



The Oleander Leaflet

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

Welcome to this special edition of the Oleander Leaflets. We are excited to share highlights of the 67th Oleander District Annual Meeting which was held on October 9, 2025 at College Place Methodist Church in Brunswick, Georgia. The host committees consisted of Blythe Island, Cherokee, Hamilton, Jekyll, Live Oak, Magnolia, Sea Oats, St Marys and Urbana Garden Clubs. These clubs did an outstanding job preparing the annual meeting. Many of our clubs were in attendance and everyone had a great time.

This year's theme was "Enjoying Our Coastal Habitat". The program was presented by Charles McMillan and it was titled "Importance of Land Conservation in Coastal Georgia." Mr. McMillan, Georgia Conservancy's Natural Resource Director, on the board for the land Trust, Okefenokee Swamp Park, and the Coastal Advisory Council spoke on the continued importance of our land conservation in our coastal communities and the important part Georgia garden clubs can play in making a difference.



Our new District Director, Martha Cobb called our meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Many of the former district directors were in attendance as well as former presidents of the Garden Club of Georgia Inc. Our current president of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc, Diane Hunter joined Martha and together they held special presentations.



Followed by lunch and the business session, the Oleander District Awards were presented by Oleander Awards Chairman, Betty Benner and Co Awards chairman, Mary Ogden.



Oleander District Awards
Chairman Betty Benner and Co-Chairman Mary Ogden

Sara Lewis Award - to a member who has shown proficient achievement in the field of Horticulture.

No Applicant

Nelle Pope Horticulture - To a club or group of clubs that has the best project in the field of Horticulture.

No Applicant

Shirley M. Lewis Environmental Awareness Award - to a club or group of clubs that has accomplished the most in the Environmental field.

Pine Forest Garden Club

Mary Helen Ray Beautification & Historic Preservation - To the member or club that has made an outstanding impact in the area of Beautification & Historic Preservation.

Garden Club of Savannah

Martha Miller Butterfly Award - To the club or group of clubs that has made outstanding environmental contributions through planting and maintaining a Butterfly Garden.

No Applicant

Louise Stewart Membership Award - To the club that has recruited the greatest number of new members over the previous year's membership.

Wilmington Island Garden Club

Awards All Star - To the club that applied and/or won the greatest number of GCG, DSGC, and NCG Awards.

Brooklet Garden Club

Outstanding Youth Garden Club of the Year - Youth club programs should be balanced providing instructions in the areas of Horticulture, Environmental Education, and Conservation.

Brooklet Garden Club

Special Achievement Award - To the club with the most outstanding civic project furthering Oleander objectives and projects throughout the club year, or special projects not identified in another award.

Brooklet Garden Club

Oleander District Awards
Chairman Betty Benner and Co-Chairman Mary Ogden

Outstanding Garden Club of the Year - To the club receiving the highest score on the annual GCG President's Report.
Garden Club of Savannah

Outstanding Garden Club Member of the Year - To the member who has demonstrated outstanding service to garden related activities and civic improvement.

Gale Steves, Garden Club of Savannah



Congratulations Winners
Job Well Done



Oleander District Director, Martha Cobb gives her Director's report.



Garden Club Councils that earned Standard of Excellence Awards: Rosemary Mauldin, Council Chairman, Lisa Hall, Immediate Past GCG President; Mary Ogden, Wayne County Council President and Melanie Clark, Millen Garden Club Council President.



Garden Club of Georgia Board Members



Honor table 3 along with Charles McMillan, the guest speaker.



Seated at Honor table 1 are the former Directors Shirley Lewis, Genelda Reese, Winette Almon, Rosemary Mauldin, Hilda Rushing and Kay Peacock. Not Shown: Sherle Beck, Sara Lanier, Diana Malone, June Thomas, and Joni Thompson



Mary Virginia Keith, ODAM Co Chair gives instructions to the Oleander Members.



GCG President Diane Hunter and Immediate Past GCG President Lisa Hall recognize the clubs that have achieved the Standard of Excellence.



A record number of clubs achieved Standard of Excellence. These clubs scored 30 or above on the President's Report.



Tina Butler of Spartina GC accepts the Standard of Excellence certificate from Immediate Past GCG President, Lisa Hall



Odum GC had great representation at ODAM. L-R Sharon Herrin, Mary Ogden, President Debra Fenn, Harriett Cooper, Betty Benner. Back row l-r Kim Johnson, Bonnie Gordon, Angie Poppell, Sue Duhon, Delinda Pattie and June Thomas.



Glennville GC delegates are Margaret Barrhill, Brenda Crosby, Pat Tatum, Gail Rogers, Laura Potts-Wirth and Salena Alston



Brooklet Garden Club is represented by (standing l-r) Nancy Trapnell, Barbara Cromley, Joyce NeSmith, Donna Martin, Susan Mullican, Marie Woodward, Sandra Williams, (Seated l-r) Nancy Watson, Judy Walker, and Juanita Morton. Not pictured - Holly Cook



Springfield GC had a great group of representatives: Betty Waller, Linda Graham, Leitha Brazell, Lynn Stennett, Trudie Sapp, Beth Mosely and Jana Lee.



Jesup GC Club attendees; Jan Hediger, Monica O'Qinn, Helen Aberle, Barbara Prather. Not Pictured, Diana Malone and Martha Cobb.



St Marys GC delegates are back row (l-r) Trish McMillan, Marty Klump, Judy Molnar, Donna Davis-Speakes, Sally Post, Karen Widing, Janet Sullivan. Front Row (l-r) Frankie Law and Angel Bernier, President.



Winette Almon and Tina Butler represented the Spartina Garden Club.



Representing Windsor Forest GC: Elizabeth Watts, Kay Jones, Maia Petty, Rita Reames, Jose'Luis Medina, Irene Michaels. Not pictured: Shirley Lewis.



Diana Malone of Jesup and Seedling GC and GCG Awards Chairman.



Richmond Hill GC: Jan Davis, Jose'Luis Medina, Gloria Shearin, and Dee James.



Pine Forest GC of Baxley attendees: (l-R) Tommie Jean Ricketson, Susie Reed, Jedy Johnson, Carrie Kuester, Cindy Hatchett, and Kendra Spadoni.



GC of Jekyll Island is represented by: (clockwise) Stephanie Hooks, Audrea Newell, JoAnn Buisson, Susie Corbett, Debbie Evans, Judy Hartley, Susan Rodgers, Christie Kinsey, and Marlee Price.



Susie Reed of Pine Forest GC accepts the Shirley M. Lewis Environmental Awareness Award from Awards Co Chair Mary Ogden.



Brooklet GC captured the Awards All Star, Donna Martin, President, accepts the award from Mary Ogden.



Nancy Watson and Donna Martin of Brooklet GC receive the Special Achievement Award from Mary Ogden, Awards Co Chair.



Brooklet GC won Awards All Star, Outstanding Youth Garden Club of the Year, Special Achievement, and Youth Garden Club Standard of Excellence. Accepting the Awards, (l-r) Donna Martin, Judy Walker, Nancy Watson and Sandra Williams.



Green Thumb GC of Millen was represented by Melanie Clark.



(l-r) Priscilla Jordahl, Martha Cobb, Diane Hunter, and Mary Virginia Keith. ODAM Committee Co Chairs flank Oleander District Director and GCG President.



Magnolia GC of Brunswick, one of the hosts clubs, is represented by (l-r) Priscilla Jordahl, Shelley Laforte, Linda Flournoy, Pat Ingram, Connie Neiman, Pam Mathis, Karen Dwyer, Linda Hlozansky, Jean Strasser, and Martha Johnson.



Former District Directors, (l-r) Genelda Reese, Rosemary Mauldin, Hilda Rushing, Joni Thompson, Diana Malone, Martha Cobb, and June Thomas. Not pictured: Sherel Beck, Shirley Lewis, Kau Peacock. Sara Lainer, and Winette Almon.



Representing Sprig N Dig GC is Lori Hurlbaeus, Genelda Reese, and Hilda Rushing.



.Representing Rincon GC, (l-r) Brenda Helmy, Rosemary Tedesco and Gayla Kessler.



Special thanks To June Thomas, our Photographer. Thank you for always going above and beyond to capture the perfect photo. As always, Awesome Job!

