

Laurel Letters- Summer 2025



Dear Laurel District,

Happy summer to you! I hope you are enjoying what this season of spring has produced. Our convention, with the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees, produced a new crop of Garden Club of Georgia leaders. It is thrilling to see all the creative ideas and implementations coming from the many people in Georgia. I am grateful to be a part of it!

Thank you for your confidence in me to serve as Laurel District director. I will do my best to help our clubs reach their goals. I congratulate you on beginning a new year with your club, enjoying much delight from your endeavors. The fun has only just begun!

I look forward to seeing many of you at Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s Leadership and Awards Workshop 2025 hosted by The Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. on Wednesday, July 9th. This event is open to any Garden Club of Georgia club member (you) and promises to be a wonderful and worthwhile day. Registration information is on the Garden Club of Georgia website events calendar and also on the Laurel District page. While you are on the website, I encourage you to stay a while and peruse.

There is no shortage of information for your club and you!

Reach out to me with questions. I am here for you (except when I am eating or sleeping or watching a movie or telling my husband how to drive, etc.). Sincerely,

*Merrell Holden- Laurel District
Director*

Let's get out there and have fun!

laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

<https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>



-What- Happened



Laurel District at Garden Club of Georgia Convention 2025 in Augusta



Laurel District presents
Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District
Director 2023-2025, with
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
lifetime membership pin and
certificate.



REGISTER NOW for the Garden Club of Georgia Leadership and Awards Workshop for Laurel District hosted by the Marietta Council of Garden Club, Inc. on Wednesday, July 9th. All registrations are due by June 30th.

[Laurel District Leadership and Awards Workshop 2025 - The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.](#)

SAVE THE DATE for the **Laurel District Annual Meeting 2025**

Rome Federated Garden Clubs is hosting our annual meeting on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 in Rome! Registration for the event will soon be available. :) Stay tuned.

If you would like to make reservations to stay in Rome for our event, we have a special rate at:

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ROME RIVERWALK

320 W 3rd Street SW, Rome, GA 30165

for 169.00 USD per night - Last Day to Book: Sunday, September 21, 2025

[Book your group rate for Laurel District, Garden Club of Georgia, Inc](#)

Laurel Letters- Summer 2025



INFORMATION FOR CLUB YEARBOOKS

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

2025-2027 President: Donna Donnelly

Website: <https://gardenclub.org/>

Theme: PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS

2025-2027 Director: Denise Thorne

Website: <https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/>

Theme: Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and Bees.

GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

2025-2027 President: Diane Hunter

Website: [https:// garden cl ubofgeorgia.org/](https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/)

Theme: Tending the Heart of Georgia: Creating Community through
Beautification, Conservation, and Education.

LAUREL DISTRICT OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

2025-2027 Director: Merrell Holden

Web page: <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/laurel-district-page/>

Theme: Let's get out there and have fun!

Club News



Horti-Floral Garden Club Receives First Place at GCG Convention!



The Horti-Floral Garden Club in Toccoa received The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.'s First Place for Award #33: Member Participation Program – Small Club. The project, “Building Community for Increasing Monarch Habitats”, was a great community success.

Laurel Letters- Summer 2025

Horti-Floral Continued

The project's primary objective was to form a collaboration to help disseminate information and educate the community on the many values of native plants in our Piedmont ecoregion. The club received several grants and partnered with the Learning Tree Academy Outdoor Learning School for purchasing native plants for the school's outstanding monarch – pollinator habitat.



The community was invited to participate in the Great Southeastern Pollinator Census at the school. Stephens County Extension's Manager held a practice session on Thursday, students and parents counted on Friday, and a Pollinator Fair with numerous, fun activities for students, families and the community took place on Saturday. Toccoa- Stephens County Library STEM Program, WLET Radio, and the Toccoa- Stephens Chamber of Commerce joined this effort and are discussing other areas in the City of Toccoa and Stephens County for expanding additional habitats.

Submitted by Barbara Payne, Horti-Floral Garden Club

Laurel Garden Club Bluebird Project

One cannot imagine a lovely garden without birds. So, in spite of the chilly weather and with the expert assistance of Mike and Cindy Lloyd, our club erected a bluebird house at Cline Park in Waleska on January 17.

Mike had told us that a male bird makes the selection for building a nest by placing a piece of pine straw or something similar in the box to stake his claim for mating. This will entice the female to join him and she completes the building of the nest.

I continued checking the box on a regular basis and on March 20 found a lovely nest that was larger than I had expected. Still no eggs on March 27 but on April 1, found a clutch of five beautiful, pale blue eggs! Eggs are not laid on the same day and incubation does not begin until all the eggs are in the nest.



Left to right: Cindy Lloyd, David Simmons, Carol Smith, Jan Komara, Tommy Simmons and Mike Lloyd
Clutch of Five Eggs and Mama Bird on the Nest

To sum it up, babies arrived on April 15. By end of April, they had fledged (left the nest). After cleaning out the box, we are hopeful another nest will arrive soon.

Submitted by, Chris Davis and Carol Smith, Laurel Garden Club- Canton

Laurel Letters- Summer 2025

Garden Clubs “Bloom” at Fundraiser!

dk Gallery, a contemporary fine art gallery on the Marietta Square, hosted the third annual event benefitting the Marietta Educational Garden Center on Friday May 2nd. Owned by Donna Krueger, member of Marietta Magnolia Garden Club, the gallery was the setting for Marietta Council of Garden Club members to display floral arrangements they created to complement paintings from the gallery’s collection. The arrangements were the raffle prizes awarded by Mikel Vann, member of Marietta Magnolia and Laurel District Co-Director. All raffle ticket proceeds were donated to the garden center. Mike Whittle, owner of K. Mike Whittle Designs, judged the arrangements. The winners were:

1st Place: Nancy Hildreth, Laurel Heritage Garden Club

2nd Place: Kathleen Rambo, English Laurel Garden Club

3rd Place: Mikel Vann, Marietta Magnolia Garden Club

Thank you, Donna and Mikel for a fun and prosperous event!



Kathryn Coffee and Lorelei Clapper sell raffle tickets galore!

Laurel Letters- Summer 2025



Mike Whittle presents 3rd place ribbon to Mikel Vann.



Carol Ann Martin, The Commons Garden Club member who won Mike Whittle's floral arrangement, poses with the painting artist.

Submitted by Cheryl Briscoe, Laurel District Board Parliamentarian and Advisor 2025-2027