

## JULY 2021 FIRST EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



August 1: ODG Deadline  
September 12: VFGC Finance Committee Meeting: Four Points Hotel  
September 12: VFGC Small Standard Flower Show: Four Points Hotel  
September 13: VFGC Board Meeting: Four Points Hotel  
September 13-16: Course I Flower Show School: Four Points Hotel  
September 15: Grant Applications Due  
September 21-25: NGC Board Meeting: St Louis  
September 27-28: VFGC Pride at the Virginia State Fair

Newsletters are tricky, but so worthwhile. Many clubs and districts have newsletters to update their members on news, the latest gardening issues, horticultural facts, inspiring stories and committee activities. VFGC is innating such a newsletter for the board, clubs and all members. The newsletter will include District news, special events and education material. *Rooted* will be the name of the VFGC newsletter in hopes gardening is implanted in all members. This newsletter will not take the place of the *Old Dominion Gardner*, which is a vital part of VFGC communication. Also, this newsletter will be emailed. Being editor of *Rooted* will now be a part of the VFGC First Vice Presidents role. Any articles, suggestions, comments please send to Valerie Story [valstory@aol.com](mailto:valstory@aol.com). I look forward to working in this rooted newsletter.

## President's Message

*Welcome to the launch of **ROOTED!** The first edition of our newsletter to keep you up to date with the latest “goings-on” with VFGC. We’re still producing the **Old Dominion Gardener**, quarterly, this is just another tool we’re implementing to keep everyone involved and informed. We hope this tool will serve you as a reminder of special events and deadlines for VFGC, as well as, an outlet for clubs to contribute their “Dig Into Action” activities.*

*Speaking of “Digging Into Action”, looks like the sun is beginning to shine on our abilities to open up our clubs’ activities..... to meet again and share. In fact, it’s Summer, it’s hot and I hope you’ve all been digging into your gardens and garden clubs. We have so many opportunities and possibilities available to us now that were forbidden to us for too long. Let’s make up for lost time, enjoy this sunny weather and make VFGC plans... ”Dig Into Action” **NOW**.*

*Remember, you are VFGC and your board is here for you.*

**Mary Owen**

*President, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

[Rxowen@aol.com](mailto:Rxowen@aol.com)

434-390-3479

## Consultant for Environmental Schools

Congratulation Frances Thrash: she became Virginia’s first Consultant in May 2021.

The school involved taking four courses all titled “The Living Earth” with topics ranging from land and related issues, air and water.

As NGC states the mission of Environmental Schools is to teach environmental literacy to cherish and protect and conserve the living earth; appreciation of the natural world and the conservation is emphasized.

## BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Be an active member,  
The kind that would be missed;  
Don't be just contented  
That your name is on the list.  
Do attend the meetings  
And mingle with the crowd;  
Don't stay at home  
And crab both long and loud.  
Don't leave the work for just a few  
And gripe about the clique.  
And take time out to visit  
A member who is sick.  
There is quite a program scheduled  
That means success, if done,  
And it can be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.  
So attend the meetings regularly  
And help with hand and heart.  
Be an active member  
And take an active part.  
Think this over, Member  
Are we right or are we wrong?  
Be an active member,  
Please don't just belong.

From a DAR Newsletter

## VFGC PRIDE DECALS

VFGC is a wonderful organization, beautifying our communities and making the world a better place.

Let's increase visibility and show our "pride!"

Decals are \$3 each or two for \$5.

Order from Barbara Hollister [budhollister@gmail.com](mailto:budhollister@gmail.com) or Mary Owen [rxowen@aol.com](mailto:rxowen@aol.com)



## CONTAINER GARDENING

The National Garden Club Handbook for Flower Shows defines combination plantings as "a grouping of three or more botanically different plants with similar cultural requirements such as light, water and humidity". These stipulations are found on the plant tag or online and, if followed, are instrumental in guaranteeing the success of planting container combos.

Container gardens have unlimited options whether planting in a traditional urn or a salvaged washtub from an antique shop. You may choose wire baskets hanging from shepherd's hooks, willow baskets on gates or brick garden wall, or a plant stand full of ferns, hosta and coleus. The selections are yours and should reflect your garden style and tastes and most importantly the plant's essentials.



For sunny spots, you may prefer the cooling of silver and purple using dusty miller, purple petunias and



Silverfalls dichondra. Color plays an important part in achieving the desired effect for your area.

Queen Mum white agapanthus, white weeping lantana and trailing rosemary also provide the hot garden a soft, cool feeling. To bring a

bold statement to the pool area, try a large container full of Colocasia (elephant ears), papyrus and cannas.

For shady yards, bright color in area brings interest with upright pink or red fuschia, impatiens, vinca minor and lobelia. A standby in my garden is a large urn of White Queen caladium, variegated creeping fig and a whopper begonia. And finally, for a dramatic impact in the part shade garden, a large pot filled with a pink rose bush, dracaena and campanula mixture will soften a corner of any garden.



Successful horticulture combinations and containers are unlimited if you follow the guidelines that the three or more plants placed together must have the same cultural requirements. Plant shade plants in lush shady spots and sun loving plants in the warmth of the sun. The formula is simple resulting in joy to the gardener and variety, interest and beauty to the garden.

Excerpts from VA Tech Extension Center and NGC Handbook for Flower Shows

## FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

**Flower Show School**, is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing and chairing an NGC flower show. There are four courses each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design and flower show procedure. If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, or you are just curious, your first step is to attend Course I. Subjects are taught by qualified instructors and outlines are provided. Examples of horticulture and design are displayed and critiqued. Learn point scoring to evaluate how entries are judged and see what it takes to get the blue ribbon. Learn about awards, types of shows and what committees are needed to produce a show. VFGC invites you to join this unique experience and become an active part of flower shows.

- **Horticulture Curriculum** Although the definition of Horticulture is the art and science of cultivating plants, so much more is taught in Flower Show Schools. Discover how to select, groom and exhibit your plant while mastering the art of writing a flower show schedule. Be the envy of your neighborhood by using the knowledge gained in flower show school to enhance your flowers, trees, shrubs and vegetables.



- **Design** Instruction in the Design portion of a Flower Show School prepares the student to judges Flower Show exhibits, write Design Division Sections and Classes for a Flower Show Schedule, and to use the verbiage that pertains to the Principles and Elements of Design. Each course has a specific curriculum designed to give the student tools needed to effectively and equitably judge designs ranging from Traditional to Creative and from Tables to Exploration/Freedom of Expression. Garden Club members not interested in becoming judges are welcome to join us. Come learn what the judges will be looking for in your design entries.



- **Flower Show Procedure** Those interested in becoming a flower show judge or hosting a flower show gain knowledge of the procedures required for flower shows of all types. Attendees learn about flower show awards, show requisites and different types of shows.

**Virginia is having the first course this September 13-16 at the Four Points by Sheraton by the Richmond Airport. Our instructors are local talent Frances Thrash and Florida talent Jan Griffin. Frances will teach Flower Show Procedure and Design where Jan will teach Horticulture.**

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### Here Comes the Judge

What is the one thing that all NGC, Inc., garden clubs need each time they meet or hold a flower show? From the title of this article, you've probably guessed 'judges' – and you'd be right.

Without judges, club members could exhibit horticulture and create beautiful designs without the benefit of 1) learning how to improve the appearance and display of horticulture, or what technique (s) they could use to enhance their designs, and 2) join in friendly competition to walk away with a 'best in show' for their efforts. Continued next page.

Judges are always learning! A Judges Council provides programs that enable them to hone their skills regarding the judging of horticulture and enhancing their abilities to create and judge the varied elements and styles of design.

When a club decides to hold a flower show there is help available to assist in areas such as schedule writing, staging, etc. Because flower shows are one of the best ways to educate the public in caring for our environment and inviting more members into our clubs, it's important that we do it well. And since the name of the course is "Flower Show School", by the time one is an accredited judge she/he is sure to have the knowledge and ability to convey the excitement (and work) a successful flower show requires.

Please check out the information available in this issue regarding Flower Show School. You may react the same way I did several years ago and decide it's an endeavor worth pursuing!

By Joanne Wallace: Student Judge, Piedmont District

**REGISTRATION FORM:  
Flower Show School-Course I  
The Four Points by Sheraton**

4700 Laburnum Avenue, Henrico,

Virginia

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Credit \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Credit \_\_\_\_\_

Full Course with/without exam \$130 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes tuition, two lunches,  
and reserved seating on Front

Flower Show Procedure (Mon.) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Design & Lunch (Tues.) \$65 \_\_\_\_\_

Horticulture & Lunch (Wed.) \$65 \_\_\_\_\_

Manual will be e-mailed (free of  
charge)

Printed Manual available at \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions:

**\*\*No refunds after  
September 7, 2021**

Make check payable to **Virginia  
Federation of Garden Clubs,  
Inc. with Flower Show Schools**  
in the memo line and mail to:

Darleen Nelson, Registrar •  
VFGC Flower Show School •  
153 Bushfield Road, Montross,  
VA 22520-3813

darlydurl@aol.com

# TREX

## Film Recycling Challenge

What an opportunity for your club to improve our environment and, at the same time, potentially receive a TREX garden bench for your efforts. The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was welcomed to the **TREX Film Recycling Challenge**.

However, the program is structured so that each individual club will need to register with **TREX**. This is so that a club can manage and establish their own recycling program that will make them eligible for a **TREX** bench. You will receive your own username and password so you can access the TrexPro portal. It is a Challenge/Collection time for a six-month period. During this time, you must collect the plastics, deliver to recycling locations and register your collections.

I encourage you to visit the website [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com). You will find that this program has many helpful tools such as.....

Recycling locations  
Posters showing acceptable plastics  
Recycling Bins

Let me do a step by step to get you started.....

Go to [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com)

Scroll to bottom of the page (black area) click **Recycling**

Click on **community & University Challenge Program**

Fill out **enrollment form** (under Program select University/Community)

Then you're ready to click **SUBMIT**

VFGC is approved for the **TREX Film Recycling Challenge** however; as I stated, each club must enter their own information. Please include Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. in the application.

This program has many possibilities, just not for your club, but for the community and youth.

Hope this is helpful. Feel free to contact us.

Mary Owen  
President, VFGC

Carolyn Nichols  
Chairman, Litter Prevention/Recycling





## The Hill & Valley Garden Club

Graciously Welcomes You to a

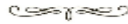
### *Garden Lover's Day* at

### Birdsong Pleasure Garden

Luray, Virginia September 25, 2021, 10 am-5 pm

With precautions in place and following Virginia Health Dept. Guidelines, the Hill & Valley Garden Club (HVGC) invites you to spend a day out in a garden.

Birdsong Pleasure Garden has been named a Virginia Treasure, a Native Habitat Garden, and called a "Garden Wonderland" by Virginia Living House & Garden magazine.



Proceeds benefit Virginia Land Preservation and HVGC Scholarships. The Guided Garden Tour includes landscaped areas, mountain vistas and unique plantings all woven together over gentle terrain. Seating and shady areas will be available.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for both garden visitors and club members, garden tour times will be scheduled, and a limited number of tickets sold, to make certain social distancing can be properly maintained while visiting.



#### Additional sales and interests:

A plant sale area will be available to small groups of shoppers, on a rotating basis.

Raffle ticket purchases are available for \$25-\$100 Gift Certificates from our generous donors: Wood Thrush Natives, Discovery Museum, Hummingbird Hills Natives, Prairie Moon Nursery, Shenandoah Music Theater, Harper's Statuary, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Luray Caverns, Mama's Treasurers, Waynesboro Garden Center, Moonshadows Restaurant, Plant Delights, Massanutten Country Corner and others!



Online registration starts March 1 and closes on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm. Early registration is highly recommended, so that ticket holders are assured of their tickets and time.

Please contact Lesley Mack at [birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com](mailto:birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com) or phone 540-743-9389 for info, tickets and tour time. Garden website at, [www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info](http://www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info)

\$10 for VFGC members, \$12 for non-members

*Please stay home if you are ill or think you may have been in contact with someone who was ill. All visitors must wear a mask. No restrooms available. Use hand sanitizer often.*

VFGC is participating and showing "PRIDE in the Virginia State Fair with demonstrations and more.

Dates: Sept. 27 3-7 pm

Sept. 28 10- 2 pm

Come out and join in the fun!

