



2025-2027 VOL 2 FALL 2025

Magnolia Messenger

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2025-2027

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DIRECTORS CORNER

Fall 2025

Congratulations Magnolias!

It is a privilege for this Director to review the 2024 President's Reports. The only sad news is that only 14 club presidents submitted reports. Every club contributes to Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia with your activities. Hopefully, we will receive 23 reports for 2025. Each club has their own mission. Local activities are as important as activities like donations that focus on Garden Club of Georgia and National Garden Club projects. Take credit for what you do.

Our Magnolia Clubs donated \$2,824 dollars to GCG and NGC initiatives (does not include Scholarship donations). Club donations ranged from \$25.00 to \$350.00. Remember that much of this money is available to Magnolia clubs through GCG grants. Magnolias contributed to 15 different projects. The most highly supported project was Roadside Beautification. State Botanical Gardens, Blue/Gold Star projects, and Garden

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DIRECTORS CORNER continues:

Therapy all received 9 donations from Individual clubs. You can see a copy of the donation summary on the Magnolia District page of the gardenclubofgeorgia.org.

All reporting Magnolia District Clubs planted natives, supported pollinators, provided homes or food for birds and wildlife and distributed the Magnolia Messenger to Club members. These are all very important programs. If any Magnolia member is not receiving the Garden Gateways by mail or copies of Magnolia Messenger via email, you need to let your club president know.

The Magnolia Messenger is sent to all Club Presidents. Club Presidents need to send all messages from Garden Club of Georgia to all club members. The deadline for articles for Garden Gateways is September 15th . The theme for this edition is Recycling. You may submit articles to mwaldrich1@aol.com. The District Digs page in Gateways has limited space. Articles received that are not printed in Garden Gateways will be submitted to Magnolia Messenger for consideration. The Magnolia District Annual Meeting is coming up soon. We will be meeting at the beautiful Green Islands Country Club in Columbus on October 8th . See the enclosed registration form. All district committee chairs are encouraged to prepare a trifold about your program and submit a written report of activities. Clubs are asked to donate \$25.00 to Magnolia District or a basket worth \$25.00 or more for our raffle. These donations help to defray costs of Magnolia District activities. Themed baskets can be a fun club activity. Door prizes are also gratefully appreciated.

Fall is upon us. Enjoy the weather and plan to attend the Magnolia District Annual Meeting on October 8th . **Marilyn Aldrich, Magnolia District Director**

Magnolia District Co-Director Report

Magnolia Messenger - August 2025

MEMBERSHIP IS KEY TO GCG! That is a motto presented by Nilsa Summey when she served as Magnolia District Director. There are several ways to increase club membership. Invite your friends, neighbors, church members or anyone you know who might be interested in learning more about gardening. Share with them the things that you enjoy about your club experiences. We lose members every year so we must keep GROWING if we are to keep GOING! You may decide to share a ride with a perspective

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member, place an invitation flyer in your library, gym, church, grocery store. Publish your meetings in the local newspaper to encourage people in the community to join your club.

Additionally, you can increase the membership in GCG by providing SUBCRIBING MEMBERSHIPS to people in your community who have presented programs for your club, assisted in your club projects, shown concern for the environment or who have encouraged participation in community development. The \$25 fee and application are sent to the GCG Headquarters in Athens, and the recipient receives a certificate and the Garden Gateways for one year. They are eligible to attend meetings if desired. These memberships may be paid by individual members or by the club. This is an excellent way to involve more people who may later become active members of your club and should be renewed each year. Adding active members and subscribing members are recorded on the President's Report so this is a way to improve your score. Members are encouraged to go to the GCG website to learn more about what membership in GCG is all about. gardenclubofgeorgia.org. **Ann Howell, Magnolia District Co-Director**

MAGNOLIA DISTRICT NEWS

Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley Host Magnolia District Board Meeting



Marilyn Aldrich, Magnolia District Director, 2025-2027 Opens the August District meeting.

The Magnolia District Board meeting hosted by the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, was held August 12th at Masee Lane Gardens, Ft. Valley, Ga. Marilyn Aldridge, 2025-2027 Magnolia District Director welcomed board members, garden club presidents, and guest. Sandra Haga led the Pledge of Allegiance. The tables were adorned with blue and white tablecloths, and recycling materials along with fresh plants to promote the goals of the District Director related to recycling and planting flowers throughout the district in colors of red, white, and blue to celebrate the 250th birthday of America. The members of Magnolia Garden Club did a beautiful job of organizing and hostessing the Magnolia District Board Meeting!

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Photo left: Members of The Butler Garden Club, Butler and Reynolds, Georgia who attended the District Board meeting.



Photo right: Members of Village Green Garden Club of Byron, Georgia who enjoyed the meeting.

Cherokee Library Committee

August 12, 2025, Magnolia District Board Meeting

The Cherokee Library Committee promotes support for the Library that holds documents of historical nature for our organization. Each club is encouraged to take a field trip to visit this facility. Call and make an appointment for a tour of the library. Staci Catron would love to show off the library to all of us. **Martha Price, Chairman**

Three Basic Design Classes

Faye Frazier announced the need for 3 Basic Design sessions with 15 students each to be held in Sumter County with 5 classes in each session. The cost per person would be \$175.00. This cost would not cover the requirements needed for the design instructors.

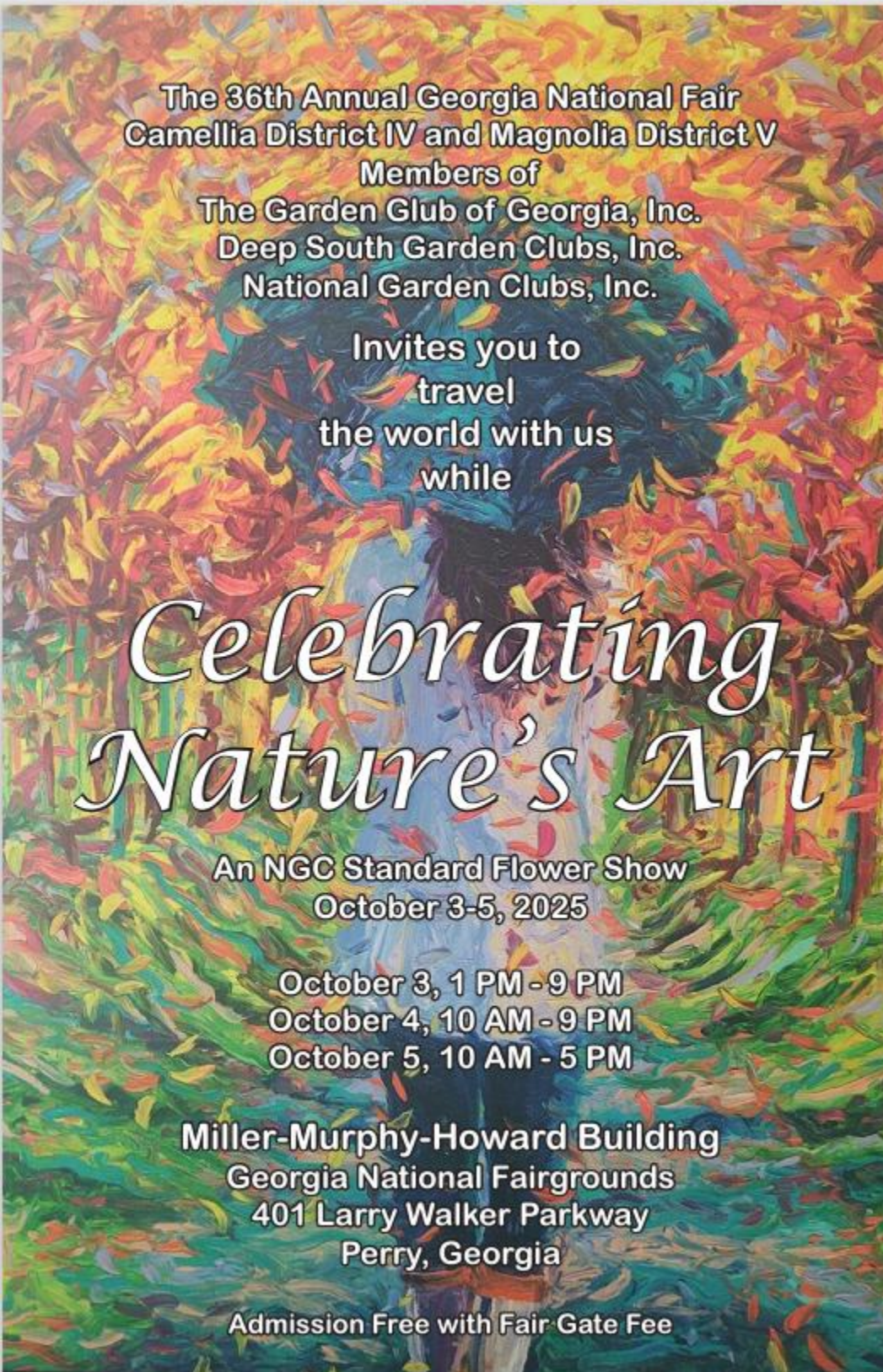


Faye Frazier, Magnolia District Basic Design Chairman

Therefore, Faye Frazier made a recommendation from the Basic Design Committee that Magnolia District subsidize the Design sessions by contributing \$400.00 to each session for a total of \$1,200. The recommendation was discussed and approved by vote.

Faye Frazier, Magnolia District Basic Design Courses Chairperson

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The 36th Annual Georgia National Fair
Camellia District IV and Magnolia District V
Members of
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Invites you to
travel
the world with us
while

Celebrating Nature's Art

An NGC Standard Flower Show
October 3-5, 2025

October 3, 1 PM - 9 PM
October 4, 10 AM - 9 PM
October 5, 10 AM - 5 PM

Miller-Murphy-Howard Building
Georgia National Fairgrounds
401 Larry Walker Parkway
Perry, Georgia

Admission Free with Fair Gate Fee

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Magnolia District

Cordially invites you to attend our

Annual District Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Coffee-Registration 9:30 am

Business Meeting 10:00 am

Green Island Country Club

6501 Standing Boy Road

Columbus, Georgia 31904

Honored Guest

Diane Hunter

President, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Featured Speaker

Justin Krieg

Historic Columbus Director of Planning and Programs

Garden Club Hosts:

Columbus Council of Garden Clubs,

The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus, Winchester Garden Club,

Green Island Garden Club, Brookstone Garden Club

RSVP September 26, 2025



Magnolia District Annual Meeting

Registration Form



Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Registration: \$45.00 Deadline: September 26, 2025

Coffee/Registration 9:30 A M Business Meeting 10:00 A M

Late Registration Fee: \$10.00 (Lunch not guaranteed)

Green Island Country Club, 6501 Standing Boy Road
Columbus, Georgia 31904

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Former State President	<input type="checkbox"/> District Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Council President
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Bd Member	<input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Club President
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Member
<input type="checkbox"/> State President	<input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest
<input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee at a Magnolia District Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/> New Garden Club Member

Send Registration Form and Check payable to Magnolia District for \$45.00. On the notation line write "Annual Fall Meeting." Mail registration form and check to: Janis Webb, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Contact Janis Webb (229-938-1451) at webb2048@bellsouth.net.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Your timely registration saves you a seat!

Register by Friday, September 26, 2025 to avoid a late registration fee of \$10.00.

PREPARE FOR THE MEETING

1. RESERVE EXHIBIT SPACE by September 26: State or **District Committee Chairmen** wishing to reserve exhibit space, **please email and send form with registration to:** Janis Webb, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Contact Janis Webb (229-938-1451) at webb2048@bellsouth.net or for information, Marilyn Aldrich (229-314-0892) at mwaldrich1@aol.com. Committee Chairmen, please try to have a Tri Board exhibit.

Name _____ Contact information _____

Chairmanship/Name of Display GCG Chairman () Magnolia District ()

Name of Display: _____

I will need: ½ table _____ 1 table _____

Please have the display set up by 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter.

2. MEMORIAL SERVICE: All Magnolia District **Club Presidents** and members, please notify Carolyn Culpepper, Chaplain of the names and date of the deaths of any members who have passed away since October 1, 2023. Magnolia District wishes to honor and recognize their service to your club.

Provide: Full name of member, birth and death year dates, Club name,

Carolyn H. Culpepper, Chaplain: carolyn.hartley41@yahoo.com: C:229-942-8649

3. WHAT TO BRING:

1. All **Clubs** are asked to send a check for \$25.00 made out to Magnolia District **or** a Raffle Basket as a maintenance fee. Checks may be made to "Magnolia District" and mailed to the District Treasurer: **Janis Webb**, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Thank you for your contribution.
2. **Raffle Baskets should have a Basket Name with a list of contents, value list completed and attached to the basket. Reserve space for basket with reservation.**
 - a. Suggested Themes: Christmas is For the Birds, Choosing Natives, Tailgating Time Is Here, At the Beach, etc.
3. Bring Pull Tabs to the meeting in a zip locked bag with your district, club name and number, weight, and local contact taped to the zip lock bag. Bring tabs to all meetings!
4. Please encourage attendance at this special meeting!

Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley

Fantasy Tablescapes 2025 at Masee Lane



On a beautiful Saturday, May 24, 2025, the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, Georgia hosted for the first time a tablescape show and competition in the Boehm Porcelain room at Masee Lane Camellia Gardens. It was a beautiful setting for gorgeous and unique tablescapes. **This was a fund-raising event to benefit GCG Scholarships, Masee Lane Gardens, and the Magnolia Garden Club.**

There were 14 tablescapes on display of which 11 were entered into competition.

The first-place winner was **Lori Simonton of the Warner Robins Garden Club** (photo left above), second place was the Butler Garden Club, and third place was Pam Weldon of the Butler Garden Club. A big “Thank You” to these winners and to all those who participated. It would not have been a huge success without you. And a big, big “Thank You” to our sponsors: Atlanta Sand, Genuine Georgia Group, The Perfect Pear, Bridals by Gilbert, and



Designer Lori Simonton and Winner of First Place Ribbon.



Tablescape Competition

Peach Mini Storage. The Magnolia Garden Club hopes to sponsor a similar event again next year, so be thinking of what you or your garden club could create as a beautiful and unique tablescape!!

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Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition

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Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition



Tablescape Competition

Mark Your Calendars

Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley to Host Flower Fantasy at Pineola on April 25 – 26, 2026

It's Official!! Please mark your calendars and come join us for another fun and exciting fund raiser event with a percentage of the funds raised going to GCG Scholarships. The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, Georgia will host its fourth Flower Fantasy at Pineola. The event is in the planning phase, and more information

will be coming in the next Garden Gateways and Magnolia Messenger. Look for more vendors, speakers and food trucks. And as always the home at Pineola will be decorated beyond your imagination and the surrounding gardens will be perfect. We hope you will mark your calendars now for April 25-26, 2026, for the Flower Fantasy at Pineola. Pineola Farm and Gardens are a historical landmark in Fort Valley, Georgia located at 1195 Taylors Mill Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.



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Magnolia Garden Club's News

Magnolia Garden Club of Ft. Valley



Post-refurbished Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker!



Blue Star By Way Marker usually unnoticed as it blended into the background.

On Wednesday, August 6, 2025, a re-dedication of a Blue-Star Memorial By-Way marker took place at Massee Lane Gardens. Blue Star Memorial By-Way Markers are sponsored by the National Garden Club and the Garden Club of Georgia. The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program honors all men and women, past, present and future who serve in the United States Armed Services. The program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944, as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of Garden Clubs (now National Garden Clubs, Inc.) adopted the program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. The Blue Star marker located at Massee Lane Gardens was placed there years ago and was in dire need of

being refurbished and placed in a more prominent place in the gardens. The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley took on the task of having the marker repaired and placed on a piece of pink granite with an additional plaque explaining the purpose of the marker as "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America". Massee Lane Gardens along with the Magnolia Garden Club chose a new location for the marker so that everyone entering the gardens will now be able to view the marker. We must never forget those who have served, are serving or will serve in the future. Freedom is never free!!

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Thank you to Gravestones by Rooks for refurbishing the old marker and mounting it beautifully on pink granite. And thank you to our sponsors; Blue Bird Corporation, Lane Southern Orchards, Genuine Georgia, Atlanta Sand and Supply, the Hedgpeth Family and the Yancey Family. Without their support this would not have been possible. Please visit Masee Lane Gardens and see the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in person. It is beautiful!! Photo right (L to R): Bess Hartley (First VP, GCG), Diane Hunter (President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., (GCG)), Sandra Haga (President Magnolia Garden Club, Ft. Valley, GA.), Jan Theiss (GCG, Blue Star Chairperson) and Delise Knight, member of Magnolia Garden Club and By-Way planning Committee.



Daffodil Garden Club of Albany



The Daffodil Garden Club organized a fundraiser at Tift Park, featuring plants, pots, and home accessories donated and propagated by our members. The event was a testament to our members' commitment, who braved the heat to show their support. Funds raised will go towards our nursing home project,



focusing on crafting items to brighten residents' rooms. A holiday gift program is underway, with deliveries set for November. Photo right above: Items for sale. Photo top left above: Club members working the fundraiser. Photo left: Club members braving the heat to raise project funds.

By: Penny Williams, Daffodil Garden Club, President.

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Camilla Garden Club of Camilla, Georgia

Camilla Garden Club members and guests attended Fancy Girl's Farm in Hahira on May 20th. Everyone enjoyed the meal, as well as shops and gardens. Definitely worth the trip! About the trip to **Fancy Girl's Farms**:

We took a walk in the beautiful garden while waiting for our seat. Shops include a market with fresh produce and flowers. Swings are around the fire pit to relax and enjoy the view. Restaurant served fresh produce, ample servings, and was absolutely delicious.



Bee Beautiful Garden Club of Stewart and Webster County

Sowing Seeds of Joy:

Stewart/Webster Bee Beautiful Garden Club Launches JV Garden Club for Youth In Stewart and Webster Counties, where fertile soil meets deep community roots, the Stewart/Webster Bee Beautiful Garden Club is cultivating more than just flowers and vegetables—we're growing future gardeners! Our newly established Junior Garden Club, affectionately called the JV Garden Club, is



thriving with more than 20 enthusiastic members, ages 8 to 16. Led with care and creativity by volunteers Brandy Duncan and Stephanie Cobb, the JV Garden Club meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Richland, GA. Over just four sessions, these young gardeners have already begun to sprout strong. Thanks to

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generous community support, the children have been able to dig in—literally! Omaha Brewing Company graciously donated \$250 in "seed money", helping to purchase tools and materials. A local member who wishes to remain anonymous donated an additional \$100. Bari Geeslin of Lead, Learn, Serve, LLC provided a copy of Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt to every child, introducing them to the wonder of gardening through story. Barrett's Tractor and Auto provided the mulch and gardening tools. To bring their hands-on learning to life, Mr. Guy Duncan ran all the errands to acquire the needed supplies for raised beds, Stewart County supplied soil, and the City of Richland offered a sunny spot near the adults' community garden for the children to grow their own vegetables and flowers.

This past Saturday, the JV Garden Club gathered, rolled up their sleeves, and constructed their very own raised beds—preparing for early fall planting with excitement and pride. Watching these young minds and hands embrace the outdoors, learn about the cycles of nature, and connect with each other and their community is a powerful reminder: gardening is more than a hobby. It's a tool for teaching patience, responsibility, and environmental stewardship. We're incredibly proud of our JV gardeners, and we thank all who have supported them. Together, we're proving that when you give kids a little dirt, a few seeds, and a lot of encouragement, they grow more than plants—they grow confidence, connection, and curiosity. Stay tuned—our JV Garden Club is just getting started!



Let this be a call to clubs across our Magnolia District: the future is outside digging in the dirt—let's invite them in.

The Dogwood Garden Club of Americus

The Dogwood Garden Club placed an exhibit in Lake Blackshear Regional Library during Garden Week in Georgia. The display consisted of succulent plants in a variety of shapes and sizes.



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Left to right: Club member Pat Booker and Cindy Williams, Dogwood GC Club President.



The table covering was an attractive cactus plant design. Club Member, Pat Booker and Club President, Cindy Williams prepared the display.

The Dogwood Garden Club recently started a Yard of the Month (YOM) project. A committee will identify and recognize an exceptional yard or garden each month by placing the Dogwood Garden Club Yard of the Month signage in their yard. The recipients for **June YOM are Lynne and Jimmy Anderson**. Lynne and Jimmy recently moved to Lynn's childhood home near Americus and are renovating the house and gardens. Lynne is the daughter of Rebecca McNeill, who was an active member of the Dogwood Garden Club, the Garden Club of Georgia and was well known throughout the state for her exceptional teaching and gardening skills. Rebecca was a flower show judge and widely respected for her knowledge of botany and botanicals. She worked closely with the Georgia Department of Transportation on the Georgia Roadside Wildflower project. Lynne and Jimmy are continuing the work that her mother started. They used the existing established gardens, brought plants from their previous home and have expanded and refined the flower beds. They are doing much of the planning and landscaping themselves. Lynn was surprised and ecstatic when notified that their location was



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chosen as the June Dogwood Yard of the Month. She exclaimed, "Mother is jumping up and down for joy!" Congratulations to Lynne and Jimmy for their hard work.

The **Dogwood Yard of the Month for July** recipients are **Joyce and Johnny Jones of Plains, GA**. Both are retired and work in their yard constantly. Johnny meticulously mows and edges, sometimes twice a week when it rains, and the yard shows their efforts. The couple shared with club members their plans to extend lattice work at the back of their property and put in Hosta plants. Members of the community expressed approval that Joyce and Jim were named Dogwood YOM, "They certainly deserve this recognition." When told that they were selected as YOM, the couple was thrilled! Congratulations to this hardworking couple.
By: Lisa Simpson, Dogwood Garden Club, Publicity Chairman



Azalea Garden Club of Columbus Honors Patriotism and Accomplishments

In May, Azalea Garden Club members gathered for a joyful and patriotic meeting,



marking a season of dedication, achievement, and celebration. In observance of the upcoming Memorial Day, the meeting embraced a red, white, and blue theme. Patriotic floral arrangements adorned the tables, and members dressed in festive attire to match the occasion. The meeting also celebrated the club's recent recognition at the 2025 Garden Club of Georgia State Convention, where the Azalea Garden Club earned several prestigious state-level awards. These honors acknowledged our efforts in civic beautification, environmental stewardship, and support for community wildlife. We are proud of these

achievements, which reflect our unwavering commitment to enhancing the natural beauty of our community—and are a *Master Gardeners at Columbus Museum's historic Olmsted Garden.*

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testament to what we can accomplish through collaboration and shared purpose. The atmosphere was filled with both pride and gratitude: for the recognition received, for the freedoms we enjoy, and for the vibrant community spirit that defines our club.

In addition to our local initiatives, some members coordinated educational field trips. Master Gardener members were invited to an educational presentation and tour the ongoing restoration of the ongoing restoration of the Columbus Museum's historic Olmsted Gardens. This special experience offered valuable insight into the picturesque landscapes designed by the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm, as well as a firsthand look at the thoughtful preservation efforts dedicated to this important green space. The Bradley Olmsted Garden features a diverse array of trees and blooms, including many natives to the South. Several of the garden's original plantings remain alongside new additions that align with its historic design. With something always in bloom, both novices and gardening enthusiasts can appreciate the picturesque landscapes crafted by the Olmsted Brothers firm. Winding nature trails lead visitors to key features from the 1920s garden, including a pool house and grotto.



Club members also enjoyed a scenic road trip to Masee Lane Camellia Gardens to attend the Fantasy of Tablescapes, an exquisite exhibit of



themed table settings crafted by talented floral designers and artists within the Magnolia district. From rustic charm to formal elegance, each tablescape told a story through color, pattern, and bloom. As we wandered through the gallery, we found ourselves oohing and ahh-ing at the creativity and



craftsmanship on display – each setting was truly a work of art. We left feeling uplifted

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and inspired to bring that same sense of beauty and joy to our own gatherings. Our garden club activities this spring reflect our mission in action: cultivating beauty, sharing knowledge, and fostering community—one garden, one gathering at a time.

The Butler Garden Club of Butler



Fun Tablescape by Sybil Willingham

Landscape and tablescape designs share many common elements. What is a tablescape, you ask. It is a beautifully arranged dining table with carefully coordinated linens, China, flowers, candles, art objects all centered around a theme. **The Butler Garden Club took part in Fantasy of Tablescapes** held at Massey Lane in May 2025 hosted By Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley.

BGC designed three tables. One table scoring third place entered by Butler Garden Club and designed by Pam Weldon had a dark woodsy theme with a log cabin in the center of the table, flanked by figurines of quail, feathers, and foliage. Pam's second table took second place designed in memory of Nan Thompson and Lula Mae Riley, both avid gardeners who spent many hours working in their gardens. Sybil Willingham's table had a whimsical theme captured the essence of Whitewater Creek Hunting Club with mismatched dishes, utensils, beverage holders, targets, camo, and orange clothing littering the table. The tables were varied and a delight to see. The event was for a good cause and was a huge success.



*Designer Pam Weldon, Blue Table in Memory of Nan Thompson and Lula Mae Riley, Winner of **Second Place Ribbon!***



*Designer: Pam Weldon, Woodsy Theme, and Winner of the **Third Place Ribbon!***

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The Beautiful View Garden Club of Buena Vista

Two Marion County Students Win National Awards

The Beautiful View Garden Club, a member of the Magnolia District is pleased to announce that two students who previously won awards for poetry in the Garden Club of Georgia youth contest and the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. contest have received notice that their poetry received honors at the National Garden Club, Inc. level.

Heather Fiscus, who has completed her Junior year at Marion County High, won Second place in the competition for the Eleventh grade. Heather's poem was entitled "Fruit Garden."

Taylor Minion, who completed the Fourth Grade at L K Moss Elementary, won Honorable Mention for the Fourth grade for her poem entitled "Sharing Veggies".

An article about both of these students and their poetry was included in an earlier issue of The Journal, our local newspaper. The latest honor was awarded at the recent National Garden Club Convention in North Charleston, South Carolina.

The Beautiful View Garden Club sponsors several contests each year for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. youth program. These contests are used to encourage the youth of the United States to become aware of our environment. The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. motto is **BEAUTIFICATION, EDUCATION, CONSERVATION**. The National Garden Club motto is: **"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."** By: Ann Howell.



Azalea Garden Club's Plant America Project

"Teamwork makes the dream work"



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Azalea Garden Club of Columbus Prepares Plant America Project with Sustainable Practices

As part of Georgia Gardening Week celebrations and our Plant America Jordan Vocational High School (JVHS) Courtyard Garden initiative, members of the Azalea Garden Club partnered with JVHS alumni and students to restore and revitalize the school's courtyard flower beds. The student group was composed of individuals from the work and vocational programs, the academic track, and even a few from the in-school detention squad! Together, we cleared overgrown ground cover and shrubs, tackled weed and stump removal, removed aging landscape fabric and pavers, and reshaped the bed outlines to breathe new life into the space. Photo above: (JVHS student members.)



The saying ***“Teamwork makes the dream work”*** truly captured the spirit of this collaboration. Students brought humor and lightheartedness to the grueling task at hand, turning it into a productive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. A highlight of the project was planting a native fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) in the courtyard—with enthusiastic participation from the students. The tree, affectionately named Carmen in honor of the school's crimson and gray colors, now stands as a living symbol of growth, renewal, and school pride. Azalea Garden Club members and JVHS alumni will rotate watering and caring for Carmen throughout the season to ensure she thrives. Photo above: Members of Azalea GC.



she thrives. Photo above: Members of Azalea GC.

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Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. News

2025-2027 President Diane Hunter Build Community through Beautification, Conservation and Education

What inspires you? Is it working with kids on a school garden? Cleaning up a derelict lot? Growing the perfect daylily? Beautifying your parks? Participating in conservation projects in your city? Educating students and the public about litter and pollution?

GCG's motto, Beautification, Conservation and Education, reflects your passions whatever they may be. It's all to the benefit of the places we love so dearly – our homes, our neighborhoods, schools, cities and towns. I can't think of any other organization that encompasses such a wide variety of programs to feed the souls of our members.



2026 GCG Convention

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
APRIL 1, 2, & 3, 2026
 For the
2026 GCG Convention
Peachtree City, Georgia
 as
GCG Celebrates America
 Hosted by
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. & Magnolia District

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GCG GRANTS' CHART

Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.			
	What it's for	Amount	Date Restrictions
Blue Star Marker Restoration	Restoration only	Up to \$500 per marker	None
Community on My Mind Grant	Any worthy civic project	Maximum \$200 annually	Must be started within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30. Appn. deadline 4/15
Garden Therapy Grant	Projects that encourage hands-on gardening by facility residents and/or patients	Maximum \$750 annually	Must be started within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30. Appn. deadline 4/1
Historic Preservation Landscape Grant	Restoration of historic gardens, public landscapes	50/50 matching grant up to \$3000	Appn. Deadline 8/1
New Club Grant	To assist in expenses for new garden club	\$100 per fiscal year for 1 st 2 years	Appn due by 4/10
Parks and Public Lands Grant	For clubs undertaking projects in public parks and/or public lands	Maximum \$200; project sent to DNR, PHSD for additional funds	Apply within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30.
Flower Show Grant	For clubs who have not held a flower show ever or in the past 5 years	Up to \$200 in matching grant	Appn 4 months prior to show

GCG has the Cash! Does your GCG Member Garden Club, have a Cash need for a Club project?

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG) is ready to assist your garden club financially with your project if you fill out the grant application and if your project matches the grant objectives ! GCG has eliminated most matching grants. GCG has made it much easier to apply, too. Please go to the details on the GCG website to get the right information. <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-grantsavailable/>

Grants are non-repayable funds provided by GCG if you are a member club for specific projects or initiatives that align with GCG's and the grant objectives. What is a Grant? A grant is a sum of money awarded to a GCG Member Garden Club to fund a specific project or initiative. Unlike loans, grants do not need to be repaid, making them a valuable resource for various garden clubs. Grants are typically awarded based on a competitive application process, where applicants must demonstrate how their project aligns with the goals of the grant program.

“Healthier Environment, Healthier You with Beautification, Conservation, and Education”

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY IN 2028!

Who doesn't like a birthday party? How about a party to celebrate 100 Years! Whew—that's a lot. It is doubtful I'll be here for the next big milestone 125th birthday, so why not make this one very special? This is where WE all come in...

Our 100th anniversary theme is: **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. –1928 to 2028**
"Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education"

In order to raise funds to help defray the cost of some of the events planned for our 100th Anniversary Celebration (to be held in Athens in June 2028), GCG has established the **Century Club**. GCG will need funds for the celebration itself: food, flower designs for headquarters house, buses if we offer tours to various sites, audio visuals, tents, etc. Also funds will be needed for supplies/display equipment for a traveling exhibit of our Georgia garden club history and former GCG Presidents oral descriptions of accomplishments during their respective terms.

We invite you to join us to celebrate GCG's big upcoming birthday by donating \$100 and becoming a **Century Club Member**. You will receive a one-of-a-kind Century Club lapel pin designating you as a Century Club Member. We are looking for widespread GCG membership participation, rather than just big checks from individual donors with deep pockets. We've got two years to collect funds but the sooner you donate, the sooner you will receive your special lapel pin to proudly wear!



Members who wish to belong to this club by donating \$100 will financially support the 100th Celebration and will receive certain benefits – the total list of benefits is still being determined; however, some benefits being considered are: early seating at certain events; recognition at events or in District newsletters and *Garden Gateways*; etc. The Committee welcomes other ideas that will not cost \$\$\$\$. This is a fundraiser! Depending upon how much we raise in this manner, will determine how much we can spend on the Celebration in 2028.

CHECKS: Checks for \$100 should be made to "The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc." with "Century Club" and the honoree's name (if not the signer of the check) and district annotated in the Memo area. Checks are to be mailed to: Barbara Bourque; 100th Anniversary Chairman; 6445 Holland Drive; Cumming, GA 30041-4641. **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Nilsa Summey & Janice Cliett
 Magnolia District 100th Anniversary Committee

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Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

The 2026 Deep South Convention

March 16-21, 2026, at Sea

Are you ready for some **FUN**? Are you ready for an **adventure** on the high seas? Are you ready for a **relaxing vacation**? All this and so much more can be found on the *novel* Deep South Garden Clubs 2026 Convention aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line “*Explorer of the Seas*”. Yes, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc is hosting **the 2026 Deep South Convention March 16-21, 2026 at sea** and is personally inviting YOU to join us. This will be a *first* for the DSGC and will be the only ZERO budget convention ever held!

This invitation is open to ALL garden club members, your family and friends—everyone is invited! Plan a family reunion, a girls’ trip, or a romantic get-away! Meetings for the convention will only take a few hours away from your cruise schedule, leaving you with plenty of time to enjoy tours and ship excursions, pool time, spa time, casino time and whatever makes you happy!

As you can see from the itinerary flyer, this 5-night Eastern Caribbean Cruise will have pricing **starting at \$599 (plus tax) per person, double occupancy for an interior cabin**. If you wish to upgrade to an ocean view cabin or cabin with a balcony, the price will be slightly higher. The price includes your cabin, all your meals, all entertainment and all DSGC meetings/workshops. Save your spot by making your reservation with a **deposit of \$200** to Shelley Atkinson, our travel coordinator. She can be reached at satkinson@funseas.com, or 850-386-7327, ext. 208. It’s so easy! An additional cost will include the daily gratuity for your service staff. The final payment isn’t due until 12 December 2025.

The ship will depart and return to **Port Canaveral, FL**. If you wish to drive or carpool down, there is a terminal **parking garage** available for a daily fee. If you wish to fly to Orlando, Shelley can help with flight reservations and with the shuttle transfer from Orlando International Airport to the port. She can help you time your arrival and departure so no additional hotel costs will be involved but, if you want to include a tour of the NASA Space Center or visit the Mouse on this trip, Shelley can help with that as well!

Yes, you will need some form of identification: a passport is preferred (Be sure to apply now: <https://travel.state.gov>), or a Valid Drivers License with the new star in the corner.

We have two at-sea days to hold our **convention meetings** and workshops in the onboard conference rooms. Optional workshops include short topics such as Awards, Parliamentary Procedure, Flower Shows, Horticulture, Membership, Fundraising, etc. presented by well-known instructors/experts from the 6 Deep South states. These will also be held on the at-sea days so it will not interfere with any port activities.

Imagine having your choice of 5 different chef prepared entrees, appetizers, and desserts instead of the single hotel selections you get at a convention! Imagine enjoying nightly shows

and top entertainment! Imagine having all your accommodations and meals paid for in one package deal! It all awaits you 16-21 March 2026 aboard “*Explorer of the Seas*”. Come join us!

If you have questions, ttuttle1954@gmail.com.

*Initial Deposit of \$200 due with final payment by 12 December 2025.
Check the details NOW!!!!!!*

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National Garden Club, Inc. News

The National Garden Club, Inc. **installed new leadership** at the 2025 National Garden Club, Inc. convention 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.

Donna Donnelly is the 2025-2027 NGC President!



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A native of Staten Island, New York, Donna and her family moved to a small pecan farm in Elloree, South Carolina, in 2001. Many sacks of pecans were harvested during those first few years, and in her opinion, there is nothing like a fresh-picked buttery pecan! Donna is the mother of three grown sons and Mimi to seven grandchildren. She was a Registered Nurse for thirty-eight years, specializing and RNC Certified in Labor & Delivery and Perinatal Nursing.



The President's theme for the 2025-2027 Administration is:

‘PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 Years!’

“Healthier Environment, Healthier You with Beautification, Conservation, and Education”

NGC's PLANT AMERICA:

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday In 2026 By Planting Red, White & Blue



National Garden Club's (NGC) PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants bring beauty, sustainability, and life to plant the seeds of lasting change to communities across the country. Since 2017, more than 250 grants have been awarded to NGC member clubs, totaling more than \$390,000.

Georgia has received more PLANT AMERICA grants than any other state totaling \$41,986! For 2026, we're going to continue our winning streak while we celebrate America's 250th Birthday by planting Red, White & Blue in Georgia's gardens--great and small. Plans are being made to capture your 2026 pictures of those red, white and blue gardens throughout all seven districts in a giant collage. So start planning those colorful and native gardens, adorning them with flags, banners, etc. More details will be coming your way, and now is the time to get those creative gardening plans going, so you'll be ready to highlight your patriotism within your private and community gardens. **Let's celebrate America's 250th Birthday in Georgia's style—Red, White and Blue!**

If you wish to apply for NGC Grants in amounts up to \$2,000, they can be for beautification and/or restoration; youth gardening; community gardens; landscape projects (including tree planting, could also include Habitat for Humanity plantings) and a horticulture or environmental educational event for the public. Go to the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org for general policies and application forms with instructions.

Applications are due by October 15, 2025, CDT; notices of awarded grants are given in December 2025 and the project must be started and completed within 14 months by February 28, 2027 and final reports submitted by April 1, 2027.

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>

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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!

August 20	2025	District Garden Club Treasurers Workshop	Zoom
August 22, 23	2025	Great Southeast Pollinator Census	https://gsepc.org/ Online information
September 10	2025	Garden Club of Georgia Fall Board Meeting 2025	Headquarters, Athens, Ga. www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org
September 15	2025	Deadline for Gateways article submission. Theme is Recycling, Reduce, Reuse. Submit to mwaldrich1@aol.com	Submit to mwaldrich1@aol.com
September 15	2025	District Garden Club Treasurers Workshop	AM and PM Zoom
September 24	2025	District Garden Club Treasurers Workshop	AM and PM Zoom
October 3-5	2025	Georgia National Fair Flower Show 2025 Oct. 3, 2025, 8:00am – Oct. 5, 2025, 5:00 pm Camellia and Magnolia District Flower Show	Georgia National Fairground and Agricenter, Perry, Ga.
October 8	2025	Magnolia District Annual Fall Meeting 2025 Wednesday, October 8, 2025: 9:00am – 2:00pm	Columbus, Georgia
October 15	2025	Plant America Grant Deadline	https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants
November 15	2025	Nov. 15th deadline for awards Application to Diana Malone, GCG Awards Chairperson Submit by November 15 to Diana Malone Awards Committee Chairman	THIS MEANS IN THE HANDS OF THE GCG AWARDS CHAIRPERSON: Not the District Chairperson!!!
November 15	2025	Magnolia Messenger Deadline	haglerkay@gmail.com and mwaldrich1@aol.com
February 5	2026	Magnolia District Board Meeting	Oglethorpe Garden Club Hosting, Oglethorpe, Georgia
February 22	2026	Arbor Day In Georgia	www.arborday.org
March 16-21	2026	Deep South Convention; Cruise at Sea: www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/convention-2026	Cruise, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line “Explorer of the Seas”
April 1-3	2026	Garden Club of Georgia Convention, Peachtree City,	Peachtree City, Ga. MAGNOLIA DISTRICT HOSTING

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April 24	2026	National Arbor Day	www.arborday.org
April 25, 26	2026	Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farm, Ft. Valley, Ga.	1195 Taylors Mill Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030

MAGNOLIA DISTRICT**Magnolia Messenger**

Kay Hagler,

P O Box 436, Buena Vista, Ga 31803

Telephone: Cell for text or voice

706 -566-8540:

Email: haglerkay@gmail.com**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

Magnolia District,

Member of

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.,

The Deep South Garden Club, Inc.

and

The National Garden Club, Inc.



“Healthier Environment, Healthier You with Beautification, Conservation, and Education”