

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
**OLD DOMINION
GARDENER**



After the Ice Storm, Camellia by the Front Porch, S. Chesterfield
Photo by Joan Abernathy, Violet Bank Garden Club (P)

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To keep you up to date on VFGC News, the e-newsletter *ROOTED* is distributed to VFGC Committee Chairs and Presidents via email and can be viewed on the VFGC site. www.viriniagardenclubs.org

ROOTED is managed by Val Story. If you or your club have news you wish to have posted, contact Val at valstory@aol.com or by phone: 540-272-0975.

Full color versions of this and past issues can be accessed in the *ODG* website archive: www.viriniagardenclubs.org

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VFGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Garden Clubbers,

It certainly 'tis the season"..... to wish each of you the very best for the New Year and to thank each of you for your supportive enthusiasm of VFGC. This past year we started "**Digging Into Action**" and showed **VFGC Pride** through uncertain times. We planned, we met, and we accomplished good things.

- ❖ We held Flowers Shows ...and educational schools, both Landscape Design and Flower Show.
- ❖ Our state VFGC Headquarter was welcomed back to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.
- ❖ We made great impressions at the Virginia State Fair with workshops.
- ❖ And at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Fine Art and Flowers...over forty designers participated with pride.

With our TREX partnership for a litter recycling program and our VFGC Pride decal challenge., we are certainly falling back into place...and keeping you better informed, with **ROOTED** our electronic newsletter. Hope you're enjoying it! And I'd be remiss, if didn't mention our Symposium and state convention planned for this spring. It's amazing.... that this is only a smidgen of what you've been accomplishing this year.

As I traveled throughout the state, it was such a pleasure seeing so many of you, in-person at your District's Meetings. Everyone was excited to be able to "catch-up", share, and learn. Experiencing such a statewide eagerness makes me feel confident that we'll continue to meet more challenges in the coming year.

Remember, you are all part of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world and your VFGC is an active and proud part. Covid may have challenged us, but our excitement never abated... it only bloomed.

Thank youLet's keep "**Digging Into Action**"

Mary Owen

CELEBRATING WINTER

I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again." - Lewis Carroll



Snow-covered Hawthorne, Smith Mountain Lake
Photo by Karen DeBord, Moneta GC (BR)



Garden at My Home in Staunton
Photo by Nancy Pyle, Beverley GC (S)

Gardening for the Pleasure of Consuming!

Judy Hodges, VFGC Edible Gardening Chair

It's time to clean up your edible gardening space and start studying, planning, and gathering items to be utilized in your 2022 Edible Garden. As the seed catalogs arrive, look for a few new plants to try out. I am going to try a couple of new cultivars of eggplant. This is a vegetable that is tasty, fun to cook with, and has great nutrients.

This year, I have had great success with several plants. My carrots were bountiful, my fennel plants grew to enormous heights, and the three pecan trees in my yard produced over four bushels. So --- I am giving you a recipe for – Holiday Pecans!

HOLIDAY PECANS

5 Tablespoons granulated sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 Tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
1 Tablespoon grated orange rind
2 cups pecan halves

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Stir together 4 tablespoons sugar, butter, pumpkin pie spice, and orange rind

Add pecans and toss to coat

Place on greased aluminum foil-lined baking sheet

Sprinkle with remaining sugar.

Bake 20 minutes, stirring once.

* Note: This recipe is from the Oxford Garden Club Cookbook *Positively Pecans*. Their member Lou Webber submitted it for publication. What a timely addition to the Holidays ahead.

Helping Our Birds Survive the Cold Months

Patsy Deal, VFGC Bird Chair

We must pay special attention to our feathered friends at this time: Cardinals, Finches, Sparrows, Jays, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Crows, to mention a few.... The average daily temperature in winter is about 26 degrees! That makes me shiver! Many birds in our state are here year-round. Helping with feeding in winter is necessary because much of their natural supply of food (insects, fruit, seeds, flowers) has been depleted.



Do birds freeze in the winter? No. Why not? In the daytime, birds store fat to keep themselves warm during the cold nights. Then they look for good, warm places to roost: birdhouses, tree cavities, shrubs, dense thickets.

Birds need food for the winter that contains a high fat and oil content. Recommended foods:

- ❖ *Black Oil Sunflower Seed* – Referred to “Hamburger of the Bird World” – eaten by most birds – High in protein, fiber, calcium, potassium, iron oil content
- ❖ *Peanuts* (No shell, dry roasted, unsalted)
- ❖ *Nyjer Seed or Thistle* (Rich in fat and oil)
- ❖ *Suet* (Mixed with berries or seed)
- ❖ *Peanut Butter* (Can be mixed with seed – nourishing because of fat)
- ❖ *Safflower*
- ❖ *Cracked Corn*
- ❖ *Mealworms and fruit* (grapes, apple, banana slices)
- ❖ *Nandina Berries* (good food source during winter)

Birds need water in winter! It can be difficult for birds to find water in winter because it is often frozen. They need water to stay warm and hydrated and to keep their feathers clean. Keep bird baths cleaned daily and add fresh water.

Cardinal photo credit: Bob Schermerhorn iPhotoBirds

How Does Your Garden Grow... Winter Seed Sowing

Martie Parch, VFGC Horticulture Chair

When the colder weather is here, those beautiful garden catalogs arrive. After marking all the plants I want to buy, a thought comes to me...
Winter Seed Sowing!



There are so many benefits to Winter Seed Sowing: it's easy, inexpensive, and does not require any special materials like grow lights or special potting soil.

Look at your seed catalogs. You can plant **annuals** such as *Nicotiana* (flowering tobacco), *Agastache* (hyssop), *Tagetes* (marigold), *Dianthus* (Sweet William, a biennial often grown as an annual), and *Centaurea cyanus* (bachelor buttons). **Perennials** can be also used in winter seed sowing: *Coreopsis* (tickseed), *Asclepias* (milkweed), *Eutrochium purpureum* (Joe Pye Weed), *Echinacea* (coneflower), *Rudbeckia* (blackeyed Susan), *Cosmos*, *Achillea* (yarrow), *Lobelia* (cardinal flower), *Aquilegia* (columbine), *Salvia* (sage), *Phlox divaricata* (woodland phlox), and *Asters*.

Easy **vegetables** to grow are lettuce, spinach, kale and Brussels sprouts, and **herbs** such as oregano, dill, and cilantro.

How to Create Your Own Mini-Greenhouses for Winter Seed Sowing

Check your local growing zone and frost date. You will need clean, translucent milk or water jugs, a utility knife, duct tape, potting soil, a scoop or small pot, a permanent marker, and seeds.

- With the utility knife, cut around the jug just below the handle, leaving about 1 inch attached. This will serve as a hinge.



- Discard the lid. With the knife, gently poke some holes in the bottom for drainage and around the top for transpiration and to prevent over heating on warm days.

- Add 3-4 inches of potting soil to the bottom part of the container and wet the soil just enough to form a clump in your hand.



- Add some seeds...not too many...and cover with a light layer of potting soil.

- Label your container with the plant's name and the date. Sometimes the marker fades, so it's a good idea to place a plant marker into the soil.



- Close the top of the container and after cutting two pieces of duct tape (easier to handle than one long piece), tape it closed.

- Now that you have your "greenhouses," place them outside where they will be exposed to sun, rain and snow. This will help the seed coatings to break down and germinate. Be careful about windy areas. Against the house or in a raised bed would be safe locations.

- Check on your greenhouses every now and then. If one feels light or if there is no condensation inside, it needs water. On warmer days, open the tops to prevent mildew. (Remember to close them at night).

You won't need to harden off these plants because they will naturally acclimate. The freezing temperatures of winter prolong the life of the seeds. Then in the spring, the dormant seeds come alive. The plants will be stronger and more resilient than any that are planted indoors. There will be healthy flowers, herbs, and vegetables ready to transplant in your garden!

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION OF GARDEN CLUBS (SAR) Sets Theme and Projects for 2021-2023

Reconnect, Plant, Grow, and Bloom

Marty Bowers, Director of the South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs (SAR) has set her theme and projects for 2021-23.



The Mission of SAR is to provide youth and adult education resources and opportunities for its members to promote and share the love of gardening, floral design, and civic environmental responsibilities. SAR is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

SAR is comprised of five state garden clubs as part of National Garden Clubs, Inc.: The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc., The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc., **Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**, and West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc.

Two scholarships are awarded annually to students majoring in horticulture or environmental related fields, thereby helping to plant seeds for the future. These SAR scholarships are funded by interest earned on bank accounts, SAR Life Memberships, honorarium, and memorial gifts. Consider honoring garden club officers and friends with an SAR Life Membership to help support our scholarships in the future.

SAR also encourages projects with the incentive recognition awards -- a list of these awards is found in the newly updated SAR website. These awards are a pat on the back for a job well done.

There are so many things that need our attention and with the year we have just experienced, some have been lacking: youth education, pollinators, invasive plants, environmental concerns, birds, forests, legislation and on and on. With a team of people and the force of five states, we can make a difference. Let's reconnect, plant seeds for the future, nurture new growth so that all the garden clubs in the South Atlantic Region will be blooming in the future.

SAR Projects for the 2021-2023 Term are:

- ❖ A gardening project involving youth
- ❖ Restoring or reclaiming a public site

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.

A \$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 youths.

Plan to restore a public site that has become overgrown, contains dead plants and weeds, or reclaim a public site that has been abandoned.

A \$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.

VFGC clubs are encouraged to engage in these projects and apply for SAR awards by December 1 of 2022.

2021 Fine Arts & Flowers – a Stunning Event

JoAnn McNabb, VFGC Liaison to FAF



Record crowds viewed the 83 2021 Fine Arts and Flowers exhibits at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and many favorable comments were overheard. **VFGC Clubs and Designers** included the following.

Begonia – Robin Williams

Berkeley – Barbara Zimmer

Buckingham-Dillwyn – Glenda Harris

Cedar Run – Valerie Story, Mary Ann May

Chesapeake Bay - Rebecca Elston, Sharon Steiber, Darlene Nelson

Chester – Pat Merson

Colonial – Kathy Holiday

Fluvanna – Mary Owen

Ginter Park – Jody Taylor, Joyce Parker

Hanover Towne – Judy Durant

Kilmarnock – Genny Chase

Nelson County – Grace Morris

Old Ivy – Jane VanDenburgh

Oxford – Melinda Snow, Suzanne Spooner-Munch, Kay Gray

River Road - Diane Burgess, Jane Earle Duncan, Sally Harrison, JoAnn McNabb

Rock Spring – Thea McGinnis, Sheila Moore

Salisbury - Mary Arakelian, Lili Bost, Ellen Huntington Pinnow, Lynn Nevasier, Kathy Ward

Sleepy Hollow – Gail Goodrich Harwood, Bonnie Parker

Thomas Jefferson – Judy Hodges, Andrea Metts, Janet Minock, Lynne Still

West Hanover – JoAnn McNabb, Anne Rickman, Minh-Chau Truong

Windsor Farms – Barbara Jones

Windsordale – Johanna Gilbert, Bonnie Parker

Woodland Pond – Pat Merson

Crowd Favorites at VMFA Fine Arts and Flowers



Genny Chase- Kilmarnock GC interpreted "Jungle Jim Lieberman"



*Diane Burgess,
River Road GC
and Richmond
Designers'
Guild,
interpreted
"Queen Anne of
Denmark, Wife
of James I"*

VFGC POLLINATION

Participate in VFGC Projects!

Kathy Ward, VFGC 2nd Vice President

VFGC PRIDE DECALS

Ours is a wonderful organization, beautifying our communities and making the world a better place. Let's increase visibility and show our pride! Proceeds will be used for a Blue Star Memorial marker at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Decals are good quality, circular, 2.5" in diameter.



Cost: \$3 each or two for \$5. Order from Barbara Hollister budhollister@gmail.com or Mary Owen rxowen@aol.com

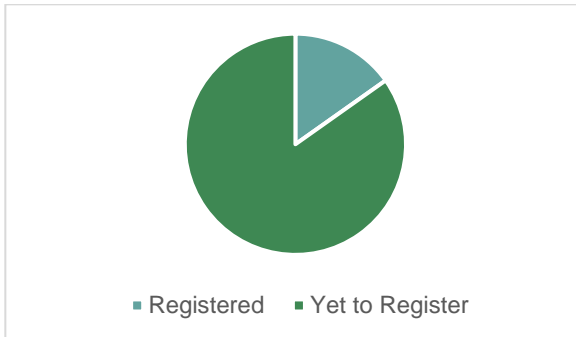
Bonus! A \$100 award will be given to the club with the greatest participation.



VFGC Plastic Film Recycling Project

We are making progress, but **we need more clubs to register and launch their six-month club recycling projects**. Each club must go to www.trex.com and register. More information on the program can be found at the bottom of the Trex® homepage: under Our Company, click on Recycling. The program we are participating in is the Community and University Challenge Programs. For questions or more information, contact Carolyn Nichols (CLNichols@centurylink.net) or Mary Owen (rxowen@aol.com).

Progress to Date: VFGC Clubs Registered with Trex®



VFGC State Fair Booth Activities Were a Hit!

Judy Durant once again organized our VFGC booth and activities at the Virginia State Fair, September 27-28.



Activities included rock painting, assembling succulent terrariums, and making mini and larger creative designs. Visitors of all ages participated enthusiastically!!



VFGC Flower Show School Course II **February 28 – March 3, 2022**

Best Western
Waynesboro, Virginia

Horticulture: Darlene Newell

Darlene's instruction will teach Horticulture, emphasizing dracaenas (sansevierias) and aucuba. She is a Master Judge, FSS and symposium flower show procedure and horticulture instructor. She is from West Virginia where she serves as Flower Show School Chairman. She serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Horticulture Instructors' Chairman.

Design and Flower Show Procedure: Judy Binns

Judy will teach table designs of all types and Petites. She is a Master Judge & FSS design instructor. She is from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia originally, but lives in the Richmond area currently. She has served on the NGC Board since 2007.

Schedule

Monday, Feb 28	3:45 - 6:00 pm	Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Mar 1	8:00 - 9:00 am 9:15 - 3:30 pm 3:45 - 5:45 pm	FSP Exam Horticulture/Lunch Point Scoring Test
Wed, Mar 2	8:00 - 9:00 am 9:15 - 3:30 pm 3:45 - 5:45 pm	Horticulture Exam Design/Lunch Point Scoring Test
Thursday, Mar 3	9:30 - 10:30 am	Design Exam

Hotel Information:

Best Western Waynesboro: 540-942-1100

Room rates are guaranteed through **Jan 28, 2022** at \$92.99 per night either single or double occupancy plus applicable taxes.

Ask for the VFGC block.

Questions – contact Frances Thrash, francesthresh@cox.net,
757-481-3484 (H) or 757-478-5791

Darlene Newell

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure

Darlene Newell is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure, & Symposium Instructor, and a Daffodil Judge. She has lectured in over twenty-six states. She is a life member of WVGC and NGC and a member of the American Horticulture, Hosta, and Daffodil Societies. She serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Horticulture Instructors' Chairman and the state level as the WV Flower Show School Chairman.

In 2001, she founded the annual Community Thanksgiving Meal project. To date, hundreds of volunteers have provided over 25,000 hot meals on Thanksgiving Day. Special Interests include growing plants from seeds, gardening with her five grandchildren, and creating stained glass and concrete projects.

Judy Binns

Design

Judy is a member and former president of the Salisbury GC, NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, former President of Piedmont District and President of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs from 2011-2013. She was awarded the National Garden Clubs Member of Honor Award for the South Atlantic Region for All-Around Excellence in 2006 and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors since 2007. She has exhibited designs in "Fine Arts and Flowers" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and served as "Fine Arts and Flowers" Co-Chairman in 2007 and 2010. Judy is an NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor and has given floral design programs and workshops in Virginia as well as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She is a member of the Piedmont District Judges Council, Virginia Flower Show Judges Council, Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and National Flower Arrangers. Judy is a native Virginian from the Shenandoah Valley. She enjoys spending time in her garden and specializes in floral designs for weddings and other occasions.

REGISTRATION FORM

Flower Show School - Course II February 28-March 3, 2022
Best Western Waynesboro
109 Apple Tree Lane, Waynesboro, VA 22980
540-942-1100

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Club _____

District _____

Full course with/without exam (Includes \$130 _____
tuition, two lunches and reserved
seating on front rows)

Flower Show Procedure (Mon.) \$20 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Tue.) \$65 _____

Design & Lunch (Wed.) \$65 _____

Manual will be emailed (free of charge)
Printed Manual available at Registration \$ 5 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

****No refunds after February 21, 2022**

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

Darlene Nelson, Registrar VFGC Flower Show School
153 Bushfield Road, Montross, VA 22520-3813
darlydurl@aol.com

VFGC SYMPOSIUM

April 4-6, 2022

Location: Hilton at Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23233

Submitted by Julia Clevett, Flower Show Judges Symposium

Allied Topic: Janis Ranck

Janis will present the Allied Topic entitled "Orchids, How to Grow and Show." Janis Ranck has worked at Chadwick Orchids for 17 years. Prior to that, she worked on the family dairy farm. Her first introduction to orchids was when her Mother took her into the woods as a little girl in the springtime to look for pink lady slippers in bloom. Janis enjoys all the orchids but particularly likes vanillas and the natives. She would be glad to answer your orchid questions.

Design: Julia Clevett

Julia is an NGC Accredited Master Judge and NGC Flower Show School/Symposium Instructor. She is also a former President of the Garden Club of New Jersey. Julia is currently a member of the NGC Board as a member of the Flower Show School Committee, where she holds the position of Symposium Chair. Julia had the honor of representing NGC at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. She also represented NGC at the Wafa World Flower Show in Boston, MA. She was the only NGC Instructor to be so honored.

Horticulture: Dottie Howatt

Dottie is a NGC Accredited Master Judge and an NGC Flower Show School/Symposium Instructor. She is also a Daffodil Judge and a Daffodil Instructor for the American Daffodil Society. Dottie collaborated with other NGC Horticulture Instructors to write *Horticulture, Exhibiting and Judging*. She holds a BS degree in Horticulture, majoring in Plant Science with a minor in Botany, from the University of Maryland.

Schedule:

	Monday, April 4
2:00 – 3:00pm	Registration Open
3:00 – 5:00pm	Allied Topic
	Tuesday, April 5
8:00 – 8:45am	Registration, Announcements
8:45 – noon	Design
1:00 – 3:15pm	Design & Break
3:15 – 5:15pm	Point Scoring Exam
	Wednesday, April 6
8:00 – 8:45am	Registration, Announcements
8:45 – noon	Horticulture
1:00 – 3:15	Horticulture & Break
3:15 – 5:15	Point Scoring Exam

Hotel Information: Contact the Hilton at Short Pump at 804-364-3600 for room reservations. Room rates are guaranteed through **March 13, 2022** at **\$129.00** per night either single or double occupancy plus applicable taxes until the block is filled. Ask for the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Symposium block.

Questions – contact Julia Clevett julia.clevett@gmail.com or 804-598-3386

REGISTRATION FORM: SYMPOSIUM 2022

Hilton at Short Pump Richmond, Virginia

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Club _____ District _____

Taking Point Scoring Exam? Yes ___ No ___

Credentials Approved? Yes ___ No ___

Master Judge Auditing? Yes ___ No ___

No credentials will be accepted at the door.

Credentials for Virginia judges should be sent to:

Rebecca Elston, 3332 Mob Neck Road, Heathsville, VA 22473-2307

804-580-6713 elston.marshwood@gmail.com

Full course (exam or audit). Includes tuition, two lunches \$160 _____
and reserved seating on front rows for those taking exams.

Design & Lunch Only (Tuesday) \$ 80 _____

Horticulture & Lunch Only (Wednesday) \$ 80 _____

Manual will be emailed free of charge. **OR**

printed manual available at registration if **Pre-ordered** \$ 5 _____

TOTAL** \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions:

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

Claudia Cosby
VFGC Symposium
3015 Mount Hill Drive
Midlothian, VA 23113-3923
cosbych1205@gmail.com

****DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2022****

Must include late fee of \$25 if postmarked after this date.

NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 28, 2022

VFGC “Beautify and Restore” Grants Awarded

Judy Ann Fray, VFGC Chair, Grants to Beautify and Restore

The VFGC Grants to Beautify & Restore Project has awarded grants to five clubs for the 2021-22 Club year. We were pleased to receive applications that indicate our garden clubs are concerned about the beauty of their neighborhoods, and that VFGC can help them correct situations and enhance communities.

Southwest District

Green Thumb GC of Big Stone Gap is awarded \$1,000 for restoration of gardens in two high-profile areas in the center of the City of Norton. Emphasis in the planting of these gardens will be native plants that provide nectar for pollinators.

South Central District

Keysville GC will use \$950 to replace trees lost in an ice storm, February 13, 2021 at the Keysville Veterans’ War Memorial Park. They will also beautify the area of the Blue Star Memorial, also in the Park and installed in 2006. Assistance from the Town of Keysville includes labor and equipment.

Piedmont District

Wonder City GC, Hopewell, one of our newest VFGC Clubs, received \$300 for their beautification project. The members are working in collaboration with the VFW, American Legion and the City of Hopewell to renovate Washington Circle, a war memorial park area in the center of Hopewell. Their ‘assignment’ is to remove overgrown shrubbery and create low-profile flower beds that will accent the granite memorials in the Circle.

Shenandoah District

Noland Heights GC will receive \$550 to use in creation of a new medicinal herb garden at the historic Plumb House in Downtown Waynesboro. They are working at the request of their Heritage Foundation, and will use medicinal herbs that would have been used at the time of the Civil War. The Plumb House is on the site of a Civil War Battle.

Purcellville GC proposes to use their VFGC Grant of \$1,000, along with additional funds raised by the Club and the Oatlands Board of Directors, to restore and beautify the "Meditation Garden" at Oatlands, a large historic property owned by the National Historic Trust and part of the "Journey Through Hallowed Grounds National Heritage Area". This area of the 261 acre estate has become overgrown and unsightly due to limited funds for garden maintenance. Members of the Purcellville Garden Club care about this historic estate that is on the edge of encroachment from Washington, DC development.

Congratulations to these five clubs for their creative projects that will improve the appearance of each community.

Grants Available for Youth Pollinator Gardens

Janice Clem, VFGC Chair, Butterfly/Pollinator Education

Have you heard the good news that National Garden Clubs now offers a Grant for Youth Pollinator Gardens?

Grants up to \$200 are available for projects that "include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators." Youth involvement in planting and caring for pollinator gardens will show them the vital importance of providing food and shelter for our pollinators.

There is not a deadline for applying. If you have a pollinator garden project in mind, please submit the application now. The grant information and application are on NGC's website www.gardenclub.org under Youth and Scholarships.

"Keys to the Future" 2021 Youth Project Grant Awards

Melissa Damiano, VFGC Chair, Youth Project Grants

Blue Ridge District

Belmont GC will partner with the Liberty High School first year Horticulture students to design and plant the front foundation bed of Bedford Elementary School. The high school horticulture teacher will use this project as part of the HS students' curriculum, and the community benefits with a revitalized appearance of the elementary school. Awarded- \$310

Piedmont District

Salisbury GC will sponsor several programs for youth. First, they will show preschoolers how to create gifts from planting paperwhites in the fall and a dish garden in the spring. Second, elementary students will learn how to make holiday baskets with fresh plant material; then in May, youth will learn how to create fresh flower arrangements. Finally, members will teach elementary students from a disadvantaged area on fire prevention and basic environmental conservation. Awarded - \$250

Shenandoah District

Cedar Run GC will sponsor the Boys and Girls Club of Warrenton. At two events, the club members will guide the youth in floral design. Awarded - \$230

Glen Burnie GC will restart their marigold project which was cancelled due to the pandemic. They will sponsor City of Winchester Public School first graders. The 240 students will plant and care for marigold seeds. They will then spruce up a neglected community area by planting their marigolds for all to enjoy. Awarded - \$360

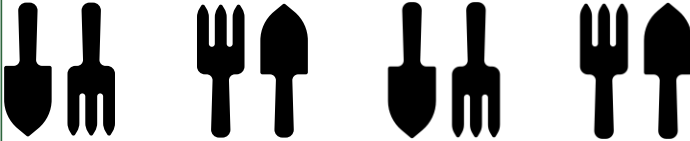
Rapid Ann GC will sponsor the youth of the local Boys and Girls Club as they assist in the construction and planting of a raised flower garden at the Art Center in Orange. Club members will introduce the students to the growth habits of different flowers, and their necessary care and pruning of the plants. Awarded - \$380

VFGC Convention 2022 Preview

Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb
VFGC Convention 2022 Co-Chairs



DIG INTO ACTION



**Convention 2022
and Flower Show**

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

May 1-3

Short Pump Hilton

11800 West Broad Street

Richmond

Block your calendars...and get ready for an inspiring, educational, fun, jam-packed three days. Look for registration details which will be posted on the website and included in the spring issue of *ODG*. Meanwhile, the next several pages will give you a peak at an event not to be missed. Mary Owen, VFGC President, will preside over the convention.

The Venue

Richmond is the location... **The Richmond Hilton at Short Pump** is the venue... a beautiful hotel with every amenity, including spa facilities.



The selection of this venue was based in no small measure on the hotel's extensive procedures for social distancing and protection of its guests. The large conference space is set apart from other hotel functions and will be dedicated to VFGC, not only for privacy but safety as well.

The Flower Show – "May Magic in Richmond"

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show will be showcased during the convention. Any VFGC member in good standing will be eligible to participate. More information will be forthcoming in the VFGC *ROOTED* e-newsletter.

A Special Silent Auction

Dust off that "prized" (but seldom-if-ever used) container, design sculpture or accessory and enter them in our Convention's Silent Auction. This will be a chance to recycle your quality design piece(s), spark others' creativity and set your own starting bid. You will receive 50% of the selling price while supporting the VFGC. A win/win opportunity!

Vendors

VFGC Conventions are known to provide great shopping experiences. The 2022 Convention will follow suit. Invited vendors will feature handmade pottery, jewelry, clothing, floral design accessories, and more!

Lunch & Dinner Programs

Mary Arakelian and Lili Aram-Bost National Garden Club Designers

“Mother/Daughter Dynamic Designs”



Mary Arakelian is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge. She was the 2018 NGC Designer of the Year for the NGC “Visions of Beauty” calendar, only the second California recipient of this unique honor. Starting in 2000, when she lived in New England, several of her designs have been published in “Visions of Beauty.” Mary’s creative floral designs have been featured in Design Dimensions for CFAA, and on recent OFAD CDs. After her move to California in 2006, she once again entered the NGC calendar contest; many of her designs have been published since 2011, including in the current 2022 calendar. Since moving to Virginia in 2021, Mary has joined the Richmond Designers’ Guild and exhibited in this year’s Fine Arts and Flowers at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA).

Lili Aram-Bost is also an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, crediting her mom for her loving encouragement and instilling the joy of creative floral design, especially with the Botanical Arts. Lili has also had many designs published in the NCG “Visions of Beauty”, CFAA’s “Design Dimensions”, and on OFAD’s CD. A past chairperson of Capitol Judge’s Council, Lili enjoyed participating as California Garden Club Flower Show Symposium Co-Chair, and Chairperson 2015-2020. Since moving to Virginia in 2021, Lili has joined the Richmond Designers’ Guild and Salisbury Garden Club.

All of Mary and Lili’s designs will be raffled off.

Workshops

You will have the opportunity to experience a unique program with *Kathy Ward*, Accredited Flower Show Judge from the Salisbury Garden Club, Piedmont District. Kathy's program: "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!

Brenda McManaway, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, President of both Boones Mill Garden Club and the Blue Ridge District, 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!



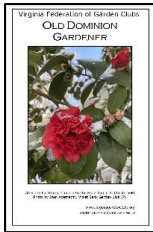
Captain Mike Ostrander will present a fascinating program on the return of the bald eagle population on the James River.



Discover the conservation success story of the breeding bald eagle population on the James River, where forty-six years ago, in 1975, they were locally extinct or "extirpated". Their comeback began in 1979-1980 when a single pair came back and had a successful breeding season. Today, over 340 pair of resident bald eagles call the James River watershed home, making it the site of the greatest comeback of the bald eagle in the entire North American continent. That's awesome!

VFGC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 1	ODG Deadline for Spring Issue
Feb 28	VFGC Board of Directors Meeting,
Feb 28-Mar 3	VFGC Flower Show School, Waynesboro
Mar 20-22	SAR Convention
Mar 21	Piedmont District Spring Meeting
Mar 31	Tidewater District Spring Meeting
Apr 4-6	VFGC Symposium, Richmond
Apr 9	Southwest District Spring Meeting
Apr 12	Shenandoah District Spring Meeting
Apr 21	Blue Ridge District Spring Meeting
May 1	ODG Deadline for Summer Issue
May 1	VFGC Board of Directors Meeting
May 1-3	VFGC Convention/Flower Show, Richmond
June 5-11	NGC "National Garden Week"



Calling All Photographers!

Gail Goodrich Harwood, ODG Editor

Thanks to all members who have submitted their beautiful photographs, not only for this issue but for future issues. This is a great way to "travel" around the Commonwealth.

To submit your photographs:

- Select *seasonal photographs to complement the ODG seasonal publication schedule*. Select either long shots or close-up photos
- Send 300 dpi jpegs – if submitting a phone photo, and your email gives you a size choice, select "Actual" or "Large" size
- Photographs for the cover must be 'portrait' orientation – inside gallery photos may be either portrait or landscape orientation
- If your photograph is not of your own garden or plant(s), please gain permission to print in the *ODG*
- Send to your district editor by the deadline– include your name and club name; add a caption and location of the photograph
- Submission will be considered permission to print.

IN MEMORIAM

We honor those we have lost but are not forgotten. They live on in our hearts, and memories of them are blessings.

Blue Ridge District

Carolyn Hurd..... Boones Mill GC

Piedmont District

Nell Brothers.....Kilmarnock GC

Shenandoah District

Beranek Sonni..... Lake of the Woods GC

Mary HuntonCulpeper GC

Stetson Peter.....Culpeper GC

Tidewater District

Barbara Ohmsen..... *VFGC Honorary President*
Green Meadow Point GC

*Our members are like flowers.
Their varieties are endless,
Their beauty stupendous.
And each and every one
We call by name
And remember as friend.*

-Pam Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

Note to Presidents & Treasurers: Membership updates and input for "In Memoriam" should be sent to Claudia Cosby, VFGC Treasurer at cosbych1205@gmail.com (note new email address)

DISTRICT & CLUB CROSS-POLLINATION

"ABC: Aster to Zinnia"

*Submitted by Connie Dixon, Conservation Chair
Blue Ridge GC (BR)*

Blue Ridge Garden Club continues to maintain an ABC Garden at Bedford Elementary School after introducing the project ten years ago. Countless children have learned about the plant kingdom and the variety of species planted just outside their classrooms. Imagine the curiosity of a child being introduced to an elephant ear, creeping jenny, or a money plant.



Classroom teachers have always welcomed us into their domain, and they help as needed. Our presentations usually begin in the classroom where visual aids help students identify plant parts and what is needed to help plants grow strong and healthy. From the classroom, we head to the ABC garden where 26 different plants await a curious bevy of children



*Blue Ridge GC members
at the ABC Garden:*

L to R:

Janice Morris

Connie Dixon

Sally Santmyer

Elaine Cuesta

Brenda Forren

Hilliard Park GC Completes Mediterranean Garden

Submitted by Jean Fender, Hilliard Park Garden Club (P)

Using Piedmont District grant funding, Hilliard Park GC recently completed landscaping a two-part courtyard in the back of Christ Lutheran Church in Lakeside. Seven of our 12 members, one member's husband, and two church members worked together on the project. The courtyard, which had been neglected for years, is now a beautiful Mediterranean Garden.

Right The smaller side features three different size pots set on pea gravel planted with cone flowers, creeping jenny, and sedum. Close by is a showy agave plant. two large yucca plants, daylilies, cockscomb celosia, and creeping phlox.



Left The larger side already had a nice size crepe myrtle tree, small shrubs, and a beautiful blue spruce shrub. We added pots of hens and chickens on pea gravel beside previously restored benches. Other new

plants installed included blue fescue, autumn joy sedum, Mexican feathergrass, daylilies, a Rose of Sharon shrub, pittosporum shrub, creeping phlox, cockscomb celosia, black and blue salvia, purple monarda and daylilies.

“Beautify and Restore” -- Salem GC Members Honored with Historical Society’s Highest Award

Submitted by Esther Davis, Salem GC (BR)

For their work restoring historic gardens in Salem, two members of Salem Garden Club, *Marsha Shortell* and *Esther Davis* (L to R) have been awarded the Historical Society’s James Simpson award, given for “meritorious service to the Historical Society and the cause of local history.” The award has been presented only thirteen times since its inauguration in 1987.



When Marsha became chair of the Salem Museum Landscape Committee in 2015, she resolved to bring new life to an existing five-year-old unruly herb garden at the entrance to the Williams-Brown house in which the Museum resides. Through her dedication and vision, she brought order to what is now a thriving, inviting garden where visitors can wander and enjoy fragrant lavender and daffodils in the spring and colorful herbs and complementary plantings. Marsha, who tends the gardens year-round, schedules an annual workday, enlisting members of the Salem Garden Club to assist with winter clean-up each spring.

The Preston House, circa 1821, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was gifted to the Salem Historical society in 2014 by heirs of Dr. Esther Clark Brown, a beloved practicing physician and the last owner and descendant of the Preston family. To oversee and undertake the extensive renovation of house and grounds, a group of dedicated volunteers formed a committee of which Marsha was a member. When the renovation was completed, Esther Davis readily accepted Marsha's invitation to oversee restoration of the gardens.

What became four years of restorative work began with one bed at a time, first simply eradicating weeds and vines to reveal buried perennials, carving edges to define eleven different beds, relocating hundreds of bulbs, adding new plantings, and discovering a delightful area of native plants. In the backyard, at the base of a 200-year-old Osage orange tree – (fifth largest in the state, also listed in the “Big Trees of Virginia” database) were traces of a rock wall, long since buried - which Esther carefully restored, adding a path from salvaged stones to direct foot traffic to a spot perfect for those “Kodak moments” under the special tree.



Appreciating every hour of assistance from SGC members and community volunteers, and thankful for the SHS's confidence in their vision and direction, Marsha and Esther were grateful to use their skills and abilities to “beautify and restore” these historic gardens for visitors to enjoy.

"Buzz On Over to Pollination Station"

Submitted by Sue Harper, Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club (T)

Almost three years ago, Lake Smith Terrace GC began working with city officials and the horticulturist to design a native plant pollinator garden at Haygood Point Park. Our objective was to use native plants to enhance the natural beauty of the park and nearby neighborhoods and water areas, thereby maintaining and improving the ecosystem.

In the fall of 2019, the city planted native trees including Paw Paws, Tulip Poplars, Sweet Bay Magnolias, Bald Cypress, and Tupelo Black Gums, and over 100 plant plugs of different varieties, provided by LSTGC. The plant plugs did not survive the summer of 2020.



A new garden design was created that included a large, raised bed. In the fall of 2020, the city planted Bee Balm, Mountain Mint, Common Sneezeweed, Dense Blazing Star, Yarrow, Purple Coneflowers, White Coneflowers, Black-eyed Susan, and Vernonia in the raised bed. LSTGC and a few neighbors are maintaining the pollinator bed by weeding, edging, and mulching, while nature is providing the water. Now, all of our Haygood Point pollinator friends, bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies can come for a free refill and worry-free caterpillar grazing in the area around the Pollination Station. LSTGC members have learned a lot and hope that neighbors and families will visit the park and enjoy the plants and pollinators. Come to Haygood Point Park and see our Pollination Station!!!

Twin Rivers GC Emeritus Members Honored

Submitted by Belinda Sheppard, Twin Rivers GC (SC)

The Twin River Garden Club held a special dinner event to honor four distinguished Emeritus members.



Emeritus Members of Twin Rivers Garden Club, L to R: Teresa Jones, Ruth Toone, Pat Hobgood, and Judy Williams

These members are applauded for their amazing contributions over many years of service and dedication to the garden club. Each has served in various officer positions and as committee chairs, and successfully implemented many projects. In addition to a delicious meal, each honoree received a pumpkin floral arrangement made by club members. The two newest members to be awarded Emeritus status are Pat Hobgood, member since the early 60's, and Ruth Toone, one of the founding members of the club from 1951, making her an active member for 70 years.

Reconnecting and Celebrating

Submitted by Fran Judd, Salisbury GC (P)

Salisbury GC held its Annual Meeting at the beautiful Boathouse in Richmond. This first in-person event in many months was well-attended and enjoyed immensely. Pictured are President Janice Beatty with 35-year member Reta Good.



Brightening the Lives of Seniors in Henrico County

Submitted by Raye Ryan, Sleepy Hollow GC (P)

Since 2007, one of Sleepy Hollow Garden GC's favorite civic projects has involved a horticulture therapy program with Commonwealth Senior Living in Henrico County. Each fall and spring, members have gathered with residents at the facility to create floral designs for their own rooms using seasonal materials. The Activities Director has told us this is one of the activities residents look forward to the most.

During the last year and a half, we have altered our approach to work around pandemic restrictions. For this fall's project, members *Raye Ryan* and *Becky Einwick* created fun seasonal table decorations for every table in the residents' dining room. The dining manager and residents were thrilled!



We look forward to the time when we can once again engage with residents in workshops. Until then, we will keep improvising to try to brighten the lives of these wonderful seniors.

Green Spring GC Holiday Event Update

Submitted by Cynthia Underwood, Green Spring GC, Inc. (T)



After 60 years, Green Spring GC has had to cancel its annual home tour. We plan to resume this popular tradition next year. We will, however, continue with our annual holiday greens sale. Details will be posted on our club website: www.greenspringgardenclub.org

Welcome Maywood Garden Club – a New VFGC Club in the Blue Ridge District

Submitted by Shirley Edillon, District Editor (BR)



VFGC President *Mary Owen* helped welcome a new club into the Blue Ridge District and the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Mary is pictured with *Dr. Marjorie Lewter*, President of Maywood Garden Club, at the Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting on October 27, 2021. Maywood GC was chartered with twenty-two members from the Newport/New Castle, Virginia area.

Great Beginnings Make the Grade

Submitted by Margie Reddit, Rappahannock GC (P)

Children having a good foundation and a great start is key for growing success. That is exactly why the Rappahannock Garden Club (RGC) invested their time with the YMCA "Bright Beginnings" Campaign. This



community outreach program provides children in need with school supplies and new clothes to start the school year with confidence. Members were each assigned a child, and the shopping began. New shoes, tops, jeans, and even socks and undergarments were selected. Having the right tools to start the school year takes the pressure off the students and more so, their parents. Providing essential supplies sets kids up for success!

RGC members pictured from left: Debbie Burgess, Muffin Fitzpatrick, Deborah Brooks, Robin Perks, and Margie Redlin

Exciting Fall for Glen Burnie Garden Club

Submitted by Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S)

Beginning in September, Glen Burnie GC had an interesting presentation on the herb garden at Blandly. What a great resource we have at the Arboretum!

Several garden clubs in the Winchester/Frederick County area gathered for our annual Joint Meeting on October 21 and enjoyed a great presentation on flower arrangements that would be featured in the Shenandoah Designers Guild Show -- inspiration for our own designs as we look ahead to the Winchester Council Standard Flower Show in spring of 2023!

Club members participated in the Shenandoah Designers Guild Flower Show on October 25. *Susan Creasy* won a blue and a Designer's Choice Award for her 'Harvest Treasures' design. *Alana Danko* scored 90+ for her 'Haunting Beauty' design, as well as the Award of Merit and a blue for her Horticulture submissions, and *Pam Lamborne* won a blue for her Succulent submission in Horticulture. Glen Burnie was represented very well!



Susan Creasy with her Designer's Choice Award

We are looking forward to our holiday decorating at historic Belle Grove and Abrams Delight, as well as our annual Christmas gathering on December 16. A great way to round out a wonderful year!

Congratulations to Glen Burnie on receiving a VFGC Youth Projects Grant Award. (Page 23)

Shenandoah District Holds Its Fall Meeting: "Casual, Short, and Fun"

Submitted by Val Story, District Editor (S)

The Shenandoah District meeting was held Oct 14 at the Spotswood Country Club. Several enthusiastic members attended, for those who missed, "you missed" a good one. District President, Pat Carswell led a meeting that was casual, short and fun. Speakers were informative, and the ways and means table was absolutely lovely. There was everything from wreaths, napkins, cakes, jams, design items, plants flowers, fall and Christmas items, plus more. Three cheers for Valerie and Jane.



In the group picture: Toni Shreve, Denise Gorsky, Susan Creasy, Dianna Busch, Mary Haugh, all received recognition for outstanding work from the Penny Pines Chairman, Joy Poole and District President Pat Carswell.

The photo to the right features Brenda McManaway with one of the designs she created. She is very creative and funny. Her design was made of all greens, no flowers. Other outstanding Blue Ridge District designers were Nancy Goodman and Rita Leiser.



Piedmont District Fall Meeting Brings 132 Members and 30 Clubs Together

Submitted by Gail Goodrich Harwood, District Editor (P)

On October 18 in Richmond, Piedmont District President Sally Harrison welcomed attendees back to the first in-person event since fall 2019. Six former district presidents attended. The energy was high as members visited, shopped with vendors, enjoyed brunch, and marveled at the wonderfully creative and tip-filled design program by Brenda McManaway, Blue Ridge District President, and member of Boone's Mill GC.

VFGC President Mary Owen was on hand to help present JoAnn McNabb with a National Garden Clubs Life Membership pin in recognition of her extraordinary leadership as district president. Dulcee Lawrence was recognized by Stonehenge GC with the presentation of a VFGC Life Membership. JoAnn McNabb recognized Gail Goodrich Harwood, editor, for the NGC National Certificate of Merit awarded to *Footprints*, the district newsletter. Gail thanked all contributors to the newsletter. Sally recognized and thanked Piedmont District board members Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb who are chairing the VFGC 2022 Convention.

Sally Harrison (center) Piedmont District President, was presented with her official President's Pin by Linda Nau (left), Treasurer and JoAnn McNabb, immediate past President and Advisor.



CELEBRATING WINTER

In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a look of more exalted simplicity – John Burroughs



Magnolia Leaves and Pods
Photo by Linda Boatman
Westmoreland GC (P)

"Winter Greetings"
Photo by Shirley Edillon
Sugar Loaf GC (BR)



Winter Sunset at Bedford
Photo by Christy Boone
Blue Ridge GC (BR)





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Summer	May 1

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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.



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