



Hortensia

Garden Club of Alabama
Fall 2023 – Digital Version

Upcoming dates:

- Oct. 1** Reports due to District Directors for Fall Meetings usually held the last two weeks of October.
- Oct. 6-15** NGC Flower Show at the State Fair
- Oct. 26** District III Flower Show, Birmingham Botanical Garden
- Oct. 30-31** NGC sponsored virtual Environmental School—information available on the NGC website.
- Nov. 15** Most Awards need to be postmarked
- Dec. 31** Final count of club members on roster to use for Club President Reports due January 5.

**The application for an award
is on the
Garden Club of Alabama website:**

https://gardenclubofalabama.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Awards_Applicationpdf-vBT.pdf

**Directions and awards listing are in the Directory Hortensia which has been mailed to each member.
(Karen Merrill prepared a sample to help explain the process—it is on page 21)**

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From Kathy,

My Theme for the next two years is ***“Gardening is an Investment in the Future”***. Whether that future is seeing the flowers you plant bloom in the summer or planting an Oak Tree that your grandchildren and the generations that come behind you will sit under. As I have said before, the Oak tree is one of the best trees to plant to sustain life in our yards. I would like to quote an old Chinese Proverb:

“A Society grows great when old men or women plant trees whose shade they know they shall never in”.

So, one of my contests will be **Plant an Oak Tree**. The Contest will run until the 2024 Convention in Opelika. Every Club or person that plants an oak tree will get recognized at the convention. I will also be awarding three cash prizes. Entry Deadline is March 1, 2024.

Best placement of an Oak tree in a public area.

Must post picture on Facebook and Send to Website. \$100 Cash prize. Fill out Form and Send to GCA President with Picture.

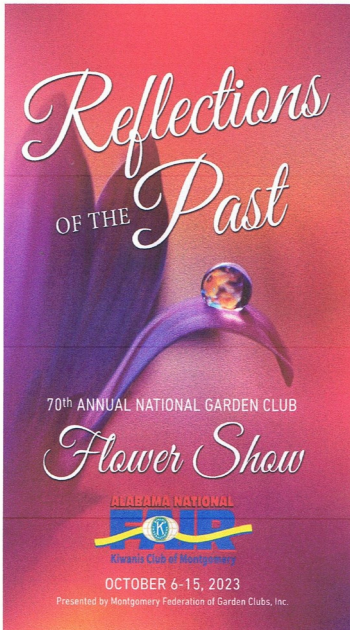
Oak Tree Planting in a club member’s yard.

Must Post Picture on Facebook and Send to Website
\$100 Cash Prize Fill out Form and send to GCA President with Picture.

The most Oak Trees planted by: Club, Individual

For both, must fill out form and send some pictures to GCA President. \$50 each (Club and Individual) Cash Prize

We will also be promoting Recruiting New Members to our clubs. My philosophy has always been that every member invites one new member to at least one meeting a year. But you can invite a new member to every meeting if you want to. Just think if everyone in the Garden Club of Alabama recruited one new member to their club in a year, we could double our membership



**70th Annual
NGC
Fall Flower
Show
Reflections
of the Past**

at
the Alabama National Fair
Garrett Coliseum 2nd Floor

October 6-October 15, 2023

Presented by-

The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs

Be Part of the Show:

Share specimens from your
gardens for everyone to enjoy.

Horticulture Division and
Botanical Arts Division open
to entries from the public.

For Information and entry forms contact:

 Rose Winkler, General Chairman
Phone: 334-270-0884 or 334-313-2002
rmwinkler45@yahoo.com

See www.alnationalfair.org for rules
under Competitions tab

Entry times:

Photography: Pre-register by Sept. 9
Entries received September 29 2:00-5:00
pm

1st Show Containers Section L & M, and
Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts:
Noon -5:00 pm Thurs. Oct. 5

1st Show Horticulture:
7:30am-9:30 am Friday Oct. 6

2nd Show Horticulture
(including Planters Section N)
7:30 am-9:30 am Wed. Oct. 11

We could go from approximately 1700 members to 3400 members in one year. If we are going to set goals, we need to set them big. So, my challenge to each club is to increase your membership by 50%. So that means if you have 10 club members recruit 5 new members, if you have 20 members recruit 10 new members this year. There will be a recognition board at convention for the clubs in the state that meet that goal. It will list the clubs that recruit 50%, 75% or 100% new members.

The club with the highest percentage of new members recruited with dues paid and new names turned in to Hortensia Circulation by next July 15th will be awarded a Cash prize of \$100. The Second-place club will get \$50, and third place will get \$25.

These Awards will be given out at the Summer Board meeting in August of 2024. Dues must be paid, and form filled out and sent to GCA President by July 15, 2024.

Plant an Oak Tree Contest—Garden Club of Alabama

Date: _____

Club Name: _____

Individual Name: _____

District: _____

Address:

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number of Oak Trees Planted: _____

Attach **at least one picture** with the Form.

Send to: kathymsudduth@gmail.com

Attention: Oak Tree Contest in the Subject Line.

Membership Contest
Garden Club of Alabama

Date: _____

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Person Submitting: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number of Club Members on July 15, 2023 _____

Number of Club Members on July 15, 2024 _____

Percentage of Growth _____

Email form to circulation@gardenclubofalabama.net

For Office Use

Paid Treasurer _____ Number last Year _____

Sent to Hortensia Staff _____ Number this Year _____



The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.

“In a State Where Gardens Grow, God Walks”

Dear Patrons,

The Garden Club of Alabama 2024 Convention Committee is selling ad space in their 2024 Convention Booklet

Full Page	\$ 125.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Eighth Page	\$ 25.00

There are two types of ads: Memorial and Regular Advertising Ads; ad orders are due by March 8, 2024. Please mark which type you would like to purchase.

_____ Memorial – Please include person’s name, club, city and district. You can also include a picture of the person.

_____ Regular Advertising Ad – Tell us what size you want and send us any artwork/text to be included.

Please make your check payable to: The Garden Club of Alabama 2024 Convention with 2024 Convention Ad on the memo line.

Submit the checks and text information by March 8, 2024 to:

Pam Hattermer, 677 Webb Drive, Prattville, AL 36067

hattermerpam@gmail.com, 334-546-8497 (cell)

We are looking forward to a great convention and thank you for your support.

June Cyrus
2024 Convention Co-Chair
334-313-0068
Junebug71050@aol.com

Rose Winkler
2024 Convention Co-Chair
334-313-2002
rmwinkler45@yahoo

Garden Club of Alabama established in 1932
'Still Making a Difference'

Annual Convention April 14–16, 2024



Civic Beautification



Blue Star Memorials

Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort and Spa at Grand National

Newly renovated King or Double Queen Room \$179 + tax
(add Saturday for the same price)

Resort fee paid by Convention Committee Room reservation link:

www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1687810966061&key=GRP

After online reservation for room type selection/special requests call:

David Robinson 334-737-2119 or Ralph Spry 334-737-2142

- **Exciting speakers**
 - **Fun tours and places to explore**
 - **A choice of workshop topics**
 - **A variety of vendors**

**Relax, learn, reconnect with friends, and make
new gardening friends in a beautiful setting.**

Co-Chairs: June Cyrus 334-313-0068

Rose Winkler 334-313-2002



Mushroom Man Tan — 2023 Convention

Mushroom Man Tan explained that the **mushroom** is the fleshy, spore-bearing fruiting body of a fungus, typically produced above ground, on soil, or on its food source. They are just the "flower or fruit" of the mushroom - the reproductive part which disperses the spores.

Mushrooms are formed within the mycelium, the mass of thread-like hyphae that make up the fungus.

Mushrooms aren't really plants, **they are types of fungi that have a "plantlike" form - with a stem and cap** (they have cell walls as well). **Fungi are no longer classified as either plants or animals.** Fungi have been divided into a different kingdom, Kingdom Fungi, based on key distinguishing characteristics.

Check out his wedding table design :

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=712274146841016>



"Every Light a Prayer For Peace"

This yearly event is sponsored by the Garden Club of Alabama. This year it will held Friday, December 1, 2023 on the Alabama State Capital steps at 5:30pm. Special music will be provided by the National Guard at 5:00pm. This is a fun event so get your carpools ready!

The Alabama's Garden Club Members Christmas "TEA" is at the Gov. Mansion from 3:00- 4:00 pm prior to the Tree Lighting. Members get to view the beautiful ground floor Christmas decorations and can visit the great gift shop. Light refreshments will be provided by District III (3) & District VII (7). Plan for about 110 but do not overdo. Drop off refreshments between 1:00 & 2:00 pm.

I will need all the Club members names of those attending the "TEA".

Please DO NOT list all your Club members, only those attending or one or 2 who may come. Each Club please put your District, name of Club and members names in **Alphabetical Order**, last name first. Print large enough for Charles to read at night. **If you follow these rules, you save me the job of retying** them. Mail or email to me no later than Nov.20th. Call me to be sure that I received your list. 334-376-2326----Suzy Shepherd, 725 Edgewood Dr., Georgiana, Al 36033----
suzysgardenclub@yahoo.com



Clubs wishing to make tree ornaments for the Christmas tree can do so but it is not required. They need to be large, light-weight, bright colors (No black or dark colors.) and they can shine with glitter. You are being ask by the Governor's staff to get them to me by Nov. 20th. If you have any questions just call me! Suzy Shepherd



District I Fall Meeting

Plant a Garden, Sow Happiness

Monday, October 16, 2023

9:30 Registration/Refreshments

10:00 Meeting

The Weatherford Center

303 4th Avenue SE, Red Bay, AL 35582

Last Day for Registration: October 3, 2023

Registrar: Mary Kathryn Wiggins, 110 5th Ave SE, Red Bay, AL 35582

Cost: \$30



District II Fall Meeting

Plant a Love of Gardening

In Future Generations

October 17

Special Guest-Tony Jones

Executive Director of Camp Sumatanga

Cabin Bluff

8879 County Highway 27, Springville

Registration: 10:30 Business Meeting 11 Lunch-Noon

\$25 per person, Payable to District II GCA (Deadline: Oct. 7)

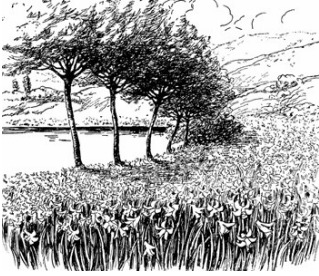
Registrar: Angela Powers, PO Box 1113, Oneonta 35121

a.blessed08@gmail.com



District III Fall Meeting

For the Love of English Gardens

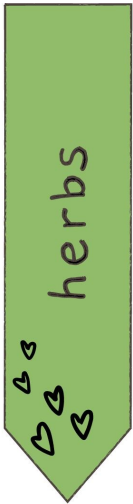


Special Guest - Susan K. Hagen

**Birmingham Botanical
Gardens**

October 18, 2023

9:30 Registration/Snack 10:00 Meeting



FALLING IN LOVE WITH HERBS

District IV

Dorma Green, Director

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Hosted by: Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club

Northport Baptist Church

1004 Main Ave, Northport, AL

Registration/Refreshment: 9-10 am

Call to Order: 10 am

Cost: \$25.00

Deadline for Registration: October 5, 2023

Mail to: Janelle Gray, Treasurer, Tuscaloosa/Northport

3301 Ontario Drive, Northport, AL 35473

205-292-2009



“Autumn’s Bounty”



District V Fall Meeting
October 26, 2023

Wedowee First Methodist Church
116 W. Broad St. Wedowee, AL 36278

Registration and coffee: 9:00 Call to Order: 10:00

\$25 per person. Make check payable to Wedowee Garden Club

Mail to: Stephanie Yates
40 Austin Dr. Wedowee, AL 36278

yatesclan@hotmail.com 678-621-3526

“In Grandmother’s Garden, Our Roots Run Deep”



District VI Fall Meeting
Director: Frankie Gaddy
October 24, 2023

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
178 E. 4th Street, Prattville

Registration and Coffee 9:00 a.m. Call to Order 10:00 a.m.

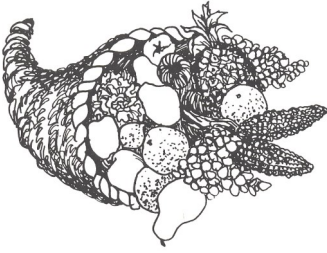
Registrar : Marie Butts

120 Hunt’s Alley, Prattville, Al 36067
c-334-546-2888 mbutts1224@gmail.com

\$20 per person Make Checks Payable to: Yaupon Garden Club

Registration Deadline: October 10, 2023

"A Time to Plant, Harvest and Share"



DISTRICT VII FALL MEETING

Director DeLaine Spencer

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

First United Methodist Church
44 Daleville Avenue, Daleville, AL

REGISTRATION: 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

REGISTRAR: Rita Moore, 110 Leigh Street, Daleville, AL 36222

Phone: 334-379-9123

\$28.00 per person -- Please make check to: Lovely Touch Garden Club

No fee for GCA President, GCA Ways & Means Chairman and District VII Director

"SMALL TOWN BIG GARDEN"



GREENHOUSE AND MORE!

DISTRICT VIII FALL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

GULF SHORES ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER

260 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE, GULF SHORES

SOCIAL 9:30 A.M. MEETING 10:00 A.M.

PRICE: \$25 INCLUDES LUNCH AND DONATION FOR FIELD TRIP AFTER AT
GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL, 600 E 15th Ave, Gulf Shores,

REGISTRAR: CHARLOTTE HIGGINS

1484 SANDPIPER LANE #5

Gulf Shores, AL36542

Club News:

Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week June 4-10 with two great projects: A memorial Ginkgo tree was planted at Civitan Park and two planters at Veterans Medical Center were updated with flowers and mulch. The Ginkgo tree was purchased from the Master Gardeners plant sale .

Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club members have adopted two raised planters at the Veterans Medical Center which has beautiful landscaping and planters throughout. The planters each have a Crepe Myrtle in the center surrounded with spring bulbs, daylily, purple heart/purple queen/wandering jew, black eyed susan, vinca, marigold and dusty miller. Our goal was to have several different plants to provide blooms throughout the growing season. Many of the plants were donated from a club member. Weeding and soil amending was provided by garden club members Janet and Cindy.

The Ames Tool Grant: Tools used were provided by a grant from National Garden Club-Ames Tools. Each year applications are submitted by garden clubs to be selected for the grant of tools with a retail value of \$250 for your community garden projects. National Garden Club Inc grant program with the Ames Companies began in 2014. We look forward to using the tools on many more projects with our goal of: *Planting to Grow our Community.*

Fayette Garden Club President, Kathy Bordelon, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year during National Garden Week by the Fayette Chamber of Commerce . Kathy also serves as co-chair of the Fayette Beautification Committee.

Fayette's historic downtown area dates from 1912, being rebuilt after a fire destroyed the area in 1911. In the most recent years the city had received grants to

revitalize the area. This included landscaping the area with flower beds and flower pots which have

been planted with a variety of flowers. The Fayette Garden Club is not only instrumental in keeping the streets of the city of Fayette looking beautiful.

They also work with members of the community including the VFW, City Hall, Fayette Extension Service, Civic Center, and many others.



Colony Garden Club created a sign to celebrate National Garden Club Week - and put it with the Garden Cart outside our Mayor's Office. They also helped the city create planters and hanging basket for the downtown area. Their motto: **KEEP GUNTERSVILLE BEAUTIFUL!**



Greensboro Garden Club created "Carolyn's Corner" adjacent to the library in honor of our recently retired Librarian of 27 years. The Library Friends Board in conjunction with Greensboro Garden

Club purchased a bronze Wall Plaque to designate the space.



In addition, Greensboro Garden Club has been planting and weeding to improve our city for the

June 10-11 city wide home tour to celebrate their bicentennial.



The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs sponsored our annual celebration of National Garden Week and honored scholarship recipients.

This event is held in the Biblical Garden section of the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park. We awarded three scholarships this year and one recipient, Emma Duffee, was able to join us. A highlight was an excellent letter from one of last year's scholarship recipients, William Rochelle. We were pleased to have members of the Board of the Montgomery Botanical Gardens and the President of the Capital City Master Gardeners as well as the family of our current and past scholarship recipients.



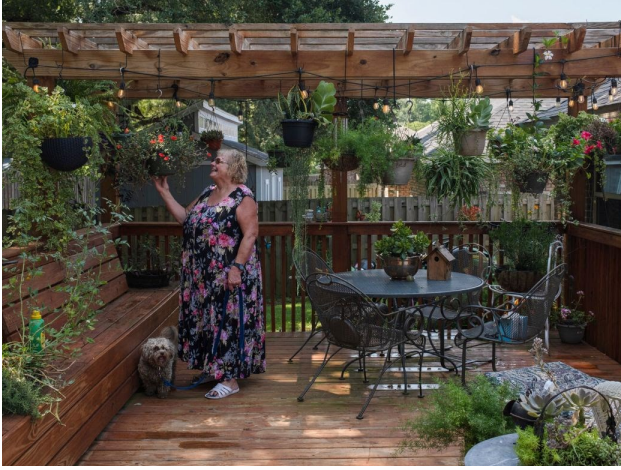
Orange Beach Garden Club cleaned up the historical *Bear Point Community Cemetery* for Memorial Day, and placed flags on each grave. They also worked with interns and the city to repaint the signs and repair the metal arch.



Forever Green Garden Club's Display



Gulf Shores gardener, Diane Clark, was featured in the Gulf Coast Media newsletter.



In the face of adversity brought on by two car accidents and back surgeries, Diane Clark has discovered solace and contentment through her passion for gardening. "The car accident caused two lower back surgeries, but I am too ornery to give up," she said. Before the sun shines over the coast, the gardener rises to tend to her plants, using a rolling walker for support.

Subscribe to the weekly National Garden Club Newsletter:

<https://garden.org/newsletter/>

From the Deep South Newsletter

NGC Youth Contests

NGC Poetry Contest

The title of the 2024 poetry contest is "I Spy with My Little Eye, Something Green Outside Celebrating Our Green World." Poems should be no more than 24 lines long. The contest is open to students in kindergarten through 9th grade in either Special Education, ESL, or General Education. Check your state's deadline, but winners must be sent to DSGC chairman by Feb. 1, 2024.

NGC Youth Sculpture Contest

Students in grades 4 – 8 are eligible to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused,



A national winner from last year

and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited in size to 8 3/4 inches, and two 4x6 photographs are sent as entries. Check your state's deadline, but winners must be sent to DSGC chairman by Feb. 1, 2023.

inches, and two 4x6 photographs are sent as entries. Check your state's deadline, but winners must be sent to DSGC chairman by Feb. 1, 2023.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Smokey is celebrating his 80th birthday this year, so all poster contest entries must feature Smokey Bear and must include his famous quote: "Only you can prevent forest fires." The unusual poster size REQUIRED is 11x17". Smokey must be portrayed in his correct colors. They can



Found on the website symbols.gov. Again, check your state deadline, but winners must be sent to DEGC chairman by Feb. 10, 2024.

All Youth Contest information can be found on the DSGC website,

deepsouthgardenclub.com

APPLICATION FOR GCA AWARD (SAMPLE- DUE NOV 15, 2023)

Date of Application <u>Date you apply but before Nov 15</u>	Name of Award Applied for: <u>Arbor Day</u> <u>Send in to Program Chair for your Award by Nov 15 in 3 copies</u>	Award No. <u>69</u>
[X] Garden Club [] Group of Clubs [] Individual [] Council or Federation	<u>Name of Your Club</u>	
Name of Applicant (type exactly as name should appear on award)	<u>Name of Your Club</u>	
Name of Person Submitting Award Application: <u>Name</u>	Title <u>Club Awards Chairman or Club President Submitting</u>	
Address – <u>Of person submitting</u>	City <u>City in which submitter lives</u>	Zip <u>zip code</u>
E-mail <u>Address submitter email address</u>	No. of Members in Club: <u>22</u>	GCA District <u>IV</u>

1. New project? Yes X No Beginning date: Jan 1, 2023 Completion date Nov 2023

2. **Brief summary and objectives of project:** (TOTAL NO MORE THAN 3 PAGES)

Goal: Planted a tree at a Historic Home in our community. Helped students plant a tree at their school yard. Since the state theme is to plant a Maple or Ginkgo Tree, “Add Color to Alabama in the Fall”, we chose to plant a Maple which provided color and shade at the local Elementary School.

Summary: Write a paragraph or two of what you did, where you started, what the finished product was, who was involved in as much detail as you can.

3. **Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:** List who participated, more points assigned when public, children, non club members, etc are involved.

4. **Project expenses and means of funding:** What money did you spend, where did it come from.

5. **Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:**

The Garden Club will do what to follow-up, maintain, or improve project.

6. **Photos below:** Add as many photos with descriptions (very important) of what you did. A picture is worth a 1,000 words. (DO NOT GO OVER 3 PAGES – SEND IN 3 COPIES TO PROGRAM CHAIR)



Students planting tree at Elementary



Potting Plants for Resale



Club Members Plant tree

If you would like to share your district news after the January Board meeting please send it directly to: gcahortensia@gmail.com District II was the only one that the editor received after the Fall Board meeting.

District II Report, 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.

Jonnie Nance



National Garden Clubs



Environmental School Course 1

NGC will be sponsoring Environmental School Course 1 virtually on **Oct. 30 and Oct. 31.**

I encourage you to set aside these days and take this course, either for credit or just for knowledge.

If you heard or read my inauguration speech you know that I believe in NGC schools. I stated "I encourage members to GO for it, whether it is deciding to attend NGC schools, deciding to serve in their club, on their state or the NGC board of directors, or making changes to long held traditions to make all garden clubs more appealing to all individuals. Set goals for yourselves, for your clubs, for your state as I have set goals for NGC and myself. One of my personal goals is to become a five-star member. I am now one symposium away from that goal. I believe in our schools, and completing all four schools has shaped how I view our natural world." I believe we all need to be Life long learners.

I appreciate those that work to make these schools happen. Please support them. Pat Rupiper, Chair promised we'll be done in time for "Trick or Treating."

Brenda Moore,
NGC President

Bmoore@gardenclub.org