

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

OLD DOMINION GARDENER



www.viriniagardenclubs.org
Winter 2020 • Volume 52 • No. 3

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Hello!

I hope all of you have been staying healthy and strong. Even though we still must be careful, we can also be thankful for our many blessings – big or small. As I write this, I am looking out my windows at the warm fall colors. With the crazy weather we have had this year, I also have some azaleas and camellias that normally bloom in April and May blooming now.

I know that many clubs are having difficulty meeting in person. Some have found creative ways to meet; others are spending time keeping in touch without actually getting together. I would like to hear from the clubs and how you are coping.

We are still planning to hold our convention at the end of April 2021. See the article within this issue of the ODG for more information.

We thank all the clubs who participated in the Virtual Plant Sale. The proceeds will benefit our Scholarship Fund.

And through the Dogwood Society a club or individual can make a donation to the Blue Star fund, Youth Grants, Grants to Beauty and Restore, and Scholarship fund.

As you read this, we will be in the Christmas season. So, I would like to wish everyone a ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*** May 2021 be better than 2020.

With love to all,

Mary Sue Floyd





Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc, Eighty-Seventh Annual Convention

April 25-27, 2021
Short Pump Hilton Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

The decision to select the Short Pump Hilton Hotel in Richmond was based in no small measure on the hotel's diligence in putting extensive procedures in place for social distancing and the protection of its guests. The large conference space is set apart from other hotel functions and will be solely dedicated to VFGC not only for privacy but precautionary measures as well.

Mary Sue Floyd will be presiding over the convention and Gay Austin, NGC President, will preside over the installation ceremony, where Mary Owen will be installed as President of VFGC.

To whet your interest, you will have an opportunity to attend the following program with Kathy Ward, Salisbury Garden Club, Piedmont District.

Thinking Inside the Box ... Big Box (Hardware) Store

What do PVC pipe, temporary blinds, dryer vent hose and gutter guard all have in common? Not only do they all come from your local hardware store, but they can all be used to make amazingly creative floral designs! In this presentation, Kathy Ward, NGC Accredited Judge, will show you a new way to look at these and other items from your DIY store. You will be amazed at the possibilities!





And, Brenda McMannaway, Master Flower Show Judge of the Boones Mill Garden Club in Blue Ridge, will lead us in a hands-on workshop that blends craft and floral design. Brenda will show us how to create a structure for design from a book, of all things!

The full program agenda and registration forms will be available in the spring edition of ODG.



Calling all VFGC members ...

As plans for the 2021-2023 administration are underway, you are **NEEDED** for Chairmanships of our Standing Committees. With COVID having disrupted so many of our plans in the 2019-2021 administration, we hope for a reprieve and need to make plans for our future.

If you have a specific area of interest, **now** is the time to let me know. The possibilities are many and varied. And as our Mission Statement reads, “*VFGC provides youth and adult education resources and opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility*”.

We can only go forward and make our communities blossom if each of us steps-up and contributes to further our VFGC goals. These are the times when it is so important to give back and be a part of a wonderful organization of gardeners.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mary Owen
President-elect, VFGC 2021-2023
Rxowen@aol.com 434-390-3479
P.O. Box 206, Fork Union, Virginia 23055

VFGC Nominating Committee
Announces Slate of Officers for 2021-2023
Term

Submitted by Anna J. Meyers, Chairman

President, Mary Owen

First Vice-President, Valerie Story

Second Vice-President, Kathy Ward

Third Vice-President, Grace Morris

Secretary, Ruth Rider

VFGC Scholarship Program

Submitted by Jill B. Quinley, Scholarship Chairman

Following the February 1, 2020 scholarship deadline, three scholarship applications were sent to the six VFGC District Scholarship Chairmen. After careful deliberation, candidates were selected and the VFGC Executive Board notified. Verification was received from the VFGC Executive Board giving authorization for three 2020 VFGC scholarships with a total amount of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00). The three recipients are each attending Virginia Tech, and, their scholarship awards are:

Robert Lee Marshall

Two thousand dollars (\$2,000)

Robbie will enter Virginia Tech as a Freshman and pursue Environmental Science as his major.

Amber Nicole Edwards

Three thousand dollars (\$3,000)

Amber will enter Virginia Tech, fall semester as a senior majoring in Environmental Horticulture. Amber also was awarded the NGC \$4,000 Scholarship Award.

Ashley Nicole Coates

Three thousand dollars (\$3,000)

Ashley is a graduate student at Virginia Tech pursuing a master's degree in Landscape Architecture.

Award monies were sent to the Bursar's Office at Virginia Tech by VFGC Treasurer, Kathy Ward.

It has been determined the Thelma Utt Scholarship has paid out. Three endowed scholarships remain: The President's Horticulture Scholarship, The Minna D. Adams Scholarship and The Peg Grinnus Scholarship. Currently they are each two thousand-dollar (\$2,000.00) awards.

Now more than ever, scholarship remains essential in the lives of aspiring, full time qualified college students majoring in the fields of Environmental Science, Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Habitat or Forest Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other garden related subjects. Private and club donations are deeply appreciated as college costs continue to rise.



Penny Pines

Submitted by Joy Poole, Penny Pines Chairman

A **Penny Pines** certificate is a special way to honor a member. The award represents the planting of 200 or more trees in a National Forest due to disease, flooding, or fire. This year, especially in California and Oregon, forest fires are raging. We are making a difference in our National Forests!

At the fall VFGC board meeting, we were honored to award a Penny Pines certificate to Sharon Jones for her outstanding work on our VFGC website. Thank you again, Sharon!



VFGC Garden Clubs have contributed 41 Penny Pines plantations so far this year thru August 2020. We are so proud that all 6 districts have participated as follows: Blue Ridge 10; Shenandoah 14; Piedmont 4; South Central 3; Southwest 3; Tidewater 6; VFGC state board: 1.

In 2019, I visited 2 of the 8 USDA National Forest District offices in Virginia. I was pleasantly surprised with the office displays and information provided. The district office locations can be found at www.fs.usda.gov. Let me know if you visit one.

VFGC Grants to Beautify & Restore Produce Results

Submitted by Judy Ann Fray, Grant Chairman

Three Virginia localities now have areas that have been beautified by garden club projects made possible by the 2019 – 2020 VFGC Grants to Beautify & Restore. Congratulations to these clubs!

Ramifications of the COVID-19 Pandemic limited the number of club members, youth and others who felt "safe" enough to garden together. Photos submitted in reports show garden club members wearing masks to protect themselves and others while trying to fulfill their beautification/restoration plans.

The Dogwood and Green Thumb Garden Clubs of Big Stone Gap (SW) used their \$1,000 grant to restore an area on the grounds of the Southwest Virginia Museum and Park that had suffered storm damage for several years. They used native plants and shrubs to beautify the 101 Train Car Museum area. Plants that had been started in the elementary and high school greenhouses were transplanted by the garden clubs after schools were closed. Extensive photos showed members working with the Park



Planting the winterberry, viburnum, and milkweed in the gardens are Tyler Hughes, Andrea Meador and Green Thumb GC members Akwe Starnes and Sharon Taylor.

Manager and staff to complete the garden. Both these garden clubs look forward to an on-going relationship with the Southwest Virginia Museum Park.



Hawthorne Garden Club (Sh) had a goal to replace several trees lost to heavy rains and establish a Rain Garden on the grounds of the Independent School of Winchester. Growth of garden plants would help to

mitigate damaging run-off from future rains. In fall, 2019, high school students helped establish a garden bed in an area that takes on excessive water.

Plants that could handle both dry and wet conditions were chosen, including Cardinal Flower, Red Twig Dogwood, Virginia Sweetspire, Pink Turtlehead, Dogtooth Daisy, Bee Balm and Black-eyed Susan. Two rain barrels were purchased and attached to gutters of a nearby pavilion to reduce run-off and provide close access to water in dry times.

The area will be a wildlife habitat as well as an educational component for the school's students. Much was accomplished using their \$900 grant from VFGC.

The \$1,000 VFGC Grant allowed The Madison Garden Club (Sh) to restore an old garden at their high school, converting it to a Pollinator Garden. Some of the major "bones" of the garden were heavily pruned and kept, while others were eliminated.

A much-needed border to establish the garden's shape and eliminate soil loss as well as reduce the invasion of undesirable grass was created from treated lumber given by MWP Supply of Madison. Old soil was



removed and new soil purchased, adding nutrients that surely had been lacking for years. Some new perennials and annuals were purchased, but many were gifts from Club members.

Tall sunflowers became a focal point during the summer blooming season. Colorful zinnias, African Blue Basil, Sedums and other pollen-producing flowers and herbs hosted dozens of bees and butterflies...even a Monarch! Each of these garden clubs expressed appreciation for the VFGC Grant funding that gave stimulus to their project, thus improving the beauty of each community. Two additional clubs received Grants to Beautify & Restore for the 2020-2021 year, and are now working on their restoration projects.

Gardening & Horticulture Education

*Submitted by Jane Harrold Sorensen, Horticulture
Chairman*



One positive outcome of this COVID-19 era is that many organizations dealing with horticulture and gardening have produced on-line education programs. While these discussions and classes may lack the social component of in-person events, they provide excellent information without the need to travel and find lodging; and they are available whenever you are. Below are a few examples of on-line resources.

Virginia Master Gardener offers free video programs on a variety of gardening topics, including raised beds, tomatoes, propagating succulents, extending the growing season, and more on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardenerProgram/videos/?ref=page_internal

University of Maryland Extension offers free programs on a variety of topics, including soil health, seed saving, beneficial insects, and much more: <https://extension.umd.edu/mg/volunteer-resources/horticulture-webinars-online-classes-and-other-events>

Penn State University Extension offers many free webinars: <https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening/see-all-home-gardening/shopby/webinars>

University of Illinois Extension offers a variety of free You Tube videos on a variety of topics, including composting, edible landscaping, weed

identification, tree identification, and more:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEYBGqFXZS6Sn37n1mVcY1g>

Ecological Landscape Alliance has many interesting free programs in their Walk in the Garden series (these programs have beautiful pictures, plus valuable information), available at: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/a-walk-in-the-garden-a-webinar-series/>

Smithsonian Gardens has a free series called Let's Talk Gardens, with topics including small space, big impact, and top 20 perennials for healthy habitats: <https://gardens.si.edu/events/lets-talk-gardens/>

As the weather gets colder and we all start to spend more time indoors, these educational programs can join perusing seed catalogs, reading mysteries, and eating cookies as part of our daily activities.

Blue Star Memorial Marker



Submitted by Barbara Hollister, Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman

NGC has made changes to the Blue Star Memorial Marker program. An increase in the cost of the markers as follows:

- 1) Highway Marker (Blue Star Only) \$1590.00
- 2) Memorial Marker (Blue & Gold Star Families) \$1590.00
- 3) By-Way Marker (Blue & Gold Star Families) \$530.00

Prices are subject to change after May 1, 2022

And the following procedural change:

- 1) Garden Club emails completed order form to State Blue and Gold Star Chair for approval and signature.
- 2) Upon approval of the State Blue and Gold Star Chair, Garden Club emails order form to the State President for approval and signature.
- 3) Upon approval of the State President, the Garden Club sends complete and signed order form and check, made out to STEWAH STUDIOS, to the NGC Blue and Gold Star Chair: Palmela L. Dowd
1611 Georgetown Lane
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129-1742



2019 -2020 VFGC Life Membership Recipients

Submitted by Patsy Cameron, Life Membership Chairman

No.	Name	Club	District
7450	Rita Grove.....	Green Spring GC	Tidewater
7451	Linda Taylor	Chester GC	Piedmont
7452	Agnes Petrie	Clay Spring GC.....	Piedmont
7453	Elizabeth Moorhouse	Clay Spring GC.....	Piedmont
7454	Diane Blackwell	Francis Fauquier GC	Shenandoah
7455	Debbie Pence	Francis Fauquier GC	Shenandoah
7456	Sandra Kelso	Moneta GC	Blue Ridge
7457	Karen Craig.....	Blue Ridge GC.....	Blue Ridge
7458	Betty Alden Duncan	Colonial GC	Shenandoah
7459	Jane Lucas	Colonial GC	Shenandoah
7460	Pat Shahrokhi	Ragged Robin GC	South Central
7461	Molly Nelson	May Farm GC	Tidewater

2019- 2020 VFGC Book of Honor Recipients

No.	Name	Club	District
116	Rosemary Drenn.....	Moneta GC	Blue Ridge
117	Amy Restrepo	May Farm GC	Tidewater
118	Glenda Knowles.....	Berkeley GC	Tidewater
119	Sharon Hart	May Farm GC	Tidewater

Be A Yearbook Sponsor!

VFGC YEARBOOK – 2021-2023

Deadline: June 30, 2021

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Please print your NAME as it is to appear in the yearbook.

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District _____

Garden Club _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

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Garden Club Name _____

District _____

Club Contact (Treasurer) _____

Contact Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Yearbook Insert		\$10.00	
Yearbook Binder with VFGC logo		\$8.00	
Total Order			

Checks payable to VFGC, Inc. Mail check and form to:
Darleen Nelson 153 Bushfield Road Montross, VA 22520-3813
darilydurl@aol.com 804-472-9710

Who can be a Sponsor?

Each club and every club member can be a sponsor

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Listed on the *Sponsors Page*
- Receive a yearbook insert (*\$10 Sponsor*)

Each member club receives **two** gratis yearbook inserts and each VFGC/district officer and chairman will receive **one** gratis yearbook insert.

What's in it for me?

- A directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all VFGC officers and chairmen, district officers and chairmen, all garden club presidents, and SAR and NGC officers.
- Information that Garden Clubs need—on dues, donations, Life Memberships, etc.
- Calendar of Events
- Awards offered by VFGC, SAR and NGC for clubs and individuals
- List of Flower Show Judges and Landscape Design Consultants
- VFGC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules

Be a VFGC Yearbook Sponsor and Receive Your Copy of the VFGC Yearbook!

Virginia Flower Show School

Submitted by Val Story, Flower Show School Chairman

With Course I being cancelled, Course II will not be offered in February 2021. And, no flower show school will be offered until Fall 2021.

I have truly enjoyed being the Flower Show Chairman for the last four years, now is the time for a new Chairman.

VFGC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 1	Award Applications to District Chairmen Deadline
Jan 4.....	Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl posters Deadline
Feb 1	ODG Spring Deadline
Mar 15	Piedmont District Spring Meeting..... Richmond
Apr 15.....	Blue Ridge District Meeting
Apr 17 - 25.....	Virginia Historic Garden Week
Apr 25 - 27.....	VFGC Convention..... Richmond
May 17 - 20.....	NGC Convention..... Rutherford, NJ
June 6 - 12.....	National Garden Week
June 30.....	VFGC Yearbook Sponsor Deadline

Many meetings and events are cancelled or postponed to a later date. If in doubt, please check with the organizer.



IN MEMORIAM

Tidewater District

Barbara Gabriele	Merrifields GC
Celia Stone.....	Merrifields GC
Peggy Economidis.....	Lake Smith Terrace GC



The NGC Virtual Flower Show, Perfect Vision 2020

Submitted by Diane Burgess

The National Garden Club convention was cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic, but that didn't stop the show, flower show, that is. The leadership quickly devised a way to change *Perfect Vision 2020* into a virtual flower show to keep our members involved. This international event had approximately 540 entries from over 10 countries and 30 states, in the Horticulture, Design and Botanical Arts Divisions.



I Can See Clearly Now
Diane Burgess, designer

While a list of all entries has not been released, Virginia has been well represented in the award winner and 90+ exhibits. In Design, Diane Burgess, of River Road Garden Club and the Richmond Designer's Guild, received a 90+ for her underwater design in Class 2, *I Can See Clearly Now*. In the Horticulture Division, Section B Perennials, Kathy Ward, of Salisbury Garden Club and the Richmond Designer's Guild, received a first place for her *Hippeastrum* 'Charisma'. In Section D, Foliage Perennials, Diane Burgess received a 90+ for her *Polystichum polyblepharum* and in Section E, Container Grown Plants, JoAnn McNabb of West Hanover Garden Club, River Road Garden Club and Richmond Designer's Guild, received a 90+ for her *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. The results and

photos of some of the horticulture, designs and botanical arts can be seen on the National Garden Clubs Facebook page.

The winners and 90+ entries from Division III, Seeing is Believing, the photographic section, were absolutely amazing. They can be seen here: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/2020-convention/NGC-Seeing-is-Believing-Contest-Winners.pdf>

Shenandoah District Fall Board Meeting

Submitted by Val Story

The Fall 2020 Shenandoah District Board meeting was held at the *Market at Grelen* near Montpelier under a great tent with the sides open and a lovely view to behold.

The meeting accomplished many items including budget approval, bylaw changes and officer nomination selections. The following members have been nominated to serve the district: President - Val Story, Secretary - Carol Davis and Treasurer - Dianna Busch. Amy Thorpe was nominated as representative to the VFGC Nominating Committee with Heidi Sage as alternate.

An interim Shenandoah Sharing will be distributed to members, due to the fact of not having a fall district meeting.

VFGC and Shenandoah Penny Pines Chairman presented three certificates to Shenandoah members who had contributed hours toward the success of the District. They were Heidi Sage, Val Story and Amy Thorpe



Save the date!

“DIVAS & DESIGNS”

April 15, 2021

Presented by Tidewater District, VFGC

Puss Caterpillar

Submitted by Margie Redlin, Rappahannock Garden Club (Sh)

Recently making the news in the Washington Post and WTOP in DC is the venomous puss caterpillar. Photo attached. It presents differently during its life cycle. Also see Southern Flannel Moth.

This was taken from the Virginia Department of Forestry Facebook Page: "VDOF's forest health team has received reports of the puss caterpillar in a few eastern Virginia counties. The "hairs" of this caterpillar are venomous spines that cause a painful reaction if touched.

The caterpillars eat oak and elm leaves, but they can be found in parks or near structures. If you find the caterpillar, leave it alone and let its natural enemies control their populations— there are several other insects that will prey on them at different stages of their life cycle.



For more information:

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/moths/puss.htm>

Thanks to recently-retired VDOF forester David T. for still looking out for Virginia's forest community and sharing this photo!"



Garden Maintenance

Submitted by Margie Redlin, Rappahannock Garden Club (Sh)

As gardeners we know when a plant has not lived up to our expectations. Maybe it has just become overgrown and less attractive. Well, that is

exactly how the members of Rappahannock Garden Club (RGC) felt about the abelia they planted nearly 10 years ago at the Northern Neck Middlesex Free Health Care

garden. Unfortunately, the shrubs became unattractive and rather gnarly, so members of this committee removed seven of the woody shrubs. They plan to replace some with *Viburnum tinus* "Spring Bouquet". The club

members are also considering more plants for pollinators and butterflies. Rappahannock Garden Club has maintained this garden for over 20 years and part of their community service programs. Staff and patients both have appreciated the efforts of the garden club.



From left: RGC members, Bonnie Schaschek, Mary Ann McKay, Debbie Burgess, Margie Redlin. Picture taken by RGC member Mary Hutya



May Farm Garden Club of Kingston Maintenance Day

Submitted by Sharon Hart, May Farm GC (T)

On September 12th, 2020, members of May Farm Garden Club of Kingston met at the traffic circle on King's Grant Rd. in Virginia Beach. Maintaining these beds is one of May Farm's on-going Maintenance projects. Shown below, left:



Patsy Cameron, and Mary Beth Watson (not pictured: Amy Restrepo and Mary Rumble) met at the circle and did an amazing job cleaning out the bed. Mary Beth worked her magic with a push mower and Team Maintenance trimmed, weeded, planted for the fall season. Neighbors honked, waved, and stopped to say thank you which always makes the work go by faster.

Rappahannock County Garden Club Plants Trees

Submitted by Fawn Evenson, Rappahannock County GC (Sh)



Once again, the Rappahannock County Garden Club has partnered with The Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) in Fredericksburg to plant free trees all over our beautiful county. This spring we partnered with FOR to plant 350 blooming cherry trees, dogwoods and redbuds in the communities of Washington and Sperryville, VA. (See Summer 2020, Volume 51, No. 5 of ODG)

This summer our Club again joined forces with them to bring even more free trees to Rappahannock County. Two of us did the recruiting and over 150 families picked up 500 free sycamores, pawpaws, red oaks, serviceberries, dogwoods, American beech, river birch and maple trees at Waterpenny Farm in Sperryville, VA on October 9 and 10. And the best part is that FOR has been planting thousands of free trees over an 18 county area whose rivers feed into the Rappahannock River.

Anyone in those areas can contact them. A team will come out to your property to consult with you on your needs and desires, and then plant the trees for you! It is an unbelievable resource that all garden clubs should take advantage of because the result is a healthier environment and beautification efforts that don't take too much effort on our parts. Visit the FOR website for more information.

We are also pleased to announce that FOR gave our club its annual “Conservation Partner of the Year” award for our tree planting efforts this spring. See photo of Kathi Dutilh, president of the Rappahannock County Garden Club (RCGC) receiving the award from October Greenfield of FOR during our latest giveaway.

Culpeper Garden Club

Submitted by Doris Williams, Culpeper GC (Sh)

In the spirit of social activity, learning, and the pleasures of gardens and gardening, the Culpeper Garden Club had 4 outdoor meetings and 1 meeting in a horse facility this summer. The meetings were informal in nature with encouragement to bring design and horticultural exhibits but without judging.



Activities ranged from a yard tour featuring daylilies, 2 demonstrations on different types of flower arranging, a talk on preparations for fall and winter and a fall luncheon with box lunches on a windy hill accompanied by fall designs featuring garden accessories and tools. Great fun, too, were those clever flower decorated hats worn to the meeting at the horse facility. Thanks to the club members who volunteered their open spaces.

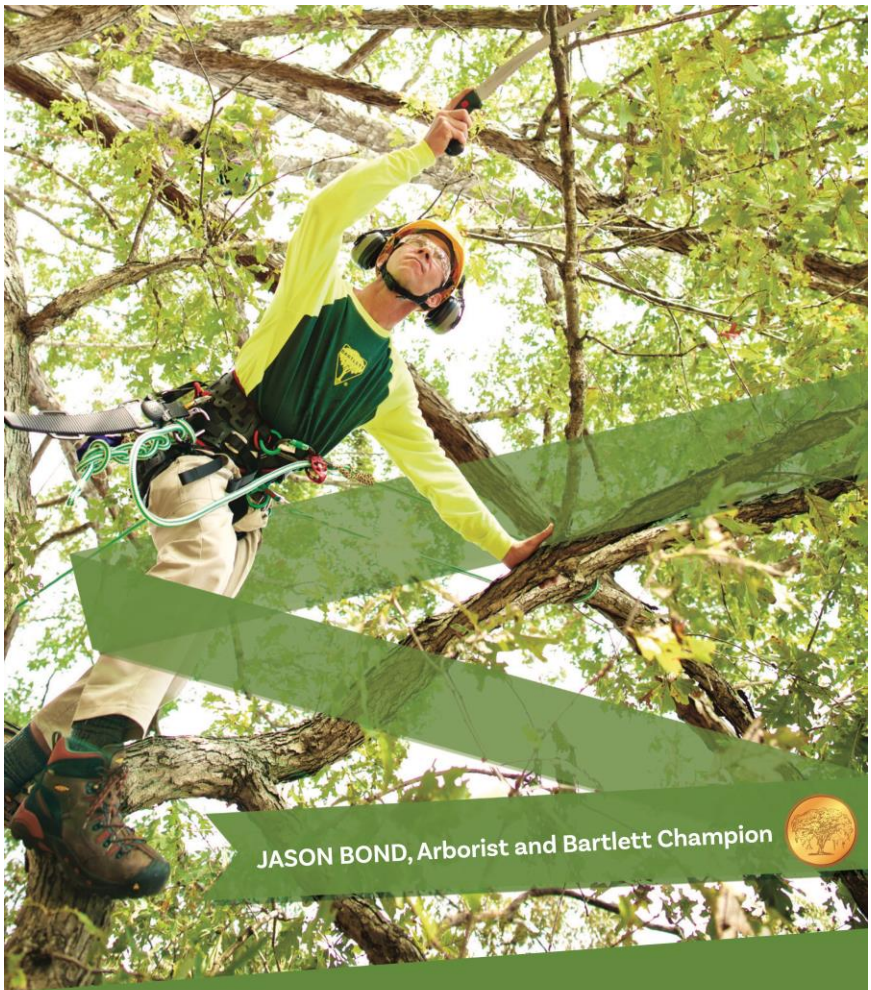
Members have also used email to exchange info about items of general interest ranging from photos of particularly beautiful plants to looking out for a new invasive insect. The club is looking forward to next year with hope for resumption of some of its normal activities.

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

Submitted by Keren Pernini, Lake Smith GC (T)

Despite the current pandemic, Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club of Virginia Beach decided to “carry-on” with its annual pansy sale fundraiser so long as it would be safe and profitable. They sold pre-paid pansies from a local grower followed by a “pickup” at a member’s house. They had a sizable crew, which included four members’ husbands, to help unload the truck, categorize the pansies, and set up the pick-up orders. They sold more plants this year than they had sold in the previous four years, netting over \$1,300 and made \$300 on the sale of donated plants, garden gloves and extra pansies. The Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club took a negative (the pandemic) and turned it into a positive by safely holding their fundraiser. With social distancing and the wearing of masks, they were able to meet new neighbors and even sign up a new member. Members are meeting monthly via Zoom and having fun keeping in touch with each other.





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• VFGC Mission Statement •

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., provides youth and adult education resources and opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility.





Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
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2021 VFGC CONVENTION

APRIL 25 - 27, 2021
SHORT PUMP HILTON
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA