

DISTRICT III

Convention Report -April 2024

District III proudly represents 14 clubs and one junior garden club within Jefferson County. Our District happily continues the NGC goal of having flower shows to highlight horticulture, educate and display the creativity and beauty of design. We have 4 NGC Accredited judges and one Master Judge for flower shows. Our District and with the North End Council within our district, the past year has held 2 flower shows and 2 are upcoming: May 2-3, 2024, "AT THE HOP" and the other in October 2024. Our last 5 flower shows have won state and national awards. Our District received 3 Deep South Awards at their convention in March 2024. District III annually and generously donates to the Sybil Ingram Scholarship Fund. We lost Sybil this year and she will be greatly missed but her memory and Scholarship fund will continue to live on in District III. The following clubs reported:

***BLUE STAR* Garden Club– This club helped refresh the Gardendale Veterans Memorial Park along with the Gardendale Historical Society. They keep this site maintained all year. Blue Star decorated a Christmas tree, participating in the Dick Lee Scholarship Fundraiser. Blue Star continues their educational growth by having plant studies with the most recent being on ferns. Monthly meetings also include talks on birds, insects, and design.**

EDGEWOOD Garden Club is celebrating 93 years as a garden club! This club maintains the plants and trees at Woodland Park in Homewood. A current project is helping the city of Homewood with identifying tree types and tagging them for educational value. Each year they plant a tree in memory of a former club member. "Ida Burns" tree is planted in different parts of the city of Homewood. Ida in her will left the monetary means to buy these native trees. Each month a group from this club goes to an assisted living home to help arrange flowers with the residents to help brighten their rooms and their day.

Garden Dale Garden Club has experienced a time of growth with 48 members. This club chose 3 major projects for the year. In coordination with the Gardendale Rotary Club and the Gardendale Park and Recreation board, they are landscaping an area round the Boy Scout Hut. It has been an involved project with hardscape, providing a walkway and an area to honor the young men who have achieved Eagle Scout level. There will be plants, shrubs and an irrigation system installed soon. Garden Dale Garden club participated in the Dick Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund by decorating a Christmas tree. The community takes great pride in funding 2 scholarships for graduating seniors and a partially endowed scholarship to the University of Alabama, Mr. Lee's alma mater. The club also gave their support to Christmas Visions, a fund raiser sponsored by the schools in North Jefferson County for families in need.

LASY DAISY Garden Club annually donates to the libraries of 4 local schools. To continue their learning members have been giving presentations on container gardening and the benefits of different herbs and house plants for health benefits. They are in the process of holding an open house to meet the next “lazy daisy”.

MAGNOLIA Garden Club -Magnolia Garden Club started the year with many of our members attending flower show workshops that were presented locally. One was Leaf Manipulation, and a second was on Petite Designs. They will be ready to show what they learned at the North End Council flower show that will soon take place. The club received free seed packets from CAWACO Resource Conservation & Development, a non-profit that Magnolia has developed a relationship with. The seeds were given to the local Library in Warrior to be distributed to the library patrons in an effort to promote gardening in our area. Jan Thomas led a group of local youth-second graders in potting plants for submission in the Youth category of the upcoming NEC Flower Show. Magnolia attended a tour of the antebellum home Arlington and its gardens. They enjoyed a delicious lunch afterward, prepared by the resident chef and his staff which all the vegetables were grown in their own garden. They arranged a guided tour of Aldridge Gardens. The Spring flowers were beautiful and they were told it will be an exceptional year for the hydrangeas. A perfect way to learn about these special plants.