



I want to thank all of the Garden Club of Alabama members for putting their trust in me to lead this great organization. Working with you all over the past few years has been a privilege and so nice to make so many new friends.

The theme I have chosen for this term is “Put Color in Alabama for the Fall” by planting a Ginkgo or Maple tree. I never cease to be amazed at how beautiful the trees are in the fall. My Ginkgo turns bright yellow and my Maple turns a gorgeous orange. This will make a great contrast to all the green trees that grown in Alabama.

Our biggest challenge this year will be reinvigorating our clubs that have languished over the period of the Pandemic. So many things were shut down and now with precautions hopefully we can get things back to normal.

We will start back by holding District Meetings in October 2021. These get-togethers allow us to renew acquaintances and learn new information from the great speakers that are provided. (Hopefully we can do this with some distancing and care.)

Our Garden Club of Alabama, a few years back, had 8,000 members, and we are now down to around 2,000 (Florida has 43,000). I only hope that our clubs can push forward and invite new friends to come and join us. Wouldn't it be nice if each member could just invite one friend, then this goal could be accomplished.

I congratulate all of you who have continued to work to make our cities beautiful, despite the Pandemic. As I have passed through many of these cities, I can see the results of all your hard work and I know your communities are proud and thankful to you. I know our Heavenly Father looks out for the members of the Garden Club of Alabama because they are tending to his beautiful creation.

I look forward to working with you all and seeing you at our upcoming October District Meetings and Convention in April 2022. I especially want to thank those who have taken upon themselves to be a leader and have continued to be on our board of the many committees.

Let's show the world that Alabama is a beautiful place to live.

LaMar T. Merrill, Jr.

2021-2023 GCA President