

## VFGC CONVENTION 2023

*Amy Gable Thorpe, Convention Chairman  
Dianna Busch, Convention Co-Chairman*



*Growing in  
Action*

**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**

**Convention Registration deadline April 2**

**Hotel reservation deadline March 23**

This year's VFGC Convention is not to be missed! Mary Owen, VFGC President, will preside over the convention. The new two-day convention format promises to be packed with excitement! A Flower Show, workshops, amazing lunch and dinner programs, shopping, awards, officer installation, connecting with old friends and making new ones ...see you at the convention!

### ***The Venue***



### ***Hotel Reservations***

Venue: Hotel 24 South  
(Stonewall Jackson Hotel)

Hotel Reservations: 540-  
885-4848

Ask for "Virginia Federation  
of Garden Clubs Block"

Special block rate per night:  
\$119 + tax

Hotel reservation deadline:  
March 23, 2023

### ***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- The 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!

### ***Special Guest Appearance***

Smokey Bear will join us for our social hour and will be available for photos and selfies!

## CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### Sunday, April 23

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Flower Room Open
8:30 am – 10:00 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	Luncheon and Awards Program
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<i>Kitchen Garden Farm'ology</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Flower Show Open
4:00 pm- 5:00 pm	<i>GMO Labeling: What Does It Mean?</i>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b> <i>Design Program: Jeanne Ha</i>

### Monday, April 24

8:00 am – Noon	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am – 9:30am	Complimentary Breakfast
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Flower Show Open
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Convention Opening and Business Meeting
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
Noon -2:30 pm	<b>Luncheon</b> <i>Installation of VFGC Officers</i> <i>Design Program: Mark Frye</i>
2:00 pm- 3:00 pm	Flower Show Entries Removed

## Workshops

### Theresa Boardwine

*Green Comfort School of Herbal Medicine*  
"Kitchen Herb Garden Farm'ology"

Theresa Boardwine, RH (AHG) is a dynamic teacher on health and wellness. Her approach is professional, warm and down to earth. She presents medicinal information in lay terms, in a way that is fun and easy to understand. In all of her programming, she teaches how to implement changes by integrating herbs, foods and supplements necessary to achieve optimal health and wellbeing. Theresa will guide us though using our kitchen herb gardens to fill our medicine cabinet!



### Rebecca Webert, "GMO Labeling, What Does it Mean?"

Wife. Mom. Cow Lover. Passionate "ag"vocate. Rebecca Webert grew up in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley on a beef cattle ranch. Agriculture was a way of life, and it quickly became a passion. She attended Virginia Tech where she majored in Animal and Poultry Sciences, followed by graduate school at Texas A&M, where she received a M.S. in Animal Breeding, while teaching Intro to Animal Science and Animal Genetics labs.



Since graduation, Rebecca has been fortunate to work for many different segments of the agriculture industry as Executive Director for the Virginia Angus Association, Education Coordinator for Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, Communication and Event Specialist for Farm Credit Knowledge Center, and others. Rebecca works for the Virginia Cattlemen's Association as their Director Communications, and also helps to run the business that she and her husband started, Black Locust Livestock, a multifaceted agricultural business.

**Dinner program Sunday, April 23**

**Jeanne Ha**

*Park Florist & Washington Flower School Floral Designs*



Jeanne Ha, AIFD CFD Certified judge/evaluator, Co-Owner, Wedding and special event director (Who is always creating something new) Jeanne has the job of her dreams: florist and owner of a retail shop! Born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, she has a strong foundation in art and music. (degrees in music from Seoul National University and University of Maryland). She was inducted as a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers in 2010 and is a proud member of the Society of American Florists, The Independent Floral Designers Association, and Old Town Takoma Park Business Association. She also served multiple terms as a Teleflora unit president. She has won numerous floral design competitions and been featured in many publications, along with her own floral design books "Asian Allure" and "Ready, Set, Design". Jeanne lives in Takoma Park with her husband and co-owner, Dennis; her three children; her mom, Sunny; Rocky, her cat, and Mizu, her Shiba Inu dog.

*Jeanne's designs will be raffled off at the conclusion of her program.*

**Luncheon Program Monday, April 24**

**Mark Frye**

*Creative Occasions Events, Flowers & Gifts*

Mark Frye is the owner/principal designer of Creative Occasions Events, Flowers & Gifts, located in Vinton, Virginia. Mark is an award-winning designer at both the state and national levels and has assisted with main stage design presentations for the Southern Chapter of the AIFD (American Institute of Floral Design). He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Professional Florist Association and served as a main-stage presenter for the Association's annual meeting.



In 2021, Mark was honored by having his application accepted to serve as a volunteer decorator for the White House! His experience there even included a few hours work in the White House flower shop, designing arrangements that were to be used in the private residential quarters as well as part of the holiday displays in the China Room and the Vermeil Room.

Early in 2022, Mark launched a YouTube series called *Blossoms and Bourbon*. In each episode of the series, a different floral design style or design technique is demonstrated, followed by a bourbon tasting, showcasing a different bourbon in each episode. Viewers range from across the United States, Australia, Portugal, The Philippines, and the UK!