshop:

MAKE A \$30 CHECK PAYABLE TO "CAMELLIA DISTRICT".

Mail check and registration form to:

Peggy Williams, 1170 Oakcliff RD, Macon, Georgia 31211

Contact: pjwhaw@yahoo.com: 478-719-3340, if you have any questions

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2025 Awards and Leadership Workshop Camellia and Magnolia District Workshop

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

District: _____ Garden Club: _____

Are you a Club Officer and/ or Committee Chairman? Yes No

What Office do you hold: _____

What Committee/s do you Chair? _____

Mail the completed registration form and a **\$30 CHECK PAYABLE TO "CAMELLIA DISTRICT so it is received BY Monday JUNE 2, 2025,** to the Camellia District Treasurer: Peggy Williams, 1170 Oakcliff RD, Macon, Georgia 31211
Contact: pjwhaw@yahoo.com: 478-719-3340.

Please circle and mark your Box Lunch choice:

1. ☐ Turkey Wrap with Greek Pasta Salad and fresh fruit.
2. ☐ Summer Salad with roasted chicken, organic greens, blueberries, Feta Cheese, pecans and peaches with a Balsamic pear vinaigrette. **Exceptions for those who can't have nuts, cheese or chicken. The salad could possibly have strawberries.**

Each box lunch comes with a beverage and a cookie or brownie.

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other :



Join the Count!

Interested in joining our count this year? Here's how: <https://gsepc.org/>
Sign up for our newsletter to get the latest in your inbox.

Prepare for the count days on **August 22nd and 23rd, 2025.**

Download the printable Counting Sheet. Check out the Insect Counting & Identification Guide. Review the corresponding pamphlet. Join our Southeast Pollinator Census Facebook page and follow us on Instagram@SoutheastPollinators. View The Pollinator Census — How-To and History. View The Pollinator Census — Educators and Non-Profits. Upload your counts to this website. **The portal to upload counts will open early on August 22nd.**

Roadside Beautification and Wildflowers

Check to see if your area has an available site. The Wildflower Program began in 1974 when Mrs. Virginia Hand Callaway, then chair of the Birds and Wildflowers Committee of the Garden



Club of Georgia, Inc., spearheaded a movement to plant and protect wildflowers on our roadsides. GCG in partnership with Georgia DOT began a program to provide funds and support to protect and enhance the roadside wildflowers and promote the seeding of annuals and perennials. State and District Chairmen encourage local garden clubs to make donations using the GCG Donations form to this effort. You can also make an Honorarium/Memorial donation to this wide-reaching program. **PARTICIPATE!** <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/projects>. Check with the Georgia DOT to see what their guidelines are!

SUMMER TO DO LIST:

CREATE **A Backyard Habitat!** Birds, butterflies, bats, and pollinators are beneficial in every garden. Suitable habitat for many species is declining, especially in urban and suburban areas. Species can be encouraged to take up residence or visit often when you place feeders, houses, or other options for shelter in your yard. Check out the DNR website at: <https://georgiawildlife.com/create-backyard-habitat> for help or choose from the local nursery selection to welcome winged friends while adding ornamentation, interest, and a bit of fun to your garden. Add this to your summer TO DO List!!!

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Magnolia Club News

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. awarded the following Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. awards at the 2025 annual convention to the following Magnolia District Clubs or Councils! Congratulation to all of the winners and Thank You for doing the work as well as putting in an award application!

<u>AWARD # and Name</u>	<u>Club/Council/District</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>GCG Place</u>
AW 1 SC GC Trophy	Winchester Garden Club	Magnolia	Winner
AW 7 Special Achievement			
A 1 Small GC	Magnolia GC Ft. Valley	Magnolia	First Place
AW 11 Native Plant			First Place
A1 Small GC	Azalea GC of Columbus	Magnolia	
AW 15 Historic Preservation			First Place
A 1 Small GC	Azalea GC of Columbus	Magnolia	
AW 28 Publicity Press Book			
A. Single Garden Club			First Place
A 1 Small GC	Oglethorpe GC	Magnolia	
A 2 Medium GC	Butler GC	Magnolia	First Place
AW 39 Marker Award			
A. Installation of a Marker			First Place
2. Medium GC	Butler GC	Magnolia	

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The Winchester Garden Club, Columbus

During **Garden Week in Georgia**, the Winchester Club members planted wildflower seeds in their private gardens. A flower display with a flyer was displayed in the lobby of the Robert Poydasheff VA clinic in Columbus, Georgia letting everyone know that 20-26 April is Garden Week in Georgia. Garden Club Members participated in Earth Day at the North Columbus Library with Master Gardeners and Keep Columbus Beautiful Members by spreading Conservation, Beautification and Education.



THE WINCHESTER GARDEN CLUB WINS Award # 1SC, The Garden Club of Georgia Trophy (Small Club) A silver perpetual trophy dedicated by the Awards Committee 2019-2021, may be awarded to the small garden club whose achievements do most to promote the objective of the GCG!

Small Club Winner: The Winchester Garden Club of Columbus Georgia, Magnolia District, 10 members strong brought home the win for 2024.



The Club stays busy in 2024. Each month members rotate program presentations. As a small club members are doing research and presenting topics on horticultural and wildlife interest. Occasionally guest speakers are invited to the monthly meetings. Photo left: GCG President, Lisa Hall presents to Terry Morgan, President of the Winchester Garden Club, The Garden Club of Georgia Trophy for Small Clubs!

Services provided by the Club: The club gifted Teacup Fairy Gardens they made to the residents of the River Town Center Nursing home. Art and Crafts supplies were collected for the summer term and school supplies for the fall term for the Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home. Blankets were collected as well as cold weather gear for the Valley Rescue Mission in Columbus.

Club Projects: The club hosted the Columbus Council of Garden Club meeting. They participated in Garden Week in Georgia and Great Southeast Pollinator

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Census. The Columbus Botanical Garden hosted a **BOOtanical Scarecrow contest**, the Winchester Club entered and won second place. Members got together and made unbreakable ornaments for 24 mini-Christmas trees. The trees were used as BINGO prizes at the **River Town Center Nursing home**. Members participated in **Wreaths across America** by placing wreaths at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery.

Club Representation: Winchester Garden Club serves various boards. Two served on the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs; two on the Magnolia District Board; two on the GCG State Board and one on the GCG Executive Board. Winchester Members traveled all over the state of Georgia. Attending a District Board meeting in Buena Vista, GCG State Convention in Peachtree City, Rosalyn Carter Symposiums in Plains, Gold Star Marker Memorial Dedication in Reynolds, a summer Magnolia Board meeting in Vienna, Garden Club of Georgia Directors meeting Athens, various annual meetings in Kennesaw and Albany Club Birthday celebration in Cuthbert and one member traveled out of state and was a Georgia Delegate at the National Garden Club Convention, Westminster, CO.

The Winchester Garden Club members are honored by this Award and will continue to work hard in our community. **Congratulations to Winchester Garden Club of Columbus, Georgia! Winchester Club members photo below.**



Columbus Council of Garden Clubs cosponsored Gold Star Marker!

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, a meaningful and solemn ceremony sponsored by the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the Georgia Department of
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Transportation and the Garden Club of Georgia took place at the Georgia Visitor Information and Welcome Center in Columbus. The National Garden Clubs of America Gold Star Memorial Marker was placed and dedicated in honor of the families whose loved one paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

The Gold Star Memorial, a symbol of honor, remembrance, and gratitude, will stand as a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of freedom. The memorial is part of the nationwide Gold Star Memorial Trail Project, which aims to remind communities across the United States of the high cost of freedom and the duty of every American to honor those who have served.

America's Gold Star Families is a 501(c) (3) not for profit organization created to provide support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces, representing all conflicts, all branches of service, and all circumstances of death while serving. The organization's mission is to offer honor, hope, and healing while providing an atmosphere of emotional and psychological support.

The Marker was presented to Lativia Rivers, Georgia Visitor Information, and Jim Clute, Georgia Department of Transportation, with our appreciation for their support and approval for the placement of the marker. Guest speaker, Mayor Skip Henderson graciously acknowledged the placement of the marker, the first Gold Star Marker in the area, as a lasting memorial to honor our nation's heroes and to know that the residents of Columbus are grateful and proud of our citizens who defended our freedom and appreciate the families who made the sacrifices as well. Photo above: Left to right: (left to right): Janice Thiese, Jim Clute (GDOT), Carolyn Hartley Culpepper, Nilsa Summey, Lativia Rivers (GA Visitor Information Center), Mayor of Columbus B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Kay Hagler (Magnolia District President), Barbara Stewart (CCGC President), Cathy Williams (State Transportation Board of GA, 2nd Congressional District), Loraine Lester. **Photo by:** Alan Thiese.



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Dogwood Garden Club, Americus



Dogwood Garden Club members enjoyed a program presented by Jan Palan, head gardener at Koinonia Farms located near Americus. For eight (8) decades Koinonia Farms have been nourishing essential human needs, both physically and spiritually.

Jenn talked about sustainable farming and vegetable gardening techniques. Koinonia's main crop is pecans, however they grow a large variety of vegetables that are used to feed the farm residents as well as their neighbors and the community. The bounty of Koinonia gardens is distributed weekly to the local food bank, Harvest of Hope. They also manage three (3) community gardens. Photo right: Jan Palan, head gardener at Koinonia Farms. **By** Lisa Simpson.



The Butler Garden Club, Butler



Georgia Arbor Day: If National Arbor Day is April 25, 2025, why is it celebrated in February in Georgia? Arbor Day is a day of celebrating the importance of trees and tree planting and the best time to plant a tree in Georgia is February or early March. The Butler Garden Club took advantage of a beautiful February day and willing workers (students and staff) at the Taylor County High

School to plant a tree on the campus. Carmon Gudino, CTAE instructor; Ms. Jennifer

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Albritton, Taylor County School Superintendent; and Ms. Lillia Parks, Taylor County High School Principal, shepherded the planting of a sweet bay magnolia.

Photo left to right Pam Weldon, Sylvia Harris, Mattie Davis, Jennifer Albritton, Sybil Willingham, Mary Luna Shepherd, Carmon Gudino, and Eloise Doty.



Columbus Botanical Gardens: Butler Garden Club members get restless as spring approaches. Twelve members and one guest traveled, March 12, 2025, to the Columbus Botanical Gardens to gain



inspiration. The group enjoyed a personal tour of the gardens and seeing recent additions including a pizza garden and old favorites like the Sam Wellborn camellia gardens. A Dutch lunch was enjoyed afterward at Pure Taqueria. Members taking

part in the field trip were Sylvia Harris, Sherry Laymance, Joanna Queen, Mary Luna Shepherd, Robbi Knight, Ellen Burgamy, Mattie Davis, Nancy Wolfe, Montez Woodall, Marilyn Aldrich, Sybil Willingham, Holly Posey, and guest Gwen Zander. **By** Eloise Doty.

The Azalea Garden Club, Columbus

The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus marked the end of the old and celebrated the new year with fresh starts and new opportunities!

Azalea G C Enjoys a Festive Christmas Tour of Historic Home

The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus welcomed the holiday season with a delightful field trip to a beautifully decorated historic family home of one of our Azalea
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members in downtown Historic Columbus. This special outing provided club members with a rare opportunity to step inside a lovingly preserved Southern home adorned in its holiday finest. Each room offered festive inspiration, showcasing elegant arrangements of natural greenery, magnolia leaves, and timeless Southern holiday décor. The creative and thoughtful use of fresh elements reminded us of all the beauty in nature and tradition.

Beyond the festive charm, the visit also highlighted ongoing preservation efforts, deepening our appreciation for the care and dedication required to maintain such historic treasures. Club members came away brimming with ideas to incorporate into their own holiday decorations. It was a joyful afternoon filled with laughter, inspiration, and the shared spirit of the season—truly a memorable way to celebrate the holidays together.

Love & Environmental Impact for Gardeners

In February, we embraced the spirit of Valentine's Day—celebrating friendship with festive red and pink attire and meaningful activities. One highlight was our environmental shoe recycling program, which aimed to reduce landfill waste and support those in need. Members donated gently worn shoes, giving them a second life while making a positive impact on both people and the planet.

As love bloomed, so did our attention to wildlife. Mid-month was the perfect time to clean and install nest boxes for the upcoming bluebird breeding season. This annual activity continues to offer a rewarding experience for members of all ages. Rounding out the month, some of our garden members took part in an educational field trip hosted by Fort Benning's Natural Resources Management Branch (NRMB) which actively manages Fort Benning's natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability and mission readiness—both now and in the future. Their approach is grounded in field inventory and monitoring, scientific research, and adaptive management. Key tools and techniques include prescribed fire, harvesting/thinning and reforestation, invasive species control, threatened and endangered species surveys, and the regulation of game through hunting and fishing programs.

The program deepened our understanding of local conservation practices and highlighted the critical role of ecosystem-based land management. It was an eye-opening experience that underscored the importance of land stewardship and the science of maintaining healthy, resilient ecosystems right in our own backyard.

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All Things Green: A St Patrick's Day Celebration

As the calendar turned to March, Azalea Garden Club members were greeted with a festive burst of green—thanks to our very own Azalea leprechaun, shamrocks, and plenty of Irish cheer! Our St. Patrick's Day celebration was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a healthy dose of garden-themed fun.

The highlight of the meeting was a special presentation from Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, a vital organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Columbus' water resources. Members learned about the important work being done to monitor the health of the Chattahoochee River and surrounding waterways. Through efforts such as identifying and halting illegal pollution, advocating for native plant restoration, and removing invasive species, our riverkeeper is helping to keep our environment cleaner and healthier for future generations.

In addition to the environmental focus, several of our members either attended or participated in the Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Show—a true celebration of the “rose of winter.” The show was a wonderful opportunity to promote, educate, and admire the stunning beauty of camellias in all their forms. With blooms on display ranging from delicate whites to vibrant pinks and reds, it was an inspiring treat for flower lovers of all kinds.

From green celebrations to floral appreciation, March reminded us of the beauty in both our gardens and our local natural resources—and the importance of protecting them both.



Spring in Bloom: Easter Bonnet Parade & Teacup Floral Display



April brought joy, creativity, and a burst of color as the Azalea Garden Club of Columbus celebrated the season with two delightful events: an Easter bonnet parade and a charming Spring teacup floral display. Members arrived in a festive array of florals and colors, donning their most whimsical and creative bonnets. The millinery adornment ranged from silk flowers and greenery to vintage ribbons and springtime accents. Laughter filled the air as members admired each other's handiwork, struck a pose, and shared in

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the light-hearted spirit of the day. Alongside the Easter bonnet pageant, members showcased their floral design talents with a lovely teacup exhibition. Each arrangement was thoughtfully crafted, using blooms—many from members own gardens—to create tiny masterpieces displayed in delicate china teacups. This special exhibit aimed to inspire interest in horticulture and floral design, while offering an outlet for artistic expression.

The tables were all decked out in full spring celebration, adorned with beautiful floral baskets, bunnies, candy, and chocolate Easter eggs. A lot of thought and preparation went into making this event memorable. It was a beautiful way to welcome the season, celebrate our members; creativity, and enjoy the simple joys of friendship, flowers, fun and a whole lot of flair!



Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. News



New Leadership for The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.! *2025-2027,* *President Diane Hunter*

Diane Hunter was installed at the GCG Convention held in Augusta, Georgia on April 20, 2025. Check the GCG website for information about Diane's theme for 2025-2027 and her goals for GCG. <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>. It is a new administration for the period 2025 -2027. Check the website and review the upcoming Garden Gateways for the latest news and administrative changes.

CHECK THE GCG WEBSITE FOR AVAILABLE GRANTS FOR YOUR PROJECTS AT: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-grantsavailable/>

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National Garden Club, Inc. News

The National Garden Club, Inc. also **installed new leadership** at the National Garden Club, Inc. The conference was held in North Charleston, S C on May 20-22, 2025. Check the National Garden Club website at <https://gardenclub.org/> for the 2025-2027 leadership and information.

For new and existing Georgia local Garden Club Presidents, please make use of the National Garden Club's guide for New Presidents.

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/guide-for-club-presidents-may-2021.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE & PLAN TO ATTEND

Club Presidents, please email the MAGNOLIA MESSENGER to your members as the newsletter will not be sent out by any other method. Thank you for distributing Magnolia Messenger! Check the Garden Gateways calendar and the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. website calendar for GCG events, GCG training, Magnolia District events, and other District events. Let your club members know what is going on at GCG and in the District!

June 1-7	2025	National Garden Week	U.S.
June 16	2025	Awards And Leadership Workshop	Cordele, Ga.
August 12	2025	Magnolia District Board Meeting	Massee Lane Gardens, 100 Massee Lane, Fort Valley
August 22, 23	2025	Great Southeast Pollinator Census	
September 10	2025	Garden Club of Georgia Fall Board Meeting 2025	Headquarters, Athens, Georgia
October 3-5	2025	Georgia National Fair Flower Show 2025 October 3, 2025, 8:00am – October 5, 2025, 5 pm	Georgia National Fairground and Agricenter, Perry, Ga.
October 8	2025	Magnolia District Annual Fall Meeting 2025 Wednesday, October 8, 2025 9:00am – 2:00pm Georgia	Columbus, Georgia

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

Enjoy the Summertime when the living is easy!

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