

Welcome to The Camellia Connection

Bringing Our Love and The Beauty of Gardening...
to our Middle and South Georgia Communities!

District IV of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc ~ Winter 2026 Issue

Thank you for opening and reading through our Camellia District Winter Newsletter! There is so much going on... so many opportunities... so please grab your calendar, a cup of hot cocoa, tea, or coffee, find a comfy chair or couch to relax on, and get ready to send that text or make that call to invite and plan out some fun days together gathering with garden friends near and far!



What happened to the end of 2025?! October thru January 2026 is like a blur! Camellia District members were so involved with the Camellia and Magnolia Districts Flower Show at the Georgia National Fairgrounds the first week of October, and approximately ten days later, our Annual Meeting! It was wonderful having seasoned members right alongside newer members working, volunteering, laughing, having a joyful time, and sharing ideas side by side making both events a true success! Thank you to all involved! Speaking of Flower Shows...would you like to learn more about the planning, Horticulture, Designs, rules, and possibly being a Flower Show Judge, which we need more of...? Then be sure to check out all the details in this newsletter!

January may have seemed quiet; however, you will see throughout this edition of the Camellia Connection, there has been a lot of planning for our Camellia District in 2026! Garden Club Presidents have been reviewing January –December 2025 to complete the **President's Report (due February 15, 2026)**, as well as researching and compiling their club's history to send to Anita Allen. Plans continue for the 100th Celebration of Garden Club of Georgia in 2028, and each District was asked to identify a **District wide project** in celebrating the "100" Anniversary of GCG. Our **Camellia District** project is "Pollinator Gardens!" Please see the second to last page of our newsletter for details... we are so excited!

It is **Scholarship Donation** time in The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Please send in your Dollars for Scholars, (minimum \$1 per member), Patron of Scholarship (\$200), and Named Scholarships (minimum \$1,000). Be sure to complete the form and follow mailing instruction. Please visit the Garden Club of Georgia website on "How to make your donation today". **Submit your donations by March 1st!**

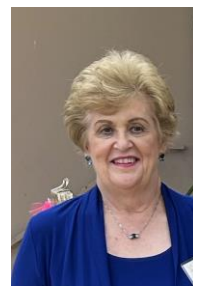
www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-scholarships/

The Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fundraiser, in which Camellia District is hosting, is going to be held in Dublin, Georgia March 28th! Be sure to check out all the information in this Camellia Connection edition, including how to purchase tickets and even a QR code to purchase it right now! Remember, tickets purchased by March 10th receive extra 'specials' that are not guaranteed after that date. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me with your contact information which will be passed on to the Erin Garden Club planning committee.

Last but not least, please plan on joining us for the Board Meeting in Quitman, February 24th! You will hear about all the above information and more! Remember, Council Presidents, Club Presidents, Committee Chairmen, and District Officers vote on Camellia District matters. It is your chance to hear, have a voice, and vote for Camellia District.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, February 24 in Quitman!

Melodie



**Our 2025-2027 Camellia District
Executive Board**

Director: Melodie Smith
melodies387@gmail.com
cell # 478.278.7721

Treasurer: Peggy Williams
pjwhaw@yahoo.com
cell # 478.719.3340

Assistant Treasurer:
Brenda Wilson
brendawilson7@cox.net
cell # 478.733.5068

Parliamentarian:
Anita Allen
wildverbena@gmail.com
912.381.4516

Recording Secretary:
Lynn Beasley
beasleyld@bellsouth.net
cell # 478.595.0025

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter:
Pamela Austin
philip215@msn.com
cell # 404.834.3991



Left, Camellia District Garden Club Members Serving and Enjoying time together...

When the Erin Garden Club Girls get together to work... work they do! Right, the Historic Landscape Preservation Committee with the Garden Club of Georgia is busy going through the many details to ensure that our Irish Ramble on Bellevue will be as enjoyable as we all know it will be!

You are special!

Be Kind.

Not everyone is.



Below, Jackson Springs members read through a 4-part poem written in 1970 that chronicled the founding years of Jackson Springs Garden Club (est 1947).

The poem recounted by name each member who joined by year (1947-1970), as well as dues paid, awards won, and other activities of the club.

In the spirit of the day, several members dressed for the occasion, wearing hats, gloves, and furs.

Afterwards, members shared memories and looked at photos and articles from old newspapers.

The Erin Garden Club invites you to **purchase tickets now** for the Irish Ramble on Bellevue. Touring Historic Homes, Churches, and more in Dublin, Georgia.

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please check your Garden Club email to purchase tickets directly online OR use the QR code below OR to purchase tickets by check, please make out the \$50.00 check payable to: **Camellia District**

“GCG HLP Fundraiser” on the

Please include your telephone number and email address with your check and mail to:

Brenda Wilson
7033 Duffey Drive
Macon, GA 31216



Erin Garden Club

invites you to "Save the Date" for the



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

During the Irish Ramble Tour, explore the architectural beauty and Southern Charm of Dublin, Georgia!

This official St. Patrick's Festival Event invites visitors to experience Dublin's rich history through some of its most iconic landmarks!

Tour Sites Include:

The Beckham House, The Birch House, The Brantley-Crocket House, Christ Episcopal Church, The Dublin Carnegie, First Baptist Church, The Lovett House, Old Dublin City Cemetery, The Page House, and Theatre Dublin.

Irish Ramble Tour Day Itinerary:

9:00 am ~ Pick up ticket packet at the Theatre Dublin

9:30 am ~ Welcome and brief history by Joshua Kight, Mayor for the City of Dublin

10:00 am ~ Tour of homes begins:
Tour homes, enjoy lunch, shop in Downtown Dublin and breathe in the Beauty!

3:00 pm - Tour of homes concludes



The Irish Ramble on Bellevue is being organized by Erin Garden Club on behalf of the Camellia District of The Garden Club of Georgia.

The tour is a fundraiser for The Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund.

Your \$50.00 ticket purchase will also include \$10 in Chamber Bucks (if purchased by 3/10/26) and can be used on March 28th, 2026, at various local businesses for lunch or shopping as well as access to an art show at the Dublin Carnegie presented by ART Dublin.



Invitation

The Ikebana International Middle Georgia Chapter #112 extends an invitation to our Ikebana (the Japanese art of flower arranging) exhibit at the Massee Lane Camellia Gardens in Ft. Valley, GA. the weekend of February 7-8, 2026.

This exhibit is part of the annual February month long Festival of Camellias at the Massee Lane Gardens.

They are also celebrating the 80th anniversary of the American Camellia Society.

Free Admission on Sat., February 7 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

General Admission (on other days) is \$10.00, \$ 8.00 for seniors and military with I.D., and children under 12 Free

**100 Massee Lane
Ft. Valley, Georgia**

Ikebana means *living flowers*. The Japanese art of flower arranging has been described at once more subtle, more sensitive, and more sophisticated than the methods of arranging flowers usually employed in other cultures. This is so because Ikebana is an art in Japan in the same sense that painting and sculpture are arts elsewhere.

Ikebana is a visual art that uses plant materials that come in a wide variety of forms. Depending on the materials, artistic judgment must be used to readjust the established forms. There are five main Ikebana types: Rikka, Shoka, Jiyuka, Nageirebana, and Moribana, however, different websites name others, referring to style and patterns.

Sources: www.learnjapanese123.com and www.japanobjects.com/features/ikebana



The Pine Ridge Garden Club

Macon, Georgia

Jan and Alan Thiese received a \$1000 grant check from the Macon Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., on behalf of Pine Ridge Garden Club for their gardening book project for Vineville Academy.

Photo, right, left to right, Pine Ridge Garden Club members Jan and Alan Thiese, being presented their Check from President Peggy Williams and Treasurer Jean Keene of the Macon Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

This grant is for an Incentive Project that will provide 175 Scholars a National Garden Club Children's Book!



NGC children's books, *The Frightened Frog*, *The Saved Seed*, *Network with Nature* and *My Green is Gone*, has been purchased by Pine Ridge Garden Club for 1st and 4th graders at Vineville Academy in Macon-Bibb County. The children will be presented a book, which will include a label stating the origin of the gift and their name inside the front cover.

The books were purchased with a "Project Incentive Grant" offered to each member club by the Federated Garden Clubs of Macon.



Georgia Department of Transportation representative Dorian Owens (standing in photo, right), presenting information about the Wildflower Project which is on our Georgia State Highways and also the Interstate Highway System in Georgia at the January 2026 Meeting of Pine Ridge Garden Club and the Thornwood Garden Clubs of Macon, Georgia.



Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, Inc.

The Federated Clubs of Macon, Inc.: lots to discuss, plan out, decisions to be made, and so much more!



Above: Brenda Wilson, Peggy Williams, and Jill Peavy.

What happens when you're out and about, walking through Goodwill, see a little ol' plate with a brown thrasher on it, pick it up, turn it over, and BAM!

On the back is engraved, "GCG 70th Anniversary Plate"!

Well...you buy it, of course! ...because how cool is that? ... and yes! That is exactly what happened with Brenda Wilson over winter ... and the plate is presently hanging in the 'unofficial, official' meeting house of the Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, Inc.!



Left: We all know the fun, joy, and fellowship of heading out to lunch (or coffee, or dinner...), after a meeting, to relax, unwind, and enjoy the company of garden friends!

**** CAMELLIA DISTRICT WINTER BOARD MEETING ****

Melodie Smith, Camellia District Director, cordially invites all Camellia Board Members, Council Presidents, and Club Presidents to attend the 2026 Winter Board Meeting in Quitman. Garden Club members and guests are also invited to attend and learn about what is happening around the district, as well as the Garden Club of Georgia.

“Gardening for the Good of Our Communities... through Community Beautification, Conservation and Education”

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Quitman Garden Club
121 N. Culpepper Street
Quitman, GA 31643

Time: 9:30 a.m. coffee 10:00 am meeting 11:30 lunch

Parking: behind the Courthouse; along the street on Culpepper; a few parking spaces on the side of building on Stevens Street; and a few spaces in the lot behind the Museum off of Lee Street.

Hosted by Quitman Garden Club, Inc. 2025-27

Please check your email, subject line, “**Camellia District Winter Board Meeting 2/24/26**” to print out **and** mail the registration form with a check for \$30 made payable to Camellia District Mail to:

Peggy Williams (pjwhaw@yahoo.com) (478-719-3340)

1170 Oakcliff Rd.

Macon, Georgia 31211

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 10, 2026

A few Winter Garden Suggestions...

~ Take a look around those garden tools. Anything broken, overly rusty, in need of a good clean? Something still in its package, unused after years? Replace/clean what is needed, donate the others!

~ Ever find yourself looking for a specific tool? Or any tool at all? Racking your brain to remember where it is? Now is a great time to plan out/build/buy a tool organizer for the garage and/or basement!

~ How's the outdoor garden look? You know, the one that looks amazing come mid-summer, but kinda' heavily overgrown and in need of... something? You know it has the potential to be more? But what? Maybe a hard trim or deep edging... added support or a decorative addition? Most outdoor plant debris trimmed now may be placed back on top as mulch, adding nutrition to that area. Do not ever use diseased looking leaves or plants as mulch; throw them in a bag and then into the garbage!

~ Ever thought about starting plants indoors? Well, now's the time! There are an abundant of vegetables that may easily be started indoors now (no greenhouse required)! This can bring vegetables to the yard sooner, and the potential to last longer through the season! A few good ones may include tomatoes, bell/hot/sweet peppers, eggplant, onions, celery, broccoli, and so many others!

This is a website with boatloads of information on starting plants indoors, from seeds:

www.almanac.com/content/starting-seeds-indoors

The Ladies of the Northwoods Garden Club

... had a fun, festive, and fabulous Christmas season together! Starting with a wreath building gathering, adopting a family for Christmas, and then a delicious brunch in December celebrating a beautiful season of Gifting, Giving, and Friendship!

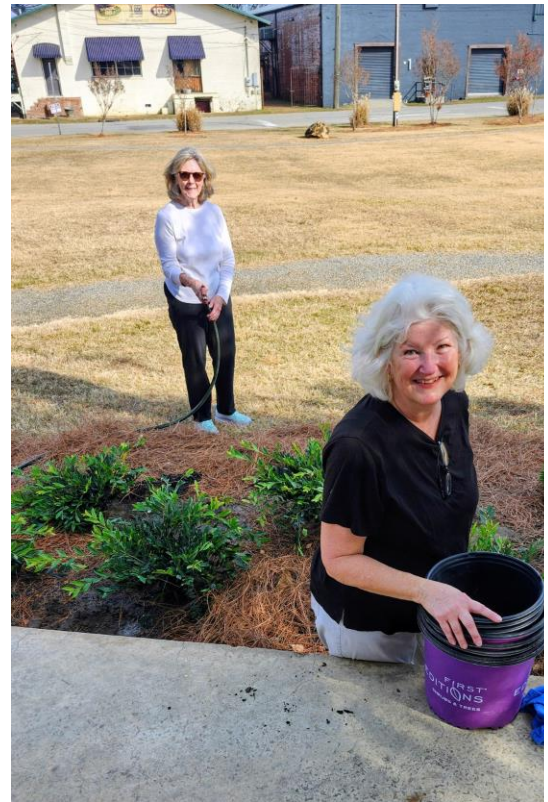


The Erin Garden Club

Dublin, Georgia

The Erin Garden Club has been busy at work sprucing up the “Market on Madison!” With a little help from Teen Challenge, they planted dozens of shrubs...and as soon as it warms up a bit, they have almost 4 dozen azaleas in the wing, waiting their turn to be put into the ground!

Nice work girls!



**We are excited to announce that the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
is having a Flower Show School!**

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC Flower Show.

There are 4 courses, each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure (FSP).

If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, interested in preparing horticulture to enter, or just want to learn more about design types, come to Flower Show School!

Course 1 will be held April 13 - 16, 2026 in Macon, GA at Central Georgia Technical College.

Please see your Garden Club email 'Flower Show School' for full details of the classes, the schedule, and registration; or contact Anita Allen or Annelle Moore with questions!

National Garden Club, Inc. Flower Show School ~ Course 1 – April 13-16, 2026

Charles H. Jones Advanced Technology Building N, Room 112

Physical Address: 3660 Eisenhower Parkway ~ Macon, GA 31206

Deadline to register is March 16, 2026

Please make check payable to:

District IV FSS

Fees: Full course for credit - \$155

Full course without exam - \$145

Tuesday, April 14, only – Horticulture - \$75

Wednesday, April 15, only – Design - \$75

(Lunch is included in the fee.)

Sponsored by: The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Camellia District IV

Anita Allen, Chairman

912.381.4516

wildverbena@gmail.com

Annelle Moore, Registrar

341 Wesley Circle

Macon, Georgia 31204

404.210.7102

annellemoo@aol.com

Hotel Information: Holiday Express Inn and Suites ~ 4970 Harrison Road

Macon, GA 31206



A few Camellia District Garden Club Members ...

Enjoying some fellowship and friendship at

the 2025 – 2027 Garden Club of Georgia

Biennial Leadership and Awards Workshop!

The Northwoods Garden Club

Macon, Georgia

... The NWGC, along with a few other gardening friends, took on a fundraising opportunity to provide lunch for an incredible group of gardeners... and in the process, raised \$550.00 and had a phenomenal time together!



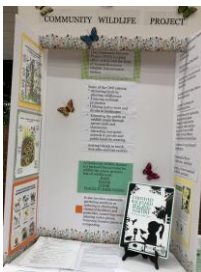
Our Camellia District 2025 Fall Meeting

Let's be honest... It was *fabulous!* ... and though here are a few details, below that, some photos that speak volumes of this incredible day!

We had 97 Garden Club Members attend, with 37 first time visitors! Our GCG President Diane Hunter, along with other State Officers, Committee Chairmen, and five other District Directors, joined us for the day! Dublin City Manager, Josh Powell, welcomed our group to Dublin, and graciously accepted the GCG Distinguished Service Award for the Mayor's initiative to plant 2,000 trees in Dublin, which has reached 1137 trees as of September 2025!

We discussed a plethora of topics, including how to build membership, attract younger members into Garden Club, reaching out to schools and youth programs, as well as beautification within our communities. We gave out a few awards and certificates as well!

Our guest speaker, Beth Meeks, from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, was intrigued by our meeting and looking to start a club in her area! We also welcomed Wesleyan Woods Garden Club into our ranks; had a phenomenal auction; incredible educational boards, a delicious lunch, and truly, a fabulous time celebrating together, all things Camellia District and Garden Club.





Quite a few Garden Club Members in the Camellia District
headed over to the 2025 Madison Tour of Homes!

Lots of walking, talking, opinions, laughter, sharing of ideas, viewing of beautiful
gardens, and lovely homes, while enjoying an incredible lunch in between!

What an all-around terrific day was had by all!





Sometimes we just need to GO and do something different... although there are so many wonderful opportunities for all of us in middle Georgia during the month of February... if you know someone in the Atlanta area, or someone visiting the Atlanta area, or find yourself in the Atlanta area February 20th through February 22nd, the Atlanta Botanical Garden is hosting a flower show that is sure to delight! They also have an array of events now through the end of April. So, if you are feeling the need to head north, check them out! www.atlantabg.org

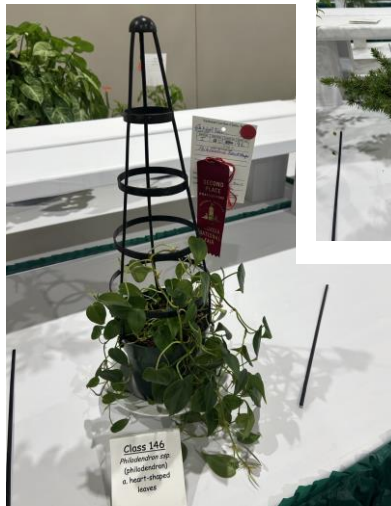


Coffee really can bring Garden Club Members together... a 'potty stop' during a carpool drive, that review meeting during a walk in the park... these are the quick, fun moments that turn coffee into friendship!



The Northwoods Garden Club had numerous volunteers at the 2025 Georgia National Flower Show in Perry, Georgia, as well as having *seven members* who won ribbons and awards!

Hats off to NWGC members Kay King, Brenda Wilson, Carol Gray, Elaine Flanagan, Judy Kornegay, Annelle Moore, and Pamela Austin. **GREAT job girls!**



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Organized June 8, 1928
“Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education”

We are planning a fantastic 100th Anniversary Celebration.
The big event will be in 2.5 years, and we hope to celebrate the whole of 2028.
So, we have started the planning now!

A great committee has been formed:

Barbara Bourque – Chairman Carol Reap – Co-Chairman Bess Hartley, GCG 1st VP
Lisa Hall, Immediate Past GCG President Diane Hunter, GCG President
Camille Greely, Pam Hendrix, Sara Lanier, Gale Thomas, Susan Turner, and Beth Wiseman

Each District has a chairman to head their District GCG 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

Laurel: Cheryl Brisco
Azalea: Jane Edmonds
Oleander: Tricia Lawrence
Camellia: Anita Allen
Magnolia: Janice Cliett & Nilsa Summey
Dogwood: Karen Boor
Redbud: Kim Fair



The State GCG 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee {GCG100ACC} encourages everyone to enhance what we already do and make this really **fun** – rather than burden members with another task.

WE NEED YOU to get involved. Camellia District needs your ideas.

Each District has been tasked to determine at least one District Project they will sponsor leading up to the celebration.

ID District projects

- Group Clubs by age as of 2028 so we can recognize all of them, especially showcase the very senior clubs. Group clubs by decade or 20-year time period. Clubs are encouraged to write their histories. Carol Reap will develop protocols and instruct clubs on how to archive Club histories for clubs who wish to do so.
- Share photos with us for a video presentation at the June celebration. If enough photos are received, we can organize them focused by District, and show a short video at each of the Fall District meetings or District Celebrations
- Determine what ‘celebrations’ will take place within the district and when
- Gather historic photographs from District Clubs to share with the State Committee for Celebration Slide Show and possible book or other publication – especially older clubs.
- Connect Club Historians to Carol Reap if they wish info on archiving.

Please contact me, Anita Allen, Camellia District, GCG100ACC Chairman, with your ideas or questions: wildverbena@gmail.com



MIDDLE GEORGIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
& **Flint** *e*nergies

Present The 2026 Massee Lane

CAMELLIA SHOW

In Cooperation With The
American Camellia Society

February 28 & March 1 2026

Free & Open To the Public

Enter your Camellias to compete for
the "Best Bloom by a Novice" Award
Special Award for Best Bloom entered
by a Flint Service area customer

Location:

The Fetterman Building
at Massee Lane Gardens
100 Massee Lane
Fort Valley, GA

Saturday February 28th

Entries Submitted 7:30 - 10:00

Judging 10:30 - 1:00

Public Viewing 1:00 - 4:30

Sunday March 1st

Public Viewing 12:00 - 4:00



The Augusta Council of Garden Clubs Inc.

is hosting their Annual Spring Luncheon Event!

...and all Garden Club of Georgia Members are cordially invited!

Thursday, March 26th, 2026

9:30 Registration & Coffee

10:00 am Meeting, lunch to follow

Please email Beth Wiseman at bethwiseman807@gmail.com
for more information as well as to register!

Honored Guests include:

National Garden Clubs, Inc., President Donna Donnelly

Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., President Diane Hunter and

Special Guest Speaker: the Plant Lady, Brie Arthur

... best selling author and garden communicator!

We have all heard this before,
and we will hear it again... the
simplest way to grow our
Garden Club is to kindly ask
someone to join us!

...and sometimes, it may take
a 2nd or 3rd asking...

Young or old, a simple invite
to meet with us is all it takes!

**The United States of
America is 250 years old!**
A beautiful way to show off
our Gardening
American Pride?

Plan to plant Red, White and
Blue all year long! ...

Reds: Salvia, Cardinal Flower,
Hot Poker, Bee Balm,
Coneflower, Ruby Glow
Penstemon, Hibiscus, Pentas,
Azalea, and Petunias.

Whites: Snowball hydrangea,
Petunia, Candy Tuft, Daisy,
Lantana, Phlox, Baby's
Breath, Coneflower, Rose of
Sharon, Azalea, Gardenia,
and Spirea

Blues: Delphinium, Bachelor's
Button, Lobelia, Veronica,
Clematis, Hydrangea,
Primrose, and Rose of Sharon

Plus, so many others...
AND... Many of these plants
double as wonderful
pollinators! So, let's start
planning to order now and be
ready to plant American Pride
come early spring and all
season long in 2026!



Our New Year's promise, planted true:

*Gardens **united, red, white, and blue.***

Together we grow this living display,

Honoring 250 years of the USA.

— Plant Red, White & Blue with Us • America 250 —



— The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. —

Honk if you love Jesus! Text & Drive if you want to meet him!

Native Plant Symposium

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Garden Club of Georgia, Terrace Room

2450 S Milledge Ave

Athens, Georgia 30605

Registration fee: \$80.00 (includes lunch)

Growing and protecting native plants are important for many reasons: they celebrate our state and region, they are well-suited to our region's growing conditions, and they are the foundation of the complex ecosystem that supports insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Join us for this year's Native Plant Symposium for an overview of native trees and forest ecosystems, with a focus on forest health, conservation and stewardship. The program will highlight current challenges and research shaping the future of our forests, while offering insight into tree health and forest restoration across the state.

This event is in partnership with
the Garden Club of Georgia.

Please visit this website for more information
and to register!

www.botgarden.uga.edu/event/native-plant-symposium/

To be honest, I am biased. I love my Garden Club Girls here in middle and South Georgia... however... I have come to realize the benefit and beauty of Garden Club sharing...meetings, sales, auctions, luncheons... let us remember to support each other, whenever possible! Kindness is contagious!

Festival of Camellias

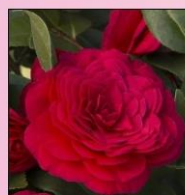
at

Massee Lane Gardens

February 1 - 28, 2026



American Camellia Society's 80th Anniversary



Massee Lane Gardens celebrates the 2026 Festival of Camellias and the 80th Anniversary of the American Camellia Society for the entire month of February 2026. Although camellias bloom from late fall through early spring, February is the peak of the camellia blooming season. Visitors can stroll pathways through nine acres of specialty gardens full of blooming heirloom, modern, and species camellia

plants. Picnic tables on site. Feel free to pack a lunch and enjoy the scenery.

Marinera Meatballs

1 bag, 40 +/- count frozen beef meatballs

1, 24 oz jar marinera sauce

1, 14.5 oz diced tomatoes (any variety)

1, 8 oz bag shredded mozzarella cheese

Throw meatballs in crockpot, add marinera sauce & can of tomatoes, on low, 4-5 hours.

Once bubbly hot, mix well, serve in individual dishes with a sprinkle of cheese on top!

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Student Scholarships Grant Awards 2025

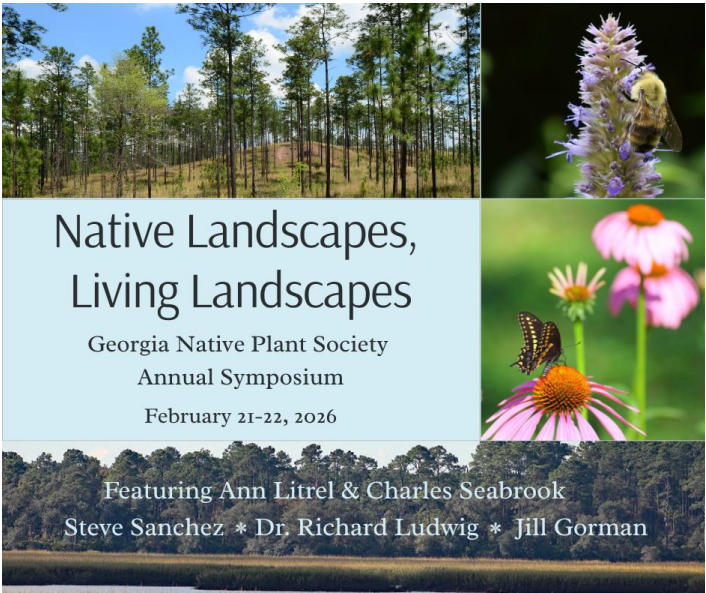
GCG provided \$90,000.00 in grants to 15 students for the 2025-2026 academic term and are thankful to all who have contributed to the GCG Scholarship Program.

We received 36 Named Scholarships totaling \$56,660.

In addition, we granted \$33,340.00 through Patrons of Scholarships, General Fund contributions, along with interest & dividend income from Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose Investment Accounts.

Congratulations to our students on their many achievements.

We send our very best wishes as they continue their studies and move into their careers.



Join us for the 31st Annual GNPS
Native Plant Symposium!

This year's speakers will show how native plants bring vibrant life and beauty in both natural and managed landscapes and highlight ways you can design and plant sustainably in your yard.

The 2026 Symposium is virtual. Presentations are spread across two days, and each session will be recorded for future playback.

Please visit
www.gnps.org/2026-gnps-symposium/
For more information and details on cost and schedule!

Hydroponics: For those of us ‘new to gardening...’ Simply put, Gardening indoors without soil!

There are six types of Hydroponic Growth Systems that include: Deep Water Culture (DWC), Nutrient Film Technique (NFT), Ebb & Flow (Flood & Drain), Drip Systems, Aeroponics, and Wick System.

Now... how might I know this? Because I am a member of the NWGC and one of our newest members, Nancy McDowell, grows plants and vegetables using Hydroponic gardening, and was kind enough to share a phenomenal presentation on it for us last month! She went over the benefits (faster growth, higher yields, year-round gardening, to name a few): the different uses (year-round indoor gardening or for transplanting outdoors or a mix of both): pre-seeded pods, grow anything pods, and seed starting: as well as lighting, water tips, pollination, nutrients, and more!

One thing Nancy did say that can make a difference for the seasoned gardener, are seeds. She mentioned that some seeds may be better ‘tasting’ if they are heirloom varieties, and recommended we look into Southern Exposure Seed Exchange as well as Territorial Seeds.



The 98th Annual Garden Club of Georgia Convention is headed our way!!

“GCG Celebrates America”

At the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center Peachtree City, GA

The Magnolia District and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. invite all Garden Club members to *The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s 98th Annual Convention* at the Crown Plaza in Peachtree City, Georgia as “GCG Celebrates America”.

The Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center offers the perfect setting for the three days of information, fun, shopping, and fellowship. It has gorgeous outdoor scenery, beautiful lakes, and relaxing accommodations. On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2026, there will be great workshops for skill development, celebration of garden clubs with awards for projects, and featured speakers to educate members.

There will be a raffle for entertainment and a variety of interesting vendors for your shopping pleasure! (Last year's shopping included plants and purses, honey, clothing, and more!) There will be beautiful floral designs by the districts presented for your visual enjoyment plus learn about the educational exhibits which focus on programs of GCG.

The first speaker is Dr. Jaap de Roode and will be featured during the opening session of the Convention on April 1st at 10 am! After he is done, go enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many local restaurants; however, be sure to get back in time to participate in an afternoon workshop presented by our own Camellia District Suzanne Finger!

That evening there will be a district photo gathering, a cash bar, a buffet dinner, and of course, the GCG world-famous Awards Event.

April 2nd will hold the business meeting, workshops, and speakers. This year will also feature two fee-based workshops featuring two of GCG's floral designers, and space for these sessions is limited to the first 20 registrants!

Rest, relaxation, friendships, education, food, fun, celebration, and shopping!
What more can a Gardener ask for?

So... look for and check your Garden Club email to signup and register for the,
98th GCG Annual Convention, "GCG Celebrates America"!

Then reach out to some Garden Club friends, and friends interested in gardening, and then make plans to come celebrate America at the Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention!

Camellia District's 100th Celebration ~ Pollinator Gardens

"Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education"



Each District has been asked by
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
to identify a District wide project in celebrating the
100th Anniversary of The Garden Club of Georgia.

The Camellia District's project is the planting of
'Pollinator Gardens' within the community!

The goal for our Camellia District in planting pollinator gardens
is to have both 100% participation by all our clubs,
as well as 100 pollinator gardens planted!

Please email Anita Allen the location/city of your garden clubs'
'Pollinator Garden' when it is finished, and a photo of the garden!
Remember to include your garden club name!

We are so excited about our project chosen along with the positive,
immediate, and ongoing impact it will have in our communities!

Location of Pollinator Garden _____

Planted by (Name of Garden Club) _____

City _____

Send to Anita Allen at: wildverbena@gmail.com



That Blue Hue

When I look to the sky, and see a sheet of blue, my mind knows better, of that endless hue.

I see the hawk, wings spread wide, that taunts my birds, from that endless sky.

Alone and bleak and bare of leaves, upward they reach, seeking warmth and peace...

For these winters come and these winters go; some so mild and some with snow.

From this big wide porch that I have come to love, I look around and thank GOD above!

As I hear the sounds, of life around, and see the greens of daffodils sprouting from the ground.

I let out a deep breath and chuckle when I do, at how winter affects us, me and you.

The chill, the cold, the crisp, the stark; the shortened days, the deeper dark.

I praise the LORD for He is the One, who set the seasons to seamlessly run.

The comfort I feel while looking up, quenches my soul, and fills my cup!

Lying on this porch wondering, as you would be too...

If anything can compete with that endless blue hue.

By Pamela Austin