



Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc Newsletter

Alabama Florida Louisiana Georgia Mississippi Tennessee

“Decorate the Deep South with Floral Design”

Published twice a year

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As newsletter editor, I welcome your submissions about things and events pertaining to Deep South Garden Clubs. The next edition will go out on March first, and any submissions must be received by Feb. 1. Send to my email: patwyong2844@gmail.com, and put “DSGC Newsletter” as the subject. Comments and corrections are welcomed! My hope is that you learn much about DSGC by reading this newsletter!

Pat Young

2023-2025 Officers

Director

Debby Cooper

Alternate Director

Mary Lynn Powers

Recording Secretary

Pat Young

Corresponding Secretary

Celia Williamson

Treasurer

Catherine Donaldson

Chairman of Finance

Peggy Tucker

Parliamentarian

Gay Austin

Historian

Julia Gilmore

Consultant

Carol Bullard

STATE PRESIDENTS

Alabama

Kathy Sudduth

Florida

Tina Tuttle

Georgia

Lisa Hall

Louisiana

Patricia Ortalano

Mississippi

Melinda Causey

Tennessee

Denise Thorne



From Director Debby Cooper.....

Welcome to the 2023 – 2025 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. administration. We have hit the floor running with a fabulous, fun, and educational DSGC Convention, hosted by the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc on March 6 – 9, 2023, in Kenner, LA.

A special thank-you to Elizabeth McDougald, convention chairman, and her committee members for a job well done.

We welcome our “Diamonds of the Deep South” (state presidents) with open arms and full of support for their efforts.

Our goal is to all work together to improve and enhance our surroundings. We can all learn from each other.

Our Deep South theme is “Decorate the Deep South with Floral Design.” Cash awards will be offered for efforts in designated areas. To complement the project theme, we will host a regional flower show in Georgia in 2025 at the Deep South convention, with all six states participating.

As your Director, I welcome suggestions, comments, and concerns.

And lastly, I truly look forward to working with all of our members and representing DSGC to the best of my ability.

DSGC Custom Coffee Cup



- ✚ Deep South fundraiser
- ✚ \$10 per mug, \$10 shipping
- ✚ Shipping will hold at \$10 per box
- ✚ Buy 10 mugs and get free shipping
- ✚ Get with your club members, order 10 mugs have all shipped to same address
- ✚ Can send individual checks or one check
- ✚ To order, email Region Director Debby Cooper at coopcooper@aol.com
- ✚ Be sure to provide accurate shipping address

Your purchase supports Deep South projects, programs, and scholarships!

Meet Your Officers



Deep South Director Debby Cooper

Debby moved to Mississippi in 1977. She is the co-owner of Cooper Animal Hospital in Greenwood where she has worked alongside her veterinarian husband for over 45 years. She has two children and three grandchildren.

Debby is the past president of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc., from 2015 to 2017. She has held numerous Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs board positions over the years.

She currently serves as Garden Clubs of Mississippi State Awards Chairman and interim treasurer and is a member of the state's Flower Show Awards Committee. Debby is an NGC four-star member, earning the titles of Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant, and Environmental Consultant.

Most importantly, she loves every aspect of a flower show and truly enjoys prompting others to be creative and develop their design and horticulture talents.

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and gambling.



DSGC Alternate Director Mary Lynn Powers

Mary Lynn has been involved in garden club activities for many years. As a child, she was a member of the Green Thumb Garden Club. Later she became a member of the Little Greenville Garden Club, and then the Jr. Greenville, and finally the Greenville Garden Club, serving as Finance Chairman, Board Member, Vice President, and president in 1999.

Mary Lynn became a Board Member of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. during the 2001 – 2003 administration of Melanie Gousset. She has served as Arboreta Chairman, Yearbook Chairman, River Road District Director, Deep South Regional Project Chairman, and GCM President from 2013 to 2015.

She is co-chairman of the GCM Landscape Design School and has served as president of the Tri-Consultants Council. Mary Lynn is also the GCM Trails Chairman.

Her hobbies include gardening and watching the wildlife habitat around her home; but her favorite hobby is digging in the dirt. She also enjoys painting and genealogy.

She serves as a historian docent at St. Joseph Catholic Church during the visits of the Mississippi Queen, and Viking Cruise ships when they stop in Greenville.

Mary Lynn is a wife, mother of three, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of three.



DSGC Recording Secretary Pat Young

Pat has been a member of NGC-affiliated garden clubs for over 40 years. She has been a Hernando Civic Garden Club member for 33 years, where she has served as president. Pat is an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge and is also a member of two design specialty garden clubs, Design Masters Study Club in Mississippi and Interpreters' Study Club in Tennessee.

Pat has served on the GCM Board of Directors since 2010, starting as State Awards Chairman. She is the Immediate Past President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. She has also served as president of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council and as an officer of the Tennessee District I Flower Show Judges Council.

Besides serving as Deep South Recording Secretary, Pat is also Deep South Newsletter Editor and Assistant Editor of The National Gardener. Pat graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BA in journalism and English.

Pat has two children and two grandchildren and lives in Hernando with her husband Ronnie and their two dogs. Besides garden club activities, she enjoys being with her family, entertaining, traveling, and Ole Miss football games.



DSGC Corresponding Secretary Celia Williamson

Celia Williamson was born and raised in the Mississippi Delta and has continued to enjoy the unique Delta Style to this day.

After a 20-year nursing career, Celia retired due to health issues. After dealing with her health issues for about 10 years, she was able to focus on her love of floral design and other related garden club activities.

She joined her first garden club in 2009. Today, she belongs to three, one of which is a design study group. She has served on the state level as Books Chairman since 2017, as Public Gardens Chairman for two administrations, and has been a member of the State Awards Committee, since 2019. She currently serves as GCM Treasurer and is attending schools to become an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge.

Her love of floral design began when she was a high school senior (1977) as her best friend's mother owned a Flower Shop. She has continued that love and the pursuit of creating unique floral designs for NGC Flower Shows, wedding functions, and other events in need of florals.



DSGC Treasurer Catherine Donaldson

Catherine Huheey Donaldson was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and attended the University of Cincinnati and the University of Illinois. She married Terrence Donaldson 51 years ago after completing her science degrees. She worked at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Rochester before moving to East TN 43 years ago.

She became a “permanent” volunteer to stay home with two adopted daughters, Stephanie and Hope. She began a wildflower garden in their wooded yard and later published *Trillium Trails*, a native plant newsletter. Catherine also wrote monthly columns for *The Tennessee Gardener* for 15 years.

Cathy pursued her teaching interests by becoming an instructor/trainer for Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, and American Camping Association. Through being a Girl Scout leader, she started work on an outdoor classroom at a new local elementary school with the help of the Lenoir City Garden Club. The club invited her to join them over 30 years ago.

In the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, she has served as club president several times, treasurer and chairman of the Board of Governors of Ivan Racheff House and Gardens (state headquarters), chaired two state conventions in Knoxville and Kingsport, and served as District IV Director.

She was elected TFGC Treasurer in two different administrations eight years apart. She is an NGC Life Flower Show Judge. She has served as DSGC treasurer since 2019.



DSGC Chair of Finance Peggy Tucker

Peggy was born in Franklin Co, GA, and has always been a Georgia girl and lived in Hart County all her life. She has been married to William for 57 years. They have 3 sons, Chad, Todd, and Joey. The couple also has 7 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Peggy has worked with her husband in the family businesses for 54 years. These include Paradise Point Water Wells, Paradise Point Water Company, and a roll-off container business.

Peggy and William are active members of First Baptist Church in Hartwell, and Peggy serves on the Hart County Historical Board.

Peggy has been an active member of Pine Tree Garden Club in Hartwell for 34 years and served in many capacities in both Pine Tree and Azalea District. She just completed her term as President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

She is presently serving as Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman for the Azalea District of the Garden Club of Georgia and Habitat for Humanity Chairman for NGC.



DSGC Parliamentarian Gay Austin

Gay served as State President for The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. 2009-2011 and NGC President 2019-2021.

She has been an active garden club member for over 38 years, belonging to the McComb Garden Club and the Natchez Garden Club and serving in many positions throughout her volunteer years.

She is an accredited Master Flower Show Judge and Past President of the Mississippi Flower Show Judges Council. She currently serves on the NGC Advisory Board and is a Trustee on the NGC Permanent Home and Endowment Board.

Gay and her husband, Will, live near McComb, Mississippi where they enjoy nature and gardening.

They have three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren (all under the age of 13), seven dogs, and one cat – all of which bring great joy to their lives.



DSGC Historian Julia Gilmore

Julia lives on the family farm in Extension, LA. She is married to Gerald Gilmore. They have two children, a daughter and a son, as well as five grandsons. Julia is a farm wife and retired bookkeeper.

She is an active member of Boeuf Prairie Methodist Church where she serves as Recording Secretary and Finance Secretary. She enjoys gardening for pollinators, vegetable gardening, flower arranging, reading, and keeping active with her grandsons.

Traveling is also a favorite pastime after her husband's retirement last year.

Julia is a member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., where she has served as protocol Chairman and Butterfly Chairman. She has served as DSGC Butterfly Chairman and as NGC Wildlife Conservation Chairman.

She is a member of the Garden Gate Study Club where she has served in many capacities, including President, Vice-President, and Secretary. She is active in LGCF District V, where she has served as Director, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Finance Chairman.

Julia has actively participated in numerous NGC and DSGC conventions throughout the years, as well as Louisiana Garden Club Federation conventions.



DSGC Advisor Carol Bullard

Carol is a native and resident of Pope, MS. She has served in many capacities in The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc, and served as the GCM State President for the 2003 – 2005 administration. She also served as the 2015 – 2017 Director of the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Carol is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, NGC Master Gardening Consultant, and NGC Master Landscape Design Consultant. She is a member of Batesville Garden Club, Charleston’s Magnolia Garden Club, and Design Masters Study Club. She currently serves on the NGC Nominating Committee and also the NGC Plant America Grants Committee.

She is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a BS degree in General Agriculture. Carol retired after a 30-year career with the DuPont Agricultural Crop Protection Company. She is currently the Executive Secretary of the Miss. Agricultural Consultants Association. Her husband Ricky is a farmer, and she has one son, Ming.



Litter Laws in Deep South States



Alabama: Minimum fine of \$500 for first littering conviction. Second and any subsequent convictions bring \$1000 fine and up to 100 hours cleaning up litter. Additional penalty for improper disposal of cigarettes or food containers is \$500.

Florida: Drivers are responsible for any littering from their vehicles. If convicted, a litterer can be fined up to \$500 or jailed for up to 60 days. You can be charged with a first-degree misdemeanor and fined up to \$1,000 if dumping more than 15 pounds of trash.

Georgia: Anyone caught littering can be ordered to pay a fine of up to \$1,000 or more. Convicted litterers can also be ordered to clean up a littered area in a community. The driver is responsible for any litter leaving a vehicle. Illegally dumping more than 500 pounds is considered a misdemeanor on the first offense. A second conviction is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000 or a prison sentence of up to two years (or both).

Louisiana: If convicted of littering, you face a fine between \$175 and \$1000, and up to 8 hours of a litter abatement work program. If litter flies out of the back of a truck, it carries up to \$175 in fines and court costs. Cigarettes thrown from a vehicle carry a \$500 fine and a litter abatement work program.

Mississippi: If caught throwing litter from your vehicle, you can be fined up to \$250.

Tennessee: All littering between five and 10 pounds is criminal littering, a Class B misdemeanor. If convicted, pay a \$500 fine, and court cost, and shall do public service pickup for up to 80 hours; may do work in a recycling center for up to eight hours; and may do up to six months jail time.

DEEP SOUTH AWARDS

It is time to start working on your applications for the 2023 Awards. Remember you can only win if you apply, apply, apply!

I am Roxanna Champagne, the 2023-2025 DSGC Awards Chairman. I am excited to receive your award applications. I know your clubs and states have done some awesome projects and you deserve to be rewarded for your achievements.

Please download the revised 2023-2025 DSGC Awards Procedures and read them carefully. There are some new chairmen that will be judging the awards, so make sure you have the latest version of awards. If you downloaded the award procedures before August, you need to go to the Deep South website to download the latest version that was uploaded to the website after August 5, 2023. Below is the link to the awards:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6324d2e2e786680bee863459/t/64d224dda8f777707fc330bd/1691493597396/DS_Awards_Procedures_2023_2025_final.pdf

Most award applications should be sent via email. There are some that need be mailed such as Publicity Press Books, Flower Show Schedules and Yearbooks.

The Youth Awards have also had some changes. The poetry contest theme is "I Spy with My Little Eye, Something Green Outside Celebrating Our Green World". The 2024 Smokey Bear Poster Contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear only, as he will turn 80 years old in 2024.

Remember that your awards need to come from your State Awards Chairmen, not individual members or clubs. If the award application does not come from the State Awards Chairman, it will not be eligible to win. Check the deadlines also, as there may be different deadlines for some awards.

Looking forward to your award applications!

Roxanna Champagne
220 Farmington Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503-8409
roxannachamp@cox.net
337-298-5099 (Cell)



Deep South Unified Project

“Decorate the Deep South, with a Focus on Flower Shows, Floral Design and Colorful Public Buildings.”

Most Deep South Garden Club members are well aware of Director Cooper’s love of flower shows and floral design in general. In keeping with that interest, she has chosen to promote flower shows, decorating a public space with flowers, and colorful plantings with her Deep South Unified Project, along with money awards in each category.

NGC Flower Show

The club with the highest scoring NGC Flower Show will be awarded \$200, with



Director Cooper with one of her winning designs.

Evidence is required to apply for the award and will be judged according to the NGC Scale of Points.

Floral Decoration for Public Event or Space

This unique award is offered for floral creations that decorate a public space or for a special event. This could be for a wedding, a public reception, or any other special event. Decorating a library with floral designs for a special event could qualify. Cash awards of \$200 for first place

and \$100 for second place are offered for individual club entries and entries from a group of clubs or a council. A book of evidence is required that is compiled according to DSGC Award Rules.



Colorful Planting(s)

Deep South Garden Clubs are known for wonderful planting projects in their communities.



Money awards of \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place are offered for both individual club entries and a group of clubs or council for a colorful planting project. A

Book of Evidence must meet DSGC Awards Rules.

State Competition

Deep South is also offering \$200 to the state with the highest-scoring State Flower Show.

Overall Award

An additional cash award of \$250 will go to the overall winner in the Club Competitions.

All entries must be submitted to Chairman

Amye Kelly by Jan. 31, 2023.

awkelly@att.net

Deep South Garden Clubs Scholarships

“Education is the Transportation to Our Future”

The Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Scholarship Program offers financial aid to a qualified student sponsored by a Member State Federation in the Deep South Region. The students should be majoring in any garden or environmental-related subject and enrolled in an accredited college or university.

Two (2) scholarships, in the amount of \$3,500 each, are available annually. One-year scholarships are available to juniors, seniors, and graduated students pursuing a Master’s Degree. Sophomores may make application for their junior year. The college/university must be listed on the official Web site of the U.S. Department of Education. The annual grant is dispersed to the designated university by August 15th.

Students in each DSGC Member State are eligible to apply to their state’s DSGC Scholarship Chairman. The completed application and supporting documents must be sent to the State Garden Club Chairman for the state in which the applicant is a legal resident, even if the student is attending an out-of-state school, to be received no later than February 1st.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Deep South Scholarship Winners:

Landon Erbrick

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.

A Senior, majoring in Horticulture; at Auburn University

Haley Oakley

Sponsored by the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

A Graduate Student, Majoring in Biology; at Tennessee Technological University

NOTE: In order to ensure that this most worthy project of our Deep South States continues, donations, memorials, and honorariums are sincerely appreciated. Mail your generous check to our DS Treasurer, with memo, noted as “DS Scholarships”. Thank you in advance.

Bonnie Stockel

2023-2025 Deep South Scholarship Chairman

dsgcscholarships@gmail.com

Words from DSGC State Presidents



Alabama President Kathy Sudduth

I hope everyone is staying cool in this blistering hot summer heat. We all are looking forward to the cool temperatures of fall.

The Garden Club of Alabama is busy getting ready for our Summer Board Meeting on August 24, 2023. Our Hortensia Committee is getting ready to print the Fall Edition of the Hortensia. This will be our biannual yearbook.

Back in April I was elected the president of GCA; since then I attended the National Garden Club convention in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The convention was held at the beautiful Greenbrier Resort.

My Theme for the next two years is “Gardening is an Investment in the Future”. Whether that future is seeing the flowers you plant bloom in the summer or planting an oak tree that your grandchildren and the generations that come behind you will sit under. As I have said before the oak tree is one of the best trees to plant to sustain life in our yards. So, one of my contests will be Plant an Oak Tree. The contest will run until the 2024 Convention in Opelika. We will also be promoting/recruiting New Members to our clubs. My philosophy has always been that every member invites one new member to at least one meeting a year. But you can invite a new member to every meeting if you want to. Just think if everyone in the Garden Club of Alabama recruited one new member to their club in a year, we could double our membership. We currently have approximately 1700 members in our 85 garden clubs. We have lost about 4 clubs this year but most of our clubs have gained new members.

So, as we go forward this year with growing our clubs and growing our environment around us remember to be Efficient and stay Focused.

I close with these words, you as members of the Deep South Region of the National Garden Club need to let your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more.



Florida President Tina Tuttle

Most folks think of Florida as an ideal vacation spot, but for those of us who live here, we are very busy all year round!

From 18 June until 27 July, the Florida Federation hosted our annual **Wekiva Youth Camp**, an environmental overnight camp for over 600 children in first to ninth grades. They spend a week in a tech-free zone learning about different aspects of nature, doing related crafts, and swimming, biking, canoeing, singing, and competing! This was our 49th summer at the Wekiva Springs State Park facility. *Newsweek*

magazine included Wekiva Youth Camp in their 2023 ranking of *Best Summer Camps* in the country! This year we dedicated a new office and clinic building, replacing the one that burned

down 4 years ago. A garden club member was our benefactor and paid for the construction and furnishings. The dedication was held June 15.

Approximately 40 high school students from all over the state enjoyed a 3-day conference at the University of Florida entitled “Saving the Earth’s Environment through Knowledge” (**Seek.**) Their course of study increases student environmental literacy through hands-on and field-based educational experiences, inspires student interest and involvement in environmental conservation and protection, and promotes student development of environmental stewardship ethics as well as environmental career opportunities. Through generous donations from our garden club members, all students attending were on scholarship.

Our garden club members were able to enjoy two 2-day educational opportunities in our **Short Course** series of study. UF/FFGC Short Course was held in Gainesville in June, and Short Course North was held in Pensacola in August. Garden club members and Master Gardeners were treated to research-based information about soils, water, plants, lawns, and other useful and current topics. NGC-accredited Gardening, Landscape, and Environmental consultants earned renewal credits while Master Gardeners were able to receive CEU credits. Everyone learns something new at Short Course!

Plans for the **100th-anniversary** celebration of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs are ongoing. The planning committee spent time this summer contracting speakers, vendors, workshops, and programs. The schedule for the biennial state flower show, to be held in conjunction with the convention, has been written and will be introduced at our September Board of Directors meeting. This will be an NGC Major Flower Show! The celebration will be held April 10-12, 2024 in Jacksonville, where our foremothers first gathered to create this organization. We have certainly come a long way!

This fall we will return to our garden club year with more **educational happenings**, including Flower Show School, a Flower Show School Symposium, Floral Design Study classes, two Landscape Design schools, Gardening Study School, and two Environmental schools...some of these are by Zoom so all can join in the fun!

All listings can be found at ffgc.org/education.



Georgia President Lisa Hall

It is my honor and privilege to serve as President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. for the next two years. The GCG Board will be working together to provide the best garden club experience for our members. We will continue with the National Garden Clubs., Inc. theme, Plant America. My theme is Plant America: promoting beautification, conservation, and education. Simple, to the point, and supports our GCG mission statement.

We have just finished our biannual July Awards/ Leadership Workshops in 5 locations around the state to include members from every district. Presenters included our Vice Presidents, Education Chairman, Awards

Chairman and Co-Chairman, and me. Topics included the newly revised president's report, membership, parliamentary procedures, an overview of our new website, new communication methods, grant information, awards, and educational opportunities.

This term we will embrace technology and improve our communication with members. We have a new website, www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org. We have moved from the UGA listserv to Constant Contact. We will now be able to reach all GCG members.

We plan to provide more educational experiences online and in person. Gardening School is scheduled with course 1 being held September 13-14 in person. Then course 2 will be a hybrid November 1-2. Landscape Design School will be held via Zoom Nov. 8-9. Flower Show Judges Symposium is scheduled for Nov. 13-15. Post-convention lectures have been planned for our next annual convention in April 2024. It is my hope that we will have Zoom meetings for all where we will be able to present interesting speakers. A YouTube channel is also in the plans.

Plans are underway for the 2025 Deep South Convention. We look forward to welcoming fellow regional club members to Valdosta March 11-13, 2025.



Louisiana President Patricia Ortalano

Many garden clubs in Louisiana participated in National Garden Week in June, spreading their love for gardening and fellowship as members of Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs. Floral arrangements, horticulture, information about joining a garden club, and many more activities were displayed in libraries, gatherings, and various social media platforms.

On Aug. 3-4, Environmental School, Series VII, Course IV was held in West Monroe. Tommie Andrews, a member of Farmerville Garden Club, attended and is now LGCF's oldest active member at the age of 101 years young to acquire an ES Consultant status. The 100-degree temperature did not slow her down as she continued to tour the Poverty Point World Heritage Site: she's quite a trooper!

On Sept. 20, 2023, LGCF will be having a 2024 convention fundraiser featuring the *Delta Divas*, Carol Bullard and Debby Cooper, presenting their creative inspirations of floral designs. If you wish to join us with a \$20 donation, email Pam Langley, 2024 LGCF Convention Chairman, for more information at pamxyz@bellsouth.net.

Our fabulous district Directors are planning their October fall meetings to be held Oct. 17-19 and Oct. 24-26. I look forward to visiting all six districts, and their members, and traveling the scenic landscapes of Louisiana.

Flower Show School, Course I, will be held Nov. 6-8 At Johnny Bright Playground, Metarie. If anyone is interested in learning about flower shows, floral design, and horticulture, please contact Mary Ellen Miller, LA Flower Show School Chairman at memiller306@yahoo.com.

Landscape Design School, Series XX, Course IV, will be held at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, on Nov. 14-15, 2023. For additional information, please email Clara Earl, LA Landscape Design School Chairman at clarae2003@yahoo.com.

Coleen Perilloux Landry, Live Oak Society Chairman, has been busy registering members to the Registry list of 9900 members. More than 130 live oaks have been registered since I was sworn into office. Georgia and South Carolina have been very busy registering their oaks and recording them in their towns for all to see as historical trees. Do you have a live oak on your property that has not been registered? Contact Coleen if you need any information at cpl80600@aol.com.

As you can see, Louisiana Garden Club Federation is full of energy and enthusiasm to participate in our schools, conventions, meetings, and programs, and interact with our members and nature. Laissez les bons temps rouler!



Mississippi President Melinda Causey

It has been an extremely hot summer here in Mississippi, as it is in most other areas, requiring us to constantly water our gardens. Our clubs are looking forward to beginning their new year with most starting their first meetings of the year in September. Host clubs are also busy planning Fall District Meetings for the first two weeks in October.

Two new clubs were federated by our state organization at our July Board Meeting. Southern Pines District added Bay Springs Garden Club and Moselle Garden Club. We are so happy to be adding clubs and look forward to seeing what these two new clubs will accomplish.

We are continuing with our Garden Clubs of MS logo car tag project. Mississippi members have the opportunity to purchase a specialty license plate with the Garden Clubs of MS logo. Displaying the logo on our vehicles will help keep the organization's name out in front of the public, as well as provide funds to support our state organization.

We have started a new monthly publication, "MS Mag", that will be sent to all club presidents. "MS MAG" will feature each month a select chairmanship's project to highlight and educate members regarding that particular project. Our first edition in August was on pollinators.

GCM has scheduled Flower Show School II which will be held in Pearl, MS, on Nov. 13-16, 2023. A Landscape Design School new series will be held on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, with School I on Dec. 7-8, 2023.

The Garden Clubs of Mississippi continue "*Growing in our Communities...to plant, promote, and Protect.*"



Tennessee President Denise Thorne

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is buzzing with activity in every part of the state, reflecting our theme and project, “Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees, Plant Tennessee, Plant America.” Blue and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker dedications have been numerous in 2023. Our next Gold Star marker installation and ceremony is planned for Sept. 17, 2023, at 2:00 pm at our TFGC Headquarters, the Ivan Racheff House and Gardens, 1943 Tennessee Ave., Knoxville, TN. Janie Bitner, our District IV Director, is instrumental in this wonderful event.

Speaking of Wanda and Janie, they are the chairmen for the exciting convention on the horizon, “Springtime in the Smokies.” This is the next Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. annual convention and meeting planned for March 19-20, 2024 at the Park Vista, 705 Cherokee Orchard Rd., Gatlinburg, TN. In the heart of our most visited national park, the Great Smokey Mountains is a wondrous site. Springtime will be bursting with flora and fauna for your enjoyment. NGC President Brenda Moore plans to attend. The committee, consisting of over fifty members, is planning a memorable convention for every attendee. An NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show, “Springtime through the Deep South,” will be open for your viewing in the hotel. The staging will be vintage dollhouses depicting our six Deep South states. In conjunction with the DSGC Convention, our TFGC state convention will be held the following day, March 21, 2021, at the Park Vista. Details and registration can be found on the DSGC website and TFGC website at www.tennesseeederationofgardenclubsinc.com.

Across this great state, we love flower shows! We have had six so far this summer and many more on the horizon. I am so encouraged by the continuous growth we are experiencing, and we have two new clubs. Newsletters are emailed every month from me to the members by way of District I Director Chris Kelyman, District II Director Bette Ann Fields, District III Director Ginger Cloud, and District IV Director Janie Bitner. Our directors all have inspiring Fall Membership Meetings planned in each of our four districts.

Conservation Camp will be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park from Sept. 30 through Oct. 1, 2024. April 21-23, 2025, in the historic Read House Hotel in Chattanooga, will be the site of our annual convention, “Happy Anniversary TFGC.” We will celebrate 25, 50, 75, and 100 years of successful garden clubs, memories, and activities in Tennessee.

The History Committee and Chairman Cathy Donaldson are compiling our continuing TFGC and Racheff information to be published at the end of this administration.

The many dedicated and willing volunteers in the *Volunteer State* are looking forward to your visiting us soon!

As I travel this great state I marvel at the diverse beauty and inspiration of the land and the people in our federation that love gardening.

NGC Youth Contests

NGC Poetry Contest

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

NGC Youth Sculpture Contest

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



A national winner from last year

and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited in size to 8 ½ inches by 11

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

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

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



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

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

deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Deep South Garden Clubs Life Memberships

- Honor a club member or speaker
- \$50 fee goes toward Deep South Scholarships
- Badge recognition at all garden club conventions
- Demonstrate your dedication to DSGC
- Registration form on DSGC website, deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Deep South 2024 Convention
“Springtime in the Smokies”
Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee
March 19 - 20, 2024



As Co-Chairs of the 2024 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention, Wanda Taylor, Janie Bitner and TFGC State President Denise Thorne would like to invite you to the “Springtime in the Smokies” convention in March of 2024. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is minutes away from this fun town. This is Spring Break, and the spring wildflowers will be popping! We have lined up wonderful speakers who will present on the flora, fauna, and critters of the Smokies.

The registration packet should be on the Deep South website in the next few days (deepsouthgardenclubs.com) We are offering a complimentary convention tee shirt to those early bird registrations before December 31.

The Park Vista Hotel ([parkvistadoubletreehotelingatlinburgTN\(hilton.com\)](https://parkvistadoubletreehotelingatlinburgTN(hilton.com))) is in the heart of



Gatlinburg and offers many sightseeing adventures as well as wonderful shopping opportunities.

The two-day event will offer the “Springtime in the Smokies” NGC Petite Standard Flower Show” as well as certification requirements for the Tri-Refresher.

Save the date! More information coming soon.

See you in Gatlinburg!

State Delegations at the 2023 DSGC Convention



Deep Southaven conventions are an opportunity to make like-minded friends from across a six-state area. Above is the delegation from Alabama at the 2023 DESGC convention held in Kenner, LA,; to the right is the delegation from Georgia, and below is the delegation from Florida. Host state Louisiana provided beautiful floral designs honoring the president of each of the six states. Other highlights included a tri-refresher presented the day before the start of the convention, outstanding speakers and workshops, a fun awards banquet, Cajun-inspired meals, and a stunning design banquet





As the host state, Louisiana (above) had the largest delegation at the DSGC convention. Mississippi (right) was represented in Kenner, as well as Tennessee (below right). New friends and contacts were made during the two-day event that will continue to grow next year.

