



# Deep South Matters

Spring Issue 2021



## Deep South Garden Club 2019-2021 Officers

Director  
Lena Bateman

Alternate Director  
Donna Bucci

Recording Secretary  
Karen Merrill

Corresponding Secretary  
Johnnie Ruth Sturgeon

Treasurer  
Catherine Donaldson

Parliamentarian  
Mary Summerville

Historian  
Mary Lynn Powers

Advisor  
Ann McCormick

## Message from our Director

First Things First! A big "Thank you" to the Deep South State Presidents and to our Deep South Officers and Board Members. Thanks for hanging in there during this most difficult time. Even though we have not been able to have meetings, you have been handling your state business all along. You never failed your state nor your region.



*Lena Bateman  
Deep South Director*

It was extremely hard to plan, organize and get ready for our State and Deep South Conventions only to have all plans, hopes, and expectations cancelled because of COVID. But, you took it in stride and continued to do the work of your state. There were Social Distance Meetings, Zoom meetings, Teleconference meetings. You either organized or joined in order that the business of The Region and NGC could continue as normal, if we consider the past two years normal.

I am very excited and appreciative of your support to honor our own NGC President, Gay Austin from Mississippi with a Blue Star Marker. It was my pleasure to accompany Gay, and Mary Hazen, DS Blue Star Chairman to Jackson to select a location to place the marker. The marker ceremony will be a grand affair. Invitations will be forwarded to each Deep South State, as well as others to distribute to their clubs. As soon as we get all the details, we will pass them on.

It has been challenging for all not to have our DS and State Conventions. These conventions are how we learn and grow...how we get to know each other better and make friendships that last a lifetime. I'm super excited to attend the 92nd Annual Convention presented by The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. in Hernando, Ms., May 10-12, 2021. Hopefully, this will be the start of getting back together. Our garden clubs must continue what work we have to do. We have survived and we are stronger for the experience!



I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and was able to gather with relatives and friends (which most of us have not been able to do.) Again, thanks to our six states who have made the best of this awful pandemic and have been able to carry on Deep South traditions of being the best Region in NGC.

*Lena*

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## STATE NEWS

### Alabama

The Garden Club of Alabama theme for this administration was "To Plant a Garden is a Belief in tomorrow. The goals were to increase membership, donate to Auburn University Scholarships and place a copy of The Frighten Frog and Saved Seed either in a library or school.



*Sybil Ingram*

Clubs exceeded expectations by increasing membership, we won first place for membership in Deep South) scholarships and placing copies of the two books in schools and libraries throughout the state. Four Blue Star Markers were placed and one Gold Star Marker was also placed.

Awards were won in the State, Deep South and National. Alabama came through with President's Gay Austin request to plant trees. They planted over 6,000 trees over our great state.

Four Blue Star Makers along with one Gold Star Marker was placed.

I was honored by my District by the establishment of a Horticulture Scholarship to Auburn University in my name.

Alabama continues to uphold the goals of National Council, Deep South, and The Garden Club of Alabama. By working together

Sybil Ingram  
Garden Club Alabama President

## Georgia

Although everyone has been affected by COVID, we are very proud of the many accomplishments our clubs were able to achieve, despite the virus. Our theme of: "Plant America, Nurture the Garden We Call Georgia" is alive and well. It was a pleasure to see so many clubs apply for and win



*Barbara Bourque*

awards - announcements for State Awards and DS will be made mid-April. We will need to wait a bit for NGC results. Naturally, we are disappointed that all our club members cannot celebrate together at the spring convention. Never did we expect these cancellations to last this long. However, business matters have been dealt with efficiently. We have held GCG State Board Meetings via ZOOM and all major committees have held virtual meetings. All the Districts either met in person outside or held virtual meetings. Officers have been elected and we are happy to announce that we will be able to host a Board Appreciation and Installation of Officers in person on April 21st for our GCG State Officers and the 7 District Directors. We located a country club that could accommodate our large group and still adhere to the CDC Guidelines.

We have a close partnership with the State Botanic Garden at the University of Georgia-Athens. Members from our 7 Districts, as well as myself as GCG President, serve as representatives on the "Friends of the Garden" Exec. Board. We co-sponsor the annual Native Plant Symposium, which was held virtually in early February - this year's topic was the Monarch Butterfly. We promote other events as well - on Feb 2nd & 3rd Professor Doug Tallamy spoke about his newest book "Nature's Best Hope" via Zoom presented by both the State Botanic Garden and the Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta. Our members could choose from two viewing dates or view a recorded presentation if they did not see him live.

The big announcement at the State Botanic Garden was the opening of the Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum at the Center for Art and Nature. Deen Day Sanders donated funds for the building which now houses her beautiful collection of porcelain pieces and

sculptures depicting flora and fauna. It is a must see for all our members. The grand opening of course had to be cancelled due to the virus, but smaller groups are now touring. GCG started a fund several years ago to honor the memory of Deen's son who passed away due to MS. There is now a handicapped accessible walkway from the parking lot at the Garden leading to "Deen's Museum" which is being landscaped with the funds donated by garden club members and dedicated as the C. Burke Day Memorial Walkway. We hope to have a celebration party in the Fall.

The other project of cooperation was the "Plant to Connect" program at the Garden, promoting native plants in community gardens. This was a special project of ours in GCG, encouraging members to use native plants, not only in their personal landscapes, but to urge city/town/churches to incorporate natives in community settings and have those areas registered with the Garden.

Over the past year, we encouraged all our clubs to think outside the box and share ideas about how to stay in touch even though clubs were not meeting in person as per normal. Our Club President's Report gave extra credit for any "COVID Activity": a particular activity, something not normally done, in order for club members to meet safely or stay connected during this challenging year. They elaborated on a separate sheet and it was inspiring to see what all was accomplished in small groups or remotely. Now that spring is upon us, more clubs are planning on meeting again - many outside in pavilions.

Scholarships are always a high priority in Georgia. Last year we awarded \$71,000 in scholarships to Georgia college students in garden related fields. This Spring/Summer we expect to award \$70,000. Generous donations for 'Named Scholarships' are appreciated.

Despite Covid we had a number of new clubs formed using our new "Mentoring" new clubs program and grant. Existing clubs can apply for a grant to offset the cost of program supplies when they are mentoring new clubs and helping them get started. We hope this will be even better after the virus is under control.

Georgia has seen many Blue Star Marker Dedications in recent months, with many more on the horizon, postponed from 2020. Also, many of our clubs have taken advantage of the 50/50 grant GCG offers for

restoration of older BSMs that needed repair. This grant is funded with annual donations from many clubs. We give 'credit' on the Club President's Report for donations to our list of good causes. Donations will probably be somewhat less this year because of the virus, but many clubs have still managed to maintain a good balance sheet and continue to donate generously.

We continue to promote grants in the areas of Historic Landscape Preservation, Community on My Mind beautification projects, Garden Therapy and more. Our Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser was rescheduled from this Spring to Oct. 2021, and we look forward to great attendance at Hills and Dales in LaGrange.

All seven of our Districts will be holding Leadership/Awards Workshops over the summer as well as District Board Meetings in August. Everyone is anxious to get back to normal.

The formation of New Garden Clubs will resume as a focus for the future, as well as our returning projects for Native Plants and Pollinator Gardens.

Barbara Bourque, President  
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

## Louisiana

When my term as LGCF President began in 2019, I chose to view the next two years as an adventurous journey. Oh, what an adventure it has been—and not exactly as planned. Some roads were permanently blocked. Detours were taken.



Linda Finley

Nothing followed the map. However, new trails were blazed and new ideas took shape. The destination is in view. Two years is not really a long time after all.

We had great plans. Many of those plans were placed on hold. The goal of installing Blue Star Markers at the Louisiana Welcome Centers started successfully in January 2020 at the I-10 Welcome Center in Slidell. I am happy to report that a Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered for the I-10 Vinton Welcome Center. We

hope to be able to install it in April 2021. A Gold Star Memorial Marker will be dedicated in May by the Terrebonne Garden Club in Houma.

“Bring Nature Home with Native Plants” is still good advice. After multiple hurricanes and snow and ice, the native plants are surviving better than the non-natives. It’s never too late to add them to your landscape.

The business of the Federation continued through emails, postal mail, phone calls, conference calls, Zoom meetings and a few in-person meetings. The most recent meeting was the Winter Executive Council Meeting on February 23. Because the 2021 Convention will not be held, a decision was made about the method of voting by the Board of Directors. Ballots were due on March 29. The results will be announced later this month. The current Native Plant List will be replaced by the Louisiana Native Plant Society’s Louisiana Certified Native Plant List. Future Convention sites are: 2022—Baton Rouge; 2023—Vidalia; and 2024—Lake Charles.

Instead of an installation, Roxanna and I will meet at the end of April to transfer the President’s files, the President’s pin and gavel, and all that goes with the office. We hope to have photos of the occasion to post. Other 2019-2021 officers and chairmen should make plans to transfer materials to their successors. The 2021-2023 administration will begin their duties on May 1. I extend my best wishes and support to them.

Serving as LGCF President is a great honor and privilege. My only regret is that we were not able to do more. “Thank you” must be extended to many—to District VII for allowing me to represent them and for supporting me on the LGCF Board for several years; to all officers and committee chairmen for their cooperation and willingness to do whatever was necessary; to club presidents for leadership on the local level and finding creative ways of keeping clubs going during difficult times; to every club member for sticking with us for without members there would be no LGCF; and, to LGCF Past Presidents who were always in my corner.

I look forward to joining my friends in the esteemed club of LGCF Past Presidents.

Linda Finley, President  
Louisiana Garden Club Federation

## Mississippi

The state of Mississippi has "zoomed" through the last 2 years. Clubs have been innovative and met the challenges caused by the pandemic. Projects and activities were scheduled following all required guidelines. There were drive by plant swaps and sales, online programs, Monarch Butterfly releases with children, community outreach during holidays, etc. Members of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi continually made their presence known during the pandemic!



*Doris Ebner*

We were pleased to be able to reschedule the NGC Gardening School, Course 4, for May 20-21. The school will be at Mississippi State University's Greenhouses.

Our members are excited and looking forward to the GCM 92nd Annual Convention, May 10-12. This will be our first opportunity to be together as one since 2019!

The 2022 Deep South Convention, March 6-9, will be in Natchez and the Natchez Garden Club is planning a wonderful event. Hope to see you there!!"

Doris Ebner, President  
The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc

## Tennessee

The light is still on in Tennessee as the garden club “volunteers” strive to hold meetings and work on their projects in 2019 and 2020. Many clubs embraced the new electronic Zoom meeting method, issued newsletters and continued to communicate by phone and email.



*Maggi Burns*

After sending off the NGC State Garden Club Report for the history of this administration in January, here are some of the history highlights for Tennessee:

1. This president held electronic board meetings in 2019 and 2020 with motion ballot votes all done by email. It was a great success for the board and members to continue the business of TFGC.

2. The TFGC President Special Project "Grow with Communication and Education" requested four district Floral Design Chairmen to present floral design workshops each year. The chairmen selected the date, location and designs. All held in 2019 and part of 2020 until the COVID-19 cancelled any workshops after September 2020.

3. The TFGC Awards Chairman presented Award Workshops to the four districts in 2019-2020. A slide presentation showed the members how to enter a book of evidence. This chairman created an Awards Manual with all the TFGC, DSGC and NGC awards and rules and distributed it to the District Directors.

4. After seven years of creation, the TFGC Native Plant Book committee published the "Native Plants of Tennessee" book. TFGC sold over 400 copies to the members and the general public.

5. All TFGC documents: Bylaws, Standing Rules, Officers Duties and Chairmen Job Descriptions were updated by the TFGC President and placed on the website for the 2021 administration.

6. TFGC received seven first place and five youth awards from DSGC in 2019.

By the time the DSGC Matters newsletter is published, this president and treasurer will be closing the books for 2019-2021 and preparing to install the next president in April 2021. Although the state presidents missed out on conventions, meetings and all the fanfare of being a president, I am pleased with all the communication and education given to the TFGC members!

Maggi Burns, TFGC President

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## By Laws

### Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lena Bateman, Director

Dear Deep South Garden Club Board Members:

As we all know this has not been a normal Garden Club year. Because of Covid, many meetings, events and our State and Deep South Conventions could not be held. At the 2019 DSGC Convention a DSGC Bylaws Committee was appointed to review the DSGC Bylaws. For legal purposes the Bylaws were adopted in 2018 exactly as they had been filed with the Articles of Incorporation.

The committee found several minor changes that needed to be made for clarification and simplification. On the advice of Joan Corbisciero, NGC Parliamentarian, the following statement was added to the Bylaws regarding the use of the titles President/Vice President and Director/Alternate Director:

**In these Bylaws, the President and Vice President of the Corporation shall hereinafter be known and referred to as the Region Director and the Alternate Director respectively.**

At the time of incorporation as DSGC the lawyer advised that the titles of President and Vice President be used in the original set of Bylaws. It has been the policy of NGC and DSGC to use the terms Director and Alternate Director to designate those officers. The NGC Parliamentarian ruled that this was a "housekeeping" action and did not require a formal vote as it was only cleaning up the language for clarity.

**The Bylaws Committee has reviewed the original Bylaws and Policies and has proposed several changes.** Since DSGC Bylaws have no provisions for voting by the Board of Directors when a convention is not held, we will follow the NGC Bylaws ARTICLES XI and XXII which state:

*In the event a National emergency prevents elections [Bylaws amendments] held at a NGC Convention, elections [Bylaw amendments] may be held by mail.*

*1. Ballots shall be sent by electronic device or postal mail, to the Board of Directors...*

2. All ballots must be received by the recording Secretary within 30 days by postal mail to be counted.

3. ....these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote by mail ballot following the procedures

outlined in ARTICLE XI.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the PROPOSED CHANGES TO DSGC BYLAWS 2021 and a DSGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAIL BALLOT FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO DSGC BYLAWS AND POLICIES 2021.

After careful study of the worksheet of PROPOSED CHANGES, please mark your DSGC MAIL BALLOT and mail to the DS Recording Secretary by April 21, 2021 for your vote to be counted. If you have any questions you may contact Mary Sue Colvin, DSGC Bylaws Committee Chairman at [mscolvin2@gmail.com](mailto:mscolvin2@gmail.com).

**Note: A two-thirds majority of the ballots received shall determine the results.**

Sincerest regards,

Lena Bateman, DSGC Director

# Proposed Changes to By Laws

## ARTICLE II – OBJECT

*Currently Reads:*

3. To further horticultural education, conservation and scholarship funds to State Universities.

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike: “conservation and”

Add: “...environmental concerns, and landscape design through...”

*Will Read as Follows:*

**3. To further horticultural education, environmental concerns and landscape design through scholarship funds to State Universities.**

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## ARTICLE III – OFFICERS, ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATION, ELECTION Section 2. Eligibility

*Currently Reads:*

A. The offices of Director and Alternate Director shall be permanently rotated among the DSGC states...

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike the word “permanently”

*Will Read as Follows:*

**A. The offices of Director and Alternate Director shall be rotated among the DSGC states as follows: Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.**

*Currently Reads:*

B. Each State Garden Club shall endeavor to comply with the permanent rotation.

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike the word “permanent”

*Will Read as Follows:*

**B. Each State Garden Club shall endeavor to comply with the rotation.**

*Currently Reads:*

To be eligible for the office of Director and for the office of Alternate Director, one must:

2) Attended two (2) of three (3) previous DSGC Conventions at the time of election.

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike #2 and replace to read as follows...

*Will Read as Follows:*

**(2) Have attended a minimum of two DSGC Conventions and may include the DSGC Convention when installed.**

*Currently Reads:*

(4) The Director and Alternate Director shall assume their duties of office for a two-year term at the close of the DSGC Convention in the odd-numbered year.

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "...or until their successors are elected."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**(4) The Director and Alternate Director shall assume their duties of office for a two-year term at the close of the DSGC Convention in the odd-numbered year or until their successors are elected.**

*Currently Reads:*

To be eligible for the office of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian and Chairman of Finance, a member must:

1) Have served on the Board of Directors and attended two out of the last three Annual Conventions of the DSGC.

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike #1 and replace to read as follows:

*Will Read as Follows:*

**(1) Have served on the DSGC Board of Directors and shall have attended a minimum of two DSGC Conventions and may include the DSGC Convention when installed.**

*Currently Reads:*

Section 3. – Nomination

B. The Nominating Committee consisting of one member and one alternate from each state shall be elected at the Annual state Convention in the off year preceding the election- year convention...

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "DSGC".

Strike "off year preceding the election year" and replace with "even-numbered year" to read as follows:'

*Will Read as Follows:*

**B. The DSGC Nominating Committee of one member and one alternate from each state shall be elected at the Annual State Convention in the even-numbered year.**

*Currently Reads:*

D. The report of the Nominating Committee shall appear in the DSGC Publication, Deep South Matters and on the DSGC website immediately preceding the election-year convention.

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "...and shall include a candidate for the offices of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman of Finance..."

Strike: "appear". Add: "...be included in the Convention Call letter, in the DSGC publication Deep South Matters and on the DSGC website..."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**D. The report on the Nominating Committee shall include a candidate for the offices of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman of Finance and shall be included in the Convention Call letter, in the DSGC publication, Deep South Matters, and on the DSGC website immediately preceding the election-year convention.**

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## **ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Director**

*Currently Reads:*

H. Sign contracts for DSGC meetings.

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "...or provide written authorization for the President of the state hosting the event to sign contracts."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**H. Sign contracts for DSGC meetings or provide written authorization for the President of the state hosting the event to sign contracts.**

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## **ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 2. Meetings**

*Currently Reads:*

A. The DSGC Board of Directors shall meet annually prior to the DSGC Convention.

B....

C.....

D.....

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "E. In the event a DSGC Convention is not held, items that require the vote of the Board of Directors at the annual convention may be voted on by mail (Budget, Election of Officers, etc.)

1. Ballots shall be sent by electronic device or postal mail to the Board of Directors by the Region Director.
2. All ballots must be received by the Recording Secretary within 30 days by postal mail to be counted.
3. A plurality of the ballots returned shall determine the results."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**E. In the event a DSGC Convention is not held, items that require the vote of the Board of Directors at the annual convention may be voted on by mail (Budget, Election of Officers, etc.)**

- 1. Ballots shall be sent by electronic device or postal mail to the Board of Directors by the Region Director.**
- 2. All ballots must be received by the Recording Secretary within 30 days by postal mail to be counted.**
- 3. A plurality of the ballots returned shall determine the results.**

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**ARTICLE IX – CONVENTIONS**

**Section 2. Finances**

*Currently Reads:*

A. The Director will sign the Convention Hotel contract.

*Proposed Changes:*

Add: "or provide written authorization for the President of the state hosting the event to sign the contract."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**A. The Director will sign the Convention Hotel contract or provide written authorization for the President of the state hosting the event to sign the contract.**

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**ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

*Currently Reads:*

The Bylaws may be amended at the DSGC Convention by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been attached to the CALL to the DSGC Convention or submitted at least fifteen (15) days prior to the DSGC Convention. With a unanimous vote, these Bylaws may be amended at the DSGC Convention without previous notice.

*Proposed Changes:*

Label current section of Article as "A."

Add: "B. In the event a DSGC Convention cannot be held, these Bylaws may be amended by ballots sent by electronic device or postal mail to the Board of Directors by the DSGC Director. All ballots are to be received by the Recording Secretary within thirty days by postal mail to be counted. A two-thirds majority of the ballots received shall determine the results."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**A. The Bylaws may be amended at the DSGC Convention by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been attached to the CALL to the DSGC Convention or submitted at least fifteen (15) days prior to the DSGC Convention. With a unanimous vote, these Bylaws may be amended at the DSGC Convention without previous notice.**

**B. In the event a DSGC Convention cannot be held, these Bylaws may be amended by ballots sent by electronic device or postal mail to the Board of Directors by the DSGC Director. All ballots are to be received by the Recording Secretary within thirty days by postal mail to be counted. A two-thirds majority of the ballots received shall determine the results.**

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## PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DSGC POLICIES

*Currently reads:*

VII. The order of rotation for the DSGC representatives, one member and one alternate from each state in rotation to serve on the NGC Nominating Committee shall be as follows:

Florida	2023-2025	Louisiana	2019-2021	Alabama	2021-2023
Georgia	2023-2025	Mississippi	2019-2021	Tennessee	2021-2023

*Proposed Changes:*

Strike dates and "and one alternate from each state".

Add: "from each of two DS states" and list states in order of rotation.

Add: "In the event a state must decline its turn in the rotation, the next state in the rotation will provide a member and alternate for the NGC Nominating Committee."

*Will Read as Follows:*

**VII. The order of rotation for the DSGC representatives, one member from each of two DS states in the rotation to serve on the NGC Nominating Committee shall be as follows:**

**Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama**

**In the event a state must decline its turn in the rotation, the next state in the rotation will provide a member for the NGC Nominating Committee.**

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