



# 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. 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.

Don't forget our website: [gardenclubsofmississippi.com](http://gardenclubsofmississippi.com)

### 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**

Doris Ebner

**Chaplain**

Sue Berry

**Coordinator of Districts**

Lynda Dickerson



## President's Message:

As spring arrives and warms our hearts, it also warms the earth and takes us outside to work in our flower beds and gardens. What a wonderful time of the year. Many of us open our homes to visitors during these spring months, whether for Easter, Mother's Day or just to enjoy the company of family and friends. I encourage you to open your clubs not only to new members, but also to new ideas and maybe new ways of doing things. Currently, average human knowledge is **doubling every 13 months!!** Until 1900, human knowledge doubled approximately

every century. It is predicted that the build-out of the "internet of things" will lead to the doubling of knowledge **every 12 hours!**

While we may not know everything about everything, as an organization we need to embrace new ideas that serve our needs. I welcome any suggestions from our members about new and better ways to promote and advance The Garden Clubs of Mississippi. I hope members do the same for their clubs.

GCM was host state for the Deep South Convention in Natchez this month, and we had 65 of our members attending (see photo on page 6), plus 62 from the other five Deep South states. Natchez Garden Club (with the help of Carol Bullard) did an outstanding job, with meetings held at the Natchez Grand Hotel. One of many highlights was dinner at Magnolia Hall, a recently restored, beautiful antebellum mansion owned by The Garden Club of Natchez. NGC President Mary Warshauer attended, and we all enjoyed getting to know her. We won our share of Deep South Awards, which will be bestowed at the state convention in Brandon.

The Blue Star Memorial in honor of past GCM President and Past NGC President Gay Austin was dedicated March 7 on the grounds of the Mississippi State Capitol (see photos page 5). Many of us could not attend because we were hosting the Deep South convention, but thankfully many GCM members made it to show their support and regard for Gay.

The "Headquarters Reallocation Committee" (yes - I changed the name AGAIN!) met and came up with many good suggestions as we "reallocate" our monies after the sale of the headquarters. Suggestions will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Brandon convention.

Our GCM Parliamentarian Melanie Gousset suffered a stroke in January and resigned as GCM Parliamentarian and Schools Chairman as she expends all her energy on recuperating. Doris Ebner has agreed to serve out her term as Parliamentarian, and chairmen for all the schools are being considered. Melanie's quiet wisdom and dedication to all things GCM will be sorely missed. Our hope is that she is back with us soon.

I hope to see many of you when we are all "Rockin at the Quarry" April 19-20 at the convention in Brandon. It is still not too late to get your registration in. Registration forms are on the GCM website.

This is a time of year when we all promote Mary Warshauer's theme of "Plant America – Play Outdoors" – we can't wait to get our hands in the dirt! As a newcomer to Facebook, I have greatly enjoyed following many clubs on their Facebook pages. Seeing all the projects you are completing makes me smile because you continue to "Make Things Happen!"

# Get to Know Your 2021 - 2023 GCM Officers



## **Historian: Paula Grayson**

Paula has been an active member of a garden club since 1971 when she joined her Grandmother's club. When her club "aged out", Paula joined the Forget-me-not Garden Club in Meridian. She also became a member of the Dalewood Garden Club in 1988 and helped this club become federated in 1992. She has served in all offices and as different chairmen in both clubs as well as the Meridian Council of Garden Clubs.

Paula served her first term on the GCM Board of Directors as Southern Pines Director 1995-1997 and again as Director 2011-2013. In the 27 years she has been on the GCM board she has held various chairmanships: State Life membership, National Life membership,

National Gardener, Church Gardens, and Nature Grants. She currently serves as Habitat for Humanity Chairman and as GCM Historian.

She took her first Flower Show School in 1976 and has been a Master Flower Show Judge for several years. Paula currently serves as President of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council.

Paula commented: "Of all my garden club accomplishments, I'm most proud of mentoring my two younger sisters (May and Melinda) in their garden club work."



## **Parliamentarian: Melanie Gousset**

(This was written by Pattie Smith in 2014 when she nominated Melanie for the Silver Award, which she won.)

Melanie Gousset has given many years of dedication to The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, holding various positions at the local, state, regional and national levels.

She recalls going to garden club meetings and programs with her mother as a child and teenager. She became a garden club member as a young wife and mother and has continued her involvement and dedication for many years

Melanie has served The Garden Clubs of Mississippi in every position, including state president. Her talents are greatly admired and respected within the Deep South Garden Club and the National Garden Club, where she has held many chairmanships and elected positions. She is a Master Flower Show Judge, Master Landscape Design Consultant, Master Garden Study Consultant and Master Environmental Consultant, holding the coveted designation as a "Five Star Member."

For many years Melanie has served GCM as Schools Chairman, helping flower show judges attain and retain their accreditation and using her MSU connections to secure instructors for other NGC schools. Melanie has demonstrated her dedication to GCM by attending District Meetings, GCM Board Meetings, the Edward Martin Landscape Symposium, and State, Deep South, and National conventions each year.

Melanie is a member of the Grenada Garden Club, Design Masters Study Club and a sought-after flower show judge and program presenter.



## **Chaplain: Sue Berry**

Sue Berry grew up in New Orleans, LA and moved to Jackson, MS when she married Grover Berry in 1957. As a young mother and housewife, Sue joined the neighborhood Lazy Daisy Garden Club and was soon elected president. Sue began attending the Jackson Council of Garden Clubs meetings which further sparked her interest.

Sue went to Flower Show school to become a Flower Show judge and began traveling all around Mississippi for flower shows. She became more active in state garden club activities and served as president of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi from 1981-1983 with the theme "A Season of Growing." During her tenure as state president, garden clubs flourished. Sue says her biggest blessing of belonging to the Garden Club of MS was realizing the dream of acquiring a State Headquarters located in Greenwood, MS.

In 1982, Sue formally adopted a Collect composed by Mrs. J. N. Stewart. She also began the practice of closing each meeting with an appropriate Bible verse or inspirational thought. This practice became a tradition for many future state presidents. Sue has served as GCM Chaplain for many of the state presidents since 1983. She has also served on the NGC board several times.

Sue lives in Jackson, MS and has remained active in a local garden club in Raymond, MS. She has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren (so far!). She is wholeheartedly the matriarch of this busy family.

Sue's theme phrase while president was, "The story of life is told in the changing of seasons. Each season in time is a reminder of the continuous cycle of life-with the change of seasons, a newness occurs. A newness of color produces a newness of spirit. It is in the change that growth takes place'." Sue says, "My season of growing has continued. As I have gotten older, my garden of flowers is much smaller, but my garden of friends I have met through the Garden Clubs of MS has grown!"



## **Coordinator of Districts: Lynda Dickerson**

Lynda is a lifelong resident of Greenville and a graduate of Delta State University. She began teaching high school Spanish and English and after a few years moved to Junior High. She and her husband, David have two daughters. When her second daughter was born Lynda stayed at home and was a substitute teacher. Eventually, she finished the school year for a 4th grade teacher and the following year began teaching kindergarten. Lynda says she has taught every grade from kindergarten to twelfth.

Lynda joined a garden club after her children left home and after she retired. Lynda's hobbies include painting with oils, pastels, and acrylics and sewing - she made many clothes for her daughters and grandchildren. She began a sewing ministry at First United Methodist Church in Greenville which makes prayer quilts for hospice patients and layette sets for unwed mothers. She is in charge of the history and archives room at her church and also researches her own family's history in local cemeteries. Lynda and a group of church friends cook for the Delta Veteran's Association once a month.

As a member of Alice Bell Garden Club, she has held various offices including president. Her club has maintained Fannie Arnold Park for 76 years. While she was club president, the club created and established the Greenville Writer's Garden which features landscaped areas of the park in which a quote of a published Greenville writer is posted. She has attended landscape and gardening schools through GCM and earned certification. She is also a life member of GCM and Deep South." I can't think of a more gratifying way to spend time than in a garden," Lynda said.

Besides serving many chairmanships over the years, she is also a Past GCM President.





## Blue Star Memorial at Capitol Honors Gay Austin

State dignitaries, family, friends and garden club members gathered on the grounds of the state capitol in Jackson on March 7 to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial in honor of our

own Gay Austin. The memorial was purchased and installed by Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. to honor Gay for her service as Past President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., and also as Past President of National Garden Clubs, Inc

Mississippi First Lady Elee Reeves hosted a reception at the Governor's mansion prior to the dedication and also attended the ceremony.



## Spring District Workshops

### Southern Pines

Tuesday, May 24

Host: Town & Country Garden Club, Louisville

Location: Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

### Natchez Trace

Wednesday, May 25

Host: McComb Garden Club

Location: Fernwood Country Club, McComb

### Spanish Trail

Thursday, May 26

Host: Dogwood Garden Club, Gulf Coast

Location: Biloxi Visitor Center, Biloxi

### Tombigbee Valley

Tuesday, May 31

Host: Galaxy Garden Club, Columbus

Location: St. Paul Episcopal Church, Columbus

### River Road

Wednesday, June 1

Host: Openwood Plantation, Morning

Gardeners, and Green Hill Garden Clubs, Vicksburg

Location: Gibson Memorial UMC, Vicksburg

### Hills & Delta

Thursday, June 2

Host: Winona Garden Club, Winona

Location: Moore Memorial Methodist Church Family Life Center

## Membership Moment

### Today's Membership Tip:

Spring is almost here, and garden centers are stocked with an abundance of new plants. Why not have a garden demo at your local nursery to attract the public. Hand out pamphlets about your garden club including meeting day, time, and location. A smile and free information are hard to ignore. Build your membership one gardener at a time!

*Darlene Underwood*  
Membership Chairman



**DEEP SOUTH CONVENTION:** Pictured are most of the 65 GCM members who attended the Deep South Convention in Natchez in March. Some did not make it for the photo shoot. Members of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council, directed by Pattie Smith and Celia Williamson, made centerpieces for all tables at each of the five meals during the convention.

## New Life Memberships

GCM Life Membership Chairman Charla Jordan has issued 14 Life Memberships since the start of this administration. New life members:

- \*Katie Baker, Junior Greenville Garden Club
- \*Betty Ellis, Winona Garden Club
- \*Shelly Hunter, Winona Garden Club
- \*Mary Alice Jolly, Richton Home & Garden Cl.
- \*Emily Lewis, Junior Greenville Garden Club
- \*Diane Luke, Town & Country GC, Louisville
- \*Henrietta C. Miller, Fayette Garden Club
- \*Mrs. Robbie Montgomery, Lintonia G. C.
- \*Nancy Reeves, Galaxy Garden Club
- \*Susan Robertson, Winona Garden Club
- \*Billye Jean Stroud, New Albany Garden Club
- \*Priscilla Taylor, Gilf Hills Garden Club
- \*Dr. Elouise Upchurch, Lintonia Garden Club
- \*Judy Ward, Pine Needle Garden Club

## Attention Club Presidents:

Have you started on your President's Report? The deadline to have the completed report to your District Director is June 1. It's never too late or too early to start!

## Does Your Club Have an Arboretum?

Arboreta Chairman Betty Ellis estimates that MS may have as many as 32 arboreta, with many established by GCM clubs. Clubs have located areas that boast a variety of trees, researched the botanical name of each tree, and posted the name on each tree for the education of the public.

While all of these arboreta may not be registered, they still serve the purpose of educating the public while also calling attention to the importance of trees.

To become a registered arboretum, three basic requirements must be met:

1. 25 or more species or cultivars of trees
2. Must have an arboretum steering committee
3. Must have a public element that includes at least 1 public event a year.

If your club wants to take it to the next level, all the needed information is online.



## Your Club's Donations Go for. . .

Here are 2 more explanations of the Noncompetitive Awards. (The name will change to Noncompetitive Donations – because that is what they are). Again, I hope you see the good that your donations do!

### Penny Pines – Saving Forests \$68 at a Time

The Penny Pines Reforestation Program is a partnership between NGC and the USDA Forest Service. For \$68, your garden club can help replant trees indigenous (not just pine trees) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by another natural catastrophe. States may designate a specific state they wish to have benefit from the contribution, which we of course designate as Mississippi.



Under a conservation agreement, the forest service will do the planting, using our club donations together with federal funds. The tree plantings are part of the regular national forest reforestation program where trees are planted on burned-over or brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands.

Tornado-damaged areas of Mississippi have benefitted from this program since its inception. It is possible to donate in memory of or honor of someone, Details are on the NGC website.

The forest service asks for donations in multiples of \$68, so the contributions from each of our Mississippi clubs are combined in multiples of this amount and sent to the National Forest Service.

### Governor's Mansion Landscape Fund

Frances Morse looked after GCM's contributions to the garden at the Governor's Mansion for many years Carmel Lopez Lampton has taken that responsibility since Frances' health declined. Carmel gave the following update on garden activity at the mansion:

As winter waned, it was time to prune and feed the roses in the Governor's Mansion's cutting garden as daffodils bloomed and violas planted with landscape



funds continued blooming their bright yellow faces. Snapdragons, also planted with landscape funds, began to bloom although in a few cases some showed the start of a second bloom. Spring brings the flowering of two varieties of daisies, and yellow kniphofia begins to show signs of blooming as does white coneflower. In early May, the Dreamland or Benary variety (if available) zinnias purchased with landscape funds, will replace violas as gladiolas start their yearly blooms. Fertilizing the cutting garden is also done by the Garden Clubs of Mississippi as is weeding and tending by GCM members. In keeping with the garden's goal to reflect "Your Grandmother's Garden" annuals are interspersed with perennials. Any questions or suggestions for hard to find "old-time" plantings in keeping with the

garden's theme, e-mail me at [cllampton@aol.com](mailto:cllampton@aol.com). Carmel Lopez-Lampton

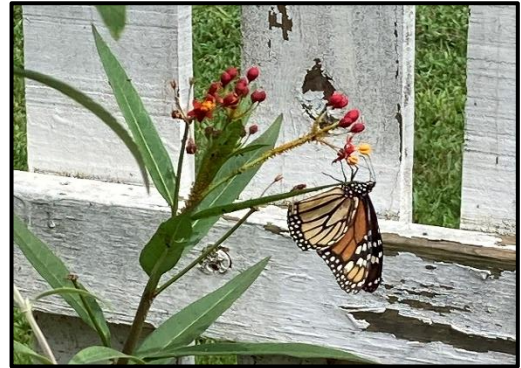


# Laurel Garden Club Wins Plant America Grant

Laurel Garden Club is the recipient of a \$1000 Plant America Grant for its project titled “Rescue, Restore, Repurpose”. The club wanted to “reclaim” the Incredible Edible Garden at St. John’s Day School that had deteriorated during the restrictions of the pandemic. The purpose of the garden is to teach students where food comes from, healthy food choices, and how to plant and harvest fresh vegetables.



Another goal was to develop a Certified



Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat, with a strong focus on the Pollinator Partnership and Pollinator Pathway movement.

Laurel Garden Club’s grant application gave a comprehensive listing of how the funds would be spent and also a clear statement of volunteer in-kind services. And they won the grant!!!

## A New GCM Federated Club – Soso Garden Club



The small community of Soso in Jones County (Southern Pines District) has a new, growing, and busy garden club. The Soso Garden Club already has 20 members and has already begun building planters in the downtown area that will house shrubs, fuchsias, drift roses, gardenias, and camellias (a butterfly garden)! What a great start!! GCM is so happy to have you!!