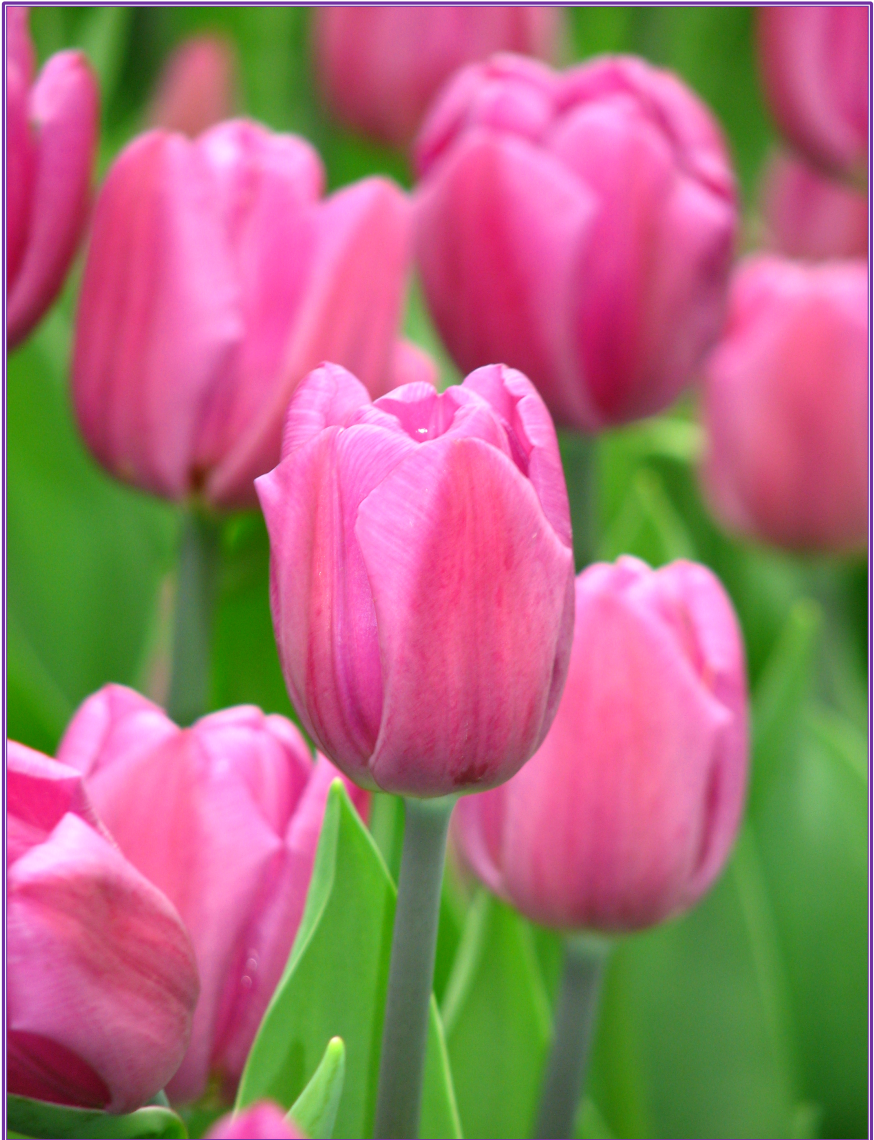


Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs'

OLD DOMINION GARDENER



www.viriniagardenclubs.org
Spring 2020 • Volume 51 • No. 4

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VFGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear VFGC Members,

I bring you warm wishes from the Board Members of VFGC!

Happy Spring! The beginning of a calendar year is certainly a time when "Garden-clubbers" need to mark their calendars. VFGC's events schedule begins to blossom as we enter late Winter and early Spring...even with dates for Fall. We have been quite busy making preparations for schools, scholarships, symposiums, grants, district meetings and specially for our state convention in Roanoke.

In fact, don't just mark your calendar, **PLAN TO ATTEND** our VFGC Convention at the Roanoke Hotel March 28-30, 2020. You can attend all or part of the convention. There will be a Flower Show and speakers on Horticulture, workshops and Design events. Just think, you're learning and having a good time as well!

And just as Mary Sue's theme states, "*Today's Actions Pave the Pathway to Tomorrow*", take action and make sure you won't miss out on all VFGC is offering. The *Old Dominion Gardener* is a great resource, but check out our new website www.viginiagardenclubs.org

Spring will be blooming soon so don't forget your District Meetings... Mary Sue's looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Mary Owen
1st VP VFGC

P.S. Mary Sue want to thank everyone for all their thoughts, cards, emails and prayers during her recent illness.

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

March 29-31, 2020

The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center

Convention is almost here!

Have you made your hotel reservations?
Hotel Roanoke, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Block,
540-985-5900

\$129 + tax – Deadline for this rate is **February 28, 2020**

Registration deadline for on-time is March 10, 2020

One-day rate of \$15, \$20 after March 10th

NGC Standard Flower Show
“Virginia – Mountains to the Ocean”
In Peacock Alley

Mary Ann Jung –
“History Alive Presentation”

Mary Ann is an award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar, writer, and director. Her fun-filled presentations are of history’s most fascinating women!

Carol Caggiano, AIFD, PFCI
Floral Design Program

An extensive background in floral design has won many awards for Carol along with her many leadership positions in major floral societies. She has done product development and photo styling for Teleflora. Carol has also served as part of an executive team to decorate the White House for Christmas for the past two years.

Alfred Goossens and William Birkhofer
The Socrates Project –Poisonous Plants in Virginia

How to recognize poisonous plants, what some of the look-alikes are and what are the possible effects of poisoning

PROGRAM DEMONSTRATIONS (Workshops on Schedule)

Sunday 3:45 – 4:45

***It's NOT Just for Judges!* – Frances Thrash**

Years ago, Frances Thrash, a beloved and celebrated designer and NGC Design Instructor from Virginia Beach, decided she would attend **Flower Show School *just for fun***. Besides it is a great way to meet people from around the state with shared interests. Many judges admit that they too first went to Flower Show School because they wanted to learn more about Horticulture and/or Design just for fun...just because they were interested. Please join us on Sunday afternoon as Frances Thrash demystifies Flower Show School, with an emphasis on learning while having fun. She plans to demonstrate a mass design, a miniature design and a creative design. Frances will also answer your questions. She may even bring some horticulture examples from her fabulous garden.

Monday 3:00 – 4:00

***Sensational Dried Flowers* – Esther Davis**



An article in the National Geographic magazine, a rose from her mother's garden and a coffee can full of sand from a nearby creek led Esther Davis into her life's work. Little did she know then that this simple engaging afternoon activity would evolve into her full time vocation as a floral preservationist for nearly thirty years. Esther Davis is the author of "***Sensational Dried Flowers – Make Dried Floral Arrangements So Beautiful They Look Fresh***" and will be sharing her tips and techniques for drying, preserving, enhancing and reconstructing flowers so they can be used decoratively from simple designs to more complex to reach all levels of interest and inspire you to "try this at home". You will not want to miss this exciting program as Esther is a dynamic individual and her work speaks for itself.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 29, 2020

10:00 – 11:00	Finance Committee Meeting
10:00 – 1:00	Flower Show entries received
10:30 – 5:00	Registration Open
12:00 – 6:00	Exhibits and Shopping
1:00 – 1:30	Executive Committee Meeting
1:30 – 3:30	Board Meeting
3:45 – 4:45	Workshop
5:30 – 6:30	Social Time (Cash Bar)
6:30	Dinner honoring Life Members and first time Convention attendees <i>Program: Mary Ann Jung "History Alive Presentation"</i>

Monday, March 30, 2020

8:00 – 11:30	Continuous Break (Breakfast and Refreshments)
8:00 – 5:00	Registration Open
8:00 – 4:30	Flower Show Open
8:00 – 6:00	Exhibits and Shopping
9:00	Official Opening of Convention: Business Meeting
12:00 noon	Luncheon honoring VFGC Board Members <i>Design: Carol Caggiano, Floral Designer</i>
1:00 – 4:30	Continuous Break (Snacks & Refreshments)
3:00 – 4:00	Workshop
5:30 – 6:30	Social (Cash Bar)
6:30	Banquet honoring SAR Director, Carolyn McCafferty <i>Program: William Birkhoffer & Alfred Goossens, "Socrates Project: Poisonous Plants in VA"</i>

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

8:30 – 10:30	Breakfast and Awards Presentation honoring Landscape Design and Flower Show Schools
--------------	--

"Virginia - Mountains to the Ocean"

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by VFGC at the 86th Annual Convention

Entries received & judging on March 29, 2020

For further information contact Val Story

540-272-0975 | valstory@aol.com

Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community

*Submitted by JoAnn McNabb,
Piedmont District President, National Garden Week State Chair*

National Garden Week was founded by National Garden Clubs, Inc. Join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week the first full week of June. Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of Garden Clubs in your community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing, while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters found on the NGC website.



Be creative!



Statewide Awards

Submitted by Heidi Sage, VFGC Awards Chairman

Almost 100 awards were submitted by clubs in all six districts representing the terrific programs supported by our members in 2019.

Judging took place Monday, Jan 6 without any complications due to weather. Four panels of judges gathered in Madison to review the applications from 40 clubs not including clubs who sponsored youth activities like posters and poetry. The judges complete point score sheets for each award application to provide feedback. Sample sheets can be found on the VFGC website awards page, providing guidance on what the judges value.

The new President's award, "Paving Tomorrow's Pathways" had a fine award winner as did a new category – "Reclaiming un-usable spaces". Turning a gravel filled parking lot into a garden with raised beds makes an amazing difference. Projects involving youth are still the most popular with yearbooks and newsletters almost as numerous.

Horticulture Therapy is another activity many of our clubs support. There are two different awards: "Horticulture Therapy" and "Horticulture Therapy Garden Project" with a healing garden. Only the one with the healing garden has counterparts at the regional and national levels, so may go on for higher recognition.

More than half the applications received blue ribbons and went on to compete at regional and national levels. Awards have a different system of point scoring than do flower shows. There is only one blue per club size category, scoring 90 and above, but there may be more than one red given, as long as they score 80 and above. Many of the red awards given scored 95 and higher, but were outscored by one that reached 99.

VFGC Awards Vice chairman, Mitzi Cassidy creates the power Point Presentation for the Awards Ceremony in Roanoke. Ribbons, award certificates and checks are presented and the point score sheets returned as the clubs and districts are recognized at the Awards Brunch.

VLDCC News

*By Donna Cottingham,
Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Committee Vice President*

Grant Fundraising Made Easy

Virginia Landscape Design Consultants will be selling packets of butterfly garden seeds to fund grants for landscape design projects for community and public spaces. The seed packs cost \$1 each. Garden clubs and members can purchase seeds singly or in bulk, for your own gardens, table favors for luncheons, to distribute for youth education projects, for monarch waystations, and for planting community butterfly gardens. Seed packs will be available for purchase at district meetings and conventions, and garden club members throughout the state are encouraged to invest \$1 to fund public project grants. Past projects funded by VLDCC include the installation of gardens at schools, libraries, churches and other community sites. Grant details will be announced soon. For information, contact Melissa Damiano, mtdamiano@aol.com.

Landscape Design School

Course 3, Series 28 will be held on April 6-7 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The curriculum, in a series of four courses, covers the history, principles, and many interesting and useful aspects of landscape design. The courses do not have to be taken in order. After completing 2 courses, students are eligible to join the VLDCC to take advantage of additional educational opportunities, garden tours, and fellowship. For more information about classes, contact Glenda Knowles, ggknowles@cox.net.

International Landscape Architect to Speak

This year's Ian Robertson Legacy Lectureship will take place March 8 at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville. Mikyong Kim will be the speaker. The award-winning international designer is the 2018 recipient of the ASLA Design Medal, and the Cooper Hewitt Award from the Smithsonian Design Museum. She is known for creating significant designs that reflect the beauty of the collective human experience. Her

talk, “Reclaiming the City: A Focus on Human Centered Design,” will address the power of landscape architecture in building community, and its impact on social interaction. For more information, visit mcintirebotanicalgarden.org/lecture/.

Penny Pines Update

Submitted by Joy Poole, Chairman



We did such a great job with our Penny Pines contributions in 2019 contributing 110 plantations - the highest number of contributions yet! In 2018, we contributed 89 plantations and in 2017, we contributed 56 plantations.

Please remember that individuals may also purchase plantations in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Congratulations to our members who contributed to the replanting of some 22,000 trees in our national forests! You ARE making a difference!

Temporary Chairman Appointed

Please note a temporary change in the chairmanship of **VFGC Life Membership & Book of Honor**. Patsy Cameron, previous chairman will assume the duties of this committee for Susan Grove who is recovering from a recent fall and surgeries. This change will be in effect through the end of 2020; it is hoped that Susan will resume those duties at that time and through the remainder of this term. Please send your applications to:

Patsy Cameron, Interim Chairman
VFGC Life Membership & Book of Honor
3532 Kings Lake Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452 4603

pecameron@cox.net | (757) 486-3165

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL • COURSE 3, SERIES 28
MONDAY, APRIL 6 & TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020
LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN
1800 LAKESIDE DRIVE • RICHMOND, VA 23228-4700

Submitted by Glenda Knowles, Landscape Design Chairman

Laurie Fox, Ph.D.: Laurie Fox is a faculty member in the Horticulture department at Virginia Tech and is based at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Virginia Beach, VA where she has extension and research responsibilities. She received her BS & MS degrees in Horticulture from North Carolina State University, with an emphasis on landscape design, ornamental plant production, and weed science, and her Ph.D. from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Laurie is an author and the publisher of *Best Plants for Hampton Roads - A Landscape and Garden Companion*. For the past several years Laurie has served as the chairman of the Virginia Flower & Garden Expo held in Virginia Beach.

Gordon W. Chappell, FASLA: Gordon Chappell has taught Landscape Design School for many years in several states. From Georgia, Gordon is a graduate of the University of Georgia, a former garden director at Colonial Williamsburg, and a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architecture. His private practice of landscape architecture in James City County focuses primarily on historic properties.

Jack Douglas, ASLA: Jack is the President and Founder of Douglas Associates, a professional landscape design and architecture firm in Richmond, VA. He taught as an instructor for the University of Richmond, Georgetown University and the University of Virginia. His garden designs have been featured in *Southern Living* and *Southern Accents*. Jack received a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University.

Trevor R. Buckley, Landscape Planner: Trevor is a landscape planner and designer with a keen interest in bringing ecological design principles to bear on projects at all scales. His education and research have taken him across the American West, Europe, and Southeast Asia. After graduating from the College of William & Mary with a B.S. in Geology, he pursued farming and gardening for several seasons. This work led him to the Conway School's graduate program in sustainable landscape planning and design, where he earned a M.S. in Ecological Design. As a member of the landscape architecture studio at Timmons Group, based in Richmond, VA, Trevor works on a wide array of public and private sector projects in MD, VA, and NC.

Neal Beasley, ASLA, ISA Certified Arborist: Neal is a Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist with over 25 years of experience in the fields of Horticulture, Arboriculture, Irrigation, Landscape Construction and Public Gardening. Neal studied horticulture at N. C. State University and was formerly the Manager of Horticulture at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. As an Arborist, he assesses trees during the site analysis to best determine protection strategies or removal. Neal is also on the team of the Timmons Group in Richmond. Neal is the co-author of "Recycling Urban Storm water: 1050K Street, NW Washington, DC" 2007.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday, April 6, 2020			
Time	Activity	Chpt	Instructor
8:00 – 8:20 am – 8:20 am	Registration Welcome		
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Landscape Design Accessories	12	Neal Beasley
9:40 am – 10:40 am	Introduction to Urban Design	32	Trevor Buckley
10:50 am – 11:50 am	Special Interest Topic –History & Evolution of Conservatories/Orangeries*	SIT	Neal Beasley
11:50 am – 1:10 pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:20 pm - 2:20 pm	*Tour of Lewis Ginter Conservatory and Collections by Neal Beasley	SIT	Neal Beasley
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Graphics Interpretation	29	Trevor Buckley
3:35 pm - 4:35 pm	Parks, Playgrounds and Conservation	18	Jack Douglas
6:30 pm Group Dinner – place to be announced – pay on your own			
Tuesday, April 7, 2020			
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Design	30	Jack Douglas
9:40 am - 10:40 am	Development of Landscape Architecture From 1840 - 1940	25	Gordon Chappell
10:50 am - 11:50 am	Herbaceous Materials for the Landscape	14	Laurie Fox
11:50 am - 1:00 pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Landscape Design for Maintenance	15	Laurie Fox
2:10 pm - 3:10 pm	Design on the Land – Regional Expression	24	Gordon Chappell
3:15 pm	Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.		
3:30 pm	Exam		

The text for the entire series of Courses I-IV is *Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America*, published by NGC, Inc. Order through National Garden Clubs, Inc., 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110, 800-550-6007 or 314-776-7574. Cost is \$40.00 plus shipping & handling. To order, scroll to the bottom of this webpage: <http://nationalgardenclubs.org/schools/landscape-design.aspx>. A new curriculum has been approved by NGC; however, this course will use the textbook.



Hotel Information

Hampton Inn - 5406 Glenside Drive. Hilliard Road beside LGBG becomes Glenside Drive (2.7 miles from LGBG) (804) 756-1777. Hot breakfast included. Ask for LDS Block – Rate: \$119.00. **Cut-off date for discount is March 13, 2020**

To reserve a room in the LDS block:

- (1) go to richmondglensidesuites.hamptoninn.com
- (2) select your arrival and departure dates, then click “add special rate codes”
- (3) in the box labeled “group code”, enter LDS
- (4) continue making your reservation by selecting from the available room types

at the negotiated group rate set up by the group contact.

COURSE REGISTRATION
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
COURSE 3 SERIES 28 APRIL 6 - 7, 2020
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail and/or Fax _____

Garden Club & District: _____

Check if Refreshing _____ Are you a Master Gardener? yes / no

Is your garden club a member of VFGC? ___Yes ___No

Please Check Correct Box

Exam Student _____ \$ 80.00

Non-Exam Student _____ \$ 80.00

Single Day Student _____ \$ 40.00

Circle One: Monday or Tuesday

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ \$ _____

Note: The cost of your meals and lodging is not included in the registration fee. Refunds for medical emergencies only.

Please make check payable to **VFGC Landscape Design School**

Mail to: LDS Registrar

Phone: 540-297-0965

Marty Bowers

2854 Hickory Cove Lane

Moneta, VA 24121-6029

E-mail: martbw@gmail.com

School Chairman:

Glenda Knowles

Phone: 757 651-0401

6948 Chancery Lane

Williamsburg, VA 23188

E-Mail: ggknowles@cox.net

*This course is available to all those having an interest in the
beauty and care of our environment through landscaping.*

VFGC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16	Piedmont District Meeting	Richmond
March 19 - 20	SAR Convention	Greenville, SC
March 26	Tidewater District Meeting.....	Norfolk
March 29 - 31	VFGC Convention	Roanoke
April 6 -7	Landscape Design School, Course 3.....	Richmond
April 7	South Central District Meeting	Lynchburg
April 16	Blue Ridge District Meeting	
April 23	Shenandoah District Meeting	Lexington
April 25	Southwest District Meeting.....	Abingdon
May 11 - 14	NGC Convention	Milwaukee, WI
June 7 - 13	National Garden Week	
Aug 31 - Sept 3	Flower Show School, Course I	Lynchburg
Sept 28 - 29.....	Landscape Design School, Course 4.....	Richmond



Hear ye, hear ye,
Virginia Flower Show School is returning!

Course I
August 31 - Sept 3, 2020
Kirkley Hotel, Lynchburg, Virginia

Flower Show School is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and persons interested in flower design and horticulture.

Special promotion for this offering: The first 10 people, who apply for the school, take the tests AND pass will receive \$100!

For further information contact Val Story: valstory@aol.com

IN MEMORIAM

Blue Ridge District

Lucille Lewis..... Westchester GC



Wonder City Garden Club

58th Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9, 2020 8 am - 12 Noon

Weston Plantation on the Appomattox River
400 Weston Lane at 21st Avenue
Hopewell, Virginia 23860

The plant sale will include a variety of local plants ready for spring planting. This year's offerings will feature some lovely specimens from the private gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Skaggs.

All proceeds from the sale are used to support local horticulture and education programs

Celebrating 63 years of gardening - Established 1957

Hill & Valley Garden Club's

Afternoon Tea and Garden Tour

at Birdsong Pleasure Garden, Luray, Virginia

Saturday, June 13th, 2020

1:00-5:00 pm

Sweet, savory and gluten free delicacies

Plants & gardening sales items

Fabulous door prizes offered

\$10 for VFGC members, \$15 for non-members.

Please RSVP, by June 6th



Lesley Mack at birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com

website www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info

or phone 540-743-9389



Donors - Prairie Moon Nursery, Hummingbird Hill Natives, Discovery Museum, Blandy Farms, Belle Grove Plantation, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, Massanutten Country Corners, and more!

Cedar Run Garden Club presents a Memorial Marker

Submitted by Polly Gable, Shenandoah District Blue Star Chairman

The Shenandoah District Blue Star Memorial Committee is pleased to announce the placement of the latest Blue Star Memorial Marker to the American Legion, Post 72 in Warrenton, Virginia, by the Cedar Run Garden Club.

The Marker was presented to the Legion at a moving and patriotic ceremony on Saturday, December, 7, 2019. Certainly, a perfect day for honoring of our United States Military.

Cedar Run Garden Club president Val Story welcomed members of the American Legion, VFW, members of visiting garden clubs and fellow members of the CRGC. The program included patriotic songs of America the Beautiful and God Bless America led by Joan Gallette. Yours truly was pleased to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, with the help of 5-year-old granddaughter, Queeny Thorpe.



Pictured left to right: Polly Gable, Rev. Randy West, Frank Gable, Amy Thorpe

Upon accepting the Memorial Marker, Commander Claude Davenport, of Post 72, welcomed everyone including dignitaries; Carter Nevill, Mayor of Warrenton and Michael Webert 18th District Representative to the General Assembly. Both spoke on the respect and support to the United States Military and in memory of those who gave all in defending the United States and world aggression. The Commander accepted the Marker on behalf of Military members past, present and future serving in the United States of America Military.

The history of the Blue Star Memorial program was given by Marilyn Mason, Past President of the Shenandoah District VFGC and former Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs President.

Amy Gable Thorpe, Shenandoah District President and her father, Frank Gable, a Viet Nam Veteran, member of the American Legion and VFW, unveiled the Marker. It will be permanently attached to the Post 72 building. Cedar Run Garden Club members prepared the garden section in front of the location.

We were pleased to have General Randy West, United States Marine (Ret) gave the benediction.

Rock Spring Garden Club's Holiday Design Event

Submitted by Joan Hession, Rock Spring GC (P)

Last fall, the Rock Spring Garden Club had its eighth Holiday Design Event. The main event featured a local Floral Designer who demonstrates design techniques during hands-on floral arranging. In addition to the designer, there were door prizes, a silent auction, delicious refreshments, holiday pumpkin floral arrangements, holiday gifts as well as Tools of the Trade to help attendees create their own designs at home.

Proceeds from the event fund week-long summer camp scholarships at the Arlington County Public Schools Outdoor Lab in Purcellville, VA. Scholarships are awarded to 4th-6th graders selected by their science teachers and counselors for demonstrating ability and enthusiasm in science. To date we have provided scholarships for 24

children. The Holiday Design Event also helps fund other community outreach activities including our partnership with Arlington County Public Schools for junior gardeners and garden therapy programs, as well as our long-term commitment to Rock Spring Park.



Over 300 patrons enjoyed Ami Wilber, the Floral and Event Décor Designer at Hillwood, as she demonstrated her unique floral designs at Rock Spring Garden Club's eighth Holiday Design.

Tidewater District Historic Garden Preservation

Submitted by Kay Slover Eckhardt, Historic Garden Preservation Chair, and Louise Greer, Thoroughgood Garden Club (T)

When the new Education Center was completed and the Thoroughgood Historic House in Virginia Beach restored in May 2018, the Thoroughgood Garden Club was on hand to improve the landscape. Susan Porter created a design to landscape around the new sign. Louise Greer located crushed clamshells to refurbish the paths in the formal garden. Pam Spillman designed new plant identification signs and all members participated in their production. Finally, trash cans that had been placed at the front of the Education Center were moved to the rear of the HVAC pad, screened by new native shrubs planted by the City's Landscape Services.

The Club is working on the replacement of missing Dwarf Seckel Pear trees on the formal gardens' center path. These espaliered trees are



part of the original Alden Hopkins 1960 plan commissioned by the Garden Club of Virginia. After a two-year search for the proper trees, Louise Greer located suitable replacements from a nursery in Oregon. The

trees will be shipped in April and planted with the cooperation of City Landscape Services.

The Abingdon Garden Club Garden Tour

Submitted by Barbara Smith, Abingdon GC (Sw)

The Abingdon Garden Club held its 20th annual garden tour in May, 2019 and it attracted 200+ visitors. Chair Dianne Bisig and her Garden Tour committee started working on the details for this year's tour in July. A successful garden tour requires much work. The garden tour committee doesn't just search for new, unique gardens but it has subcommittees to handle publicity, sponsorships, refreshments, hostess scheduling, ticket design and sales, and other details. All of our garden club members work as hostesses during the tour, greeting visitors and answering questions.

Our 21st annual garden tour promises to be an exciting one with gardens ranging from a formal courtyard garden to a cut flower farm. It will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2020. Publicity fliers are being prepared or you can check our website at abingdongardenclubva.wordpress.com. (e-mail- abingdongardenclubva@gmail.com.)

Proceeds from the tour will be used to maintain a butterfly garden, a local park, a Shakespearean garden, a container garden at the local cancer center, the landscaping around a Blue Star Memorial, and other projects supported by the club.

Blue Ridge Garden Club Holiday visit to Journey's Crossing Assisted Living

*Submitted by Amy Goswick, Blue Ridge GC
(BR)*



This past November the Blue Ridge Garden Club from Elkton, VA continued a long-standing tradition of a holiday garden therapy program with the residents of Journey's Crossing Assisted Living. Club members prepared and

shared their favorite treats and afterwards each resident had the opportunity to create a holiday floral arrangement for themselves. Fresh cut greenery, red and white carnations, holiday floral pics and mugs that had been pre filled with oasis, or garden foam, were supplied by the club. After a short demonstration little instruction was needed as everyone was busy working on their own creation. One resident was happy to tell us that she was a former garden club member also! It was a very fun and rewarding start to the holiday season.



Ye Accawmacke Garden Club Luncheon

Submitted by Ann Bull, Ye Accawmacke GC (T)

Ye Accawmacke Garden Club held its annual Luncheon on Saturday, January 18. The Luncheon has been an annual event since the club's founding in 1950. Pictured are Lola Custis, winner of the silver bowl for achievement in Artistic Design and Melinda Ashley, winner of the silver bowl for achievement in Horticulture.



Nelson County Garden Club Scholarship Support

Submitted by Elizabeth Upshur, Nelson County GC (Sh)

To raise money for our annual giving of the Dorothy Lee Bowling Giles Scholarship which the club awards in May to a local high school senior wishing to major in horticulture – each December our club has a workshop for making Christmas decorations out of fresh greenery. This can be in all forms – door decorations – small Christmas trees – centerpieces for the table – and candles surrounded by greenery. Here we are at our workshop on December 12 at Trinity Church in Arrington.



The next day, December 13, we are back at the Church for our annual Holiday luncheon. All the members bring food, and Pat Price brings in fried chicken for the whole club. Somehow, even without a list, just the right amount of food in the right categories seems to arrive. Jackie Britt is the master of ceremonies aided by Suiling Weed, and each year we play different word games. The best part (besides the food) is the decorated boxes. Decorate a box with fresh and dried plants and flowers and take a box according to the number you pick out of a hat. You never know what you will get.

Everyone worked hard but especially Karla Murray who made fifteen arrangements. They were all so beautiful! Unfortunately,



Anne Newman and new friend.

Becky Wilson and her sister-in-law couldn't help. Both had broken arms just in time for the holidays.



Pictured: Suiling Weed, Kay Volman and Cheryl Brogdon

Day Number Three – December 14 – we transport all the greenery creations to the Rockfish Valley Community Center for the Annual Holiday Market.

Many thanks to Barbara Ohmsen for all her years as ODG proofreader!

Destructive and Invasive Insects: Emerald Ash Borers, Brown Marmorated Stinkbugs and now the Spotted Lanternfly

*Submitted by Betsy Boggs Freund,
Natural Disasters/World Gardening, Blue Ridge District (BR)*

The beautiful tall ash trees in my neighborhood and elsewhere have died in the last several years, because of the EAB, or emerald ash borer, which came into this country in 2002.

The invasive brown marmorated stinkbugs, or BMSB's, have been very destructive as well. They were first spotted in Pennsylvania in 1998 and Delaware, West Virginia and Virginia by 2004. This insect has now migrated to such far-flung countries of the world as Canada, Chile, Russia, Serbia, Greece, France and Spain.

Entomologists call the stinkbug "highly polyphagous," meaning it will eat a staggering range of things. A 2018 article in The New Yorker magazine states, "So far, scientists have discovered more than 250 plants

that the brown marmorated stinkbug will consume. Together, those plants represent every major agricultural and horticultural sector of the American economy: vegetables, fruit trees, berries, nuts, ornamental plants, and row crops, including sweet corn, cotton, soybeans, and virtually every other legume." ¹

Stinkbugs also eat many different species of deciduous trees, including birches, maples, dogwoods, magnolias, willows, sycamores, hemlocks, elms and oaks, among others.

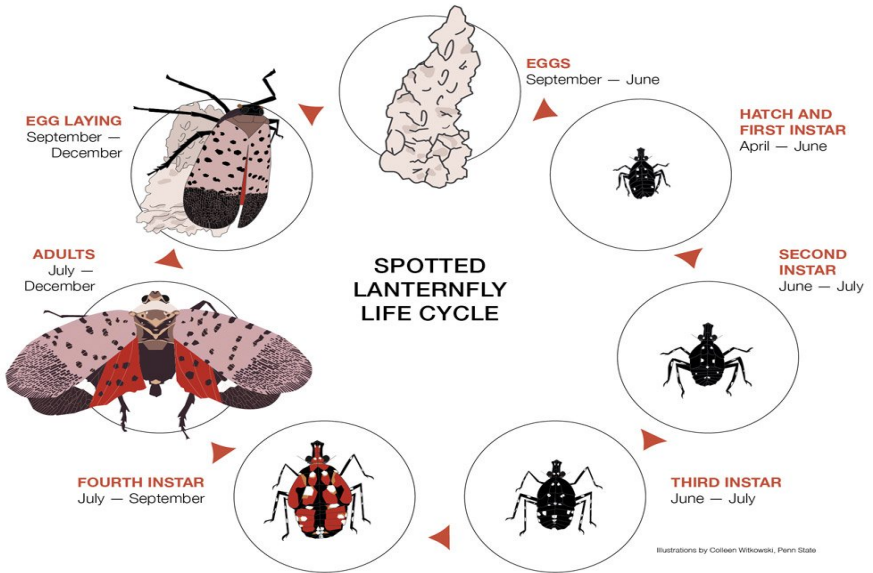
Now a new destructive and invasive insect, the Spotted Lanternfly, has been spotted in Pennsylvania and more recently in the eastern part of Virginia. The Spotted Lanternfly is a native of China, India and Vietnam and will eat valuable agricultural crops including fruit and may consume hardwood. I spoke with Eric Day of the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech. He said Tech is working in conjunction with other universities on ways to control the spread and destruction of this pest. It is a potentially very serious threat to apples, peaches, grapes and a variety of other crops. Although the lanternfly is now in the eastern part of our state, Mr. Day was cautiously optimistic that it may be awhile before it migrates to the western part of the state. By then, the hope is that there may be some controls in place from the ongoing research.

Most adult spotted Lanternflies freeze to death and do not survive the winter. However, their eggs survive the winter with the nymphs beginning to hatch in May. The best way to eliminate Lanternflies is to destroy the egg masses before the nymphs begin to hatch. The Lanternfly lays their eggs on a flat surface such as tree trunks, branches, rocks and equipment stored outdoors, even plant containers. The egg masses resemble grey or tan mud or mortar splotches. Once an egg mass has been identified, it can be destroyed by scrapping the mass off with a putty knife into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. They can also be smashed, but the rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizer have been the most effective.²

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/spotted-lanternfly-vs-pennsylvania-the-bug-is-winning-11568732683>

² <https://www.farmanddairy.com/top-stories/how-to-identify-and-destroy-spotted-lanternfly-egg-masses/521067.html>

Insect sizes have been enlarged to show detail.



The Life Cycle of the spotted lanternfly

Colleen Witkowski, Penn State, extension.psu.edu



Spotted lanternfly egg masses are found from September to June.
Photo Credit: Penn State Extension, E. Swackhamer

“MOTHER EARTH AWAKENING”

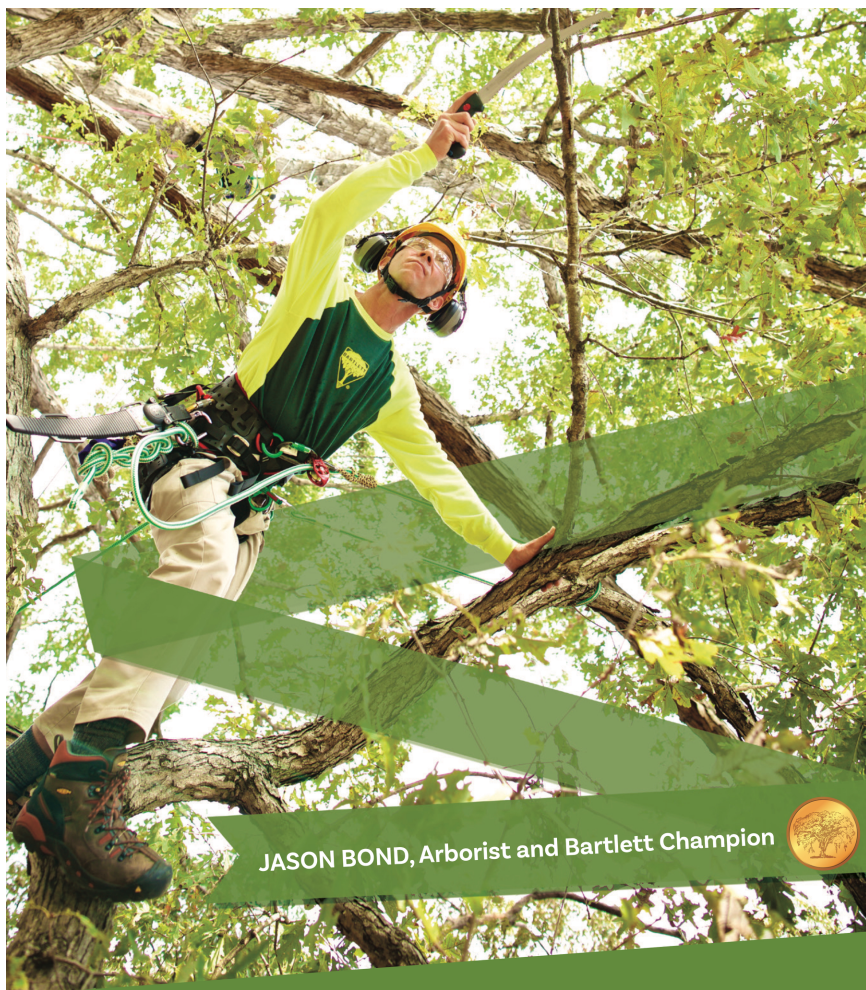
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