

## AUGUST 2021 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



September 4: VFGC Finance Committee Meeting: Lewis Ginter  
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  
September 27-28: VFGC Pride at the Virginia State Fair  
October 11-12: Landscape Design School: Four Points Hotel  
October 21-24: Fine Arts and Flowers: Richmond VMA  
SEE LAST PAGE FOR DISTRICT MEETING DATES

Thank you for the positive response about the VFGC newsletter. Please know, any ideas, suggestions, articles and pictures are welcome. This newsletter may be shorter and the next one will come out in October. Distribution is issued through the District and Club Presidents...they in turn email Rooted to club member. VAS

Be sure to “Dig into Action” and keep in touch with NGC and VFGC

The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

website:

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

The Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc.

website:

[www.viriniagardenclubs.org](http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org)

## Vibrant, Voluptuous Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are some of the showiest and longest-lasting blooms and can be dried to last in designs, wreaths and just a vase on the table. Their beauty is nostalgic and timeless. Questions arise about pruning, cutting on old wood or new wood. The answers depend on knowing your species to determine its growing requirements and proper care. Here are some tips.

### BIG LEAF HYDRANGEA

*Hydrangea macrophylla*, is the highly recognizable, mophead type whose flower is dependent on soil pH. Lime produces pinks, while acid soil yields vibrant blues. **Nikko Blue** is a stalwart, reliable variety that grows 4 to 6 inches in a mounded form with flowers produced on the previous year's growth. Therefore, it should only be pruned in summer, just after the plant has bloomed and no later than early August. These plants love sandy soil with good drainage. **Lacecap** varieties are bigleaf types whose flower centers look like unopened buds surrounded by open petals. The tight centers are sterile and attract bees. Lacecaps flower best if you prune one-third of the oldest branches each year. Situate big leaf hydrangeas in morning sun, but in afternoon shade.



### OAK LEAF HYDRANGEA

*Hydrangea quercifolia* similarly flower on old wood. As the name implies, the large, serrated leaves resemble the foliage of oaks, giving the shrub a commanding presence. Their elongated white blooms light up the shady areas where they thrive and their intense foliage colors create a stunning show in the fall. This variety, hardy in zones 5 to 9, appreciates being well-mulched year-round.

### PEEGEE HYDRANGEA



One of the best varieties for the heat and the humidity of the South is *H. paniculata* or peegee hydrangea. Drought tolerant and hardy in zones 3-8, this one blooms on new wood and so can be pruned in winter and early spring before growth emerges which can stimulate flower production. Pruning can maintain a medium sized shrub or you can let it grow to 10 feet to provide screening. Elongated blooms arrive in August and are cone shaped, usually white (though the popular Limelight is a celadon green), then blushing with age to pink, red or burgundy which persists through frost for months of irresistible flowers.

### SMOOTH HYDRANGEA

*H. arborescens*, named for the texture of its leaves, produces enormous globes in white, pink and green. The best-known variety is Annabelle, a pure white fading to green. This cold-hardy type requires partial shade and performs best with even moisture. Blooming on new wood, this species can even be pruned to the ground to produce prolific blooms or to maintain a smaller size.



**NEW** \* Keep your old wood/new wood rules in mind as you accommodate a new intrusion – **Endless Summer** (NEW), a hybridized version of *H. Macrophylla* bred to be reblooming. This plant produces blossoms from early spring through fall and is exceptionally hardy in zones 4 thru 9. These are great in climates where cold can kill delicate buds. **The Forever and Ever Series** (NEW) is bred to bloom on both old and new wood and even if cut to the ground it will rebloom the next year. **Glowing Embers** (NEW) changes color throughout the growing season.

Condensed from Cooperative Living July 2021 by Mary Ann May

## Remembering Mary Sue Floyd

VFGC President 2019-2021

Mary Sue had been a member of Green Meadow Point Garden Club since 1974 and has held most offices within the club at least once. She held a variety of positions on the Boards of both Portsmouth Area Council of Garden Clubs and the Tidewater District and served on the South Atlantic Region Board for the past 16 years. Positions being held during the current administration are Historian/Yearbook/Newsletter in the local club; Yearbook/Newsletter/Corresponding Secretary for the District; and Directory/Newsletter for SAR. She also had numerous positions with VFGC.



She was an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, holding a variety of positions during the past forty-five years. She enjoyed supporting the activities of her four grandchildren, and spending family time with her two children and their spouses.

If desired, Clubs or individuals may make donations to the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund. Checks should be written to VFGC Inc. with Scholarship Fund in memo line and mailed to: Treasurer Claudia Cosby: 3015 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-3923

She will be missed.

### VFGC PRIDE DECALS Remember to order

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 or

Mary Owen

rxowen@aol.com



### Fair Coming Soon

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

## Interesting Idea for Fundraising

In October 2015, 37 floral designers and over 100 volunteers from across North America came together to fill an abandoned Detroit house with American-grown fresh flowers and living plants. An estimated 3,400 curious visitors explored the house over the 3-day exhibition, and the installation hosted 3 weddings and dinner for 180 people. The project received international media attention-with an estimated 287,000,000+ media impressions.



“Like a vibrant lining inside a shabby winter coat, Flower House offered the appeal of unexpected contrast.” ~Washington Post



*“during the third weekend of October 2015, cutting edge florists from Michigan and across the country filled the walls and ceilings of an abandoned Detroit house with American-grown fresh flowers and living plants for a weekend installation Friday, October 16th through Sunday October 18th, with an estimated 3,000+ visitors.*

*now that the October installation weekend has passed, the house that held the exhibition will soon be responsibly deconstructed and its materials repurposed. the land will be converted into a flower farm and design center for project creator Lisa Waud’s business pot & box on this formerly neglected properties.”*



As Joy wrote: very unique and interesting fund raiser. Much easier than a house tour. I bet I could find a house here at the lake through the local realtor. Food for thought.....just on a much smaller scale.

Submitted by Joy Poole from the American Horticulture Society.

**VFGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL**  
**Course 3 Series 28 October 11-12, 2021**  
**Four Points by Sheraton at the Richmond Airport**

Course 3 will cover the following: Landscape Design Process; Woody Plants in the Landscape; Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape; Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind; Graphics Interpretation; Creating Your Own Home Garden Landscaping Plan.



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

**COURSE REGISTRATION**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL  
COURSE 3 SERIES 28 OCTOBER 11, 12, 2021  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_ 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: Monday \_\_ or Tuesday \_\_ 40.00

Box lunches \$20 per day **ck one day or both** below:

Monday: Croissant Club\_\_ or Chicken Caesar Wrap\_\_ 20.00

Tuesday: Croissant Club\_\_ or Chicken Caesar Wrap\_\_ 20.00

(lunches include chips, fruit, cookie and bottled water)

**Order TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Refunds can be given only for medical emergencies.*

Make check payable: **VFGC Landscape Design School**

Mail to: LDS Co-chairman and acting registrar:

Marty Bowers Phone-H:540-297-0965 or C:540-309-1676

2854 Hickory Cove Lane

Moneta, VA 24121-6029 E-mail: martbw@gmail.com

LDS Co-chairman:

Glenda Knowles Phone: 757 651-0401

6948 Chancery Lane Williamsburg, VA 23188 E-Mail: ggknowles@cox.net

## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi,

It's early August and our gardens are in full bloom with just a beginning of some early colors of **Fall**. However, I just know that many of those colors are the result of your VFGC club's "**Dig Into Action**" plantings and projects.

Our VFGC plans are still growing and I thank each of you for the many projects and plans that have been instigated so far this year. We set two big goals to "**Dig Into Action**" and to increase visibility with **VFGC Pride** and you have been doing just that.....(Isn't it great to be back)

VFGC is beginning to **Fall** back into place! We're participating at the Virginia State Fair, our Flower Show School and Landscape Design School are up and going.....even with a Flower Show at our Fall VFGC Board Meeting. And many of you are representing us at Fine Arts and Flowers....thank you. Also, our **VFGC Pride** decals, well.... there's one club going for 100% participation. (remember the \$100 award) And one more thing.....we have gotten a new headquarters office at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

**VFGC** is active and proud because we are meeting, doing and planning "good things" throughout the state. I hope to see each of you soon and don't forget your **VFGC Board** is always available to help.

*Mary Owen*

### Flower Show School

#### Course I

Sep 13 - Sep 16, 2021 Richmond, VA

Still time to register: see the Summer ODG, the VFGC web and NGC web.

**VFGC Flower Show September 12 and 13, 2021 at the Four Points Hotel by the Richmond Airport.**

**For those who are entering the show with designs and horticulture, the location of the show has been moved to the pool area.**

**This is a large area where meetings and buffet lunches have been held.**



## Grants Deadline: September 15

The purpose of VFGC's 'Keys to the Future' Youth Project Grant is to provide financial support for club members to work with youth and help them realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats for becoming good stewards of the earth. The scope of these programs may include benefits to the community, environmental awareness education, plant-to-food connections, outdoor classroom projects, horticulture education, and the social aspects of gardening. For more information on Youth Project Grants go to: [VirginiaGardenClubs.org](http://VirginiaGardenClubs.org) Or contact: VFGC Youth Project Grant Chairman Melissa Damiano, [mtdamiano@aol.com](mailto:mtdamiano@aol.com), 804-796-3287

### SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST – 2022

I am happy to announce that I am now the Virginia State (VFGC) Poster Contest Chairman. Barbara Ohmsen is retiring from this position. What a pleasure working with her these past years. I have big shoes to fill and can only hope that I can do a super job as she had done. Keeping my fingers crossed!

I will be contacting each District Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Chairman, sending information and contest rules.

Now that schools will be returning to in person classes in the fall, I hope that more schools and groups can be reached. I look forward to a very successful contest in 2022!

Toni Shreve  
Virginia State Poster Contest Chairman



**DISTRICT MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED: District Meeting are our heart and soul of getting together, visiting, sharing ideas and learning new information. Do try to attend your local District Meeting.**

October 2: Southwest District  
October 14: Shenandoah District  
October 18: Piedmont District  
October 21: South Central  
October 27: Blue Ridge  
October 28: Tidewater District