



Azalea Trumpet

A Newsletter for the Azalea District, Garden Club

of Georgia

Katherine Allen, District Director
Fall 2009

Fall is definitely here this week even in middle Georgia. The weather is just wonderful. And, I am beginning to see some color in a dogwood or two and in the persimmon tree on the edge of our property.

The cruise tickets are all spoken for - we can relax until we find out who the lucky winner is on October 16! Thank you for helping to raise funds so that Georgia can host a really special National Convention in May 2010 - and show genuine Southern hospitality.

Azalea has had a fun-filled summer of activities. Sixteen of the 18 youth who enjoyed the Wild and Wonderful Camp experience were from Azalea. Our own Suzanne Wheeler, attended and lead activities. Molly Kimler and Susan Turner do an outstanding job coordinating this environmental education project. Keep it up!!

On September 3, Amazing Azaleas attended the Certified Wildlife Program (CWP) Workshop at DNR's office in Forsyth. Terri Johnson did catch a hummingbird. He assured us that he wasn't hurting it as he measured its wingspan, beak, and even weighed it before banding it. Then, he let it go. Be sure to get info at the District Meeting and get your backyard certified as a wildlife habitat. It's easy!



Azalea attendees, President Betty Grimes & Katherine Allen

Diane Bell and staff from Central State Hospital presented an eye-opening orientation to the many facets of Garden Therapy on September 8-9 at Milledgeville. It's so much more than the Christmas and Easter items! The State budget shortages have had an enormous negative impact on operating expenses. It is more important than ever for each Club to send at least the \$25 donation to Margaret Ballard for Garden Therapy. Also, there are no shoes for the men (need sizes 9 thru 13). They also need handkerchiefs, underclothes, T-shirts with sports pics, short and long-sleeve shirts. Clean, slightly worn items will work. Because of their limitations, soft shoes with Velcro closures are best on the shoes. Dianne will pick up any donated items at the Exhibit in Thomson and deliver these to the hospital for us. Thank you for any help for those less fortunate who don't have anyone else to help them.



Pictured are President Betty Grimes Katherine Allen, Sara Lanier & other Amazing Azaleas.

Charolette Thompson says you can bring money to buy calendars on site if you did not get your form in yet. Some of the larger ones are still available. A contest is in progress!!

By now, your carpools should be forming. I hope to see at least 51 first-time attendees in Thomson at the Methodist Family Life Center on October 16. It'll be fun. 50 Years!

Katherine

Meet Meredith Nicholson, Treasurer



Meredith Nicholson, Treasurer for Azalea District and your Ways & Means Chairman. I am also the immediate past Co-Director for Azalea District. I have been married to Norman Nicholson for 40 years. We have two wonderful daughters-Sterling Ivey and Leslie Mitchell. One of the most special things that I have in my life are my three grandchildren-Patrick (10), Ansley (8) and Katherine (4). I am a member of Willow Wood Garden Club and I miss not getting to more of our meetings. For the past year, I have been working for my son-in-law helping to put his company on Quick Books--Enterprise. (Working a little more than part-time) I am active in my church and do a Garden Club there. I teach classes on organization and help people organize whatever bothers them the most—from jewelry to music to medical paper work. I also help with a 3rd grade junior garden club three days a month. I love to read and garden. I wish I could get my back yard in some kind of shape. (Just need more time.)

Carrington Woods Garden Club Of Milledgeville

Five members of the Carrington Woods Garden Club of Milledgeville enjoyed



participating in a Watermelon Cutting sponsored by Garden Therapy at Central State Hospital.

Pictured are Anne Treadwell, Judy Hill, Ceil Parker, Pat Johnson and Jan Massey. There was a good turnout of residents and a lot of watermelon and cantaloupe were served and a lot of "Thank You's" were extended from the residents.

Mary Byrd - Chaplain

Each year at the Azalea District Meeting, a memorial service is held for garden club members of the district who have passed within the year. If you have lost a member during this time, October 2008 to September 2009, please send the names, dates of passing, the names of the garden club in which they were members, and the city to me at maryb328@earthlink.net.

"The Wild & Wonderful Experience"

Molly Kimler, Youth Coordinator



Garden Club of Georgia teamed up with Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, for the second annual "Wild and Wonderful Experience" for the youth of Georgia. Youth entering the 5th or 6th grade were invited to spend time hiking, fishing, learning "How to attract birds to our Home" by our own Suzanne Wheeler, "How to put a design together" by GCG First Vice president, (even the boys loved this class), making a "Container Garden" by GCG Youth

Club Chair & camp co-director Susan Turner, "Building Bird Houses" by Glen Blair, Walton County 4-H Agent, environmental issues, outdoor recreation, a night hike, just enjoying the quietness out side the city and the wonderful food. Our own Molly Kimler, Youth Coordinator and director of the Wild & Wonderful Experience put all of this camp together with the help of Susan Turner.

A big thank you goes to Walter Lane and his staff for the wonderful camp they have partnered with GCG to have available to the youth of Georgia. All, even the 5 adults, enjoyed this camp. The most amazing thing was out of the 18 camper attending 16 were from Azalea District. From Athens to Loganville to Eatonton to Bishop, to Union Point to Monroe to Social Circle we had the best campers ever.

Comments from the campers:

"CAMP ROCKED, and I thank you 1,000 thank yous" MM

"This camp was so much fun. Thank you so much. We learned about gardening and about all sorts of animals. It was one of the best camps I have ever been to. I had the best time. Thank you so much!" BM

"Thank you so much for providing a camp for children. We all liked the snakes and owls and again thank you." AR

"Thanks for making it possible for me to come to the Wild and Wonderful Experience at Charlie Elliott, it was a lot of fun and educational we saw birds, snakes, turtles and fish we went on hikes and had scavenger hunts and the rooms are very nice." SW

"I had a great time at camp. We learned a lot about animal and many more creatures found around here. I had an awesome time on the hikes.... Thank you so much." MR

A big thank you to the Garden Club of Georgia and Azalea District.

Yearbooks must be in the hands of the State Yearbook Chairman by October 15, 2009. An information sheet for compiling yearbooks is available from your District Yearbook Chairman or State Yearbook Chairman.

Award applications are available from GCG Website: uga.edu/gardenclub/award, your District Awards Chairman, or State Awards Chairman.

What to do:

1. Mail: 2 copies of yearbook along with 2 completed State Awards Applications and 2 completed NGC Awards applications to the following:

Helen Huddleston, State Yearbook Chairman
225 Spring Ridge Road
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
Phone: (229)227-9896
Email: hh1051@rose.net

2. Mail: 1 completed State Awards application to the following:

Suzanne Wheeler
311 Smith Street
Hartwell, GA. 30643
Phone: 706-376-5120
Email: rassw@mindspring.com

3. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope or postcard for verification of receipt of yearbook by state chairman. Please DO NOT require signature for delivery.

Celia Brown, Chairman of "At Home with Flowers" Basic Design Courses

The kids are back in school and fall is a perfect time for you to begin a new course of study too! It is possible for your garden club to sponsor their own Design Course series. These one day courses are a great way to improve your designing skills. For information about setting up this study, please contact Azalea District Chairman Celia Brown at 706-546-5246 or email celiagardens@myexcel.com

New Cultivars 2010
Mary Murphy- New Cultivars Chairman

Keep those spades, trowels, and shovels sharp and ready to go!! The new cultivars that are being introduced for 2010 are as unbelievable as they are exciting and they will be in the garden centers waiting for us to take them home! It will be a brand new world of sophistication. The new cultivars are diverse and brilliant with an "air of distinction."

New non-stop blooming flowers with single and double blooms, "showy" foliage and fragrances like you have never smelled before are just a few of the highlights these new cultivars have in store for the gardener. It is so exciting to see these new horticultural color patterns, shades and leaf shapes taking a place in the plant world.

Whether you are planning a new backyard retreat, establishing a new garden, or replacing some existing plants, the striking 2010 New Cultivars you will have to choose from will make the rest of your garden "sit up and take notice."

So keep your eye on the garden centers. We all know the winter months are when we take time to plan our gardens and introducing these new cultivars into our plans will ensure a new experience we all will enjoy. So keep those tools handy beside your gardening gloves as you are going to be needing them. You will not be able to resist the 2010 New Cultivars.

Landscape Design School, Series XXV, Course One
Betty Lawrence and Jane Whiteman

Come on. It is time. Everyone who wants to become a Landscape Consultant or a Landscape Master Consultant and those of you who need to Refresh, IT IS TIME!!! Register NOW for Landscape Design School, Series XXV, Course One.

The study will be held in LaGrange, October 2 and 3. Price is \$65 and includes two lunches and two snack breaks each day. Hotels include Best Western, Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn, Jameson Inn, and Hampton Inn.

Call or Email Betty Lester (phone: 706-884-7257, E-mail: bettylester@charter.net). Betty will be glad to send you a brochure which includes a Course Registration Form.

P.S. Atlanta and its suburbs are not far from LaGrange!

"Calendar Bee"



On September 1 a strange character visited the Louisville Garden Club. Has anyone ever heard of a "Calendar Bee"? The Louisville club certainly had not until their first meeting welcomed Charolette Thompson, Azalea District Calendar Marketing Chairman. The members opened the door to a big, fat bee that gave them a buzzing pep talk on the beautiful new GCG calendar for 2010 and also spoke on our President's Special Project "Golden Days". The salad supper meeting was hosted by Nancy Jordan and chaired by club President Hulet Kitterman.

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Amazing Azaleas, remember to bring all of the tabs you have been saving all summer to the Fall District meeting in Thomson. If you wish to take your tabs to a recycle center and bring me your check and receipt, I will credit your club with the number of pounds. I will have a display and handouts at the meeting to assist you with this worthy project for Ronald McDonald homes. Betty Davis, Azalea District Pull Tab Chairman

Native Plant Study

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at The Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters Terrace Room with lunch at the Visitors Center. The Garden Club of Georgia and The State Botanical Garden of Georgia will sponsor a study to increase your knowledge and appreciation of native plants. These drought tolerant and carefree gems adapt to our heat while beautifying our landscape and creating natural habitat for wildlife. Native plants' love of the acidic soil promotes their growth and flourish. Registration forms will be available soon. Virginia Pennington, Native Plants

The Garden Club of Georgia's Garden Therapy program
Now in its 44th Year

This program started when local garden club members in Milledgeville together sharing their ideas, time and money began a program to provide therapeutic recreation to the mental health individual through gardening with special parties and social functions. This program grew over the years and due to the dedication of Garden Club volunteers is now a staple program in all seven of the Regional Mental Hospitals in the state

Due to budget cuts it is imperative now more than ever that we physically and financially support this program. My goal this term is to help the individual consumer receive maximum benefits from Garden Therapy by asking Garden Club volunteers to go back into the hospitals and make themselves available to implement our program. There was a time when garden club members all over the state were going into their regional hospitals and volunteering on a weekly basis. This is no longer taking place.

Over the years Garden Therapy for Garden Club Members has been reduced to making stockings for Christmas, eggs for Easter, and donating underwear to the annual fig leaf project. While these are very much needed and worthwhile projects and I do realize that there are Garden Club members that can only do these projects due to limitation, I am reaching out to the Clubs that are interested in having an ongoing outside project and just do not know how or where to start becoming involved in one.

We, now more than ever, have a duty not only to the individuals but to the hospital staff members who are implementing our program to send in volunteers to help. The intentions of the founders of this program were that the Garden Clubs be involved. I have asked that each district Garden Therapy chairman contact the Garden Clubs in their district and relay these requests that:

1. All Garden Clubs are strongly asked to support our Garden Therapy Program by giving a \$25.00 donation to Garden Therapy. Remind them that they do get recognized and receive a certificate of appreciation at State Convention for this donation.
2. You ask each garden club in your district to volunteer a minimum of one day a year at their closest regional. Hospital or to help a consumer garden Club with plantings or by donating seasonal items or plants that may be needed to make an outing or meeting special
3. That they help with or plan a special event such as attending a watermelon cutting or helping decorate for the red and white ball or supply stuffed animals for raffle prizes or supply small gifts for Bingo.

Union Point Garden Club Beautifies Downtown Restoration Efforts



The Union Point Better Hometown Downtown Development Authority is working hard to restore Union Point's downtown area. "Union Point is at the intersection of two separate railroad lines, and was originally called Scruggsville. A charming southern town with a deep history rooted in the 18th century, progressing through the ages and still moving forward," according to the City of Union Point Website.

A mural was recently painted on the side of a city building depicting the unique railroad history and restorations are currently underway to restore the old Union Theatre. Union Point dreams big and started holding events in the old theatre to raise both awareness and money. A sign, pictured, was added showing an artist rendition of the 1940's Union Theatre. Union Point Garden Club added to the project by designing and planting the Union Theatre Planter that holds the sign. The planting consisted of Alba roses, Lantana, Gaura, Vinca, and Zinnias with under plantings of Mount Hood daffodils and Spanish Blue Bells to bloom early spring. This project continues and plans are underway to repair the planters using bricks salvaged from exterior renovations.

Deep South Region "SPECIAL PROJECT" POW! "Protecting Our World: Living Green - Living Clean"

This project is all about going green and we are to do just one thing special with recycling, reduce, reusing, etc. in the home and/or office. Go on the Deep South web... dsregion.org, click on Committee Project and drop down to POW, then look there and you will see a list of the ones to click on. It is full of information for Home and Businesses and loaded with Facts and Strategies on water, glass, junk mail, Styrofoam, etc. This project is to focus on the urgent need to protect our environment and to formulate actions for living green and living clean. It is also a project that garden club members can educate and motivate people of all ages, young children and the handicapped to protect our world, to think greener, act greener and live greener - to become better stewards of God's green earth. Encourage your mayor to join in this effort by declaring a POW! day. The state chairman will be applying for a Deep South award on this project, so what every you decide to do, please take before and after pictures and any other articles , etc. and mail them to GCG's Deep South Regional Project Chairman: Sara Lanier, 11 Tanglewood Road, St. Simons Island, GA. 31522-1426. For more information contact: District Chairman: Vivian Toney, PO Box 425, Hartwell 30643-0425; 706-376-7796 or email toney@hartcom.net

"CREATE A CLUB" GCG SPECIAL PROJECT
Jane Hersey, GCG Membership Chairman

The most important aspect to the CONTINUED success of The Garden Club of Georgia and the Seven Districts is the growth of our membership. Increasing the membership of individual clubs is always a good thing but we also need to INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CLUBS.

This State Chairman is so excited about President Betty Grimes' Special Project "Create A Club" which calls for us to focus on using innovative ways to organize, develop, and mentor new clubs.

The opportunities to form new clubs are abundant in our communities – churches, schools, youth and retirement groups, civic organizations, social groups – the list goes on and on. Our task is to use our many creative talents to seek out those opportunities and stimulate interest in forming new clubs.

The District with the most new clubs formed during this 2009-2011 administration will receive recognition at the 2011 Convention PLUS a check for \$200!!!!

YOUR DISTRICT can WIN this competition. There are lots of potential members out there just waiting to fill up the roster of a brand new club.

While striving to help your District win the "Create A Club" District Competition, you are increasing the odds of your District winning the GCG Annual Membership Award. This award is presented to the District that has the greatest percentage increase in members April 1 to March 31. There is a \$100 check for the first place winner and the second place winner will receive \$50.

AND, THERE IS YET ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION!!!!

NGC is also having a Membership Contest – "Help Membership Bloom". The STATE with the greatest percentage increase in members will win the honor of having a new daylily cultivar named for its state. GEORGIA is a GREAT name for a Daylily!

This is truly a WIN-WIN situation – let's all work to make it happen.



The Azalea District
Cordially Invites All Garden Club Members to
Fifty-First Annual Azalea District Meeting

"Amazing Heritage"

Friday, October 16, 2009

First United Methodist Church
Family Life Center
353 Main Street
Thomson, Georgia 30824

Honored Guest: Betty Grimes, President, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Coffee/Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. - Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Luncheon Program

"Flowers from the White House" a slide presentation by Fay Brassie, Evergreen Garden Club in Monroe featuring Tablescares, Presidential China, and Designs.

Lodging: Best Western White Columns Inn (I-20 -Exit 172) at Washington Road – Thomson. Address: 1890 Washington Road (about 1 Block on left), Thomson
Phone: 706-595-8000 Rate is \$66.99+ tax (King or Double); \$59.99+ tax (Queen) (Includes Breakfast Buffet); ask for Garden Club Block of Rooms

Reserve Exhibit Space - Contact Hulet Kitterman for either half table (3 feet) or full table (6 feet). 478-625-3039_or email: hulet@bellsouth.net

Registration Deadline: October 6th

Registrar: Kathee West, PO Box 215, Warrenton, GA -706-465-3113 or cell 706-699-6921 - lionswatch21822@aol.com

Registration and luncheon \$26.00- Make check payable to Azalea District and complete Registration Form - (Don't delay - after October 6, registration cost will be \$30.00)

Directions to First United Methodist Church (covers WHOLE Block)

From I-20 Exit 172 - Go South on Washington Rd/GA-17 - 2.6 miles to Red Light. Turn Right to 353 Main Street, turn left onto Church Street. (Family Life Center is on the Right at the Corner of Church St. & Neal St. directly behind 353 Main Street. Parking is on Neal Street, and at the end of the building.

From Warrenton - Turn left onto Washington Rd. at the Red Light at the First Baptist Church in Thomson, Go over the Railroad tracks. Turn left at 2nd Red Light to 353 Main Street. See above instructions.

From Wrens - Go straight at Red Light on Washington Rd. at the First Baptist Church on left, Go over RR tracks. Turn left at 2nd Red Light to 353 Main Street. See above instructions.

Registration Form
Azalea District Fall Meeting October 16, 2009

Name _____ Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Email _____

State Board Member

Check all that apply:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -----Nat'l Board Member | -----District Director |
| -----Nat'l Life Member | |
| -----Deep South Board Member | -----Former District Director |
| -----Deep South Life Member | |
| -----State President | -----District Board Member |
| -----Former State President | -----Council President |
| -----State Board Member | -----Club President |
| -----State Life Member | -----Club Member |
| | -----Club Voting Delegate* |

(*Club voting delegate is one member from each club or council.)

___ Your First Azalea District Meeting?

-----New Garden Club Member in 2009?

-----Guest

___ Require Vegetarian Meal

Complete the form above, **make check for \$26.00 to Azalea District** and mail to:

Kathee West, Registrar, P. O Box 215, Warrenton, Georgia 30828
Phone: 706-465-3113; cell 706-699-6921; lionswatch21822@aol.com

Garden Councils
Chairman Doris Blalock

Walton County Council of Gardens Clubs is welcomed as the Azalea District newest council!
The President is Betty McGaughey of Monroe.

Dates for Councils to remember:

February 1 - GCG Award #31 Garden Club Council Award may be awarded to the Garden Club council which, in proportion to its size, has performed the greatest service to its community or the best single project furthering the objectives of GCG. State Council Chairman will receive the Book of Evidence. Refer to GCG Guide for other awards councils may apply. List is on 232 of 2007-2009 GCG Guide.

March 1 - GCG Council annual dues (\$15.00) are due before March 1st. Please make check payable to GCG and send to Rosemary Maulden, GCG Garden Club Councils Chairman, 302 Bushoan Road, Brunswick, Ga. 31525. (A notice will be sent to all council presidents by February 1.)

March 15 - Annual Club Council Activity Report is due to state Garden Club Council Chairman. Also, send a copy of report to the District Director, and State President. A report forms will be sent to all Council Presidents by February 1st.

November 2010 - Save this date! More information will be sent later.

Conservation Workshop Promotion Chairman

Doris Blalock, 706-863-5671.

Virginia Wells
Azalea Trumpet Editor
P O Box 3
Watkinsville, GA 30677

To:

