

## March 2023 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



March 27-28: Landscape Design School: Lewis Ginter

April 23-24: VFGC Convention: Staunton

May 2-4: NGC Convention, Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, WV

Spring time is always very busy with a lot of garden club activities occurring after the quieter times during winter. There have been flower show schools and soon another landscape design school. Judges Council meetings and a South Atlantic Region Convention.

Spring is also a beautiful time of year when the bushes, trees and flowers start blooming.

Mary Owen and all the Districts will be busy in the next few weeks with the Districts respective meetings being held, with interesting speakers and vendors.

Be sure to attend the upcoming VFGC Convention at Hotel 24 South in Staunton. The Chairman and committee are planning fun filled days (shorter this year; tell us how you feel about this). Also, be sure to enter the flower show. This Convention will also have interesting speakers and vendors too....hear who won VFGC Awards, also.

Please continue to submit articles for Rooted.....there were a lot this issue which is very nice. An issue will also be printed for April.....

As Mary says, thank you and continue to "Dig into Action" and I thank you too...remember every person makes a difference.

Val Story

**Please continue to submit articles for Rooted. Send to [valstory@aol.com](mailto:valstory@aol.com)**

**89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
and Flower Show  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs  
April 23-24, 2023**

**Hotel 24 South (Stonewall Jackson Hotel)  
24 South Market Street, Staunton, VA**

**Hotel reservation deadline: March 23, 2023**

*Hotel Reservations*

[Venue: Hotel 24 South \(formerly Stonewall Jackson Hotel\)](#)

Hotel Reservations: 540-885-4848

Ask for the "Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Block"

Special block rate per night: \$119 + tax

***The Flower Show***

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

**Theme: *Virginia- Mountains to the Ocean***

**The schedule will be available on the VFGC website or may be requested from Val Story: [valstory@aol.com](mailto:valstory@aol.com)**

***Vendors***

**VFGC Conventions are known to provide great shopping experiences. The 2023 Convention will follow suit including Verona's very own The Fashion Gallery!**

***Sunday, April 23***

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Flower Room Open
9:00 am – 11:00 am	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	Board Meeting
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Kitchen Garden Farm'ology
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Flower Show Open
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b>

*Program: Awards*

*Jeanne Ha*

***Monday, April 24***

8:00 am – Noon	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Flower Show Open
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Convention Opening/ Business Meeting
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
Noon -2:30 pm	<b>Luncheon</b>

*Installation of VFGC Officers*

*Design Program: Mark Frye*

**Registration:** Please complete form; make check payable to "VFGC 2023 Convention" and mail both to Dianna Busch 14453 Rillhurst Dr, Culpeper, VA 22701-9711; dianna-busch@comcast.net; 540-353-9044 • **Postmark by Apr 1**

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 5/1/22 | <input type="checkbox"/> First-time attendee |   |

**Select Your Attendance Plan:**

Full Convention (Package Plan- \$20 savings) \$ 165.00

*Full convention includes: Sunday Lunch, Sunday Dinner, Munday Breakfast, Monday Lunch and Registration Fee if postmarked by April 1.*

*Partial Attendance Options:*

Sunday Lunch and Design Program	\$45.00 ____
Sunday Evening Dinner and Program	\$65.00 ____
Monday Member Meeting Breakfast	Complimentary*
Monday Lunch and Design Program	\$45.00 ____
Registration Fee if postmarked by Apr 1	\$30.00 ____
Registration Fee if postmarked after Apr 1	\$40.00 ____
One-event Registration Fee	\$20.00 ____
Total Enclosed	\$-- _____

Late fee must be included for all envelopes postmarked after 4/01/23. Any registrations postmarked after 4/15/23 will not be processed or accepted. No Walk-In registrations. No refunds after 4/10/23. Refunds requested by 4/10/2022 are subject to retention of registration fee.

\*Complimentary Breakfast for registered attendees.

\_\_\_\_ Please check for any dietary requirements and list details



# Virginia – The Mountains to the Ocean

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

Presented by Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

April 23, 2023 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
April 24, 2023 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Hotel 24 South**  
24 South Market Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Open & Free to the public  
Affiliated with:  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
South Atlantic Region

This flower show will be held during the VFGC Convention.  
The Flower Show Schedule will be attached in the email when the  
VFGC Newsletter Rooted is emailed.

Be sure and enter and then come see the great horticulture and  
wonderful designs.

Email or call Val Story for any questions  
valstory@aol.com 540-272-0975

*The Hill and Valley Garden Club*

*invites you to*

## *Garden Lover's Day*

*June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10-4 pm*

**at Birdsong Pleasure Garden, Luray, Virginia**

Proceeds for High School Environmental Scholarships

**Plant Sales** – perennials, trees, shrubs, natives

**Raffle tickets** - \$25-\$100 Gift Certificates to  
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Blandy Farm Arboretum  
Wisteria Vineyards, Mt. Vernon, A Bowl of Good,  
Broad Porch Coffee, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley  
and more by June!

\$10 for VFGC members, \$12 for non-members.

Pay at the door; cash or check only. Food, Wine. Rain/Shine.

Parking at 1414 Longs Road, Luray, Virginia

Info - 540-743-9389 or [birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com](mailto:birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com)

[www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info](http://www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info)

## **OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

**Wonder City Garden Club's Annual Public Meeting**

**Come and enjoy a presentation by Connie Lapallo,  
author, speaker and storyteller.**

**The Women of Jamestown: Making Horticultural History**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

**11:30 pm. - 1:30 pm.**

The Presentation is at noon.

**American Legion**

**217 E. City Point Rd.**

**Hopewell, VA 23860**

**Lunch can be ordered from the Legion and beverages and dessert will be provided by WCGC. *If you have any questions please call Lovena Rapole, (804) 837-1801.***

## **LEXINGTON GARDEN CLUB DONATES \$1,000 TO SUPPORT GATEWAY TRIANGLE GARDEN**

LEXINGTON, VA-- Lexington Garden Club has been awarded a \$1,000 *PLANT AMERICA* Community Project Grant, sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc., to support new or existing club projects in their respective communities. The grants are awarded in honor of April, as Plant America Month. More than 180 grant applications were received for 2023 projects, and 58 grants were awarded. Lexington Garden Club is one of two garden clubs in Virginia to receive grant funds.

Lexington Garden Club has designated the grant funds to support the Gateway Triangle Garden, a project of Main Street Lexington, which marks the north Main Street entrance to Lexington. Located at the spot where two streams once converged, sparking the founding of this historic



town in 1778, the gateway garden will create a beautiful first glimpse of downtown Lexington and is intended to offer a consistent presence that will be less labor intensive than previous efforts to beautify the spot. Spearheaded by Main Street Lexington's Design Committee, the new design was drafted by committee member and local landscape architect Arthur

Bartenstein; the design incorporates a triangular hardscape anchored by three curved raised beds featuring seasonal plantings surrounded by brick pavers. Lexington Garden Club grant funds will underwrite the cost of perennial beds of *Sedum floriferum* "Weihenstephander Gold" groundcover that will soften the three points extending beyond the raised beds.

"This grant offers our club a wonderful opportunity to partner with Main Street Lexington to provide a permanent and attractive introduction to our charming town for residents and visitors alike to enjoy in the coming years," said LGC president Lynn Leech. Club members plan to volunteer to assist in installing the perennial planting later this spring.

"Main Street Lexington appreciates Lexington Garden Club's time and effort applying for the grant and is honored that the funds will go toward plants for the Gateway Triangle Garden. Congratulations and thank you," said Rebecca Logan, MSL executive director.

*Lexington Garden Club President Lynn Leech (left) presents \$1,000 gift to Main Street Lexington Executive Director Rebecca Logan (right)*



Submitted by Lynn Leech

## Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Spring is around the corner and with it the task/pleasure of getting our gardens ready! I have personally enjoyed this beautiful weather and so very tempted to put a few things in the ground; but, pretty sure that we are going to have a cold snap before the weather is consistently comfortable so I am restraining from planting in the ground!

As Chair of Arboretum and Botanical Gardens I encourage club presidents to view the websites listed below for programs and tours offered although some may still be held virtually. There is excellent information available for your garden club and opportunities for club members to volunteer. It is always exciting to find new information and be able to implement these different techniques of gardening and enjoy the time to really work the garden and experiment with what works best for you and your garden.

[Jmu.edu/arboretum/events/adultprograms.shtml](http://Jmu.edu/arboretum/events/adultprograms.shtml)

540-568-3194

[blandy.virginia.edu](http://blandy.virginia.edu)

540-837-1758

Submitted by Susan Zorn

## Protect Our Native Trees—Please Do Not Move Firewood

By Jeanne Allen, LOW Garden Club

The striped insect pictured here looks beautiful, doesn't it? It would seem harmless, right? We couldn't be more wrong. An invasive plant hopper, the spotted lanternfly (*lycorma delicatula*) is native to China and likely came to the U.S. in agricultural products. Having no natural predators locally, it can spread rapidly and kill trees.

Starting in the fall, it lays its eggs on tree bark and all types of outdoor gear. Just one egg mass, which resembles a smear of mud about an inch long, holds up to 50 eggs. This pest can overwinter in firewood stacks; hence, the caution about moving firewood. The USDA offers wallet-sized cards to identify and scrape any egg masses you find ([www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/slf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/slf)). Another recourse is to remove host trees. The spotted lanternfly prefers the Tree of Heaven (*ailanthus altissima*). Try to remove these trees from your property to avoid attracting the spotted lanternfly.



The brown insect pictured here is tiny (less than 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch) and poses a significant threat to our native black walnut trees (*juglans nigra*). Thousand cankers disease is caused by the combined activity of the walnut twig beetle (*pityophthorus*



*juglandis*) and a fungus (*geosmithia morbida*) it transmits. The fungus is spread when the beetle tunnels beneath the bark of walnut trees, causing small cankers to form, blocking the flow of water and nutrients and often killing the tree. There is no known treatment. Black walnut is highly valued for lumber and veneer, with one to two million board feet of walnut harvested annually. So the economic impact of the disease is notable.

Again, it is very important not to move the wood of infected trees to prevent further spread. State and federal quarantines restrict the movement of firewood both out of and within the state, and all federal parks ban visitors from bringing in firewood unless it is bundled and certified heat-treated. We all need to be vigilant to protect our native trees and crops.



2023 is off to a great start!

In January, members created an instructional video presentation for our Marigold Project so that all the elementary schools can get the same message in a timely manner, along with special lesson plans and hands-on planting time. This fun educational activity for youngsters in Winchester is made possible through a grant from VFGC!

This winter, we focused on workshops and presentations on flower arranging to prepare our members for entries into the Winchester Council of Garden Clubs' Standard Flower Show, Alice in Wonderland, coming April 22, 2023. Members Susan Creasy, Alana Danko and Pam Lamborne are certified judges who will be sharing design ideas and tips on preparing horticulture, design presentation and staging.



Festive arrangement for church celebration by Mary Will Bowen and Sue Spangler, Winchester, VA



On the recycling front, Glen Burnie Garden Club members are nearing our goal of a second Trex Bench. Our first bench, earned in 2022, will be placed in Jim Barnett Park in Winchester. We also have purchased a 'plantation' with our Penny Pines donations in honor of three of our members who go above and beyond working on our beautification projects in Winchester: Janet Bordwine, Lucinda Cullers and Melanie Henry.



Sue Spangler, Tricia Boyd and Marsha Barley presenting our Marigold Project in a video recorded in January to distribute to the Winchester area Elementary Schools.



Submitted by Carolyn Frye



## Be a Yearbook Sponsor

### VFGC YEARBOOK – 2023-2025

**Deadline: June 30, 2023**

#### INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Please print your NAME as it is to appear in the yearbook.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### CLUB SPONSOR

Garden Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contact (Treasurer) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yearbook Insert		\$10.00	
Yearbook Binder with VFGC logo		\$8.00	
Total Order			

Checks payable to **VFGC, Inc.** *Mail check and form to:*  
 Darleen Nelson 153 Bushfield Road Montross, VA 22520-3813  
 darlydurl@aol.com 804-472-9710

## Who can be a Sponsor?

**Each club and every club member can be a sponsor**

#### **SPONSOR BENEFITS**

- Listed on the **Sponsors Page**
- Receive a yearbook insert (*\$10 Sponsor*)

Each member club receives **two** gratis yearbook inserts and each VFGC/district officer and chairman receives **one** gratis yearbook insert.

## What's in it for me?

- A directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all VFGC officers and chairmen, district officers and chairmen, all garden club presidents, and SAR and NGC officers.
- Information that Garden Clubs need—on dues, donations, Life Memberships, etc.
- Calendar of Events
- Awards offered by VFGC, SAR and NGC for clubs and individuals
- List of Flower Show Judges and Landscape Design Consultants
- VFGC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules

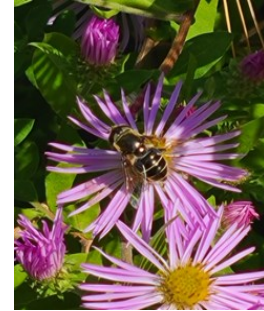
***Be a VFGC Yearbook Sponsor  
and Receive Your Copy of the VFGC Yearbook!***

# Bee Plus

by Lesley Mack

There are over 20,000 known species of bees in the world, about 3,500-4,000 of those live in the United States. Around 750 of those are native to and live in the eastern US.

There are seven recognized families of bees Apidae, Megachilidae, Halictidae, Andrenidae, Colletidae, Milittidae and Stenotritidae. Apidae is the largest family which includes honey and bumble bees. However, the “Social” honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and bumble bees (*Bombus*) only make up about 2% of this family.



Megachilidae bee

The Bee ‘Plus’ is that the remaining 98% of bees in all seven families are “Solitary” bees; bees that live, work and reproduce on their own, from a central nest location, without the help of other bees.

Solitary bees have specialized behaviors and physical traits that make them our most efficient pollinators. They are also superior pollinators to butterflies and other pollinators which tend to drift from landscape to landscape. Within each of the seven bee families there is quite a bit of diversity when it comes to foraging on flowers and creating their solitary nests.

Foraging diversity includes: buzz-pollinating, having specialized branched or feathered body hairs, or having leg ‘sacs’ or corbicula. These diverse traits help solitary bees collect nectar their primary energy source or pollen their primary protein source.



Megacilidae bees buzz pollinate    Halictidae bee with sacs    Agapostamon bee with body hairs

Bees are the only pollinators to consume pollen and nectar for larva. It takes approximately 18 pollen trips or 470 mg of pollen to feed one bee larva. Solitary bees create a sort of “bee bread” bundle which is left for the larva to consume.

Solitary bees will collect nectar and pollen whenever there are flowering plants available, in any weather, even with it is cold and wet. This and other unique adaptations have evolved along with their favorite flowering plants for over

360,000 million years. Thus within the Solitary bee family “Specialist” and “Generalist” bees have evolved.

“Specialist” bees are approximately 25% of the 750 species in the US. Virginia is one of the three states most inhabited by these Specialist bees. Specialist bees are dependent on their “host” plant and emerge when their particular flowering host plant emerges.

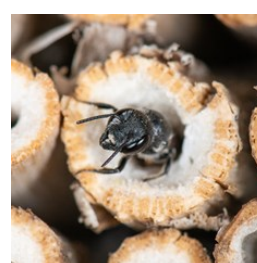
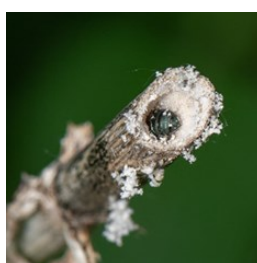
You will see the Specialist bees foraging on early spring plants, like: Ceanothus, Claytonia or Erythronium to late summer plants like Solidago and Symphoricarichums. Some Specialist bees only forage on one type of plant, once a year.

The Specialist bee’s existence depends on the flowering plant’s emergence coinciding. And the host plant’s existence depends on the Specialist bee. Because of climate change and habitat loss, for many Specialist bees and host plants, this opportunity is diminishing.

Generalist bees are not as “picky” about their food source or emergence timing. They can feed on a variety of flowering plants throughout the growing season.

Solitary bees create a variety of nesting habitats, for their larva. They do not need the waxy comb colonies like honeybees. Of the 98% of Solitary bees in the world 65% make nests below ground, while 35% nest above ground. Most Specialist bees nest in the ground.

Underground nests include: newly made ground tunnels or cells; holes in the remains of old burrows; holes in fallen trees; buried among fallen leaves; or burrows in clumps of rocky areas or dirt. Above ground nests include: making chambers in the soft hollow piths of tubular like plants echinacia or monarda; or in dead tree snags.



Ground nesting sites

Nesting sites in soft hollow piths

What Can You Do to get a B+ or A+?

- ~ Provide native flowering plants with overlapping bloom times from early spring to late fall.
- ~ Provide native flowering plants with various sizes, shapes and colors for all bee sizes and pollen/nectar collecting traits.
- ~ Provide safe undisturbed places for nesting: dirt patches, fallen logs, tree snags, leaf piles, brush piles. And let your flower beds overwinter undisturbed and untidy until the temperatures are warmer in the spring.
- ~ Provide pesticide, insecticide and herbicide free zones. What we receive from native bees comes freely to us, with no charge. We should protect them as freely.

## So, You Want To Have A Flower Show!

*Lets Do It! Where do we start and how do we write the Schedule?*

First, see the forms on the NGC Website, with the formats of required information that needs to be in your Small Standard Flower Show or Standard Flower Show...

How to find the forms.....

On the “Official NGC Website Home Page” go to the far right side of the screen and click on **SEARCH**. In the oval that comes up, type in the words **SAMPLE SCHEDULES**. Click on **Flower Show School Resources**. Then scroll down to **Flower Show School Reading**. Click on **SAMPLE SCHEDULES** and it will be the “bottom listing”. These Sample Schedules will give you all the required information you will need for your Schedule.

Once your Schedule is written, send it via Email to your **District** Flower Show Schedule Evaluator. They are listed here:

Blue Ridge District – Betsy Klein, [bandbklein@gmail.com](mailto:bandbklein@gmail.com)

Piedmont District – Diane Burgess, [burgessdiane@gmail.com](mailto:burgessdiane@gmail.com)

Shenandoah District – Elizabeth Miller/Julia Kogut, [Elizabeth@ThistleBrae.com](mailto:Elizabeth@ThistleBrae.com)

South Central District – Carol Alderman, [chacha34@embarqmail.com](mailto:chacha34@embarqmail.com)

Tidewater District – Frances Thrash, [francesthresh@cox.com](mailto:francesthresh@cox.com)

Your District Flower Show Evaluator will let you know if there are issues in your Schedule and make suggestions for improvement. After you have corrected the issues, send your Schedule via Email to the State Flower Show Schedule Evaluation Chairman, Mary Ann May – [ptmboat@comcast.net](mailto:ptmboat@comcast.net) for a final check. This will help with the correctness of your Schedule and make it possible for your Flower Show to apply for a National Achievement Award. If you are not going to possibly apply for this award, this process will help your Flower Show Judges in order to have a correct Schedule.

### Course IV Flower Show School



Picture to left: Sue Kirkman instructing on displays and collections.

Bottom picture: Students taking point score exam.

Picture to right: Claudia Bates instruction on abstract and multi-rhythmic designs.





SAR Convention March 5-7, Hotel Roanoke



Upper left: Hazel Vance: registrar extraordinaire Middle: Honor Design for South Carolina: by Betsy Klein and Tracy Tuttle Right: Mary Owen with her Honor Design by Pat Carswell



Left: Marty Bowers Honor Design my Judy Ann Fray: Middle: North Carolina Honor Design by Mary Ann May and upper right Honor Design for West Virginia by Karen Craig



Upper Left: Installation of SAR officers by Mary Warshauer NGC President Middle Picture: Honor Design for Kentucky by Grace Morris Far Right Picture: Honor Design for NGC President by Val Story