

February 2022 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



February 28: VFGC Board Meeting: Best Western, Waynesboro
Feb 28-March 3, 2022: Flower Show School II: Waynesboro
March 20-22, 2022: SAR Convention: Berea, Kentucky
April: NGC Plant America Month
April 4-6: Symposium: Hilton at Short Pump
May 1-3, 2022: VFGC Convention: Hilton at Short Pump
May 1-2: Flower Show: "May Magic Comes to Richmond"
May 16-19: NGC Convention: Orlando

Don't forget:

Hello,

We still have that little "nip" in the air, but we're getting a glimpse of spring..... And a glimpse of VFGC **"DIGGING INTO ACTION."** Clubs have been conscientious in creatively working around the challenges. Many are meeting while others are zooming, social distancing, wearing a face masks or even using an old fashion phone calls. After reviewing our clubs' reports, we can be proud of the many activities, meetings, and plans that are in place for this spring. We have goods things to accomplish and what better time than **NOW** to **DIG IN**. ROOTED's giving you that latest information so check... make sure, you're not missing out.

We have Flower Show School, Landscape Design School, and even a Symposium this spring. There's even going to be extra activity for National Garden Week. So make sure you or your club doesn't miss out.

AND I have to encourage everyone to come to all or part of the 88th Annual Convention in Richmond. Themed **"Let's Dig Into Action Together"** this is our opportunity to get back together, to learn, and take away enthusiasm for the future. Please make the effort... I guarantee you will not regret it!

So, please remember your board and I are always here to help. Hope to see you this spring.
Mary Owen President, VFGC Rxowen@aol.com 434-390-3479

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

SYMPOSIUM

Date: April 4 – 6, 2022

***Location: Hilton at Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street
Henrico, Virginia***

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 spring-time 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: Gay Austin

Due to health concerns, Dottie Howatt is being replaced by Gay Austin. Gay is an accredited Master Flower Show Judge and Horticulture Instructor for the NGC Flower Show Schools, teaching both at the school and symposium level. She served as State President for The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. 2009-2011 and NGC President 2019-2021. She has been an active garden club member for over 30 years in McComb GC and Natchez GC. Gay and her husband, Will, live near McComb, Mississippi where they enjoy nature and gardening. They have three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren (all under the age of 13), five dogs and two cats – all of which bring joy to their lives.

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
Hilton Hotel at Short Pump, Henrico, Virginia

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Club _____ District _____

Taking Point Scoring Exam? Yes _____ No _____

Master Judge Auditing? Yes _____ No _____

Symposium is open to NGC Judges and interested parties. Virginia judges should email intention to attend Symposium to State Credentials Chairman, Rebecca Elston, with name and district. Out-of-state judges should contact their State Credentials Chairman to send Form 18 to Rebecca Elston. Note that per NGC Flower Show School Committee all exhibiting and judging credits required to attend this and any Symposium taken prior to December 31, 2022 are suspended.

VA State Chairman: 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, and reserved seating on front rows for those taking exams. \$160 _____

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.

Silent Auction: Calling All Sellers and Buyers!

Jane Earle, Convention Auction Chair

Dust off that “prized” (but seldom if ever used) high-end or unique design container, sculpture, or accessory – and sell it in our **Convention Silent Auction**. Auction proceeds will be split 50-50 between the item owner and VFGC – a win-win! Members who are registered for any part of the convention are eligible to participate.

The silent auction will be held on **Monday, May 2** at the convention venue, the Short Pump Hilton.

Those wishing to sell - register your item between 8:00 and 9:00 am on May 2. Establish a starting bid. Check back at the end of the day to either collect your 50% of the proceeds or retrieve your unsold item(s).

Those wishing to buy - visit the auction and place as many bids as you like in \$5 increments. Check back at the close of the auction, write a check to VFGC, and pick up your winning bid item(s).

Should you have questions about the silent auction, or should you need to register your item on Sunday, please contact Jane Earle, Auction Chair at 804-310-6808.

Auction Hours: 9:30 am – 5:15 pm



May Magic
Comes to Richmond



An NQC Specialty Design Flower Show

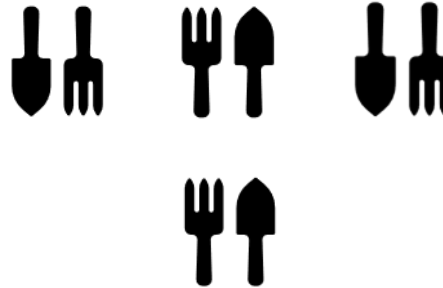
Short Pump Hilton, Richmond

May 1 - 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

May 2 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come Visit - Free and Open to the Public

“Let’s Dig into Action Together!”



**88th Annual Convention
and Flower Show
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
May 1-3, 2022
Short Pump Hilton
12042 West Broad Street, Henrico**

Loving Your Native Bees

and Doing all You can for Them by Lesley Mack

Like oxygen, we could not live without our native bees. But which native bee(s) should we thank and support?

Well, there are about ~4,000 native bee species in North America, including some ~50 species of Bumblebees. There are some ~770 bee species native to the Eastern U.S. Wow, that is a lot of thank yous.

Much has been written and discussed on the topic of native bees, thank goodness. For this article, I will focus on one of the amazing aspects of our beloved natives; “Specialist” bees and “Generalist” bees. Roughly 25% of the ~770 species (=193) of bees native to the Eastern United States are pollen “Specialists”.

Over the millennia, Specialist bees and their host plants have co-evolved. Before climate change the blooming native plants warmed and flowered at the same time the native bees warmed and emerged. If the timing is right when the bee emerges and the plant is in bloom, the Specialist bee gets its pollen, can produce and feed its babies, *and* the plant is able to reproduce. If the timing is not right...then both the bee and the plant fail. The Specialist bee, like the name implies, means that they forage for pollen only from certain plants. These plants flower at a certain time of year.

Imagine only being able to eat one kind of food once a year. Diets of Specialist bees range from one plant family to a single plant species. Some Specialist bees feed from only one kind of plant, and some on two, or at most three kinds. If there is no flower for the bee, how can the bee or plant survive?

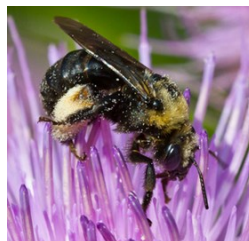
You have heard “this” before...”because of habitat loss...pesticides, invasive species, and climate change”...the Specialist bees’ ability to forage is decreasing, putting the bee and its host plant in peril.

So, what can you do? Plant natives, eliminate invasive species, remove non-natives when you can, avoid pesticides, provide water and nesting sites, don’t fuss over the lawn. You have also heard those before.

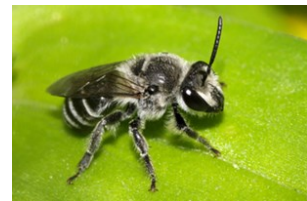
Specialist Bees - Aren’t they cute?



Andrena hirticincta,
photo by Michael Veit



Melissodes desponsa
photo by Elliotte Harold



Colletes latitarsis
photo by Hadel Go

Continues from page 5: Here are several great links to convince you...if you still need convincing: "Pollen Specialist Bees of the Eastern US" by Jarrod Fowler and Sam Droege. This site lists the Specialist bees and their host plant. https://jarrodfowler.com/specialist_bees.html

Here is a nice Basic Introduction to bees, from the USDA Forest Service. https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/SC/Bee_Basics_North_American_Bee_ID.pdf

Virginia Native Plant Society's Native Plants for Specialist Bees.

Links to other great Specialist Bee articles, too.

<https://vnps.org/plants-for-specialist-bees/>

The Xerces Society Youtube channel. If you only have time to watch and listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAiPLPJuySOgn6CbjkOxqLQ>

So, what about the other ~577 Generalist Native Bees on the east coast?

Well, they are not such 'picky' foragers. They often visit a wide variety of flower types and species when seeking out pollen. Imagine being able to go to your favorite 'all you can eat' restaurant and eating to your heart's content? Sure.

When there is a multitude of native plants, each flower presents a different dish of pollen each with a different nutritional value. Nectar is a bee's carbohydrates, while pollen is a source of proteins. Pollen is used to feed bee's larvae as well as themselves.

Long-horned bees (*Melissodes robustior*) and Leaf cutter bees (*Magachile perihirta*) are common Generalist bees. Long-horned bee species number ~200 in North America. Leaf cutter bee species number ~1,500 worldwide, with ~22 species in Virginia.

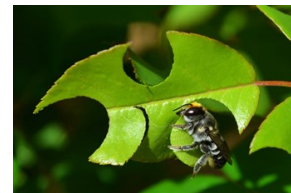
Generalist Bees - cute, too!



Long-horned bees



Long-horn bees



Leaf cutter bee

above photos by Missouri Dept of Conservation <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/longhorn-bees>

Besides planting natives in your garden, you can put out Solitary Bee nests. That is another article in itself. Here is a photograph of a native bee house that I put together. You can, too! The idea of Solitary native bees and Social bees is yet another topic. Gosh, the native bee topics just don't quit! But I need to. One more idea...

TREX Film Recycling Challenge

Our club, Town and Country in Southwest District, has reached our goal of recycling 500 lbs. of plastic on February 7, 2022.

I reported to Stephanie Hicks at TREX and ordered our first bench. It should be delivered within six weeks. Our plan is to place the bench in front of the Town Hall in Wise at the Blue Star Memorial Garden. (Established in 2012)

I wanted you (Mary Owen) to know how important your project is for the environment. Our members, businesses and friends have become aware of the amount of plastic that goes into our landfill. They have helped us collect and spread the word about VFGC's project. Keep up the good work.

Best Regards,
Patsy Stephens

This is an awesome accomplishment and you're so right that this project stretches beyond ourselves. Congratulations to Town and Country. Please keep me posted when it arrives.
Mary Owen

Flower Show Schedules

Flower Shows are being planned, schedules are being written, excitement is building, and this is wonderful for our Garden Clubs. Your Garden Club must vote to sponsor a Flower Show and then appoint a committee to write the Schedule. All this happens months and months before the Show takes place. At least 3 months before the Show, the Schedule must be sent to your DISTRICT Flower Show Schedule Evaluator. Any necessary changes are to be made by your Flower Show committee. Then it is sent on to the Chairman of Schedule Evaluations for one more final check.

Who are these Evaluators and how do I reach them? Their names and districts are found on page 20 of the VFGC's "little white book" that your GC President will have. Their contact information is also in the back of the book.

Schedule Formats to help you write a Schedule can be found on the NGC Website under Flower Show School Resources. Then go to FS School Forms and Information and press Downloads. A Small Standard Show Format Sample will appear, and a Standard Flower Show Schedule Format will appear. Choose the one you would like to use for the type of show your Club would like to have. These Formats are extremely helpful in writing a Flower Show Schedule.

Mary Ann May, VFGC Flower Show Schedules/Evaluation

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



Flower Show School – Course II

Date: Feb 28 – Mar 3, 2022

Location: Best Western, Waynesboro, Virginia

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure: Darlene Newell

Design: Judy Binns

Schedule:

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

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 (C)

Flower Show School

The Virginia Federation Judges Council is offering
\$100.00 to all Virginia students who attend Flower Show
School Course II for credit. All students must pass the
point scoring and exams.

REGISTRATION FORM: Flower Show School-Course II

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 _____

Credit _____ Non-Credit _____

Full Course with/without exam \$130 _____

(Includes tuition, two lunches,
and reserved seating on Front
rows)

Flower Show Procedure (Mon.) \$20 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Tues.) \$65 _____

Design & Lunch (Wed.) \$65 _____

Manual will be e-mailed (free of
charge)

Printed Manual available at \$5 _____

Registration

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:

Darleen Nelson, Registrar • VFGC Flower Show School •

153 Bushfield Road, Montross, VA 22520-3813 darlydurl@aol.com

SAR News

Marty Bowers, Director of the South Atlantic Region, has shared important information for upcoming events, plans and goals.

The SAR Convention is in Berea Kentucky at the Boone Tavern, which is a member of the Historic Hotels of America and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Berea is the Folk Arts and Crafts Capital of Kentucky. Dates are March 20-22, 2022.

Information is on the SAR Web.



SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

60th Annual Convention - March 20-22, 2022

"Coming Home to Kentucky"

Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant
Berea, Kentucky

Mail completed form and check payable to "SAR 2022 Convention " to:

Connie Crain

46 Mockingbird Lane, Flemingsburg, KY 41041

For Info: crain99@windstream.net

Postmark by March 1, 2022 for on-time registration

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please check if we may email your acknowledgement.

Check ALL that apply:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| NGC Officer | SAR Officer | Former SAR Director |
| NGC Chairman | SAR Chairman | SAR Life Member |
| NGC Life Member | State President | Club Member |
| Club President | Elected Delegate | Spouse |
| Guest | SAR Director | |

Please select all which are included in payment:

Note: Full Convention includes Registration, Sunday Banquet, Monday Lunch and Banquet, Tuesday Breakfast. Note: Sunday Lunch and Lodging not included.

Full Convention (Outside of KY)	\$225
GCKY Member -Full Convention	\$203
GCKY Spouse- Full Convention	\$143
Sunday Lunch-Former SAR Directors, Finance and Executive Committee	\$ 28
Sunday Banquet & Program	\$ 45
Monday Lunch & Program	\$ 25
Monday Banquet & Program – KY Flower Show Judges Council	\$ 45
Tuesday Awards Breakfast	\$ 28
One Day Registration	\$ 30
Late Registration Fee postmarked after March 1st	\$ 20

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$

Please indicate special dietary requirements:

Diabetic Heart Vegetarian Gluten Other _____

Hotel Reservations: Boone Tavern Hotel, 100 S Main St North, Berea, KY 40403

Call 1-800-366-9358 and reference group name: "Garden Club"

(Hotel Cut Off Date is February 20, 2022. Room rates range from \$89.00 - \$129.00 plus 10.24% tax)