



The Oleander Leaflet

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

Oleander District

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Happy Spring Everyone!

Isn't it fabulous to see nature unfold its glory in the spring? Everyone bustling around at garden centers and working in their yards. A happy time for gardeners.



This journey has introduced me to so many wonderful gardeners throughout our district. You are truly Outstanding Oleanders! It is hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly. It has been an honor to serve you as well as to meet so many talented gardeners. Your support and encouragement have been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. The gavel has been turned over to Martha Cobb. Please give Martha the support and encouragement you have given to me. She'll do an outstanding job.

The Gray Goose has carried me to install the officers for the Bulloch and Wayne County councils, tour of homes and gardens at Ardsley Park – Chatham Crescent GC, The Deep South Convention in Valdosta, and the GCG convention in Augusta.

Our youth shined brightly with many winners at the district, state and deep south levels. I am so proud of them and the 53 state awards our clubs won from 1st place through honorable mention at the state level. Our Oleander Leaflet, thanks to Nancy Watson, tied for 1st place in the state.

All of you are doing great things in your club and communities. Please continue to turn items in to the Oleander Leaflet, Facebook Page, and Website. Do apply for awards and get rewarded for your hard work. These are great opportunities for us to share ideas with each other that may be adapted to our own clubs.

Remember that membership is KEY to GCG. We live in a beautiful part of our great state. We need to preserve what we have through conservation, beautification, and education.

This isn't farewell, because I'll see you around at various meetings and events.

Take care everyone!

Joni Thompson

Activities Around the District

Oleander District Leadership and Awards Workshop

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Baxley First Church
217 South Main Street
Baxley, GA

Oleander District Leadership and Awards Workshop

Registration Form

June 17, 2025 10:00 AM

Baxley First Church

217 S. Main Street

Baxley, GA 31513

Special Guest : Diane Hunter, GCC President

New GCG Information and Actual Practice with an Award Application

REGISTRATION: Cost of Workshop and Luncheon is **\$30.00.**

Make check out to **Oleander District.**

Send this form and a check to:

Michelle Ricketson, Registrar

104 Harrison Drive, Hinesville, GA 31313.

DEADLINE: June 10th

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your Garden Club

Your District _____

Dietary Restrictions

Please check the following that apply:

_____ State Officer

_____ Club Officer

_____ State Committee Chairman

_____ Club Member

_____ Club President

_____ Guest

_____ Council President

Activities Around the State

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. 97th Annual Convention was recently held in Augusta, Georgia on April 29-30 at the Riverfront Marriott. The Oleander District was well represented by many club members in attendance. We are so excited to announce that our district won 53 State Awards.

Congratulation Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. State Award Winners!

Award # 4 Bird A3 Large

Windsor Forest GC **Third Place**

Award #4 Bird C-Individual Member

Pat Wolters of Landings GC **First Place**

Award #5 Individual Club Standard FS B-21-49 Members

Seedling GC **Second Place**

Award #7 Special Achievement A2 Medium

Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent **First Place**

Brooklet Garden Club **HM**

Award #7 Special Achievement A3 Large

Garden Club of Savannah **First Place**

Windsor Forest GC **Third Place**

Award #8 Conservation Project

A2 Medium Millen GC **Third Place**

A3 Large Windsor Forest GC **Third Place**

Award#9 Award of Merit

Dave Scott Bird Trail - Program of Skidaway Island

Landings Garden Club



Activities Around the State

Awards Continued....

Award #10 Garden Therapy

A1 Small Green Thumb GC (Millen) for Home Place **Second Place**

A1 Small Green Thumb (Millen) for Center **Third Place**

A3 Large Landings GC **First Place**

Award #11 NP Native Plant

A3 Large The Landings GC **First Place**

Award #13 Civic Improvement

A1 Small Green Thumb GC Millen **Third Place**

Award # 14 Horticulture Achievement

A3 Large The Landings GC **First Place**

Award #15 Historic Preservation

A2 Medium Millen GC **Second Place**

A3 Large Garden Club of Savannah **First Place**

Award #16 Yearbook Clubs of 100-299

Garden Club of Savannah **First Place**

Award # 18 Council Standard Flower Show

A Council of 4 or less clubs Millen GC Council **First Place**

Award #19 Horticulture Program

A3 Large The Landings **First Place**

GREAT JOB!



Activities Around the State

Awards Continued....

Award 23 Flower Show Schedule

1.B.21-35 Members

Seedling GC "Our World As A Canvas" **First Place**

3. Garden Club Councils

Millen GC Council "Memories In Bloom" **First Place**

Award #25 Scrapbook

Category 2 Electronic Scrapbook

Pine Forest GC of Baxley **First Place**

Award #28 Publicity Press Book

Landscape Design Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent GC **First Place**

Award #33 Member Participation Program

A2 Medium Millen GC **Third Place**

Award #37 Publications

A.2 Newsletter or Magazine of 2-12 Pages

2. Medium Club Brooklet GC **Third Place**

3. Large Club The Landings **Second Place**

Award #37 Publications

A-3 Newsletter or Bulletin of 13-24 Pages

C. District

Oleander District **First Place**



Activities Around the State

Awards Continued...

Award#38 School Grounds Improvement

A1 Small Green Thumb GC Millen **First Place**

A2 Medium Brooklet GC **Second Place**

Award #39 Marker Award

A. Installation of a Marker

3 Large Garden Club of Savannah **Second Place**

Award # 41 Herb

Small Green Thumb Millen **First Place**

Large Windsor Forest GC **Second Place**

Award #44 Flower Show staged in public building

A. One Member Club Seedling GC **First Place**

Award #46 Public Relations

A3 Large Windsor Forest GC **Second Place**

Award #47 DVD/CD/Powerpoint Program

Large Landings GC **Third Place**

Award# 49 Holiday Decorations

Small Green Thumb GC Millen **First Place**

Council Millen GC Council **First Place**

Council Wayne GC Council **Second Place**

Award # 50 Gardening

Large The Landings GC **Second Place**



Cheers! yay
yay HOORAY
Awesome!
Wootloo
BRAVO Yeah!

Activities Around the State

Awards Continued.....

Award#53 Website

A.2 Medium St Marys GC Second Place

Award #53 Social Media

A2 Medium St Marys GC Second Place

Award # 56 National Garden Week

A1 Small Green Thumb Millen Second Place

B. Group of Clubs/Council Millen GC Council First Place

Award #57 JR Activities

A2 Medium Pine Forest Baxley First Place

A2 Medium Brooklet GC Second Place

B. Council Savannah Area Council First Place

Award #59/H4 High School Gardeners Activities

Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent GC First Place

Award #60 Garden Week in Georgia

A1 Small Green Thumb Millen Second Place

A2 Medium Odum GC Third Place

B. Group of Clubs/Council Millen GC Council First Place

Award #61 Arbor Day

A2 Medium Odum GC Second Place



Activities Around the State

2024 Deep South Award Winners

1. Award #6 – Bird Award – Individual – **Pat Wolter** – **The Landings GC**
2. Award #8 – Special Achievement Award – Large Club **3rd Place** – **Garden Club of Savannah**
3. Awards # 18 – Wildflower Award - Large Club – **2nd Place** – **The Landings GC**
4. Awards #31 DSGC Club Yearbook Award – **1st Place** – **The Garden Club of Savannah**

17 Youth Placed 1st through 3rd place for entries in the Youth Poetry, Smokey Bear poster and sculpture contest.



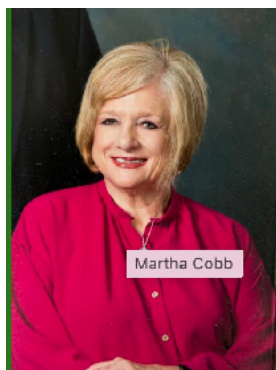
Activities Around the District



Please join me in bidding farewell to our Oleander District Director, Joni Thompson. It has truly been a pleasure to work with Joni over the past two years. Her contributions have been many and her dedication to the position of director have made a huge impact on the many garden club members that make up the Oleander District. Joni has kept the "Gray Goose" in the wind traveling all over the state fulfilling her duties and making friends everywhere she has been blessed to visit. We will definitely miss her but we also wish Joni all the best as she embarks on her next chapter. While Joni has completed her term as Director, we are blessed to know that she will continue to be involved with her local Screven County Garden Club as well as with several other positions within the Garden Club of Georgia. We look forward to "bumping" into her in the near future!

**Meet your new Oleander District Director
Martha Cobb 2025 -2027**

Thank you again for your service.



Passing of the Gavel

Activities Around the District

National Garden Week: June 1-7, 2025

Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community!

Join NGC clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, June 1-7, 2025. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.



Ideas to Consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

Youth Club Activities Around The District

Jacket Youth Club Sponsored by Brooklet Garden Club

The Recycling-Paper Making Project

The Brooklet Garden Club Youth committee decided as a recycle and Earth Day project for 2025 the Brooklet Youth Jacket Garden Club fifth graders at Brooklet Elementary would make paper. This project was fun and involved the Pre-K and printing technician, both who saved leftover and used paper. The Brooklet Garden Club hosted the Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs joint luncheon this year, and the fifth grade classes made the paper into bookmarks which were used as favors for the luncheon.

The Brooklet Garden Club Youth committee members demonstrated the process of paper making-the tearing or shredding, making pulp in the blender, draining the pulp on a screen, and using a sponge, couch paper, and block to finish the process. The children worked in pairs of twos, five pairs at a time to create their own paper. As the groups rotated, Mr. Petkewich the STEM teacher, presented a recycling slide program and demonstrated how reducing plastics makes a big difference in the landfills.

The students enjoyed the project and seeing the dried paper they created. The paper was cut into book marks and decorated using markers and adding ribbon. Each student made a bookmark for a council garden club member and one for themselves. They were beautiful! The ladies at the luncheon thought so too!



News from Our Clubs

Garden Club of Pooler

The Garden Club of Pooler's April meeting program was "Pollinator Garden" presented by member Teresa Lytle who is a Board Member of Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail, Master Gardener and University of Georgia Extension Service Agent. Pollinators and their plants were discussed with a slide show. Teresa included Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail Certification information and gave gifts of Seville Orange Tree seeds from the Trustees Garden at Coastal Botanical Garden. These seeds symbolize growing, renewal and promise of a fruitful future. By planting these seeds, not only cultivating a tree but also nurturing a connection between nature and history!



News from Our Clubs

Garden Club of Savannah

It might have been 90° but the Garden Club of Savannah had work to do refreshing the front gardens of the Ronald McDonald House located at Memorial Hospital. Great job! Please join them if you like that feeling of work, play, and making gardens beautiful. The club loves their dedicated volunteers.



News from Our Clubs

Green Thumb Garden Club (Millen)

GreenThumb Garden Club ended their last meeting before summer break with a bang including a delightful covered dish provided by their members. It was absolutely delicious! Here is to wishing everyone a Happy Summer and hoping you all have a functioning AC.



GTGC President, Kathy Gay and GTGC Vice President, Joann Reeves.



GTGC members L/R: Patti Hendley, Jill Smith, Lyn Rhodes, Debbie Vaughn, Aire Hogan, Shirley Herrmann, Kathy Gay, Vanesa Reeves, Wanda Rhodes, Angela Delay, Melanie Clark, and Cindy Rich.

News from Our Clubs

Parkersburg Garden Council

Elizabeth Biggerstaff headed up the beautification project for Parkersburg Garden Club! It was a great day for clean-up at the Farmhouse/Savannah Botanical Gardens.



Great morning with Ranger Sean who gave club members an excellent preview of the plans for Wormsloe's historic gardens.

News from Our Clubs

Sprig N Dig Garden Club



Genelda Reese installed new officers for Sprig-N-Dig Garden Club. The new officers will serve for the next two years. Pictured L/R : Genelda Reese, Lori Hurlebaus President, Karen Shields Vice President, Hilda Rushing Treasurer, Kitty Lane Recording Secretary, and Diane Long as Parliamentarian.

Dorie Johnson AKA Patsy Cline, entertained the club members as she sang "Walking After Midnight."



Sprig-N-Dig past President, Diane Long, turns over all her documentations to new President Lori Hurlebaus. Diane has served diligently for the past four years. She has done a fantastic job.....being a new member when she assumed the responsibility of President of Sprig-N-Dig four years ago! Thank you Diane!

Pictured L/R: Lori Hurlebaus, Diane Long.

News from Our Clubs

Sea Oats Garden Club

The Sea Oats Garden Club of Brunswick met recently for their January meeting at the Embassy Suites. After a delicious meal, Mary Acosta introduced the speaker, Melissa Trenchik, who is Superintendent of Cumberland and Ft. Frederica. Trenchik's presentation was very interesting as she told about her responsibilities. Pictured with Trenchik are the club hostesses. L to R are Joanne Cela, Mary Acosta, Melissa Trenchik, and Faye Hollington.



At the February Sea Oats Garden Club Meeting, Francene Roberson presented Club President, Mary Virginia Keith, with an award Making Her A Life Member of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Pictured receiving the award is Mary Virginia Keith (l) given by Francene Roberson. (R)



The meeting was held at 1800 Mexican Restaurant in Brunswick where club members enjoyed a delicious lunch. Club members Linda Dunlap and Mary Jo Kelly were the hostesses for the meeting. Mary Jo, entrepreneur and baker, presented a very interesting power point program as she shared all about the Puzzle Mountain Bakery in Newry, Maine where she's from. She gifted each club member with a small container of jam or jelly she had made. Linda then presented very interesting Horticulture Facts on growing and using celery. The door prizes were items baked by Mary Jo.



The Sea Oats Garden Club March meeting was held at Marsh's Edge on St. Simons Island. The theme for the meeting was "Spring Into Spring". Special guest and speaker for the meeting was Abigail Boling who is Wellness Director at Marsh's Edge. She demonstrated several exercises that Club members can do at home as she explained the importance of each one to help us keep in shape.

Pictured with Boling are hostesses for the meeting. Pictured (l to r) are Camille Mraz who introduced the speaker, speaker Abigail Boling, and Diane Ghioto who gave the Horticulture Tips.



News from Our Clubs

Sea Oats Garden Club con't

In April club members met at Mudcat Charlie's. The speaker for the meeting was Deborah Sheppherd. She had such an interesting, informative program on Native Plants for the area. She has a wonderful nursery in Darien with Native plants and trees along with a landscape of Pollinator Plants. Shown in the picture are the hostesses Elaine Trotter with the speaker Deborah Sheppard, Mary Virginia Keith, and Raylene Grynkewich.



Blue Star Marker

The Sea Oats Garden Club of Brunswick held its Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony Saturday, May 17th, at the Golden Isles Veterans Village. Mary Virginia Keith, Club President, and Diane Hunter, President of Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., welcomed everyone followed by the Invocation by Rev. Kendall Shaw. "The Star Spangle Banner" was performed by Nikki Jatindranath. Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Glenn Cashdollar, TMI (SS/SW) and Brunswick High School Navy ROTC. The History of Blue Star Memorial Marker was given by Faye Hollington, Sea Oats Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman. Unveiling of the marker was conducted by Jan Thiese, State Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Marker Chairman and Steven Brooks, GIVV Executive Director. The program ended with Michael Hulett playing Taps followed by refreshments. Pictured are Sea Oats Garden Club Members in front of the Blue Star Marker. Members are l to r: seated: Charlotte Kostelic, Linda Dunlap, and Faye Hollington. Standing: Raylene Grynkewich, Diane Ghioto, Mary Virginia Keith, Theresa Lane, Francene Roberson, Susan Baltzell, Mary Acosta, Kathleen Moore, Elaine Alberson, and Olivia Holland.



Several State and District Garden Club Members were there and assisted with the program. Pictured (l to r) are: Diane Hunter, President Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., Lisa Hall, former Garden Club of Georgia President, Jan Thiese, Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Marker Chairman, and Martha Cobb, Oleander District Director.



News from Our Clubs

St Marys Garden Club

The St. Marys Garden Club members have been busy as bees at their annual azalea cleanup at Orange Hall in St. Marys. They clear the vines, weeds, and fallen branches every winter to prepare for spring blooms. They also prune the azaleas after they have bloomed.



St. Mary's Garden Club has donated and planted thirty azalea bushes at historic Orange Hall. Fifteen members made short work of this huge job. The club has been maintaining the existing azaleas for years and looks forward to many years of bloom from these new ones. Thanks to all our hardworking members who have come through once again!



Their February beautification award was given to the Goodbread House, a historic bed and breakfast in St. Marys.

Janet Sullivan, our Arbor Day chair, addresses the crowd at this year's Arbor Day celebration which was co-sponsored by the city's Tree Board. A bald cypress was planted at the city's Peace Garden/History Walk. The club sponsors an essay contest for the 5th graders in local schools, and awarded prizes to 9 winners. Club member Karen Widing gave the invocation and led the crowd in singing America the Beautiful.



News from Our Clubs

Brooklet Garden Club

The Brooklet Garden Club members have been very active over the past couple of months. We recently elected our new officers for 2025 -2027.

Pictured L/R: Gail Davis, Installation of Officers, Donna Martin President, Belinda Davis Vice President, Holly Cook Secretary, Kathy Greeson Treasurer, and Sandra Williams Parliamentarian.



Club members were also involved with the annual Spring Plant Sale at GSU Botanic Gardens on April 5th - 6th. Many of our members helped price plants, assisted with the sale, and helped with the Magnolia Circle Garden party. Always a fun time at the gardens! Several of our club members as well as area garden club members, have signed up to volunteer as Ambassadors to help work at the Botanic Gardens on Saturdays throughout the year.



Brooklet Garden Club was also super busy preparing for the Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs Joint Luncheon which was held on April 10th at Forest Heights Country Club. This year's theme was titled "Garden Tea Party." Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the fellowship with one another. (See photos from this event on the Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs page.)



Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs

The Bulloch Council of Clubs Joint Meeting was held on April 10th at Forest Heights Country Club. This year's sponsor was the Brooklet Garden Club. The Brooklet Garden Club members prepared beautiful tables decked out in a variety of fine china with unique centerpieces and floral designs. The guest speaker was Jon Cook of GreenRock Real Recycling Zero Waste. Also in attendance was Oleander District Director Joni Thompson who installed the 2025-2027 Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs new slate of offices.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious menu of quiche, fruit salad, a variety of sandwiches, and of course decadent desserts. Much fellowship with joint club members was enjoyed as well as the many door prizes and raffle items that were distributed throughout the event. Special tea cookies were baked by Faye Hulst and handmade book marks as well as garden tools were given to each member of the clubs in attendance. Special thanks to everyone who made this a successful affair!



Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs



Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs



Photography provided by
Ginger Rutledge Gregory and
Nancy Watson

Oleander Leaflet Tidbits

Summer is upon us and many of our club activities slow to a crawl during the summer break. Because of this I have extended the summer publication deadline into the month of August. See the Oleander Leaflet Schedule Below. (Our new Oleander District Director, Martha Cobb may decide to adjust this schedule. If so, you will be notified of any changes.)

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

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

Spring Publication: Due April 1 - Publish April 30

Summer Publication: Due August 15- Publish August 31

Fall Publication: Due Oct. 1 - Publish October 31

Winter Publication: Due Dec. 1 - Publish December 31

Publishing dates may vary due to quantity of information received.

Spring is on its way out and Summer is scheduled to arrive on June 20th. The Farmer's Almanac is predicting "a scorcher of a summer." And while our temperatures have been somewhat unusual over the past few days with cool morning temps, we in southeast Georgia know it is only a matter of time before the humidity and sticky, hot summer days will soon be upon us. Remember to hydrate those plants, especially the container varieties. It isn't unusual to have to water twice a day in the heat of the summer. Check closely for powdery mildew and those nasty little aphids which seem to arrive with the frequent afternoon rain showers. A great remedy for the powdery mildew is to mix 1 tablespoon of baking soda, and 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap into 1 gallon of water. Pour into a spray bottle and shake well. Spray liberally onto all affected areas. As for the aphids, Neem oil can be an effective organic solution for controlling them.



Enjoy your time in the gardens everyone and have a wonderful summer holiday.

Nancy

