

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



Signs of Spring, Smith Mountain Lake
Photo by Karen DeBord, Moneta GC (BR)

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

www.virginiagardenclubs.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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Garden Clubbers,

Well, do you think we've had enough chilly weather? I certainly do! Your VFGC hasn't let a few cool temperatures or uncertain times stop us. We met in person, wearing masks... nothing would stop us from **"Digging into Action."** Spring will be a busy time for us all. Your VFGC Board meets to consider business for the 88th annual state convention themed "Let's Dig into Action *Together!*" It will be a memorable event.

Trust meyou'll want to be there. If you didn't start Flower Show School #1, it's not too late; you can start with FSS #2 in Waynesboro. Reserve your spot today! And we're having a Symposium in Richmond. Everyone is welcome to attend! Our own Julia Clevett and past NGC President Gay Austin will be teaching...a great way to get together and enrich our minds.

I am truly impressed by all of our VFGC club activities: we had over 2,000 students participate in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster competition...clubs created floral arrangements and held tutorials and garden therapy for community and senior resident groups... Habitat for Humanity was the worthy focus for some clubs...and there will be many plant sales, flower shows, and community gardens maintained this spring. Our VFGC PRIDE challenge of 100% participation is going well. And our TREX recycling program is doing well. It's not too late to start! One club stands out: *Rappahannock County Garden Club* has collected almost 1,000 pounds of recyclable plastic film, enough to earn two garden benches. Kudos!

And this year for National Garden Week, VFGC is providing yard signs to each club to promote our special week and provide recognition for the contributions your club makes to "Celebrate Gardens." (Pick up your club's signs at the convention.) Remember, you are part of a national network that proudly promotes the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility.

Thank you.....Let's keep **"Digging into Action"**

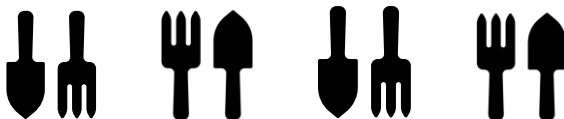
Mary Owen

VFGC CONVENTION 2022

Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb, Convention Co-Chairs



“Let’s Dig into Action *Together!*”



**88th Annual Convention
and Flower Show**

**Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
May 1-3, 2022**

**Short Pump Hilton
11800 West Broad Street, Richmond**

Convention Registration deadline is April 10

Hotel reservation deadline is April 8

This year’s VFGC Convention is not to be missed! Mary Owen, VFGC President, will preside over the convention. The venue has been selected specially because they have excellent health and safety protocol. A Flower Show, workshops, amazing lunch and dinner programs, shopping, connecting with old friends and making new ones...see you at the convention!

Hotel Reservations

Venue: The Richmond Hilton Hotel & Spa / Short Pump

Hotel Reservations: 804- 364-3600

Ask for the "Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Block"

Special block rate per night: \$129 + tax

Hotel reservation deadline: April 8, 2022

The Flower Show

An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show will be showcased during the convention. Any VFGC member in good standing may enter, regardless of convention attendance.

Flower Show Theme: "May Magic Comes to Richmond"

The schedule will be available on the VFGC website or may be requested from Val Story: valstory@aol.com

A Special Silent Auction

The convention "Silent Auction" presents 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! See page 12 for more details.

Shopping

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

Inspirational Workshops and Programs

See the descriptions on pages 8-11.

Flexible Attendance

Come for the whole convention (special pricing) – or come for a day. See the registration form on page 13.

Make It a Mini-Vacation...Bring a Friend



The Short Pump Hilton Hotel & Spa

Why not attend the Convention then expand your “horizons” even more? Tempted? Bring a buddy?

There is so much to see and do nearby. The Hotel, with spa services, is in an ideal location.

- Five minutes to the Short Pump Mall, the area’s largest shopping experience
- Numerous other shopping and dining choices – varied, unique, or discount – within ONE mile
- Also nearby: Regal Short Pump and IMAX, bowling, salons, breweries, and Drive Shack Golf
- 10.7 miles to *Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden*
- 12.2 miles to the *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* and the *Virginia Museum of History and Culture*
- 20 minutes from downtown Richmond and *Maymont*: the Gardens, Mansion, and Japanese Garden (oldest on the east coast)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 1

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Flower Room Open
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Flower Show Entries Received
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Desk Open
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Finance Committee Meeting
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Board Meeting
2:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Flower Show Open
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<i>Workshop: Kathy Ward</i>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 pm	Dinner
	<i>Program: Gregory Britt Design</i>

Monday, May 2

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Register Silent Auction Items
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Flower Show Open
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Convention Opening/Business Meeting
9:30 am – 5:15 pm	Silent Auction
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
Noon -2:30 pm	Luncheon
	<i>Design Program: Mary Arakelian and Lili Aram- Bost</i>
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	<i>Workshop: Brenda McManaway</i>
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Workshop: Mike Ostrander</i>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 pm	Dinner
	<i>Program: Dan Benarcik, Horticulturalist</i>
	<i>Combinations – Finding the Right Mix</i>

Tuesday, May 3

9:00 am	Brunch and Awards Program
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Luncheon Program Monday, May 2

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.

Dinner program Sunday, May 1

Gregory Britt Design



Gregory began gardening while growing up in Indiana. During college, he studied art history and painting, and worked in small florist shops and for several event design companies.

After college, Gregory was off to New York City, free-lancing for all the design stars while simultaneously working on his painting.

In 1999, *Gregory Britt Design* was launched. After acquiring some amazing clients, Gregory was fortunate to travel and create celebrations for them all over the world.

The charming village of Washington, Virginia was Gregory's next adventure. The world-reknoned *Inn at Little Washington* welcomed Gregory as their floral and event designer.

After ten years, he ventured to Charlottesville. In 2018, he announced the rebirth of *Gregory Britt Design*. Gregory lives in Keswick on a farm with dogs, cats, horses, and of course, gardens.

Dinner Program Monday, May 2

Dan Benarcik, Horticulturalist

"Combinations – Finding the Right Mix"

Opening our eyes to what makes great combinations in a garden setting, Dan will discuss plants, colors, textures, paving and landscape, as well as furniture.



Upon graduating from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Plant Science, Dan worked at *Mt. Cuba Center*. Working as the Woods Path Gardener, he developed a real love for native plants. Dan also worked at *Chanticleer Garden* in Wayne, PA. The garden, in its infancy at the time, has evolved amazingly. Unlike many public gardens that seek to educate through plant labels and collections, *Chanticleer* fosters innovation and creative thinking.

Having worked in public horticulture for over thirty years, Dan has developed unique insights into what visitors and gardeners are looking for. Whether teaching in respected institutions or lecturing to the most basic group of gardening enthusiasts, it's the same task: conveying a passion.

Dan has developed a second skill in public speaking. With his passion for horticulture, it is a natural progression to share that passion through speaking. He joined the Garden Writers Association, now GardenComm, and served as Regional Director as well as earning the status of Fellow. His writings have appeared in *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and Rodale's Garden books.

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 McMannaway, 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.

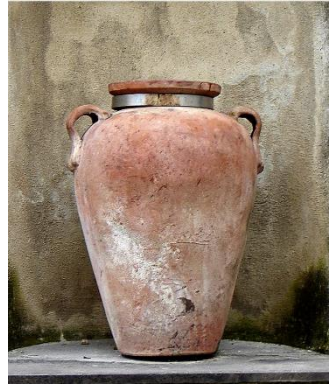


Discover the conservation success story of the breeding bald eagle population on the James River, where forty-six years ago, in 1975, they were locally extinct or "extirpated". Their comeback began in 1979-1980 when a single pair came back and had a successful breeding season. Today, over 340 pair of 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!

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

88th Annual Convention Registration Form May 1-3, 2022 • "Let's Dig into Action Together!"

Registration: Please complete form; make check payable to "VFGC 2022 Convention" and mail both to Claudia H. Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-3923 cosbych1205@gmail.com • **Postmark by Apr 10**

Name _____ Phone(____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Club _____ District _____

Check ALL that apply:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer/Chm | <input type="checkbox"/> District President | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Officer/Chm | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former VFGC President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> VFGC Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer/Chm | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor/Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VFGC Life Member/ Book of Honor since 5/1/21 | <input type="checkbox"/> First-time attendee | |

Select Your Attendance Plan:

Full Convention (Package Plan - \$20 savings) \$ 215.00 _____

Full convention includes: Sunday Dinner, Monday Lunch and Dinner, Tuesday Brunch and Registration Fee if postmarked by April 10

Partial Attendance Options:

Sunday Evening Dinner and Program \$ 65.00 _____

Monday Lunch and Design Program \$ 45.00 _____

Monday Dinner and Program \$ 65.00 _____

Tuesday Brunch and Awards Program \$ 35.00 _____

Registration Fee *if postmarked by Apr 10* \$ 25.00 _____

Registration Fee *if postmarked after Apr 10* \$ 30.00 _____

One-event Registration Fee \$ 10.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Late fee must be included for all envelopes postmarked after 4/10/22. Any registrations postmarked after 4/22/22 will not be processed or accepted. No Walk-In registrations. No refunds after 4/17/22. *Refunds requested by 4/10/2022 are subject to retention of registration fee.*

_____ *Please check for any dietary requirements and list details*

VFGC 2022 Convention Credentials Form

All designated delegates and alternates, including VFGC Officers and members of the Board of Directors, must complete this form and include it with your Registration Form.

Name _____

District _____ Garden Club _____

Check one that applies:

- VFGC Officer/Board of Directors Club Delegate
 Club President Club Alternate

Eligibility shall be in accordance with VFGC Bylaws - number of Delegates and Alternates in accordance with size of club as follows:

1-25 members	President or appointee – 1 Alternate
26-50 members	President or appointee plus 1 Delegate – 2 Alternates
51-100 members	President or appointee plus 2 Delegates – 3 Alternates
100+ members	President or appointee plus 3 Delegates – 4 Alternates

Delegates have the right to vote, alternates fill in the delegate if he/she is unable to attend the Convention.

See you at Convention!
Short Pump Hilton Hotel & Spa

May 1 - 3

ODG “Up Close” Feature: An Interview with Sheryl Smith, Master Naturalist

Sheryl serves as a Master Naturalist volunteer in the Richmond area and has presented to many garden clubs and Richmond Council. She is a member of Canterbury Garden Club and the



Virginia Native Plant Society. Since 2017, she has been busy creating a stunning native plant habitat on her own property in Henrico County. (pictured)

When did you decide you wanted to pursue the Master Naturalist certification-and what drew you to the program?

I started my training in 2018, at the age of 58. There were people of all ages in my class. I’ve always enjoyed being outside and exploring nature, and I have been an organic gardener for a long time. When I first heard about the Master Naturalist program, and its focus on the environment, I knew it was just what I wanted!

What is the focus of the Master naturalist program – and what training is required to achieve and maintain the credential?

Master Naturalists focus solely on the environment. Our training classes are on ornithology (birds), water quality, geology, mammals, insects, reptiles, plants, and others.

Training includes 14 evening classes, plus 10 hours of field trips. After training and performing 40 hours of volunteer time, you become a Certified Master Naturalist Volunteer. Annual recertification requires 40 hours of volunteering, plus 8 hours of continuing education.

What have been the benefits to you as a home gardener - what have you done differently because of this knowledge?

I see the world around me differently now, and this affects everything that I see and do as a home gardener. For example, I used to think of bugs as "good bugs" or "bad bugs." Bad bugs eat plants. Good bugs eat the bad bugs. Pollinators are also good bugs. So, with that mindset, I would attract adult butterflies to my garden, and kill the baby butterflies (caterpillars) because they were eating leaves. Now I see caterpillars as baby butterflies and bird food. I choose plants that are caterpillar favorites. But I haven't had trouble with plants being destroyed, even though I don't spray anything. My yard is great habitat for the animals that eat caterpillars, too.

In what ways have you served the community as a Master Naturalist - what has been most rewarding?

I have helped with public garden plantings as a gardener. I've also made informational signs for public gardens, such as Bellemeade Park. But the most rewarding work is giving presentations on native plants. My favorite moments are when someone says, "I took your class and went home and planted native plants." This makes my day!



Not all Master Naturalist volunteers focus on native plants. Others focus on birds, insects, water quality, and other areas. Some people do physical work, such as invasive species removal. Others work in education or administration.

If our readers want to find out more about the program, where should they look?

The state website is: <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/>. You can find general information and find the most convenient local chapter there.

What are the top five tips you would give us for creating our own pollinator gardens?

Believe it or not, I would say do not plant a pollinator garden! Instead, think about creating a *habitat garden*. A pollinator garden has food for butterflies and bees. A habitat garden does so much more. It supports the complete butterfly and bee life cycles, meaning it helps babies, adults, and provides winter shelter. Habitat gardens also help birds, frogs, and other animals. Here are my top five tips for a habitat garden:

1) **Plant native plants.** If you plant a non-native plant that attracts butterflies, you will feed butterflies. If you plant a native plant that attracts butterflies, you will feed adult butterflies and baby butterflies (caterpillars). Caterpillars are an important food for baby birds. So, you get triple the benefits in one plant!

2) **Think about places for shelter.** Leave leaves on the ground in some places in your yard. Fallen leaves provide winter habitat for young butterflies (caterpillars, eggs, or pupae), and other animals such as frogs and toads. Don't cut perennial stalks to the ground. If you cut them back to 18" and leave the rest, you will help hibernating native bees.

3) **Plant natives that bloom from spring until fall.** Fall blooming plants are important for monarch butterflies on their migration south. One of the best is Solidago. It supports more caterpillar species in our area than any other perennial and has nectar for butterflies.



Monarch on *conoclinium*

4) **Think carefully before using pesticides.** Mosquito sprays, for example, contain pyrethrum or pyrethrin. Both are toxic to bees, butterflies, dragonflies, ladybugs, lightning bugs, and many other insects.

5) **Resist the desire to have a perfect garden.** It won't be easy at first, even though it is less work. The more you let your garden be natural – with dead leaves, flowers, and twigs in place – the more beneficial it will be to wildlife. I'm still itching to cut down those perennial stalks but knowing that they could be sheltering tiny native bees helps keep my pruners away.

ODG Feature: Club Profile Nelson County Garden Club (S)

Content provided by Elizabeth Upshur, Esther Larkin, Cheryl Brogdon

"Club Profile" is a new feature suggested and conceptualized by Jo Manson, Kilmarnock GC (P). Jo's idea is to spotlight and honor clubs whether large or small, and we all benefit by gaining new ideas. We will feature one club from a different district in each issue. This does not replace the ODG "Cross-Pollination" Club and District News section. Rather, it is an opportunity to appreciate the whole of a club's focus and activities and appreciate the spirit and passions of clubs across our state.

Nelson County Garden Club was founded in 1935 by Gertrude Ligon and friends as four clubs: Schuyler, Lovington, Massie's Mill, and Rockfish under the Nelson County umbrella. Today, there are 33 active members.

How has your club engaged in efforts to beautify or restore areas of your community?

The club originally owned an old Presbyterian church which club members turned into a library. In 1972, the club donated the building and books to the Jefferson Madison Area Library. Our club created and still maintains a Memorial Garden located at the Nelson County Memorial Library in Lovington. One of our members also planted a serenity garden there.

How has your club engaged in civic activities to support and improve community life?

- We donate money and purchase hygiene products, clothing, towels, sheets for "Nelson Closet," a program that helps needy Nelson County residents.
- We support with money and with members' time, the Nelson County "Backpack Program" which packs food for the weekend for needy county students and their families.
- Annually, we award The *Dorothy Lee Bowling Giles* Scholarship for \$1,000 to a Nelson County High School student who plans to major in horticulture, forestry, environmental studies - or other major which falls in line with garden club interests.
- We give an annual partial scholarship to The Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Virginia. *Lillian Schilling*, one of our former presidents, now deceased, was founder of The Nature Camp.

What kind of fundraising does your club do?

To enable the scholarships we award, we have two fundraisers per year: a plant and 'white elephant' sale and a sale in December of holiday greenery designs. This is our principle fundraiser. Over three days last December, we held a holiday luncheon and judged designs, staged a workshop to create designs, and sold designs to the public.





The holiday luncheon event last year included the judging of "decorated box" designs. NCGC member and NGC Master Flower Show Judge *Grace Morris* judged the entries.

Pictured are *Eula Clark* who won a blue ribbon for her amazing decorated box. With her is member *Jackie Britt*, Eula's daughter and local elections official.

What other kinds of traditions do your members enjoy?

- We have two special luncheons a year, in June and in December.
- Our club members enjoy field trips together. Last year, we toured Quarry Gardens in Schuyler which were created and are maintained by club member *Bernice Thieblot* and her husband Armand. We also traveled to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts where our member *Grace Morris* had a wonderfully creative design on display as part of *Fine Art and Flowers*.
- To honor our outgoing presidents and to memorialize our departed members, we purchase NGC Penny Pines Plantations.
- We also enjoy learning together. In August of last year, *Frances Van Lear* taught us everything we needed to know about drying flowers and using dried flowers in arrangements.



Pictured are members Frances Van Lear and her 'magician's assistant' Rev. Donna Steckline.

How does your club attract new members?

We grow by having a beautiful brochure (created by member *Bernice Thieblot* of the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler) that we place in various locations around the county. Mostly, we add members through word of mouth in the community and events such as our holiday greenery sale. We have invited the local newspaper to some of our workshops and other events such as the memorial service we hold for departed members. Last year, local writer Fred Wilbur published an article about Lillian Schilling, founder of The Nature Camp. Soon to be published in the *Nelson County Historical Society* newsletter will be four more articles about our garden club, also written by Mr. Wilbur. Our club was highly active during WW II. We are proud of our heritage and appreciate the opportunity to carry on the rich history and traditions of our club.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Martie Parch, Horticulture Chair

Grab a cup of coffee and take a stroll in your garden. When those hot days of summer return, will you have dry areas where nothing seems to thrive? Xeriscaping, water-wise gardens, and drought tolerant plants are all popular methods we use to solve our dry problem borders.

All plants need water to survive, especially when they are initially planted. Some can adapt to dry conditions with textured foliage or by growing shallow roots.

Some store water in their leaves. You can reduce maintenance and conserve water by planting succulents and graceful grasses.

If you desire a more colorful palette, you can choose native plants such as *asters*, *penstemon*, *echinacea*, *rudbeckia* (pictured), *gaillardia*, *achillea*, *artemisia*, *cranesbill* *geranium*.



Before planting, test the soil. Check the exposure and location. Find plants that bloom at various times of the year so that you can have a multi-seasonal garden. Be sure to water thoroughly during the first year, and mulch. Then, stand back and watch the butterflies, birds, and bees surrounding your water-saving garden!

Gardens, Landscapes, and Learning

Donna Cottingham

Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council Program Chair

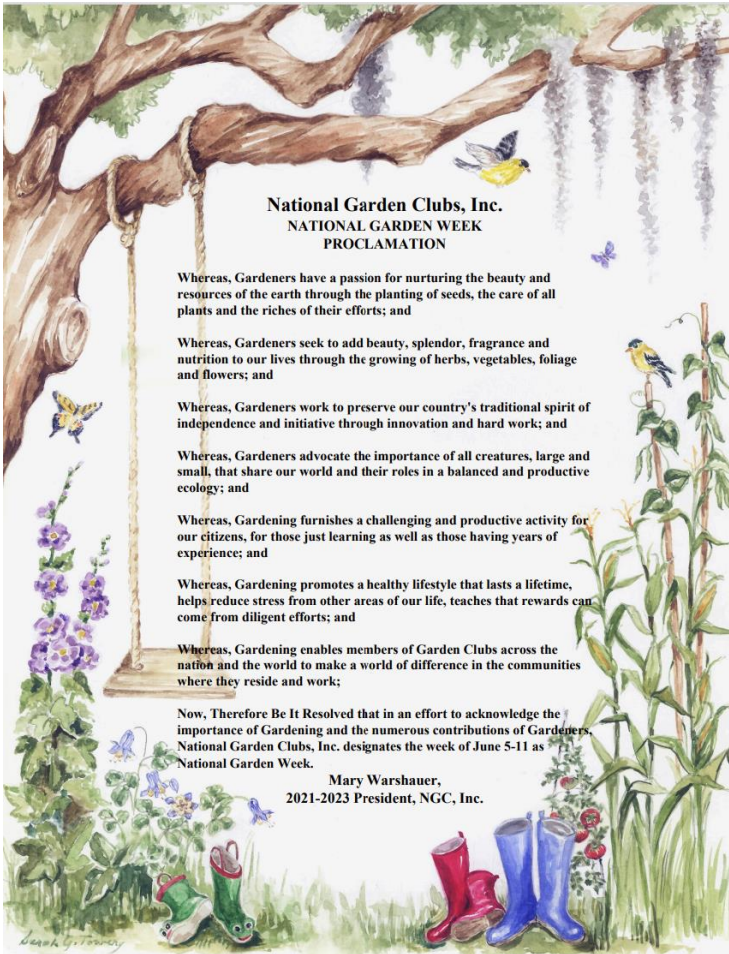
Rachel "Bunny" Mellon maintained a lifelong love of plants and gardens, beginning at age 10 when she started collecting botanical books. The famous Olmsted brothers, who managed the property at her family's estate, influenced her early gardening efforts at age 12. When John F. Kennedy was President, she designed the Rose Garden at the White House for her friend Jacqueline Kennedy. A renowned gardener, philanthropist, and art collector, Bunny Mellon died in 2014 at her Oak Spring residence and farm in Upperville, Virginia. She was 103.



Today the Oak Spring Garden Foundation is dedicated to inspiring public interest and education, and sharing the gifts of Bunny Mellon's residence, gardens, estate, library, and collections. Although Oak Spring is not open to the public for general admission, the foundation hosts myriad educational programs. Visit the website (www.osgf.org) and you will find a treasure trove of both online and in-person educational opportunities. You may download an exhibit of Frederick Law Olmstead landscapes or tour the library and view digital copies of books. Sign up for the online newsletter to learn about news, events, activities, and upcoming on-site programs at Oak Spring. An educational series, "Invasive Plant Species: Management and Control," was held in February. A paper-making workshop series will take place in June.

Pictured: Bunny Mellon's Garden at Oak Spring, photo by G Harwood

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS



National Garden Clubs, Inc. NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 5-11 as National Garden Week.

Mary Warshauer,
2021-2023 President, NGC, Inc.

Frances Thrash, VFGC National Garden Week Chair

National Garden Week June 5-11 is an opportunity to join other clubs across our country in celebrating community, encouraging pride in our community, fostering interest in new members, and working with other groups, especially children's groups, such as Scouts, schools, and 4H.

National Garden Week Ideas for Your Club to Consider

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden, or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a wonderful time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.



VFGC Celebrates!

VFGC logo staked signs will be provided to each club to display in your communities.

Also - go to the National Garden Clubs website to download this colorful *fillable format* poster.

www.gardenclubs.org

Add your garden club name and community, print 11 x 14 or larger posters, and display them throughout your

community: in local store windows, churches, parks – and even mount them on sticks and post in member yards, HOA rules permitting. Let's celebrate National Garden Week in all our communities across the state!

SAR CONVENTION 2022

March 20-22, 2022
Historic Boone Tavern
Berea, Kentucky

“Coming Home to Kentucky”



You will feel like you are “coming home” when you walk into Berea’s Historic Boone Tavern. Named for Appalachian hero Daniel Boone, this gracious hotel has been hosting visitors since 1909. Boone Tavern 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! You will find plenty of places to shop as Berea is home to many artists, craftsmen, and culinary experts. Boone Tavern celebrates all things local, from fresh foods sourced from local producers to rooms filled with handcrafted furniture, many made by Berea College students. Their award-winning chefs will provide mouth-watering dishes for the convention, including their legendary spoonbread!

We are pleased to offer a diverse program of outstanding speakers including Jon Carloftis, award winning garden designer; Jonathan Webb, Founder and CEO of App Harvest; and the talented Kentucky Flower Show Judges Council. Programs on horticulture, design and the SAR Awards will round out the schedule.

Guest rooms will be offered from \$89-\$109 + Tax. Ask for “Garden Club” when reserving a room at 1-800-366-9358.

Come a day early, or stay a few days later, and enjoy the beauty of the Bluegrass. We hope to see you in March as there is nothing like “Coming Home to Kentucky” in springtime!

Carla Hawkins – Convention Chair
(502)319-2192 Cchawk749@yahoo.com

For more details on the program and registration, visit the SAR website: southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org.

VFGC POLLINATION

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 excellent 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 called the Community and University Challenge Programs. For questions or more information, contact Carolyn Nichols (CLNichols@centurylink.net) or Mary Owen (rxowen@aol.com).

TOP RECYCLING CLUBS

Garden Club	Pounds	Time Period
Blue Ridge (BR)	320	11/15/21-5/15/22
Calfee (S)	231	9/1/21-3/1/22
Green Thumb (SW)	308	10/1/21-4/1/22
Rappahannock Co. (S)	940	11/1/21-5/1/22
Town & Country of Wise (SW)	257	10/1/21-4/1/22
Violet Bank (P)	290	11/1/21-5/1/22
Westchester (BR)	285	9/1/21-3/1/21

Total Number of VFGC Clubs Registered: 15 (10%)

Total Pounds Collected by VFGC Registered Clubs: 4,075

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: Gay Austin

Gay is an accredited Master Flower Show Judge and Horticulture Instructor for the NGC Flower Show Schools, teaching at both the school and symposium levels. She served as State President for The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. 2009-2011, and NGC President 2019-2021. Gay has been an active garden club member for over 30 years. She and her husband, Will, live near McComb, Mississippi where they enjoy nature and gardening

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 ___

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.

Virginia 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 \$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

Statewide Awards

Heidi Sage, VFGC Awards Chair

2021 was another unique year, with the pandemic affecting club activities. I am pleased to report that despite the continuing challenges, we received more award applications than the previous year. The bigger challenge may have been the changes made by NGC in the award application and the new point score rubrics.

NGC Awards Program changes included:

- **Altered club sizes** from small, medium, large, and extra-large to small (20 members or less), medium (21-50 members) and large (51 + members).
- **A new category of two or more clubs** - something clubs have been requesting for years – to recognize the projects staged by several clubs.
- **The application form itself** - eliminating the six-question format and replacing it with a simple cover sheet to describe our projects based on new point scoring rubrics. There are similarities, but the three pages are not structured.
- **Three new awards:** Food Bank Donations, Gardening for Wildlife Education, and Floral Design Program, the more popular of the three.

President Mary Owen's *Special Achievement Award* on the VFGC "Trex® Recycling Challenge" had wonderful applications. One club has already collected enough plastic film to earn two benches and will continue recycling.

At the VFGC State Convention on May 3rd, the Awards Brunch will feature a PowerPoint presentation created by Mitzi Cassidy. The ceremony will include awarding certificates with ribbons, checks for Blue Ribbon winners, and return of the point scoring sheets for feedback. I look forward to seeing you there and congratulating you in person on your achievements.

WANTED : “NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBER”

Grace Morris, VFGC Third Vice President and Membership Chair



DESCRIPTION: May be disguised in jeans and sweatshirt and covered in dirt. May be posing as a person of any age – female or male. May have a shovel or rake in hand. May have a bunch of flowers and a vase in hand – begging for help while trying to make an arrangement for a sick friend.

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS: May be found in a backyard garden, a garden center, a florist shop, Lowe’s, or Home Depot’s Garden Center, dragging a bag of potting soil or fertilizer across the parking lot. You might look out your window one day and see someone just standing there, looking at your garden.

WARNING: Approach with caution. This person may be seeking help from you regarding the kind of flowers that will grow in red clay or sandy soil, or how to get rid of weeds. He/she may try to copy your landscaping. Heaven forbid, you might even be asked to visit their yard and help!

REWARD: A new friend, someone that you can help with suggestions you’ve learned as a garden club member, and best of all - a new garden club member. Don’t be afraid to ask them to join you at your next meeting. Maybe they’ve never been invited to join a club. Show them how much you enjoy being a member of a garden club. Introduce them to other members and make them feel special. Tell them about all the things that your club does for the community. Invite them to come have tea and see your garden or yard. Share extra plants from your garden and maybe a book about gardening. A new member (and a new friend) will be the best reward ever!

VFGC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 20-22	SAR Convention
Mar 21	Piedmont District Spring Meeting
Mar 31	Tidewater District Spring Meeting
Apr 4-6	VFGC Symposium, Richmond
Apr 8	Deadline, Convention Hotel Reservations
Apr 9	Southwest District Spring Meeting
Apr 10	Deadline, VFGC Convention Registration
Apr 12	Shenandoah District Spring Meeting
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 21	Blue Ridge District Spring Meeting
Apr 23-30	Virginia Historic Garden Week
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"

May Magic Comes to Richmond



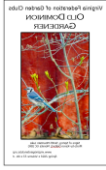
An NGC Specialty Design Flower Show

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



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 wonderful 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.

Correction Regarding the Winter Issue of ODG

The article “Helping Our Birds Survive the Cold Months” contained a list of foods and berries helpful to bird health. The article erroneously listed Nandina berries as a good food source during winter.

A couple of astute readers caught the error and stressed that Nandina berries have been found to be extremely *poisonous* to birds. Thanks, resolute readers!

Information about Nandina berries and birds can be found in the following resource:

<https://audubon.org/news/nandina-berries-kill-birds>

IN MEMORIAM

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

Piedmont District

Julia Easter..... Amelia County GC
A.C. Davis.....Chesapeake Bay GC
Jan Shriver.....Chesapeake Bay GC
Patsy Sylvia.....Chesapeake Bay GC
Mary Melton.....Ginter Park GC
Jackie Stansbury.....Sleepy Hollow GC
Peggy Boyd.....Thomas Jefferson GC

Shenandoah District

Elaine Boyd.....Rappahannock GC County GC

Southwest District

Peggy A. McMurry.....Abingdon GC
Barbara "Bobbie" Snodgrass.....Chilhowie GC
Shirley Ballou.....Four Seasons GC
Collins Boardwine.....Four Seasons GC
Vivian Counts.....Four Seasons GC
Priscilla A. Russ.....Richlands GC
Col. Sandra Whitt.....Richlands GC
Violet Clark.....Town & Country Wise 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 and Treasurers: Membership Updates and Input for "In Memoriam" should be sent to Claudia Cosby, VFGC Treasurer at cosbych1205@gmail.com

**Amelia County Garden Club
Celebrates 90th Anniversary**

Submitted by Jean Tremaine, ACGC (P)



Amelia County Garden Club celebrated its 90th anniversary at a holiday gathering in December. The club's actual anniversary fell during the pandemic restriction period last year. The celebration was deferred until members could comfortably share homemade sweet and

savory treats in person. Displays of ACGC's past awards, brochures, historical pamphlets, and yearbooks were available for viewing. One table held scrapbooks presented to past ACGC Presidents upon completion of their tenures in office. Honorary members of ACGC were also invited to the celebration and attended the get-together.

We were pleased that Piedmont District President Sally Harrison could join us for the celebration. She was introduced to members by ACGC President Val Whitehead. Sally thanked members for their hard work. She said that ACGC, while small in number, is recognized within the district as one of the oldest and most active clubs in the federation.



Rappahannock County Garden Club Gifts Town of Washington with Christmas Tableau

Submitted by Fawn Evenson, RCGC Special Activities Chair (S)

When our Annual Christmas Parade was cancelled again, our Club put together plans to bring joy to our little village with a fanciful display which became known as "What Do Snowmen Do After Dark?"



The tableau was displayed from Dec 5- 28 and held up very well in its sheltered location on Main Street. Our newest member Darcy Justen, formerly of Middleburg GC, initiated the idea based on her young son's favorite book: "What do Snowmen Do at Night?"—they come alive and create tons of mischief!"



We created eight snowmen out of chicken wire and cotton batting, and we had them sledding down a snowbank and roasting marshmallows over a fire. Mrs. Claus was serving hot cocoa while Santa Claus was dozing over his evening newspaper. We decorated the outside of the borrowed old gas station to look like a normal house at Christmas and then placed lots of live and artificial trees outside to create a beautiful winter scene. It was lit 24 hours a day and was just magical at night!

Photo credits: Dennis Brack and Kaye Kohler

Glen Burnie GC Planning Spring Community Projects

Submitted by Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S)

GBGC kicked off the new year with a presentation by Master Gardener Richard Stromburg on "Virginia Natives," to get us excited about planting season. In March, we host our local VA Co-op Agent Mark Sutphin on "Trees with Winter Interest." In April, we will stage our in-house Flower Show – a great dry run for Winchester Council's 2023 Flower Show. Members have also been busy planning our upcoming Marigold Project, "digging in" with Winchester City elementary students. We were able to offer this program again for a fifth year thanks to a VFGC Youth "Keys to the Future" grant award. We enjoy influencing the next generation of gardeners!

Rosecrest Garden Club Beautifies *The Crossings*

Submitted by Susan Phillips, Rosecrest GC (P)

In October, our Rosecrest ladies had a wonderful time cleaning up and planting at *The Crossings* in Chesterfield. *June Hunter*, one of our most enthusiastic members, was so happy to have us visit and make her view more pleasing. We planted 50 bulbs, perennials, and four hydrangeas. We hope that this effort will make for a beautiful spring for June and all the other residents.



Town and Country GC of Wise: Making a Difference

Submitted by Kate Hibbetts, Town & Country GC of Wise (SW)



To brighten the holiday season in our area, TCGC combined efforts with fourth graders from Wise County Christian School to create a garland for the Festival of Trees at the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap. This annual tradition allows community groups to share

beautiful trees, mantel displays, and garlands throughout the museum. Coordinating with the teachers, photographs of downtown Wise were attached to paper globes colored by the students.

The photos were taken and donated by member *Bonnie Aker*. Three other club members and a spouse assembled and mounted the garland at the museum.



In other activity, *Patsy Stephens* is serving as chairperson of our club's Trex® Recycling project. Club members collect plastic film from family, friends, churches, and local businesses to bring to club meetings.

Note on p 25, Town and Country of Wise GC is one of VFGC's top recycling clubs.



Junior Garden Club Members Learn about Bulbs!

Submitted by Sandy Yun, Town & Country Garden Club of Wise (SW)

Junior Garden Club Members at the Wise County Christian School proudly display the amaryllis grown from their project to learn about bulbs. The Junior Garden Club is sponsored by Town and Country Garden Club of Wise, whose members conduct programs and work with the kids.



Photo permissions obtained

Oxford Garden Club Fashions Wreaths for McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond

Submitted by Pat Parsons, Oxford GC (P)



For over 40 years, the Oxford Garden Club had sponsored an annual Christmas party for veterans residing at McGuire VA Hospital's Living Center. The party traditionally featured live music, refreshments, and small holiday favors fashioned by club members at our December meeting. The last two Decembers, we couldn't visit with the veterans in person, but to maintain contact with them, the club held a wreath-making workshop at which our members crafted holiday wreaths for the residents' doors.

Appomattox Garden Club Reaches VFGC Decal Goal!

Submitted by Pat Thore Auton, Appomattox GC (P)

The beautiful VFGC logo decals will be adorning our city this spring!

Appomattox Garden Club President, Pat Thore Auton and member Irma Gail Mahaney admire the Decal and are proud to help share the visibility of this wonderful project in our town.

Thanks to our membership, we attained this goal readily to increase participation in our effort to further beautify our community here and across our state.



GINTER PARK GARDEN CLUB

Invites you to join us for our

SPRING MARKET

Suffering from Spring Fever?
Shop 30 juried local artisans & vendors! Garden items! Bake Sale!
Clothing! Jewelry! Unique Artisan Goods! Food Truck!

Saturday, April 16 from 10-3
Rain Date: April 23

At Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
3601 Seminary Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

CELEBRATING SPRING

Spring is the time of plans and projects. – Leo Tolstoy

The earth laughs in flowers. – Ralph Waldo Emerson



Crocus

Wise

Photo by Sandy Yun

Town & Country of Wise GC (SW)

Camellia japonica

Chester

Late winter/early spring bloomer

Photo by Linda Wynne

Chester GC (P)





"Welcome Spring" - *Tulipa*
Winchester
Photo by Carolyn Frye
Glen Burnie GC (S)



Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris
'Fudge Icing'
Glen Allen
Photo by Stephanie Horacek
Sleepy Hollow GC (P)



Iris Germanica
Richmond
Photo by Jane Fawley
Sleepy Hollow GC (P)



Dogwood Season at Smith Mountain Lake
Photo by Karen DeBord
Moneta GC (BR)



“Springtime in My Garden” - Rockville
Photo by JoAnn McNabb
West Hanover GC (P)



JASON BOND, Arborist and Bartlett Champion



I love the view from my office.

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OLD DOMINION GARDENER

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gailev@aol.com

ODG Proofreader

Adele Lundquist, et al.

Send Address Changes to:

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cosbych1205@gmail.com

ODG Deadlines

Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1

Submit ODG articles and 300 dpi jpeg. images (Non-pdf Word files with jpeg images in separate files – not embedded) to our **District Editors:**

Blue Ridge • Shirley Edillon
4858 Glenbrook Drive, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018-2800
540-989-3137 •
shirle4858@gmail.com

Piedmont • Gail Goodrich Harwood
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Footprints@piedmontdistrictvfgc.org
Subject line "For ODG"

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val@rgbartlett.com

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Tazewell, VA 24651-5403
276-988-9759 • rjldjed@twc.com

Tidewater • Adele Lundquist
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Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5757
757-717-1953 • lundquac@cox.net

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VFGC Mission Statement

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.



Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
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1800 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, VA 23228-4700

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Daffodil Cultivar

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