

The Azalea Trumpet

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AZALEA DISTRICT-----

FALL, 2025

MEMBER OF: THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC., THE DEEP SOUTH REGION, AND THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB

Garden Musings from District Director Jan Stewart



Weathering the Summer

This summer has brought its fair share of challenges—persistent rain and sweltering heat have tested even the most resilient gardeners. While the original plan was to transform our vegetable garden into a vibrant flower haven for pollinators, the timing hasn't quite aligned. Still, the watering continues, and the ambition remains strong. The garden may not be in full bloom yet, but the intention is alive and well.



Hummingbird Haven

One bright spot has been the joyful flurry of hummingbirds. With four feeders in rotation, these tiny visitors have kept us entertained with their aerial acrobatics and tireless energy. It's been a delight to watch them zoom by, knowing they'll soon begin their journey south for the winter. Their presence has been a reminder of nature's rhythm—and the beauty of small moments.



Continued on Page 2

Musings from District Director Jan Stewart



District Highlights

Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of visiting several garden clubs and attending inspiring events. Each stop has been a reminder of the passion, creativity, and camaraderie that make our district so special. Here are a few highlights:

Union Point G.C. BBQ Fundraiser

A tasty event supporting the renovation of the Union Point Community Center. The club also applied for a GCG grant to fund landscaping improvements.

Leadership & Awards Workshop – Athens

Held at GCG Headquarters, members learned how to complete awards applications and participated in breakout sessions for club presidents,

treasurers, and parliamentarians. Emphasis was placed on boosting our digital presence—Facebook, GCG Website, and the Newsletter.

Community Wildlife Project Workshop—Forsyth

Led by Jean O'Shields (CWP Chair) and Molly Kilmer (CWP Co-Chair/AD CWP Chair). Diane Hunter, GCG President, welcomed attendees and district directors.

Blue Star Marker Restoration – Wrens

Hurricane Helene snapped the post, but the marker survived. Azalea District funded the replacement, and a GCG Restoration Grant covered half the cost.

Summer Board Meeting – Union Point

Held in the newly renovated Union Point Community Center—thank you to our hosts

The Azalea District Theme

*"Humming for Beautification,
Conservation and Education"*

HUM BUSY: With brave wings she flies, flying so fast.

HUM TRUE: The earth has music for those who listen.

HUM SURE: Bringing the gift of joy, learn to laugh and be happy.

HUM LIFE: Darting lightly, spreading of joy and beauty, teaching us to appreciate the nature's wonder.

HUM SILLY: There is no easy way to bathe a hummingbird.

HUM BOLD: Sipping nectar from every flower.

HUM BELIEVE: It's a great skill we all should learn: to believe in miracles in our life.

HUM HAPPY: Fly joyfully through my days, seeing beauty in everything.

HUM CONFIDENCE: Spread your wings, let your spirit soar, only from the heart can you touch the sky.

Celebrating Our Senators

Eight senators received a GCG Subscribing Membership from the Azalea District. A well-deserved honor!

October on the Road: GCG Fall District Meetings

As the season shifts, so does our focus. October promises a whirlwind of travel across Georgia for the GCG annual fall district meetings. Our itinerary includes stops in: Columbus, Brunswick, Dublin, Griffin, Athens, Atlanta and Rome

Each district visit offers a chance to connect, share, and celebrate the work being done across our communities. We look forward to the conversations, the gardens, and the inspiration that awaits.

To our Amazing Azaleas—your support and spirit continue to inspire. I look forward to visiting more clubs soon!

Azalea District Hosts Successful Workshop

By Ruth Hartzog

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., presented an entertaining and informative workshop stressing the Garden Club of Georgia's objective – beautification, conservation and education through leadership skills.

Information included how-to's on conducting a meeting, using an agenda, making motions and increasing club membership.

The group also presented a workshop on strategies for submitting a (possible) award-winning application that included a breakout session aimed at strengthening those skills by preparing a practice application. There were a lot of surprised members when they were then shown an award-winning application!

Along with the information imparted by the presenters, everyone enjoyed being together again and catching up, not to mention feasting on the yummy boxed lunch provided!



How to...: District leaders learned how to conduct meetings, how to increase membership and how to submit award applications. SUBMITTED PHOTO.

The Azalea Trumpet



The Editor

Blake Giles is the editor of the Azalea Trumpet. He is the past president of the Watkinsville Garden Club. He worked 34 years in the newspaper industry (remember those rolled-up pages they used to throw on your doorstep?).

Submission Guidelines

Send all information to azaleatrumpet@gmail.com.

Send events that you want included on the quarterly calendar.

Word files preferred, but other formats are acceptable.

Regarding photos, the bigger the resolution, the better.

Questions: azaleatrumpet@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition: Dec. 13

Azalea District Annual Meeting

Come One, Come All To Azalea Annual District Meeting

All garden club members in the Azalea District are invited to the annual fall meeting Oct. 16 in Athens at The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Headquarters.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 10.

Come for the Speaker

Keynote speaker Dorinda Dallmayer will speak on the travels of William Bartram. Dallmayer holds multiple degrees from the University of Georgia. After a long career in research and teaching at UGA, Dorinda retired in 2018 as director of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program. She is the immediate past president of the Bartram Trail Conference.

A devoted naturalist and writer, Dorinda received the 2005 Philip D. Reed Memorial Award for outstanding writing about the Southern environment. Her books include *Bartram's Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South* (Mercer University Press 2010; second edition 2019.) This anthology pairs William Bartram's classic from 1791 with essays by seventeen modern-day Southern nature writers. She also has served as editor and contributor to other anthologies focusing on Southern environmental history.

More recently Dorinda was the executive producer and screen writer for the award-winning documentary "Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels." The film premiered in 2020 on public television stations across the United States and remains available on the PBS website. Click the QR code to link to the video.



Soar like an eagle: Dorinda Dallmayer with a trained bald eagle at Worsloe, Isle of Hope, Ga.. SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Documentary
link**

If on your computer, enter the following into your browser so to view her documentary:
(pbs.org/video/cultivating-the-wild-arsdvf/).

Come for the Awards

An annual highlight of the meeting is the presentation of district Awards for:

- (1) Birds, Bees and Butterfly Gardening Programs;
- (2) Civic Improvement;
- (3) Flower Show Schedules;
- (4) Garden Therapy Projects;
- (5) Historic Preservation Projects;
- (6) Club History;
- (7) Lifetime Achievement;
- (8) Membership;
- (9) Native Plant Projects;
- (10) School Grounds Improvement;
- (11) Outstanding Garden Club;
- (12) Outstanding Member.



District headliner: The Azalea District Fall meeting will feature Dorinda Dallmeyer, executive producer of the award-winning documentary, "Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels." ONLINE IMAGE

Applications are due to Betty Hotchkiss at hotchkiss1@windstream.net.

Come for the Basket Raffle

Each garden club is asked to fill a basket with wonderful items which are raffled at the end of the meeting. Each basket must include a list of items in the basket and an approximate value. Any club not donating a basket should send a check for \$25 to District Treasurer Pam Hendrix.

Tickets will be sold before and during the meeting; winners will be announced before adjournment. Tickets will be sold as follows: five tickets for \$5; twelve tickets for \$10; and 30 tickets for \$20. Bring your cash and return address labels.

Come for the Exhibits

District committee chairmen are encouraged to reserve space for exhibits on the registration form. Displays can develop interest in district projects and help explain the work of the committee. Flyers and take-aways are always helpful. Committee chairmen are also encouraged to make a two-minute presentation regarding the work of their committee.

But Do Come

Registration is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Please indicate on the registration form if you have any dietary restrictions. For early arrivals, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6: p.m., "Dutch Treat" dinner at the Chop House, 2055 Oconee Connector, Athens, GA, 30606.

We will be Humming for Beautiflcation, Conservation and Education. Don't Miss the Fun!



66TH AZALEA DISTRICT ANNUAL FALL MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2025

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Headquarters

2450 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA

Registration Form: \$35.00 Late Fee \$5 after Oct. 4

Name

Name Badge.....

Phone Email

Club District

Emergency Contact Phone

Special Diet: (Please check): ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other

Check All that Apply:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ National Board Member | ☐ Former Deep South Director | ☐ Council President |
| ☐ Deep South Board Member | ☐ Former State President | ☐ Club President |
| ☐ State Board Member | ☐ State Emeritus | ☐ Club Member |
| ☐ National Life Member | ☐ Former District Director | ☐ New Garden Club Member |
| ☐ Deep South Life Member | ☐ District Director | ☐ Subscribing Member |
| ☐ State Life Member | ☐ District Board Member | ☐ First Time Attendee |
| | ☐ State President | ☐ Guest |

☐ My Club will donate a filled gift basket for the raffle. (Valued at \$50 or more)

☐ Or, my Club will send a check for \$25-\$50 to Azalea District Treasure Pamela Hendrix.

☐ As a District Committee Chairman, I want to reserve exhibit space:

Committee ☐ Half Table or ☐ Full Table

Please mail this form with check payable to Azalea District for \$35 to:

Pamela Lohr Hendrix, 1151 Thornwood Drive, Watkinsville, GA 30677-5342

Email: pamelalohrhendrix@yahoo.com

Cell: (706-474-0637)

Watkinsville Garden Club



Jane Bath Scholar: Addison Butler, left, was the second recipient of the Jane Bath Scholarship, presented by the Watkinsville Garden Club to a local student who is pursuing a degree related to horticulture, landscaping, environment, agriculture or ecology. She and her mom, Heidi, were able to meet Jane, center, who gave them a tour of her garden at the June National Garden week meeting of the Watkinsville club. PHOTO BY BLAKE GILES



Good times: Past President Blake Giles received a commemorative clock to celebrate his four years service as president. Club Historian Lois Kraeling made the presentation, while making some very kind remarks.. PHOTO BY MARY LILLIE WATSON

Second scholarship awarded

The Watkinsville Garden Club awarded its Jane Bath Scholarship to Addison Butler, a local student who will attend Berry College in the fall.

This is the second year that the club has awarded a scholarship that honors Jane Bath, a long-time member whose influence reaches beyond our club.

Pine Tree Garden Club

Bouquets of color for care-center residents

Celebrating National Garden Club Week, Pine Tree Garden club members created bouquets of flowers. Before the June picnic, members browsed their gardens to cut flowers meant to inspire and bring vibrant color to residents of Hart County's long-term-care facilities.

Pine Tree members filled more than 50 vases, featuring hydrangeas, along with an assortment of other colorful flowers. Residents of the Hart Care Center, BrookDale and the Hartwell Health and Rehabilitation homes were the recipients of these arrangements, designed to fill their areas with the club's love of gardening.

Other activities celebrating National Garden Club week included: Mayor Brandon Johnson signing the national proclamation recognizing the work of Pine Tree Club members for maintaining and showcasing various gardens within the city limits. During the council meeting, Peggy Tucker, past president of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., talked about the projects the club undertakes to educate the public about the positive aspects of gardening.



Milledgeville Garden Club



August Yard of the Month: The Milledgeville Garden Club has chosen the lovely property of Cate and Ray Wells as Yard of the Month for August. Since becoming the owners of their historic home fifteen years ago, the couple has gradually transformed the extensive grounds into a series of beautiful gardens and interesting features. Many varieties of shrubs and flowers as well as both large and small trees have been added over the years, creating areas of beauty and charm. The two are still full of plans for developing more spaces in the future. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Milledgeville Garden Club



September Yard of the Month: Oscar Waller says that he likes to stay busy. His beautifully kept yard is a testament to that. His yard was chosen as "Yard of the Month for September" by the Milledgeville Garden Club, Azalea District. After retiring from Georgia College and State University several years ago, Mr. Waller took another job with Northside Baptist Church just a few blocks from his home. His busy schedule does not prevent him from maintaining his lush lawn as well as lovely flowers and shrubs that can be enjoyed from his front porch and by those passing by. In his side yard he grows vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers, which he shares with friends. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Evergreen Garden Club



Worth marking down: Evergreen Garden Club members gather around a marker in the garden area outside the main entrance to the historic City Hall in downtown Monroe. SUBMITTED PHOTO

75 Years of Planting Deep Roots

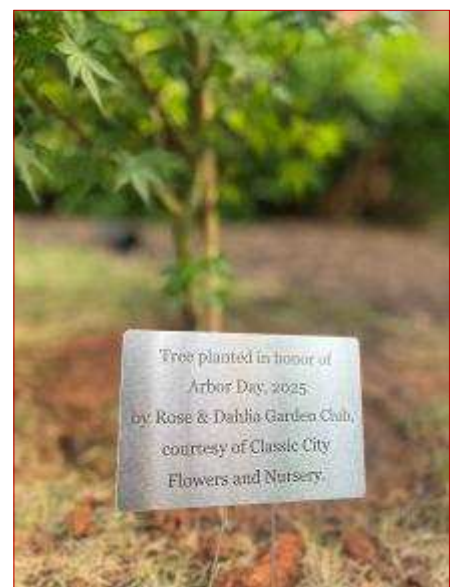
Members of the Evergreen Garden Club of Monroe gathered Sept. 3 in celebration of the club's 75th anniversary. The meeting, held at the Monroe Museum, included a display of the club's scrap books beginning with the 1949-50 club year. Members enjoyed seeing the beautiful and creative books depicting the organization's rich history. The event was followed with a visit to the McDaniel-Tichenor House, the 1887 home of Georgia's 52nd governor, Henry McDaniel. Here they enjoyed refreshments and toured the historic grounds and gardens. To commemorate this milestone, a granite marker has been placed in the garden area outside the main entrance to the historic City Hall building in downtown Monroe.

Rose and Dahlia Garden Club



Celebrate with a tree planting

Athens' Rose & Dahlia Garden Club celebrated the end of Garden Week in Georgia and National Arbor Day, April 25, with the planting of a tree in the heart of Five Points. The Park at Five Points, a lovely 1920s-era apartment building, was the perfect setting for planting a Japanese maple donated by Classic City Flowers and Nursery. Garden club members, a few spouses, and their children joined apartment residents and Five Points neighbors for the fun tree planting event. There were flags, themed gummy worm dirt snacks, and amazing weather as we demonstrated our commitment to enhancing our environment together.



Iris Augusta Garden Club

Flower Judges Give 'Glow' And 'Grow' Encouragement

Judges at a flower show in Augusta offered "glowing" praise and "growing" suggestions.

The Iris-Augusta Garden Club hosted the flower show Sept. 10.

Categories for entries were tapestry, mass, and line. Students who had completed the Basic Design course taught by Barbara Horner showed what they had learned about floral design.

Judges for the event were Betty Jackson, state president of the Garden Club of South Carolina and Jan Burch, first vice-president of the Garden Club of South Carolina. Karen Oliver, a well know master gardener and floral show judge in Georgia and South Carolina was the third judge. Entries were awarded blue, red, gold, and white ribbons.

Iris Club members viewed entries and were impressed by the floral designs of fellow members, many of whom had just completed the Basic Design class.

Designers were pleased with the comments from the judges who gave both a "glow" and "grow" observation. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and many of the designers are excited about entering another flower show.



Gray Garden Club



Awards, daylily display, plant sale, flower arranging, planters, cooking ... whew! We stayed busy!

Members of the Gray Garden Club had a busy, fun and productive spring and summer. In May we had our annual awards luncheon, hosted by Judy Comer, where we ate well and laughed well. We enjoyed catching up with members we had not seen for awhile. June brought us National Garden Week, our annual daylily display and plant sale and an incredibly fun morning making flower arrangements with the children visiting the Jones County Library's, "Color our World with Flow-

ers Day" as part of the library's summer reading program. July had the Civic Committee sweating away while re-planting our animal shaped containers at the Jones County Animal Shelter. August brought us Terry Wiggins who presented a program, "Growing and Cooking with Herbs," which was informative, entertaining and delicious as Terry shared her recipe for Bruschetta.



Front-page news: The front page of the *Athens Banner-Herald*, April 22, 1932, previewed the annual meeting of the State Garden Club of Georgia at Memorial Hall in Athens. In attendance was the president of the Garden Club of America, Mrs. William Lockwood, a former Athenian. What history of your club do you have? ONLINE IMAGE

Calling All Azalea District Club Historians: Send In Your Histories

By Lisa Wheeler

herbsandblossoms@gmail.com

Is your garden club celebrating a milestone year? Has your club made a lasting impact in your community through conservation, beautification, education, or civic involvement? Now is the perfect time to ensure your club's story is recorded and remembered!

We are inviting all Azalea District clubs to submit a written history of your club's origins, achievements, and ongoing projects. Whether your club is just a few years old or has been growing strong for decades, every story is a valuable part of our shared gardening legacy.

Why Submit Your Club History?

- ♦ Preserve your legacy: Documenting your club's history ensures that future members understand and appreciate the club's roots and accomplishments.
- ♦ Inspire others: Your successes may inspire other clubs and individuals to start their own projects.
- ♦ Recognition: Submitted histories may be featured in newsletters, websites, or archives.
- ♦ Contribute to state or national records: Help build a comprehensive record of garden clubs across Georgia.

Please send your history ASAP to: herbsandblossoms@gmail.com

Spotted Lantern Fly an Invasive Pest to Watch For

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect native to Asia that has spread across the East Coast over the last decade. Georgia is the furthest south the insect has reached with reported sightings in Fulton County, according to a release by UGA Today.

The insect is about an inch long with grayish wings with black spots and hindwings that have cream, brown and red patches. They usually gather in groups close to the ground on plants.

The fly feeds on over 70 plant species and prefers the tree-of-heaven which grows along roads, railways and areas with disturbed soil. It also feeds on hardwood trees, roses, hops, grapevines and stone fruits.

Black mold is attracted to the sugary fluid called honeydew that is secreted by the insect. This poses a threat to Georgia's agriculture, forestry and nursery industries.



Invasive Spotted Lantern Fly

First reported in Fulton County last fall, the insect hasn't been in Georgia long enough for researchers to study its lifecycle in the region. Researchers request people to report sightings in order to track seasonal patterns and its expansion throughout the state.

The population peaks from June to as late as November, so keep any

eye out for the insect over the next few months.

If you find a spotted lanternfly, researchers suggest that you kill the bug and report the sighting to the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force. For any questions or to learn more about the insect contact your local UGA Extension office.

Here Is How You Can Help Eliminate This Invasive Pest...

- ♦ **Regular Checks:** Inspect your trees and plants for signs of this pest, particularly at dusk and at night when the insects tend to gather in large groups on trunks and stems.
- ♦ **Close Car Windows:** Spotted lanternflies and their nymphs can enter vehicles unsuspectingly. When parked, make sure to keep windows closed. If possible, try to park 15 feet away from trees in a quarantine zone.
- ♦ **Check Your Vehicle:** Before leaving a parking lot or work site, inspect vehicles for eggs or insects. Check doors, sides, bumpers, wheel wells, grills, and roofs. If found, destroy any eggs or insects you find.
- ♦ **Winter Prep:** When preparing for winter, check your outdoor items for egg masses, including items you may bring indoors.
- ♦ **Destroy Eggs:** Look for egg masses in your trees (in particular, tree-of-heaven), bricks, stones, and other smooth surfaces. If you find eggs, smash them and scrape them into a plastic zippered bag filled with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol to kill them. Then, zip the bag shut and dispose of it in the trash.
- ♦ **Know Your Zones:** If you're traveling through a quarantine area, thoroughly check your vehicle and clothes to avoid moving the pest from a quarantine area to your land and other locations.
- ♦ **Inspect Items Being Moved:** If your business involves moving items, check shipping containers, propane tanks, pallets, and other items being stored outdoors before they're moved offsite. Inspect incoming goods for egg masses and insects.

Garden Club of Georgia Pointing to Centennial Celebration in 2028

The Garden Club of Georgia has unveiled its theme and logo for its impending 100th anniversary.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. – 1928 to 2028

“Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education”

There will be many events during 2028 to celebrate the centennial. Put it on your long-range calendar. The 100th Anniversary Committee will need funds to pay for the following:

- Statewide traveling exhibits
- Exhibits within each of the Districts – at libraries and other public places.

Garden club members can help defray the costs of celebrations in 2028. People who attend various functions will still need to pay something to register for bus tours in Athens, the reception itself in June at headquarters, or other events to be determined, in order to make a commitment that they are coming. The funds raised in advance will lower the ticket price of everything that year.

Any other events and projects in each district that will be developed by the committee. Therefore, in order to raise funds to help defray the cost of some of the events planned for the 100th Anniversary Celebration, GCG has established the Century Club. Members who wish to belong to this club and financially support the 100th Celebration may donate \$100 and receive a Century Club lapel pin (preliminary design above) and certain other benefits. The total list of benefits is still being determined. Other benefits being considered are:

- A beautiful acknowledgement card suitable for framing, possibly featuring watercolor artwork of GCG Headquarters.
- Early seating at certain events
- Recognition at events or in district newsletters and *Garden Gateways*.

Plus more.

Donations are being accepted now. Pins will be ordered over the summer and be distributed at the Fall District Meetings. Wear it with pride! The fundraising will determine how big celebrations can be. Your support is appreciated.

Get your order in ASAP to become a Century Club Member.

Make your \$100 check payable to GCG and mail along with the form below to:



Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman
6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641
b.bourque@comcast.net (404) 374-2828

I want to become a Century Club Member



Make your \$100 check payable to GCG and mail to:

Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman

6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641

b.bourque@comcast.net 404-374-2828

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email _____

Garden Club Name: _____

District: _____ Check #: _____

Azalea District Calendar

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting, GCG HQ, Athens, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 2026

Azalea District Executive Committee Meeting, GCG HQ, Athens, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 17, 2026

Azalea District Winter Board Meeting, Hartwell, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Peachtree City,

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

National Garden Club Convention, St. Louis, Mo.

TUESDAY, AUG. 18, 2026

Azalea District Summer Board Meeting, Milledgeville

THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 2026

Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting, Waynesboro.



District headliner: The Azalea District Fall meeting will feature Dorinda Dallmeyer, executive producer of the award-winning documentary, "Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels." ONLINE IMAGE

Garden Calendar

FRI., OCT. 1-4

State Botanical Garden Native Plant Sale, Athens

FRI., OCT. 1-SUN., NOV. 2

Scarecrows in the Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden

FRI., OCT. 3-SUN., OCT. 5

Georgia National Fair Flower Show, Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry.

FRI., NOV. 21-SAT. JAN. 10

Winter Wonderlights, State Botanical Garden, Athens