

August 2023 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED

Don't forget!

Blue Star Memorial Dedication at Lewis Ginter: August 4, 2023
VFGC Finance Committee Meeting: August 20, 2023
VFGC Board Meeting: August 21, 2023
Flower Show School Course 1: August 21-24, 2023
Grants to Beautify & Restore Deadline: September 15, 2023
VFGC Booth At Virginia Stat Fair: September 26-27, 2023
NGC Grants Deadline: October 15, 2023
ODG Winter Deadline: November 1, 2023
NGC Judges Symposium: November 6-8, 2023

Hello VFGC,

What a wonderful summer this has been. Club anniversaries, District summer events, a grand Blue Star dedication. I feel very fortunate. VFGC is a dynamic and a great group of clubs and districts.

Do remember to visit the updated VFGC website. Changes are still taking place. And follow Facebook and Instagram too. Also, note on the web the award changes (will be posted in the ODG too).

Considering having a flower show; show the community how talented we are.

Remember "Every Person Makes a Difference", all of you make a difference.

Val Story

Blue Star Memorial Dedication at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden August 4, 2023



TREX Recycling Continues:

Please continue to collect and deposit soft plastic in authorized TREX recycling locations. Report your totals to your Club's Recycling Chairman.

VFGC Club News:



The **Buckingham Dillwyn Garden Club** celebrates their 90th Anniversary!



Hilliard Park Garden Club installed a Mediterranean style garden in the back 2-bed courtyard of Christ Lutheran Church in September 2021 at the handicap ramp entrance. We were delighted that most of the plants and shrubs survived the winter and came back in the spring. As expected, a few things needed to be replaced and some cleanup needed to be done.

The first week of June 2023 being National Garden Week seemed to offer the perfect time. After meeting at one of our member's houses for a covered dish lunch on June 7, we took pieces of slate that had been donated and placed them in the larger bed at the church. We pulled weeds and cleaned up dead debris and watered everything. Submitted by Jean Fender



On Saturday, July 15 members from the **Rustburg Garden Club** and guests enjoyed a special morning at Glendale Manor in Brookneal, Virginia. This included a flower arranging class with in-house special Christin Clay and a tour of the venue and lunch with owner Hope Wright.

Greenvale Garden Club began their summer activities by celebrating National Garden Week, June 4 - 10, 2023. A floral arrangement created by club members, Sabrina Alumbaugh and Janet Thompson, was displayed during National Garden Week at the Hardesty-Higgins Visitors Center

in downtown Harrisonburg. The club also created small arrangements for each of the 12 family shelter apartments of Mercy House, located in Harrisonburg. Mercy House is a nonprofit organization combating homelessness and poverty in Harrisonburg and surrounding counties. Club members also collected and donated items for the children currently residing with their families at Mercy House. The goal was to find items that would encourage outdoor play and exploration and/or have a gardening or a nature theme. Lowe's of Harrisonburg also donated clay pots, soil and dianthus plants, for each child to plant.

Throughout the growing season, Greenvale Garden Club members strive to share their enthusiasm for gardening by sharing flowers from their gardens with others. Several club members sign up per month to be responsible to take arrangements during that month and share them with various places in the community. During the month of June, the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center was the recipient of several arrangements. In July, Bridgewater Retirement



Community received a Fourth of July floral creation. For the remainder of July, arrangements were shared with North River Library in Bridgewater. Flower arrangements will be taken to Massanutten Regional Library in August. Sentara RMH Funkhouser Women's Health Center will conclude our flower arrangement schedule in September. Submitted by Susan Deputy

National Garden Week arrangement at Hardesty-Higgins Visitor Center



Arrangements created for National Garden Week 2023



Mercy House Staff receiving NGW donations

4th of July arrangement by Marguerite Botkin



SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST 2024

It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating Smokey Bear's 75th birthday. He is now 80 years young! To recognize this momentous occasion, the 2024 poster contest will only feature Smokey Bear. Woodsy Owl will return for the 2025 poster contest year.

- To view the 2023 national contest winners, go to:
 - National Garden Club web site
 - Click on Youth & Scholarships
 - Click on Youth & Scholarships again to Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl winners, see winning posters

All club presidents should be receiving an informational email from their District Poster Chairman within the next month.

Let's all work together to make the 2024 poster contest year the best yet!

Submitted By: Toni Shreve, Virginia State Poster Contest Chairman

What is the Impact of Climate Change on Birds

Bird populations are declining around the world and while many factors contribute such as habitat loss, outdoor cats, pesticides, and window collisions, it is increasingly clear that climate change is an important driver behind this worrying trend. For any species to survive with climate change it will depend on how well they can adapt. Birds are impacted in many ways both direct and indirect.

Direct Impacts:

It can change where birds live, the timing of their migration patterns and egg laying and even the sizes and shapes of their bodies. Data sets have shown that many North American bird species have been shifting their winter and breeding ranges northward over time, which means some birds have been seen further north than a few decades ago. Some measurements have shown that in many species, birds' bodies are getting smaller and their wings are getting longer as global temperatures heat up. Smaller bodies may help disperse excess body heat in warming habitats.

Indirect Impacts:

Drought and fire—Intense drought and more frequent wildfires can alter and destroy nesting areas and habitat which vulnerable species rely.

Sea-level rise—As sea-levels rise some species as the saltmarsh sparrows can easily be drowned by high tides. Their survival will depend on how quickly new marshes form further inland.

Disease—Drought and warmer temperatures are driving the spread of West Nile virus. It is threatening wild birds especially corvids as crows and jays.

Timing mismatches—Many birds initiate their northward flight based on day length and not temperature, so because of a shift in climate conditions, seasonal food sources that they rely on such as caterpillars may already be past their peak for the year, reducing breeding success.

What can we do?

Plant trees and include native plants in your landscape as food sources for the birds.

Try to reduce your carbon footprint by making wise choices on how we live and travel

As Garden Club members educate and promote projects in your community that are bird friendly.

THE IDEA EXCHANGE:

"Easy Floral Design for Big Impact". (Many thanks to Loy Holt for sharing this great idea!)

The Berkeley Garden Club has always had great speakers. Our members have always been intrigued by designs but many think they look too complicated for them to make. We had so much fun at this meeting that we've decided to do it twice a year. Members will be shown step by step how to make a simple modern design working from the book "Designs Made Easy." By Barbara D. May, Design Week 1. Please bring the following materials:

- A container or tuna can
- Pin holder or Oasis cut to fit your container (Soak your oasis before bringing it)
- Floral adhesive for your pin
- 3 stems of something straight and tall such as iris leaves or a straight flower
- A large floral point such as a camellia, a lily or hydrangea
- Greens such as rhododendron, camellia leaves, fatsia, or aucuba

We will use a creative and fun container or a beautiful flower as the showpiece. We will start from the beginning and show you how to make your oasis or pin fit and stay in your container. If you are unable to participate in making the design in the workshop, listening to the guidance and watching others efforts will still be educational and fun.

FYI: Barbara D. May's book "Designs Made Easy" is no longer available on the National Garden Club website but can be purchased on Amazon or for less on eBay.

Pictured below are the members of the Berkeley Garden Club after we made our designs.



Every VFGC Garden Club strives to sponsor great programs. But where can a club find new program ideas? **Please share information about your club's favorite programs and contact info by sending it to: rootedvfgc@gmail.com for THE IDEA EXCHANGE.**

While the Old Dominion Gardener is published quarterly, **ROOTED** can be sent monthly. So please submit articles or information you want to share before the next ODG is published to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. (ODG deadlines are: August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1.) For either publication, please submit photos in jpeg format as a separate file. Please submit text in Word format.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

Sally Harrison, Editor, **ROOTED**, Email:rootedvfgc@gmail.com