

Loofah *Luffa Aegyptiaca*

Luffas (*Luffa*, a.k.a. loofa or loofah) thrive in hot and humid conditions. They need a trellis or fence to grow upon as luffa is a vining plant, similar to cucumber. Luffas belong to the Cucurbitaceae or gourd family. They are edible but in the US they are grown as sponges. They can be used in many ways—even to support flowers in a vase.

Now is the time to start seedlings as they have a long growth period if you choose to use the dried core.

Below is an article which explains how to grow and prepare loofahs.

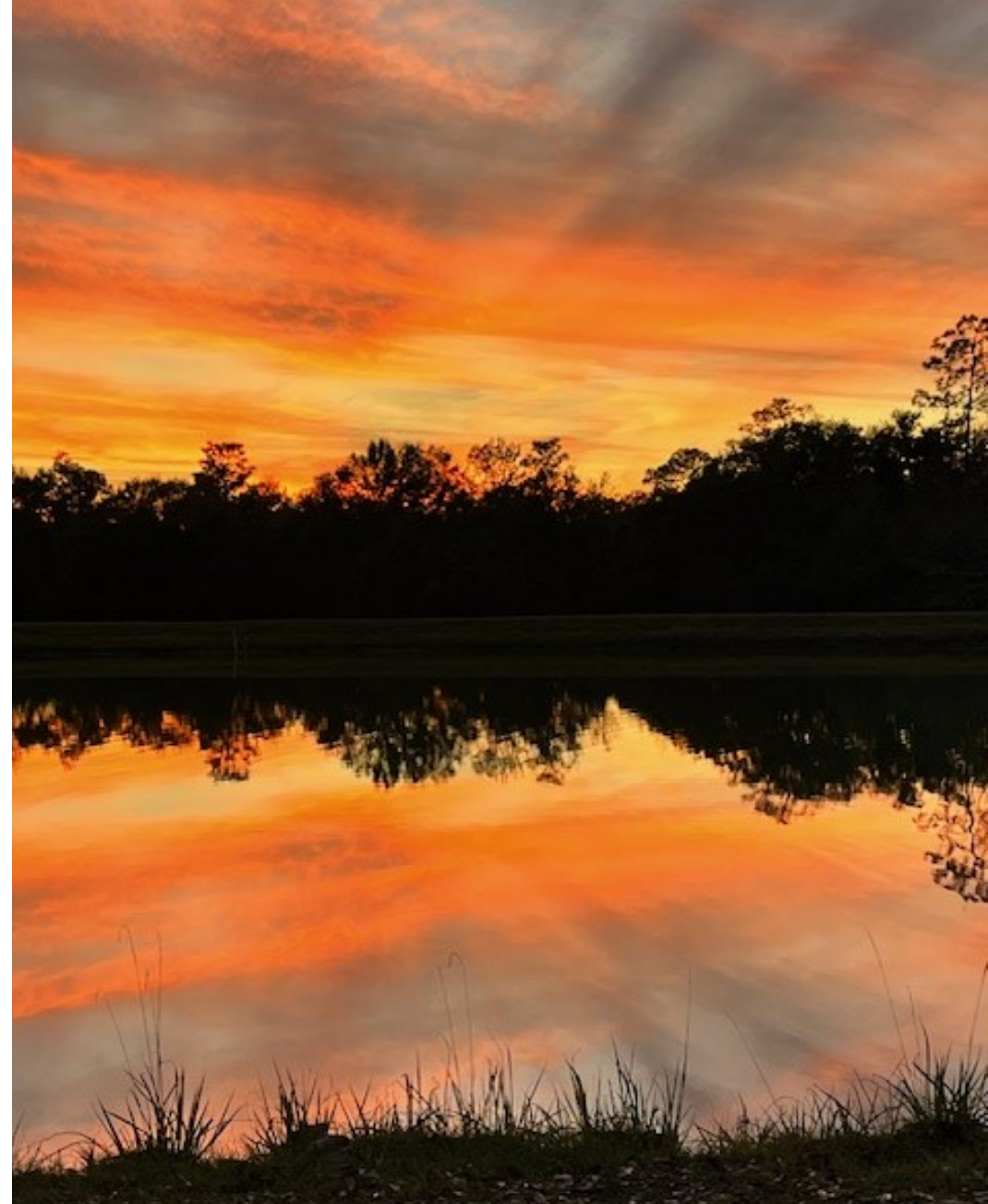
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a20706975/how-to-grow-your-own-loofah-sponge/>



This spring, two different broods of cicadas — one that lives on a 13-year cycle and the other that lives on a 17-year cycle — will emerge at the same time from underground in a rare, synchronized event that last occurred in 1803.



The editor while living in Northern Virginia experienced one year where the cicadas were everywhere. One could not open their car window or sit outside!



HORTENSIA

Winter 2024

Garden Club of Alabama

gcahortensia@gmail.com

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Garden Club of Alabama
Gardenclubofalabama.org
Kathy Sudduth, President

Deep South Garden Club
www.dsgardenclubs.com

Hortensia
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National Garden Club of America
gardenclub.org



Cherokee Rose Garden Club

The Young Sprouts had a blast learning about Monarch butterflies today! We have a great group of kids and lots of excitement over future plans and projects.

“SOW – A Planting Companion” is an app which is an excellent tool for gardeners. It's designed to tell you the optimum time to plant each crop in your home garden. Simply choose your location and start planting. Click on the photo of a crop within the app to see more information.



<https://www.aces.edu/.../lawn.../sow-planting-companion/...>



The Amaryllis Garden Club decorated the Amelia Porter Building at Palisades Park in Oneonta. This is an annual project.



The Trowlers Garden Club provided arrangements to local nursing homes.



The Garden Club of Lakeland made **350 centerpieces** for VISTE clients



Seven Rules for Life

The following are some rules that we all need to listen to everyday.

1. Let it go, never ruin a good day by thinking about a bad yesterday.
2. Ignore them, don't listen to other people live a life that's empowering to you.
3. Give it time, time heals everything.
4. Don't compare, the only person you should try to beat is the person you were yesterday.
5. Stay calm, it's okay not to have everything figured out. Know that in time you'll get there.
6. It's on you, only you are in charge of your happiness.
7. Smile, life is short, enjoy it while you have it.



Sometimes I think we are so entangled in our everyday lives to remember that we are all here for a higher calling. I hope we all can learn in 2024 to remember why God put each one of us here.

Sometimes it is the small stuff that matters the most.

As we approach the Spring this year remember the words "*If you want to hear the Sound of the Birds, don't buy a Cage, Plant a Tree.*" Remember to Plant America.

Kathy Sudduth, Garden Club of Alabama President

Corrections For Printed FALL Directory Hortensia

Page 8/9 Protocol Chair was omitted - DeLaine Spencer, P. O. Box 137, Midland City, AL 36350; phone 706-570-5853; email - delspen@aol.com

Page 10 Email for Dee Hubbert: deehubbert22@gmail.com

Page 12 Roebuck Springs Garden Club was omitted
Jane Boyer President, bettyjaneboyer@yahoo.com; 205-238-0475
Impatient Garden Club not Impatiens
Libby Stephens not Stevens Blue Star
New Club:
Plain Dirt Garden Club
Regenia Thomas - president
regenia@bellsouth.net
205-999-1687

Page 13 Dorma Green, District IV Director has a new cell 659-213-9126, she is also Award #22 Special Achievement

Page 14 Pat May is the District V Director patmayz68@gmail.com; 334-750-4212

Cynthia Saca Co-Vice Director; cynthiasaca@icloud.com
Kim Ransom Co-Vice Director; funkypumpkin1957@hotmail.com

Page 28 Award #7/8 Wanda Dake zip code 35180

Page 34 Leigh Cassidy's zip code should be 36330

Page 41 Deborah Harris is correct spelling

The below link is to an interesting article that GCA helped this writer research and she gives us credit in her article! It is about dress designer Ann Lowe born in Clayton, AL in 1898. She designed Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress! Anyway, we hope you enjoy Debra Moffitt's very interesting article. Happy reading, Kim



Detail of fabric flower

<https://gardenrant.com/2023/10/flowers-ann-lowee.html>

Kelli Whitehall, Co-Chair of Gulf Shores Garden Club's Floral Seminar and club vice president appeared on Fox 10 Studio 10 to promote their upcoming Floral Seminar.



Pell City's January speaker was Dana Hazen from "Recreative Natives" which is a small nursery in Cropwell, AL specializing in the propagation of plants native to Alabama and the SouthEast. Their plants are pesticide free and they collect their own local eco-type seeds in order to increase the bio-diversity.



Fayette Garden Club



Wedowee Garden Club decorates in the community



Fairhope Garden Club makes coffee cup arrangements for local nursing homes

Southern Charm Garden Club decorated Old Alabama Town with nature



A raised bed of the Gulf Shores Junior Garden Club



Fundraiser!

Spring Flower Bulbs

Dahlias • Lilies • Perennials • Seed Mats • More!

Follow me

Order Flower Bulbs & Support Our Cause!

Online Orders Delivered Directly To Your Door!

Visit Our Personalized Website By 05/15:
<http://GCAL.fpfundraising.com>

Spring Orders Ship End of March
 Last Day to Order is May 15, 2024
 Use QR Code Above or Website Link to View Our Page
 Thank You for Supporting the Garden Club of Alabama

Contact For More Information:
Leigh Cassady (334)389-6789

Turn In Paper Order Forms By: **NA**

GUARANTEE GROW GUARANTEE

<https://www.facebook.com/GardenClubAL>

The pictures from club activities are taken from the Facebook page of the Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. There are many more pictures on the Facebook page. Like and subscribe to be kept up to date!

Monarch Butterfly Information for Club Projects

The Live Monarch Foundation's website has lots of information. The foundations sells milkweed seeds in packets or bulk amounts. Clubs can buy the bulk amounts and hand small packages out at community events. The website also has activities for children.

www.livemonarch.com

Scientists have discovered that **Tropical Milkweed** is detrimental to Monarch butterflies because it causes them to gain weight and makes their wings smaller.



https://www.easyreg.org/cgi-bin/acct/A8SB6A87WC/displayForm.pl?dir=1S73FWO4_2023

If anyone has questions or would like to place an ad in the program book contact Debby Cooper, Director at 865-705-9451 or the registrar, Suzan Bowman at suzanbowman@gmail.com.

What a special day for the Garden Club of Alabama at the 'Every Light a Prayer for Peace' and Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol and tea at the Governor's Mansion before the tree lighting and prayer. Governor Ivey, Kathy Sudduth, all the speakers, 151st Army National Guard Band, and of course Santa made this a very special and prayerful start to our Christmas season in honor of our military and their families who keep us safe and free.



An ornament made by one of our clubs



GCA 2023-2024 Budget

Income

Member Dues	\$10,000.00
Hortensia Ads	\$1,000.00
Convention	\$31,570.00
Ways and Means	\$1,000.00
Fundraiser	\$1,500.00

Total Income	\$45,070.00
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Expenses

Administrative Expense	\$300.00
Convention Expense	\$25,674.00
Award Expense	\$500.00
Board Meetings	\$200.00
Advertisement	\$100.00
NGC Registration	\$900.00
NGC Membership Dues	\$1,675.00
President's Expense	\$6,000.00
State Computer/Programs	\$350.00
Ways and Means	\$500.00
Children's books	\$400.00
ACFSJ Program at Convention	\$500.00
Website	\$250.00
ELPP	\$100.00
Hortensia Printing	\$6,500.00
Hortensia Mailing	\$650.00
Insurance	\$150.00
Miscellaneous	\$321.00

Total General Fund Disbursements	\$45,070.00
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PLANT AMERICA- Plant for Pollinators National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore wants to encourage NGC members to make our gardens more than just beautiful. That's why she created the National Garden Clubs Pollinator

Garden Certification program. Our gardens can support birds, bees and other insects, and this program provides the incentive to take additional steps to make sure we're providing all the components to help pollinators thrive.

A checklist to make sure you have everything you need to support pollinators includes Food sources, a Water Source, Areas to raise young.

You probably already have several plants that provide pollen and nectar. Shrubs with berries provide wintertime nutrition. You don't have to install a pond, but what about a birdbath? Consider adding a heater for fresh water in

the winter. Many of us have birdhouses in our gardens, but a small, inconspicuous log or brush pile can provide a safe place for insects to nest.

APPLY HERE <https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/zl7pbyz17msloz/>

to have your yard recognized as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden! Once approved, you will have the option to order an NGC Certified Pollinator Garden Yard Sign!



The award-winning **Festival of Flowers** will celebrate its **31st year** in downtown Mobile's Ca-

thedral Square by proudly showcasing horticultural displays created by the Mobile area's best teams of florists, nurseries, landscapers, designers, and artists. They will compete for bragging rights for the Festival of Flowers People's Choice Award. Enjoy live music, outdoor seminars, and select vendors that are in keeping with the Festival of Flowers tradition. Special events include ArtWalk and a Saturday morning Exotic Car Show.



The members of Scattered Seeds Garden Club, District VI, are saddened by the loss of

Eunice Grunzke

Eunice was a member of Empress Garden Club until they dissolved, and she then joined Scattered Seeds. Eunice was Past-President of the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs and will always be remembered for her kindness,



Thank You to Our Patrons

Scattered Seeds Garden Club, District VI, Montgomery

In Honor of Margaret Beasley, Camellia Garden Club of Eufaula, District VII

Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Life Membership Number	Date
Name of Garden Club	District
Name of Applicant	Phone
Address/Zip	E-mail
Given by	Presentation Date
If a gift or surprise, send to	Phone
Address/Zip	

State Life Membership Fee \$50.00

Make Check Payable to: The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.
(Indicate "Life Membership" in lower left-hand corner)

Mail to: Life Membership Chairman

Jane Pearson

5720 Shirley Wood Pkwy,
Northport AL 35473

Life Memberships are an honorary presented to club members who have greatly contributed. The fee supports the GCA scholarship fund.

Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. Membership Award

The club with the highest percentage of newmembers recruited with dues paid and new names turned in to Hortensia Circulation by next July 15 th 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.

1. Dues must be paid to the State Treasurer.
2. Roster sent to circulation@gardenclubofalabama.net.
3. Form below filled out and sent to GCA President by July 15, 2024.

Membership Contest Garden Club of Alabama

Date: _____

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Person Submitting: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number of Paid Club Members on July 15, 2023

Percentage of Growth _____

Email form to circulation@gardenclubofalabama.net

For Office Use

Paid Treasurer _____ Number last Year _____

Sent to Circulation _____ Number this Year _____

The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. Annual Convention

“Still Making a Difference”

April 14-16, 2024

Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa
at

Grand National

3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail, Opelika, AL 36801



Hotel or condo reservations may be made by using the following link:
www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1687810966061&key=GRP

To select type of room

Open the Room Requests and Accessibility Tab, Check all which apply, Scroll down to the box titled “Any Special Requests or Needs,”
You may type here: King or Queen/Queen

Registration Information

Make check payable to GCA Convention and mail with Registration Form to Debbie Boutelier, GCA Registrar, 1075 Arrowhead Drive, Prattville, AL 36067. Phone-334-365-7806, E-mail: boutelierd@gmail.com
Confirmation will be e-mailed. For USPS mail acknowledgement of registration, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION ON FORM

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Garden Club _____

District _____

CHECK ALL CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY TO YOU

GCA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS MUST ALSO CHECK "DELEGATE"

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Garden Club Member | ☐ Deep South Officer |
| ☐ Guest/Spouse | ☐ Deep South Board Member |
| ☐ Club President | ☐ Deep South Life Member |
| ☐ Delegate | ☐ NGC Officer |
| ☐ Alternate | ☐ NGC Board Member |
| ☐ GCA President | ☐ NGC Life Member |
| ☐ Former GCA President | ☐ ACFSJ Member |
| ☐ GCA Officer | ☐ Landscape Design Consultant |
| ☐ GCA Board Member | ☐ Environmental Consultant |
| ☐ GCA Life Member | ☐ Garden Study Consultant |

Rules for Oak Tree Contest

The contest will run until the 2024 Convention in Opelika. Every club or person that plants an oak tree will be recognized at the convention. Three cash prizes will be awarded. Entry deadline is March 1, 2024.



- Best placement of an Oak tree in a public area.
Must post picture on Facebook (Garden Club of Alabama, Inc) and send to website (sfbdgc2013@gmail.com).
\$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 (Garden Club of Alabama, Inc) and send to website (sfbdgc2013@gmail.com) \$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

In memory of

Earl D. Heath

Canterbury Bells Garden Club, Montgomery

Earl was a member of Canterbury Bells for many years. He was co-editor of the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs' newsletter, The Grapevine. He compiled and published the Federation yearbook and the yearbook for his own club. He was a Life Member of GCA.

Garden Club of Alabama Oak Tree Planting Contest

Date: _____

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Individual Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number of Oak Trees Planted: _____

Attach at least one picture with the Form.

Send to kathymsudduth@gmail.com

Please add Oak Tree Contest in the subject line

For Office Use

Facebook _____ Club _____

Web _____ Individual _____

Picture _____

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 14, 2024

1. **PACKAGE PLAN** (Includes 3 Days Registration, 2 Luncheons & 3 Banquets) ----

\$250.00

2. **A LA CARTE PLAN**

Registration Fee per day (required for all events/meals/tours)	\$ 20.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Registration for Non-Members per day	\$ 20.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Sunday GCA Board of Directors Dinner – Everyone welcome Dress from another decade	\$ 50.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Monday Scholarship Luncheon	\$ 30.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Monday Design Banquet - TBA	\$ 50.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Tuesday Awards Luncheon	\$ 30.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Tuesday Banquet - <i>Tommy Paulk: Bonnie Plants Family and Business</i>	\$ 50.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Late Registration Fee	\$ 30.00 x _____	= \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR CONVENTION		= \$ _____

TOURS: Advance registration is required for tours. **No exceptions.** There is no late registration for tours.

Tour of Auburn University Rooftop Garden & Greenhouses	\$5.00 X _____	\$ _____
Tour of Botanic in Opelika and Auburn University Aquaponics	\$5.00 X _____	\$ _____
Tour of Donald E. Davis Arboretum Auburn University	\$5.00 X _____	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR TOURS		\$ _____

No refunds after March 15, 2024. Registration fee is non-refundable. No walk-ins. You must be registered to attend any program, meal, tour, or workshop.

Convention Schedule	
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Vendor Set-up
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Exhibits Set-up (Will stay up throughout convention)
3:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Convention Registration
2:30 pm	ACFSJ Executive Council Meeting
3:30 pm	GCA Advisory Council Meeting
4:00 pm	GCA Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 pm	GCA Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 pm	Resort Activities
6:30 pm	Board of Directors Dinner (Everyone invited – Just for fun – wear something (accessory) from the past – any decade!)
Monday, April 15, 2024	
	Breakfast on Your Own
8:00 am – 6:30 pm	Convention Registration (closed during lunch)
8:00 am – 6:30	Ways & Means/Vendors/Exhibits/Opportunity Drawings (Closed during lunch)
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Landscape Design Consultants Council Meeting Speaker TBA
9:15 am – 10:45 am	Opening Business Session Welcome from Mayor
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Business Session
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Educational Workshop/Speaker Nemophilly Natives, Sarah Wolak Gardening for the Bees, Butterflies and Birds: The Case for Planting Natives
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Scholarship Luncheon – Speaker TBA
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Workshop/ Speaker – TBA
1:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Tour – Auburn Roof Top Garden/Greenhouses
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop/Speaker – King Braswell (Botanic's Co-owner) with wife Stacy (founder of Chicken Salad Chick) Workshop/Speaker – Morgan Pendergrass (Donald Davis Arboretum) – <i>Big Ideas for Small Gardens – Design Basics</i>
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	ACFSJ General Meeting
5:30 pm	President's Reception
6:30 pm	Design Banquet – Imagination & Interpretation presented by Alabama Council of Flower Show Judges
8:30 pm	Conversation on the Veranda (Games & Prizes)



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 black and white 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 H. Cyrus

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

Rose M. Winkler

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



The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.

"In a State Where Gardens Grow, God Walks"

Garden Club of Alabama Convention Sponsor Form

Name/company to be placed on the Donor Board and in the Convention Program.

Address _____

Level of Sponsorship:

Platinum Plus - \$1,000 Donation _____

Platinum - \$500 Donation _____

Diamond - \$250 Donation _____

Gold - \$100 Donation _____

Silver - \$50 Donation _____

Bronze - \$25 Donation _____

The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
Thank you again for your contribution.

Check to be made payable to The Garden Club of Alabama 2024 Convention. Mail check and this form as soon as possible or no later than March 11, 2024 to Rose Winkler, 5782 Carriage Barn Lane, Montgomery, AL 36116. You can also contact her at 334-313-2002 (cell) or 334-270-0884 if you have any questions.

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

8:00 am – 6:30 pm	Convention Registration (closed during lunch)
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Memorial Service – Suzy Shepherd
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Ways & Means /Vendors/Exhibits / Drawings of Opportunity
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Business Session (continued if needed) Workshop: Make & Take
10:15 am – 11:00 pm	Workshop/Speaker: Charles Mitchell – Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club Fun and Fellowship Growing Camellias Workshop/Speaker: Melinda Welch Cultivate the Gardener – Helping Our Bodies Be Safe, At Ease, and Happy Through a Lifetime of Gardening
11:30 am –1:30 pm	Luncheon: Awards
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Workshop/Speaker: Dale Peterson – Hydrangeas for the Alabama Home
1:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Tour: Botanic Tour & Aquaponics Tour
2:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Tour: Donald E. Davis Arboretum, Auburn
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop/Speaker: Maria Pacheco - Herbs for Use in the Garden & for the Gardener
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Workshop/Speaker: Katie Jackson – Past, Present, Future: Garden Clubs as Agents of Change
5:30 pm	Gather: 99 and Holding Recognition of Sybil Ingram
6:30 pm	Special Speaker & Banquet: Tommy Paulk – A Little History: A Lot of Container Gardening – Bonnie Plants, Grandson of Founders, CEO, Agriculture Honor Roll Inductee

***Check Tour Times Before Registering

