



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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2023-2025 Officers
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1st Vice President - Sassy Mauldin
2nd Vice President - Darlene Underwood
3rd Vice President - Carla Stringer
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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

President's Message

The New Year is here. Are you thinking about your New Years' resolutions?

Have you set new goals for your Club for 2024 and determined what you want to accomplish? Maybe add a few new members? Plan and start a new Club project? Start a Community Garden? Do you know of a need in your community that your Garden Club could sponsor and help with?

The Garden Club of Mississippi offers 6 grants for Garden Club of MS projects. Check out the listing of available grants on our website gardenclubsofmississippi.com to apply:

Garden Therapy	Landscape for the Economically Challenged	Natural Disasters
Nature Grant	Plant America	Wildflower Project

All contact information for GCM officers and chairmen are listed in your Miss Gardener. If you need information regarding any of our projects or programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. Also use our website gardenclubsofmississippi.com for more information and to check the calendar for events around the state.

Club Members have several opportunities available as we begin our New Year. A Flower Show School will be held in March. Consider attending to learn more about design and exhibiting. Contact Debby Cooper for Flower Show School information.

Our State Flower Show will be April 16, 2024, during State Convention. Contact Pat Young if you would like to participate in the Flower Show. Mark your calendars and plan to attend State Convention in Pearl April 16-17, 2024. Spring Lake Garden Club and Miss Pearl have fun and entertaining events planned.

Look around and find ways for your Club to continue.....

.....GROWING in our Communities to PLANT for tomorrow, PROMOTE the love of gardening, and PROTECT our environment.

Happy and prosperous New Year to all!
Melinda Causey, GCM President 2023-2025

Support Garden Clubs of MS Car Tag Project

Need your help to make this project a success. Please consider ordering your tag now, so we can reach the 300 needed to produce the tag. PLEASE encourage all Club members to send \$33 for a GCM logo license plate.

Information and form available on the GCM website gardenclubsofmississippi.com.

A special thank you to those that have already signed up for your car tag. Please ask your friends, family and neighbors to join you in purchasing a GCM car tag.



Calendar of Events

January 31, 2024	GCM Grant applications due		
February 1, 2024	State Award #39 – GCM President’s Award Applications due		
February 23, 2024	Natchez Garden Club Flower Show – <i>“Springtime on the Mississippi”</i>		
March 11-14, 2024	Flower Show School III – Pearl Community Center, Pearl		
April 16, 2024	GCM State Flower Show – <i>“Lovin’ the Library”</i> – Pearl Public Library		
April 16-17, 2024	95 th GCM State Convention – Pearl Community Center, Pearl		
Spring District Workshops:			
May 21, 2024	Southern Pines	Simply Southern GC	Laurel
May 22, 2024	Natchez Trace	Brandon GC	Brandon
May 23, 2024	Spanish Trail	Coastal Garden Society/Gautier GC	Ocean Springs
May 28, 2024	Tombigbee Valley	Oxford GC	Oxford
May 29, 2024	Hills & Delta	Cherokee Rose GC	Carrolton
May 30, 2024	River Road	Leland Deer Creek GC	Stoneville

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS

February 29, 2024	Design Gala with the Delta Divas–Carol Bullard & Debby Cooper “Designing is Always a Gamble!”		
	Sponsored by: Florida Flower Show Judges’ Council		Pensacola, FL
March 19-20, 2024	Deep South Garden Clubs Convention Debby Cooper, DSGC Director “Decorate the Deep South with Floral Accents” deepsouthgardenclubs.org		Gatlinburg, TN

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

June 2-5, 2024	NGC National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention Brenda Moore, NGC President “Go Green – Plant America” gardenclub.org	Denver, CO
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Preparing Your Plants for Extreme Weather

Starkville Town and Country Garden Club Member Dawn Herring has prepared several tips to help prepare your yard and garden for the upcoming extreme weather.

“Most Mississippians don’t look forward to weather in the teens; however, we do need to prepare for it,” said Herring, a freelance garden writer and former owner of Boardtown Garden Center. “Last year’s extreme and sudden drop in temperatures had devastating effects on our landscape, which is why I have provided a few options you can implement that provide broad levels of protection.”

Tips for preparing your plants for extreme weather:

- **Watering** – Watering should be done in the morning during winter because wet soil absorbs heat during the day and can have an insulating effect. The recent rain should take care of the

need for landscape plants to be watered before temperatures drop below freezing. Any sort of stress will make damage more likely.

- **Remove Saucers** – Make sure to remove saucers from potted plants so they do not collect water. Sitting in freezing water can damage roots and cause clay pots to crack.
- **Move Potted Plants** – Plants in containers are more susceptible to freezing damage; and since most of us do not have a heated greenhouse, a garage is the next best place to keep potted plants until the extreme temperatures move on. You can also wrap the containers with bubble wrap for extra insulation.
- **Add Mulch** – Mulch and pine straw are great for protecting roots. Semi-hardy plants will benefit from a layer of mulch or pine straw for root protection.
- **Cover Plants** – For larger garden plants or shrubs, you can cover them with a frost cloth of horticultural fleece, or a tarp, sheet or blanket will suffice.



“We have several winter hardy bedding plants in the landscape, but I’m partial to snapdragons. Mine look good right now, alongside dusty miller,” said Herring. “Not wanting to risk damage, I will cover the trough in which they’re planted with a tarp, sheet or blanket.” Her main message was “Do not procrastinate! Get out there now and move plants and containers around to safer locations. You will be happy you did.” Herring received a Bachelor of Science in horticulture and a Master of Science in agricultural extension education/communications from Mississippi State University.

Pictured left: Dawn Herring with former professor, Ralph Null, at the 94th Annual Convention of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi held in Starkville on April 17-19, 2023.

Hills & Delta District

On a bright, sunny fall day October 11, 2023, the Hills and Delta District held their annual Fall meeting.



Hosted by the Grenada Garden Club, guests were greeted with festive fall decor - and pumpkins galore! Each table setting was lovingly created by a different GGC member, so all were unique and original designs. Hot coffee and sweet and savory delights along with heartfelt Welcomes were in abundance.

The venue was well suited to the meeting and the many GCM Board members' displays were much appreciated (and easily accessible in the same room). The meeting ran smoothly as scheduled, except for a brief interruption by Ms Pearl to announce the upcoming April 2024 GCM Convention! The professionalism and enthusiasm of the GCM officers was noted and appreciated.

Ms Pearl!

All award-winning clubs shared a few of their pet projects - boy have they been busy! Out of 17 clubs in the Hills and Delta district, 8 received top honors! Lunch was served and who doesn't luv a door prize! The spring Hills and Delta meeting will take place in historic Carrollton, MS; so, until May 29, 2024, happy gardening!

Natchez Trace District

Overlooking the mighty Mississippi river, the Natchez Trace District (NTD) Fall Meeting took place at Ellicott Hall in the City of Natchez on October 3, 2023. The meeting hosted by The Natchez Garden Club took attendees back in time as they arrived at the beautiful historic home and grounds of Ellicott Hill. Attendees arrived by chartered bus to the garden party atmosphere and were served light refreshments before the meeting began inside Ellicott Hall. Two historic homes, Magnolia Hall and Ellicott Hill owned and restored by the Natchez Garden Club, were open for viewing after the meeting.

All garden clubs in the NTD attended the fall meeting, with each club receiving numerous awards for their hard work.

Congratulations to the Brandon Garden Club who received the Natchez Trace District Garden Club of the Year, McComb Garden Club for being runner-up for Club of the Year and to Wesson Garden Club who received the

Horticulture Award. Honor Roll Clubs were Brandon, Chatauqua, McComb, North Bay Madison and Wesson; and Blue-Ribbon Clubs were Raymond and Spring Lake.

The NTD Spring Workshop will be held on May 22, 2024, at the impressive Mississippi Agricultural Museum in Jackson and hosted by the Brandon Garden Club. The grounds and setting will be a special treat for everyone who attends the spring workshop because they will get to view a wonderful and exciting project taking place at the museum by clubs in the NTD district! So, mark your calendar!



(L-R) NTD Fall Meeting Top Winners: Wesson Garden Club President Denise Jackson, Brandon Garden Club President Debbie Edwards, GCM President Melinda Causey, Hillary Freeman, McComb Garden Club and Natchez Trace District Director Dixie Thornton.

River Road District

The River Road Fall District meeting was held on October 10 in Greenville and hosted by the Alice Bell and Belle Haven Garden Clubs. The 66 attendees were welcomed with pumpkin-themed table decorations, breakfast pick-ups, and a delicious hot lunch prepared by the Greenville Country Club. The Rolling Fork Garden Club took the top honor of Outstanding Club in the district for their impressive body of work in their community even after it was devastated by a tornado in March. Other clubs receiving



(L to R) GCM President Melinda Causey, Patti Livingston Deer Creek Garden Club, Jill Smith Rolling Fork Garden Club Outstanding Club in the District, Suzy Johnson, and Stephanie Patton River Road Director

recognition included Canton, Isola, Greenville, Leland-Deer Creek, Alice Bell, and Belle Haven.

The Spring District meeting will be held in Stoneville at the Capps Center on the campus of Delta Research Extension Center and hosted by the Leland-Deer Creek Garden Club on May 30, 2024.

Southern Pines District

The Southern Pines Fall District Meeting themed “Come FALL in love with our Hometown” was held on October 5, 2023, in the historic Lauren-Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel. Park Place Garden Club was the host club of the meeting. One hundred and thirty-three Southern Pines members came to support their district. Upon arrival, guests were greeted with a cornucopia of a morning buffet and received a plentiful welcome gift bag at their seating. A plated lunch was served on blue willow fine China with beautiful seasonal flower arrangements adorning each table. Decorations were in accordance with the general splendor of the museum which guests took time to explore.

All Southern Pines Clubs and councils received recognition by the disbursement of 137 awards. The top 3 clubs were Horticulture Northwoods Garden Club, 2nd Place Park Place Garden Club and Garden Club of the Year Town and Country Garden Club (Louisville). The Spring 2024 District Meeting will be hosted by the Simply Southern Garden Club in Laurel on May 21st.

Spanish Trail District

Spanish Trail Diamondhead was the setting for the Spanish Trail district meeting held on October 4, 2023. Diamondhead Garden Club provided hostesses and presented a fall theme.



Spanish Trail District Top Club Winners 2023 "Outstanding Garden Club in District", Diamondhead Garden Club 2nd Place, Gautier Garden Club 1st Place, "Outstanding Horticulture Work by Club" Bay Waveland Garden Club



GCM President Melinda Causey and Dickie Roberts

Tombigbee Valley District

Tombigbee Valley District met at "the Garden Gate" in the First Methodist Church FLAME, Byhalia on October 12, 2023. Fall was definitely in the air with displays of pumpkins, late summer and early fall flowers and foliage. The flowers used were all grown by a member of the Byhalia Garden Club!! The total attendance was 54. Each of the top 3 clubs briefly shared their club's successes with the attendees. Top clubs were: New Albany Garden Club--1st place, Little Garden Club Corinth-- 2nd place, Oxford Garden Club--Work in the Field of Horticulture. The district's Spring Workshop will be hosted by Oxford Garden Club on May 28, 2024.



Pictured L to R: Dinah Clark, Dr. Robert Cochran, and Tracey Millsaps.

Starkville Town & Country Garden Club and 96-Year-Old WWII Veteran Lay Wreaths for Veteran's Day

Starkville Town and Country Garden Club had the privilege of accompanying WWII veteran Dr. Robert Cochran to lay wreaths at local cemeteries in honor of Veteran's Day, on November 11th.

Dinah Clark, co-chair of the Civic Development Committee of the Starkville Town and Country Garden Club, said "We laid two wreaths with the help of my father, Dr. Robert Cochran, at the Louisville Street Cemetery and the Glen Street Cemetery. These are cemeteries our garden club



helps maintain each year by weeding, clearing vines, and picking up branches and trash."

The Starkville Town and Country Garden Club collaborated years ago with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to secure and pay for the Louisville Street Cemetery historical marker and wrought iron fencing. The garden club also paid for and put up the sign at the Glen Street Cemetery, now called the Presbyterian Cemetery.

Tracey Millsaps and Dinah Clark, co-chairs of the Civic Development Committee, said their committee is dedicated to community and landscape beautification activities including taking care of the cemeteries, participating in the annual Get Swept Up clean up, assisting the Greater Starkville Development Partnership with Pumpkin Palooza, and helping to decorate the Old Courthouse for Christmas. They also work with the Main Street Association and Partnership to suggest landscape options.



GCM State Flower Show

An NGC State Petite Design Specialty Flower Show sponsored by The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

The GCM State Flower Show – “Lovin’ the Library” – will be held in conjunction with the 95th Annual GCM Convention in Pearl at the City of Pearl Public Library, 2416 Old Brandon Road, Pearl, MS 39208. The show will be open to the public with free admission. The Design Division will consist of 48 Petite designs featuring design types such as Transparency, Tubular, Underwater, Reflective, Exhibition Tables, Parallel, Cascade, Panel, Multi-Rhythmic, Grouped Mass and Creative Designs all 12 inches and under. All designs will be interpreting Children's book titles, Fiction Books, Non-fiction or Periodicals. The Education Division will feature 3 exhibits that instruct the public in the phases of NGC objectives.

There will be exhibitors from all six districts participating, from the novice to the experienced. Thank you to those who have signed up to enter a design in this show. Contact a flower show judge in your area if you have questions about your design. A list of judges can be found in Miss Gardener or on the website, www.gardenclubsofmississippi.com. If you would like to participate in the show, contact Pat Young, Entries Chairman, for open classes if you would like to enter a design.

The complete Flower Show schedule can be found on the GCM Website. If you're not participating in this show, plan to come and support those who are. Please plan to attend the 95th GCM Convention but if for some reason you can't, come to Pearl and view the show, April 16th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. The library is adjacent to the Pearl Community Center where the convention meetings will be held. There are lots of great shopping venues and places to eat so come and enjoy the hospitality of Pearl and the Spring Lake Garden Club.

Show Chairmen:

Paula Grayson, paulaggrayson@gmail.com

May Hall, mayh.g4@gmail.com

“Lovin’ the Library”

AN NGC STATE PETITE DESIGN
SPECIALTY FLOWER SHOW



Sponsored by The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

City of Pearl Public Library

2416 Old Brandon Rd.

Pearl, MS 39208 (601-932-2562)

April 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Convention 2024!

The GCM 95th Annual Convention, “Pearls, Petals and Plants” will be held April 16-17, 2024, in Pearl MS. MS Pearl, the spokeswoman for the convention, wants to remind you about all the great things that will be happening at this convention. From great speakers, a talented floral designer demonstration, tour of a state landmark, chances to win awards for your garden club and much more, this convention is one you do not want to miss. MS Pearl will be looking for you, so mark your calendar and start making plans to attend.