



# *The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.*

## Newsletter

Member of National  
Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

**“Growing in Our Communities – Plant-Promote-Protect”**

Volume 3

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Number 1

### Features

MS Mag!	1
Upcoming Events	2
New Garden Clubs	2
GCM Treasurer	2
President’s Message	3
Grenada Garden Club Flower Show	4
District Spring Meetings	5
Fall Happenings	8

**MS Mag!** Be on the lookout for a new monthly document titled “MS Mag”! This one-pager will have interesting things about GCM you can share with your club at your monthly meeting!

If your Club has a Flower Show, Blue Star Memorial dedication, or an event that you want to announce and share with Club members around the State, please send information to:

**Michele Rackley, GCM Newsletter Editor**  
rack2479@gmail.com

Check our website for calendar and information: [gardenclubsofmississippi.com](http://gardenclubsofmississippi.com)

### 2023-2025 Officers

#### President

Melinda Causey

#### 1st Vice President

Sassy Mauldin

#### 2nd Vice President

Darlene Underwood

#### 3rd Vice President

Carla Stringer

#### Recording Secretary

Christye VanHorn

#### Corresponding Secretary

Joy Burke

#### Treasurer

Celia Williamson

#### Executive Secretary

Angelia Wade

#### District Directors

Gale Moore – Hills & Delta

Dixie Thornton – Natchez Trace.

Stephanie Patton – River Road

Jayne Cooper – Southern Pines

Dickie Roberts – Spanish Trail

Doris Ebner – Tombigbee Valley

#### Historian

May Hall

#### Parliamentarian

Jean Ricks

#### Chaplain

Sue Berry

#### Coordinator of Districts

Paula Grayson

# News!

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023** - Natchez Trace Fall Meeting- Natchez GC, Natchez, MS

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**- Spanish Trail Fall District Meeting- Diamondhead GC  
Diamondhead, MS

**Thursday, October 5, 2023** - Southern Pines Fall Meeting-Park Place GC, Laurel, MS

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023** - River Road Fall District Meeting- Alice Bell GC and  
Belle Haven GC, Greenville, MS

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023** - Hills & Delta Fall District Meeting- Grenada GC  
Grenada, MS

**Thursday, October 12, 2023** - Tombigbee Fall District Meeting- Byhalia GC, Byhalia, MS

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023** – Board of Directors Meeting – Starkville, MS

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023** – 68<sup>th</sup> Edward C. Martin, Jr. Landscape Design  
Symposium, MSU 9-Noon

**April 16, 2024** – GCM State Flower Show

**April 16-17, 2024** – 95<sup>th</sup> GCM State Convention, Pearl, MS

## New Garden Clubs!

Welcome --

We are proud to announce 2 new clubs in Southern Pines District:

Bay Springs Garden Club – President Carla Montgomery

Moselle Garden Club – President Libby Foster Douglas



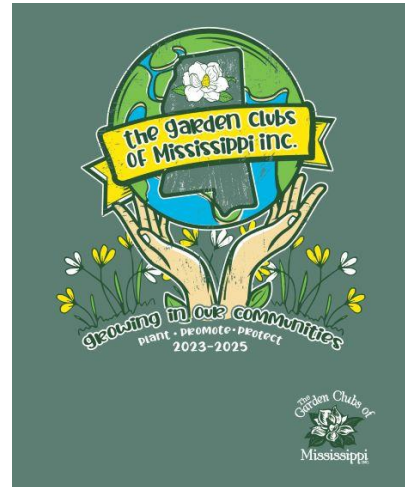
## **MEET GCM TREASURER - CELIA WILLIAMSON!**

After a 20-year nursing career, Celia retired due to health issues and joined her first Federated garden club in 2009. Today, she belongs to the Charleston Magnolia Garden Club, Drew Garden Club, Design Masters Study Club & the Mississippi Flower Show Judges' Council. She has served on the state level as Ways & Means Books Chairman since 2017, as Public Gardens Chairman and the Hospitality Chairman for two administrations and has been a member of the State Awards Committee since 2019. She recently completed NGC Flower Show School 1. Celia's creativity can be seen in the 2024 NGC Calendar where her design is featured.

# President's Message

A special thanks to all our Spring district Meeting host clubs! All host Clubs organized and prepared excellent meetings for us. We appreciate all the work that goes into planning and hosting these meetings.

Make plans now to attend the Fall District Meetings in October. Come to the Meetings and hear what Clubs around the district and State have been working on and are involved in. This is a great time to network and gather ideas for projects and events for your club!



## Car Tags

Please get behind our car tag fund raising project for Garden Clubs of Mississippi! For every tag sold, \$24 will be returned to GCM.

Cost of the tag is \$33.

The form is on the [gardenclubsofmississippi.com](http://gardenclubsofmississippi.com) website. You can also email me directly and I will be glad to mail or email you a form. [mgcausey@aol.com](mailto:mgcausey@aol.com)



We need a total of 300 signed up in order to have the tag produced.

**So please, don't wait – SIGN UP TODAY!!!**

We want to display our GCM logo on our cars and trucks to show our support for GCM. Please help! SEND in your tag form TODAY!

Please continue... Growing in our Communities... to plant, promote, and protect!

Melinda Causey  
GCM President 2023-25

# Grenada Garden Club - Flower Show Play Outdoors at Grenada Lake



Pictures from Grenada Garden Club's recent flower show:

Pictured left is the Horticulture-Overall Winner Horticulture: Award of Horticulture Excellence exhibited by Lauren Leslie (Division II, Section B, Class11)

Pictured right is the winner of Designer's Choice Award (Division I, Section B, Class 4 "Anglers Casting their Lines" created by Pattie Smith.



Pictured left is the winner of Award of Design Excellence and Tri-Color Award (Division I, Section A, Class 3 "Splish Splash Down the Spillway" created by Sandra Wilbourn.



# Spring District Meetings

All six of our districts met in May following the convention in April. See what went on in your district!

## HILLS AND DELTA SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

What a great day! Town and Country Garden Club of Water Valley hosted over 100 talented ladies from the garden clubs in the Hills and Delta District-Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. at the lovely Fountain Square in Water Valley.

We were treated to three fabulous workshops: Cooking with Herbs, Awards, and Youth Activities. Our President Melinda Causey shared the president's workshop with the whole group. As a special treat Jeff McManus Director of Landscape Services presented "Pruning Like A Pro". Wonderful gathering and the food was outstanding!



Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to our Water Valley club members for the great hospitality. See y'all in Grenada this fall!

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## River Road Spring District Meeting

River Road District members gathered at First Presbyterian Church in Belzoni on May 23 for our annual Spring District

meeting themed, "Garden Club, It's In Our Bag." Co-sponsors of the meeting were the Belzoni Garden Club and Isola Garden Club.

Club members enjoyed breakfast treats on arrival along with a goody bag full of information about local sites to visit following the meeting. Highlights of the event included the address by new GCM President Melinda Causey, a unique GCM car tag skit by a couple of entertaining southern belles, and two very interesting workshop sessions: "Mississippi

Music" by Emily Donovan and "Backyard Beekeeping by Frances Royal.

Following the workshops, club members enjoyed a delicious boxed lunch arranged on tables decorated to carry out the theme – vintage purses were filled with flower arrangements and used as centerpieces.



## Spring District Meetings – Cont.

### SPANISH TRAIL SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

The Bay Waveland Garden Club hosted our Spring meeting in Waveland with 104 attendees. They experienced many marveling and surprising activities. Starting with Spanish Trail District being the first district to welcome the new GCM president, Melinda Causey. We were honored to hear her plans for her term of office. Ginny Littlefield, Bay Waveland Garden Club past president greeted and welcomed the participants and explained why the venue was changed, “we kept growing”. 17 of the 20 clubs from the district were present to receive the new President’s and Vice President’s notebook. A big thank you to Angelia Wade for her outstanding designing and compiling of these books. Ginny introduced our program presenter, Martha Whitney Butler, owner of The French Potager floral shop in Bay St. Louis. Martha is well known for her “head” arrangements.

Lunch was provided by the Silver Slipper Casino. Participants had a choice of chicken or shrimp entrees. Ginny’s husband provided his delectable sweets and desserts.

The program moved on to the surprise crowning of Beverly Watson the “Queen of Trees” recognition/ award/thanks for the many years she served as chairman of the Societe De Arbes. Next attendees participated in another surprise recognition of a special friend of Spanish Trail clubs and GCM. Cindy Johnson, past Dogwood Garden Club president and Jennifer Martinchalk, current club president led the way to presenting Dr. Gary Bachman with a special retirement recognition from the district clubs with a painting based on an image from one of Dr. Bachman’s first columns on WLOX. The painting is by Leslie McConnell Dobbins, Dogwood GC, Ocean Springs. All the clubs were up on their feet clapping and cheering for these two unique awards and individuals. Everyone enjoyed great food, learned a lot from the programs, meet new gardener friends from other clubs and GCM officers and board members.

Be sure to attend the fall meeting at Diamondhead hosted by the Diamondhead Garden Club. SEE YOU THERE!!!

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### TOMBIGBEE VALLEY SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

The Tombigbee Valley Spring Workshop was held in Aberdeen. Attendance was excellent! Of the 13 clubs and 1 council in the District, 12 clubs and 1 council were represented, and total attendance was 73. A joint workshop was presented by GCM President Melinda Causey. Other GCM BOD members present shared information concerning their chairmanship. After lunch, a tour of an antebellum home was available. Thank you to Aberdeen for hosting and to all club's members for attending!!! The Tombigbee Valley Fall District Meeting will be hosted by Byhalia Garden Club on October 12. Detailed information will be available later.



# Spring District Meetings – cont.

## Natchez Trace District

### *Wow! What a Spring Workshop!*

Chautauqua Garden Club did an outstanding job hosting our Natchez Trace District (NTD) Spring Workshop! Their theme, “*Gardening Is Hands Down Fun!*” was the perfect touch. Thank you, Chautauqua Garden Club, for making us feel so special and for making our Spring Workshop a great success.

Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. President Melinda Causey shared her theme for the next two years, “*Growing in our Communities*” and presented our Presidents Workshop with Kathy Sanders rounding out the workshops sharing how to grow and cook with Herbs. Congratulations goes to Brandon, McComb, Chautauqua and Wesson Garden Clubs; these clubs were presented National Garden Club, Inc. awards! Way to Go!!!

Donna Sessions, Natchez Garden Club President, gave everyone a personal invitation and a Save the Date card to attend the NTD Fall Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> hosted by Natchez Garden Club at historic Ellicott Hill. It was great Spring Workshop and if you missed it, make sure you plan to attend our NTD Fall Meeting in Natchez!



Chautauqua Garden Club



Wesson Garden Club



Brandon Garden Club



McComb Garden Club

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Dixie Thornton, Natchez Trace District Director  
601-259-3445 / [dh.thornton@yahoo.com](mailto:dh.thornton@yahoo.com)

# Fall Happenings

**Southern Pines:** Come “FALL” In Love with Our Hometown is the theme for the Southern Pines Fall District Meeting in Laurel, on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>,2023. Park Place Garden Club will be hosting the event that will be held in the historic Lauren-Rogers Museum of Art. Park Place Garden Club President Susie Burroughs, is overall chairman and along with her co- chairs they are diligently working to make this Fall District Awards Meeting an event to remember. Make plans to come for the “Early Bird Get Together on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Activities offered are in-depth Docent tours of the Lauren-Rogers Museum of Art which features a century of collections and touring exhibits, “Hometown” tours (available by reservation) and a varied menu of delicious “Hometown” dining.



**Natchez Trace:** The doors of Ellicott Hill will be opened with Southern hospitality on October 3<sup>rd</sup> as the Natchez Garden Club welcomes garden clubs across the Natchez Trace District (NTD) and Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.’s to the NTD’s Fall meeting. Attendees will enjoy the sights and sounds of Natchez and be given VIP tours of Ellicott Hill and Magnolia Hall! Both homes are historic preservation projects of Natchez Garden Club and are treasures to see and visit. It is going to be a fun so mark your calendar and save the date!

Don’t miss the Tupelo Garden Club event this fall!

