

September 2023 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED

Labor Day, September 4, 2023
Youth Grants Deadline: September 15, 2023
Grants to Beautify & Restore Deadline: September 15, 2023
VFGC Booth At Virginia Stat Fair: September 26-27, 2023
Landscape Design School #1: October 2 – 3, 2023
NGC Grants Deadline: October 15, 2023
ODG Winter Deadline: November 1, 2023
NGC Judges Symposium: November 6-8, 2023
Awards Deadline: December 1, 2023

Don't forget!

Hello VFGC,

VFGC held their first board meeting and attendance was great. Member reports were very interesting. Thanks to all who attended.

The upcoming VFGC Convention (in 2024) will be May 21-22 at the Boars Head Inn, an absolutely fabulous place...be sure to save the date.

Districts are preparing for their meeting and I am looking forward to attending and hearing all that the members are doing.

Another Blue Star Memorial is being installed Oct 3 at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens! Norfolk has the largest naval base in the world. Yea Tidewater for this important Blue Star first!

Do continue (or start) with the TREX program. This is so important with recycling plastics.

Announced at the board meeting on August 21, the Trex program is now for one year (1000 lbs.). If you have already registered for the six-month program...just continue.

And of course, do remember "Every Person Makes a Difference", all of you make a difference.

Val Story

NGC News!

Dear Members of the South Atlantic Region,

I hope all of you are having a great summer and now feel comfortable in your new position as a state president or region director! Today I want to familiarize you with NGC President Brenda Moore's **President's Project – *Plant America, Feed America***. It runs through the end of her term in 2025.

Brenda is encouraging all of us to help fight food insecurity across the country. The need for fresh produce is critical, especially for families and seniors who don't have the money to purchase it. Our food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and every other venue that helps feed the less fortunate can use all the help they can get! And this is where you can help in that effort.

I've attached a new flyer that is going to every state federation president and every region director. **It is meant to be shared with your members** so they'll know of Brenda's project, and how they can play a part in helping feed the hungry in your state. In order to keep track of our progress, anyone who participates in donating fresh produce, fruit, herbs, etc. to local organizations who help feed the hungry, is being asked to fill out one of our electronic donation forms. The flyer I've attached has a link to the donation form which only takes a couple of minutes to fill out. For those who don't grow vegetables any longer, you can also fill out a form if you volunteer in a community garden where items are donated to local organizations. And if that's still not an option, if a member donates a monetary donation to a local organization to help fight food insecurity, we'd like them to fill out a donation form as well!

Please share this flyer!! It's the best way we can get the word out to our members!! You can also get the electronic donation form through the NGC website by clicking this link: [PLANT AMERICA, Feed America \(wufoo.com\)](https://www.wufoo.com). (NOTE: If the form is inserted into a newsletter, sometimes the newsletter format doesn't work with the direct link to the donation form -- which is why I've also given you the link above.) If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at smbushnell@comcast.net.

Thanks for all your help!

Suzanne

Suzanne Bushnell, Chairman, NGC President's Project – Plant America, Feed America

smbushnell@comcast.net

PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA



Are you participating in the NGC President's Project helping to feed the less fortunate in America? Get involved TODAY in the Plant America, Feed America Project by donating any extra produce you're growing in your own garden or in a community garden to a local organization that helps to feed the hungry in your community.

If you participate, **fill out this short donation form** found on the NGC's website. You'll find more information about this project and a link to the donation form in a story about the Plant America, Feed America project on the NGC's HOME page.

Get involved today to Feed America!!

www.gardenclub.org





VFGC Club News:

On August 10th, members of the **Salisbury Garden Club** took part in an “Art for the Journey” program for vision-impaired veterans, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

It was such a sweet moment when one of their members was tenderly helping a blind female veteran feel the textures of the petals and leaves; to “experience” the floral arrangement she had just helped to create.

And how they loved the scents!! It was an emotional and rewarding afternoon for all.

Members of the **Buckingham Dillwyn Garden Club** recently attended the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. Pictured left to right: Barbara Hollister and Mary Owens; BDGC members Barbara Knabe, Suzanne VandeGrift, Barbara Wheeler, Pam Murray, Marie Baker, Pat Johnson, and Jackie Fairbarns.



Glen Burnie Garden Club’s Marigold and Butterfly Garden Projects

This year our Marigold Project finished up in late spring with



plantings around the traffic circle behind the Mill at Abrams Delight in Winchester. Each elementary school in the city is represented with their marigolds. Across the parking lot is the butterfly garden and Monarch Waystation that the club has created and maintained for many years. It is currently in full bloom with butterflies and other pollinators loving the native plantings.

Both projects bring special joy to our members! The first is in sharing our love of gardening with young people and hoping to inspire in them a lifelong love of nature and gardening. The second is nurturing our wildlife and providing a way station for our Monarchs and all the other pollinators who love our little garden. Submitted by Carolyn Frye, President.

Rosecrest Garden Club
invites lovers of flowers,
holiday decorations, and fashion to
***Fabulous Fall
Holiday Gala***

Country Club of Petersburg
1250 Flank Road, Petersburg, VA
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Doors open at 4:45 a.m. Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Gala will feature a floral decorating demonstration
by Betty Ann Galway of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Enjoy a delicious luncheon by the Country Club chefs and
a Fashion Walk by All Manor of Things
with an opportunity to purchase a variety of items.
Exciting door prizes and a silent auction!

Tickets are available for a donation of \$40.
Proceeds help support the Rosecrest Scholarship program.
Limited seating, so please plan early to attend.
Deadline—October 11, 2023

For tickets contact chairpersons
Carolyn Shifflet
carolyn.shifflet865@gmail.com 804-536-0865
OR
Marie Critex
mstcove@yahoo.com 804-265-5923

Plan to attend for a fun-filled time with folks who love flowers!

Glen Burnie Garden Club Earns another Trex Bench!

Glen Burnie GC members have been saving their plastic, collecting from their two bins in front of stores, and also gathering plastic from their friends at Wild Birds Unlimited and Chico's in Winchester. Their first bench has been donated to the new Lion's Club Sensory Garden in Jim Barnett Park. Their second bench is located at the tennis courts in Early's Green in Winchester, and their third bench, just recently earned, will be dedicated in memory of Sari Carp, from Sustainability Matters. That bench they plan to locate at Laurel Ridge Community College in Middletown. They are very excited by this community project in association with Trex Corporation and hope it continues for a long while! The club has decided to continue collecting for another bench, as long as Trex sponsors this program.

STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA:

Again, this September, VFGC will sponsor a booth at the State Fair on Tuesday, September 26 from 3pm-7pm and on Wednesday, September 27 from 10 am to 2pm. Don't miss it! And if you would like to volunteer for a shift, please contact Judy Durant, jgdurant@verizon.net.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO THE VFGC WEBSITE www.viriniagardenclubs.org

Information sent to the Old Dominion Gardener is NOT automatically forwarded to the VFGC website---If you want your event, school or program, etc. on the VFGC website, it must be sent directly to the VFGC Website Chairman and cc the President

1. Information can include
 - Events – Text and photos
 - Projects – Text and photo
 - Important Dates & Deadlines
 - Information on Meetings of District Judges and Landscape Consultants
 - District Newsletter – original format and /or PDF
 - Highlighting a speaker for the District Meeting
2. Your information should be positive, upbeat and action oriented
3. Include a descriptive article, photos, etc., and a separate registration form.
4. All text MUST be emailed
5. Any photo of youth, there must be a VFGC Media Release form signed by the Youth's parents. This should be on the VFGC website under forms.
 - Pictures can be used if the children are standing sideways, bending over, their backs to the camera or a distance away.
 - If in doubt, send it for the website Chairman to review.
6. Editor has the right to edit text. Sharon Jones toddie1904@aol.com

VFGC BOARD SIDE OF THE VFGC WEBSITE

You may access, any page of the VFGC website, without a user name or password
4/29/21 revised 6/6/23sjj

Joanne's Website Surprise!

It happened quite by accident, really. As Awards Chairman for the Piedmont District, I had completed the updates to our awards list and revised the process involved in applying. The next step was posting it to our District website...only to discover that the site was in the process of being updated.

Updating a website is no easy endeavor! Checking in with 'the powers that be' I discovered that the previous links used to download the cover sheet and the point scoring sheets used in evaluating each award had to be dealt with. As of today, the update is ongoing, but what I discovered is a game changer.

Our district will be linked with the VFGC website to retrieve materials needed to officially apply for any award currently listed on our site. In other words, there will be a 'link' which when clicked will take us to forms such as the Application Cover Sheet and the 14 different point scoring forms used when judging occurs.

And then it hit me: every time someone links up with VFGC they will not only be able to retrieve the forms needed but they will also be able to see what is going on statewide! Val Story, President of VFGC, has made it a priority to update its website to the point where, even though it is still 'under construction' it is amazingly beautiful and informative at the same time!

Their website is www.Viriniagardenclubs.org. You really need to check it out!

Submitted by Joanne Wallace, Piedmont District Awards Chairman

FACEBOOK:

Judy Durant has maintained the **FACEBOOK** page for the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs since August 29, 2018. She regularly posts VFGC and NGC information, garden club events, upcoming events and interesting information to share. **Check it out!** Please be sure to **"LIKE" the page** and just not a picture. If you would like to have your club's information posted on the VFGC Facebook page, please send the pictures and information to Judy Durant, jgdurant@verizon.net.

VFGC CLUB FLOWER SHOWS:

Our VFGC President, Val Story, loves Flower Shows! So do club members! So, **if your club is planning a Flower Show open to the public, please send basic information to rootedvfgc@gmail.com** so it can be listed here in future editions of **ROOTED**. There may be club road trips in everyone's future to see your club's Flower Show!

THE IDEA EXCHANGE:

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.

WE HOPE YOU HAD A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

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