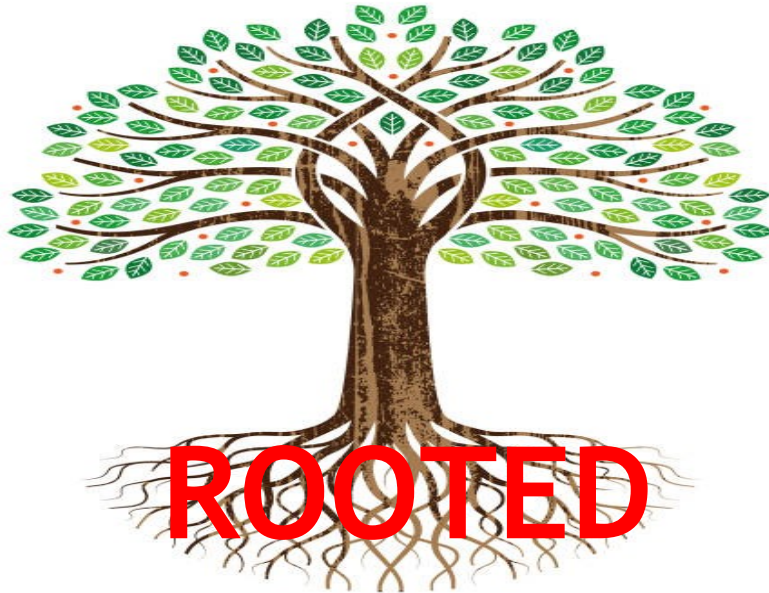


October 2021 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



October 11-12: Landscape Design School: Four Points Hotel
October 21-24: Fine Arts and Flowers: Richmond VMA
October 25: Shenandoah Designer Guild Flower Show: Luray
Nov 2: VFGC Judges Council Meeting: Maymont
December 1: Awards Due
February 28, 2022: VFGC Board Meeting: Best Western,
Waynesboro
Feb 28-March 3, 2022: Flower Show School II: Waynesboro

Is everyone enjoying ROOTED! Isn't this an awesome way to get the latest on VFGC with reminders and glimpses of our clubs' activities.

The temperatures may be cooling down, but that's certainly not the activity level of our organization. Clubs are often creative, but they are meeting...doing....and planning. And I certainly hope each of you are enjoying yourselves in the process. Your Board has met for the first time in person, and even held a Flower Show. How wonderful it is to get back to business and start **"DIGGING INTO ACTION"**.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at your District Meetings.

Mary Owen, President
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please continue to submit articles for Rooted. Send to valstory@aol.com

All Gardens are Theatre by Lesley Mack, Hill and Valley GC

Drama, plot development, performers, design, audience, set...all terms used in describing live theatre. Live theatre ignites the imagination. Igniting the imagination creates passion. Passion in the hands of a creative mind is sublime, especially in the hands of a gardener's theatre.

Creating passion in the garden theatre invites the elements: drama, improvisation, comedy, tragedy and history. The live performers, of course, are the chosen plants because of their color, aroma, growth habit or usefulness to its environment. The stage settings are the curved, tiered, sloped, watery, shady or full sun landscaped areas. But, where does one start in creating garden theatre?

Death is drama. Carnivorous plants thrive on death. Sarracenias, or pitcher plants, add theatre to a water garden area with their varied shapes, colors, and heights; while eliminating some of the bad players in the garden with their unique trapping mechanisms.

There are eight different species of Sarracenia, all are native to North America. Sarracenia's highly specialized leaves or tubes, are narrow and cylindrical, tapering towards the soil. The wide mouth at the top of the tube is often covered with a wide leaf protrusion. This protrusion (hood) is also a "landing pad" for its prey; a specialized stage set, as these



hood glands produce a sweet-smelling lure or nectar, which is right above the digestive juices in the tube.

The nectar is an intoxicating narcotic called 'conjine' that causes paralysis then death; think King Lear, Macbeth or Henry V.

Once the prey enters under the hood, it is directed by thin, sharp hairs that cover its underside. Prey cannot easily move against the grain of hairs because of their sharp tips, so they follow the grain to the digestive juices. The hairs themselves are also slick, so any prey trying to grasp them

will lose their footing.

After falling in the tube, flying insects cannot buzz out of these cylinders (tubes) because the beating of their wings causes a vortex within the narrow space that makes flying impossible.

Sarracenia flower once with multiple flowers, but the flower can last from May to September. The flower looks like an umbrella which hangs down high above the tubes. The flowers are as complex and showy as an orchid with the same brilliant coloration



Early European settlers first documented Floridian Sarracenia in 1576. In 1700, Dr. M.S. Sarrazin, of Quebec, further helped in acknowledging this native. Carl Linnaeus named the genus Sarracenia in 1793. William Bartram noted the insect-trapping nature of the pitchers while doubting that the plants benefited from this behavior. Darwin suspected this behavior to be carnivorous in nature, but never studied Sarracenia in detail.

As we create passion in our garden theatres, be sure to delve into those special plantings of "As You Like It", because, you know "All the world's a stage".

Pictures by Lesley Mack at Bird Pleasure Gardens



Barbara Ohmsen passed away on September 29. She was very active in the Garden Clubs holding many roles. She was a charter member of the Green Meadow Point Garden Club and served as president several times. She served as president of the Portsmouth Area Council of Garden Clubs, the Tidewater District, and the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. She was an honorary president of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and served on the boards for the South Atlantic Region and the National Garden Clubs. Barbara was also a Nature Camp trustee for many years. Among her numerous roles in VFGC, she was the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl chairman. In the picture above she is being recognized at an NGC Convention for her work in this program and the fact that Virginia often had the most posters entered. She was a gracious lady and will be missed.

The South Atlantic Region Director's (Marty Bower) Projects are:

- 1) A gardening project involving youth
- 2) Restoring or reclaiming a public site

1) Youth are our future. Through our work as gardeners, we can instill in youth the rewards and joys of gardening. If they plant it, watch it grow, they will eat it. Imagine the joy on a child's face when the bulb they planted in the fall becomes a bright yellow daffodil in the spring. Creating pollinator gardens, wildflower gardens and any other type of gardening with youth. \$50 cash award will be presented annually to the garden club for the most outstanding project involving youth. Must include number of garden club people involved and number of youth

2) Plan to restore a public site that has become overgrown, contains dead plants and weeds, or reclaim a public site that has been abandoned. \$50 cash award will be presented annually to the garden club for the most outstanding project either for restoring or reclaiming. Photos must be presented showing before and after completion of work and must include location, time, cost and number of garden club people involved.

Deadline for submitting applications: Follow District (Dec. 1 deadline to District Awards Chairman) and State guidelines with January 25th as the deadline to be received from the state to the Region Awards Chairman. [Note: There is a new application form to be used for all Awards this year. Check out the VFGC website.

**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



By Barbara Meeh

State Fair of Virginia Day 1! As State Chairman, (Judy Durant) I can truly say I had a GREAT group of Garden club helpers today!!! Many, many visitors stopped by our booth to make birdfeeders, mini floral designs, terrariums, full size designs and more! Visitors at the Fair love our booth and you can be proud of our presence there - we are representing all of you.



Day 2 at the State Fair of Virginia! We were worker bee's in our booth today representing garden clubs throughout Virginia. We put many smiles on many faces - young and old! At the end of our shift we let people pick flowers from our cart and bundled them for them to take home. Every stem was taken and happy people took them home. A good time was had by all...as you will see in the pictures. I am sure each of our workers can remember each of these visitors, how they approached our booth and with a certain fear began the process of learning to make a lovely floral design. It couldn't have happened without the support of VFGC and the booth workers!





"VFGC Falls into Place"



The September 12-13, 2021 VFGC Flower Show was a success and certainly complimented the VFGC Board Meeting. Thank you, to those who entered the show with great designs and horticulture. Thanks, also to the judges who reviewed the show and to those who visited. Several judges were able to receive credit which is a plus too. Here is to more Flower Shows!
VAS

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 was the previous chairman. 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!

By January 2, 2022 Local winning posters must be received by the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl State Chairmen (Toni). She in turn will submit to the SAR chairman.

Any questions contact : Toni Shreve at toniandjims@comcast.net