

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 ~ Spring 2026 Issue

Well, Camellia District Members... What. A. Spring! So much going on... and so much quality time spent with one another!

Within our own clubs, with other club and district members, and right alongside the community at large! Just, WOW!

Now, grab that drink and enjoy the news, the photos, the upcoming events, and a plethora of fun things to do in this upcoming warm and wonderful season in Middle Georgia and beyond!

It is almost summer! We have finished our first year in Camellia District's two-year term and 'WOW!' how fast it went! I have met some awesome Camellia District members and made new friends through this busy year! ... and it is not slowing down! There have been flower shows, garden tours, plant sales, community beautification plantings, etc., and more still to come! Enjoy this time! A summertime of rest and relaxation with family and friends... August 6th, and our first District Meeting event in Eastman, Georgia will be here in the blink of an eye!

A BIG THANK YOU to Camellia District's donations to The Garden Club of Georgia's, "Dollars Educate Scholars!" Our District came in *1st Place* and due to those generous donations, I was 'crowned,' "Queen of Scholarships" during the Garden Club of Georgia's Annual Convention. GCG awarded \$95,000 in scholarships in 2026 with a goal to raise \$100,000 in 2027! Can the Camellia District do it again? Together, we sure can!

All the work preparing for Camellia District's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fundraiser came together successfully in Dublin on March 28th! We received support throughout the Camellia District and the City of Dublin. A hard-working group of eight put it all in motion and with the support from purchased tickets, donations, an array of volunteers, provided flower designs, endless errands, solid advertisements, lots of photos, written articles, given interviews, etc., etc.... we had one of the best HLPG fundraisers! Our income was \$10,780, expenses \$2,583.94, and profit \$8,196.06! I am so proud of all those who volunteered, attended, and/or helped in any way!



Course I of the Flower Show School is history! Comments have been very positive from students, assistants, and Anita Allen, Chairman. We are now on the way of adding new flower show judges! Course II will be coming in September. You can begin with Course II and pick up Course I later if you want to join this group.

Thank you to Suzanne Dixon as she volunteered to be the Co-Chairman of the Magnolia and Camellia Districts Flower Show at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, October 9-11, 2026. This is such a fun event to attend and volunteer with friends; so, mark your calendar and be ready for upcoming signups!

You will see a form in the Newsletter regarding Camellia District's 100th Celebration project of '100 Pollinator Gardens!' Our project goal is to have 100% club participation in establishing Pollinator Gardens around our Camellia District, with the 'dream goal' of at least "100" Pollinator Gardens! Please complete the form, giving the location with pictures, and send to Anita Allen.

Hope to see some of you over summer! Enjoy! ~ Melodie

Our 2025-2027 Camellia District

Executive Board

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melodies387@gmail.com
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Co-Director: Linda Stikkel
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Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter:

Pamela Austin
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A few added important notes and dates to add to the calendar from our Camellia District Director, Melodie Smith:

~ Garden Gateway Articles from your garden club to me, deadline, July 10th: theme, "Education." Would like to see what your garden club is doing and share it throughout the state...What you are doing matters! Send in those articles and photos! ** Remember, if you use photos of children, you must have a signed photo release form. Form can be found at <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ngc-publication-release-fillable.pdf>

~ August 6th, Camellia District Summer Board meeting in Eastman, Georgia; for Executive Board Members, all Club Presidents, and all Committee Chairmen (you all are voting attendees). Other club members are welcome to come as well! We discuss what is and what may be going on in our Camellia District and The Garden Club of Georgia. Our meetings are both informative as well as a time of fun and friendship!

~ September 14-17, 2026, Course II Flower Show School

~ October 9-11, Magnolia and Camellia District Flower Show in Perry; grab a friend to volunteer and attend! A LOT of fun!

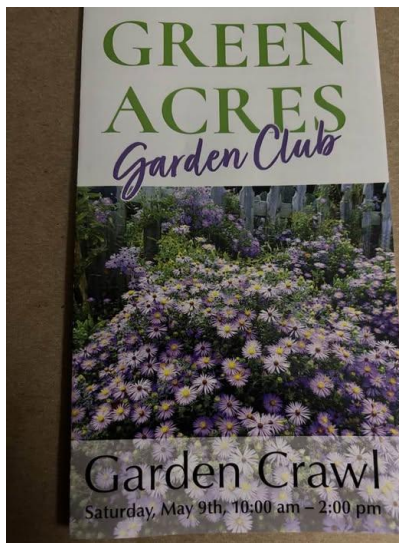
~ October 14th, 2026, Camellia District Annual Fall Meeting, Cordele, GA

~ Need a Club to host Winter Board Meeting

~ Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention, March 30th - April 1st, 2027, Brasstown Resort (details forth coming!)

**Pine Ridge Garden Club
Completed their Project of
Distributing 175 Books to the
Scholars in the First and
Fourth Grades at Vineville
Academy in Macon, Georgia.**





Hot off the press! The tickets are ready for you to enjoy a fun filled day here in Middle Georgia! Grab a friend and head on over to tour some (more!) amazing homes in Dublin, Georgia at the “Green Acres Garden Club, Garden Crawl!”

... AND, after getting some incredible inspiration from beautiful landscapes, swing on by Hillcrest Elementary School and buy a few plants for your home.

The date is May 9th from 10-2 pm... and tickets are only \$20! What a great way to support the Green Acres Garden Club’s community projects and college scholarships!

Tickets are available at Colleen’s China and Collectibles and Merle Norman. Or reach out to us on Facebook!

@ Green Acres Garden Club ~ Hope to see you there!

Is your club in want of a presentation regarding a health issue that may affect all of us who ‘play’ outdoors? Well, one of our own Camellia District Members, Copper Comita, of the Rambler Rose Garden Club, is an advocate of educating all who head outdoors, about heat stroke.

Her 15-year-old son passed away from heat stroke in 2017, and since then, she has gained the knowledge needed to express in detail the risks involved and how to look for signs, symptoms, and what one can do to make themselves less of a possible casualty. If your club is interested, please reach out to Copper at coppercomita@gmail.com.

Today’s lesson is not just about plants but the most delicate things in the garden... US.

Many of you know my son, Reid, died from heat stroke. You may not know, I have collected data and compiled research on heat stroke that comes from all over the world. I share this knowledge through a 20-minute speech and slide presentation I give to area clubs, organizations and schools. That is a bit much for a horticultural tip. As we head into the hotter gardening months, I want to remind everyone that heat stroke can happen faster than people realize.

Think: SOIL→ SUN→WATER→SHADE→CARE

1. SOIL: Healthy plants start with good soil. For us, that means preparation. Heat doesn’t just affect athletes or workers...it affects ordinary people doing ordinary things.
2. SUN: Sun is life...until it’s too much. Just like plants, people don’t always feel the damage happening. By the time wilting shows, the stress has already been severe.
3. WATER: Water isn’t optional and sipping isn’t enough. Plants don’t thrive on misting...and neither do people. Hydration needs to start early and be consistent. If your plant looks thirsty, you don’t hand it an ice cube and wish it luck.
4. SHADE: Shade isn’t weakness...it’s wisdom. Even sun-loving plants need breaks, and people need cooling periods, fans, air flow and permission to stop.
5. CARE FOR EACH OTHER: Gardeners don’t ignore drooping leaves...we act. If someone looks flushed, confused, exhausted, or not quite right, that’s the plant telling you something is wrong.

I learned these lessons the hardest way possible, and if sharing them keeps even one person from becoming a cautionary tale, then some good grows from something painful. So, my horticultural advice today is simple: water early, rest often, respect the heat and look after each other like prized perennials.

When Garden Club Members become friends... joy fills the rest of the month!



Garden Week in Georgia... Where the Georgia Gardeners go all out in all kinds of ways to make sure Georgia stays pollinator friendly, environmentally educated, beautifully blossoming, socially together, generously generational, and community minded, both local and beyond, in all the ways that matter most!

... and if you have any doubts, well, the photos below speak more than the words above!

The Valdosta Garden Clubs were active and busy around the Crescent House, with each club decorating a room, inside and out, as well as hosting a membership and information drive sharing about projects, handing out give-a-ways, and promoting the joys of Garden Club!



Pine Ridge Garden Club honoring the staff of Pine Point Hospice!



Granada Garden Club planted outside planters at Miss Kitty's Feline Sanctuary as our community service project again this year. Carol Jones, Executive Director, is a Granada Garden Club member & we filled the planters with plants and flowers. After planting, members enjoyed a butterfly themed picnic lunch.



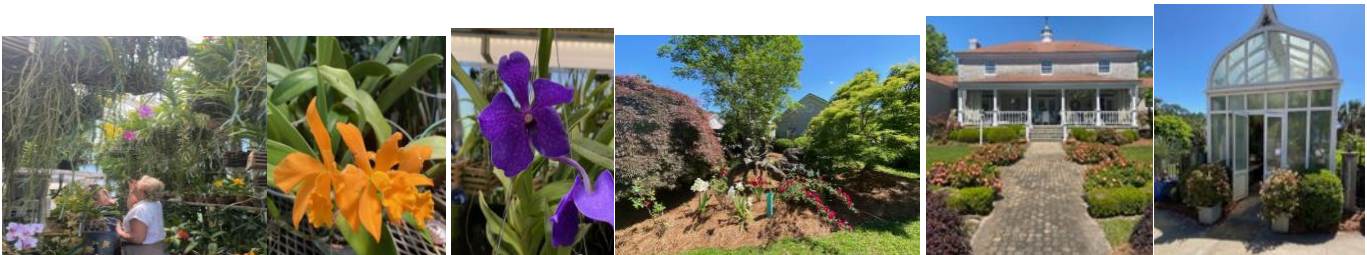
Quitman Garden Club Celebrates “Garden Week in Georgia”

In celebration of Garden Week in Georgia, April 19th – 25th, the Quitman Garden Club (QGC) embarked on a journey to witness the heights of horticultural dedication. The club’s commemorative activities were headlined by an inspiring field trip to the private home of Kent & Iris Thomas in Adel GA.

The Thomas Property is a testament to the patience and passion that define the gardening spirit. Since purchasing their land approximately 47 years ago, the couple has spent nearly half a century transforming the acreage into a "haven of loveliness." To navigate the expansive and meticulously maintained grounds, club members toured the property on golf carts, winding through a landscape that seamlessly blends native beauty with exotic flair.

The tour showcased a stunning array of flora, highlighting the Thomas’s expertise in cultivating diverse species. There were numerous varieties of Japanese Maple trees, a wide selection of palm trees, Staghorn ferns, and native azaleas. Also, the Thomas’s had many camellias, including The First Ladies of Georgia Collection, with almost all specimens meticulously labeled. A true crown jewel of the estate is the spectacular greenhouse, which is filled from floor to ceiling with breathtaking orchids.

QGC was delighted to witness firsthand what a lifetime and love for gardening can accomplish. The visit served as a powerful reminder that a garden is more than just a collection of plants; it is a lifelong labor of love. As Garden Week continues, the QGC remains inspired by the Thomas sanctuary, returning home with fresh new ideas and a renewed passion for local landscapes.



The QGC continued its Garden Week celebrations by fostering a love for nature in the community's youngest residents. The QGC partnered with First Baptist Church kindergarten by providing seeds for sunflowers and zinnias. These flowers were chosen for their bright colors and rapid growth cycles, making them the perfect specimens for young students to observe. We are all joyfully anticipating the upcoming months of colored bliss!

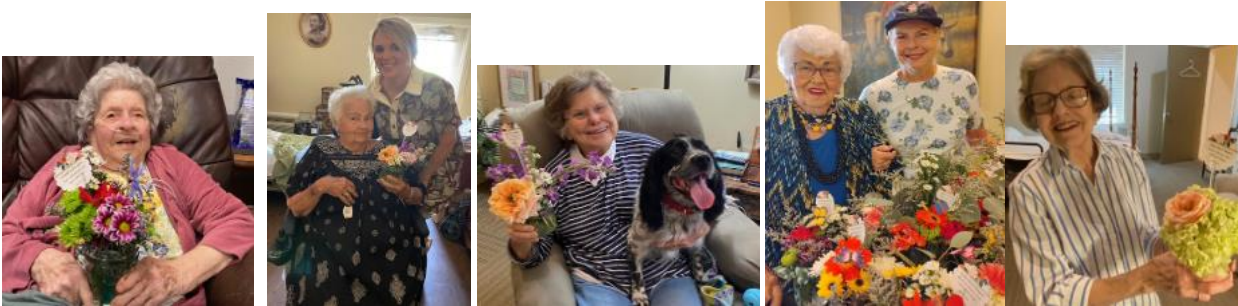
In perhaps the most touching event of Garden Week, the QGC joined forces with First Baptist Church of Quitman to bring the beauty of the outdoors inside. The two organizations coordinated a massive floral outreach, hand-delivering 30 custom flower arrangements to the residents of Fellowship Home Brookside.

The atmosphere at Fellowship Home was transformed as QGC members arrived with dozens of fresh, vibrant arrangements. The initiative was born from a simple but profound truth: the sight and scent of fresh flowers have a unique ability to lift spirits and brighten spaces.

For those involved, the "meaning" of the activity was found in the immediate reactions of the residents: radiant smiles, meaningful conversations and shared joy.

"Who doesn't want fresh flowers?" the QGC remarked following the event. "The smiles and conversations were truly priceless. We felt so much joy participating in this activity."

This floral giveaway served as a perfect cornerstone for Garden Week in Georgia, illustrating that gardening is not just about cultivation—it is about community. From the 47-year-old estate in Adel to the kindergarteners' first sprouts, and finally, to the bouquets at Fellowship Home, the Quitman Garden Club has spent the week proving that beauty is best when shared.



The Granada Garden Club of Thomasville, held their 14th annual Valentine Tea ~ an event members look forward to each year. It is a chance to get out the fancy silver, china, and glass teapots, cups and saucers, plates, cutlery, and delicate linens, most of which is mismatched! They enjoyed a cup of tea, scones, tea sandwiches, and embraced femininity! Some even wore their hats and pearls!

... and more Garden Club Week in Georgia Festivities!

Jackson Springs Garden Club celebrated Garden Week in Georgia during their April meeting with two activities. First, club members gathered at Nash Altered Arts to decorate flowerpots, while owner Dawn Nash gave us tips on using Dixie Belle paints, stencils and transfers. Several members chose a red, white and blue theme for their designs in honor of our Nations Birthday! Next, club members arranged fresh flowers for community heroes. White daisies, red carnations and blue asters were artistically arranged in up-cycled cans and tied with bows and then arrangements were delivered to senior care and adult rehabilitation administrative offices, a fire station, a library and a church.

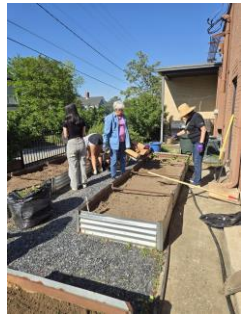


***celebrating Garden Week in Ga
April, 2026. Mt.de Sales***



Elaine Flanagan, of the Northwoods Garden Club in Macon, Georgia, along with other local Garden Club members, has connected with Mt. De Sales Middle and High School students to bring the love, passion, education, and joy of gardening to the next generation! Left, a few of the students alongside the Youth Education Committee!

... and just a few more! Yes! Georgia Garden Week in the Camellia District is POPPING!



Northwoods Garden Club Members
Suzanne Bennett and Carol Gray, kick
off GA Garden Club Week with a visit to
Pineola Farms! Inspiration and beauty!

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

GREAT SOUTHEAST
Pollinator Census

August 21st and 22nd, 2026

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

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. —

Our Winter Camellia District Meeting was full of information, sharing, learning, fundraiser ideas, and as always, wonderful friendship, fun, and delicious food!



The United States of America is Celebrating her 250th Birthday!

A beautiful way to show off our Gardening American Pride?
 Plant Red, White and Blue!

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, Rose of Sharon, Clematis, Hydrangea, and Primrose.

... and, so many others... PLUS...

Many of these plants double as wonderful pollinators! So, let's start planting and showing off our American Pride all year long in 2026!



Just a reminder, all Garden Club Members are invited to join our Seasonal Camellia District Meetings! An rsvp is required... and they are always a great social time spent together! Next up, our Summer Meeting in Eastman, Georgia, August 6th, 2026! Mark the Calendar now to join us!



Depending on how much one is tuned into the news, and or social media, the world is definitely a crazy place right now (though some/most, may say it has been crazy since Adam and Eve ate the apple!).

Anyway, this is a note of encouragement for all of us to get out and meet with a friend; go have coffee, or tea, go for a walk in the park, meet at a bookstore or a local plant nursery... GOD designed us as social creatures... so let us go be social!



**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 _____

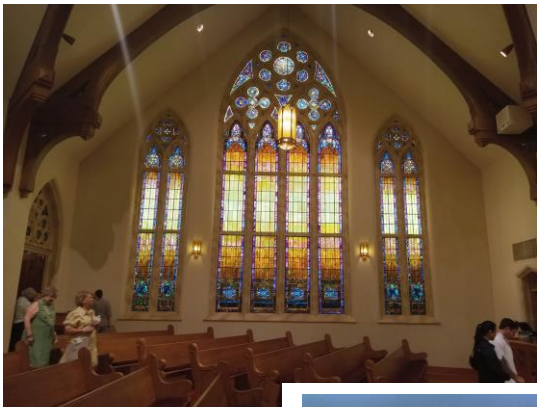
Send to Anita Allen at: wildverbena@gmail.com

Hats Off to the Camellia District and the Erin Club of Dublin for their incredible volunteer efforts in putting on the “Irish Ramble on Bellevue, Tour of Historic Homes, Churches, and More!”

On March 28th, 2026, this event, which benefits The Garden Club of Georgia’s Historic Landscape Preservation Grant, was a huge success, enjoyed by all those in attendance. Visitors came from all over the state, country, and included a few international guests as well!

Enjoy the photos below... and know there was so much more beauty, loveliness, and passion experienced by all those in Dublin, Georgia that day!

Photo, below, center: Suzan Bennett; Takata Etsuk, Marketing Director for Osaki, Japan; Sano Taichi, city council member, Osaki, Japan; Tsukasa Shudo, Legal Coordinator for YKK America, Inc from Atlanta; Ito Jin, Chairman of the Osaki Sanbongi International Assn in Osaki City (he is active in facilitating sister city relationships such as the exchange between Dublin and Osaki City Japan); Carol Gray.



...and you know... a little bit more of Irish Ramble Fun... and a photo booth!



Below, Greenbriar Garden Club Members of Warner Robins, Georgia is off and running after embracing our state's initiative to honor our nation's 250th birthday this July, 2026. They have an ongoing partnership with their local senior center and have worked with them to begin a garden of flowers and vegetables for the residents to work in and enjoy. They provide and maintain a seed bank along with giving advice and managing a hands-on planting of a fledgling garden. They recently met to renew last year's entranceway planters with a colorful red, white, and blue mix of perennials and annuals. Community Blessing!

You know how sometimes we say something that the moment it comes out of our mouth, we kinda' wish we had kept our thought to ourself?

Well... let us all take note; one gardener's 'weed' plant or 'weed' flowers may very well be the highlight of their beautiful garden, in which they find great joy and comfort.

So, if we are not asked our opinion or thoughts on above mentioned plants and flowers... well... let's not offer it! I know... it's hard.





A few Green Acres Garden Club Girls in Dublin taking a succulent workshop and having a fun time with Denise Taylor from Triple T Nursery.



The Old City Flower Festival in Macon, Georgia celebrated its 18th year and was held at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church March 20th ~ 24th. There were 17 extraordinary and unique floral arrangements that were all large and breathtaking, and entry to view everything is free and open to the public.

Mark your calendars for next year, and plan a day to enjoy this amazing and free event! ... and while in Macon, why not take in lunch as well! It is sure to be a joyful day and time with friends!

Below, the Town and Country Garden Club busy planting and pruning their garden plot in the gardens of the Crescent in Valdosta, Georgia. There are 6 different plots to care for; one for each garden club that call the Crescent home. The members also applied to have these gardens recognized by the Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Trail...
... and the Crescent Garden Center was accepted! They are now designated as *Public Garden #443*

The gardens and grounds around the Crescent can be toured by the public on Wednesday - Friday of each week.



The Town and Country Garden Club, at the Crescent in Valdosta, Georgia, held a terrific hands-on workshop led by member Linda Monetti, for our January 2026 meeting. Their topic was, 'Planting Winter Seeds for Spring Flowers.' It turned out to be a really fun and quite informative experience for everyone!



Sometimes, when we are out & about & so busy & distracted... GOD is kind enough to send a large & hard to miss reminder of who is really in control!



Members of Thornwood Garden Club, left, met at the "Bolingbrew Coffee Company," located inside Bolingbroke Antiques and Mercantile on Highway 41 in Bolingbroke, Georgia. After they experienced delightful refreshments of pastries, coffee, and hot chocolate, they held a brief meeting, and then enjoyed a time of browsing and shopping at this newly opened local gem! They highly recommend the "Bolingbrew Coffee Company" for your next small group meeting, or as a quaint and quiet spot to meet a friend or two for coffee, tea, and snacks.





Left, members of the Camellia District at the 2026 Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention held in Peachtree City, Georgia.

We had several Camellia District Clubs win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in a variety of entries! We also have several youth in our district that won 1st place in state, and their entries go on to Deep South for competition!

We are excited to receive those results!

Remember, the only way a Garden Club may have an opportunity to receive an Award, is if the garden club applies for an award!

Review the Award Notebook received at the 'Awards and Leadership Workshop,' and/or check the GCG website (instructions below!)

Look over the awards list and plan out what awards you would like to apply for, gather the required information, and submit it all by the deadline!

Instructions to find Awards information on the GCG website:

www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org

Click 'Member Resources;' then click, 'Leadership Training;' Scroll down to 'Leadership and Awards Workshops,' and then scroll down a bit more and click on 'Awards Presentation (Part 7).' There are instructions in that video, as well as a few powerpoint presentations below that initial video.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your club President, or email your question to: www.headquarters@gardenclubofgeorgia.org Someone from GCG will reply!



Left, with the help of West Lauren's High School Agriculture Class, the Green Acres Garden club is working on sprucing up the front of the Lauren's County Courthouse.

Easy Tomato / Mozzarella / Basil leaf salad appetizer

- 1 pint cherry tomatoes (any color), cut in 1/2
- 1.5 cups, cubed mozzarella cheese (or mozzarella balls)
- 3 tablespoons chopped basil (fresh sliced/chopped is best)
- ¼ cup chopped red or sweet onion
- ¼ tsp each, garlic powder, salt & pepper
- ¼ cup each, olive oil & balsamic vinegar

Mix it all together, and refrigerate, preferably over-night, to get a great blend of flavor! One can swap out feta cheese for mozzarella if preferred! Any way it is done, so, so good!

Registration Form Course 2

September 14 – 17, 2026

**** Flower Show Judges School ****

**** Course 2 Registration ****

Pre-Registration Required

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Fees:

Full course for credit.....\$155.00

Full course w/o exam.....\$145.00

Tuesday only- Horticulture.....\$75.00

Wednesday only-Design.....\$75.00

All options include lunch - 2 days

Total remittance enclosed.....\$ _____

Payment • Make check payable to: District IV FSS • Send Check and registration form to: Registrar: Annelle Moore 341 Wesley Circle

Macon, GA 31204 annellemoo@aol.com

SAVE DATES:

Course 3 – April 19-22, 2027 / Course 4 – August 16 – 19, 2027

Flower Show Judges School!
Course 2: Sept. 14th ~ 17th, 2026
Course 3: April 19th ~ 22nd, 2027
Course 4: August 16th ~ 19th, 2027

Please fill out this form (above), and mail it to Annelle Moore; feel free to contact Anita Allen with any questions, or if you are interested in taking Course 1, and joining this cohort of Judges moving forward!
Anita Allen: wildverbena@gmail.com or 912.381.4516

Flower Show Judges School Course I was a big hit; enjoyed by all, as well as being extremely educational!

Course II signup is under way... and if you are interested in joining this group of folks who are 'on their way to be flower show judges,' please reach out to Anita Allen! She will work with you to get Course I, one and done, prior to Course II starting! Anita Allen: wildverbena@gmail.com or 912.381.4516



When a dear friend stumbles upon a **PURPLE** prickly pear cactus and shows up for coffee with bagged goodies!



A lovely Ikebana Show was put on at Masse Lane Gardens... and we had numerous Camellia District entries, including: Ileta Moen, Elaine Flanagan, and Peggy DeFore!



Peggy DeFore
Masse Lane exhibit, Feb., 2026



Ileta Moen
Masse Lane exhibit Feb., 2026



Elaine Flanagan
Masse Lane exhibit, Feb., 2026



Linda Suskin (Atlanta chapter)
Masse Lane exhibit, Feb., 2026



Anna Burns
Masse Lane exhibit, Feb., 2026

When Garden Club Members join other Garden Club Members in support of other Garden Club Members... fun times, laughter, and a lighter step is sure to follow! Enjoying life at Masse

Lane Gardens and an incredible Ikebana exhibit! Simply wonderful!



The Northwoods Garden Club

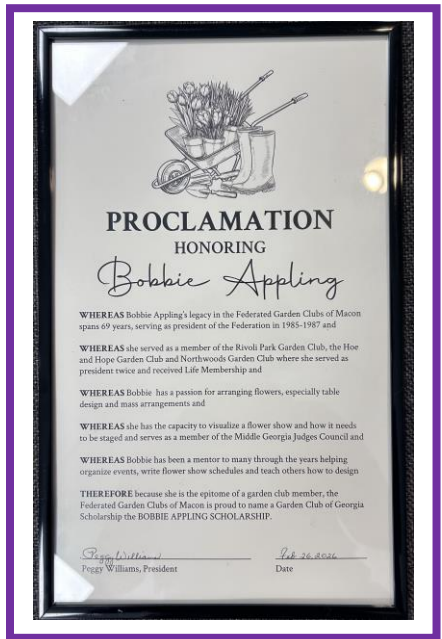
located in Macon, Georgia, held its' annual auction and brunch at their April 8th, 2026 meeting. Aside from having an abundance of items to sell, a delicious and wide variety of foods for brunch, and making over \$325, we also enjoyed having five visitors that day!

We call that an all-out success!



The Northwoods Garden Club is also Blessed and Honored to have Bobbie Appling as one of its' members! Bobbie has been a part of Garden Club Society since 1957, and her contributions have been felt for generations! She has recently been honored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, as well as having a named scholarship, "The Bobbie Appling Scholarship" with the Garden Club of Georgia.

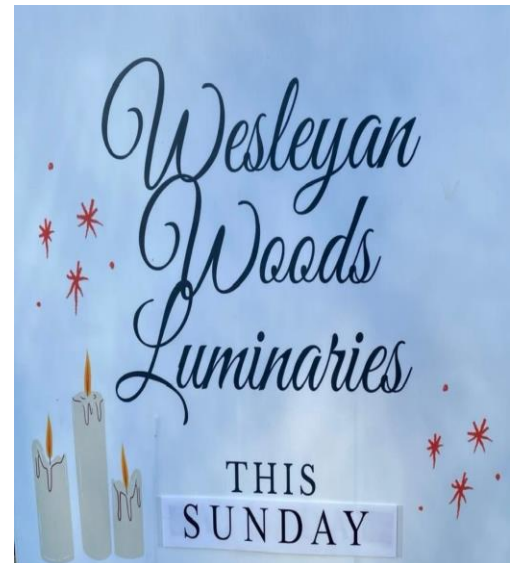




When I first met Beth Tripp, at a Federated Garden Clubs of Macon meeting, she had casually mentioned a luminary event that her Wesleyan Woods Garden Club put on in December. After a tad more conversation, I was in awe that a Garden Club could initiate and put on such an event, for so many years!

I had asked her to give me details (at that time), however, due to health/travel issues with both of our families, the details missed our last Camellia District Newsletter... however, it is such a cool event and so inspirational, I wanted to share it with our district.

So...yes... a Christmas event in our Camellia Connection Spring edition, but we all know this type of event can transform into so many different ideas and dreams... Enjoy the read & inspiration! ~ Pamela Austin



Wesleyan Woods Garden Club Luminary Event:

On December 14th, 2025, the Wesleyan Woods Garden Club continued an annual tradition that began in 1977 ~ the holiday Luminary Event: "Lighting the Way to Peace". This involved homeowners placing white bags anchored with sand every 10 feet along the street and lighting the candles inside at 6 pm.

With over 400 homes in our neighborhood, it requires an active committee to organize the event and fundraising to buy the supplies. Wesleyan Woods Club Member Linda Destree chaired the Committee that included current President Beth Tripp, Kaye Hlavaty, Betty Ragland, Jessica Sills, Stephanie Tinkey, and Chrystal Watson. For years, Jessica Sills has recruited the street captains who deliver the bags and information to each home in their area. We improved the process for captains this year by recording the number of bags needed for each property based on their frontage. Linda Destree then organized a basket for each of the 16 street captains with this information along with homeowners' instructions and bags that members of the club had carefully counted out! Linda and Stephanie met captains at Wesleyan Drive Baptist Church on a Saturday morning to pick up their baskets.

Also, this year the Club offered for sale boxes of longer lasting votive candles. Linda and long-time member Virginia Cowser sold candles on a Sunday afternoon from Virginia's home. Neighbor Robbie Allen of Piedmont Sand and Gravel arranged the donation of sand that was delivered to four locations in Wesleyan Woods the week before the event. Chrystal put out signs in the area advertising the Luminary Event. Stephanie and Jessica answered questions and provided updates on the neighborhood Facebook page.



The Town and Country Garden Club is so very thankful to Ellen Mitchell, of Camellia Club, who put on a fun, informative, and timely Design Workshop for National Garden Club Flower Show Rules, with explanations that simplified details clearly for her audience.

... and a big thank-you for the volunteers from the other clubs who made the designs she assigned.



A Few Fun Things to do THIS Summer

~ Head over to the Aviation Museum in Warner Robbins ~ Dress up really nice and head out to a play at a local theatre; remember dinner before or after ~ visit a recently opened or local bakery and enjoy a sweet treat; then grab an extra to drop off at a friend's house on the way home ~ head to the park and read a book on a bench (remember water!) ~ drive to a city an hour away and enjoy lunch someplace you have not been before ~ visit a 'pick your own' farm and pick extra to share ~ go on a nature walk with a friend ~ volunteer to do something you have not done before ~ call a friend and watch the sunset together! ~



A drive is a drive is drive...unless one is carpooling with a BUNCH OF GARDEN GIRLS from the Northwoods Garden Club, heading down to the Swanson Restaurant in Perry, Georgia for a Garden Club Meeting! Delicious southern cooking alongside Beautiful Company!



Below, the Northwoods Garden Club alongside Mercer University Students, cleaning, trimming, planting, and getting the Mary Jane Newberry Butterfly Habitat (located at Claystone Park in Macon, Georgia), ready for the spring season!



If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!

(... this applies to most things in life!)



The 2027 Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention
Join us for a “Georgia Style Garden Party!”
~ southern hospitality at its finest! ~
The 2027 Garden Club of Georgia Convention will be held
March 30th, 2027 through April 1st, 2027 at the
Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa
6321 Highway 76
Young Harris, Georgia 30582
Hosted by the Laural District!



Our Garden Clubs do so much inspiring and encouraging of the next generation of gardeners!

Here below, the Green Acres Garden Club is excited to supply each of the schools in Lauren’s County that provided Agricultural classes a check for \$250 to help with their supplies.

Scholarship giving at its’ best!



Bliss

I cannot lie, and have to say, the hazy green sure makes my day
Windows open, doors propped too, the 'dust' that enters will welcome you
Into my home at any time, that hazy green creeps and lies
On every surface, in every room, a sign of beauty coming through
'Cause in a day or week or month, the hazy green blows in the dust
It is no more, the air is clear, and in its' place, joy appears
So much color, so deep and full, shades of green beautifully unfold
And what comes next, we all hold dear, the scents of nature now appear
I breathe in deep with every step, baffled by each next breath
How GOD could make things smell like this, is what I consider total Bliss!

By Pamela Austin

Things to do in Spring:

- ~ stay on top of weeding in the garden; pull after a rain or light water, to get the whole weed root and avoid chemical use... use caution not to disturb the roots of the plants nearby that you want to keep
- ~ look for any signs of disease or pests; both may be overcome with natural, everyday household items; ask fellow garden club members for their hacks and tricks that work in your location/environment
- ~ as trees and large (dormant) shrubs become covered in green leaves, look for dead branches and/or those hanging near the house or a structure, and take care of them before they grow any bigger or a storm hits
- ~ if you missed the opportunity to grow your own vegetables, flowers, plants, and fruit from seeds, there are a LOT of varieties at local nurseries as well as local plant sales...it is not too late to plant in middle Georgia!
- ~ remember those beautiful flowering azaleas and other early spring bloomers? ...now is the time to consider trimming them back if needed (please double check on your variety of plant/bush/tree before trim!)
- ~ when using pruners, clippers and/or any tool in the yard, remember, a good cleaning prior to spring use, and an occasional clean through summer, help to keep from spreading disease and pests around the garden
- ~ let us all remember that there is a good deal of information out there, and we need to seek out what we are looking for from reputable sources... online, a neighbor, a local gardener, nursery, and 100% our fellow garden club members, are all ways to find valuable and resourceful information for our garden needs
- ~ if you find something that works really well in your garden, be the kind of person that shares that information with other gardeners; a new plant, mulch, fertilizer, keeping bugs at bay, etc...
- ~ one of the best gifts in life are the plants/flowers we love, dug up and shared with those we love!