

Legislation & Governmental Affairs: Garden Club Summer Magic!

It's prime time for GCG Legislation magic to happen for the 352 garden clubs that will Flourish Our Future with Beautification ... Conservation ... Education in the garden we call Georgia.

Email, call, write, and visit those elected to Georgia's General Assembly and local governments to represent you. State legislators have time during the summer that they lack during Sessions. U.S. Senators and Members of Congress will be in the districts they represent. Thank your elected officials for their public service. That's easy and that's a start. Tell them – briefly – about something you as a constituent (the magic wand word) would like them to make happen.

Know that you can check their votes, do so, and let elected officials know when you are pleased - or not - with their votes. (If you want help with finding addresses or voting records, email me at marmgl@bellsouth.net.) Elected officials/their staffs almost without exception do keep track of constituent input, knowing that they are accountable for their votes.

Inviting them to speak to your club about a pertinent topic related to conservation can work wonders. Five minutes on a garden club topic like water or clean air or billboards or the value of State Parks to the health and happiness of Georgians and visitors at a garden club meeting this fall can be the top hat and the experience can be the rabbit to be pulled out of it. Do welcome, introduce, and feed the elected officials and thank them for coming. Have them meet and mingle with club members as their constituents. Think of your elected officials as working partners for good Georgia government.

Moreover, do yourself, conservation, and the Georgia environment a favor and write Governor Perdue or call his office and ask that he be especially careful to budget as much as possible for State Parks and Historic Sites that enrich the lives and provide outdoor recreational activities for all Georgians and for its many welcomed visitors. Contact information for the Governor is 203 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334; Phone: (404) 656-1776 Fax: (404) 656-5947. Then, visit a Georgia State Park on your own or take family and friends with you. Your life can be enhanced when a wilderness environment works its magic on you.

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 11, 2010, IS OPENING DAY AT THE GEORGIA CAPITOL AND WILL BE GCG LEGISLATIVE DAY. COME AND WEAR GREEN FOR GEORGIA AND ITS GARDEN CLUBS.

Mary Lovings, Legislative & Governmental Affairs Chairman

District Director YEARBOOK DEADLINE NOTICE

To: District Directors
From: Helen Huddleston, State Yearbook Chairman
Date: June 9, 2009

Re: Award #16 Deadline – October 15, 2009

Note to District Directors: Please include the following in your district newsletters.

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.

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

To the above address send: 2 copies of yearbook
2 completed State Awards Applications
2 completed NGC Awards Applications

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

Send: 1 completed State Awards Application

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

Orientation for the Garden Therapy Program

Orientation for The Garden Therapy Program will be held this year at Central State Hospital on August 18-19. Invitations are sent out, but PLEASE, if you are really interested in helping a hospital by being either a contact or a garden club volunteer, send me or call me with your contact information and you will receive an invitation. We really need volunteers at all the hospitals and I can get you information and/or put you in contact with a hospital or person in your area.

Dianne Bell, Azalea District Garden Therapy Chairman
478-452-6754

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl

This summer is the time to plan your action as to presenting the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest to the elementary schools in your area. The contest is for students from kindergarten to fifth grade, scout troops, art classes, and/or Boys and Girls Clubs. Information will be available at the beginning of the school year in August.

Congratulations to Austin Hilton who was the first place winner in the 4th Grade category for the National Garden Club in the Woodsy Owl Poster Contest - 2009. Concord Garden Club, Redbud District was the sponsoring club.

Let's see what Azalea District can do for the 2010 contest.

Message from your Calendar Marketing Chairman

Hello all Club officers & members, Azalea District. My name is Charolette Thompson, and I am your Calendar Marketing Chairman for our beautiful & informative calendar which will be introduced at the Judges Symposium in Athens on June 28 and will be available for purchase and sale after the introduction. This year's calendar promises to be the best ever, to quote, it will be AWESOME! Within the cover you will find all your beautiful designs, great tips on flower arranging and "recipes" to help with your yards and gardens or "yardens," if you prefer. There are also monthly gardening tips from Walter Reeves. You will enjoy reading facts about the flower of the month and how to make a creative container.

I know that you are aware that the money raised from sales of our calendar go toward SCHOLORSHIPS! So, I challenge you to make this the best year ever. Let's all help Jeanne Holliday, our State Calendar Marketing Chairman, have a great year with sales. And, Azalea District, let's be #1 again instead of #2...we can do it! Results from last year show: Camellia District #1; Azalea #2; Laurel #3; Magnolia and Redbud tied at #4; Oleander #5; Dogwood #6. I beg you to make calendar sales a top priority in your club. Make sales, not only to your members, but to all your friends and family. They will be excited about this project if you are.

Later, when meetings start back after summer vacation, I will be contacting many clubs to see if I can come chat with you. You might be surprised at the character that shows up. I look forward to working with all of you, and I am energized about getting to meet some of you face to face.

Good luck with sales, this is so important. Thank you, Charolette Thompson, Calendar Marketing Chairman, Azalea District (my home club is Town & Country Garden Club, Sandersville)

Merry Tillers "Clean up" National Garden Week

The Merry Tillers Garden Club of Thomson helped to celebrate National Garden Week June 7-13 2009 . They cleaned up and replanted in front of the "Welcome to Thomson" sign on the Wrens Highway. Crepe Myrtles were trimmed, mulch put down and Day Lilies planted. Members present were Karen Meeks, president, Lynn Shelton, secretary, Debbie Howell, treasurer, and Angie Oubre along with her daughter, Haley.

Carrington Woods Garden Club National Garden Week

Below are pictures taken during National Garden Club Week. The top picture is of Charlotte Herrington, Former President for six years and Ellen Goodrich. The Club planted a 10 foot Weeping



Willow in Charlottes honor. We had 15 of our club members in attendance for the planting. The event took place at the River Greenway on the Oconee River. Carrington Woods Garden Club set up a picnic area at the Greenway by planting flowers, shrubs and trees. We also donated two picnic tables within the garden. Our club members maintain the area and have a sign

designating that it was donated to the Greenway by the Carrington Woods Garden Club. (You can see the sign over Ellen's head in the second picture.) The second picture is from L- R Cecile Parker, Charlotte Herrington, Sandra Pair, Ellen Goodrich, Ouida Williamson, and Rubye Pittman



Gray Garden Club National Garden Week



Gray Garden Club honored National Garden Week by having the mayor proclaim the week, which was published in the Jones County News. Members put flowers in local senior citizens establishments and churches. A tri-fold of GGC was placed in the Gray Chamber, a sign was placed in the Depot area, which is maintained by GGC. Volunteers were recognized for their work, which included the GGC. Members went to a daylily garden and enjoyed a grand meal at the Blue Willow in Social Circle. Members held a Daylily Display at the local Daylily Festival prior to the beginning of NGW.

AZALEA HAS FIRST AWARDS WORKSHOP



Suzanne Wheeler, GCG and Azalea Awards Chairman, conducted a training session for the Azalea District at GCG Headquarters in Athens on May 28. Attendees received the new Awards Brochure for the Azalea awards and many tips on how to apply for District, State and National Awards.

Yes, your Club CAN win awards. And, it makes it so much more fun. But, you do have to apply. Suzanne would welcome any questions that you might have as you consider applying. Just e-mail or call her.

GCG, DSR, NGC, and District Awards

It's not too early to begin working on the Books of Evidence that your club will submit for awards. Your club **CAN** win awards. Every club in Azalea District does something that is award worthy.

The 2007 – 2009 GCG *Guide* is an invaluable resource and is the best source for award information that you will have for NGC, DSR, and GCG awards until the new Guide comes out in September. The Guide that your club received in the fall of 2005 belongs to the club – not to the club president. If the club president did not pass it along, track her/him down and get it, so that you can start planning now.

Azalea District has a “hot off the press” Azalea District Awards Handbook 2009 – 2011. Each person at the Azalea District Awards Workshop on May 28th received a copy. There was a copy in each President's Packet at the Azalea District Club Officer's Seminar on June 23. If you do not have a copy and want one, please contact this chairman or go to the Azalea District website, www.gardencentral.org/georgia/azaleaawards. Betty McGaughey has very graciously consented to post it on our website. **NEW THIS YEAR – there is an Azalea District Award Application.** You may contact me or you may go to the website for a copy of this application. All District awards have a deadline of September. District Awards will be given at the Azalea District Meeting in October.

Clubs that won awards at the Azalea District Meeting in Watkinsville in 2008 should return the trophies to me by September 15. Why not bring them to the Azalea District Board Meeting that will be held in August?

GCG will have a new award application this year. It is simple and easy to complete. There is no GCG logo on it, but it is official. As of this writing, it has not been posted on the website, but I expect that it will be soon. www.uga.edu/gardenclub. Until it is, you may get copies from me. The NGC 2009 – 2011 Award application is already posted on the NGC website – www.gardenclub.org. The new DSR application is not available yet.

For help with your application process, please call me. For questions about flower show awards, please contact Marge Willis, GCG Flower Show Awards Chairman, sunflowers@mchsi.com, (229) 226 – 0711. For questions about Deep South Region Awards please contact Dian Goldwire, DSR Awards Chairman for GCG, jgoldw1@bellsouth.net, (706) 882 – 2667.

A reminder – Yearbooks are due October 15.

Suzanne Wheeler, GCG and NGC Awards Chairman, Azalea District Awards Chairman
311 Smith Street
Hartwell, GA 30643
(706) 376 – 5120
rassw@comcast.net

2009 State GCG Convention (J. W. Marriott at Lenox)

Congratulations to the Dogwood District for an excellent State Convention in Atlanta on April 14-16, 2009. There was much attention to detail that paid off. I am sure that everyone from Azalea who attended would say "ditto."



Faye Brassie took on the "Designers Challenge" in Flower Design - and represented Azalea spectacularly!! No - she did not do a 10-foot design! My camera just got carried away - but you can see the beautiful container donated by President Betty Grimes that Faye took home for her effort.

The Amazing Azaleas generously supported her and raised over \$1100 in donations that went toward Scholarships. We came in second to Dogwood when they discovered our strategy!



After State and District Officers were sworn in, the official gavel was passed to Dr. Katherine Allen by Jane Hersey, former Director. And at the Club Officer's Workshop, Sara Lanier explained exactly how it is to be used.

"Wild and Wonderful Experience"

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center presents a "Wild and Wonderful Experience", July 12 - 14, 2009, at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield, Georgia. Rising 5th and 6th graders of GCG members will be spending time learning more about nature, wildlife conservation and environmental issues. We will highlight themes of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. such as a program on attracting *Birds and Butterflies*. Other activities include fishing, outdoor recreation, hiking and enjoying the quiet away from the city.

Molly Kimler, GCG Youth Coordinator

770 464-3589 or mkimler@uga.edu

Susan Turner, GCG Youth Club Chair

770 922-4411 or glenecree@bellsouth.net

More Pictures from the 2009 GCG State Convention



Community Gardens - Real Life Suggestions

Harrisburg is a distressed community in downtown Augusta. A resident of the area Denise Traina envisioned tomato plants and rows of corn on parcels of land left over when The First Assembly of God Church demolished homes. "The garden is an opportunity for neighbors to be involved in producing healthy food for our families, and to get to know one another". She started planning the garden last August with a friend Jessica Kngel, who had experience with organic gardening.

Many donated or found items where used in constructing the raised beds. Old wood pallets, bricks trees and tires where used as borders to hold in the dirt.

The garden can be used by anyone who works or lives in Harrisburg, in exchange for working an hour a week in the garden. Anyone living outside the community may use the garden for \$25.00.

"We have many talented folks in Harrisburg and I believe this is just one activity that will help us know more about our own human resources for this community." Mrs. Traina said.

I will keep you updated on the progress of the Harrisburg Garden and hope your club and use the information to help start or to continue to work with a Community Garden in your area. Please email me any information on Community Gardens in your area successaugusta1@aol.com.

Pat Hathaway
Community Gardening Chairman

Town and Country Garden Club of Sandersville



Ernest Yearwood with members. Terry Johnson.



Garden Club members.

The Town & Country Garden Club, Sandersville, has been very busy for the past few months beginning with the House and Garden Pilgrimage in Waynesboro. Several members attended this lovely tour and felt much rewarded by the experience. In April the club took an informative field trip to Olive Forge Herb Farm in Milledgeville. Hosts for this afternoon visit were Marsha and Darryl Herron, owners of the farm. We were served herbal cookies and herbal tea, both delicious. In May our speaker was Terry Johnson, Executive Director of The Environmental Resource Network (T.E.R.N.). Mr. Johnson did a slideshow and spoke on hummingbirds. On June 2 the club took a field trip to Milledgeville to marvel at Ernest Yearwood's fantastic daylilies. Even though summer is upon us, the club is staying very active with excursions and maintaining 25 pots on Sandersville's historic square. We welcome everyone to our beautiful city. It's a trip worth making.

My Thanks

So many of you – individuals, clubs, and councils – have sent me sympathy cards and/or notes. Please know that all of them were read and were deeply appreciated. My family will never understand the “why” as we deal with our tragedy, but the love and support of my many garden club friends has been a great comfort in this most difficult time. Your notes have helped to keep me focused for living. The key is found in the love that poured from your hearts.

Suzanne Wheeler

Azalea District Calendar

2009:

May 28 – Awards Workshop for Azalea (Suzanne Wheeler) (GCG Headquarters – Athens)
June 23 - Club/Council Officers Seminar (Sara Marbut) (Augusta)
August 20 – District Board Meeting – (Milledgeville) (Ellen Goodrich)
September 15-16, GCG State Board Meeting
September 21-22 – Garden Study Course IV, Hastings, Atlanta
October 2-3, Landscape Design School, Course I, LaGrange
October 15, Yearbook Award Applications Due
October 16 – District 50th Anniversary Meeting (Thomson) (Lucretia Ferguson, Chairperson; Billy Thomas, Co-Chair)
October 31-Nov.1 – Sharon-Raytown G.C. Flower Show, Sharon
December 1 – Award applications due for many categories

2010:

February 4-6, Southeastern Flower Show, Cobb Galleria, Atlanta
February 11, District Board Meeting (Eatonton) (Jane Hersey)
GCG State Board Meeting is in Cordele
Deep South Convention, Natchez, MS, Dates TBA
May 13-16, NGC Convention – Omni Hotel – (Atlanta)
May 26, GCG Annual Meeting (Griffin)
August 19, District Board Meeting (Hartwell) (Suzanne Wheeler) October 15, – Annual District Meeting, (Hartwell) (Peggy Tucker, Chairperson; Linda Harris, Co-Chair)

2011:

February 10, District Board Meeting (Augusta), (Meredith Nicholson)
Deep South Convention, LaFayette, LA, Dates TBA
April 25-27, GCG Convention – Azalea Host (Athens), (Virginia Lassiter, Chairperson, Nina Herrington, Co-Chair)
May TBA, National NGC Convention, Washington, DC

E-Communication within Azalea District

Based on the official records at GCG Headquarters, Azalea has 12 Clubs with no e-mail contact. Some of these are Clubs where the President does not use e-mail; and for some reason when the Treasurer submitted the reports, no one was designated.

I will be contacting each Club for I know all Clubs have e-mail access. For Board meetings, etc. we will use snail mail to invite Presidents; but I don't want to have a dozen Clubs without access to an increasing flow of timely information. Your designated e-contact can make the judgment call on getting the information to the President in a timely fashion.

No Club should expect that we would expend \$\$ to send everything by snail mail.

News Flash!

East Georgia Judges Council to Sponsor Flower Show School

Bobbie Reid, President of EGJC, announced at the June Symposium that Course I will be held in Millen in February 2010.

Jane Johnson will Chair the series. Course II is planned for August 2010 with Course III and IV in 2011.

Please encourage anyone wanting to study to be a Flower Show Judge to plan to attend. Details will be forthcoming.

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

