



HORTENSIA

Spring 2025

Garden Club of Alabama

gcahortensia@gmail.com

The cover design was done by Jean Jackson at the 2025 Alabama convention in honor of the Deep South director, Denise Thorne who lives in Tennessee. It is a reflective design using the state flower of Tennessee.

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We are no longer able to send the Hortensia in the magazine format as the price has

Garden Club of Alabama

Gardenclubofalabama.org

circulation@gardenclubofalabama.net

Deep South Garden Club

www.dsgardenclubs.com

Hortensia

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"Joey" Skaff, Editor

National Garden Club of America

gardenclub.org

Dear Garden Club of Alabama Members,

As I sit here in my office on this rainy day, I wanted to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the last two years. It has been so much fun, and I have met so many great people across the state. I hope I can call all of you, my friends, after this. There are some very talented gardeners and floral arrangers across this state. I am currently getting ready to represent you one more time at the National Garden Club Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. This spring has been a whirlwind with Deep South Convention in Valdosta, Georgia and The Garden Club of Alabama Convention in Guntersville, both conventions were informative and fun. If you missed our GCA Convention at the beautiful Lake Guntersville Lodge you missed a good one. From the scenery to the interesting speakers, it was one of the best. Thank you to the Convention chairs, Jean Jackson and Marsha Merrell, for all the hard work.

I hope you will support our new administration like you have supported me these last two years. I know Brent Wheeler; our incoming President has a lot of great ideas. We will continue to improve our communications with our members.

I hope each of you have also planted at least one oak tree in the last few years. I know the birds and insects in your yard will thank you for it.

Please continue to support your garden clubs and other members as we go to the next administration. I am not leaving just changing jobs.

Kathy Sudduth

COME and LEARN

Alabama Council of Flower Show Judges Symposium

August 6-7 , 2025 Birmingham Botanical Gardens



The Alabama Council of Flower Show Judges Symposium
invites you to come and learn how flower shows work, the fundamentals of floral design, how horticulture is presented and scored. This year's symposium will cover creative floral design, botanical arts, and the horticulture of the Asteraceae family and roses.

Design Instructor Gina Venettozzi Jogan is an accomplished presenter, facilitator, workshop instructor, and designer and event planner. Her award winning designs have been published in articles, magazines, calendars, and on-line. Gina is a Lifetime Member of the National Garden Club (NGC), an NGC Master Flower Show Judge and instructor and has held numerous positions in NGC. She is very active in NGC-Florida Garden Clubs and Florida Federated Garden Clubs. Gina was the Chairman of the National Garden Clubs' annual Convention in May 2022 in Orlando Florida.



Horticultural Instructor Pam Braun has been a garden club member for almost 50 years. She is a member of TN District II and a board member for the TN Federation of Garden Clubs and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. She is a NGC accredited master flower show judge, an NGC horticulture, flower show procedure, and symposium instructor, and member of numerous plant societies. She specializes in exhibiting collections and displays of numerous different plant groups and has won many top exhibitor awards for her horticulture. Besides horticulture, she enjoys floral design and has been a speaker, leader of workshops, or exhibitor at all levels from district to internationally. She has enjoyed growing plants all her life and the plant material she uses often comes from her own garden or indoor plants.

Registrar: DeLaine Spencer, delspen@aol.com

“What’s Your Type?”, a publication of Florida Flower Show Judges, is a floral Designer’s notebook and manual.

Each new edition covers 8-10 design types from the Handbook for Flower Shows.

For each design type there is a discussion of how to create the design including pitfalls to avoid, 3 gorgeous photographs of examples, a discussion of one of the examples of “how she did it” including how the principles of design are utilized, and then finally a discussion of horticulture. The book is in loose leaf format organized into 5 divisions.

What’s Your Type?”

Florida Flower Show Judges, Inc.

Name:

Email address:

Mailing address:

Cell phone #:

Edition #1 -2022 @ \$20 X _____ = _____

Edition #2 -2023 @ \$20. X _____ = _____

Edition #3 -2024 @ \$20. X _____ = _____

Edition #4 -2025 @ \$20. X. _____ = _____

Binder @ \$15. X _____ = _____

Total. # _____ \$ _____



We use USPS for shipping. Shipping cost for a single edition is \$5. We ship the binders in a flat rate medium priority box for \$20. The priority method includes \$100 of insurance plus tracking. The medium priority box, accommodating up to 4 binders with 4 inserts each, is very economical for multiple shipments of inserts as well as binders. Contact us for custom shipping pricing of multiple items: annecollins@cox.net. Checks are made payable to FFSJ (Florida Flower Show Judges) and mailed along with shipping address to Anne Collins, 8 Chickamauga Lane, Destin, Florida 32541. (703) 395-7710.

Please help us with the new Directory

Our next issue will be the printed bi-annual directory issue. The circulation team and Hortensia team need your help. We ask District Directors and Committee Chairs, and Officers to please send us any information you have that should be included: dates, heads of committees, club officers, changes from the last edition, etc. We may also ask for you to review the information before it is published.



In Loving Memory *Carlene Nickel Elrod*

August 5, 1932 – February 28, 2025

A dedicated leader and member of
the Blossomwood Garden Club
for decades.

Four time president of our garden club
and a leader in District 1, GCA,
a Master Landscape Design
Consultant, Master Flower Show Judge
and Flower Show School Chair,
GCA Member of Honor 2012

A great friend and mentor, Carlene brought out the best in everyone. We valued her advice, humor, expertise and energy. She was down to earth, generous, talented and loving. We miss her beautiful spirit and her smile.

Blossomwood Garden Club, District 1

Ways to Learn More

The National Garden Club has lots of information on their website. Look under the subtitle “Learn” or “Resources.”

Course 3 of the **NGC Gardening School** is being offered by New Smyrna Beach Garden Club via **Zoom on September 29, 30, October 1 2025** mornings only. The contact is Sally Flanagan. sfflan@aol.co

Want to know more about **flower shows**: <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-flower-shows>

The official publication of National Garden Clubs, **The National Gardener**, appears quarterly. There are articles of interest to environmentalists, gardeners, landscapers, floral designers, educators, and even nature photographers. Featured columns provide our readers with leadership advice, seasonal recipes, and garden club lore. The **National Gardener**, comes out four times a year. Subscribe now or view via the website: <https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener-archives>

The National Garden Club has some **wonderful, educational videos**. Some you can find directly on YouTube but for others one has to hit the link of the NGC website as they are priority. <https://gardenclub.org/video-cafe>

Landscape Design School via Zoom *(these are great courses—you will never look at landscapes the same way)* Connecticut **September 18 - 19, 2025** Derby. Course 4. (Zoom) Contact Person: Virginia Cassanova ginny.cassanova@ctgardenclubs.org

To view issues of the Landscape Design newsletter, **Newscape**:

<https://gardenclub.org/newscap>

Go to the **Garden Club of Alabama website** for upcoming events, forms, information about awards, bylaws, etc:

<https://gardenclubofalabama.org/>



This website sends out a weekly newsletter with articles which highlight various plants. You can also search plants on their website:

<https://garden.org/>

An email link has been coming to the Hortensia email and it has lots of information. Sign-up for the newsletter: https://garden.org/special/offers/newsletter_signup.php

At the 2025 Convention

The new Board of the Garden Club of Alabama was elected at the recent convention in Guntersville. In addition, new bylaws were approved. These bylaws are contained in this Hortensia and they will also be in the Fall printed edition.

President: Brent Wheeler brent50@gmail.com 256-657-6933

First Vice President: Karen Merrill merrill1945@gmail.com 334-218-9817

Second Vice President: Gwen Kelly gwenretired07@gmail.com 205-902-9350

Treasurer: Barbara Anthony barbara3190@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Dorma Green dormagreen@gmail.com 659-213-9126

Finance Chair: Kathy Sudduth kathymsudduth@gmail.com 251-978-0661

Corresponding Secretary: Gerrie Holbrook gerrie_holbrook@yahoo.com

256-779-6202

Historian: LaMar Merrill merrill1945@gmail.com 859-913-9170

Parliamentarian: Tricia Mitchell trcamitchell@aol.com 256-303-5362





Guest Designer, Benny Campbell



Fayette Garden Club



*LaMar's Brother and himself
as fishermen!*



Congratulations Ann!
Ann Houston received a Five Star certificate for completing all four courses of the National Garden Club thus becoming a master in each: Flower Show, Landscape Design, Environment, and Gardening Studies.

National Awards



CLUB OF DISTINCTION for calendar year 2025

Clubs with a total of 100 points received a Club of Distinction Certificate. Clubs with a total of 150 points or more received a Club of Distinction Certificate with a Gold Seal (indicated by *.) The club with the highest point total is indicated by **bold** text.

District I

*Blossomwood	213
*Cultura	344
*Florence	151
*Radiance	152
*Willowbrook	908

District II

Amaryllis	103
Cherokee Rose	236
*Southern Charm	164
*Colony	264
Greenlawn	119
*Rainsville	382
*Rhododendron	176
Rose	125

District III

*Blue Star	311
*Camellia (Birmingham)	150
*Garden Dale	471

District IV

*Fayette	391
Goldenrod	126
*Greensboro	234
*Tuscaloosa/Northport	307

District V

*Town and Country (Sylacauga)	174
Tulip (Opelika)	207
Wedowee	172

District VI

*Down to Earth	105
Georgiana	105
*Scattered Seeds	184
*Southern Charm	164
*Yaupon	446

District VII

Camellia (Clayton)	127
*Flower Lovers	582
*Garden Club By The Lake	190
*Tulip Phenix City)	218

District VIII

*Fairhope	236
*Gulf Shores	1201
*Magnolia Springs	259
*Orange Beach	215
*Spanish Fort	217

Upcoming Dates

July 29 zoom Board meeting 9-10:30

Oct. 14-17 District meeting for I,II, III, IV

Oct 20-23 District meetings for V, VI,VII, VIII (23rd)

Alabama Smoky Bear Poster Contest Winners 2025

First Grade

1 st - Olivia Harris, Chunnenugge Garden Club, Union Springs, Conech Springs Christian School, Union Springs, AL

2 nd - Scarlett Robinson, Fairhope Garden Club, Fairhope Rotary Youth Club School Program, Fairhope, AL

Second Grade

1 st - Christian Ranson, Garden Club by the Lake, Abbeville, Webb Elementary School, Webb, AL

2 nd - Kelly Hernandez Gomez, Chunnenugge Garden Club, Conech Springs Christian School, Union Springs, AL

3 rd - Kora Kellebrew, Fairhope Garden Club, Fairhope Rotary Youth Club School Program, Fairhope, AL



Third Grade

1 st - Poppy Hammond, Colony Garden Club, Guntersville, Cherokee Elementary School, Guntersville, AL

2 nd - Abigail Bowen, Luverne Garden Club, Luverne,

3 rd - T. Blaise Hassell, Tuscaloosa/Northport Garden Club, Tuscaloosa, Flatwoods Elementary School, Northport, AL

Fourth Grade

1 st - Reed Baker, Colony Garden Club, Guntersville, Cherokee Elementary School, Guntersville, AL

2 nd - Jalacia Jackson, Chunnenugge Garden Club, Union Springs, Conech Springs Christian School, Union Springs, AL

3 rd - Journee Johnson, Fairhope Garden Club, Fairhope Rotary Youth Club School Program, Fairhope, AL

Fifth Grade

1 st - Camp Cahill, Colony Garden Club, Guntersville, Cherokee Elementary School, Guntersville, AL

2 nd - Millie Laine White, Orange Beach Garden Club, Orange Beach Elementary School, Orange Beach, AL

DEEP SOUTH AWARDS

Smokey Bear Poster

2nd Place Christian Ranson, 2nd Gr , Club by the Lake

Smokey Bear Poster

3rd Place Olivia Harris, 1st Gr, Chunnenugge GC

Smokey Bear Poster

3rd Place Red Baker, 4th Grade, Colony Garden Club

Deep South Awards issued Mar 12, 2025

Award #4 Membership		Garden Club of Alabama
Award #2 Historic Preservation	2 nd Place	Greensboro GC
Award #2 Historic Preservation	3 rd Place	Garden Dale GC
Award #3 Public Relations	HM	Orange Beach GC
Award #5 Litter Control	1 st Place	Fayette GC
Award #5 Litter Control	2 nd Place	Tuscaloosa/Northport
Award #5 Litter Control	Overall Winner	Fayette GC
Award #6 Birds	2 nd Place	Greensboro GC
Award #6 Birds	3 rd Place	Fayette GC
Award #9 Horticulture	1 st Place	Greensboro GC
Award #10 Landscape Design	1 st Place	Magnolia Springs GC
Award #14 Butterfly Ed	HM	Fayette GC
Award #17 Community Action	2 nd Place	Tuscaloosa/Northport
Award #21 Conservation	2 nd Place	Magnolia GC
Award #31A Yearbook	1 st Place	Amaryllis GC
Award 31 Yearbook	2 nd Place	Gulf Shore GC

Garden Club of Alabama Awards

Award	Subject	Club size	Prize	District and Club
1Ai	Birds Small Club	8	1st	IV Greensboro
1Ai	Birds small club	24	2nd	IV Tuscaloosa/Npt
1Ai	Birds small club	23	3rd	V Wedowee
1Ai	Birds Small Club	16	HM	III Blue Star
1Ai	Birds SmallClub	27	HM	III Magnolia Warrior
1Aii	Birds Medium Club	25	2nd	III Edgewood
1Aii	Birds Medium Club	52	1st	IV Fayette
2i	Butterfly Small Club	24	1st	IV Tuscaloosa/Npt
2ii	Butterfly Med club	52	1st	IV Fayette
2ii	Butterfly Med club	36	2nd	VIII Fairhope
2ii	Butterfly Med club	40	3rd	III Garden Dale
3Ai	Pollinators Small club	24	1st	IV Tuscaloosa
3Ai	Pollinators small club	22	2nd	III Magnolia Warrior
3Aii	Pollinators Med Club	32	1st	II Cherokee Rose
4i	Conservation			
5i	Native Plants Small Club	7	1st	IV Goldenrod
5ii	Native Plants Med Club	40	1st	III Garden Dale
6	Conservation Edu			
7Ai	Recycling Small Club	25	1st	IV Tuscaloosa
7Aii	Recycling Med Club	45	1st	III Edgewood
7Aii	Recycling medium Club		2nd	Willowbrook
8ii	Litter Control Med club	52	1st	IV Fayette
9	Water			
10	Organic Garden			

11Ai	Community Beautification small club	9	1st	II	Amaryllis
11Ai	Community Beautification small club	25	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
11Aii	Community Beautification med club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Springs
11Aii	Community Beautification med club	52	2nd	IV	Fayette
11Bi	Community Beautification small club	14	1st	III	Blue Star
11Bi	Community Beautification small club	23	2nd	VII	Sampson
11Bi	Community Beautification small club	7	3rd	iv	Goldenrod
11Bi	Community Beautification small club	25	HM	III	Greenlawn
11Bii	Community Beautification small club	23	HM	V	Wedowee
11Bii	Community Beautification med club	35	1st	I	Willowbrook
14Aii	Yard of the Month Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
14Aii	Yard of the Month Med Club	35	2nd	I	Willowbrook
14Aii	Yard of the Month Med Club	58	3rd	VII	Orange Beach
15Ai	Community Service Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
15Ai	Community Service Small Club	23	2nd	VII	Sampson
15Ai	Community Service Small Club	8	3rd	IV	Greensboro
15Di	Community Service Continuing SC	14	1st	III	Blue Star
16Ai	Community Action Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
17ii	Adopt a Park Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
18Ai	Civic Achievement Small Club	23	1st	VII	Sampson
18ai	Civic Achievement Small Club	8	2nd	IV	Greensboro
18aii	Civic Achievement Med club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Springs
18Aii	Civic Achievement Med club	40	2nd	III	Garden Dale
19	Garden Center	24	1st	IV	Teresa Johnson
20Ci	Food Bank Donation Small Club	26	1st	II	Ransville
20Ci	Food Bank Donation small club	24	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
20Cii	Food Bank Donation Med Club	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
21	Blue Star				
22i	Special Achievement Small Club	8	1st	IV	Greensboro
22i	Special Achievement Small Club	7	2nd	IV	Goldenrod
22	Special Achievement Small Club	22	HM	II	Colony
23Ai	Container Garden Small Club Indv	23	1st	V	Wedowee
23Ai	Container Garden Small Club Indv	25	2nd	II	Greenlawn
23Ai	Container Garden Small Club Indv	7	3rd	IV	Goldenrod
23Aii	Container Garden Small Club Indv	52	1st	IV	Fayette
23Bii	Container Garden Med Club Multi	52	1st	IV	Fayette
23Cii	Container Garden Med Single	52	1st	IV	Fayette
23Div	Container Garden xlg Club Multi	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
23Dii	Container Garden med Club Multi	52	1st	IV	Fayette
24A	Edible Gardening Small club	8	1st	IV	Greensboro
24A	Edible Gardening Small club	25	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa
24A	Edible Gardening Small club	23	3rd	V	Wedowee
24A	Edible Gardening Small club	7	HM	IV	Goldenrod
24Di	Edible Gardening Small Ornamental	14	1st	III	Blue Star
25Ai	Therapy Gardens Small Club		1st	I	Lakeside
25ii	Therapy Gardens Medium Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
25ii	Therapy Gardens Medium Club	45	2nd	III	Edgewood

25ii	Therapy Gardens Medium Club	36	3rd	VIII	Fairhope
26i	Horticulture Small Club	8	1st	IV	Greensboro
26i	Horticulture Small Club	7	2nd	IV	Goldenrod
27Aii	Community Landscape Med Club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Warrior
27Aii	Community Landscape Med Club	40	2nd	III	Garden Dale
28i	Landscape Design Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa
28i	Landscape Design Small Club	24	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa
29	Landscape Historic Church				
30	Habitat for Humanity				
31i	Landscape for Historic Presv Small club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa
32	Civic Blue Star Memorial Marker				
33	Blue Star/Byway Marker				
34	Blue Star Family Memorial				
35Ai	Historic Preservation small club	23	1st	VII	Sampson
35Ai	Historic Preservation MED club	58	1st	VIII	Orange Beach
36i	Historic Pres Restoration small club	8	1st	IV	Greensboro
37iv	Decoration of Historic Bldg	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
37B	Civic Proj Native Plant				
38i	Roadside Planting small club	23	1st	II	Amaryllis
39Aii	Civic Native Plants Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
40Bi	Outdoor Classroom Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
41i	Wildflower Small Club	22	1st	III	Magnolia
42iv	Floral Design Xlarge Club	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
43Ai	Membership Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
43Aii	Membership Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
43Aii	Membership Med Club	32	2nd	II	Cherokee Rose
43Aii	Membershhi Med Club-Press Book	32	1st	II	Cherokee Rose
43Bii	Membership Med Club-Press Book	57	1st	II	Fed of Garden C
44i	National Garden Week Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
44ii	National Garden Week Med Club	32	1st	II	Cherokee Rose
45Aii	Social Media Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
45Bii	Social Media Med Club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Springs
45Biv	Social Media Xlarge club	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
46Ai	Video/Flash Drive Med Club	58	1st	VIII	Orange Beach
47iv	Radio/TV	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
48Ai	Public Relations Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
48ii	Public Relations Med Club	58	1st	VIII	Orange Beach
48ii	Public Relations Med Club	52	2nd	IV	Fayette
48ii	Public Relations Med Club	32	3rd	II	Cherokee Rose
49Aii	Publications 1 med club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Springs
49-Aii	Publications 1 med club	33	2nd	VI	Montgomery Fed
50i	Publications 2 small club	23	1st	VII	Sampson
50ii	Publications 2 Med Club	33	1st	VI	Montgomery Fed
50ii	Publications 2 Med Club	54	2nd	VIII	Magnolia Springs
51	Club Program Papers	31	HM	VII	Flower Lovers
52Aiv	Youth Garden Club Xlarge Club	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
55	Jr Garden Club		1st	III	Magnolia Warrior
55	Jr Garden Club		2nd	I	Lakeside

63Ai	Youth Horticulture Education	23	1st	VII	Samson
63Ai	Youth Horticulture Education	25	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
64Ai	Environmental Education Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
64Ai	Environmental Education Small Club	23	2nd	VII	Samson
64Aii	Environmental Education Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
64ii	Environmental Education Med Club	58	2nd	VIII	Orange Beach
64ii	Enviornmental Education Med Club		3rd	VII	Flower Lovers
65aii	Pub Ed for Wildlife Med Club	36	1st	VIII	Fairhope
65ai	Youth Leadership Small Club	24	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
69Ai	Arbor Day Small Club	26	1st	II	Rainsville
69Ai	Arbor Day Small Club	24	2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
69Aii	Arbor Day Med Club	54	1st	VIII	Magnolia Springs
69Aii	Arbor Day Med Club	30	2nd	VII	Flower Lovers
69Aiv	Arbor Day Xlarge Club	106	1st	VIII	Gulf Shores
70Ai	Tree Planting Small Club	25	1st	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
70Ai	Tree Planting Small Club	25	2nd	III	Magnolia
71	Yearbook	33	1st	V	Montgomery Fed
71	Yearbook	28	1st	III	Magnolia
71	Yearbook	9	1st	II	Amaryllis
71	Yearbook	106	1st	v	Gulf Shores
71	Yearbook	45	1st	III	Edgewood
71	Yearbook	15	3rd	VI	Scattered Seeds
71	Yearbook	17	2nd	I	Florence
71	Yearbook	25	2nd	I	Blossomwood
71	Yearbook	23	3rd	VII	Samson
71	Yearbook	24	HM	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
71	Yearbook	24	HM	V	Wedowee
71	Yearbook	23	HM	II	Colony
71	Yearbook	54	2nd	VIII	Magnolia Springs
71	Yearbook	52	3rd	IV	Fayette
72i	Christmas Lights Small Club	9	1st	II	Amaryllis
72i	Christmas Lights Small Club	27	2nd	II	Rainsville
72i	Christmas Lights Small Club	24	HM	II	Colony
72ii	Christmas Lights Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
73i	Holiday House Small Club	24	1st	II	Colony
73i	Holiday House Small Club	7	2nd	VII	Camellia
73ii	Holiday House Med Club	35	1st	VIII	Orange Beach
73B`	Holiday House Group of Clubs	32	1st	IV	Greensboro/Ceres/Tuscaloosa/Goldenrod
74i	Every Light a Prayer Small Club	7	1st	VII	Camellia
74Aii	Every Light a Prayer Med Club	52	1st	IV	Fayette
FS-13	Near Club Standard Flower Show		1ST	VI	Southern Charm & Yaupon
FS-15	Horticultue Specialty Show		1st	VI	Southern Charm & Yaupon
80	Member of Honor		1st	IV	Greensboro
80	Member of Honor		2nd	IV	Tuscaloosa/Npt
80	Member of Honor (Mentor of Year)		3rd	iv	Tuscaloosa/Npt

Love to Travel, THE American Horticultural Society

has fantastic tours.

Curated for Garden Lovers, Culture Seekers, and Nature Enthusiasts

Designed for inquisitive travelers who love to explore cultural and horticultural wonders around the world and the US, AHS Travel offers exceptional small-group travel programs that feature outstanding experiences and insights. These trips usually give access to private gardens around the world. <https://ahsgardening.org/2026-trips/>



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!

THE GARDEN CLUB OF ALABAMA, INC. BYLAWS

Approved by Vote at GCA Convention 4-16-2025

ARTICLE I-ORGANIZATION NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., hereinafter referred to as GCA.

ARTICLE II-OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be to: coordinate the interests of the separate clubs in Alabama and to promote and aid the organization of new clubs, aid in the protection and conservation of natural and human resources, encourage civic beauty, stimulate roadside development and discourage unsightly objects and litter along the highways, encourage and support the maintenance of local parks, further horticulture, design, education, environmental education, and landscape design, and study in all of its aspects the fine art of gardening.

ARTICLE III-INCORPORATION

Section 1. Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, philanthropic, scientific and educational purposes, including for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall be to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or otherwise private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay any reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in Section 3 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be to carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of the articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:

- a. by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or
- b. by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170©(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 3. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner to the National Garden Clubs, Inc., hereinafter referred to as NGC: organized and operated exclusively for charitable, philanthropic, scientific and educational purposes, and which qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of Jefferson, County, Alabama, Equity Division, or the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal of the corporation is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

The membership of GCA shall consist of two (2) classes: voting membership and non-voting membership.

Section 1. Voting Membership shall consist of active paid members affiliated with GCA.

A. Eligibility:

1. Membership in GCA shall require that a club be completely organized and doing garden club work consistent with GCA and NGC objectives.

2. Clubs desiring membership in GCA shall submit the following to the Membership Chairman for acceptance:

- a.** An application form signed by the club president, the president of GCA-federated organizing club, District Director and GCA Membership Chairman.
- b.** A list of officers and members with proper mailing addresses.
- c.** A remittance for dues.

3. The Membership Chairman shall distribute copies of the completed application to the GCA President, GCA Treasurer, and Hortensia Circulation Chairman. The dues shall be forwarded to the GCA Treasurer.

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.

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:

Any GCA member is eligible to Life Membership.

To receive all benefits of membership, the Life Member must pay the annual dues of GCA.

Section 2. Non-Voting Membership

Non-voting membership shall consist of two (2) classes: Honorary GCA Life Members who are not members of a GCA affiliated garden club, and all categories of Youth Gardeners. Non-voting members may attend all GCA Conventions, but shall not be eligible to debate, make motions, vote, or hold office.

A. Honorary GCA Life Members: An Honorary Life Membership may be accorded to an individual who is not a member of a GCA affiliated garden club. Anyone who has rendered distinctive or long and faithful service may become an Honorary Life Member upon majority vote of the Board of Directors.

B. Youth Gardeners: Junior, Intermediate, and High School Garden groups become affiliate members upon yearly registration with the appropriate GCA chairman.

ARTICLE V-DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS, FINANCE

Section 1. Dues.

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.

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

B. Delegates from new clubs may qualify if dues are paid 15 days prior to the annual convention.

C. Newly organized garden clubs requesting membership in GCA after February 1 shall be admitted into full membership with all privileges of the annual convention upon payment of dues, said dues to be credited to the current year.

D. GCA shall pay annual dues to NGC of \$10.00 to cover all Junior, Intermediate, and High School Gardeners within the state.

Section 2. Contributions.

The one-time contribution of a Life Membership fee shall be \$50.00. All contributions shall be deposited to the Scholarship Fund.

Section 3. Finance.

A. The fiscal year shall be from May 1 to April 30

B. All finances go through the treasurer. In the event of an emergency the President is a co-signer on the checking account.

C. Transfer of GCA funds to any project, institution, etc., shall be made after approval by the GCA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI-OFFICERS, ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATION, ELECTION

Section 1. Officers.

A. Officers of GCA shall be: President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Chairman of Finance; and District Directors. Appointed officers by GCA President 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.

B. In the event of the vacancy of First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall move up and assume the duties and responsibilities of the First Vice President. Other vacancies in officers shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Eligibility.

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 GCA conventions.

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. The 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.

C. No member shall be eligible to hold more than one office or serve in the same office for more than one two-year consecutive term; except, the Treasurer and Parliamentarian.

Section 3. Nomination.

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 GCA First Vice President shall not be eligible to serve.

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 of, a minimum of four years on the Board of Directors and attended two of the last three annual conventions of GCA. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee serves one term.

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.

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

Section 4. Election

A. The GCA 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 and approved through the GCA President prior to the election process.

B. The election of officers shall be held every two years at the annual convention meeting in the odd calendar years. Officers shall assume office at the close of the annual GCA convention, except the treasurer, who shall assume office at the end of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII-MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular convention of GCA shall be held annually.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or upon written request of five Executive Committee members sent to each member of the committee.

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 Executive Committee members.

Section 4. The District Meetings shall be held annually in the Fall. Dates for these meetings will be determined by the GCA President in conference with District Directors. Districts may also hold an additional semi-annual meeting.

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.

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.

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.

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

Section 2. Representation.

A. The voting members of the Annual Convention of GCA shall be the Board of Directors and delegates from clubs.

B. Each club shall be entitled to one delegate for twenty-five or less members and one additional delegate for each fifteen members thereafter, not to exceed six delegates.

1. A delegate may represent only one club. No proxy may be given.

2. The names of duly elected delegates and alternates shall be sent to the registration chairman of the annual convention meeting ten days before the date of the meeting. Any change in representation after this time must be signed by the club president or her representative and presented to the credentials committee.

C. Members of clubs may attend the annual convention meeting with the privileges of the meeting except to vote, debate or make motions

ARTICLE IX-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

In all cases where the term 'she' or 'her' is used, it may be inferred that the corresponding 'he' or 'his' may also be used.

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 offices 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.

Section 2. The First Vice President shall assist the President in every way possible. In the absence of the President she shall perform all duties of the President, and upon the President's resignation or removal from office shall become the President and serve until the next regular election. She shall be a member of the Annual Convention and the Mary Hall Ware Distinguished Service Award Committee.

Section 3. The Second Vice President shall assist the President and shall serve as liaison between District Directors and the GCA organization. In the absence of the President and First Vice President she shall perform the duties of the President, and upon resignation or removal from office of the President and First Vice President she shall become President and serve until the next regular election. She shall be a member of the Annual Convention Committee and the Finance Committee.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep in permanent form minutes of the Annual Convention, and Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. After minutes are approved by the committee appointed by the President, the Secretary shall:

- A.** Within 30 days send a copy of all minutes to the President and a copy of minutes of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings to the Executive Committee, Advisory Council and Chairman of Policy and Procedures.
- B.** At the meeting of the Board of Directors, provide copies of the minutes of meeting to members of the Board.
- C.** Preserve all records and pass on to successor.

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of GCA, and preserve data. She must work closely with the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds for GCA, notify clubs in arrears, and endeavor to keep club dues current. The Treasurer shall be bonded for \$50,000.00 in a company approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall report at the Board of Directors meetings, prepare an annual report before the Annual Convention meeting, and serve as a member of the Finance committee.

Section 7.

A. The Chairman of Finance shall see that an audit of the Treasurer's books at the end of the year is made by the Chairman of Finance and two GCA members appointed by the President. The final report shall be kept in the Treasurer's file, Chairman of Finance's file and shall be printed in the Winter issue of Hortensia.

B. The Chairman of Finance shall serve as Chairman of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee 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.

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 Online format.

Section 9. The Parliamentarian shall, upon request, give opinions on Parliamentary procedure and interpretation of the Bylaws of GCA and of member clubs and may attend Convention Committee planning session when requested by the President

Section 10. All officers shall file three (3) typed copies of their reports with the Recording Secretary at all Board meetings and District Meetings. She shall distribute one copy of each report to the President and Hortensia editor (preferably in electronic format).

ARTICLE X-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the GCA Officers, including District Directors.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for GCA in an emergency.

Section 3. This committee shall approve appointments to fill vacancies occurring.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may transact business of an urgent nature by electronic device or postal mail with the prior approval of the President.

ARTICLE XI-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of Officers including District Directors, Committee Chairmen, such sub-chairmen as the President deems necessary, Advisors of Committees and Advisory Council. Members of the Board of Directors shall keep records pertinent to individual office or committee and transfer all information to successors at the close of the convention in the election year. The President and Recording Secretary shall serve as Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision over the affairs of GCA, but shall refer all proposed measures, projects, policies, etc. to the Annual Convention.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall transact business of GCA between Annual Conventions.

Section 4. Anyone who has rendered distinctive and long service may become an Honorary Life Board Member upon majority vote of the Board of Directors. They may attend the Board meetings, but shall be ineligible to debate, make motions, vote, or hold office.

ARTICLE XII-ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Advisory Council shall consist of the Past Presidents of GCA. The Council shall consider questions affecting GCA and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The immediate Past President shall serve as Chairman of the Council. If the Chairman is absent, a Chairman pro-tem shall be elected from those present at the meeting.

Section 3. Three members shall constitute a quorum for Council meetings.

Section 4. The Advisory Council shall meet prior to the Executive Committee meeting at Convention.

ARTICLE XIII-COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

Section 1. The incoming President shall appoint the Chairman of all committees as deemed necessary for the operation of GCA. All appointments shall be for a two-year term unless otherwise noted.

Section 2. All committee meetings minutes will be sent to the GCA President within two weeks after each meeting for improved communication.

Section 3. Each project shall be administered by a committee composed of a Chairman to be appointed by the President; members of the committee shall be appointed by the Chairman in conference with the President; each District to be represented by one member. Members at large and advisors as deemed necessary to be appointed in the same manner.

Section 4. Objectives of committees shall be as indicated by title, and in some cases by information from corresponding committees of Deep South and NGC. Objectives shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 5. Reports requiring sharing with 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.

Section 6. The President may determine the necessary committees and others for the operation of GCA.

ARTICLE-XIV-SPECIAL PROJECTS-GARDENS

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.

Section 2. All receipts and disbursements shall be administered by the GCA Treasurer.

Section 3. Each project shall be administered by a committee composed of a Chairman to be appointed by the President; members of the committee shall be appointed by the Chairman in conference with the President.

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

Section 5. A copy of committee minutes shall be filed with the President and Secretary within two weeks after each meeting.

Section 6. The founder or originator of special projects shall serve as Honorary Life Chairman and Advisor of said project.

ARTICLE XV-QUORUM

Section 1. A majority of the registered delegates present, and voting shall constitute a quorum for the Annual Convention.

Section 2. Thirty (30) members shall constitute a quorum for the Board of Directors meeting.

Section 3. A majority shall constitute a quorum for the Executive Committee meetings.

Section 4. Three members shall constitute a quorum for the Advisory Council.

ARTICLE XVI-DISTRICTS

Section 1. To promote cooperation and mutual helpfulness in garden clubs, for the furtherance of garden club interests, for the promotion of organization, for closer relationship between members, and State, federated clubs shall be divided as follows: District I, District II, District III, District IV, District V, District VI, District VII, and District VIII.

Comprising GCA Federated clubs in counties as follows:

District I—Colbert, Cullman, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Morgan, and Winston.

District II—Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Marshall, and St. Clair.

District III—Jefferson.

District IV—Bibb, Fayette, Green, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Walker.

District V—Chambers, Clay, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Randolph, Shelby, Talladega, and Tallapoosa.

District VI—Autauga, Butler, Chilton, Crenshaw, Dallas, Lowndes, Montgomery, and Wilcox.

District VII—Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Macon, Pike, and Russell.

District VIII—Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

Section 2. The officers of the District shall be Director, Vice Chairmen as needed, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be elected by the District at its annual meeting. These officers shall serve two years, election to take place at the annual District meeting preceding the election of GCA officers at the Annual meetings. District officers to take office immediately following convention of the odd calendar year.

Section 3. The Director of the District shall preside at all District meetings; promote the organization and federation of new clubs; appoint such committees as needed, include those corresponding to GCA committees; promote the work and goals of GCA; fill vacancies in office, other than that of Director; and, make a report at the Annual Convention, filing three (3) copies with the GCA Secretary and keeping one copy for the District file.

Section 4. The Vice Chairman of the District shall perform such duties as designated by the Director and in the absence of the Director shall perform such duties of the Director and upon resignation or removal from office of the Director shall become the Director and serve until the end of the unexpired term.

Section 5. The other officers shall perform the duties that pertain to the respective offices comparable to those of the GCA officers.

Section 6. The District may adopt bylaws, but they shall in no way conflict with the bylaws of GCA.

Section 7. Members of clubs which are not GCA-federated may be invited as guests to District meetings, but may not debate, make motions, vote, hold office, or serve on standing committees.

Section 8. The finances of the Districts shall be agreed upon at the District meetings, after suggestions by the Treasurer and District Director.

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.

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

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.

ARTICLE XVIII – ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Section 1. All GCA Committee are authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media so long as all the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

ARTICLE XIX – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for GCA.

ARTICLE XX – AMENDMENTS

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

1. The BY-LAWS and STANDING RULES of GCA shall in no way conflict with the BY-LAWS and STANDING RULES of NGC or with the BYLAWS and POLICIES of the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

2. GCA shall be non-partisan in political action, taking no part in political campaigns or on behalf of any political party, or on behalf of any political candidate for office.

3. GCA shall at no time give permission for the membership listing of GCA to be used by any political party, candidate, organization or individual.

4. The stationery with the GCA seal or name shall not be used to endorse any commercial establishment, product, other than those related to GCA, or any political candidate or party.

5. The GCA President shall receive all hospitality and registration fee for GCA Convention after arrival at

6. GCA may send memorial for GCA officers, including District Directors, when there is a death in the immediate family. Other cases may be left to the discretion of the President.
7. Editor of Hortensia shall be empowered to edit all reports before they are printed but may not change the meaning of any report. Editor shall print GCA's Collect in the Yearbook issues of Hortensia.
8. Bylaws and standing rules are to be included in the odd numbered years' yearbook issues of Hortensia. If a manual, handbook, or such is published, both shall be included therein.
9. Names dropped by resignation, death, moving, etc. from membership in clubs shall be sent by the club to the Hortensia Circulation Chairman so that the Hortensia mailing may be corrected immediately.
10. It is recommended that each GCA Officer and Chairman keep a notebook containing information relative to the duties of that office/chairmanship. This notebook is to be passed on to their successor.
11. The slogan, "In a State Where Gardens Grow, God Walks", shall be printed on the letterhead of the official stationery of GCA.
12. The Mary Hall Ware Life Membership for Distinguished Service shall be awarded annually by a committee composed of the President, and First Vice President. And Life Membership Chairman and issued by the Life Membership Chairman. These Life Memberships are presented to members for outstanding and faithful service in GCA and related fields. In the event there are no nominations from clubs or Districts, the committee (president) shall select qualified members as recipients. All applications must be in the hands of the President by March 1. Three may be awarded each year. Members holding GCA Life Memberships are eligible for Mary Hall Ware Life Memberships for Distinguished Service. Funds for these life memberships are paid by the GCA general fund.
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.
14. The names of all Life Members of GCA shall be inscribed in the Life Membership Book. The Life Membership Chairman shall maintain two sets of books. One shall be in the possession of the Chairman, the second shall be in the possession of the GCA President. It shall be the duty of the Life Membership Chairman to see that the lists in these books are kept current. When the books are filled, the President's Book shall be placed in the GCA Archives at Auburn University and the Chairman's Book shall remain in her files. The Life Membership Chairman shall purchase these two books as needed.
15. All amendments and policies shall be written into, and be a part of, the minutes of the meeting at which they were passed.
16. Board of Directors responsible for State Award determinations will submit their 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and Honorable Mention winners applications to the Awards Chairman by Jan 1. The Awards Chairman and Co-chairman will review the 1 st and 2 nd 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.
17. Members seeking information are to contact GCA Chairmen rather than NGC Chairmen.
18. At the NGC Convention, the GCA President serving with the current NGC President will represent GCA, giving the President's Report and accepting the awards at the Awards Banquet. Each GCA President is entitled to represent GCA at two consecutive NGC Conventions.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

19. Contributions to various projects of GCA, such as gardens, scholarship, etc., shall be sent to the Treasurer, who will record it and notify the Chairman. All checks should be made payable to GCA, with project designated on checks.

20. All checks issued by GCA must be cashed within 90 days or they will no longer be valid. In the event a check has not been cashed within 60 days of issuance, the Treasurer shall notify the person or company to whom the check was issued to that effect.

21. All club monies received for NGC Headquarters must be sent to NGC in the name of the current President unless approved by the Board of Directors or otherwise specified by the Board.

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.

23. 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.

24. Those Committee Chairmen who do not have line items or Designated Funds in the GCA Budget may request operating funds-not to exceed \$25 per year- from the GCA President. Written approval from the President and timely receipts (see #26 below) must be submitted to the GCA Treasurer for reimbursement. Larger NECESSARY expenditures must be approved in advance by the GCA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may make such approvals by electronic device communications.

a. Chairman in charge of GCA Board Meetings must submit the receipts/bills for the meeting to the Treasurer at the end of the meeting. The Treasurer must have receipts and/or bills in hand before checks will be issued.

25. Those Committee Chairmen who have line items or Designated Funds in the GCA Budget must submit detailed plans for their project to be approved by the GCA President and the Chairman of Finance BEFORE they start making purchases or contracting services. Any overages must be explained to and approved by the President and Chairman of Finance. The Treasurer does not have the authority to pay any excess without the approval of said officers.

26. Chairman of Committees other than Ways & Means (including those with line items or Designated Funds as mentioned in #24 above): Every receipt must be submitted to the GCA Treasurer to receive reimbursement, not later than six (6) weeks after project completion. Receipts MUST be received by the Treasurer in a timely manner in order to be reimbursed.

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 for proceeds, 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 is in compliance with IRS regulations.

XXI NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB OFFICER ELIGIBILITY

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS-ELIGIBILITY Section 1. ELECTED OFFICERS

A. The elected officers shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice President, a Third Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. To be eligible for nomination to the office of President or Vice-President at NGC, each nominee shall have served as President of a State Garden Club for a minimum of two years and shall have served an additional two years on the NGC Board of Directors within the six years at the time of the election NGC Bylaws 2024

B. To be eligible for the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer, the nominee shall have served two years as an elected officer of a State Garden Club and shall have served a minimum of two years on the NGC Board of Directors at the time of election. All officers elected and installed at the NGC Convention in the odd-numbered years shall have attended two of the previous three NGC Conventions at the time of election. Each nominee shall have the endorsement of the Governing Board of that State Garden Club, signed by the State President.

C. Officers shall be elected for a term of two years, or until their successors are elected. No elected officer shall serve more than one term in the same office except the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer who may serve no more than five terms. Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the NGC Convention at which they are elected except the Treasurer who shall assume office at the close of that fiscal year. No Vice-President shall serve for more than two years in the same Chairmanship except when designated to fill an unexpired term.