



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

December 1, 2021

NO. 2

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The Garden Clubs of Mississippi is full of interesting members with interesting lives. 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: 🌿 🌿 🌿 🌿 🌿



The Christmas season is upon us, and there seems to be a break in garden club activities, which gives us leave to spend time with those who bring us joy -family, friends, and even pets.

This issue features the next four GCM officers: Recording Secretary Debbie Enis, Corresponding Secretary Joy Burke, Treasurer Amye Kelly, and Executive Secretary Angelia Wade. Each biography is interesting and different, but what they do not tell you is how great it is to work with each of them!!

We have completed the sale of the GCM headquarters in Greenwood. The closing was delayed several times as the closing attorney kept us on our toes asking for various and sundry documents pertaining to our organization, the Whittington family, and my election as president. You will all be delighted to know that the buyer bought it as a wedding gift for his fiancée. They were both at the closing and kissed as the papers were signed. They have been accumulating appropriate furnishings, and she has taken a job in Greenwood and is moving in soon. We all owe special thanks to Debby Cooper for taking such good care of the building for over 15 years and Cyndi Long for promoting and facilitating the sale of the building. A new committee has been appointed to make recommendations about the monies received in the sale.



At the closing were (l. to r.) the closing notary, President Young, realtor Tish Goodman, and the new home-owners, Rebecca Julius and Lee Allison.

We are hopeful to get permission to install a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Mississippi State University in the near future. Blue Star Chairman Nancy Moore and I met with Brian Locke on the campus in October. Locke is the director of the Sonny Montgomery Center for America's Veterans, a wonderful new facility on the State campus. Locke seemed excited about the project, is taking it before the appropriate committee, and feels confident they will approve placing the marker on the grounds of the Veterans' Center. I will keep you posted.

Many of the host clubs for last Fall's district meetings have again volunteered to host future meetings. Please check the winter issue of *Miss Gardener* for the dates and locations of our Spring District Workshops in 2022. Registration information will be emailed to each club president soon to go out to all club members. I am hopeful we can look forward to attending the Deep South Convention in March, the GCM Convention in April, the NGC convention in May, and our state district workshops in late May and early June. Zoom meetings work in an emergency, but there is nothing like seeing friends in person!

Your garden club membership begins at the local level – in your hometown. But your membership carries you much further. It gives you access to information and opportunities at the state, regional and national level. I encourage each of you to seek out and take advantage of those opportunities as you continue to "Make Things Happen!!" **Hope to see you all soon.....Pat**

Get to Know Your 2021 - 2023 GCM Officers

Recording Secretary: Debbie Enis



GCM Recording Secretary Debbie Enis was born at Camp Atterbury in Franklin, IN while her 19-year-old father served in the Army. When he deployed to Korea, her mother and she moved to Carthage, Missouri, where her father's family lived. When he came home, she quickly became the oldest of five! A job transfer moved the family to Jackson, MS when she was twelve. She graduated from Callaway High School and went on to fulfill her dream of being a nurse at St. Dominic's School of Nursing.

She was recruited by the Navy during her second year in nursing school. At her nursing school graduation, she was sworn in as a Navy Nurse. She served on active duty for several years in different Naval Hospitals.

She went on to earn a BSN from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and an MSN at the University of Mississippi in Jackson. While working at the Veterans' Hospital, she met her husband and gained a wonderful stepson. Now they have three grandchildren.

She continued her military career in the Naval Reserves in conjunction with full-time jobs. She slowly retired from nursing after 45 years that included 21 years of military service.

Her passion for gardening started in her younger years as she gardened with her grandmother and did "yard work" with her dad. Her grandmother taught her many things about flowers, vegetables, canning, and composting. It stuck, and she continues to do that today. She has served in the Winona Garden Club as President, Vice-President, and Chairman of various committees. She also loves crocheting, machine embroidery, and especially her dog, Leo.

Corresponding Secretary: Joy Burke



Corresponding Secretary Joy Burke grew up in rural Louisiana, and while studying Civics in tenth grade decided she wanted to pursue a career in law. Fate looked favorably on that decision, and after graduating from Tulane Law School, she practiced with a maritime defense firm in New Orleans for some 15 years. In 1978 she married Patrick, who was the bachelor in the firm. She then resigned her partnership in the firm to develop another career in residential apartment ownership and management.

When Patrick elected early retirement, the couple was able to fulfill their dream of living aboard a sailboat and cruising throughout the Caribbean. During the following years, they visited most of the Caribbean islands, making regular returns to their home in New Orleans to assist their apartment manager.

After Katrina, the couple gave up sailing and moved to Pass Christian, where they became actively involved in the community, including ministries in Holy Family Catholic Church and Trustees of Pass Christian Historical Society. Joy also served on the board of the Pass Christian Yacht Club for six years, with two as Vice Commodore. Joy very much enjoys her garden club activities in Pass Christian Garden Club, Grow and Show Garden Council, and Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council, as well as serving on the GCM Board.

Treasurer: Amye Kelly



GCM Treasurer Amye Kelly graduated from Hernando High School and earned her BA from Christian Brothers College. She currently holds a license as a Certified Public Accountant.

Amye has a long background in business having worked for a major privately held international cotton merchandising company in Memphis before retiring. She now devotes time to co- owned businesses. She has been married 51 years to her high school sweetheart, Alvan. They delight in their two children, Chris and April, daughter-in-law Susan, son-in-law Scott and seven grandchildren.

Amye previously served as GCM Flower Show Awards Chairman. She is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge and 2nd Vice-President for the Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council.

She is excited to co-chair the NGC State Petite Design Specialty Flower Show “Girl Power” in April 2022. Amye is passionate about floral design and has been published twelve times in the NGC *Vision of Beauty* calendar from 2015-2022. She enjoys entertaining, traveling and spending time with her family.

Executive Secretary: Angelia Wade



GCM Executive Secretary Angelia Wade graduated from Pearl High School and Hinds Community College with an Associate’s Degree in Computer Programming. Her career led her to work for the State of MS which allowed her to retire in June 2007 with 26 years of service from the MS Forestry Commission. Her love of gardening came from visiting her grandparents each summer in Raleigh, MS. Not only did they grow an abundant array of vegetables, but there was also always room in the garden for a place to grow beautiful Dahlias and many other flowers.

As a member of Spring Lake Garden Club, she served as club president for 4 years and is the clubs Awards and Arbor Day Chairman.

Angelia and her husband, Jeff, have been married for 38 years and live in Brandon, MS. But many trips are made to Clinton MS, where both of their sons, along with their wives and three grandkids live.

Did You Know. . . . (a brief GCM history)

The garden clubs of Mississippi began in 1929 when Mr. Ben Arthur Davis, a horticulturist and secretary of the Lauderdale County Horticultural Society of Meridian, couldn’t get enough interest in a statewide horticultural society. He was advised to contact “some people in the Delta who might be interested.” Davis contacted Mrs. C. W. Kettleman of the existing Greenville Garden Club and asked her to invite interested people to a meeting. Twelve or 13 ladies representing six garden clubs met at the Edwards Hotel in Jackson on July 19, 1929, to form the first state garden club. Those six clubs were Greenville, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Leland, and Meridian. An undated clipping states that “The purpose of this organization will be to draw the garden clubs of the state together closer in their relations and primarily to promote an interchange of garden visits.” Our state organization preceded the national, which was formed in 1934. In 2005, The Garden Clubs of Mississippi had 148 clubs with 4,989 members. Today we have 103 clubs and 2606 members. In 2029, we will be 100 years old. Let’s make sure our organization is alive and well to celebrate that milestone!

Membership Moment

Today's Membership Tip:

Generally, it's not wise to stop your club meetings during the summer as it may be difficult to "jump start" them again. If you must stop, do something to fill the "void" while being apart; maybe send an email with plant ideas or a newsletter with information about your members, upcoming club plans, contest opportunities and programs. An alternate idea is to hold workshops and tours during "off" meeting months to keep members engaged.

Darlene Underwood
Membership Chairman



The Promise of Good Things

This book was co-authored by Jim DelPrince, a long-time friend of GCM. The publication highlights fall and Christmas decorations using Southeast region plant materials plus poinsettia varieties. Books Chairman Celia Williamson has a limited number for sale. 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 \$30 (662-207-0207 or gooddaygourmetcw@aol.com) It would make a great Christmas present for that person you just can't decide what to get. Or you may just want to order one for yourself.

And the Winners Are. . . .

All six districts in the Garden Clubs of Mississippi held successful District Awards Meetings last fall via Zoom. District Directors did an outstanding job of holding their meetings.

The awards listed below were presented based on the President's Report that each of these club presidents completed and sent to their district director.

Your club president should already be working on that report for this club year. A fillable report is on the GCM website, gardenclubsofmississippi.com.

Completing the report gets your club recognition for your activities and projects.

Winning clubs are listed below:

Hills & Delta District

Horticulture Award-Greenwood Garden Club

2nd Place – DeSoto Civic Garden Club

1st Place – Hernando Civic Garden Club

Natchez Trace District

Horticulture Award – Raymond Garden Club

2nd Place – Spring Lake Garden Club

1st Place – Brandon Garden Club

River Road District

Horticulture Award – Green Hills Garden Club

2nd Place – Alice Bell Garden Club

1st Place – Greenville Garden Club

Southern Pines District

Horticulture Award – Ellisville Garden Club

2nd Place – Simply Southern Garden Club

1st Place – Park Place Garden Club

Spanish Trail District

Horticulture Award – Dogwood Garden Club

2nd Place – Long Beach Garden Club

1st Place – Richton Home & Garden Club

Tombigbee Valley District

Horticulture Award – Tupelo Garden Club

2nd Place – Oxford Garden Club

1st Place – New Albany Garden Club

Congratulations to all!!!

Your Club's Donations Go for. . .

GCM club members know that their club is asked to donate to about 12 different causes each year. And the deadline for those donations is coming up soon – March 1. Most names on that list are self-explanatory, such as The Lanoux Youth Nature Day Camp, or The MS State University Scholarship Fund. But others on the list might be just items on a list that you give money to for the points on your club president's report. (Let's be frank.) Here are explanations of some of those funds to help clubs understand the good that those donations can do.

Natural Disasters USA: Donations to this fund are divided equally – half are given to National Garden Clubs for the grants they distribute, and half are kept by GCM for state grants. These grants may be awarded to states, clubs, or individuals for restoration efforts. The fund has helped to replant parks, municipal gardens, and other garden related sites due to natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires. Many GCM club members can testify to the fact that Mississippi is one of the states in "Tornado Alley".

Your contributions to this fund give much needed assistance to clubs restoring garden-related areas devastated by any past, present, or future natural disasters.

Donations must be sent to Suzanne Ross, 507 S. College St., Brandon, MS 39042 by March 1, 2022.



Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee comprise the Dixie Tornado Alley.

Magnolia Gardens: For many years, The Garden Clubs of Mississippi participated in "The Avenue of Magnolias", a program started by Keep Mississippi Beautiful in the 1960's. For a \$25 donation, you could honor or memorialize someone by having a magnolia tree planted along a designated spot on a Mississippi highway. Over the years the program has planted tens of thousands of Magnolia trees along state highways. But due to new regulations, the program needed adjustments. The program has now become Magnolia Gardens and is located at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson, MS. The layout of the garden pays homage to the Avenue of Magnolias with a magnolia-lined boulevard and a sidewalk lined with Magnolia trees that leads to the main garden. The main garden has a formal design with a variety of plants, trees, flora, stone, water, and wood. It is a cooperative project between The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., ARK Design+Build, the MS Dept. of Agriculture & Commerce, and the MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum.



The garden is now in the final stages of completion. For club donations, checks must be made out to Magnolia Gardens and mailed to Pat Rutledge, 404 Kathryn Dr., Fulton, MS 38843. These donations are tax deductible. Clubs can designate their donations as an honorarium or memorial, or just as a donation from their club.



Botanic Gardens – Crosby Arboretum: This fund was recently changed from the gardens at Beauvoir on the coast to Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS. Botanic Gardens Chairman Darlene Underwood made this recommendation after serving as chairman for several years and finding that the gardens at Beauvoir are not being maintained due to financial constraints. She then researched any botanical gardens in Mississippi and found that one of the few that are maintained and cared for was the Crosby Arboretum. The GCM Board of Directors approved her recommendation to donate these funds to Crosby.



With increasing value being placed on our natural heritage, the Crosby Arboretum is the premier native plant conservatory in the Southeast. The Arboretum has become a source for education in the region and the world. It is dedicated to educating the public about their environment. This mission is carried out by preserving, protecting, and displaying plants native to the Pearl River Drainage Basin ecosystem, providing environmental and botanical research opportunities, and offering cultural, scientific, and recreational programs. In addition to the 104-acre interpretive site, the Arboretum collectively maintains 700



acres of off-site natural areas that are preserved for scientific study. (WOW!) You can find more information about the arboretum at their website,

crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu. Donations should be mailed to Darlene Underwood, 21205 Windermere Lane, Kiln, MS 39556.

(Stay tuned – more about club donations in the next newsletter!)

You Can Become a GCM Honorary Life Member by . . .

GCM established the Honorary Life Membership program in 1957 with 17 charter members. Certificate No. 1 was issued to Mrs. D. C. McRaney of Collins. GCM has issued 1,736 Honorary Life Membership certificates from 1957 to September 30, 2021. Honorary Life Memberships are \$25 each. When you do the math, you will see that the Honorary Life Memberships program has significantly impacted GCM's ability to provide support for the Mississippi State University scholarship programs.

I challenge each club to present at least one Honorary Life Membership a year. Think outside the box. The recipient does not have to be a garden club member. An Honorary Life Membership can be a gift to speakers, distinguished gardeners, outgoing club presidents, faithful supporters, etc. The application is available on the GCM website gardenclubsofmississippi.com. Please call me if you need information. I can provide a certificate on short notice. I am here to help you!

Charla Jordan, Honorary Life Membership Chairman (601-278-1499)

Arbor Day Began. . .

Arbor Day did not become a national holiday until 1970, even though most US states had been observing it since 1907 when President Teddy Roosevelt issued a school proclamation. Although the national observance falls on the last Friday in April, most states celebrate at different times of the year to ensure that the trees are in the best environment to thrive. Mississippians celebrate Arbor Day on the second Friday in February, which is Feb. 11 this year. Has your club made plans for Arbor Day this year? An Arbor Day presentation/project could qualify for several different GCM awards. Julius Sterling Morton first proposed an Arbor Day back in the 1870's, and his words still say it best, "Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future."

GCM Grants

Your club still has time to apply for two of the four grants available from GCM.

The **GCM Nature Grant** is a matching grant of up to \$1000 for the improvement of an existing nature area or a new nature-related project. Suggested nature-related projects include nature trails, outdoor classrooms, parks, and museum grounds. The GCM Nature Grant Chairman is May G. Hall. If you have questions, you can contact her at 601-808-0549 or mayh.g4@gmail.com.

The **GCM Plant America Community Project Grant** is also a matching grant of up to \$100 and may be awarded to a club for a new or existing planting project within their community. The GCM Plant America Grant Chairman is Gay Austin. You may contact her at 601-684-3952 or gaylaurustin@gmail.com,

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The deadline for both of these grants is January 1, and the grant applications can be found under the "Forms" heading on the GCM website.

This N That

Enjoy some down time this winter; then get ready for GCM events in 2022!

January 25: Publicity Press Book due to Chairman Jennifer Flautt

Feb. 11: Arbor Day in Mississippi

March 1: All monetary donations due to appropriate chairman

March 6 – 9: Deep South Convention, Natchez, MS

April 19: GCM State Flower Show, "Girl Power", Brandon

April 19 – 20: 93rd Annual GCM Convention, Brandon

May 17 – 20: NGC Convention, Orlando, FL

May 24: Southern Pines Workshop, Town & Country Garden Club, Louisville

May 25: Natchez Trace Workshop, McComb Garden Club, McComb

May 26: Spanish Trail Workshop, Dogwood Garden Club, Ocean Springs

May 31: Tombigbee Valley Workshop, Galaxy Garden Club, Columbus

June 1: River Road Workshop, Openwood Plantation Garden Club, Vicksburg

June 2: Hills & Delta Workshop, Winona Garden Club, Winona

