The Azalea Trumpet

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AZALEA DISTRICT - - -

Azalea District News





More scenes : Additional looks at the summer board meeting.

The Azalea District Theme

"Humming for Beautification, Conservation and Education"

HUM BUSY: With brave wings she flies, flying so fast.

HUM TRUE: The earth has music for those who listen.

HUM SURE: Bringing the gift of joy, learn to laugh and be happy.

HUM LIFE: Darting lightly, spreading of joy and beauty, teaching us to appreciate the nature's wonder.

HUM SILLY: There is no easy way to bathe a hummingbird.

HUM BOLD: Sipping nectar from every flower.

HUM BELIEVE: It's a great skill we all should learn: to believe in miracles in our life.

HUM HAPPY: Fly joyfully through my days, seeing beauty in everything.

HUM CONFIDENCE: Spread your wings, let your spirit soar, only from the heart can you touch the sky.

The Azalea Trumpet



The Editor

Blake Giles is the editor of the Azalea Trumpet. He is the past president of the Watkinsville Garden Club, He worked 34 years in the newspaper industry (remember those rolled-up pages they used to throw on your doorstep?).

Submission Guidelines

Send all information to azaleatrumpet@gmail.com.
Send events that you want included on the quarterly calendar.
Word files preferred, but other formats are acceptable.
Regarding photos, the bigger the resolution, the better.
Instead of taking the time to embed photos in documents, send them as separate files.
Questions: azaleatrumpet@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition: Dec. 18

Rose and Dahlia Garden Club

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1938, ROSE AND DAHLIA CLUB HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN STUDY, CULTIVATION, SERVICE



Every few months, members of the Rose and Dahlia Garden Club can be seen at the Sexton's House at Oconee Hill Cemetery, creating beautiful faux floral displays that brighten the front porch and welcome visitors.

Founded in 1938 with 13 charter members, Rose and Dahlia is Athens' second oldest garden club. Club history states that it was founded "to study flowers and their cultivation," and from its beginnings, the club has been active in Athens and Clarke County.

During the 1940s, members planted and encouraged Athenians in the planting of victory gardens. In the 1950s and 1960s, the club raised money for the funding and furnishings for the State Garden Club headquarters in Athens. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, members planted trees, flowers and bulbs in many locations in Athens and across the state. In the intervening decades, the club has raised local awareness of issues including the environment, reforestation, water conservation and the use of native plants in landscaping through various hands-on programs and initiatives.

Today, members of Rose and Dahlia are actively involved in several projects at Oconee Hill and all across Clarke County. Its members volunteer monthly at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and mentor a group of students at the Downtown Academy with a program known as the Growing Seeds.

Members have planted flowering bulbs along the highways and at local hospitals and nursing homes. Club members hold leadership positions in the district, state and national garden clubs, and the club and its members have been recognized with various honors and awards.



Front porch beauty: Club members decorate the porch of the Sexton's House at Oconee Hill Cemetery for the season (top), including a seasonal wreath to add a welcoming touch at the front door.

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Rose and Dahlia Garden Club

In addition to decorating the Sexton's House, Rose and Dahlia members have been instrumental in making Wreaths Across America successful at Oconee Hill Cemetery. The club and individual members have honored our veterans by purchasing boxes of wreaths.

For the last two years, members and their families have bundled up on cold December days to mark the graves and lay wreaths in Section H, which contains the largest number of veterans. This year, on a beautiful April Arbor Day, members and their families helped to plant a cherry tree graciously donated by Cofer's Garden Center. It was wonderful to hear the laughter of children across this beautiful and historic cemetery.





Arbor Day remembered: Club members planted at Oconee Hill Cemetery a cherry tree donated by Cofer's Home and Garden Center.





They're official: New officers of the Milledgeville Garden Club are, from left, Jennifer Pollard, parliamentarian; Anne Smart, secretary; Anna Maria Pelton, president; Jan Jeffords Schenck, president-elect; Holly Williams, treasurer; and Sandra Wilder, vice president.

Club Installs New Officers

A large crowd of members and guests gathered for a picnic where they observed the installation of new officers for the Milledgeville Garden Club.

At least one of the new officers felt right at home as the picnic was held in the gardens of President-Elect Jan Jeffords Schenck. She guided a tour of her gardens for all who attended.

The tour was preceded by a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Alan Smith.

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MARY TANNER HONORED FOR HER WELL-TENDED GARDEN

The Milledgeville Garden Club selected the property of Mary Danner as Yard of the Month.

Ms. Danner's love of gardening is apparent everywhere one looks. Beautiful containers and hanging ferns create a warm welcome on the front porch, while the surrounding landscape and flower beds display a large variety of colorful plants and flowers.

Her favorites, she says, are red Gerbera daisies.

The carefully tended plantings continue around the house and into a deep backyard, which includes well-established plum trees and large lantana plants in a variety of colors.

With family and friends close by, she enjoys entertaining them outside and sharing her wonderful gardens.

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Yard of the month: Mary Danner takes great pride in her garden and loves showing it off to friends and family.



Kicking off another year: Left to right: President Ana Maria Pelton with hostesses BJ. Simpson, Kathy Chandler, Linday Poyner and Harriette Whipple.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON KICKS OFF YEAR OF GARDENING PROGRAMS

The Milledgeville Garden Club held its annual luncheon Thursday, Sept. 24, at the First Baptist Church in Milledgeville kicking off another year of gardening programs. The first program featured Molly Kimler, chair of the Community Wildlife Project, representing the Azalea District to promote the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification program.



Made in the shade: Visitors to Sandy Creek included, from left, standing, Toby Peebles, Charlotte White, Jimmy Stone, Martha Stone, Babs Davis, Pam Price, Jane Edmunds, Linda Phillips, Nicki Thigpen and Amy Lahn. Kneeling, Lauren Williams-Mazer and Cathy Stevenson.

FIELD TRIP TO SHADY CREEK GREENHOUSES WAS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL

In April, the Warrenton Garden Club enjoyed its field-trip meeting at the Shady Creek Greenhouses in Avera, Ga.

What a fun trip they had visiting the Retail Garden Center, and shopping all the beautiful plants, hanging baskets, and containers! They met with Kim Koehn, retail garden center manager. He took the visitors out to a shady part of the sales area and demonstrated how he chooses plants for a large container, the kind of potting soil he uses and how he decides to place each plant in the design he has for the container.

He was so interesting, answering questions about unusual plants. He even posted the club on Shady Creek Greenhouses' Facebook page.

The Retail Garden Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the spring and fall. Additional information is available at:

http://www.shadycreekgreenhouses.com/.

Warrenton Garden Club



A celebration: The Warrenton Garden Club decorated community welcome signs to mark garden week in Georgia. Shown are, from left, Nicki Thigpen, Toby Peebles, Lauren Williams-Mazer, Cathy Stevenson, Linda Phillips, Babs Davis, Charlotte White and Jane Edmunds, at the sign on Highway 278 near the Warren County schools..

WARRENTON GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES GARDEN WEEK IN GEORGIA

During Garden Week in Georgia this year, the Warrenton Garden Club filled baskets with red, white and blue flowers for the Welcome to Warrenton signs positioned on the four main entry roads coming into Warrenton.

Patriotic ribbon bows were added to each basket before they were attached to the brick pillars of the signs. This was also a salute to the red, white and blue theme for the 250th birthday of America. It was a great way to remind the citizens of Warren County that the garden club members like to beautify the community just as they do their own homes and gardens.

Sharon-Raytown Garden Club



Assistance for assisted living: Members of the Sharon-Raytown Garden Club are planning their annual donations to Jabez Assisted Living. Each year, members purchase much-needed items for the residents and deliver them before Christmas.

Happy 250th, America!

Sharon-Raytown Garden Club members established a flower bed at the Blue Star Marker located at the American Legion Post 8, Crawfordville, Georgia.

In April of 2026 red, white and blue flowers were planted in recognition of the **America's 250th Anniversary**. Two patriotic bows were added to the post, which can be seen from each side of the marker.

Members also placed small American flags and planted red, white and blue flowers in the large concrete flowerpots located in downtown Crawfordville, Georgia.





CLUB MEMBER SHARES KNOWLEDGE OF FLOWER DESIGN WITH OTHERS



After attending flower basic design I and II classes sponsored by the Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., Jan Stewart, of Sharon-Raytown Garden Club, conducted a workshop on mass flower design for members of the Sharon-Raytown Garden Club.

Assisting was Jan Braizer and Velma Pearson of Union Point Garden Club who also attended the basic flower design classes. Flowers and greenery from the previous class were used (recycled) along with new flowers purchased for the class.

A Power Point presentation was given showing different types of mass design, with a discussion on what to use and how to put the design together. The purpose of the class was to show that flower designs can be fun and easy and how to tell the difference in a mass design and a line design. Each design was different and beautiful. Members were encouraged to participate in a garden club sponsored flower show in the near future.



NO INTIMIDATION HERE: Members of the Sharon-Raytown Club jumped right in to learn how to design flower arrangements.

Sharon-Raytown Garden Club's history with flower shows goes way back to members growing chrysanthemums at home in the spring through the summer, with the flower show being held in November every two years. Our club currently does not have plans for a flower show; we encourage members to learn and participate with other club flower shows.

LOUISVILLE CLUB MARSHALLS COMMUNITY TO REPAIR STORM DAMAGE



Helene's havoc: Many trees were destroyed by the 2024 storm.

In late September of 2024, Hurricane Helene changed course and blew through east central Georgia before heading north into the Carolinas. No one was prepared for the devastation caused by 100 mile per hour winds and massive rainfall.

The city of Louisville lost an estimated 20 percent of its tree canopy, and more than 140,000 cubic yards of debris was removed from within the city limits. Six trees in total were lost in Helen Clark Memorial Park, the city's largest park which faces US 1 Business.

To address the loss of trees in the park, the Louisville Garden Club raised funds for the purchase, planting and maintenance of new trees for the park. To that end, the club decided to replicate its successful nativity exhibit held in 2022.

In December 2025, after months of planning and site preparation, the club held the new iteration of the exhibit, featuring more than 200 nativities displayed with local greenery gathered from the yards and gardens of members and friends. More than 350 people attended over the 4 day exhibit, and more than $6000 was raised for the new project.

Continued on next page.

Louisville Garden Club

In February of 2026, eight new trees were planted in Helen Clark Memorial Park: three October Glory maples, one live oak, three cypress, and one gingko.

The Tree Project subcommittee met with the city manager and used research from previous garden club presentations to select tree varieties and locations suitable for our climate, ease of maintenance, bird habitat, and the overall aesthetic of the park. A local nursery provided the trees at cost.

While members of the garden club dug a few symbolic shovels of dirt, a city backhoe and hard-working inmates from our local prison work-release program provided the bulk of the labor!

Invaluable advice on site location, planting depth, and watering schedule was provided by local horticulturalist Joe Foss who has assisted the garden club on many a project. Nearly $5,000 was spent on the trees, watering bags, 400 feet of hose, and other maintenance accessories.

The Louisville Fire Department responded to the club's request for some help with watering during the worst dry periods of the summer months. The Louisville Garden Club is grateful to the many local businesses, individuals, and government officials who contributed to the success of project.







A plan comes together: While the digging was ceremonial, the labor was real in replacing storm damage in Helen Clark Memorial Park.

NEW LIBRARY INVITES CLUB TO MAINTAIN FOUR NEW PLANTERS

The Rosemary & Thyme Garden Club has been meeting at the O'Kelly Memorial Library since 2018 when the club started. The club placed one planter in front of the library and members took turns watering.

A new, larger library is opening and invited the club to keep four planters going all year. The club accepted the challenge and members are excited on this new project.

The new library opened Sept. 19. Members of Rosemary & Thyme wore their aprons with pride and had people walk up and ask to join the garden club.

The next project will be participating in the Loganville Scarecrow Contest. The members decided to make a Dolly Parton scarecrow in front of the library in her memory and promote Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is for preschoolers to receive books monthly at there home to inspire children to love reading.

Rosemary & Thyme Garden Club is excited about the new O'Kelly Memorial Library and growing in Loganville





ANSWERING THE CALL: New planters at a new library are maintained by Rosemary & Thyme Club.

Garden Club of Georgia Pointing to Centennial Celebration in 2028

The Garden Club of Georgia has unveiled its theme and logo for its impending 100th anniversary.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. – 1928 to 2028
"Celebrating a Century of Beautification, Conservation & Education"

There will be many events during 2028 to celebrate the centennial. Put it on your long-range calendar. The 100th Anniversary Committee will need funds to pay for the following:

- Statewide traveling exhibits
- Exhibits within each of the Districts – at libraries and other public places.

Garden club members can help defray the costs of celebrations in 2028. People who attend various functions will still need to pay something to register for bus tours in Athens, the reception itself in June at headquarters, or other events to be determined, in order to make a commitment that they are coming. The funds raised in advance will lower the ticket price of everything that year.

Any other events and projects in each district that will be developed by the committee.

Therefore, in order to raise funds to help defray the cost of some of the events planned for the 100th Anniversary Celebration, GCG has established the Century Club. Members who wish to belong to this club and financially support the 100th Celebration may donate $100 and receive a Century Club lapel pin (preliminary design above) and certain other benefits. The total list of benefits is still being determined. Other benefits being considered are:

- A beautiful acknowledgement card suitable for framing, possibly featuring watercolor artwork of GCG Headquarters.
- Early seating at certain events
- Recognition at events or in district newsletters and *Garden Gateways*.

Plus more.

Donations are being accepted now. Pins will be ordered over the summer and be distributed at the Fall District Meetings. Wear it with pride! The fundraising will determine how big celebrations can be. Your support is appreciated.

Get your order in ASAP to become a Century Club Member.

Make your $100 check payable to GCG and mail along with the form below to:

Barbara Bourque, 100th Committee Chairman
6445 Holland Drive, Cumming, GA 30041-4641
b.bourque@comcast.net (404) 374-2828

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b.bourque@comcast.net 404-374-2828

Name:_____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____Email_____

Garden Club Name:_____

District:_____ Check #:_____

Azalea District Calendar

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026

Azalea District Annual Fall Meeting,
Waynesboro Baptist Church, 853 N. Liberty St., Waynesboro, Ga., 10 a.m.
Honored guest: GCG President, Diane Hunter
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Berry, UGA Cooperative Extension

Tuesday, Feb. 2 2027

Azalea District Executive Committee Meeting,
Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters, State Botanical Garden, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Garden Club of Georgia Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 8-Saturday, Oct. 10

State Botanical Native Sale,
State Botanical Garden, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens

Friday, Oct. 9-Sunday, Oct. 11

Camellia and Magnolia Districts Flower Show,
Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry

Saturday, March 13, 2027

Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser,
Jekyll Island

Tuesday, March 30-Thursday, April 1, 2027

2027 Garden Club of Georgia Convention,
Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa, 6321 Highway 76, Young Harris

National Garden Club Calendar

Monday, Nov. 9-Tuesday, Nov. 10
Gardening School Course (virtual),
Course No. 2, Series 2, Zoom
Gale Thomas, 404 790-7101,
galedthomas@gmail.com

Thursday, Dec. 3-Friday, Dec. 4
Gardening School Course (virtual),
Course No. 3, Series 2, Zoom
Gale Thomas, 404 790-7101,
galedthomas@gmail.com

Thursday, Jan. 21-Friday, Jan. 22, 2027
Gardening School Course (virtual),
Course No. 4, Series 2, Zoom
Gale Thomas, 404 790-7101,
galedthomas@gmail.com

Thursday, May 13-Monday, May 17, 2027
National Convention,
Monona Terrace Community and
Convention Center, Madison, Wis.