



2025-2027 VOL 7 FALL 2026

Magnolia Messenger

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carolyn.hartley41@yahoo.com**Content This Issue:****Magnolia District News P 1****Club News P 12****GCG News P 19****NGC News P 20****Calendar of Events P 21**

DIRECTORS CORNER

Fall 2026

August 28, 2026

Throughout the summer, the Steering Committee for our Magnolia District Wellness Garden met, completed acceptance of the design, hired a general manager, and worked with Massee Lane on this fantastic project. The goal is to complete the Garden by 2028 for the GCG Centennial Celebration. This will be the 2nd Public Garden on the East Coast specifically designed to help people with processing deficits including those with memory loss, autism and other neurodiverse children; as well as some of our veterans suffering with PTSD or brain injuries (TBI). Gardens and gardening are healing. Caregivers also benefit as they enjoy a moment of respite in a calm, secure environment.

Magnolia Clubs are encouraged to donate to the project, hold fundraisers, spread the word and visit civic organizations. Sandra Haga sandraanitahaga@gmail.com and Delise Knight deliseknight1@gmail.com are our fundraiser chairs for the project and will gladly visit your community to make presentations. There will be club member's workdays and opportunities to buy plants and/or place plants in the dirt at Massee Lane as the project progresses.

Plans for the Magnolia/Camellia District Flower Show are in full swing. The show is held each year at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in

DIRECTORS CORNER continues

Perry. This year, the show will be October 9-11. Faye Frazier is the Chairperson for this exciting event. This would be a great field trip for clubs.

Our Magnolia District Annual meeting will be held October 15th in Americus. See the enclosed invitation for more information. Come and enjoy the day as you hear about District, Garden Club of Georgia, and National Garden Club projects and programs.

Many of you are starting your club year in September. Note the calendar of upcoming events so you can plan them in your calendar. Remember to use the gardenclubofgeorgia.org website for information and resources. Magnolias, get ready for another full year! **Happy Fall!**

Magnolia District Co-Director Report

By: Ann Howell, Magnolia District Co-Director

Membership reports received from GCG indicate that currently there are 24 clubs in the Magnolia District with a total of 501 members. There are also 26 Subscribing members in the district. All clubs are encouraged to reach out to obtain more Subscribing members as a way of increasing interest in Garden Club within our communities. These members need to be renewed each year to help increase membership in GCG.

Whenever clubs hold special events in the community this is an opportunity to elevate the presence of a garden club. One way to increase membership is to provide a sign-up sheet for persons who might be interested in becoming a member of a garden club.

Ask the interested person to print their name, email and phone number so the club can follow up to increase the chances of gaining a new member. Advertising the event, collecting information from customers / visitors and follow-up contact will be helpful in obtaining new members. Clubs must work all year to be Present in the community if they want to grow.

MAGNOLIA DISTRICT NEWS

REMEMBER TO GET RONALD MCDONALD PULL TABS IMMEDIATELY TO:



Pull A Tab for Ronald McDonald Laura Johnson, Chairman, 6969 Highway 41 N, Vienna, GA: **Phone: 229-815-8272**

I believe that all of these tabs may have come from one house!

The Daffodil Garden Club of Albany has been busy pulling and collecting those tabs for the competition!

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Magnolia District August Board Meeting



Thank you Village Green Garden Club Members for hosting the Summer meeting of the Magnolia District Board on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at the Byron Heritage Church, Byron, Georgia. You were wonderful hostesses and the meeting was enjoyed by all who attended!

“Remember, Magnolia District Board Meetings play a vital role in advancing our mission—protecting nature’s gifts, preserving historic landscapes, nurturing a love and knowledge of gardening, and guiding future generations as they carry forward the proud heritage of Magnolia District and the State of Georgia.” Attend the Board Meeting and remain committed to Magnolia District and Your Community!

NATIONAL AWARD WON

The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus, Georgia won a National Award for YW 6 High School Garden Club Outstanding Sponsor: Azalea GC of Columbus, Georgia \$100! Congratulations and Celebration time for the dedication of the members to their project and youth!

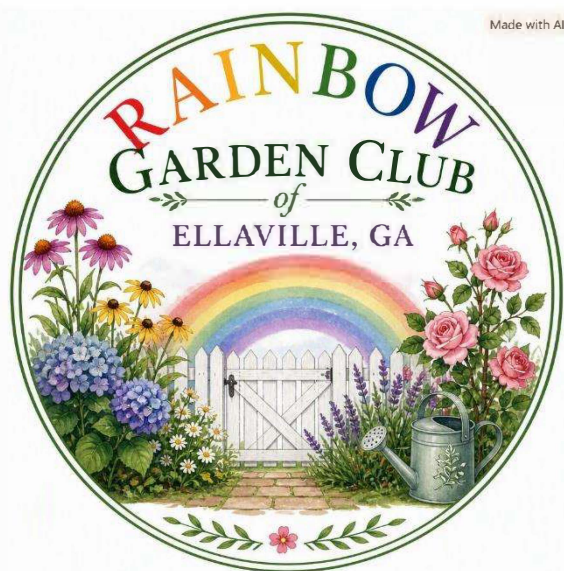
DEEP SOUTH AWARD WON

#5 Litter Control Small Club 1st Winchester Garden Club, Columbus Community Action Award

#29 Publicity Press Book Small Club 2nd Oglethorpe Garden Club, GA

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Rainbow Garden Club – Celebrating 100 Years of GCG



Founded in 1948 in Ellaville, Georgia, Rainbow Garden Club began with a group of women dedicated to caring for the earth, preserving their community's natural beauty, and sharing the joy of gardening. They encouraged creativity, nurtured home and yard beautification, and inspired others to grow—whether for food, beauty, or the sheer love of tending the soil.

Over the decades, Rainbow Garden Club has remained committed to the mission of the Garden Club of Georgia. Several long-standing projects highlight their dedication to service, education, and community pride:

• **Schley County Senior Center**

Celebrations For more than 20 years, members have hosted monthly birthday parties at the Senior Center, complete with cake, ice cream, and seasonal celebrations at Easter and Christmas. Seniors and staff alike enjoy refreshments, gifts, and fellowship.

- **Yard of the Month:** Each month, a beautifully maintained yard in Schley County is honored with a locally painted sign displayed proudly until the next selection. This project encourages community beautification and recognizes residents' hard work.
- **Seasonal Community Displays** Rainbow Garden Club creates spring and fall displays near the city park and erects a beloved Christmas manger scene—complete with a suspended star—at the building shared by the Senior Center and GED program. This tradition has brightened the community for more than two decades.
- **Smokey Bear Poster Contest Partnership** In collaboration with Schley County Elementary School, the club supports the Smokey Bear poster contest, celebrating student creativity. Winners are recognized at Honors Day and featured in the local newspaper, with every participant receiving acknowledgment.
- **Community Center Landscaping Project** After securing a grant from Flint EMC, Rainbow Garden Club is developing a landscape plan to enhance the grounds of the county's new Community Center, including the gymnasium and meeting spaces.

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Membership growth remains a priority as Rainbow Garden Club looks ahead. With decades of service behind them and many projects still flourishing, the club proudly continues its commitment to **beautification, conservation, and education**—honoring GCG's century-long legacy while cultivating the next generation of gardeners and community stewards.



"A Star-Spangled Salute!" The Flower Show At The Georgia National Fair

Magnolia and Camellia Districts will celebrate the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America by staging a patriotic flower show October 9-11, 2026, in Perry, Georgia in conjunction with the Georgia National Fair. The title of the flower show is "A Star-Spangled Salute!" The flower show schedule should be online soon. **"Georgia National Fair logo sourced from the official Georgia National Fair website."**
"Georgia National Fair logo © Georgia National Fair."

Design and horticulture entries will occur Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM and Friday morning from 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM. Judging of all entries will begin at 10:00 AM Friday, October 9, 2026; the show will open to the public at 1:00 PM. The show will be dismantled beginning at 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 11, 2026.

In order to be successful, the flower show needs you! When someone contacts you, a magnificent Magnolia (or a classy Camellia), please commit to undertaking the task you are being asked to assume. **"A Star-Spangled Salute!" can only be successful with participation by all members of both districts and members throughout Georgia.** Entries in horticulture have dwindled over the years. Each club in Magnolia is being challenged for each member to enter five horticultural exhibits. Listen out to learn more about an incentive for the club(s) which meets or exceeds the challenge. To Sign up for the Floral Design Competition please contact: Kay Hagler at 706-566-8540 and haglerkay@gmail.com.

Flower Show... YOUTH DIVISION

The Youth Division needs entries in all three sections: Photography, Botanical Crafts, and Botanical Design. Youth who are pre-school to 18 years old may participate. Drenda Sterenberg is Youth Chairman and may be contacted at **229-894-0982** and drenda.sternenberg@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT MAGNOLIA DISTRICT HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE?

Healthier Environment, Heathier You with Beautification, Conservation and Education

www.facebook.com/people/Magnolia-District-of-The-Garden-Club-of-Georgia/61582818336824/

Sandra Haga, Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley is in charge of the Facebook Page. If you have something you would like to post or advertise, send to Sandra at **478-952-6663 or sandraanitahaga@gmail.com**

DATE FOUNDED AND DATES FEDERATED WITH THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA: Check the dates for your club and assure correctness.

District	Club #	Club/Council Name	City	County	Council Club Belongs to	Date Club Federated with GCG	Date Club Founded
05 MAGNOLIA	05-005	ALBANY GARDEN CLUB	ALBANY	DOUGHERTY		1/1/1928	1/1/1928
05 MAGNOLIA	05-020	DAFFODIL GARDEN CLUB	ALBANY	DOUGHERTY		1/1/1947	1/1/1947
05 MAGNOLIA	05-050	GG PALMYRA HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB	ALBANY	DOUGHERTY		1/1/1940	1/1/1940
05 MAGNOLIA	05-055	SOUTH GEORGIA DESIGNING WOMEN	AMERICUS	SUMTER		2/1/2002	2/1/2002
05 MAGNOLIA	05-060	AZALEA GARDEN CLUB	AMERICUS	SUMTER	SUMTER CO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS	1/1/1949	1/1/1949
05 MAGNOLIA	05-075	DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB	AMERICUS	SUMTER	SUMTER CO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS	5/1/1949	5/1/1949
05 MAGNOLIA	05-078	EARLY BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB	AMERICUS	SUMTER		2/10/1982	2/10/1982
05 MAGNOLIA	05-145	BEAUTIFUL VIEW GARDEN CLUB	BUENA VISTA	MARION		1/1/1962	1/1/1961
05 MAGNOLIA	05-150	BUTLER GARDEN CLUB	BUTLER	TAYLOR		3/27/1939	3/27/1939
05 MAGNOLIA	05-155	VILLAGE GREEN GARDEN CLUB	BYRON	PEACH		9/30/1966	10/8/1965
05 MAGNOLIA	05-211	GG CAMILLA GARDEN CLUB	CAMILLA	MITCHELL		1/1/1946	1/1/1946
05 MAGNOLIA	05-215	THE AZALEA GARDEN CLUB OF COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS-MUSCOGEE	COLUMBUS COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS	1/1/1947	6/1/1946
05 MAGNOLIA	05-245	GREEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB	COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS-MUSCOGEE	COLUMBUS COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS	3/1/1991	9/9/1990
05 MAGNOLIA	05-315	TEA OLIVE GARDEN CLUB	COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS-MUSCOGEE		1/1/1934	1/1/1934
05 MAGNOLIA	05-330	WINCHESTER GARDEN CLUB	COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS-MUSCOGEE	COLUMBUS COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS	1/1/1961	4/11/1961
05 MAGNOLIA	05-335	AZALEA GARDEN CLUB	CUTHBERT	RANDOLPH		4/1/1951	4/1/1951
05 MAGNOLIA	05-340	CAMELLIA GARDEN CLUB	CUTHBERT	RANDOLPH		11/18/1949	11/18/1949
05 MAGNOLIA	05-375	RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB	ELLAVILLE	SCHLEY		1/1/1949	2/1/1948
05 MAGNOLIA	05-380	FORT GAINES HOME AND GARDEN CLUB	FORT GAINES	CLAY		1/1/1936	1/1/1934
05 MAGNOLIA	05-390	MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB	FORT VALLEY	PEACH		1/1/1956	1/1/1956
05 MAGNOLIA	05-440	OGLETHORPE GARDEN CLUB	OGLETHORPE	MACON		1/1/1936	1/1/1936
05 MAGNOLIA	05-465	BEE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN CLUB	RICHLAND	STEWART		11/1/2018	3/5/2018
05 MAGNOLIA	05-485	VIENNA GARDEN CLUB	VIENNA	DOOLY		8/16/1934	8/16/1934
05 MAGNOLIA	05-923	C - SUMTER CO FEDERATION OF GC	AMERICUS				
05 MAGNOLIA	05-926	C - COLUMBUS COUNCIL OF GC	COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS-MUSCOGEE			

Historic Landscape Preservation

Magnolia District supports the Historic Landscape Preservation Fund Annually.

Historic Landscape Preservation

Clare Jenkins, Chairman,

August 6, 2026

- HLP received \$10,000 from their 2026 Fund Raiser.
- In 2026 HLP will award \$20,750 in HLP Grants to 8 deserving applicants for restorative improvements.
- This chairman participated in a Zoom meeting on this past Tuesday to select and award these HLP Grants.

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Magnolia District

Cordially invites you to attend the:

Annual District Meeting

Thursday, October 15th

Coffee - Registration 9:30 A M

Business Meeting 10:00 A M



Griffin Bell Golf & Conference Center

1800 S. Lee Street

Americus, Georgia 31709

Honored Guest

Diane Hunter

President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc

Featured Speaker

Kay Snipes

Owner: Topiaries Home and Garden of Americus Georgia

Garden Club Host

Azalea Garden Club of Americus

Dogwood Garden Club of Americus

Early Bloomers Garden Club of Americus

RSVP by October 1, 2026

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Magnolia District Annual Meeting Registration Form **Thursday, October 15, 2026**



Registration: \$50.00 Deadline: October 1, 2026
Coffee/Registration 9:30 A M Business Meeting 10:00 A M
Late Registration Fees: \$10.00 (meal not guaranteed)
Griffin Bell Golf and Conference Center
Americus, GA 31709

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

☐ National Board Member	☐ Former State President	☐ District Board Member
☐ National Life Member	☐ State Board Member	☐ Council President
☐ Deep South Bd Member	☐ State Life Member	☐ Club President
☐ Deep South Life Member	☐ District Director	☐ Club Member
☐ State President	☐ Former District Director	☐ Guest
☐ First Time Attendee at a Magnolia District Meeting		☐ New Garden Club Member
☐ Emeritus Member		☐ Subscribing Member

Send Registration Form and Check payable to Magnolia District for \$50.00. On the notation line write "Annual Fall Meeting." Mail registration form and check to: Janis Webb, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Contact Janis Webb (229-938-1451) at webb2048@bellsouth.net

Dietary Restrictions:

Your timely registration saves you a seat!

Register by Thursday, October 1, 2026, to avoid a late registration fee of \$10.00.

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PREPARE FOR THE MEETING

1. RESERVE EXHIBIT SPACE by October 1, 2026: **State or District Committee Chairmen** wishing to reserve exhibit space, **please email and send form with registration** to: Janis Webb, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Contact Janis Webb (229-938-1451) at webb2048@bellsouth.net or for information, Marilyn Aldrich (229-314-0892) at mwaldrich1@aol.com Committee Chairmans, please try to have a Tri Board exhibit.

Name _____ Contact information _____

Chairmanship: GCG Chairman _____ Magnolia District _____
Name of Committee: _____

Please have the display set up by 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter.

2. MEMORIAL SERVICE: All Magnolia District **Club Presidents** and members, please notify Carolyn Culpepper, Chaplain of the names and date of the **deaths** of any members who have passed away since October 1, 2025. Magnolia District wishes to honor and recognize their service to your club.

Provide: Full name of member, birth and death year dates, Club name,

Carolyn H. Culpepper, Chaplain: carolyn.hartley41@yahoo.com C:229-942-8649

3. WHAT TO BRING:

1. All Clubs are asked to send a check for \$25.00 made out to Magnolia District **or** a Raffle Basket as a maintenance fee. Checks may be made to "Magnolia District" and mailed to the District Treasurer: **Janis Webb**, 161 Lakeshore Drive, Americus, Georgia 31719. Thank you for your contribution.

2. Raffle Baskets should have a Basket Name with a list of contents, value list completed and attached to the basket. **Reserve Space with reservation.**

THE WELLNESS GARDEN AT MASSEE LANE

The Century Project by Magnolia District



The Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Sponsorships for the
Wellness Garden at Massee Lane

(The Wellness Garden at Massee Lane is a place for individuals with memory loss, autism, and other cognitive, sensory, or physical challenges. They along with their families and caregivers, can find peace, engage all their senses, and experience the healing power of nature together.)

The Gold sponsorship:

Your name will be listed on a permanent brass plaque at the entrance of the Wellness Garden at Massee Lane.
Your logo, and a link on the Magnolia District GCG Facebook page.
Special recognition from the podium during the Dedication Ceremony.
Your name will be mentioned in promotional emails and social media when possible.
The gold sponsorship is \$10,000 and above.

The silver sponsorship:

Your logo, and a link on the Magnolia District GCG Facebook page.
Your name is listed on a brick which will be prominently displayed in the Wellness Garden at Massee Lane.
Recognition during the Dedication Ceremony.
Your name will be mentioned in promotional emails and social media when possible.
The silver sponsorship is \$1,000 to \$9,999.

Our bronze sponsorship:

Your name is listed on the Magnolia District GCG Facebook page.
Recognition during the Dedication Ceremony.
Your name will be mentioned in promotional emails and social media when possible.
The bronze sponsorship is \$500 to \$999.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Web Site: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Mail this form with your payment to:
The Magnolia District
Janis Webb
161 Lakeshore Drive
Americus, GA 31719

For questions, please call 478-227-2084 or 478-952-6663

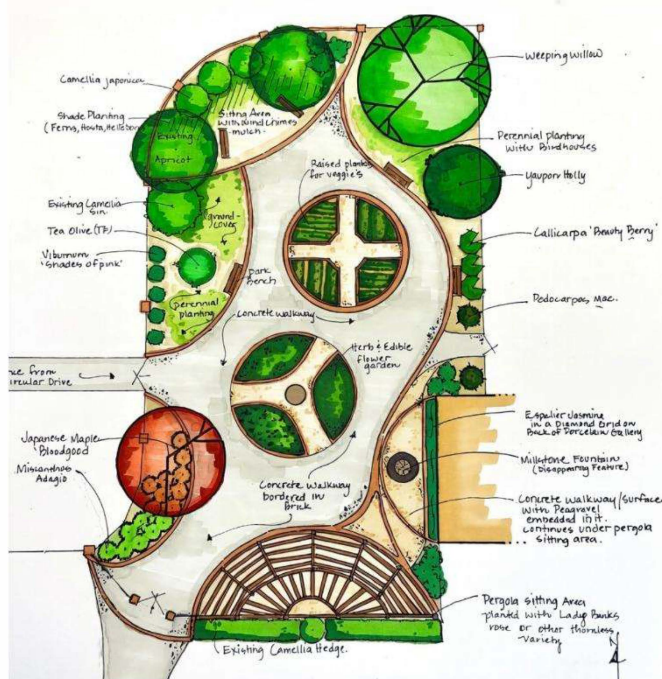
The Wellness Garden at Massee Lane is a Project of the Magnolia District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. a 501(c)(3).

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The Wellness Garden at Massee Lane

The Wellness Garden is designed specifically to support individuals living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, while also providing a safe, welcoming environment for parents and children with autism.

Both populations benefit from sensory-rich, safe, and calming environments that encourage exploration without overwhelming them. These shared spaces use nature to foster calm, improve cognitive function, and enhance emotional well-being.



Massee Lane Gardens is the botanical garden headquarters of the American Camellia Society, an International Garden of Excellence, and a Georgia Camellia Trail garden. Brick walkways lead visitors through a self-guided tour of one of the world's finest camellia collections.

Known as the "Winter Rose," camellias bloom from September through March. Something is always blooming at Massee Lane, no matter the season.

Located at beautiful
Massee Lane Gardens,
100 Massee Ln, Fort Valley, GA
headquarters of the
American Camellia Society.
The Wellness Garden is a project
of The Magnolia District of
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc

Donations may be mailed to:
Magnolia District GCG
161 Lakeshore Dr.
Americus, GA 31719

Scan the QR code to
make a donation to
the Wellness Garden





The Wellness Garden

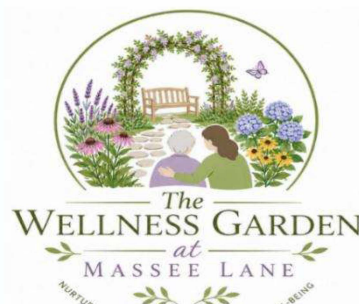
at Massee Lane

a project of the Magnolia District
of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.,
a 501 (c)(3).



Scan QR code to donate online

for more information please email
magnoliadistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org



Magnolia Club News

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICUS

By: Lisa Simpson

Dogwood Garden Club – July Yard of the Month! The July **Yard of the Month** might best be described as the **Garden of the Month**—and it belongs to Sumter Middle School's thriving agricultural program.



Under the leadership of **Brinson Brock**, Agriculture Teacher at Sumter Middle School, students work year-round to maintain an impressive greenhouse filled with a wide variety of plants. During the summer months, they carefully move each plant to its ideal location—sun or shade—to ensure continued growth.



Eggs Collected!!!

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Dogwood Garden Club members recently added to the collection by donating plants for students to divide and repot, giving them hands-on experience in propagation and plant care.

The students' responsibilities extend beyond the greenhouse—they also tend to a small flock of chickens, learning daily stewardship and responsibility. Brock and his



students are always eager to share their plants with garden club members and the wider community. At Sumter Middle School, **character growth and plant growth go hand in hand—flower pot to flower pot**—as students learn skills that will last a lifetime. **Pictured:** Dogwood President Cindy Williams; members Pat Booker, Sheila Emmons, Faye and Claude

Frazier; Agriculture Teacher Brinson Brock; Sumter County School Superintendent Jerry J. Sanders, Sr.; students; and parents.



On July 25th, members of the **Dogwood Garden Club** participated in **Tablescapes: A Table Setting With a Cause**. The event took place at the Women's Federated Club House in Albany. The Thronateeska Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the event as a fundraiser for their projects, which includes scholarships and historic preservation efforts. Individuals, clubs and businesses paid a fee to enter their personally decorated tables for public viewing. First, second and third place

winners were chosen by People's Choice.

Light refreshments were served.

The Dogwood Garden Club entry was developed by members Janice Cliett, Willie Maxwell, Faye Frazier and Lisa Simpson (photo right). This team of talented ladies worked for



R to L: Lisa Simpson, Willie Maxwell, Faye Frazier, Janice Cliett

weeks to choose the linens, dishes, stemware, flatware and decorations to create the table. The gorgeous arrangement of fresh flowers, created by Faye Frazier and Janice Cliett, was the finishing touch to this beautifully coordinated table setting, which was whispered by many in attendance to be the loveliest table of all the entries.

BEAUTIFUL VIEW GARDEN CLUB, BUENA VISTA

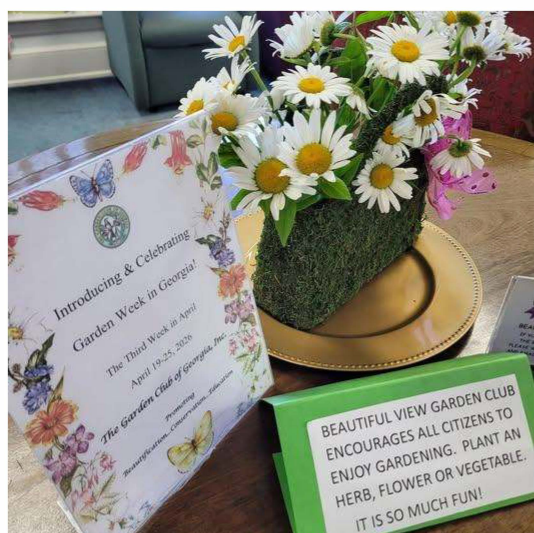


State Botanical Garden, The University of Georgia, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, Ga 30605. **Mr. Will Rogers** is a Conservation Research Professional at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia with a focus on imperiled plant species. Beautiful View Garden Club received a lesson in technology when Will Rogers presented a program using the “**I Naturalist**” app on smart phones to assist in the mapping of native plants and grasslands in national forest lands. Will, who currently works at the State Botanical Garden at the University of Georgia in Athens, explained how the community driven photograph-based project is used to help map native plants.

The Georgia Grasslands Initiative (GGI) is a partnership between the US Forest Service and the State Botanical Garden that was begun in 2021. Georgians are encouraged to travel to national forest lands and photograph native plants and grasses. The data is relayed using the website “I Naturalist”. This method helps to identify plants that may occur in places not previously recorded. Garden Club members are encouraged to become a part of this citizen generated study. ***Check with Will for a presentation!***

Beautiful View Garden Club

recently helped to educate ladies who visited the Marion County Library on techniques of how to select and



prepare flowers to create an arrangement for their home use. The project was a cooperative effort between the librarian and garden club



members who assisted the ladies in the preparation of plant material and placement of flowers into a desired arrangement. This was the second year for the design workshop to help local citizens discover that with a

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little creativity and a few flowers a beautiful arrangement can be made for their home.

Garden Week in Georgia bloomed beautifully as the Library and Beautiful View Garden Club joined together in celebration. Ann Howell's inspiring encouragement to citizens as they were invited to plant an herb, flower, or vegetable, highlighted through her vibrant display at the Library.



Flower Fantasy 2026 – Making A Difference, Magnolia GC of Fort Valley

On April 25 and 26, 2026 the Magnolia Garden Club hosted its fourth Flower Fantasy at the beautiful historic home of one of its members, Delise Knight. Delise and Paul Knight, in the almost 30 years they have lived at Pineola Farms, have taken the bare yard to a show place featuring more than a dozen gardens. Pineola Farms is currently on the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

The theme for this year's Flower Fantasy was **“Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle”**. These three “Rs” were showcased by celebrating flowers, creativity and a better environment while supporting Garden Club of Georgia Scholarships and the Wellness Garden at Massee Lane Gardens, a project of the Magnolia District of GCG.

In the beautifully restored 1850's home, five rooms were decorated featuring a form of **recycling, repurposing or reducing** the need to buy new. Approaching the front door of the home, the porch to the left of the door was piled with dried leaves, grass clippings, egg shells and egg carton, all items that can be composted to become rich fertile soil. On the other side of the door was a large garden with beautiful flowers and healthy veggies showing what can happen when we use our throwaways to make rich compost. **Reduce and recycle!** As you entered the hall way of the home, there were displays of how some of our highways and byways are littered with plastic water bottles, trash and our throwaway items, detracting from the natural beauty of our environment. To the left in the formal dining room newspaper was used as the table covered with empty vegetable and fruit tin cans, with labels still on, used as flower vases. Children's boots held beautiful gerbera



daisies making the room cheerful and unexpectedly beautiful, proving you don't need fancy crystal vases and expensive tablecloths to set a beautiful table. **Repurpose!** The other rooms of the house were equally creatively decorated with items such as bird baths and feeders made from glass vases and platters from second hand stores. **Repurpose!!** Or in the heart of the twin bedroom, hundreds of empty plastic water bottles cascade like a dramatic waterfall, powerfully illustrating the overwhelming volume of single-use plastic we consume every day. At the center stands a single reusable water bottle, elegantly displayed amid a lush floral arrangement. This striking contrast delivers a clear message: one reusable bottle can replace thousands of disposables, slashing plastic waste and breathing new life into our environment—one mindful choice at a time. Reuse and



recycle! At the end of the main hallway, the room was filled with plastic bags hanging across the top and stuffed in a display showing how many plastic grocery bags we use and are often seen strewn across our highways. Reusable cloth grocery bags are the way to go and were used in the display to show off beautiful flower arrangements. **Reduce and recycle!** The kitchen, the final room of the house, was decorated with almost every flower imaginable. *By standing in front of a large, mirrored armoire your reflection could be seen with beautiful flowers and monarch butterflies behind you.* How we use and treat our environment reflects on each of us. We are the solution. **“Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle”.**

The surrounding gardens were to perfection hosting 11 vendors selling native plants, pottery, local honey and much more. Also included during the two-day event were 5 knowledgeable speakers giving presentations on topics of Raised Bed Gardening, Composting, Honey Bees and Honey Production, Creating Backyard Habitats For Birds, and Herbs and Edible Weeds.

This year the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley, through the proceeds from the Flower Fantasy ticket sales, vendor fees and sponsorships was able to donate to the GCG Scholar ships \$8,000 and to the Wellness Garden at Massee Lane, a Magnolia District project, \$10,000. Thank you to all those who attended and supported this worthwhile event. The Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley will be holding a Flower Fantasy 2027 on April 17 and 18, 2027. Mark your calendars now and come and join us next spring for another extraordinary event. Look in coming Garden Gateways and Magnolia Messengers for more information. We hope to see you there for the next new, different and exciting Flower Fantasy at Pineola Farms.

Azalea Garden Club of Columbus – No Summer Vacation for These Gardeners!

While our club calendar may look quieter during summer, the Azalea Garden Club of Columbus has been anything but idle. Between garden maintenance, volunteering, learning, and planning, there is still plenty to celebrate - from GCG awards and the completion of our Plant America garden to our conservation efforts, community projects, and exciting plans to mentor a new high school garden club. We began the summer celebrating the accomplishments and recognition our club received through GCG awards - honors that reflect the dedication, creativity, and volunteer spirit of our members, along with the many hours of planning and organizing behind the scenes. One of our biggest accomplishments was completing our Plant America garden renovation project.

Before the summer heat arrived, a new irrigation system was installed to help keep our garden thriving. Of course, irrigation does not eliminate all the work! Members continue to maintain the plantings, monitor the garden and keep those uninvited weeds under control. As every gardener knows, planting is the easy part! Our daylily enthusiasts shared their knowledge at the local annual daylily festival, educating visitors about the care and cultivation of these beautiful summer bloomers. Members also entered their own flowers in competition - because nothing says “friendly garden club competition” like carefully inspecting everyone else’s blooms while pretending not to compare!

As we prepared to celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary, we brought red, white, and blue to our gardens and community spaces. Our Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers were beautifully decorated to honor military service members, veterans, and their families. We also created our own patriotic gardens, giving us plenty of beautiful displays to admire - and perhaps a little garden envy. We prefer to call it inspiration! Our commitment to conservation continued through the Annual Pollinator Census as we observed and recorded bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, contributing valuable information to researchers. And really, **what could be better? We were given an official reason to stand in the garden, stare at flowers, and count bugs. Gardeners have been doing this for years - we just finally got credit for it!**

Looking ahead, we are especially excited to mentor a new high school student garden club. Students are already planning an herb garden and sensory pollinator garden to complement their existing vegetable and flower raised beds. These gardens will provide an outdoor classroom where students can learn about soil, watering, plant care, harvesting, pollinators, and the satisfaction of growing something themselves. Most

importantly, we hope to show students that gardening teaches much more than how to grow plants. It builds patience, responsibility, conservation, teamwork, and perseverance while encouraging time outdoors and a closer connection with nature. And, of course, there is the dirt. Lots of dirt!

Cross Pollination:

Growing Gardeners Across Generations

The Azalea Garden Club of Columbus is excited to partner with the new Jordan Vocational High School Youth Garden Group. These enthusiastic students—some amused that we once gardened without apps—are tending their first garden after planting four raised beds last spring. This fall, the Azaleas will join them in planning their first cool-season crops.

Our members will mentor the students as they build sustainable gardening skills, from soil health and root biology to watering, composting, and Integrated Pest management. We'll share the wisdom gained through years of watching nature's cues and seasonal patterns, while the students teach us how to scan QR codes, identify plants with apps, and keep up with a vocabulary that grows as fast as their vegetables.

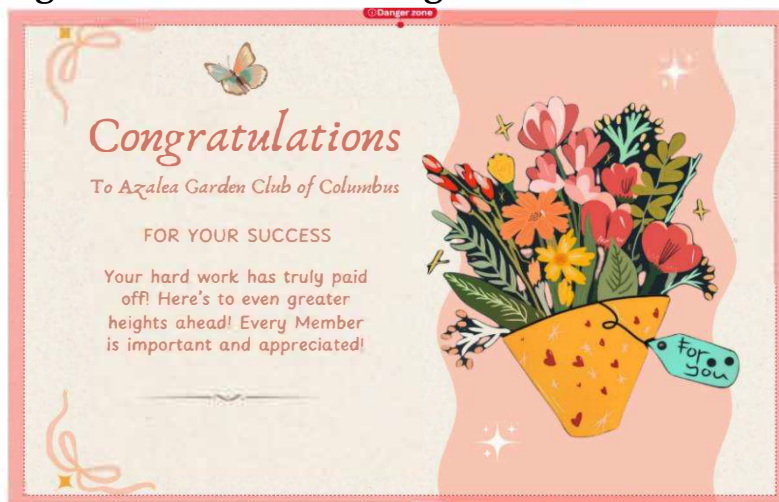


The students bring creativity and fresh ideas; we bring experience and a few well-earned

stories. Together, we're growing confidence, curiosity, and connections—proving that gardens cultivate more than plants.

Their future plans include expanding into herbs, sensory gardens, and a pollinator habitat. Those first raised beds are just the beginning of an inspiring outdoor classroom.

And by next spring, we may all understand when the pepper plant is “cooked,” the garden is “fire,” or the harvest is “no cap”—and they’ll know the difference between compost and being composted. When that happens, we’ll call this partnership a blooming success.



CCGC Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!

The National Garden Club Inc. Annual Convention was held May 4-6, 2026, at the St Louis Hilton Hotel, MO. National Garden Clubs Inc. President Donna Donnelly, requested all attendees to decorate all their respective state's Blue Star and Gold Star Markers in red, white and blue to celebrate America's 250th birthday on July 4th, 2026.



At the May 19, 2026, meeting, the Columbus Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., approved the decoration of the four Columbus Gold Star/Blue Star markers and a committee (Valerie Aust, Terry Morgan and Linda Hinman) carried out the request. The Gold Star Memorial Marker at the I-185 Welcome Center, Williams Road; the two Blue Star Memorial Markers: at the Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic on River Road and the Fort Benning Infantry Museum Walk of Honor; and the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on Highway 27 at the Civil War Naval Museum were festooned with red, white and blue bow garlands for the occasion for visitors to enjoy.



Individual garden club members celebrated July 4th in their own gardens in red, white and blue and continue to submit their pictures for the NGC **PLANT AMERICA/GCG PLANT GEORGIA Red, White and Blue project!**

O! SAY CAN YOU SEE?

THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC. NEWS
Work on GCG Awards Applications Now!

Healthier Environment, Heathier You with Beautification, Conservation and Education

GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA AWARDS DEADLINES:

New to this year's application: Make sure you list your club's name, your district's name followed by the city and state in parentheses. These awards are passed on to the Deep South Region and the National Garden Club. Since we have a good bit of duplication of club names, we want to make sure the right club gets it's award. See the examples.

November 15th for most awards.

Exceptions: **December 1** - #39 Marker Awards , **January 15** - # 28 Publicity Press Book **February 1** - #20 History, #25 - Scrapbook, #31 - GC Council, #33 - Member Participation Program, #49 -Holiday Decorations, #26 – Poem **Dec/31/26-** Special Award 250: **Send applications to Diana Malone at awardschairmangcga@gmail.com.** Submission is generally DIGITAL but not always! Read Guidelines at: gardenclubofgeorgia.org/membership-awards. Choose Members Resources then Awards.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB

National Garden Club, Inc. Flower Show School Course 3

February 21-24, 2027, National Garden Club, Inc. Flower Show School Course 3

Registration and further details to be announced. Check the GCG website!



Nilsa is always taking care of business! Photo left: Nilsa Summey, GCG Chairman of NGC's Plant America, (right) speaks with an NGC member about Planting America with red, white, and blue to celebrate America's 250th Birthday!

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Check your nesting boxes for problems: Correct problems.

Backyard Birds of Georgia by Andy McBird: Most common backyard birds of Georgia. The chart is excellent for children or adults who want to learn about the birds at their bird feeder in Georgia. This one illustrates the autumn weather where birds start to show up in your backyard in Georgia.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND CHECK THE GCG CALENDAR

**Sign up and Details at <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org>
Check out The Facebook and District Webpages.**

2026 -2027

Sept 9, 2026	GCG Fall Board Meeting, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, Ga.
Sept 14-17, 2026	FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE II will be held at the Central Georgia Technical College in Macon, Ga.
Oct 9-12, 2026	Magnolia District and Camilla Flower Show GNF, Perry, Ga. Fairgrounds Sign up for Floral Design with Kay Hagler, 706-566-8540/haglerkay@gmail.com
Oct 15, 2026	Deadline Winter Submission for Garden Gateway Submission. Submit to mwaldrich1@aol.com

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Oct 15, 2026	Magnolia District Annual Fall Meeting, Americus, Ga.
Nov 15, 2026,	GCG Awards Deadline for some awards: Check Schedule
Nov 15, 2026	Deadline for Winter Submission for Magnolia District Submit to mwaldrich1@aol.com and Haglerkay@gmail.com
Jan 31, 2027	Dollars For Scholars Donation Deadline
Feb 9 th , 2027	The Magnolia District 2027 Winter Board, Ft. Gaines Home and Garden Ft. Gaines, GA
Feb 1, 2027	Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Application.
	Check all Grant application Deadlines!

**MAGNOLIA DISTRICT
Magnolia Messenger**

Kay Hagler, P O Box 436,
Buena Vista, Ga 31803

Telephone: Cell for text or voice

706 -566-8540: Email: haglerkay@gmail.com

Magnolia Messenger Deadlines:

Fall Issue (Sep. Oct. Nov.) August 15

Winter Issue (Dec. Jan. Feb.) November 15

Spring Issue (Mar. April May) February 15

Summer Issue (June, July, August) May 15



Your Club and You are a member of :

The Magnolia District,

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



The Deep South Garden Club, Inc.

and

The National Garden Club, Inc.



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