



Azalea Trumpet

A Newsletter for the Azalea District, Garden Club of Georgia

Katherine Allen, District Director

Summer 2009

Summer Greetings

I am energized by the enthusiasm and eagerness I see in our "Amazing Azaleas." We are collectively so blessed with talent – what a team!! I am honored to serve as your District Director for 2009-2011.

I selected as my theme: "Blooming & Growing our Future with Excellence." This meshes with President Betty Grimes' theme – **Flourish our Future!** I enjoy double entendres. Let me explain. Our experienced members do flourish and "bloom" easily on every task they undertake. But, just as we experience lifelong learning by doing, we must grow our future whether it is horticulture or new members. We must include youth and local community partners. Always putting forth our best efforts will automatically result in the excellence we need.

The Azalea District Executive Board met early in May at Filet Steakhouse on Lake Oconee for a planning session. And, Azalea (Suzanne Wheeler) was the first to hold a very successful Awards Workshop in May at GCG Headquarters. Sara Lanier taught our President's Workshop at Sacred Heart in June.

During the next 2 years, we will be working on some carefully scripted National, Deep South and State projects. Direction, in time, should come from your State-level counterpart. Also, there are broad new projects that are absolutely open to define and implement. Let me assure you there are enough exciting projects and activities for everyone to work and volunteer to the extent that they desire! Your local Club President is probably looking for your ideas on what to do for the local Director's Projects? Plan your efforts to combine where possible. It will help you apply for Awards in several categories.



Pres. Ruth Rosenberg, Katherine Allen & Judy Gantt

Everyone tells me how fast the two years go by! So, I'm not wasting any time. I attended the Atlanta Hydrangea Society's Tour of Gardens, and I thoroughly enjoyed the Madora G.C.'s summer picnic in June hosted at Judy Gantt's beautiful home on Lake Hartwell. I did a creative design for the exam room during our Flower Show Judge's Symposium in Athens and took horticulture.

Enjoy your summer - and take some down-time from Garden Club duties!

Katherine

Key Names & Themes – (2009 – 2011)

Renee Blaschke - President – National Garden Club
“The World Around Us – Love It, Beautify It, Protect It”
Mary Sue Colvin - President – Deep South Region
“Together as One – Our Hands and Hearts are Power”
Betty Grimes - President – Garden Club of Georgia
“Flourish Our Future”
Katherine Allen - Azalea District Director
“Blooming & Growing Our Future – with Excellence”

Director’s Special Project(s) – 2009 - 2011

Leave a Footprint of Beauty in your Local Community!

I want each Garden Club to pick either one large project for 2 years or one small project each year and beautify a spot in your local community. It may be that you want to enhance or add to an existing project that your Club has started. Youth are our future - so utilize them in a hands-on way. They can learn by doing; and can help you get the work done! They will take pride in the outcome.

The *Amazing Azaleas* may wish to include Azaleas in the landscape. Or, Daffodils are an easy favorite that will provide years of beauty. Needs and situations vary so greatly that you will want to talk about this in your Club meetings with your members; and plan where your efforts can make the most impact.

Don’t forget to ask for help from community partners. You may have a Home Depot, Lowes or Wal-Mart in your local area. If so, they may donate and would welcome the publicity!

I want you to be creative with these projects; and to give them maximum local publicity - the POP approach. And don’t forget to apply and win awards!! Often projects can qualify in more than one category.

Along the way, and at the end of my term in 2011, I will recognize all projects.

This will help to “Flourish” the goals of Conservation, Education and Beautification and will make a positive impression on local residents!

These projects can also help us attract new members!

Katherine Allen
Azalea District Director

Meet Your Azalea District Officers

Dr. Katherine Allen, Azalea District Director

After completing high school in her hometown of Crawfordville, Katherine moved to Atlanta (Dunwoody) and began working for the U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture in their Regional Office that serves a 16-State area from Texas to Virginia and includes Puerto Rico.

To enhance her qualifications, she attended night classes at Georgia State University for six years to attain her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, and then another two years for a Masters in Public Administration (Marketing) in the late 1970's. She completed her PhD in Administration (Human Resource Development) in 1988 at Walden University, Minneapolis, MN.

After 15 years of marriage she lost her first husband to cancer. She found her present husband, John a Forester in the U. S. Forest Service. He retired before Katherine was promoted to the Washington Office as Budget Officer for Administration nationally. After a few years, she was promoted to Human Resource Programs where she managed six national programs until she retired in 1998 after 35 years, and returned to her home in Georgia. Katherine and John live across from their little country church, Jennings Baptist, where she plays the piano and serves as Clerk.

John has a son, Dennis, who lives in Snellville with his family, and Katherine has a daughter Pam Kealy, who is active in the Sharon-Raytown Garden Club and lives in Conyers. This gives Katherine a home base to enjoy activities in the Atlanta area.

Katherine traveled about 50% of the time all over the country while in Washington, DC so could never realize her desire to teach in a community college. In this way, she could have one-to-one contact and directly influence students – not just write national policy and directives.

Is it any wonder that she is now in her 11th year teaching and managing the Adult Education program in her local county for Athens Technical College? She successfully got a grant for the construction of a beautiful new building which the Adult Learning Center occupied in May 2009.



L to R: Virginia Wells, Meredith Nicholson, Peggy Tucker, Katherine Allen, Charlotte Herrington, and Jane Hersey.

Her hobbies are reading, travel, porcelain arts and garden club related activities!

About two months after Katherine moved back to Georgia, she was at an estate sale for fun; and the local school superintendent invited her to the garden club meeting that afternoon. She went. She gradually discovered the wonderful world of activities, friends, and learning experiences that abound in the Garden Club. And as they say, the rest is history! She plans to enjoy every minute of being Azalea Director.

Charlotte Herrington, Co-Director



Married 43 years to Larry - Sons - Ryan, Jim, Daughter in Law Jennifer
Member - Carrington Woods Garden Club
Former President - 6 years of Carrington Woods Garden Club
President Civic Woman's' Club of Milledgeville
Board Member of Salvation Army
Former Chairman of Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl
Teacher/Instructor - Child Development Associate @ GC&SU and Macon State
HOBBIES: Enjoy driving my Corvette, NASCAR Racing, Formula One Racing
Vacations swimming, reading, gardening (all year round)

Meredith Nicholson, Treasurer



(Meredith and grandchildren are at the beach and her information will be included in the next newsletter.)

Peggy Tucker, Recording Secretary

Peggy Tucker, Recording Secretary of the Azalea District with husband of 43 yrs, William & two youngest grandchildren, Olivia & Carolina. They enjoy flowers and being outside just as much as their Nana. Peggy & William have two other grandchildren, Sydney 13 yrs & Mason 11yrs. They have three sons, Chad, Todd & Joey. They own their own business--General Grading & Water Well & Roll-Off Container Business of 40 yrs, where Peggy serves as office manager and schedules all the work. Peggy is also president of Paradise Point Water Co. where they furnish water to several subdivisions on beautiful Lake Hartwell. Peggy is an active member of First Baptist Church, Hartwell, FBC Sanctuary Choir and has received 27 yrs perfect attendance in Sunday School. She loves working in her yards in her spare time & spending time with her family and friends. She looks forward to serving the Azalea District as Recording Secretary.

Jane Hersey, Parliamentarian

Jane is the immediate past Director for Azalea District. She is also serving as the 2009-2011 GCG 4th VP and Chairman of "Create A Club" Project, and on the Deep South Region Board as Chairman for Healing and Sensory Gardens. She is a National, State, and Deep South Region Life Member. She is a member of the Town and Country GC of Eatonton and has twice served as their President.



Jane is a Master Gardener and avid "dig-in-the-dirt" gardener and plant collector. Her two acres on Lake Sinclair contain at least one plant beginning with every letter of the alphabet and includes Native, Pass-A-Long, and Heritage plants, shrubs, trees, and vegetables. When Jane is not gardening she loves to travel and visit gardens worldwide with her husband Steve.

Virginia Wells, Corresponding Secretary, Azalea Trumpet

Here are the three loves of Virginia's life, her grandchildren. She is teaching them the love of gardening. They like to dig, plant, and pick things in Grandmama's garden—strawberries, tomatoes, raspberries, cucumbers, potatoes, zinnias, etc.

Virginia is a past president of the Watkinsville Garden Club and a member of Ladies Garden Club. She is a Master Gardener. She graduated from UGA from the Terry College of Business with a degree in Banking and Finance. She owns Wells & Co., Realtors, Inc.

Mary Byrd, Chaplain
maryb328@earthlink.net

Our sympathy and prayers for Suzanne Wheeler and her family in the passing of her husband.

As chaplain of the district, I ask the members to please keep me informed of the passing of garden club members, members' illnesses, and passing of family members. This information is needed as soon as possible so that I can keep correct and up to date files and sent cards of caring. Thank you for your help.

Annual Flower & Art Show Central State Hospital - Milledgeville

Charlotte Herrington, Azalea Co-Director, headed the team of judges and Garden Clubs who supported the 2009 show. There were three judges from each of the four Garden Clubs in



Milledgeville. Presented in the CSH Auditorium were "Art Work" and "Flower Arrangements" done by the clients of the hospital.

Pamela F. Reese, Resource Services at Central State says, "All of the clients, staff and volunteers gain much from participating each year. We want to thank The Garden Club of Georgia for their support of this program."

Seated from L to R are Ouida Williamson, Ruth Thomas, Peggy White, Carolyn Smith, Charlotte Herrington, Barbara Miller, Judy Powell, Rae Wade and Jo Veal.

President's Workshop for Club & Council Officers



Immediate Past President Sara Lanier Instructed

Azalea District again led the way by being the first District to hold a President's Workshop. We had five dozen in attendance! The interactive nature of the Workshop was excellent – lots of questions and many new officers. Sara had the answers.



Special thanks to Pat Hathaway, Augusta Council President, and to Karen Oliver for making it possible for us to meet at Sacred Heart. The Augusta Council provided hospitality and refreshments in the morning.

Lunch was presented on a beautiful tablescape by Karen Oliver of Bayou Spice.



Packets of key District information were provided for each Club and Council. For Clubs not able to be represented, snail mail was used to get the information out to everyone.

Smiling at the end of the workshop!
District Director Katherine Allen, Sara Lanier, and
Carol Parsons, Advisory Council

Town & Country Garden Club of Eatonton Green Thumb Youth Garden Club

Members of the Green Thumb Youth Garden Club sponsored by the Town & Country Garden Club of Eatonton gathered at the Putnam County Elementary School for an end of the year celebration. Vegetables planted earlier in the year by the youth club members were harvested and then prepared with the help of Chef Jamie and others in the school's Nutrition Department. The broccoli embellished pizza, coleslaw, and salad were big hits with the 40 plus members, guests, and community VIPs.



Club Awards and Certificates were presented and the 4 recipients of the GCG Wild & Wonderful Summer Youth Camp Scholarships donated by Eatonton Town & Country GC, and Kiwanis (2 each) were announced.

Historic Home & Garden Pilgrimage



President Betty Grimes, Lee Dunn, Katherine Allen and Jane Hersey enjoyed staying at the Wisteria Bed and Breakfast in Waynesboro the evening prior to the tour.

Nancy Buttermark, tour chairman, says they are proud that their profit topped \$5000 for the day of the tour. She and her co-chair and committee members worked very hard to have an outstanding tour.



L to R: Nancy Buttermark and Katherine Allen.

Mary Byrd's family owns a water company – Springtime Artesian Water – and donated 12 cases of bottled water for the tour. They placed 2 cases at each of the 6 tour homes at no cost. She even delivered the cases to Waynesboro! Nancy says she is grateful for all of the donations. It made the difference.

Nancy Buttermark and her husband restored "The Shadows", a lovely home and gardens that were on the Tour.

Green Acres Garden Club of Athens First Place Essay Award in Azalea District and Deep South Region

Green Acres Garden Club of Athens was proud to sponsor Andy Kim, a sophomore at Cedar Shoals High School, who won first place Essay Award in the Azalea District and Deep South Region. Kim's



essay, 'Earth's Gifts', recognizes the need to appreciate and protect the environment and highlighted many ways his school has helped educate others as well as preserve the environment with clean up projects, an environmental fair and more.

At the National Garden Clubs, Inc. convention in Houston in late May Kim was announced the National Winner of the High School Distinguished Project Award. Kim is involved in numerous organizations and activities, including cello lessons, swim team, 4H, Boy Scouts, mock trials and theater.

The Green Acres Garden Club is doubly pleased by Kim's three awards, as it has been involved in landscaping and environmental education at Cedar Shoal High School for several years.

L to R: Green Acres Garden Club members Edell Raburn and Chris Reynolds with Andy Kim.

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

The on-going partnership with The State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens has given many garden club members and the public a chance to take this design series; however, at this time there are no plans to start a new series. It is possible for your garden club to sponsor their own Design Course series and several have recently. These one day courses are a great way to improve your designing skills and are a lot of fun (think-no tests!)

The Basic Design courses consist of five different units of study:

- Unit 1: Line and Line-mass, the oriental influence, mechanics, conditioning
- Unit 2: Mass (including foliage only designs) and color-harmony
- Unit 3: Table Designs (including using a tall candleholder as container)
- Unit 4: Using fruits and vegetables, plus designs with a featured object
- Unit 5: Creative designs and miniature design types

For information about setting up this study, please contact Azalea District Chairman: Celia Brown 706-546-5246 or cell 706-207-1443