

Laurel Letters- Fall 2025



Dear Laurel District,

Everyone was thrilled with our Leadership and Awards Training in July. Marietta Council did an outstanding job. I heard nothing but good things about it. We are very thankful to the president, Kathryn Coffee, and vice-president, Deborah Paul.

Stonehedge Garden Club hosted our Summer Board Meeting in Buford. Monica Woodard, club president, and her team provided an ideal atmosphere for our board and club presidents to enjoy a great day conducting the business of The Garden Club of Georgia while having a wonderful time with delicious food, lovely table decorations, handy equipment and good gardening friends. Lynn Fronk, Merchandise Chairperson, and her committee displayed our inventory of hats, pins and coasters. They will have a new order of insulated bags available at the Laurel District Annual Fall Meeting.



Laurel District now has a Zoom account. The executive board has been using it for meetings. It has worked well for that purpose. Mikel Vann, Co-Director, and I are taking advantage of the online platform in another way. We hosted Laurel Forums on Zoom in the morning and the evening on the first Tuesdays of August

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and September. The presidents who joined were able to ask questions and give ideas. We are hosting Laurel Forums for club presidents again on the first Tuesday in October.

The Laurel District page on <https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/> is the first place to go for information about many things. It has the deadlines for Laurel Letters and Garden Gateways along with events and a listing of our clubs by city. **If you are not receiving emails from me or GCG, you can press the Sign up to be on Our Mailing List for Laurel District News button. You may have been removed for some reason.** My email address is on that page and everything goes to me to be funneled out.

Sincerely,

Merrell Holden- Laurel District Director

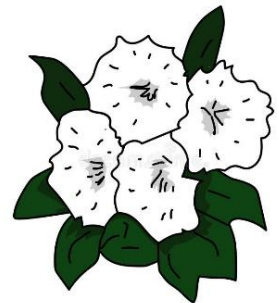
Let's get out there and have fun!

laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

<https://gardenclubofgeorgia.org/>

Condolence Procedure

Laurel District asks that you let us know at laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org if a garden club member has passed so we may reach out to the family with a card and honor them at our memorial service. We would like to know the name, garden club with city and the mailing address of the family.



- What - Happened

Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. hosted Garden Club of Georgia's Leadership and Awards Training at the Marietta Educational Garden Center on Wednesday, July 11.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed the beautiful hospitality of this group along with others (not pictured) who provided thoughtful planning and follow-through for a great day!



Stonehedge Garden Club hosted the Laurel District Summer 2025 Board Meeting on Thursday, August 21. We are thankful to them for a lovely time in Buford!

Summer 2025 Board Meeting



Summer 2025 Board Meeting Continued



Who is on our board?



Merrell	Holden	Director
Mikel	Vann	Co-Director
Anita	Bridges	Recording Secretary
Claudia	Bell	Treasurer
Jean	Ray	Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl	Briscoe	Parliamentarian and Advisor
Caroline	Alford	Advisor
Edna	McClellan	Advisor
Marie	Purser	Advisor
Victoria	Chandler	Blue Star and Gold Star Markers Chairperson
Rene	Lanier	Chaplain
Deborah	Paul	Cherokee Garden Library Chairperson
Inday	Bauer	Community Wildlife Project Chairperson

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		Four and Five Star Members Chairperson
Joyce	Laben	Garden Therapy Chairperson
Deanna	Slone	GCG 2027 Convention Chairperson
Karen	Hawkins	GCG 2027 Convention Co-Chairperson
Jill	Denlea	GCG 2027 Convention Co-Chairperson
Elaine	Williams	GCG 2027 Convention Co-Chairperson
Maye	Suddeth	Grants Chairperson
		Legislation Chairperson
Caroline	Alford	Marshall Forest Land Trust Chairperson
Lynn	Fronk	Merchandise Chairperson
Joyce	Crider	Merchandise Co-Chairperson
Virginia	Hunter	Pull-A-Tab for Ronald McDonald Chairperson
		Scholarships Chairperson
		Social Media Chairperson
Kathy	Donahue	Youth Contest Coordinator for Poetry & Posters
		Youth Programs Chairperson
Jean	Ray	Garden Council of Cherokee County President
Kathy	Cooper	Rome Federated Garden Clubs Co-President
Linda	Easterwood	Rome Federated Garden Clubs Co-President
Kathryn	Coffee	Marietta Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. President

We have open board positions.

*Please let me know at
laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org if you
know someone interested in these initiatives.*

Four and Five Star Members Chairperson

Coordinates recognition of Four and Five Star Members. GCG offers NGC's four educational schools to garden club members: Environmental School, Flower Show School, Gardening School, and Landscape Design School. A Four Star Certificate, may be awarded to a garden club member who has completed all four NGC schools. A Five Star Certificate may be awarded to a garden club member who has completed all four NGC schools and has attained Master Status in all four.

Legislation Chairperson

Keeps clubs updated on legislative matters and ways to advance GCG goals.

Scholarships Chairperson

Promotes and recognizes donations to The Garden Club of Georgia scholarships.

Social Media Chairperson

This chairman serves as photographer and promoter of Laurel District using social media outlets in conjunction with GCG.

Youth Programs Chairperson

Facilitates GCG youth programs and awards in the district.

What's Happening

REGISTER NOW for our **Annual Fall Meeting on October 22, 2025**,
hosted by Rome Federation of Garden Clubs. All are welcome!

This event features a beautiful location at Coosa Country Club, delicious
food, friendly faces and an enthralling speaker from Georgia Rivers.



Information and registration (by October 10) are at

[Laurel-District-Fall-Meeting-2025-Invitation.pdf](#)

We are all excited to see the raffle baskets donated by the clubs! Tickets will be sold \$1 each or 20 for \$15.

Hot tip: If you are planning to buy tickets for chances to win a raffle basket at our Annual Meeting in October, bring your extra return address labels with your name clearly printed to affix instead of writing.

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](#)

*Please let me know at
laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org if
you are spending Tuesday night in Rome. We would
like to include you in our plans for Tuesday
afternoon and night.*

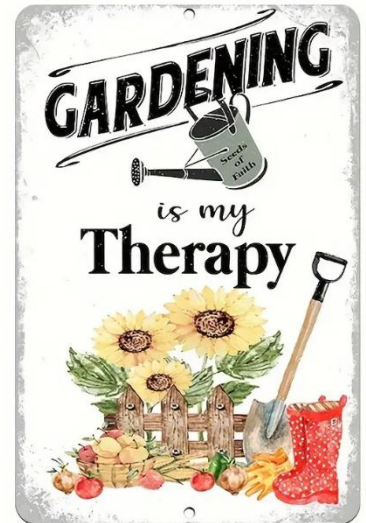


Joyce Laben
Garden Therapy Chairperson
Keep Smiling

As I was sitting at the Laurel District Summer Board Meeting, I turned to my friend and said, “I need to cut back. I am involved in too many activities.” So, what did I do? I volunteered to chair Garden Therapy.

Now, you may wonder what was I thinking. To be honest, so was I; but so many ideas for garden therapy ran through my brain that I couldn’t resist volunteering. First of all, I am a firm believer in garden therapy. In my garden at my previous home, I had a stepping stone declaring it. It said “Gardening is my Therapy.” Visitors to my garden would surmise that I needed a lot of therapy based on the size of my garden. I left the stepping stone in the garden for the new owners who probably had no idea what they were getting themselves into with my garden. Oh, to be young again and ignorant! Second of all, my background is in psychology. I loved to go to school and acquired a masters in school psychology, masters in educational administration, and a PhD in educational psychology. So, the mind body connection has been part of my education. Last but not least, I like to help when possible.

Individually, I know buying plants is therapeutic. My credit card bill is proof. Now that I have shared, I am asking the garden clubs in our district to share what they have done for garden therapy. Since our wonderful director is the hub for communication, please email her at laureldistrictdirector@gardenclubofgeorgia.org and she will forward it on to me.



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Maye Suddath Grants Chairperson

We have the cash!

State, regional and national organizations are ready to give you funds. GCG has eliminated most matching grants; we've made it much easier to apply, too. Please go to the details on each website to get the right information.

Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.			
	What it's for	Amount	Date Restrictions
Blue Star Marker Restoration	Restoration only	Up to \$500 per marker	None
Community on My Mind Grant	Any worthy civic project	Maximum \$200 annually	Must be started within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30. Appn. deadline 4/15
Garden Therapy Grant	Projects that encourage hands-on gardening by facility residents and/or patients	Maximum \$750 annually	Must be started within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30. Appn. deadline 4/1
Historic Preservation Landscape Grant	Restoration of historic gardens, public landscapes	50/50 matching grant up to \$3000	Appn. Deadline 8/1
New Club Grant	To assist in expenses for new garden club	\$100 per fiscal year for 1 st 2 years	Appn due by 4/10
Parks and Public Lands Grant	For clubs undertaking projects in public parks and/or public lands	Maximum \$200; project sent to DNR, PHSD for additional funds	Apply within GCG Fiscal yr. May 1 – Apr 30.
Flower Show Grant	For clubs who have not held a flower show ever or in the past 5 years	Up to \$200 in matching grant	Appn 4 months prior to show
National Garden Clubs, Inc.			
Plant America Grant	Any project benefitting community – blue star, schools, public buildings, etc.	Maximum of \$2000 for direct expenses	Apply April 1 through October 15
Espoma	Any community gardening project	\$250 in Espoma supplies	Apply October through May 31
Ames Tool Grants	Any garden club project involving planting, maintaining	\$450 in Ames Garden Tools	Apply Jan 1 through Mar 1. Project must be completed Mar 1 through Sept 30
Natural Disasters	To ameliorate damage from natural disasters in public areas and gardens	Up to \$5000	Awarded in NGC fiscal year June 1 through May 31
Native Plants and Wildflowers Grant	To fund planting projects focusing on natives	Up to \$500	Apply 2 months prior to start of project
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.			

Unified Project	Projects focusing on Planting for Pollinators in Public Spaces	\$250 1 st place, \$150 2 nd place, \$100 3 rd place available in several categories	Appn deadline 1/31/25
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Land Trust Marshall Forest Caroline Alford, Chairman

Marshall Forest has had many lunch time visitors and hikers throughout the spring and summer. The Big Pine Braille Trail is in bad shape because of the erosion caused by runoff from Mount Alto during the heavy rains. Hikers seem to enjoy hiking up the Dorsey Trail and connecting to the Loop Trail. The most adventuresome will hike the Flower Glen Trail which is very steep and challenging.

Eric Brown, the Fire Coordinator for the Nature Conservancy Georgia, spoke to the Floyd County Master Gardeners about the necessity of burning in the forests to remove the leaf litter and other fire fuel from the lands maintained by the Conservancy. They work closely with the Department of Natural Resources as well as the National Forest Service. Representatives from these two groups also spoke. There is a great need to do some prescribed burns in the Marshall Forest, but it will take at least a year to plan and coordinate the burns. Because the forest is so close to housing areas, the burns will be in smaller sections and will involve the Fire Group from the Conservancy, The Rome/Floyd Fire Department, The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and National Forest Service. Katie Owens has hopes to begin with the Braille Trail. No definite date has been determined at this time.

- Andrew Saville, son of a Rome Garden Club member, has kept the pecan grove and the area across from the parking area mowed this spring and summer.
- Plans are being made for the Robert Weed Memorial Walk in October.
- The Friends of the Marshall Forest, Inc. is now a 501 C-3 corporation. All donations for the Forest should be sent to this chairman who is a member of the Executive Board. Any donation made before March 1, 2026, is eligible to receive a Deed of Gratitude from the Forest.
- Several of our board members are working to establish a priority list for the Forest so that we can begin applying for grants to make the necessary improvements. Your contributions will help us meet the matching grant requirements.

Your help is vital to help us get the Braille Trail safe for visually challenged visitors. Please include Land Trust Marshall Forest on your donation list. Contributions should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Marshall Forest, Inc.
c/o Caroline Alford
101 Brittany Lane SE
Rome, GA 30161

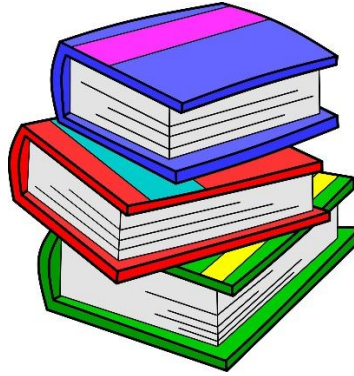
Virginia Hunter
Pull-A-Tab for Ronald McDonald Chairperson



Virginia reminds everyone that we are saving pull tabs for Ronald McDonald.

Encourage club members to collect them in their communities and bring them to the Laurel District Meeting in October.

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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!

Benefits of Herb Gardening

About five years ago I started my own herb garden. I found it offers a range of benefits, making it a rewarding and practical hobby for gardeners of all experience levels. If you have a spacious backyard or a small kitchen windowsill, growing your own herbs can enhance your lifestyle in several meaningful ways. It certainly has mine.



1. Fresh Flavor at Your Fingertips

One of the most immediate benefits of herb gardening is the convenience of having fresh herbs whenever you need them. Fresh basil, mint, rosemary, or parsley can elevate the flavor of everyday meals, and there's no need to run to the store.

2. Health and Wellness

Many herbs have natural health benefits. For example, mint can aid digestion, chamomile promotes relaxation, and oregano is rich in antioxidants. Incorporating fresh herbs into your diet can boost nutrition and support overall well-being.

3. Cost Savings

Buying fresh herbs from the grocery store can be expensive, especially if you only use a small amount at a time. Growing your own herbs is a cost-effective alternative that reduces waste and saves money over time.

4. Easy and Accessible

Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow. They require minimal space and can thrive in pots, making them ideal for apartment dwellers or those with limited garden space. Many herbs also grow well indoors with adequate sunlight.

5. Environmental Impact

Growing herbs at home reduces your reliance on commercially grown products, which often come with packaging and transportation-related emissions. A small herb garden helps promote sustainability.

6. Therapeutic and Enjoyable

Gardening has been shown to reduce stress and improve mood. Tending to an herb garden can be a calming daily ritual that connects you with nature and provides a sense of accomplishment.

In summary, herb gardening is a simple yet powerful way to enrich your cooking, improve your health, save money, and enjoy the calming effects of caring for plants. Whether grown on a windowsill or in a backyard plot, herbs bring beauty and practicality to everyday life.

Laurie Bailey
Marietta Daisies

Club News



Dallas Garden Club Hosts *Derby Days 2025* Flower Show



The Dallas Garden Club hosted its Flower Show this Spring, "Derby Days-2025". The show was held at Dallas First United Methodist Church in downtown Dallas. Club members submitted entries for both the Design and Horticulture Divisions. The Design Division included four entries in each table, tray, niche and pedestal style categories. All designs were beautiful and artfully crafted to portray the Derby Days theme while staying within the strict show guidelines. Each entrant created their interpretation of the Derby Day theme with flowers and plant material. Judging for the Design Division was tight as each entrant achieved very high scores.

In the Horticulture Division, members submitted single stem cuttings from their own gardens for judging. There were over fifty lovely entries and the judges found many opportunities to award ribbons for the quality cuttings.



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Our club would like to extend a special thank you to our esteemed judges, Sally Holcombe, Robin Burkhalter, Gail Adams, Janet Martin, Fran Myers, and Judy Patterson from the Garden Club of Georgia. Many thanks to our members for their hard work and to all who contributed and attended the show. Derby Days -2025 was a huge success and the Dallas Garden Club looks forward to planning and preparation for future events and shows.

Linda Williamson
The Dallas Garden Club

FLOWER GARDEN CLUB WINS NATIONAL AWARD

At the 2025 convention of the National Garden Club, the Flower Garden Club of Marietta was recognized with a Certificate of Merit for Community Gardens. The national award also included a \$100 check. The club had previously been recognized with a First Place Award for Civic Improvement at the Garden Club of Georgia's convention and a Certificate of Achievement for Community Action at the Deep South Convention.

The Flower Garden Club created a school garden at Hayes Elementary School in Cobb County. The club financed the project with member donations and a Plant America Grant. The Marietta Metro Rotary Club assisted in the efforts of the club with manpower and funding; several other businesses and individuals donated and worked

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together to transform an unsightly area in the front side of the school into a thriving garden with plants, a birdhouse, a picnic table and an outdoor classroom. Planning began in 2023 and in spring of 2024, dozens of plants and the outdoor classroom were installed. Spring of 2025 has been exciting as we have seen the fruits of our labor. Work on the garden continues with club members providing plant care as well as coordinating other efforts to improve the site.



In July, the Marietta Metro Rotary Club voted to purchase a new storage shed for the school garden. The storage shed will house the tools we received from an Ames Tool Grant as well as fertilizer from the Espoma Grant. We look forward to the school and the community enjoying the garden for many years to come.

Maye Suddeth
Flower Garden Club- Marietta



Hiawassee Garden Club's 74th Standard Flower Show

At Hiawassee Garden Club's 74th Standard Flower on August 15th, a fun and festive brunch was held for the 25 judges who graciously accepted the call. Many of the ladies travelled over 3 hours!

The club had the privilege of having the Garden Club of Georgia President, 2nd VP and the Scholarship Chairman as well as Ms. Edna (McClellan), GCG honor member of the year join us!



Hiawassee Garden Club was thrilled to have scored a 95+ requirement!



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The brunch was a big hit as colorful tables were set with flower themed veggies, butterfly shaped fruits and southern style sandwiches! A large tree shaped charcuterie board was also a big hit!



Participation from club members was over the top! Everyone worked tirelessly to make the show one of the best ever!

Elaine Williams, President
Hiawassee Garden Club

JONQUIL GARDEN CLUB BLUE STAR MARKER INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION



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On Memorial Day, 2025, the Jonquil Garden Club of Smyrna was honored to place a Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker at the Veterans Memorial Park Plaza in downtown Smyrna. The Dedication Ceremony was held in conjunction with community Memorial Day festivities presented by the Veterans Committee of the American Legion Post 160. The program included a Presentation of Colors, patriotic music, several engaging speakers, a “Missing Man” ceremony, a wreath-laying ritual where seven wreaths were hung, honoring those killed in wartime throughout the years, and more.

This patriotic program concluded with the Jonquil Garden Club’s Blue Star Byway Marker unveiling and dedication. Michele Cox, the club president, welcomed the attendees; Paula Cahill, the Laurel District Blue Star Marker Chairperson and Jonquil Club past president, gave the history of the Blue Star Marker program; Diane Hunter, President of the Garden Club of Georgia, spoke of the significance of the Blue Star/Gold Star program in the state of Georgia; and Jan Thiese, Blue & Gold Star Memorial Marker Program Chairman for the Garden Club of Georgia, gave the Dedication and presented certificates to the Jonquil Garden Club and the mayor of the City of Smyrna.



The Jonquil Club is thrilled to be able to have this marker as a permanent memorial to those who have served in our armed services throughout the years and into the future. The Club plans to install landscaping this Fall, to enhance the beautiful marble walkway that was donated to the area.

Michele Cox
Jonquil Club President

JONQUIL GARDEN CLUB – MATILDA’S GARDEN PROJECT

In June of 2024, the Jonquil Garden Club joined several local organizations plus the Toni Morrison Society, to place a “Bench by the Road” at the Concord Covered Bridge Trailhead of the Silver Comet Trail. This Bench, the 34th in the world, was placed to memorialize the lives of the formerly enslaved and freed African Americans who lived in the area of what is now the Concord Covered Bridge Historic District, during the 1800s and after. One woman who had formerly been enslaved, but continued to live in the area and raise a family after her emancipation was named Matilda Ruff. The garden surrounding the Bench was named in her honor.



Jonquil Garden Club members helped with the initial planning and planting of the area surrounding the Bench, as well as several flower beds in the area, stressing native plants, perennials and pollinators.

A festive ceremony, unveiling the Toni Morrison Bench, was held in June, 2024, with local and state dignitaries present.

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The Jonquil Club committed to maintain the garden areas, along with assistance from the Friends of the Concord Covered Bridge, and so tended to the area throughout the rest of the year.



The following year, in June of 2025, some descendants of Matilda Ruff had been located, and so another community celebration was held, to publicly recognize Matilda's descendants, and to



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dedicate Matilda's Garden. The Jonquil Club rallied this Spring to not just tend to what survived last summer's heat, but to plant many more specimens in Matilda's Garden around the Bench, and redo the planted beds along the fence toward Concord Road, and the back of the property. A very dedicated group of volunteers weeded, trimmed, planted, mulched and watered and got Matilda's Garden looking like an award-winning community garden.



And speaking of winning awards.... The Garden Club of Georgia awarded the Jonquil Garden Club First Place in Historic Preservation for a medium-sized club in 2025. The Club won Honorable Mention in the Deep South Garden Clubs, and went on win first place in its category by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Dedication and Recognition Celebration was attended once again by local and state dignitaries, as well as one of Matilda Ruff's descendants, and was even featured on Atlanta's Channel 2 News.



Michele Cox
Jonquil Garden Club President

Townview Garden Club

Townview Garden Club had a great 2024-2025 led by our President, Judy Howerton, and our officers!



In May, our 2025 - 2027 officers were installed by Diane Harbin. They are President Sharon Norman, Treasurer Stanley Boulee, Recording Secretary Vickie Hill, Corresponding Secretary and Chaplain Marilyn Goff. Pam Roberts is our newly appointed Vice President, Townview Garden Care Coordinator and Awards Chair.

We have a fun and lively schedule of monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of each month, September-May). Our membership is 18-20 at this time.

Our first meeting is scheduled at the Martha Berry Museum for our Luncheon, Meeting and Tour of the Oakhill gardens (home of Martha Berry).



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October will find us at Barnsley Gardens talking with the Chef and staff about their garden for the "Garden to Table" menus.

We look forward to helping with Rome Federated Meetings and the October 22nd Laurel District

Meeting at Coosa Country Club in Rome, located at the joining of Rome's three rivers, the Etowah River, Oostanala River joining to become the Coosa River. Joe Cook will talk with everyone present about the rivers, titled "Between the Rivers". Joe has authored River Guide books, with Georgia River Network, in partnership with the University of Georgia Press and local watershed groups, creating a series of recreational guides to Georgia's rivers. Guidebooks - Georgia Rivers at

<https://garivers.org/guidebooks>.



November will find Townview members hosted at the home of our newest member, Paula Stover. Paula has arranged with Mary Norton to share the history of their family plantation. The members will then travel to the Norton family's Civil War Plantation and tour the Gardens.

Our December meeting and luncheon will be fun and relaxed to enjoy each other, with an exchange of ornaments. Each year we also provide items for children and families in need (as organized by our local DFACS - Division of Family and Children's Services). This project is started in November with delivery of items in December.

Our ladies enjoy each other's company, as well as appreciate each other's knowledge, guidance, and camaraderie. I have had several leadership positions, and thoroughly appreciate the guidance and examples of making it fun though the guidance and leadership of these ladies and other gardeners.

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As one of our leaders tells me, "It's just a little Garden Club." Enjoy it. So, my goals include making our "little club" welcoming and fun for myself,



our members, our visitors and our presenters/teachers. We want to especially enjoy learning toward our goals of gardening.

Townview's mission aligns with the Georgia Garden Club mission "to cultivate beauty, conservation and education through a lifelong love of gardening as we connect with gardeners of all ages and skill levels to provide continuous learning, creativity and friendship."

We are lucky to have these Townview ladies and other club and district officers to guide us along these leadership positions for our Townview Garden Club in Rome Georgia. May we all have fun throughout this year.



Sharon Norman, President
Townview Garden Club- Rome

Whirlwind Spring for the Garden Club of Ellijay

Spring is always busy for gardeners but the gardeners that make up the Garden Club of Ellijay were especially busy this spring. Our climate in Gilmer County in the north Georgia mountains usually means a later blooming date than the rest of the state but we plan for a huge plant sale each year on the third Saturday in May. It is a scramble for our members to dig and transplant and baby sit the 1800-2200 plants we need for the sale.



GCE Club Members Line Up to Cheer and Welcome our First Plant Sale Customers

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All the plants for the four-hour sale come out of our gardens or the gardens of friends and neighbors. This sale has always been supported by the local community and has become an entertaining and joyful community event. Our customers have as much fun as the members and the waiting line for the sale to open has numbered over 200 people for several years. The sale selection varies from year to year but everything from herbs to shrubs and trees are offered.



GCE Team Ready for the Plant Sale

Michelle Culberson, chair of this year's sale, reminded us why we do all this work. "The proceeds from the sale will benefit the club and the community.



Plant Sale 2025

All our beautification projects, four \$1,000 scholarships, and all the club's other expenses are funded from this one event."

Dramatic Hydrangeas on Display at "Art in the Garden" Flower Show

The Garden Club of Ellijay has been known for their lovely and educational flower shows and June's last year show was our first flower show in six years.



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In 2025 we moved on from the small standard show of last year to a standard show with 24 designs, 8 botanical designs and 2 educational displays. Approximately 150 pieces of horticulture were also displayed. Judges from all over the state of Georgia were invited to judge and participate. The NGC Award of Design was awarded to Gale Thomas and the NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence went to Madeline Chandler. Kathy Shiner was pleased and proud of “Art in the Garden” and has graciously agreed to chair next year’s show.

The club celebrated our spring with a picnic alongside the Coosawattee River in June and geared up for the flower show. Then we were all ready for a break from meetings and activities in July and August but are looking forward to a fall of monthly meetings, field trips, and hands-on workshops.

Joanne Waddey, President
The Garden Club of Ellijay

Winter Issue
LAUREL LETTERS WINTER 2024-25
Deadline-November 19 Winter issue
Emailed- December 15

Spring Issue
LAUREL LETTERS SPRING 2025
Deadline- Feb 25 for Spring issue
Emailed to all by March 15