



The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

Newsletter

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Garden Clubs Make Things Happen!"

VOLUME I

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The Garden Clubs of Mississippi is full of interesting members with interesting lives. Many are doing interesting things, both in their club and on their own. If you know of an interesting person or event with ties to GCM, please let President Young know. If your club is hosting a fundraiser, Blue Star Memorial dedication, or other worthy event, we want to get the word out! We would also like your feedback on the newsletter. Let us know what you think!

2021-2023 Officers

President
Pat Young

1st Vice President
Melinda Causey

2nd Vice President
Sassy Mauldin

3rd Vice President
Darlene Underwood

Recording Secretary
Debbie Enis

Corresponding Secretary
Joy Burke

Treasurer
Amye Kelly

Executive Secretary
Angelia Wade

District Directors
Allison Ashmore – H & D
Carla Stringer – Natchez Trace
Marsha Barber – River Rd.
Jayne Cooper – S. Pines
Dickie Roberts – Spanish Trail
Marge McCauley – Tombigbee V.

Historian
Paula Grayson

Parliamentarian
Melanie Gousset

Chaplain
Sue Berry

Coordinator of Districts
Lynda Dickerson



President's Message:

As far as I know, this is the first “newsletter” for The Garden Clubs of Mississippi. I hope to have three issues this club year. Among other articles and stories, each issue will feature four of your state officers, except for the District Directors, which are featured in the *Miss Gardener* directory. This will help you get to know more about the people who have given their time to lead our state organization. You might find they have lives outside of garden club!

Cancelling the Fall District Meetings was a tough decision that had to be made in keeping the health and well-being of our membership in mind. I will miss visiting with club members throughout the state, and I feel that members will miss interacting with their friends from other clubs.

At the time this newsletter is going out, we are considering holding Zoom meetings for each district on the morning of the scheduled District Meetings. These will be abbreviated versions and should not last more than 30 or 40 minutes. They will give Directors of Districts the opportunity to recognize the outstanding clubs in their district, and presidents from the top clubs will have their time to highlight their club’s activities. It is important for us to stay in touch even if we are not meeting in person. And learning how to attend a Zoom meeting is an easy skill to learn and one that we all need to have under our belts! Google is a good source (or YouTube) to learn how to Zoom!

I have said before that those members willing to serve as club presidents are strategic in keeping The Garden Clubs of Mississippi a vibrant and thriving organization. I also want to emphasize the important role that club presidents play in keeping their members informed. Any information sent to club presidents by me, or Executive Secretary Angelia Wade, should be shared with all club members, for example, this newsletter. It will be sent to you as an email attachment, and then is easy to forward on to all your club members. I think we are to the point that 90% of our members have email. But please be willing to get a hard copy to any members who do not have that access.

At a time when most information is sent by internet, the one thing that is mailed to each GCM member in hard copy form is the *Miss Gardener* directory. Christye VanHorn gathers hundreds of details, checks them for accuracy, and compiles them in the directory so each member has that information at their fingertips. She did that this summer at the same time she was moving!! If you see Christye, please tell her “Thank you!”

I hope you notice the article in this newsletter about the Blue Star Memorial in Gay’s honor that will actually be installed on the grounds of the Mississippi Capitol building! What an honor! I hope that many GCM members will be able to attend the dedication – probably early in 2022. We will get the date out as soon as we know.

As GCM members, we are also members of Deep South Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs. NGC President Mary Warshauer’s theme is “Plant America – Play Outside” (or Outdoors – NGC displays it both ways). DSGC president Carol Hall chose “Plant Deep South in a Rainbow of Colors”. I encourage you to promote these themes in your club projects. And as you do that and more, I know you will continue to “*Make Things Happen*” in your club, in your town, and in our state

Get to Know Your 2021 - 2023 GCM Officers

President: Pat Young



GCM President Pat Young was born in Illinois while her father had a job there. The family quickly moved back home to North Mississippi when she was a baby. But that short stay up north gave her cousins the opportunity to tease her and call her a “Yankee.” Since that short stay, Pat has spent all her life within a small area of 2 counties in north Mississippi, Tate and DeSoto. She grew up in the small town of Coldwater and graduated as Valedictorian from Coldwater High School. She attended Northwest Community College, where she met her husband, Ronnie. She graduated from The University of Mississippi with a BA with a double major in English and Journalism. She taught high school English for four years before retiring at the birth of her second child. She has two children, Neil and Lesley, daughter-in-law Gwyn, and grandchildren Wesley and Elaine.

Pat has been a member of a federated garden club for over 40 years. She began as a young mother in a club full of young mothers who coordinated a nursery to watch their children while the club met. Besides garden club activities, Pat enjoys entertaining, traveling, and Ole Miss football games.

First Vice President: Melinda Causey

GCM First Vice President Melinda Causey graduated from Meridian High School and received her MBA from Mississippi State University. Melinda is Vice President of Van Zyverden, Inc. in Meridian, where she has worked for 47 years.



Melinda grew up with her grandmother and mother involved in Garden Clubs, but she was encouraged to become an active Garden Club member by her sister Paula Grayson over 16 years ago. She has served on the GCM Board and as Director of Southern Pines District, following in the footsteps of her Mother and Sister. Melinda is an accredited NGC Flower Show Judge, NGC Environmental Consultant, and NGC Gardening Consultant. Melinda enjoys traveling and spending time with her sisters, family, and grandchildren.

Second Vice President: Sassy Mauldin



GCM Second Vice-President Sassy Mauldin grew up in Forrest City, Arkansas. She graduated from Forrest City High School and finished college at Mississippi State University where she met her husband, Doug. Sassy received a BA degree in mathematics. When first married Doug and Sassy lived in Indianola where their three children were born. They lived in Lyon, MS (Clarksdale) for 20 years. For many years she taught math at the secondary level. She also worked as a paralegal for Chapman, Lewis and Swan law firm.

In 1997 her family bought a ranch in Tallahatchie County and moved to Cascilla, MS where she has horses, ponies, burros, cats, and dogs. After a few years of retirement Sassy joined the team at James C. Kennedy Wellness Center as the Garden Manager. She supervises the

Food Rx program in which fresh vegetables are grown to give away to qualified individuals. Sassy enjoys riding horses, playing bridge, entertaining, gardening, and Mississippi State sports.

Third Vice President: Darlene Underwood



Darlene Underwood was born in Laurel, Mississippi, but soon moved to England with her parents, as her father was in the U.S. Air Force. As an Air Force “brat,” she moved every few years, living in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Panama City, Florida; Jackson, Biloxi, Beaumont, New Augusta, and Gulfport.

This lifestyle carried, over into her adult years when she attended several universities, receiving an undergraduate degree in Art/Design, a Master’s of Science in Clothing & Textiles from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Master’s of Business Administration from William Carey on the Coast.

She retired from Mississippi State University, having spent 25 years as a 4-H Youth Agent, County Home Economist and County Administrator. After Katrina she opened a small antique and vintage furniture business, Domain, LLC, which is housed in two antique malls on the Coast.

She has been married to Robert (Bobby) Underwood for 43 years. They have two daughters, Sarah and Jessica; two grandchildren, Kathryn and Andrew. She and her husband live on 80 acres in the middle of Hancock County. Her passions are gardening, interior design, and her German shepherd, Kimber.



Awards Update



Your Awards Committee is looking forward to reviewing your applications later on this year. Below, please find reference information that might aid you in preparing your award applications. Please feel free to contact committee members with any questions.

- October 1 Yearbook Applications to Yearbook Chairman
- December 1 Most General Awards to the chairman listed for that particular award
- All Flower Show Award applications except Holiday Flower Shows , which are due
- December 15 to Flower Show Awards Chairman
- Special Awards to Special Awards Chairman
- Youth Award applications to proper Chairman
- January 25 Press Book applications to the Press Book Chairman
- February 1 Special Award # 39 to our State President

Check the GCM website to make sure you send your application to the correct chairman and for award updates.

We have 2 new awards. There is now an award for a Children’s Garden, listed under the Public Gardens heading, and the application goes to Jean Tucker. There is also a new award for a Publication, listed under the Publicity Press Book heading, and the application goes to Jennifer Flautt. We think these 2 new awards will address projects not previously recognized in award categories.

Noteworthy updates:

Please submit applications electronically in PDF format if possible

74 Garden Club of the Year cash award has been increased to \$100 (Only top clubs in the District are eligible)

73 High School Essay cash award has been increased to \$100

Your Awards Committee hopes to see YOUR club’s award applications soon!!

Debby Cooper, GCM Awards Chairman

Membership Moment

Today's Membership Tip:

Ask a current member to be the **GREETER** at your next meeting. Greet all members as they come to the door. If possible, have nametags in hand. This means the Greeter should arrive at the meeting place early and have all other duties completed. All attention is on the arriving members and guests.

Darlene Underwood
Membership Chairman



2022 Calendars Available

Books chairman Celia Williamson has 2022 *Vision of Beauty* calendars available. With the cancellation of the Fall District Meetings, Celia will take your order by phone, email, or text and either mail them to you or deliver by hand at a total cost of \$8.00 per calendar. GCM members Carol Bullard and Amye Kelly both have designs featured in the calendar. Plus, there is no greater inspiration for creative floral design than looking through these calendars. They also make great hostess gifts or Christmas gifts. You can contact Celia at 662-207-0207 or email her at gooddaygourmetcw@aol.com.

This N That

Several important events are scheduled for this Fall. Please mark your calendars for:

Oct. 19, 2021: GCM Board Meetings
Finance Committee

Executive Committee

Headquarters Board of Trustees

GCM Board of Directors

Oct. 19, 2021: Dinner Honoring Scholarship Winners

Oct. 20, 2021: Landscape Design Symposium

Oct. 20, 2021: Bi-refresher for Environmental & Landscape Design Consultants

Conventions (we hope!)

Deep South Convention:

Natchez Garden Club is hosting the Deep South convention March 6 – 9, 2022. Make your plans now – everyone in the six Deep South states will want to enjoy the hospitality and beautiful homes in this old Southern town. You don't want to miss this! More details in the future.

93rd Annual GCM Convention:

Members of Brandon Garden Club are busy planning the GCM convention set for April 18 – 20, 2022 in Brandon. Members can look forward to "Rock'n at the Quarry" and enjoying all the activities that Brandon GC has in store. More details to come.

A Useful Tool

Keep in mind that the GCM website (gardenclubsofmississippi.com) is full of information and forms that are there for you to use. Club presidents will find it much easier to download the President's Report from the website and then fill it out on your computer. You will also find updated award information, grant applications, and much more.

Blue Star Memorial at State Capitol to Honor Gay Austin

Lena Bateman, Director (2019-2021) Deep South Region Garden Clubs, Inc. chose to honor Gay Austin, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. for the 2019-2021 administration. Lena met with the Deep South Executive Committee proposing the purchase of a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Gay's honor. Each of the six states in the Deep South Region contributed funds for the purchase of the marker.

Gay is a native Mississippian, and former State



The marker will be installed in what is now a muddy hole that will be improved and sodded.

President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. As National President, she represented not only the six states of the Deep South Region (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee), but also all fifty (50) states and hundreds of international affiliates during her term of office.

The Blue Star Marker is a National Garden Club project that began in 1945 in the state of New Jersey. Since that time, it has continued to be installed in all of our fifty states and considered by garden club members as one of the most

decorated emblems honoring those who have served the United States in all of our armed forces. Currently there are 2,987 Blue Star markers scattered throughout our fifty states, with 659 in the six Deep South Region states. The State of Mississippi has 55 markers. Mary Hazen, Chairman of the DSGC Blue Star Memorial Marker program, has been instrumental in organizing this effort. Pam Dowd, NGC Blue Star Chairman and Nancy Moore, Mississippi Blue Star Chairman, offered valuable information to help also. Mary Hazen contacted the Mississippi Governor's Mansion staff in Jackson with a proposal to have the marker installed around or near the State Capitol. Approval was given by the Department of Finance and Administration (which is under the Governor) and the Mississippi Legislature, to honor Gay Austin by allowing the Blue Star Marker to be placed in a public space on the Capitol's grounds.

Ann Beard, the First Lady's Staff member, along with Lauren Miller, Curator of the Governor's Mansion, and Brenda Davis, Curator of the Mississippi State Capitol provided invaluable guidance to Lena Bateman and Mary Hazen to



A granite bench and steps will enhance the marker.

secure a location for the installment and dedication of the marker. The marker on the Capitol's grounds will be placed on the corner of High and West Streets, facing the Supreme Court Building. Brenda Davis is reviewing dates in early 2022, when the State Legislature is in session, to determine the best date for the Blue Star Memorial Marker dedication. Garden club members will be invited and notified as soon as the specific date is chosen.



Summer Camp for Horticulture & Landscape Architecture 2021 Attendees

It is not too early to start looking for that special high school student for your club to sponsor at next year's Summer Camp for Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, held annually at Mississippi State University. The three-day camp gives students the opportunity to hear the best in their field cover subjects in landscape architecture, floriculture, floral design, nursery management, turf, vegetable production, and fruit production. The cost is \$175 per student and covers rooms, meals, and course materials. Scholarships are available through The Garden Clubs of Mississippi. The program is designed for High School students between 15 and 17 years old and is held annually the second week in June. GCM is one of the sponsors of the camp. Students who have attended come away excited about what they have learned. **Start looking now for a student for your club to sponsor next June.**



Upcoming Club Flower Shows




**Fall
into
Summer**

A NGC Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by Plantation Garden Club

Emmett Till Interpretive Center
120 North Court Street
Sumner, Mississippi 38957
October 23, 2021
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

“THE HOLIDAYS, THREE IN A ROW”
 An NGC Small Standard Flower Show
 Presented by the Diamondhead Garden Club
 The Club at Diamondhead
 5300 Diamondhead Circle
 Diamondhead, Mississippi 39525



November 17, 2021
 1 PM to 3 PM



GCM State Flower Show



"Girl Power"

AN NGC STATE PETITE
DESIGN
SPECIALTY FLOWER SHOW

Sponsored by The Garden Clubs of
Mississippi, Inc.



Brandon Municipal Complex
1001 Municipal Dr.
Brandon, MS 39042

April 19, 2022 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The state flower show, titled "Girl Power", will be held during the state convention in Brandon next April (more about the convention in the next newsletter). The show is a Petite Design Specialty show, which means that it consists of designs only (no horticulture) and that all the designs are petite designs, meaning that they range in size from 3 inches tall to not more than twelve inches tall.



**Exhibition Table Design by
Amye Kelly, 12" Tall**

In an effort to encourage club members to enter designs in the show, members of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges' Council had planned to bring petite design examples to each of the fall district meetings.

With cancellation of the meetings, show co-chairmen Debby Cooper and Amye Kelly are working up a power point presentation showing petite design examples done by council members and showing the process of creating each design. The presentation will be made available to all GCM club members.



**Creative Design by
Barbara McIntosh, 5" Tall**

The schedule for the show (which is merely guidelines for the show and each design class) includes a variety of design types that become more interesting because they are so small. A petite design might have a bottle cap as a container, or a small candlestick could hold a cascade design. There will even be a class of petite table designs.



**Creative Design by Debby
Cooper, 5" Tall**

If you are interested in entering the show, contact Debby, Amye or any member of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges' Council. There is plenty of time before the show next Spring for your club to hold a workshop for petite designs. If enough are interested, the Council would be glad to stage a workshop or work with GCM members individually. Petite designs are great fun!!