



HORTENSIA

Winter 2025

Garden Club of Alabama

gcahortensia@gmail.com

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Garden Club of Alabama

Gardenclubofalabama.org

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"Joey" Skaff, Editor

Deep South Garden Club

www.dsgardenclubs.com

National Garden Club of America

gardenclub.org

The cover photo was taken at Lake Guntersville State Park where our convention will be held. It was taken by Tami Brooks a freelance writer and speaker. It was posted on her blog: <http://tamis-trippin.com/>

Classes Available through the National Garden Club

NGC offers four different course offerings. One does not have to take the courses in any order. After completing four courses one becomes a member of that council. Refresher opportunities are always available.

Landscape Design School teaches the principles of design, such as repetition, focal points, color, shape, form and so much more. This class will open your eyes to how great landscapes are shaped. Two of the below classes can be taken virtually.

<https://gardenclub.org/school/landscape-design-school-courses>

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC flower show. There are 4 courses each generally scheduled over a 2-3 day period, and each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure (FSP). If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, or simply want to learn more, your first step is to attend

<https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school>

Gardening School courses cover all aspects of horticulture: gardening, understanding soil structure, pruning techniques, identifying plants, etc. Topics include basic botany, soils, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, lawns, pests, plant diseases, plant classification and selected subjects of local interest. Two of the classes are virtual.

<https://gardenclub.org/gardening-school>

Environmental Schools mission is to teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. The courses teach participants environmental literacy, appreciation of the natural world, encourages action for sustainable development and appreciation for the interrelation of all natural things. Three of the classes are virtual

<https://gardenclub.org/environmental-school>

Brad Austin's career spans over 40 years, providing unique **floral designs for the entertainment and events business**. It includes work for Hollywood movies, TV productions, and large scale LA executive and private parties. He presents a rare look behind the entertainment world's "magic curtain" as he calls it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvJRzlwU&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Homegrown National Park by Doug Tallamy 2022- Noted author and speaker, Doug Tallamy, shares his grassroots call-to-action for all to regenerate biodiversity in one's own yard and/or volunteer at community open spaces. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBkUBDY5IN0&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Josie Walker covers the many opportunities that she has experienced **working with nonprofit groups**, mostly in North Carolina. She offers good advice for garden clubs in how they too can contribute in helping this growing problem in our country by growing food and teaching others how to do the same. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AutW68YkgQU&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

NGC instructor David Robson provides an introduction to **the mechanics of Floral Design**. Mechanics are the components and techniques used to hold designs together to achieve maximum stability and extend floral life. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bkx-spie6lo&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Ball Seed Webinar- Anna Ball is the CEO of Ball Horticulture Company, a family company, 117 years old, a total of 4 generations. The company deals with many aspects of horticulture from breeding, biotechnology, production and marketing of hybrid plants. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWQYuo7Vo&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Dear Alabama Garden Club Members,

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. Now we are on to the new year, time to get those garden plans going. It will not be long before it is time to plant our spring annuals and vegetable gardens.

I would like to take this time to thank all the District Directors and Host Clubs for the fun and informative District Fall Meetings across the state. The Garden Clubs in Alabama are doing some great things.

As we get into spring, I would like all of you to consider going to at least one of the conventions that will be coming up. March 11-13, we get started with the Deep South. They will have their convention in Valdosta, GA. They will also be having a flower show at their convention. This is a great opportunity for a road trip with some friends to learn and have fun. We will be learning about the swamps of South Georgia and many other interesting topics. If you need a tri-refresher, you can go to this convention and get it done.

Next up will be the Annual Garden Club of Alabama Convention at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge on April 13-15. The clubs in District II are hard at work planning a great convention for us to enjoy. This is a beautiful part of our great state of Alabama, come at enjoy it with us.

We finish in May with the National Garden Club Convention in North Charleston, SC on the 18th-22nd. If you have never been to Charleston, SC please come to convention this year with us. The convention committee has some great seminars and tours lined up for us. Charleston in the spring is gorgeous.

All the information for the three conventions is in the Hortensia and online. Come have fun this spring with us. I challenge each one of you to go to at least one or possibly two of these conventions. You will meet people from all over the state and nation that are like-minded and love to garden and arrange flowers.

*Kathy Sudduth
GCA President*

Cleaning your Winter Garden

As gardeners we like to tidy our garden when the leaves begin to fall. There are pros and cons to this. Leaves provide shelter for overwintering beneficial insects, toads, and insect eating lizards. Native bees, some moths, and butterflies rely on the cover of garden leaves. The leaves also protect young sprouts. As the leaves decompose, they will provide nutrients. Their cover minimizes winter weeds. If you cut back plants with hollow stems, moisture can get into the stems and, if a freeze occurs, it can kill your plant.

Many perennials have seeds which provide food for local birds. Some of these are coneflowers, black-eyed susans, etc. Plant material with fungal disease, however, should be cut way back and removed to contain its spread. Fallen buds from Camellia Japonicas should also be cleaned up as they might harbor disease.



As gardeners we need to leave leaf debris whenever possible as it provides a free mulch and decomposes naturally leaving behind nutrients. Why spend an effort to clean under your shrubs where no one will look. You can always cover the decaying leaves with a layer of fresh mulch if want a cleaner look.

Members who are now Gardening in Heaven

Norma Kelly, Forever Green Mountain Garden Club, Huntsville
Gretchen Boling, past District II Director

Thank You to Our Patrons

Magnolia Springs Garden Club thanks our sponsors, friends and family for making "Meet 'Em in the Arboretum" a successful event!

(NEW)GCA is to advance the Convention Treasurer \$3,000.00. This is to be repaid to the GCA Treasurer at the end of the convention, as soon as possible. GCA Convention Chairman must submit a proposed budget to the GCA President and Chairman of Finance to be approved before any GCA Funds have been contracted. It is still GCA money and must be accounted for at the end of the year by the Treasurer.

- (OUT)27. WAYS and MEANS: Ways and Means Chairmen MUST have a receipt book and use said item to record all sales. If voiding an item, the receipt must not be discarded, but turned in to the Treasurer with all monies (cash and checks) at the end of each day or meeting. If the Treasurer is not traveling with officers to the District meetings, all monies will be given to the Presiding President, who will make arrangements with the Treasurer for their deposit. This allows the Treasurer to keep her books current and in compliance with IRS regulations.

(NEW)27. WAYS and MEANS: Ways and Means Chairmen can keep record of all sales through a cash register printout. All monies (cash and checks) with register printout at the end of each day or meeting at Board Meetings and Conventions will be turned over to the GCA Treasurer if present, otherwise to the GCA President, who will make arrangements with Treasurer for swift deposit. For District Meetings checks will be made out to the District and all funds will be turned over to the District Director, who will then have the District Treasurer deposit the funds in the District Account, and make a check for the full sum to the GCA Treasurer immediately following the District Meeting. This allows the Treasurer to keep her books current and in compliance with IRS regulations.

Some Videos available on YouTube by the NGC

Whether you have store bought flowers or ones from your garden, Cathy Waitinas, from Tennessee (a popular, in-demand Flower Show School instructor) has some **great tips on how to keep your flowers looking fresher, longer.** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaAbwO08KRg&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Floral Design Instructor Lynn Fronk shows **wiring techniques** from lashing to secure wiring. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmOAGo0wGt4&ab_channel=NationalGardenClubs

Flower Power Sales

We had a 66% increase in sales for our Holiday Flower Power Fundraising effort for 2024. Sales in 2023 ended with \$2,210, which garnered a check for the GCA treasury of \$1,105. This year we exceeded the 2023 tally as the 2024 sales totaled \$3,670, which will result in a check for \$1,835.

There were 24 clubs that sent in purchase orders. A sales contest that was based on the percentage of members to sales was conducted to create some competition. First place goes to Garden Club by the Lake-Eufaula, District VII, and second place goes to Fort Payne Garden Club, District II. Magnolia Springs Garden Club was barely edged out for a winning spot.

The winners will receive checks for \$100 and \$50 respectively from 2nd Vice President Leigh Cassady who conducted the contest. Congratulations to these winners and thank you to everyone who purchased the beautiful array of Christmas-blooming bulbs this year.

Jan. 31 is the deadline to submit photographs of your holiday bloomers to our photo contest. . Send photos to Stephanie Butler, Facebook master, sfbdge2013@gmail.com or Kim Edger-ton, kimbilledge@yahoo.com

ARTICLE XX – AMENDMENTS

-(OUT)Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Convention by a two-thirds vote of those delegates present and voting, providing notice of the proposed Amendments have been sent in writing to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Convention. A printing in the Hortensia preceding the Annual Convention will serve as individual club notice.

(NEW) Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Convention by a two-thirds vote of those delegates present and voting, providing notice of the proposed Amendments have been sent in writing to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Convention. A printing in the electronic issue of Hortensia preceding the Annual Convention will serve as individual club notice.

STANDING RULES

-(OUT)13. The President of GCA shall see that the official GCA President's Pin is to have 20 CZs, cubic zirconium, mounted on the pin for the incoming President and that the years she is elected to serve are engraved on the pin.

(NEW)13. The President of GCA shall see that the official GCA President's Pin is to have 20 CZs, cubic zirconium, mounted on the pin for the incoming President and that the years she is elected to serve are engraved on the pin. The pin will be purchased with GCA funds. The President is allowed to keep the pin and is encouraged to continue to wear it at GCA events.

-(OUT)16. A committee to process applications for NGC and DSR awards shall meet the first week of January. The Awards Committee consists of the GCA Awards Chairman, Awards Co-Chairman, Flower Show Chairman, GCA President, a former President who shall be appointed by the President, and one representative from each District, to be selected by the District Director.

(NEW) 16. Board of Directors responsible for State Award determinations will submit their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention winners to the Awards Chairman by Jan 1. The Awards Chairman and Co-chairman will review the 1st and 2nd place winners to determine NGC and DSR awards to submit. The Awards Chairman and Co-Chairman will prepare ribbons and certificates for the State Winners for presentation at the State Convention. They will forward any awards eligible for NGC and DSR consideration via scanned awards nomination to the appropriate Awards Chair by the Feb 15 deadline.

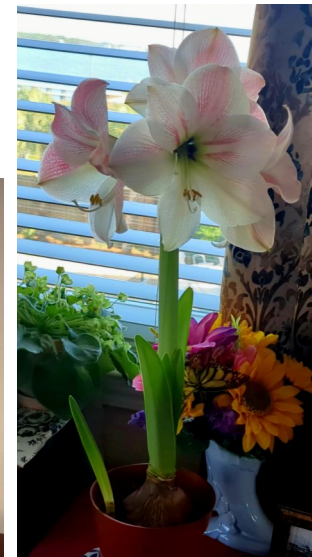
FINANCIAL POLICIES

-(OUT)22. No funds shall be solicited from the public for any project of GCA without approval of the Board of Directors. This does not include local projects.

(NEW)22. No funds shall be solicited from the public for any project of GCA without approval of the GCA President. This does not include local projects or grants.

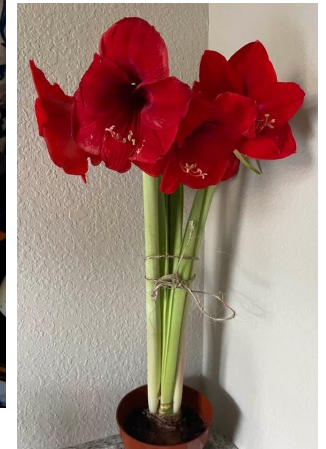
-(OLD)23. GCA is to advance the Convention Treasurer \$600.00. This is to be repaid at the end of the convention. GCA Convention Chairman must submit a proposed budget to the GCA President and Chairman of Finance to be approved before any GCA Funds are contracted.

Andrea Carey



Charlotte Higgins

Sue Moreno



GINGER ALL THE WAY! *By Diane Clark*



Sure, ginger is the star of classic cakes and cookies at Christmas, but the plant's healing properties are something to celebrate.

From settling stomachs to brightening skin, here's how the sweet and zesty spice is rooted in health.

NOURISHES HAIR. Thinning hair? Reach for products with ginger in the ingredients list. The plant can help stimulate hair follicles while nourishing and moisturizing your locks. But this root's healthy hair benefits don't stop there. Thanks to its anti-septic properties, ginger is also a terrific remedy for dandruff. Ginger-filled products can help you ditch those flakes. You can also create a DIY hair mask with fresh ginger juice and coconut oil.

IMPROVES SKIN. Ginger is nature's gift to the skin, filled with antioxidants that encourage collagen production, ginger can help give your skin a soft, smooth appearance and can even help prevent signs of aging like wrinkles. Another bonus: This ingredient can also reduce the appearance of hypopigmented scars—those that appear lighter than your natural skin tone. Dab a bit of fresh ginger on the affected areas each day and let it go to work.

SMOOTHES UPSET STOMACHS. Experience indigestion after a rich meal or catch a bug that's left you with a sour stomach? Steep a cup of ginger tea or enjoy a bit of fresh ginger. Studies show that ginger helps to empty your stomach faster, meaning you can move problem-causing eats out and make room for easier digestion. Ginger can also help fight nausea. The Mayo Clinic suggests nibbling on some candied ginger or gingersnaps. Check out target.com for a tube of Sweet Chef Ginger + Vitamin C Oil-Free Gel Moisturizer to add spice to your beauty routine.

HINTS: (1) Skip the veggie peeler! Use a spoon to easily scrape away ginger's papery skin. (2) Keep fresh ginger on hand. Place knobs in airtight containers and freeze. You'll find it's easier to grate when it's frozen.

HEALTHY EATING RECIPE: GINGER ORANGE SQUASH. Source: TasteofHome.com
Line a 15X10X1 inch baking pan with foil and coat with cooking spray; set aside. In a large bowl, toss 2 butternut squash, peel, and cut into 1-1/2 inch cubes; 1 cup thawed orange juice concentrate; 3 Tbsp. coarsely chopped fresh ginger; and ½ tsp. pepper. Arrange in a single layer in a prepared pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 50-55 minutes or until squash is tender, stirring twice. Stir in 4 tsp. melted butter before serving. Makes 10 servings.

Zingiber officinale is the variety used for culinary purposes (zones 8-12.)
Turmeric is in the same family (*Curcuma longa*) and is a beautiful plant that blooms late summer.

Protocol, Public Relations-Publicity, Radio & TV (change to Media), Reclamation & Recycling, Roadside & School Ground Improvement, Scholarships, Scholarship Advisor, Special Projects, Trees, Ways & Means, Wildflowers, World Gardening (out), and Yearbook.

(NEW)Section 6. The President may determine the necessary committees for the operation of GCA.

ARTICLE-XIV-SPECIAL PROJECTS-GARDENS

-(OUT)Section 1. All special projects (Gardens, etc.) of GCA shall be presented to the Executive Committee and if approved, to the Board of Directors for approval before being presented to the convention for ratification

(NEW)Section 1. All special projects (Gardens, etc.) of GCA shall be presented to the Executive Committee and if approved, to the Board of Directors for approval, with exception of the Presidents Special Project for the term.

-(OLD)Section 4. All contracts and/or commitments shall be approved by the Executive Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors of GCA.

(NEW)Section 4. All contracts and/or commitments shall be approved by the Executive Committee, except Convention Contract which is approved by the President.

ARTICLE XVI-DISTRICTS

-(OUT)Section 9. In the event of the removal or resignation of both the District Director and Vice Chairman the offices shall be filled by appointment by the GCA President with the approval of the GCA Executive Committee. Other vacancies in the District shall be filled by the District Director.

(NEW) Section 9. In the event of the removal or resignation of both the District Director and Vice Chairman the offices shall be filled temporarily until next election cycle by appointment of the GCA President. Other vacancies in the District shall be filled by the District Director.

-(OUT)Section 10. Time and place for Fall District meetings shall be decided by the GCA President in conference with the District Director, Vice Chairman, Second Vice President of GCA, and hostess club(s).

(NEW) Section 10. Time and place for fall District meetings shall be decided by the GCA President in conference with the District Director, Spring meetings will be decided by the District Director with the hostess club.

ARTICLE XVII – HORTENSIA

-(OUT)Section 1. The official Bulletin of GCA shall be Hortensia. All contracts pertaining to the business of this bulletin shall be cosigned by the President of GCA.

(NEW)Section 1. The official Bulletin of GCA shall be Hortensia. All contracts pertaining to the business of this bulletin shall be approved by the President of GCA. Hortensia shall be printed in the Fall of the odd year beginning with a new GCA President and contain names and contact information of the Executive Committee and all Board of Directors. Printed issue will be forwarded by mail to all dues paying members. At a minimum two other editions will be electronically completed and forwarded to dues paying members by January and April (prior to Convention) of each year. One Fall edition on even years will also be completed and distributed electronically.

-(OUT)Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of GCA, and preserve data. Since she must work closely with the President, she shall be a resident of the same city or near enough to work conveniently.

(NEW)Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of GCA, and preserve data. She must work closely with the President. and present the annual budget to the Board of Directors. The Budget Committee shall consist of the Chairman of Finance, President, Treasurer, First and Second Vice Presidents, immediate past Treasurer, and immediate past President.)

(NEW)B. The Chairman of Finance shall serve as Chairman of the Budget Committee which will prepare and present the annual budget to the Board of Directors. The Budget Committee shall consist of the Chairman of Finance, President, and Treasurer.

-(OUT)Section 8. The Historian shall compile the history of GCA annually. A copy shall be filed with the GCA President, GCA Recording Secretary, NGC Historian and Deep South Region Historian.

(NEW)Section 8. The Historian shall compile the history of GCA bi-annually. A copy shall be filed with the GCA President, GCA Recording Secretary, NGC Historian and Deep South Region Historian, using NGC - (OUT)B. The Chairman of Finance shall serve as Chairman of the Budget Committee which will prepare online format.

ARTICLE XIII-COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

-(OUT)Section 2. As an ex officio member, the President of GCA shall be notified of all committee meetings by Committee Chairmen and sent a copy of the committee minutes within two weeks after each meeting.

-(OUT)Section 5. Reports shall be made at meetings of the Board of Directors and at the Annual Convention. Chairmen of committees of corresponding Deep South committees shall report to that Chairman by January 15 of each year.

(NEW)Section 5. Reports requiring sharing with the Board of Directors shall be made at meetings of the Board of Directors and at the Annual Convention. Chairmen of committees of corresponding Deep South committees shall report to that Chairman by January 15 of each year.

-(OUT)Section 6. There may be the following committees and others, as the President may deem necessary for the operation of GCA: Arboreta & Botanical Gardens, Award of Honor, Awards, Birds, Butterfly, Blue Star Memorial Highways, Christmas Lights & Holiday Houses, Church Gardens & Cemeteries, Civic Development, Club of Distinction, Club Program Papers, Conservation, Convention Registrar, Dowling Gardens (out), Energy Awareness, Environmental Education, Flower Shows, Flower Show Judges, Flower Show Schools, Garden Centers, Garden of Memory ??, Garden Therapy, Helen Keller Fragrance Garden, High School Gardeners, Historical Preservation & Restoration, Historic Trails, Hortensia Editor, Hortensia Circulation, Hortensia Advertising, Horticulture, Horticulture Advisor, Intermediate Gardeners, Junior Gardeners, Landscape Design Consultants, Landscape Design Advisor, Legislation, Life Membership, Litter, Membership, National Gardener (out), NGC Headquarters (out), NGC Publications (out), Personnel, Plant Societies, Policy & Procedure,



*Governor's Tea and
Tree Lighting*

*"Every Light a Prayer
for Peace"*



“Facing the Future Together”

GCA Annual Convention April 13-15

Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Conference Center

If you have never attended the Garden Club of Alabama Convention, you have missed an opportunity to see and hear about the amazing work of our clubs and to take home information and tools that can be used to enhance your club’s mission. If you have attended the convention, you will have programming that is not only helpful—but also exciting.

The Guntersville State Park is one of the most beautiful parks in the state of Alabama System. It exemplifies the reason GCA has gone to bat to ensure funding for all of our parks. The opportunities for nature walks, beautiful vistas, fishing, golfing, boating are all there. Some members are bringing their husbands just for these offerings. The view from our dining and meeting space is gorgeous!

We have listened to what can be frustrating in your club life. There will be workshops on navigating the GCA website, growing membership and programs presentations. You will have the opportunity to buy a zip drive with power point programs which can also be printed. There will be a program by an Arborist which will help us in our tree planting and maintenance projects. Other programs are in the works geared to be interesting and helpful for your club’s activities.

Three field trips will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday. Linda Taylor, the President of Colony Garden Club and the Garden Club of Guntersville have gone all out to provide wonderful experiences. The trips are:

A guided walk to observe bald eagles nesting and feeding their young.

A tour of the Guntersville Historical Museum, set in a WPA Armory, the train depot, and the Gilbreath House followed by shopping opportunities in downtown.

A visit to John’s Native Gardens—a 20 minute drive to Scottsboro.

A convention would not be complete or fun without Food and Fellowship! Sunday night is a relaxed atmosphere with the frivolity of our

Section 4. The District Meetings shall be held annually or semi-annually.

-(OUT) Section 5. The Advisory Council shall meet at the call of the President, the Chairman of the Council, or three members of the Council Section.

(NEW)Section 5. The Advisory Council shall meet at the call of the President, the Chairman of the Council, or three members of the Council

ARTICLE VIII-CONVENTIONS, REPRESENTATION

Section 1. Conventions.

-(OUT)A. The time and place for the annual convention shall be decided by vote of the annual convention upon receipt of the invitation through the Time and Place Committee.

(NEW)A. The time and place for the annual convention shall be presented at the annual convention by invitation of the Time and Place Committee. In order to plan a convention, the location and dates with a deposit must be decided by the Convention Chair well before the annual convention, therefore, no vote is needed. However, the time and place must first be approved by the President or President Elect.)

-(OUT)B. The First and Second Vice Presidents and such others as the President may appoint, shall comprise the Convention Planning Committee. The Parliamentarian may attend the planning sessions when requested by the President.

(NEW)B. The President appoints the Convention Chairman. The Convention Chairman appoints the Co-Chairman in turn and selects a Convention Committee which can be any number needed.

(NEW)C. All convention proceeds and financial report should be turned in to the GCA Treasurer as soon as possible, before Sep 1.

ARTICLE IX-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

-(OUT)Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of GCA, the Executive Committee, and Board of Directors. She shall appoint the Corresponding Secretary, Historian, and Parliamentarian, the Chairman of standing committees and special committees; fill vacancies in office except when otherwise provided for in these Bylaws; call extra meetings and regular meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; countersign all checks. President will pre-approve all disbursement and shall perform any duties pertaining to her office and lead the organization toward the objectives stated in the Bylaws. She must file the 990n form with the Internal Revenue Service annually, and at the proper time.

(NEW)Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of GCA, the Executive Committee, and Board of Directors. She shall appoint the Corresponding Secretary, Historian, and Parliamentarian, the Chairman of standing committees and special committees; fill vacancies in office except when otherwise provided for in these Bylaws; call extra meetings and regular meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; perform any duties pertaining to her office and lead the organization toward the objectives stated in the Bylaws. The President must file the 990n form with the Internal Revenue Service annually, and at the proper time.

preceding the election year convention. To be eligible to serve on this committee a member must have attended any combination of two out of the last five GCA conventions and/or Fall District Meetings of the District in which they reside. The alternate attends only when an elected member resigns. No member shall serve on the nominating committee for two consecutive terms. The GCA First Vice President shall not be eligible to serve.

-(OUT)B. A Chairman of the nominating committee from the state-at-large shall be appointed by the President and announced at the first Board Meeting following the annual convention in even years. To be eligible to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, a member must have served a minimum of two years as an elected officer or a minimum of four years on the Board of Directors and attended two of the last three annual conventions of GCA.

-(OUT)C. The Nominating Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman one or more times during the year preceding election, one meeting not to be later than December 15th. The location and date shall be given to the eight District Directors before the Fall District Meetings before the delegates are elected. Notice of the Nominating Committee meeting shall be sent to the delegates, in writing thirty (30) days in advance.

(NEW)C. The Nominating Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman one or more times during the year preceding election, one meeting not to be later than December 15th. The location and date shall be given to the eight District Directors before the Fall District Meetings before the delegates are elected. Notice of the Nominating Committee meeting shall be sent to the delegates, in writing or via electronic message, thirty (30) days in advance. It is preferred to meet in person, however, circumstances can allow for virtual meetings.

-(OUT)D. The report of the nominating committee recommendations shall appear in the electronic Hortensia issue immediately preceding the annual convention.

(NEW)D. The report of the nominating committee shall appear in the electronic Hortensia issue immediately preceding the annual convention.

Section 4. Election

-(OUT)A. These officers (except District Directors, who are elected by the districts) shall be elected by ballot and a majority of votes cast shall constitute the election. In the event there is only one candidate for each office, the vote may be by voice.

(NEW)A. These officers (except District Directors, who are elected by the districts) shall be elected by ballot if more than one for the position or by raising of hands if only one candidate, and a majority of votes cast shall constitute the election. Floor nominations must have been vetted through the GCA President prior to election process.

ARTICLE VII-MEETINGS

-(OUT)Section 3. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held three times each year. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the President or upon request of seven members, provided written request signed by seven members is sent to each member of the Board of Directors.

(NEW) Section 3. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held three times each year. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the President or upon request of five members.

historic fashion show. “Fun at the Lake” is the dress theme. We want you to come up with astounding costumes that will rival Betty, who usually wins.

Monday is our traditional Scholarship Luncheon, featuring students who are benefiting from our efforts to promote horticulture, agriculture, landscape design and ecology. **The Floral Design banquet that evening will feature Benny Campbell, floral designer extraordinaire.** He has done designs for weddings all over the US and is in great demand. This will not be just another flower designer show—Benny brings humor and makes you believe you could actually go home and do what he is showing. He takes “the fear” out of arranging and adds “the fun” in doing so.

Tuesday brings the Awards Luncheon. You will be awed by the accomplishments of our clubs. The projects are inspiring and hopefully will spur you to enter your endeavors next year. Our communities are greatly enhanced by what we do. The “Welcome to Our Community” designs and maintenance draw you in and make you want to explore. We are ambassadors for our towns and cities. **The evening banquet will give us an opportunity to thank our outgoing officers and install our incoming slate.**

The registration form and information for reserving your hotel room or chalet is in this issue and also on the GCA website. Come to the lake, come learn, come enjoy nature and be nurtured.

Registration

<https://gardenclubofalabama.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Garden-Club-of-Alabama-Convention-final-m-INT.pdf>

Hotel

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1793&skipfirstpage=true&page=31177>



Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the Plant AMERICA Community Project Grants! Blue Star was awarded \$1670 and Magnolia Springs \$2500!

Blue Star GC	Garden Club of Alabama
Magnolia Springs GC	Garden Club of Alabama

Rules for Convention Delegates and Nominees for Board Positions

Each club is entitled to one delegate for twenty-five or less members and one additional delegate for each fifteen members thereafter, not to exceed six delegates. Delegates should mark their convention registration form as such.

Delegates will vote on the new Board and also whether to approve the changes to the bylaws.

Board Nominees

- 1st Vice-President: Karen Merrill, District IV, Greensboro
- 2nd Vice-President: Gwen Kelley, District III, Gardendale
- Chairman of Finance: Kathy Sudduth, District VIII, Spanish Fort
- Treasurer: Barbara Anthony, District VII, Tulip
- Recording Secretary: Dorma Green, District IV, Goldenrod

ARTICLE VI-OFFICERS, ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATION, ELECTION

Section 1. Officers.

-(OUT)A. Officers of GCA shall be: President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Chairman of Finance; and District Directors. Appointed officers shall be: Corresponding Secretary; Historian; and, Parliamentarian. The First Vice President shall become President-Elect as of the end of convention in the even numbered years.

(NEW) A. Officers of GCA shall be: President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Chairman of Finance; and District Directors. Appointed officers shall be: Corresponding Secretary; Historian; and, Parliamentarian. This comprises the executive committee. The First Vice President shall become President-Elect as of the end of convention in the even numbered years.

Section 2. Eligibility.

-(OUT)A. To be eligible to the office of President or both Vice Presidents, a member must have served a minimum of four years on the Board of Directors of GCA and must have attended two out of the last three annual conventions of GCA

(NEW) A. To be eligible to the office of President or 1st Vice Presidents, a member must have served a minimum of four years on the Board of Directors of GCA and must have attended two out of the last three annual conventions of GCA. To serve as 2nd Vice President, a member must have served a minimum of two years on the Board of Directors of GCA and must have attended one out of the last three annual conventions of GCA.

-(OUT)B. To be eligible to the office of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Finance, Parliamentarian, and Historian, a member must have served on the Board of Directors a minimum of two years and attended two out of the last three annual conventions of GCA

(NEW) B. To be eligible to the office of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Finance, Parliamentarian, and Historian, a member must have served on the Board of Directors a minimum of two years and attended one out of the last three annual conventions of GCA. Treasurer must have accounting knowledge and/or experience, with a working knowledge of GCA functions. An exception for Treasurer of above requirements for a highly qualified candidate with accounting experience requires approval of the full executive committee

Section 3. Nomination.

(OUT)A. The nominating committee consisting of two members and two alternates from each District shall be elected at the annual District Meeting in even years, preceding the election year convention. To be eligible to serve on this committee a member must have attended any combination of two out of the last five GCA conventions and/or Fall District Meetings of the District in which they reside. The alternate attends only when an elected member resigns. No member shall serve on the nominating committee for two consecutive terms. The First Vice President shall not be eligible to serve.

(NEW)A. The nominating committee consisting of two members and two alternates from each District shall be elected at the annual District Meeting in even years,

Committee Recommended Changes to GCA Bylaws
Delegates will vote on these at the Convention

Committee Members: Karen Merrill (Chairman), Tricia Mitchell,
Barbara Anderson, LaMar Merrill, and Dorma Green.

ARTICLE II-OBJECTIVE

-(OUT)* Coordinate the interests of the separate clubs in Alabama and to promote the organization of new clubs.

(NEW) *Coordinate the interests of the separate clubs in Alabama and to promote and aid the organization of new clubs.

-(OUT)* Aid in the organization of new clubs.(duplicate of above)

- (OUT) *Encourage the maintenance of a State Park system.

(NEW) *Encourage and support the maintenance of local parks.

-(OUT)* Further horticulture, education and landscape design.

(NEW)* Further horticulture, design, education and landscape design.

-(OUT)* Study in all of its aspects the fine art of gardening.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

- (OUT)4. An active member of a federated club is one who participates in club activities, holds office or serves on committees, and whose current dues are paid.

(NEW)4. An active member of a GCA Club or federated club is one who participates in club activities, holds office or serves on committees, and whose current dues are paid.

B. Life Members:

-(OUT) Any GCA member is eligible to Life Membership upon payment of the required contribution. To receive all benefits of membership, including receipt of Hortensia (out), the Life Member must pay the annual dues of GCA.

(NEW) Any GCA member is eligible to Life Membership upon payment of the required contribution. To receive all benefits of membership, the Life Member must pay the annual dues of GCA.

Section 1. Dues.

-(OUT)The annual dues of GCA shall be \$6.00 per capita, due May 1, delinquent July 15th. Annual subscription to Hortensia of \$2.00 is included in membership dues.

Thirty days' notice shall be given to any club whose dues are in arrears, and if dues are not paid by the end of the fiscal year, those clubs shall be dropped from membership in GCA. After a period of one year such may apply as a new club.

(NEW) The annual dues of GCA shall be \$6.00 per capita, due May 1, delinquent July 15th. Thirty days' notice shall be given to any club whose dues are in arrears.

-(OUT)A. In order for delegates to qualify for the annual convention, dues must be sent to the Treasurer by February 1.

(NEW)A. In order for delegates to qualify for the annual convention, their dues must be paid.

The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.
Annual Convention 2025

*Facing the
Future*



Together

April 13–15, 2025

Lake Guntersville State Park

1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville, AL 35976

**REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED
BY MARCH 14, 2025**

Please make checks payable to “GCA Convention” and mail
along with the Registration Form to:

**Charlotte Imhof, 12900 AL Hwy 273,
Gaylesville, AL 35973**

Phone: (205) 266-1071

**Hotel or condo reservations should be made by
visiting the website** (no special code)

[www.alapark.com/lake-guntersville-state-park-
reservations](http://www.alapark.com/lake-guntersville-state-park-reservations)

256-571-5440

Registration Information

NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 1, 2025. Registration fee is non-refundable.

No walk-ins. **Attendees must be registered to participate in any program, meal, tour, or workshop.** Hotel or condo reservations may be made by visiting the following website: www.alapark.com/lake-guntersville-state-park-reservations

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION ON FORM One registration per attendee

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"

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCA President | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former GCA President | <input type="checkbox"/> ACFSJ Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCA Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCA Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCA Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

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 WITH OPTIONAL TOURS

<input type="checkbox"/> A. PACKAGE PLAN \$210.00 per person Includes 3-Day Registration, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Luncheons, & 3 Banquets. Late registration fee is \$30.00.	TOTAL

<input type="checkbox"/> B. A LA CARTE PLAN Please select below which options you would like to purchase. Registration fee is required.		TOTAL
Registration Fee for Members	\$30.00	
Registration Fee for Non-Members	\$20.00	
Sunday GCA Board of Directors Dinner (All welcomed! Dress for "Fun at the Lake")	\$30.00	
Monday Breakfast	\$16.00	
Monday Scholarship Luncheon	\$30.00	
Monday Design Banquet	\$35.00	
Tuesday Breakfast	\$16.00	
Tuesday Awards Luncheon	\$28.00	
Tuesday Installation of Officers Banquet	\$45.00	
Late Registration Fee (if applicable)	\$30.00	
TOTAL FOR A LA CARTE PLAN +		\$ _____ _____ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> C. TOURS (Optional) Attendees will have three opportunities for Wildflower Walks during the Convention, and are encouraged to do all three. Advanced registration is REQUIRED for tours. Tours are limited to 30 people, except John's Garden. No exceptions, no late registrations accepted.	
	TOTAL
Wildflower Walk \$5.00	
Eagle Walk ("Sunset") \$5.00	
Johns Garden Tour \$5.00	
Shopping Tour in Historic Guntersville \$5.00	
TOTAL FOR TOURS +	\$ _____
FINAL TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Have your Garden Certified as a Pollinator Garden

Plant for Pollinators— National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore wants to encourage NGC members to make our gardens more than just beautiful.



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!

Please continue by choosing meal options.

Circle either selection A or selection B

If you have a medical dietary need please specify here _____

April 13, 2025 • Dinner "Fun at the Lake"	
<u>Main Course</u>	
<input type="radio"/> A. Fried Catfish	<input type="radio"/> B. BBQ Chicken
<u>Sides</u>	
<input type="radio"/> A. Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, and Cornbread	<input type="radio"/> B. Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, and Hush puppies
<u>Dessert</u>	
<input type="radio"/> A. Pecan Pie	<input type="radio"/> B. Banana Pudding

How to Clean Flower Frogs (Kenzan)

To clean a floral frog use a toothpick, wooden kabob stick, a small screwdriver, or a similar object to remove all residue. Wash with dish soap and then use a cleaning brush to scrub between the spikes. The brush needs some stiffness and can even be a wire brush if it is not too dense. Make sure to thoroughly rinse the frog when you are finished. There are cleaning tools available online at Amazon, Etsy, and other online sellers. These tools act like a pick to remove residue but they also have a needle straightening function.



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
 5612 Buckhead Dr
 Northport, AL 35473-2291

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

April 14 & 15, 2025 • Breakfasts	
Breakfast	
<input type="radio"/> A. Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit with Coffee, Juice, and Yogurt	<input type="radio"/> B. Sausage & Egg Biscuit with Coffee, Juice, and Yogurt

April 14, 2025 • Scholarship Luncheon	
Luncheon	
<input type="radio"/> A. Chicken Parmesan, House Garden Salad, Red Potatoes, and Apple Pie	

April 14, 2025 • Designer's Banquet Dinner	
Dinner	
<input type="radio"/> A. Roasted Pork Loin, Potatoes Au Gratin, Vegetable Medley, and House Salad	<input type="radio"/> B. Sliced Roast Beef, Potatoes Au Gratin, Vegetable Medley, and House Salad
Dessert	
<input type="radio"/> A. Chocolate Cake	<input type="radio"/> B. Bread Pudding

April 15, 2025 • Awards Luncheon	
Luncheon	
<input type="radio"/> A. Chicken Salad Sandwich, Fruit Salad, and Pecan Pie	<input type="radio"/> B. Executive Club Sandwich, Fruit Salad, and Pecan Pie

April 15, 2025 • Installation of Officers Dinner	
Dinner	
<input type="radio"/> A. Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, House Salad, Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce on the Side, and Key Lime Pie	<input type="radio"/> B. Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, House Salad, Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce on the Side, and Key Lime Pie

The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.

Facing the Future Together

April 13-15, 2025 at Lake Guntersville State Park

The Garden Club of Alabama 2025 Convention Committee is selling ad space in their 2025 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; as orders are due by March 7, 2025. Please mark which type you would like to purchase.

_____ Memorial- Please include person's name, club, city and district. You can 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 2025 Convention with 2025 Convention Ad on the memo line.

Submit the checks and text information by March 7, 2025 to

Charlotte Imhof
 12900 AL Hwy 273
 Gaylesville, AL 35973
 Phone: (205) 266-1071. E-mail: Registrar2025GCA2gmail.com

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

Jean Jackson
2025 Convention Chair

Charlotte Imhof
2025 Convention Registrar

Charms of the South
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
62nd Annual Convention

March 11-13, 2025

Valdosta, GA

Rainwater Conference Center



Hosted by The Garden Club of Georgia!

Register by 2/17/25 to avoid late fees.

To place an ad in the program book contact:

Kim Fair nevakim@yahoo.com 404-384-7851

Reach thousands of Southern Gardeners through your support of our convention. The program booklet is presented to all attendees, speakers, honorees, and officials. There's no easier and more economical way to support the thousands of gardeners who use your products, buy your plants, or read your magazines.

Serissa japonica (formerly foetida)

Serissa is a small shrub (24") which one seldom sees. It blooms all summer long with tiny little white flowers. It



grows in zones 8B-10.

It has several cultivars. The terminal buds can be pinched off easily to create a thicken form.

'Mt. Fuji'

Serissa is a candidate for bonsai as it can be pruned multiple times as the branching buds are very frequent.

