



Dogwood Dialogue



Christy Novellas

Dear Dogwood District Members,

We had SOME FUN at our Annual Fall Meeting in October 2025! All our preparations paid off and it was a thrill to see us in action. I am thankful to all who pitched in to make it an amazing day. If you had to miss it, we have some highlights in this issue of the Dogwood Dialogue. I hope you are able to make it next year!

Please let me know if your club is celebrating a milestone or if you have a special event planned. The Board of the Dogwood District and the President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc, Diane Hunter would love to attend.

With kind regards,

Christy Novellas



March 15, 2026 - Deadline to submit article/photos for Dogwood Dialogue Newsletter



SAVE THE DATE

Dogwood District Winter Board Meeting 2026

ALL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS INVITED

January 21, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Refreshments beginning at 9:00am and the meeting at 9:30am.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION:

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
The Harp STUDENTS Center, Room H105-1016
3180 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, 30305.

This building is BEHIND the Church across Mathieson Rd. Park in the Green Lot.





Dogwood District 2025 Fall Meeting Highlights

The 66th Dogwood District Annual Meeting was held on October 21, 2025 at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.

The host Garden Clubs consisted of Gardenia Garden Club, Greystone Garden Club, Mimosa Garden Club, Planters Garden Club, Peachtree Battle Garden Club and Rose Garden Club.

These clubs did an outstanding job preparing the annual meeting. Many of our clubs were in attendance and everyone had a great time.

**We were pleased to host our speaker
Sarah Carter, Vice President of Goizueta
Gardens and Living Collection at the Atlanta History Center**



Sarah is the Olga C. de Goizueta Vice President of Goizueta Gardens and Living Collections. She has been with Atlanta History Center since 2011 and has most enjoyed building this team and working with them all every day. She is responsible for the vision and development of Goizueta Gardens as a public garden destination and integrating the Gardens and Living Collections with all other facets of Atlanta History Center. She also serves as the Garden Designer and Curator of the Living Collections.

Our District Director, Christy Novellas 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 Christy and together they held special presentations.

Followed by lunch and the business session.

We gave out Door Prizes, participated in Raffling Baskets donated by the Garden Clubs and amazing Center Pieces.





**Our Dogwood District Awards Chairman, Debbie Vann
announced our Annual Dogwood District Awards.**

Winter 2025



The JoAnn Jones Award -
Pine Tree Garden Club



The Dynamic Dogwood -
Susan Frenzel, Spalding Garden Club



Dogwood Woman of the Year -
Monica Bozonier, Country Hills Garden Club



Dogwood Club of the Year - Norcross Garden Club



Attendance at the District Meeting -
Magnolia Garden Club

Ronald Pull A Tab Program - Country Hills Garden Club





**SAVE THE DATE:
THE 2026 FALL DISTRICT MEETING
WILL BE WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 7, 2026 - MEETING LOCATION
AND SPEAKER TBD**

ALL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

We welcome our 2026 Host Garden Clubs

Boxwood Garden Club

Cherokee Garden Club

Habersham Garden club

Ivy Ridge Garden Club

Northwood Garden Club

Peachtree Garden Club

Pine Tree Garden Club



Ronald McDonald Tab Tops

DOGWOOD CLUBS WE NEED YOU!!!

Collecting Pop-Tops is an easy way to support the GCG Pull-a-Tab project for Ronald McDonald Homes.

YOUR CLUB COULD WIN THE DISTRICT AWARD FOR 2026!

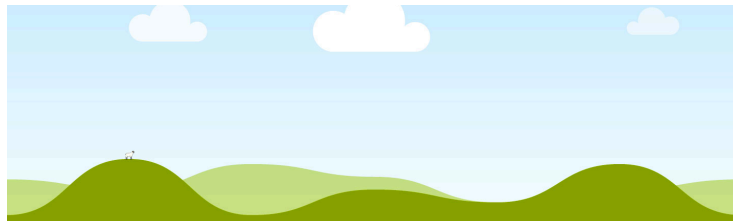
Bring your Pop-Tops to the Dogwood District Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

at the Fulton Federation Meetings,

Monday, January 12, 2026 or Monday, March 9, 2026.

Need more info? **[Click here](#)** or click below for a:

Pattern to make a Ronald McDonald Collection House



Fulton Federation Meeting Dates:

All regular meetings are held at
Northside Drive Baptist Church - Art
and Soul Room, Location: 3100
Northside Dr. Atlanta 30305
Refreshments at 10:15 am with meeting
at 10:30.

Monday, March 9, 2026 All about
Hummingbirds and Pollinator Plants
Speaker Melanie Furr

Monday, May 4, 2026
Annual Awards Luncheon
The Taming of a Few: Wild Native Plants
in Your Garden
Speaker Mark Warren
This event is at Bellmere Garden House
10777 Bell Road, Johns Creek, GA 30096
Registration at 10:30 with program and
Lunch 11am-2pm



Garden Club of Georgia Week

April 19-25, 2026

Third Full Week in April

National Garden Club Week

June 7-13 First Full Week
in June



Other Important Dates:

Winter 2025

Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser 2026

Dublin, GA Dublin, GA, United States

The Erin Garden Club

invites you to save the date for the Irish Ramble on Bellevue.

Touring Historic Homes, Churches, and more in Dublin, Georgia.

Saturday, March 28, 2026 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hosted by the Camellia District to benefit the Garden Club of Georgia's

Historic Landscape Preservation Grant.

April 17-18, 2026

The Garden Club of Savannah Hosts

NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens

This year's theme is Savannah's Gardens: Southern Garden Party

<https://gardenclubofsavannah.org/>

This special Tour unlocks the garden gates of selected private gardens and historic gardens for self-guided exploration. Ticket holders will enjoy springtime gardens located in Savannah's Landmark Historic District, which is the largest in the United States. All the gardens are located in the area North of Gaston Street (NOGS) to the Savannah River.

March 16-21, 2026

Deep South Garden Club Convention 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.

<https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/convention-2026>

April 1-3, 2026

The Garden Club of Georgia 2026 98th Convention

We are excited that registration for the

Garden Club of Georgia's 2026 Convention has begun.

The convention program information is available in the Winter Issue of The Garden Gateways and will be posted on the GCG website this week. Additional information on the speakers and their topics and the two floral design workshops will also be posted to the website.

Condolence Procedure

The Dogwood District asks that you let us know if a garden club member has passed so we may reach out to the family with a card and honor them at our memorial service. We would like to know the name, garden club with city and the mailing address of the family.

Please send this information to our Corresponding Secretary,
Ginny Wolf at vjwolf@comcast.net



Ama-Kanasta Garden Club on the Road!

Ama-Kanasta members enjoyed two field trips this fall. First they experienced the fall beauty of the Atlanta Botanical Garden on a glorious day in November. The special exhibit of Enchanted Trees by Poetic Kinetics and the Christmas decorations enhanced the visit.

In December the club visited Dunaway Gardens in Newnan. Keith Robinson was the perfect host and regaled guests with the extensive history of the gardens and the exciting plans for the future. He instructed Ama-Kanasta members in making a wreath with beautiful cut greenery and served a delightful lunch. The visit ended with an informative tour of the property. Ama-Kanasta members are excited about the upcoming additions to this beautiful nearby property!

1. Atlanta Botanical Gardens visit



Dunaway Gardens wreath making workshop



Fabulous finished wreaths



The Country Hills Garden Club (CHGC)

Winter 2025

COUNTRY HILLS GC had their annual Christmas Host House Fundraiser on December 6 - 7, 2025 at the home of Monica Bozonier.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

As usual, the over the top decorations were amazing and did not disappoint. The main color featured in the decorations this year was red. The CHGC members decorated each room with red and another color. The kitchen was decorated in a spectacular red, white, and blue design to pay tribute to the National Garden Club's 250 year celebration project of red, white and blue set by Nilsa Summey.

Everyone who attended had a chance to visit and had a great time. CHGC would like to thank everyone who donated paper products or a monetary donation to make this fundraiser a success.. Again, thanks.

Happy Holidays to everyone.



Town and Country Garden Club of Douglasville

had one more Yard of the Month Contest for 2025. Cindy Liggett was our winner on October 25th and I'm sure you'll enjoy seeing her beautiful yard and Koi pond. The weather had cooperated so everything was still lush and green and producing fruits.

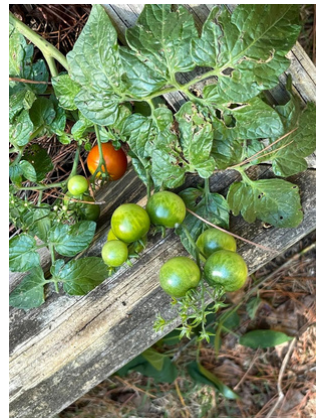
Our garden club also showcases a monthly flower with a little background info on the flower.

The Pansy was our November featured flower. They are derived from the hybridization of the European Johnny-jump-up. The primary meaning of pansies is "think of you" derived from the French word pensée for thought. They also widely symbolize love, remembrance, and admiration.

The Poinsettia is the showcased flower for December. The Aztecs in Mexico is where the poinsettia originated. It was used for its red bracts for dye and its sap for medicine and called it cuetlaxochitl. It was introduced to the U.S. in 1825 by Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, which is how it got it's name. Originally sold as cut flowers, it was the Ecke family's work in the 20th century that helped popularize the poinsettia as a potted plant for Christmas. The shape of the red and green leaves resemble a star, and is said to represent the Star of Bethlehem.

We also enjoyed our 3rd annual Christmas tour of homes this year on December 2nd which is a wonderful way to have everyone together one last time before we all become so busy preparing for Santa.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and look forward to safely ringing in 2026.



Winter 2025





Camellia Garden Club had their annual holiday luncheon at Bellini Osteria Toscana Dec.9. Per the club's tradition, members sang carols, fought over a White Elephant gift exchange, and provided toiletry gift bags for the residents of the Roswell Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.



Camelia Garden Cub decorated the Maddox mausoleum at Oakland Cemetery for their Holiday Spirit event. From left to right: Debbie Herzig, Meg Prince, Mary Lou Williams, Janice Gordon, and Laurel MacKenzie.

Donates on Giving Tuesday! The Sadie G. Mayes Health and Rehabilitation Center graciously accepted our donation on Giving Tuesday.

Pictured are Jenelle Wilson, Gerri Cooper (SGMH&RC Exec. Dir.) and Brenda Hewitt.



Artistic Dogwood Garden Club also attended Garden Lights, Holiday Nights at Atlanta Botanical Gardens! Our club member, Tamela, graciously extended invitations and jump-started our holidays. We were dazzled by the garden lights and great fellowship. Pictured are Brenda Hewitt, Tamela Williams, Tarsha Hall and Sharlonne Smith.



MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB

The Magnolia Garden Club of Atlanta commemorated its 90th anniversary during the November meeting, graciously hosted at the home of Mrs. Susan Dutson. The gathering featured an array of festive elements, including party hats, balloons, a homemade luncheon, and a collaborative floral design project.

The program's highlight was a segment where members shared cherished memories, significant events, and memorable trips spanning the club's decades of history. The club was honored by the special attendance of Mrs. Meredith Johnson, an honorary member and the granddaughter of Mrs. Adele Harper, one of the founding members, who contributed personal reflections.

The Magnolia Garden Club looks forward with anticipation to its next 90 years.



Spalding Garden Club

Spalding Garden Club's co-presidents, Lynda Schermerhorn and Clare Schelhammer, were pleased to present former garden club president Susan Frenzel with the Dynamic Dogwood Trophy at the club's October general meeting.

During her 2023–2025 term, Susan initiated and supported numerous projects and partnerships that strengthened the club's role within the community. Under her leadership, she inspired the club's membership to expand its educational outreach and fostered collaborations that reflect and uphold the ideals of the Dogwood District.



Indian Creek Garden Club

Indian Creek garden club had an outreach/meeting September at Calvin Court ast living.

The members brought small plants they had rooted, flower arrangements, wreaths, etc. to share with the residents for their apartments. Our members brought a tasty brunch that all enjoyed as 4 of our talented members presented mini programs (identifying and enjoying ferns, how to make a pot man, all about Tussie Mussies from her book and caring for ur houseplants)Monica Boozier closed our program with her own gardening history and enthusiasm!Everyone had a splendid day of learning, fellowship, giving and Fun!



Ama-Kanasta raises scholarship money with fun and fashion!

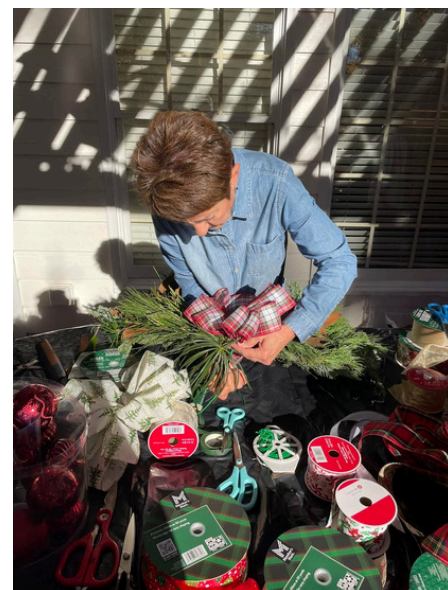
Ama-Kanasta Garden Club in Douglasville raised over \$11,000 for Garden Club of Georgia scholarships and community projects at the “Petals & Poses” fashion show on April 17 at Sunset Hills Country Club. Ama-Kanasta members and friends modeled the stylish fashions and sassy shoes and accessories which were provided by Dillard’s at Arbor Place Mall. Since 2011, Ama-Kanasta has funded a \$1,000 named scholarship for GCG. In addition, the club has sponsored scholarships for local students pursuing a horticulture-related field.



Johns Creek Garden Club

The Johns Creek Garden Club along with the Dogwood District Garden Club hosted an evening at the home of Luann Heslin in Johns Creek with Nathan Wilson from New Southern Gardens on Tuesday, November 11 who discussed "Gardening over the Winter using Regenerative Landscaping Techniques". Nathan was a wealth of knowledge and gave lots of interesting information!

The Johns Creek Garden Club hosted a Mailbox Hugger event on Sunday, November 23, hosted by Luann Heslin who guided the attendees on how to assemble mailbox huggers. This was an awesome event! Each attendee was able to take home their own mailbox hugger.



Roswell Garden Club Spreads Holiday Cheer Through Community Projects
Bringing Warmth, Color, and Joy to Roswell This Holiday Season
Celebrating the Spirit of Giving

As the holiday season arrives in Roswell, the Roswell Garden Club once again showcases its dedication to community and kindness. This year, members have come together to brighten the lives of neighbors and friends through a variety of creative and heartfelt projects. From crafting stunning centerpieces to decorating festive trees for children, the club's efforts are a testament to the power of giving and the joy of the holidays.

Centerpiece Project: Bringing Beauty to Adult Recreation Center Lunches

One of the club's signature holiday projects is the creation of 70 unique centerpieces for the Adult Recreation Center's holiday lunches. Each arrangement is lovingly crafted with attention to detail, featuring seasonal greenery, vibrant ribbons, and cheerful accents. These centerpieces transform dining tables into festive gathering spots, making every meal feel special and welcoming for those who attend.

Happy Sacks Initiative: Spreading Smiles with Meals on Wheels

The spirit of giving continues with the Garden Club's Happy Sacks initiative. This year, members assembled 50 Happy Sacks filled with thoughtful goodies and holiday treats for Meals on Wheels recipients. These bags, brimming with joy and practical items, are designed to bring extra cheer and a sense of connection to those who may be spending the holidays at home.

Each Happy Sack is a small reminder that someone in the community cares.

Decorating the Adult Recreation Center: A Kaleidoscope of Cheer

To further enhance the holiday atmosphere, the club decorated the Adult Recreation Center with bright, cheerful colors and festive touches at every turn. From garlands and bows to sparkling ornaments, each element was chosen to create a warm and inviting environment. The decorations not only uplift spirits but also foster a sense of togetherness among center visitors, staff, and volunteers.

Mantels and Wreaths: Crafting a Cozy Holiday Ambiance

No holiday is complete without the traditional charm of mantels and wreaths. The Roswell Garden Club's members spent countless hours crafting and hanging beautiful wreaths and decorating mantels throughout community spaces. These handcrafted pieces feature a blend of classic and modern styles, adding comfort and elegance to every corner they adorn. Their work ensures that every guest

feels right at home during the festive season.

Tree Decorating for Santa: Magical Memories on Roswell Town Square

Perhaps the most enchanting project of all is the club's tree decorating extravaganza for Santa's visit. Members decorated six dazzling trees, as well as three sparkling trees on the Roswell Town Square Gazebo. These trees serve as a magical backdrop for children waiting to meet Santa, their twinkling lights and playful ornaments capturing the wonder of the season. The club's efforts make the experience unforgettable for Roswell's youngest residents.

Conclusion: Uplifting the Community, One Project at a Time

The Roswell Garden Club's holiday projects are more than just decorations—they are expressions of love, unity, and generosity. Through their creativity and hard work, club members foster a spirit of joy that resonates throughout Roswell. As neighbors gather, meals are shared, and children smile beneath the glow of holiday lights, the club's impact is felt by all. This season, their dedication reminds us of the true meaning of the holidays: coming together to celebrate, support, and uplift one another.

Happy Holidays
Roswell Garden Club Elves



Gardenia Club Fall & Holiday Luncheon

In November the Gardenis Club program chairman's MaryLewis Preston & Ansley Zeitler had a fun program to test our our Club's artistic abilities.

Susan Loft who had a large craft school at Lake Oconee and now lives in Atlanta was our instructor.

In December, we had our Holiday Luncheon at Cross Creek and enjoyed just being together.

Attending the luncheon from left to right:

Ansley Zeitler, Joyce Doyle, Pam Parlier, Wendy Chambers, Carol Grady, Marianne Hickey, Jane Thrash, Joan Dana, MaryLewis Preston & Nancy McCarty.

Susan with the finished bookmark.



The finished bookmark are from left to right: Joyce Doyle, Susan Hewitt, Tricia Straessle, Nancy McCarty, MaryLewis Preston, Pam Parlier, Marianne Hickey and Susan Loft our instructor.



SPALDING GARDEN CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS



Pine Center Garden CLub

Pine Center Garden Club is bringing Thanksgiving cheer to deserving families in the City of Atlanta during the holiday season.



Suwanee Garden Club, Founder's Fireside Fun Holiday Party

SGC's first holiday party, Founder's Fireside Fun Party was dedicated to raising money for Plant America. We raised \$200 for Plant America. 🇺🇸

We also had a nice evening getting to know one another. Roasting marshmallows, eating s'mores, and having a little Christmas cheer. Gardener's Grab a Gift game was fun. Like a white elephant only the garden variety.

Don Jose Taco Bar catered our dinner making the evening quite the fiesta.

Suwanee Garden Club now has 26 members and our next meeting is being held at Suwanee City Hall Council chambers room on January 13th. (2nd Tuesday of each month). We are preparing our project for Garden Week in April which is 2 Pollinator Gardens for Town Center. We are so pleased to have 2 council members in our club. Both reelected to Suwanee council, Linnea Miller, and Beth Hilscher. They, along with Bill Stinehart, Suwanee's Environmental Manager will be our liaisons with the city of Suwanee to accomplish some conservation and beautification projects for our City. We are all excited to get started in 2026.



Spalding Garden Club and Sandy Springs Garden Club

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2025 a Blue Star Marker was unveiled and dedicated at Sandy Springs Veterans Park. Despite the cold, there were more than 100 people in attendance for the moving ceremony.



Denise and Dennis Duncan with Blue Star Co-Chair Susan Frenzel and members of Spalding Garden Club

North Springs High School Color Guard Team, presenting the colors for Blue Star Ceremony

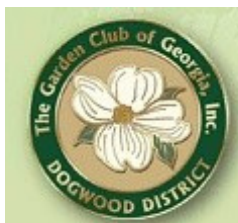


Co-Chairs Susan Frenzel and Carrie Grayson with Sandy Springs Veterans Park Blue Star Memorial Markerf

Lee Dunn, former Spalding President and Dogwood District Director with Chris Adams, former Sandy Springs Garden Club President and Dogwood District Director presenting Tribute of Flowers created by the Co Chairs.



Members of the Spalding Garden Club attending the ceremony in Sandy Springs Veterans Park





Unsung Heroes

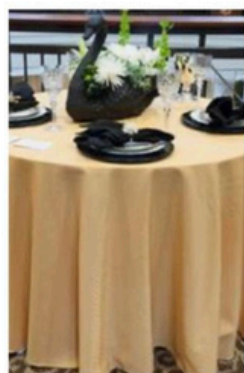
Ama-Kanasta Garden Club has two Unsung Heroes that deserve recognition. Susanne Hudson and Jeri Farmer led our club as well as other Garden Clubs in Douglas County and the County Master Gardeners by organizing and planning the Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival and Flower Show for 16 years.

Susanne a personal friend of Penny McHenry, the founder of the American Hydrangea Society, received permission from Penny's family after her death to name the festival in her memory. She and Jeri both went on to create a Festival that received state and national attention bringing tourists from many states and some foreign countries to experience a wonderful horticulture experience that included beautiful garden tours, award winning Near-Club Standard Flower Shows, horticulture vendors, and fun parties.

Their efforts brought joy to our community and welcomed visitors from near and far to experience the beauty of our county in full bloom. They are truly our unsung heroes!



2008-



2024



Susanne Hudson and Jeri Farmer- Founders of the Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival held in Douglas County, Dogwood District



Norcross Garden Club celebrates two garden members behind our success.

Jeannette Shewbert

If Norcross Garden Club were a garden, Jeanette Shewbert would be everywhere at once, pulling weeds, dividing plants, mulching beds, and somehow still finding time to write the newsletter, TWIG (This Week in the Garden). As our corresponding secretary and official news pollinator, she makes sure nothing and no one gets overlooked. Thank you Jeanette, you have been tending this garden for many seasons, and we all thrive beautifully because of your smile and generous spirit.

Sue Wyatt

Sue Wyatt is our treasurer extraordinaire and we mean extraordinaire. For many, many years she has kept our books balanced, our records straight, and the rest of us out of trouble. Thanks to Sue's careful attention and steady hand we always know where everything is planted. Her dedication and reliability give us peace of mind and plenty to be grateful for. Thank you Sue, while the rest of us see rows of confusing numbers, you see neat little sprouts.

During our yearly plant sale both of these ladies are usually ALWAYS at the sale with Sue taking in the cash payments and Jeanette running the electronic payments.

Both of them would be hard to replace.



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