

District 1

August 24, 2023

District 1 is very fortunate to include approximately 16 clubs that do a fantastic job of providing service, beauty, and development in the communities they serve. The Garden Clubs are very dedicated to the theme of Brenda Moore, our 48th National Garden Club President, and are already planning programs for 2023-2024 that promote her theme of "Go Green-Plant America/Plant America-Feed America." Additionally, the clubs are planning programs that will promote floral beauty and creative designs that mesh with Debbie Cooper's Deep South theme, "Decorate the Deep South with Floral Accents." These programs will mesh with our clubs' commitment to our state president, Kathy Sudduth's theme – "Gardening is an Investment in the Future."

Like several District 1 clubs, Cultura Garden Club in Russellville provided pots of lush plants for downtown Russellville for spring and summer as well as later they will contribute fall scapes. In addition, Cultura plans to decorate the Franklin County Courthouse and U.S. Post Office with Christmas garland, nutcrackers, and decorated tree. The Redstone Garden Club maintains the flower garden at Gate 8 on Redstone Arsenal (a very pretty entrance, I have seen). In addition, Redstone Garden Club in October will participate in preparing wreaths for veterans which are placed on veteran graves in November at Maple Hill and Valhalla cemeteries... close to 3,000 in number. The Florence Garden Club participates in the city of Florence "Adopt-a-street" program by adopting the entire block surrounding Pope's Tavern. This project is a year- round project where club members pick up trash and litter in the area. The Wayside Garden Club helped provide a small memory garden in Blue Springs Cemetery. Two benches and plants were planted in remembrance of a club member this summer. Additionally, many of the Huntsville clubs like Blossomwood, Willowbrook, etc. already have plans to work with the Huntsville Botanical Gardens Christmas lights program.

Recently I had the privilege of visiting Helen Keller's home in Tuscumbia. The home and grounds were beautiful and inspiring to walk through. A very warm feeling for me was when I read the house brochure handed to me at the start of the tour- under "The Clearing" these words sprang forth- "Through the iron gates, is the Alabama Federated Garden Clubs, District 1, tribute to Helen Keller. Included are many native trees and shrubs, etc." What a wonderful thanks to the District 1 clubs! Town & Country, Rivermont, and Helen Keller Garden Clubs still clean, cultivate, and plant especially during the spring, summer, and early fall.

The District 1 Clubs will participate in "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" in December. Additionally, the clubs will make donations to the Salvation Army, Schools, or other community groups to provide money, gifts, and food for children and families in the Christmas season.

The Clubs will also be contacted by Teann Yeager with information concerning their 2024 Outreach Campaign for Disaster Preparedness materials. So, future planning will occur when the materials are received.

Yes, a very busy and productive 2023-2024 year ahead. All our clubs will work hard to increase membership and participation. Additionally, all clubs will promote "Going Green." We need our healthy environment so some clubs like Radiance, Madison, and Trowlers already have programs involving clean water, bird banding, and edible plants, etc. Just remember that "Gardening is an Investment in the Future!!!!"

addition: Blossomwood celebrated their 70th Anniversary in May w/a catered luncheon. Two of Blossomwood's members, the late Evelyn Lucas and Harvilee Harbarger were honored at Founder's Day at the Huntsville Botanical Garden - (they were 2 of the 12 people to start the Botanical Garden -)

Blossomwood is looking forward to growing memberships, taking care of each other and the Earth -

District II Report for the GCA Fall Board Meeting

August 14, 2023

District II's theme for the next two years is "Plant a Love of Gardening in Future Generations". All our clubs continue to follow this mantra as they have in the past by sharing with their children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and their communities their knowledge and love of gardening. Our clubs make our communities a better and, certainly, more beautiful place. Although all of the clubs in District II have been active, I have a few specific updates.

Cherokee Rose had a very successful plant sale this past Spring, and had members who participated in the Federation Plant Sale in Henagar, the District II Spring Meeting at the Scottsboro Heritage Center, and the Federation Spring Tea in Ft. Payne. They celebrated National Garden Club Week by making arrangements and presenting them to local businesses and nursing homes. They had members present floral designs in various flower shows around the State. Four members attended the State Convention. Three members are attending a series of 5 basic design classes in Summerville, GA presented by certified national instructors. Two members attended a symposium for flower show judges at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. Their continuing projects include: Cedar Bluff Park, Ethel Morrison Park, Butterfly Garden at Gaylesville School and the Blue Star Market.

The Greenlawn Garden Club of Albertville will have their business meeting for the 2023-2024 year on September 25. There was a plant swap following the meeting. All their programs are arranged for the upcoming year, and they are working on their awards for the year.

Guntersville Garden Club is preparing for a new year. Their programs are set with topics and speakers. This past Spring they approved a fund raising project for the upcoming year to enhance their ability to contribute to their community. Their membership is limited to forty members, and as of this date, there are only two or three slots available.

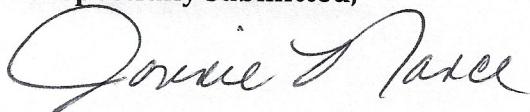
There are several activities to report from the Pell City Garden Club. A committee structure was established in 2023 to engage more members in activities that could utilize the talents of all members, increase socialization and self-achievement. The club established 5 committees and will increase to 6 in 2024, adding a membership committee. Their intent is to have every member on at least one committee but not have too many of the same members on multiple committees.. The club has established a \$500 scholarship fund for a deserving high school senior who is pursuing a STEM, Natural Science, Agriculture or Horticultural degree. They are most proud

that their club has grown to over 30 members. They attribute this growth to an enthusiastic and welcoming spirit at their annual plant sale; the increased number of quality field trips, meeting speakers and personal garden tours; and an annual Spring garden luncheon hosted at a member's home.

Rainsville Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week with a proclamation signed by the Mayor of Rainsville. They placed the signed and framed proclamation and flowers at the Rainsville City Hall and the Rainsville Library. They enjoyed their summer with a youth project by participating in the local Summer Reading Project. Their club read the NGC featured book, "The Saved Seed" to the children in June. This was followed by letting the children make seed mats with Zinnia seeds to be taken home and planted in their gardens. July's book was "Birds" by Kevin Henkes. They emphasized birds found in our gardens. The NGC book "The Frightened Frog" was read in August, and the children painted frog homes to promote the care of frogs in their gardens. September is the flower show, "Tea in the Garden" - a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show presented by the Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs on September 25-30, at the DeKalb County/VFW Agriculture Fair Building in Ft. Payne.

The Scottsboro Garden Club does not meet during the months of June through August; however, they had a very busy and active first half of the year filled with programs, speakers, field trips, and co-hosting the Spring GCA Meeting in May at the Scottsboro Heritage Center. Recently, they have been busily preparing for the upcoming year. Along with the monthly programs and meetings, they plan to hold a "Destination Picnic" at one of their member's home and garden either this fall or in the spring as a fund raiser. They will then use the proceeds to fund a garden-related project in their community. They have on-going projects of "Garden Therapy" for their local nursing homes and "Yard of the Month" awards in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonnie Nance". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonnie Nance
District II Director

District III Update

Fran White 8/24/23

District III is proud to have have 12 clubs throughout Jefferson County. *15 members*
one club is being reinstated in next two weeks. Jr. Garden Club started

- District III and the Judges Council VIII have been putting on workshops highlighting designs used in the District and North End Council Flower Shows, how to complete a Flower Show entry card, and how to read a show schedule.

-We have 2 more Design workshops scheduled, October 17, 2023 on Leaf Manipulation at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and one in February 2024 on Petites.

-At the most recent Garden Clubs of Alabama Convention, our District received 10 state awards and 1 Deep South Award.

-Our District Flower show "Under the Big Top" has grown adding a youth division for the first time for a District III show.

-Two of our Garden Clubs celebrated "National Garden Week". Blue Star Garden Club enjoyed touring the Demonstration Garden in Cullman. Magnolia Garden Club designed and delivered 42 flower arrangements to the businesses in the Warrior Area.

-Magnolia Garden Club has donated 20 copies of all the NGC children's books to Warrior Elementary School. They have also started a Junior Garden Club with the 2nd grade at the same school, growing from doing just container gardening.

GCA BOARD MEETING

Aug 24, 2023

Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, Alabama

DISTRICT IV GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES REPORT

DIRECTOR- DORMA GREEN

7 Clubs

(115 MEMBERS) (61 LIFETIME MEMBERS) (2 DEEP SOUTH MEMBERS) (1 NATIONAL MEMBER)

(42- State Awards) (3- Deep South) (1-National Award)

District IV clubs have accomplished so much this year. We received 42 State Awards, 3 Deep South and 1 National award at the Spring GCA State Convention at Orange Beach. I am so proud of all our garden club endeavors such as landscaping and maintaining those areas, which included businesses, town medians and welcome centers, cemeteries, churches, schools, and VA Medical Center. The Fayette club participates in the annual Spring Cleaning of the roadside in their town. Many clubs participated in container gardening projects involving children and the elderly in their community. Our clubs are very involved in recycling (aluminum, paper products, plastics, etc.) to help save the planet. One example of one club's recycling ingenuity is using an old trampoline cover for a weed barrier in a landscaping project.

Birdhouses and birdfeeders were placed in many locations and ten trees were planted for Arbor Day.

Some clubs participate in food donations to local food banks. T/N donated \$150 to a UA foodbank for students university students needing ~~for~~ food for Thanksgiving.

Most clubs place American flags on Veterans' graves on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans' Day. Two clubs took their grandchildren to the Tuscaloosa group home to place flags in the containers they had planted. Also, one club's Veteran's Day project is to give gift bags, games and snack baskets to the veterans at the VA Medical Center.

Fayette and Greensboro clubs decorate their towns in the fall. The fall decorations in Fayette are not just for fall but also for homecoming and the Frog Level Festival in which the club members actually judge the wooden frogs for the Festival.

4-5 clubs join together to decorate the Jemison and Battle Freedman House every Christmas . Residents of Capstone Village participated in decorating pine cones that were used to decorate both houses. 1st Place

The Fayette club puts up and takes down the lights that are used in decorating for "Christmas in the Park" and collects the entrance fee into the park. They are also responsible for judging the best decorated house in Fayette at Christmas.

T/N donated \$100 to help a veteran(student) at UA travel home for Christmas before deploying.

Educational Activities

T/N and Ceres are partnering in a student gardening project at the Tuscaloosa Magnet School Elementary. T/N created a pollinator program for the Pre-K students at Flatwoods Elementary School. Fayette club members read Saved Seed in two local elementary schools. Fayette also mentored Beville State Community College in the starting of a garden club on campus.

The Tuscaloosa/Northport club has applied for and received \$950 in grant money.

District IV Social and Business Events

Most clubs have social outings like "Birthday of the Month" luncheons, trips to places like Petals of the Past, attending the District IV meetings or the GCA Convention at Orange Beach or touring a member's beautiful wildflower or rose gardens. My motto is "**Have Fun doing what you love!**" Even the installation of club officers should be a fun party! Involving everyone, having fun planning and decorating for our District meetings is the key to a successful event! Hopefully we will attract new members!

On a more solemn note, the past two months have been very sad and emotionally draining for all our club members in District IV with the tragic loss of our newly elected District Treasurer, Rollanda Cothran. She was a vital part of our organization and had a wealth of knowledge of how things are done. She is and will always be sorely missed. I want to thank everyone for your memorial contributions to her church in Greensboro.

District VI Director's Report
08/24/23
Presented by Judy Manning

At the GCA Convention at Orange Beach in April of this year, Sheila Butler, our Director for District VI, was unable to attend at the last minute. Ms. Butler later resigned from her position and the Vice-Director, Frankie Gaddy, moved into the position as Director of District VI, but was unable to attend today. Therefore, my printed report presented to the head table today is the same one submitted in April. My comments will be in the form of announcements for upcoming events in District VI.

District VI provides a \$500 competitive grant each year. Yaupon Garden Club was the recipient of this year's grant and used the funds to purchase azaleas, tea olives, mulch and edging to landscape the Vine Hill Presbyterian Church which is on the State of Alabama Historical Register. The total cost of the project was \$1,987.27. Yaupon allocated \$520 from a special fund and the remainder of the cost of the project was paid by the Old Autauga Historical Society.

First, our District VI Fall meeting, "In Grandmother's Garden, Our Roots Run Deep" will be held on October 24th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Prattville. The registration fee is \$20 per person and the deadline to register is October 10th. Checks may be made out to Yaupon Garden Club. If you are interested in attending, please see Pam Hattemer after the meeting and she can forward you a registration form.

I also would like to announce that District VI will be hosting the 2024 GCA Convention which will be held April 14-16, 2024, at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort and Spa at Grand National. Rose Winkler and June Cyrus will share more information concerning this convention today. The theme of the convention is Still Making a Difference.

The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, from District VI, will once again sponsor the 70th Annual National Garden Club Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery on October 6-15. The flower show title is Reflections of the Past. Rose Winkler and June Cyrus will discuss this further at our meeting today.

DISTRICT VII REPORT

(This report covers activities from April 2023 to present.)

DVII encompasses the counties of Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Russell. We have eleven GCA affiliated garden clubs with a total membership at the end of May 2023 of 165 members, with a recent addition of seven members, for a total of 172 members.

Most of our clubs do not have meetings in the months of June, July, and August. There are some exceptions and some clubs continue to work on various projects throughout these summer months, as noted below. ~~Those clubs not meeting during the above months have already scheduled their meetings for the upcoming club year from September 2023 through May 2024.~~

Camellia GC of Clayton continues to meet during the summer months. The membership continues to develop, update, and maintain the grounds of an 1890 Episcopal Church, and assisting with upkeep of the building, which no longer has an active church congregation. They begin preparations in September to host a tree lighting ceremony for the community and a candlelight service in the Episcopal Church during the Christmas Holidays. They also have acquired access to an antebellum home which they decorate for Christmas and conduct tours. They maintain a World War I Monument and a VA monument in the City and sponsor a program and tour each Veteran's Day. In addition, they designed, planted, and they maintain portions of two cemeteries in Clayton.

Flower Lovers GC of Enterprise maintains a memorial garden referred to as the "Never Forget Garden" and a city cemetery in Enterprise.

Lovely Touch GC of Daleville AL, has been busy working on the DVII Fall Meeting ~~to~~ on October 25th. Since April of this year, they have received seven new members into their club – all of whom are younger ladies and most of them in their 20's. Three or four of the new members were added recently after learning of the club through the club's Facebook page which was established in the last two or three weeks by one of the newer members. Members assist with maintaining public locations in their city. The Club President has a "Mystery Trip" planned for their September meeting. An on-going project of this club is called the "Flag and Cross" project. The members, with assistance from City employees, plant flags and crosses around the Daleville Cultural Center, City Hall, the Police Department, and a patriotic mural in the downtown area. Each cross bears the name, rank and service branch of a former military member. They plant a total of 137 flags and crosses. I am very excited about this club because it was one that was down to three active members and one inactive member as of April of this year. They have embraced the younger members and the new technology brought to their club.

Samson Garden Club of Samson has added four new members this summer and are hoping to gain another two members by this Fall. They had no formal meetings during the summer but had two "Porch Sitzings" where members met informally. They also maintain contact through text messaging and on-line. They continue to maintain the roses planted throughout the entire length of the main street going through Samson, as well as maintaining large planters at some of the downtown businesses. They have gained two new members.

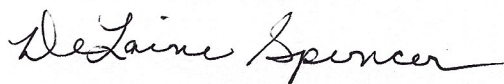
Summerville GC of Phenix City, AL has gained four new members and have two potential members. They are helping to restore landscaping for a Habitat For Humanity Home. They are also starting a project called "Loving Cups" at their September meeting where each member will bring two cups purchased from Goodwill or another community outreach store. The cups will be delivered to a local nursing home once the members create the design of their choice. They do not meet during the summer but maintain contact through text messaging, emails, and their club's Facebook page. The FB page has been very successful and has resulted in the club gaining additional members.

Tulip GC of Phenix City, AL is currently making plans to start a junior garden club in September.

The Magnolia GC, Summerville GC and Tulip GC comprise the Federated Garden Club of Phenix City, with the major project of maintaining The Phenix City Federated Center (previously The Log Cabin). They have been involved in renovation work on the building which, to date, includes replacing all windows in TLC, re-roofing the building, and repainting the paintable areas. The current president of the FGC is Nancy Belden, a member of Summerville GC and the House Chairman is Vickie Eversman, a member of Tulip GC.

All clubs are working on their Yearbook and planning to distribute it at their September meetings .

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeLaine Sspencer".

DeLaine Sspencer

DVII Director.

District VIII has been working hard this past year to grow our clubs and District. We are so excited to officially have added a 5th Club-Magnolia Springs Garden Club with 45 members! They are a very well-established old club not brand new just new to GCA. Their board members are busy planning a big year for their members kicking off with a Resin Art Class 'Sea Shells and Sippin' for garden clubs and guests on September 7 at their Community Building 3:00 pm Cost is \$75.

They will officially kickoff their new year with a member Meet and Great Brunch-can't wait to hear all about their club at District meeting!

Spanish Fort Garden Club has 35 members and a new Board and President. The club didn't meet in July and August, but with the end of year Ikebana class being so much fun they have decided to host an extra meeting at our GCA President's home to talk more about Ikebana and plans to promote their club and talents at the Baldwin County Fair in September. They have plans to sell plants propagated by their members at a Fair held in Stockton on October 7. They have a meeting planned for October 15 about edible and medicinal plants.

Fairhope Garden Club takes the Summer off, and currently has 26 members. In April they participated at the Fairhope Earth Day Event with an activity booth. They helped about 130 children decorate butterflies and bees and also met several potential members during the event. They also organized a walking Tour of Trees open to their club members, and the general public April 24. Many took advantage of the opportunity especially Master Gardener interns! May was installation of new officers and a luncheon. Their new board is busy planning a new season of learning, fun and fellowship.

Gulf Shores Garden Club has 84 members and as always busy busy club. New officers were installed, they toured greenhouses, and the Gulf State Park Learning Campus. They participated in Earth Day activities at the Gulf Shores Community School campus. Wildflower Seed paper was available for the students to cut in the shape of a heart or circle to take home and plant. They also had information about butterflies and wildflowers to share with the students. They awarded 3- \$1,000 scholarships to Gulf Shores High School Students pursuing horticulture or related studies. They donated a bench to Gulf State Park, money to the Gulf Shores High School Environmental Academy, and also adopted 10 Sea Turtle nests. Funds for these items come from their annual Floral Seminar. This September as always they help Gulf Shores by organizing Coastal Cleanup at Gulf Place.

Orange Beach Garden Club has 48 members and new officers this year too. One of their biggest projects has been sprucing up the historic community cemetery. Members weed, rake, prune and haul debris out. They also place flags for Memorial Day. They were able to remove, repair, repaint and reinstall the archway entrance. They also took the Historical Marker to "the repair barn" for grinding, cleaning and repainting. Two female youth workers painted the sign by hand taking 24+ hours! They also donate to the butterfly garden and wildlife center with funds from their game day. This club is very busy as well sponsoring Yard of the month for residents and commercial too. They also give a \$1,000 scholarship to a local Orange Beach Student.

I am so very proud of District VIII and our 238 members in 5 clubs for hosting the State Convention! Each of our original 4 clubs now have members serving on the GCA Board as well! The Fall Meeting theme, 'Time to Celebrate' is on point! I am honored to be a part of this wonderful district and so many talented and giving folks.

With Appreciation,
Kim Edgerton
District VIII Director