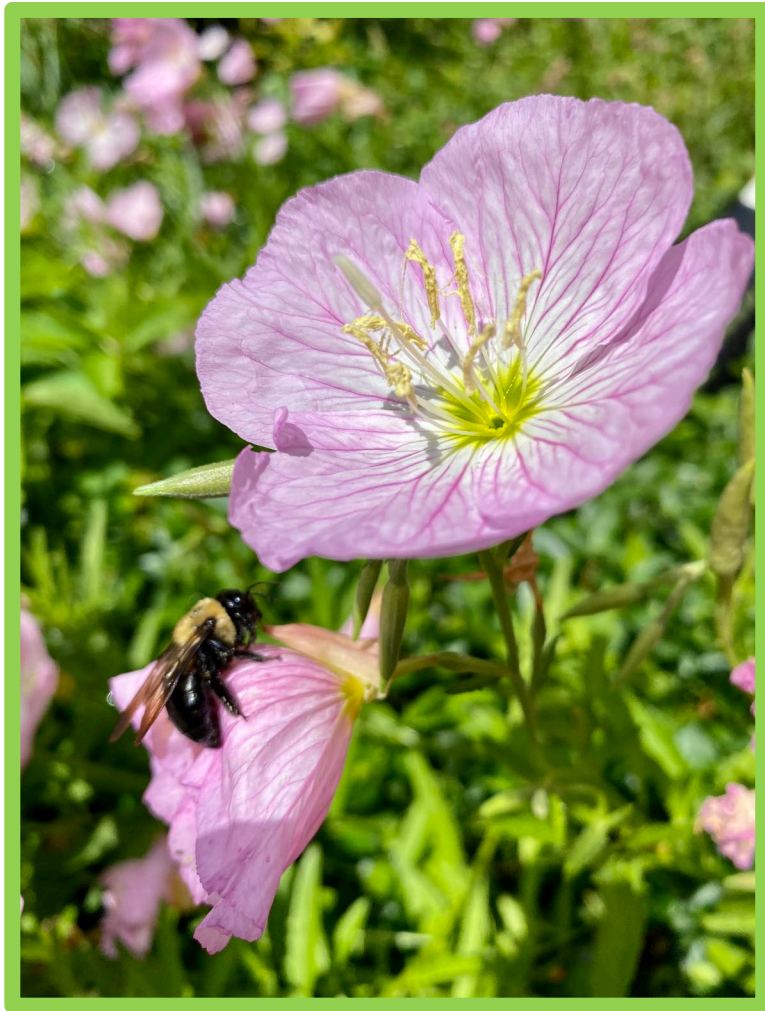


Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
**OLD DOMINION
GARDENER**



Primrose and Pollinator
Photo by Joan Abernathy
Violet Bank Garden Club (Piedmont)

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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 First VP Sally Harrison. If you or your club have news you wish to have posted, contact Sally at sally.c.harrison@gmail.com or by phone: 804-784-2851

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 Brenda Moore
 "Go Green – Plant America"
 1709 Edge Wood Drive
 Oakhill, WV 26901-2013
bmoores@gardenclub.org
 204-573-4140

SAR Director
 Carcille Burchette
 "Go Green ...Plant Natives"
 717 Redbud Place
 Corbin, KY 40701-2200
carcillecburchette@hotmail.com

VFGC President
 Valerie Story
 "Every Person
 Makes a Difference"
 2122 Whithorn Hill
 Jeffersonston, VA 22724-1873
 540-272-0975
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.
 4401 Magnolia Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 62110-3492
 Member Services 800-550-007
headquarters@gardenclub.org

VFGC, Inc.
 Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
 1800 Lakeside Ave.
 Richmond, VA 23228-4700
 804-262-9887
www.virginiagardenclubs.org
 Username: GardenClub
 Password: DigIn2Action

CELEBRATING SUMMER

"Summertime...and the livin' is easy..." – George Gershwin



Cockscomb and Pollinator

Photo by Debbi Babashanian
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)



Calla lilies

Photo by
Carolynne Pell
Glen Burnie GC (S)



Allium

Photo by Karen DeBord
Moneta GC (BR)



Lotus

Photo by Joanne Wallace
Salisbury GC (P)



Dahlia

Photo by Pam Lamborne
Glen Burnie GC (S)

VFGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Garden Club members,
I feel honored to be in the long line of terrific VFGC Presidents. When Anna Myers called to request that I become First VP, I thought how long it would be before this day would arrive. Let me tell you, time just flies. And now, here I am! I am very much looking forward to the next two years. I like to have fun, and I am eager to visit districts and clubs and attend events. My car is ready to go!



“Every Person Makes a Difference.”

You will hear this a lot. Every club makes a difference. Each one of you makes a difference.

Mary Owen brought changes. She made VFGC much more visible with her “Dig in to Action” theme, and she is to be commended for her dedication. I hope to build on that visibility and impact with “Every Person Makes a Difference.”

Sharing a few priorities and areas of focus:

- Improving the VFGC website... a very high priority: making it more friendly with more information... a vehicle we can all use. Sharon Jones will be introducing a new website in June. As of now, the username and password remain the same.
The VFGC Yearbook will become smaller because more information will be placed on the website. The yearbook will still contain valuable information, so please consider becoming a sponsor.
- Bylaws, Standing Rules and Job Descriptions. You say, “ugh.” I, for one, like the clarity and “guardrails” of bylaws. Did you know that all VFGC board members have job descriptions on the website? Thanks to Lou Ann Dummerger and her committee, we will begin the process of reviewing and changing the Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- The wonderful ODG will have some distribution changes in the future. We will offer more articles, unlimited pages, all color and more. Gail is to be commended for her editorial abilities.

- Some Board Committees will be combined, and there will also be a new committee focused on Community Relations, Virtual Education availability to VFGC members, and an increased Social Media presence. This is no small task, and thank heavens, Pat Carswell will be heading up these endeavors. We need district participation, too!
- Anyone who knows me, knows I love Flower Shows. I will be encouraging and supporting clubs, districts, councils, to all have Flower Shows. This is a very visible way to invite the community to see all we can do. How about a "VFGC Flower Show Month"...? I ask for your help and suggestions to accomplish something like this.
- Our VFGC Schools and Symposiums are vital as well. We have great people running these programs: Frances Thrash, Marty Bowers, and Kathy Ward. What a group... "Every Person Makes a Difference."
- National Garden Week is another way to show visibility and community support. I encourage every club, district, and council to bring energy to this priority.
- The TREX® Recycling Program will continue. If your club has not yet tried this program, consider doing so soon. The impact of recycling plastic film is so important.
- Having just attended the NGC Convention, Virginia was well represented. Wonderful! NGC Grants are easy to apply for. To name a couple: Plant America and Espoma grants. More information to follow at a later time.

Congratulations to our new district presidents and directors. Districts are vital. VFGC cannot move forward without their interest, participation, and energy. Each of our districts is unique and offers tremendous contributions to VFGC.

Every Person Makes a Difference...Every Club Makes a Difference...Every District Makes a Difference... All of You Make a Difference.

Thank you very much. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. I know that together we will make a huge difference over the next two years.

Val Story

VFGC President, 2023-25

Meet Your VFGC Officers for 2023-2025

Valerie Story, President (S)



Born in New York, living briefly in Connecticut, and growing up in California, I eventually made my way to Virginia in 1985. My love of flowers and designs began with my grandmother, who for years designed the altar flowers for the local Episcopal Church in New Jersey. I believe this instilled in me the desire to become a flower show judge (and also do altar flowers myself).

With a BS in Hospital Administration, I worked as a nurse “on the floor” and in administration for nearly thirty years, eventually retiring in Warrenton. Being a Registered Nurse was very rewarding, educational, and just plain fun.

Currently a member of Calfee Garden Club and long-time member of Cedar Run Garden Club, I have held various officer positions in these clubs, including President of Cedar Run. I have chaired numerous flower shows, have been the awards chairman, yearbook editor, and newsletter editor.

I am a Master Flower Show Judge, belonging to Shenandoah Designers Guild and SD Judges Council, having been in all officer positions including president of the council. I have also held officer positions on the State of Virginia Judges Council. I have had the pleasure of judging numerous Flower Shows.

In Shenandoah District, I have been the Litter Prevention chairman, the Treasurer, and President. I was able to visit many clubs, offering programs and officer installations. I am currently the editor of *Shenandoah Sharings* and the Finance Chairman.

For VFGC, I have been the 3rd Vice President and 1st Vice President. Also, I served as Flower Show Chairman and have been on the Finance Committee for numerous years. For NGC, I have been on the Plant America Committee for several years and was the Penny Pines Chairman with SAR. I was the convention chairman for the 2023 SAR Convention

I totally support NGC, VFGC, Districts, and each and every garden club, enjoying the challenge of new projects. I really appreciate club members and visiting clubs.

My other interests are gardening, and on the side, I love to play bridge. My husband and I have four children and eight grandchildren.

Sally Harrison, First Vice President (P)



I am a Richmond native who left for 20 years but returned in the year 2000. A member of River Road Garden Club and Richmond Designers Guild, I am also an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge. A Virginia Museum of Fine Arts volunteer since 2007, I have worked with Hirschler Flowers to create arrangements to welcome visitors to the museum. I have also exhibited in VMFA's Fine Arts and Flowers events. My favorite garden/design experience was studying with the National Cathedral Flower Guild in Washington, DC. I have a grown son who has rediscovered the joy of gardening after living in Washington and New York. (He loved to play in the dirt as a little boy.) For the past two years I have been honored to serve as president of the Piedmont District of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. I am amazed by the creativity and commitment of our garden clubs!

Grace Morris, Second Vice President (S)



I live in Waynesboro with husband Harold and two Bengal cats - Tiger and Tinkerbell. I retired as Associate Director of UVA Medical Alumni Association/Medical School Foundation. A member of four garden clubs, I am currently President of the Virginia Flower Show Judges Council, President of the Shenandoah Designers Guild, a member of Ikebana of Richmond, and President of the Waynesboro Newcomers Club. I previously served as Shenandoah District Judges Council President, VFGC Symposium Chair, VFGC Convention Chair, Shenandoah District President, VFGC Third Vice President, and VFGC Recording Secretary. A Master Flower Show Judge, I love arranging flowers for my church, leading workshops, gardening, studying Sangetsu (Ikebana), watercolor painting, and photography. As VFGC Second Vice President, I serve as Finance Committee Chairman.

Loy Holt, Third Vice President (T)



A graduate of Utah State University in Business, I worked for JC Penney for 18 years as a senior merchandise manager before moving to Williamsburg in 1997. My son lives in Arlington, VA, and husband Mark is retired. We travel a lot due to Mark's bicycle racing. My hobbies include quilting, dying and painting fabric, cooking, baking, and photography.

A member of Jamestown Presbyterian church, I am the Fellowship and Nurture chairman. In a family of eight children where I was the only girl with seven brothers, I learned to speak up for myself when I was young!

As a member of Berkeley Garden Club, I have been privileged to serve as president for three terms, vice-president, secretary, photographer, and historian. I enjoy sharing what I've learned at conventions and district meetings with my garden club members. I was the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Club's president; the Tidewater District president and have held various offices in the council and district. The past two years I've enjoyed being the VFGC Corresponding Secretary.

Amy Gable Thorpe, Recording Secretary (S)



Having lived in Virginia since the age of 4, I was blessed with an amazing childhood riding horses while showing, fox hunting, and a little racing. Horses are still part of my life. Gardening, canning and a love of volunteering are treasures I learned as a child, and I am sharing all these worlds with my 8-year-old daughter, Quentin.

During and after earning a degree in Public Administration and Legal Studies, I worked on political campaigns from local to presidential. I have worked as a real estate appraiser for the past twenty years and have been fortunate to contribute to the community by serving on many charitable boards.

I first joined garden club in 2011 to further my knowledge of plants, gardening, and flower arranging. I completed the Master Gardener course in 2014. I have served on the District Board since 2013 as Community and Children's Garden Chairman, Director Secretary, President, and Parliamentarian. I have been honored to serve VFGC as Community Gardening and Plant Together Chair, Convention Chair, and Recording Secretary.

Linda Nau, Treasurer (P)



An active member of Salisbury Garden Club in Midlothian, Virginia for 20 years, I have served as Treasurer, Newsletter and Yearbook Editor. I held the position of Treasurer of the Piedmont District for six years, serving an extra term due to COVID. I volunteer at my church as the database coordinator as well as other activities. My husband Bill and I have been married for 41 years. I have two married stepchildren and two grandchildren.

VFGC Awards

Heidi Sage – State Awards Chairman
Jeanne Bruton – Vice Chairman

District Chairmen

Blue Ridge (B)	Patty Smith
Piedmont (P)	Joanne Wallace
Shenandoah (S)	Denise Gorsky
South Central (SC)	Barbara Speece
Southwest (SW)	Andrea Meador
Tidewater (T)	Loy Holt

Categories by Size of Club

VFGC award applications are judged per garden club size, as determined by the number of members on whom NGC and State dues are paid as of Dec. 1st, including active, associate, inactive, honorary, etc.

Small Club 20 or fewer members

Medium Club 21 - 50 members

Large Club 51 + members

Two or more clubs

VFGC Special Achievement Award

S – 2 Trex® Recycling Program

Red - Violet Bank, small (P)

Blue - Dogwood, small (SW)



S – 5 District Blue Star

Red – Shenandoah

- S – 8 **District Newsletter**
 - A - Blue – Shenandoah
 - B – Blue -Piedmont
- S – 9 **Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Posters –**
Tidewater
- S – 10 **District Website** – Shenandoah
- S – 11 **District Penny Pines** – Tidewater



- 17 – **Conservation**
 - Blue – South Boston, medium (SC)
- 18 – **Water**
 - Blue – Seasons IV, medium (SC)
- 19 - **Litter/Prevention**
 - Blue - Dogwood, small (SW)
 - Red – Violet Bank, small (P)
 - Blue - South Boston, medium (SC)
 - Red - Town & Country, medium (P)
- 21 – **Floral Design Program**
 - Red - Keysville, small (SC)
 - Blue - Violet Bank, small (P)
 - Blue - Culpeper, med (S)
 - Red - South Boston, med (SC)
 - Yellow - Lake of the Woods, large, (S)
 - Red - VFGC multiple clubs
- 22 – **Civic Projects with Native Plants**
 - Blue – Sleepy Hollow, small (P)
- 23 – **Reclaiming Un-usable spaces**
 - Red – Westham, large (P)
- 24 – **Civic Beautification**
 - Red - Lake of the Woods, large, (S)

- 26 - **Community Landscape Design**
Blue – Thomas Jefferson, med (P)
- 27 – **Permanent Roadside Beautification**
Red - Town & Country, medium (SW)
Blue - Lake of the Woods, large (S)
- 28 - **Plant Together Community Garden**
Blue – Green Hills, small (S)
- 30 – **Decorating Historic Buildings**
Blue - Appomattox, small (SC)
Red - South Boston, med (SC)
- 31 – **Horticulture Therapy, no garden**
Blue - Midlothian, large (P)
- 32 – **Horticulture Therapy Garden Project**
Blue - Hilliard Park, small (P)
Blue - Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)
- 33 – **Membership**
Small:
Blue - Keysville (SC)
Red – Galax (SW)
Yellow – Dogwood (SW)
Medium:
Blue – Powhattan (P)
Red – Rapid Ann (S)
Yellow – Violet Bank (P)
Large:
Blue – Lake of the Woods (S)
Red – Stonehenge (P)
Yellow – Colonial Heritage (T)
- 34 – **National Garden Week**
Blue - Dogwood, small (SW)
Red - Glasgow, small (S)
Yellow - Hilliard Park, small (P)
Red - Salisbury, large (P)

35 – **Penny Pines**

Blue - Keysville, small (SC) with 6

Blue - Culpeper, medium (S) with 8

Blue - Ye Accamacke, large (T) with 31

36 - **Visions of Beauty**

Blue – A & B, Westchester (BR)

37 - **Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters**

Blue – Green Meadow Point (T)

39 – **Youth Horticulture Education**

Blue - Green Hills, small (S)

Blue - Seasons IV, med (SW)

Red - Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Blue - Salisbury, large (P)

42 – **Publications**

5) **Membership Brochures**

Red - Fluvanna, small (P)

Certificate of Appreciation - Culpeper, med (S)

Red - Ginter Park, med (P)

42 – (4) **History**

Blue - Sleepy Hollow, med (P)

43 – **Newsletters**

A) One page

Blue – Stonehenge, med (P)

B) Three-twelve pages

Red - Madison, med (S)

Red - May Farm of Kingston, med (T)

Red - Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Blue - Westchester, med (BR)

Blue - Colonial Heritage, large (T)

C) 13 or more pages

Red – Salisbury, large (P)

44 – **Yearbooks** (Orange Rosettes)

1) Under 20 members

Red - Hilliard Park (P)

Blue - Keysville (SC)

2) 20 – 29 members

Red - Green Hills (S)

Red - Lynnhaven Heritage (T)

Red - Town & Country (SW)

Blue - Westchester (BR)

3) 30 – 44 members

Red - May Farm of Kingston (T)

Blue - Thomas Jefferson (P)

4) 100-299 members

Red - Colonial Heritage (T)

Blue - Salisbury (P)

45 – **Flower Show Schedules**

Blue - Glasgow, small (S)

Blue - River Road, med (P)

Blue - Rock Spring, large (P)

47 – **Website**

Blue - Culpeper, med (S)

Blue - Salisbury, large (P)

48 – **Publicity Press Book** (Pink Rosette)

Blue – Lake of the Woods, large (S)

Flower Show Achievement Awards

FS-1 B Club Standard Flower Show

Richmond Designers Guild (P)

“It’s Summertime and the Living is Easy” – Purple Rosette

FS-5 B Club Small Standard Show – River Road Garden

Club (P) “Mother Earth Awakening” – Yellow Rosette

FS-11 A District Standard Show – Tidewater District

“Goblins in the Garden” – Green Rosette



**Youth
Awards and
Contests**

Y – 1 Saved Seed

Red – Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Y – 2 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

First Grade – Jett Lamb, Madison (S)

Second Grade – Sydney Breland, Merrifields (T)

Third Grade – Ella Ferreira – Merrifields (T)

Fourth Grade – Asha Kuchibbhatla – Merrifields (T)

Fifth Grade – (tie)

Kinsey Hodges – Sleepy Hollow (P)

Pearl Kinney – Southside (BR)

Y – 4 Youth Poetry Contest

Third Grade – Mason Wheeler, Cedar Run (S)

Fifth Grade – Candice Edmonds, Rapid Ann (S)

Thank You to VFGC Awards Program Donors

Thank you to recent donors and for the generosity of the previous year's donors, as we had carryover funds.

Marty Bowers Jeanne Bruton Diane Burges

Dianna Busch Janice Clem Claudia Cosby

Mary Dixon Lou Ann Dumminger Jane Earle

Gail Harwood Mary Haught Judy Hodges

Loy Holt Grace Morris Violet Neel Mary Owen

Joy Poole Frances Thrash Kathy Ward

Salisbury Garden Club Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

The Piedmont District of Garden Clubs

South Atlantic Region Awards

Congratulations to SAR Award Winners from VFGC

- #1 – **Arbor Day Award** – Medium Club
The Madison Garden Club
- #5 – **Environmental/Conservation Award**
South Boston Garden Club
- #9 – **Penny Pines Award – Small Club**
Keysville Garden Club
- #9 – **Penny Pines Award – Medium Club**
Culpeper Garden Club
- #9 – **Penny Pines Award – Large Club**
Ye Accawmacke Garden Club
- #10 – **National Garden Week Award**
Dogwood Garden Club
- #11 – **Roadside Improvement Award**
Lake of the Woods Garden Club
- #15 – **Water Conservation Award**
Seasons IV Garden Club
- #17 – **Litter, Recycling, Reclamation Award - Small Club**
Dogwood Garden Club
- #17 – **Litter, Recycling, Reclamation Award - Large Club**
South Boston Garden Club
- #18 – **Newsletter Publication Award**
Westchester Garden Club
- #21 – **Website Award**
Shenandoah District of Garden Clubs
- #22 – **Yearbook Award – Best Overall**
Salisbury Garden Club
- #23 – **Pressbook Award Second Place**
Lake of the Woods Garden Club
- #24 – **Standard Flower Show Schedule Award**
The Glasgow Garden Club

- Y1 – **Youth Education Award**
Salisbury Garden Club
- Y6 – **Smokey Bear Poster Contest**
Pearl Kinney - Fifth Grade
sponsored by Southside Garden Club

Special Penny Pines Award Presented to Ye Accawmacke Garden Club (T)

The extraordinary Penny Pines accomplishment of Ye Accawmacke was featured in the spring issue of *Old Dominion Gardener*. This is the Tidewater District club whose members were inspired to set a goal of donating Penny Pines plantations to restore land in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico – the first-ever such achievement.

At the 2023 VFGC Convention in Staunton, the club was recognized with the presentation of a specially created Penny Pines award. The club has also been honored with a proclamation by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA Forest Service). *See excerpt below.*

Pictured are (L) *Joy Poole*, VFGC Penny Pines Chair, presenting the award to *Patsy Cameron*, Tidewater District President, accepting on behalf of Ye Accawmacke Garden Club.



On behalf of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, please accept our gratitude to the Ye Accawmacke Garden Club in the Tidewater District of Virginia for contributing to National Forest planting efforts not only across the Commonwealth of Virginia, but the entire United States. This represents a truly remarkable achievement by helping to advance needed reforestation projects in a variety of environments.



“How Does Your Garden Grow?”...Time to Divide

by Martie Parch, VFGC Horticulture Chair

If your irises didn't have as many blooms this spring, it's time to divide. This will give the bulbs more room to grow and prevent the roots from rotting.

To divide:

Using a pitchfork, gently lift a small clump. Chances are that you will end up with more than one rhizome.

Loosen the soil from the roots of your irises and pull them apart. Siberian irises grow in thicker clumps, so you'll need to cut them into sections.

Trim the leaves into 3-4 inches in a fan shape. If the rhizomes are mushy and soft, then you've probably had some visiting borers. Toss those in the trash, not the compost bin.



Choose an area that will give the irises at least 6 hours of sun a day. After digging a shallow hole, make a small mound and spread the roots over it. Cover the roots and the sides of the rhizome with soil, being careful to leave the top of the rhizome exposed. You will have new growth in a couple of weeks. They should bloom the following spring.

Daffodils can also be divided now. When the foliage is almost brown, lift a clump and pull the bulbs apart. Spray the roots with a hose to clean off the soil. After the bulbs dry, place them in a mesh bag (like the ones that hold clementines) or a paper bag. Then place them in a cool, dark place until next fall when it's time to plant them.

Investing in the Future

Submitted by Jill Quinley, VFGC Scholarship Chair



The 2023 VFGC Scholarship Committee has awarded the following scholarships:

Hannah Chambers Virginia Tech
Landscape Design & Turfgrass Management
Three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00)
Hannah is also the recipient of the NGC Scholarship

Ashley Mann Longwood University
Environmental Science
Three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00)

Abby Johnson Madison County High School
Agriculture Business
Three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00)

Maybelline Cruz George Mason University
Biology, emphasis environmental science
Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00)

Andrea Gaot Virginia Tech
Landscape Architecture
Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00)

Do you know students who are studying or plan to pursue fields such as the majors you see here? Encourage them to apply for a VFGC Scholarship. Details are available at viriniagardenclubs.org/Scholarships.



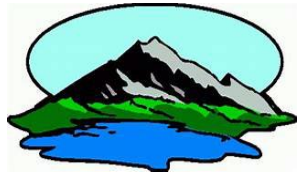
**VEGC 89TH CONVENTION
"GROWING INTO ACTION"
APRIL 23-24, STAUNTON**



*Pictured, clockwise: Designer
Jeanne Ha; Mary Owen
presenting an award to
Marty Bowers; Val and Mary
"passing the torch"; Designer
Mark Frye talks with
attendees.*

Flower Show

Val Story, General Chairman



“Virginia – The Mountains to the Ocean”



Joanne Wallace

Arboreal and Horticulture
Excellence Awards



Polly Gable

Award of Merit



Mary Owen

Grower's Choice Award



Michael Rider

Designer's Choice Award

Convention Honor Arrangements



Top: for Mary Owen, Patsy Cameron, Lizzie Mann
 Middle: for Marty Bowers, Brenda McMannaway
 Bottom: for Pat Carswell, Sally Harrison, Lou Ann Dummerger

“KEYS TO THE FUTURE” Youth Project Grants

by Lizzie Mann, Chair

All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant of up to \$1000 for projects working with and helping youth realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats, becoming good stewards of the earth.

The “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15 of each year. Must be submitted by a VFGC member garden club.

HOW TO APPLY: Please fill out the application form, include a budget and mail as indicated on the application.

PURPOSE: The purpose of “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants is to provide financial support for clubs working with youth on a specific project.

PROGRAM CRITERIA:

In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- number of youth participating/reached.
- benefits to the community
- environmental awareness/education
- horticulture educational focus or curricular/program integration
- plant-to-food connections
- social aspects of gardening, i.e., leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning
- club member support and participation

Grant funding *will not* be provided for projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect, for example: political action programs; Eagle Scout projects; capital drives and building funds; scholarships; endowments; lawsuits or litigation; overhead costs; consumable one-time giveaways such as T-shirts, tote bags, food, admission fees or tuition.

Note: The same project cannot be considered for both *Youth Project Grants* and *Beautify and Restore Grants* in the same fiscal year.

Application: "KEYS TO THE FUTURE" VFGC Youth Project Grant

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Date: _____ VFGC District: _____

Name of VFGC Club _____

Garden Club Contact Person (Name, address, phone number, email):

New Project: Yes _____ No _____

Beginning date: _____ Expected Completion date: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____ Amount Club Provides: \$ _____

Total Project Budget: \$ _____

of Youth Involved in Project _____ # of People Reached _____

Submit a narrative including the following if applicable:

- 1.** Briefly describe project. Application with budget should be no longer than 3 single-sided pages.
- 2.** What is the youth population for this project?
- 3.** Approximately how many Club Members will be involved /role?
- 4.** Brief description: in-kind or volunteer services, organization & role.
- 5.** Location of Project
- 6.** Does the project require special approval of authorizing groups (i.e., school board)
- 7.** Must include a detailed budget.

NOTE: Grant funds can only be used for the stated project. Unused grant funds must be returned to VFGC by May 15 with the Final Report. The same project is not eligible for both Youth Project Grants and Beautify & Restore Grants in the same VFGC year.

Judging is based on the following Scale of Points:

- 35 - Scope of Project
- 35 - Club Member Involvement
- 10 - Criteria Met (read Guidelines)
- 10 - Budget complete
- 5 - Application Form Complete

Mail to: Lizzie Mann, Chair

19376 Stirrup Dr., Abingdon, VA 24211-6766

Or send via email to: kynana3@msn.com

Questions – contact Lizzie by email or by phone: 276-739-2302

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Flower Show School Course I

August 21-24, 2023

Four Points by Sheraton

4700 Laburnum Avenue, Henrico, VA 23231 804-226-4300

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure: Jan Griffin

Jan will teach *Aucuba japonica* along with cut ferns.

Design: Judy Binns

Judy will teach traditional designs.

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

Schedule		
Monday, Aug 21	3:45 - 6:00 pm	Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Aug 22	8:00 - 9:00 am	FSP Exam
	9:15 - 3:30 pm	Horticulture/Lunch
	3:45 - 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test
Wed, Aug 23	8:00 - 9:00 am	Horticulture Exam
	9:15 - 3:45 pm	Design/Lunch
	4:00 - 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test
Thursday, Aug 24	9:00 - 10:00 am	Design Exam

Hotel Reservations: Contact Four Points by Sheraton: 804-226-4300. Room rates are guaranteed through July 22, 2023 at \$139 per night either single or double occupancy plus applicable taxes. Ask for the VFGC block.

Required Books to have:

Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, NGC Exhibiting & Judging, both available on the NGC Website for purchase or download.

Flower Show Procedure will cover an intro to the *Handbook*, Flower Show composition, definitions and purposes of all Standard Flower Shows & Specialty Shows, an Explanation of basic requirements of all shows, types & categories of shows, Non-Top Exhibitor Awards, & Overview of the Flower Show Schedule.

Horticulture will cover plant nomenclature, filling out entry tags, NGC Horticulture Top Exhibitor Awards, judging qualities on the Horticulture Point Scoring Form, Horticulture commenting vocabulary, & Judging procedures.

Design will include a brief history of floral design, the elements & principles, Design Top Exhibitor Awards, an explanation of judging qualities on the Design Point Scoring Form, Design Vocabulary and judging procedures.

**For more information contact:
Flower Show School Chairman – Frances Thrash**
2109 Cocoa Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-2213
francesthresh@cox.net
757-481-3484 or 757-478-5791

Jan Griffin

Flower Show Procedure & Horticulture

Born, raised, and educated in the Seattle, Washington Area where my gardening interests evolved around growing food as well as flowers for the table. I always loved flowers and spent many hours finding out which plant did the best for what type of conditions. The Seattle area was a mecca for many different blooming annuals, colorful bulbs and wonderful evergreens. Upon moving to Florida in late 1989, I quickly learned those plants I knew all about would not thrive in Florida's climate. I joined a Garden Club and started my quest for learning about other varied and interesting plants. I continued my education by becoming a Flower Show Judge. Now an Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, I teach Floral Design classes as well as horticulture for Flower Show Schools. Being actively involved in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Florida Flower Show Judges has kept me busy. I am completing my term as President of the Florida Flower Show Judges. It has been my honor to serve as horticulture chairman for four state flower shows and several district shows as well as chairman of our yearly local Strawberry Festival Horticulture Show. My interests other than Garden Club are my family, golf and working in my friend's florist shop.

**Judy Binns
Design**

Judy is a member and former president of the Salisbury GC, NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, former President of Piedmont District and President of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs from 2011-2013. She was awarded the National Garden Clubs Member of Honor Award for the South Atlantic Region for All-Around Excellence in 2006 and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors since 2007. She has exhibited designs in "Fine Arts and Flowers" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and served as "Fine Arts and Flowers" Co-Chairman in 2007 and 2010. Judy is an NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor and has given floral design programs and workshops in Virginia as well as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She is a member of the Piedmont District Judges Council, Virginia Flower Show Judges Council, Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and National Flower Arrangers. Judy is a native Virginian from the Shenandoah Valley. She enjoys spending time in her garden and specializes in floral designs for weddings and other occasions.

REGISTRATION FORM
Flower Show School - Course I August 21-24, 2023

Four Points by Sheraton
4700 Laburnum Ave. Henrico, Virginia 23231

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Club _____ **District** _____

Full course with/without exam (Includes tuition, two lunches and reserved seating on front rows) \$150 _____

Flower Show Procedure (Mon.) \$40 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Tue.) \$75 _____

Design & Lunch (Wed.) \$75 _____

Manual will be emailed (free of charge)

TOTAL \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Make check payable to Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. with Flower Show Schools in the memo line and mail to:

Brenda McManaway, Flower Show School 1 Registrar
5531 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, Virginia 24065

****No refunds after July 21, 2023****

VFGC Landscape Design School News

Hurray! The Virginia Landscape Design School is finally moving into the new National Garden Club Landscape Design Curriculum with Series 29.

The new curriculum includes a segment in each course aimed specifically at redesigning home landscapes. You may want to make modest changes to your home landscaping that do not require the services of a professional designer. Environmental awareness may mean making changes in planting choices which can make significant impacts on the ecosystems around us.

Course 1 includes the following topics.

- Learning about Your Ecosystem
- Space, Design and People
- Principles and Elements of Landscape Design
- Developing Your Garden Plan
- Basics of Site Plan
- Color in the Landscape
- Design for the Environment
- Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Times to 1840
- Xeriscaping: Not Just for the Desert

Yes, passing an exam is still necessary if you want to obtain NGC LDS Consultant certification. But.....exams are now "open book/open notes." Four courses are still required for consultant certification but can be taken in any order. After completing two courses, you are eligible to join the Landscape Design Consultants Council and participate in their fabulous trips.

Come join us October 2-3 for LDS Course 1 to be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. You may join us as a new student or a refreshing Consultant. After the schedule of classes is developed, you may make the decision to attend for just one day (not eligible for consultant certification).

The schedule of classes has not been completed yet but please feel free to contact me for more information .

Marty Bowers
540-309-1676
martbw@gmail.com

VFGC Symposium November 6-8, 2023

Double Tree by Hilton
1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235 804-379-3800

Any interested individual is welcome and invited to attend the VFGC Symposium; all attendees must register in advance.

Application for Renewal Credit: To obtain credit, Judges must attend all lectures in their entirety, including oral point scoring sessions, and get your card punched to show attendance. You must also bring your Handbook for Flower Shows Rev. 2027 – 2nd Edition, with all updates.

Virginia Judges expecting credit for this Symposium must send the completed appropriate form, along with the required credentials, to the VFGC Credentials Chairman Rebecca Elston, at least six weeks before the Symposium (send by 9/23/23). The forms are available online from the NGC, Inc. website:

Form 13 for use by Accredited Judges

Form 15L for use by Life Judges

Form 15M for use by Master Judges

Out-of-state Judges expecting credit for the Symposium must send the appropriate forms as listed to the Credentials Chairman in their respective states before registering for this Symposium.

No credentials will be accepted at the door.

Required Text: Judges taking the symposium for credit must bring with them *The Handbook of Flower Shows*, Rev. 2017, 2nd Edition, with updates and corrections noted. *Designing by Types* and *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging* are also helpful.

Clipboards with pencils will be provided for testing.

Hotel Information: Doubletree by Hilton is located just off Midlothian Turnpike with easy access from VA-76 or VA-288.

Reserve your room by calling Hilton reservations on 1-800-222-TREE or call the hotel directly on 804-379-3800. Ask for the block of rooms reserved for Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Rate \$139 plus applicable taxes (subject to change). Reservation **deadline is October 7, 2023**. Parking is complimentary.

Symposium Chair: Kathy Ward klhward@gmail.com 804-921-1021

VFGC Credentials Chair: Rebecca Elston
elston.marshwood@gmail.com 804-580-6713

3332 Mob Neck Road Heathsville, VA 22473-2307

VFGC Symposium November 6-8, 2023

Design Instructor: Claudia Bates

Claudia Bates, an NGC Accredited Master Judge and FSS Design Instructor, a CFAA and OFAD instructor, and former Florida Federation of Garden Clubs President, will be teaching us about Panel and Spatial Thrust Designs. She will also be teaching the Allied Topic, *Expression Vs. Interpretation*. Her designs have been published in the Vision of Beauty and FFGC Calendars, as well as in the Wafa publication *Designing the American Way*. I was lucky enough to see her teach design for FSS IV and the VFSJC meeting in Roanoke last month. I felt like I had "died and gone to CFAA"! This is a day of design you will not want to miss.

Horticulture Instructor: Darlene Newell

Darlene Newell, NGC Master Judge, Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure and Symposium Instructor, and Daffodil Judge, will be our horticulture instructor. She has a wonderful presentation style that promises to make our horticulture instruction, fun, as well as enlightening. She will teach us about Cucurbits (Pumpkins, Squash and Gourds) and Needled/Broadleaf Evergreens. Darlene will also be teaching an Allied Topic about vertical gardening entitled, *Up, Up and Away*.

Schedule

Monday, November 6th

1:00 - 2:45 pm	Registration
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Welcome and Announcements
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Allied Horticulture Topic "Up, Up, and Away"-vertical gardening

Tuesday, November 7th

8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Announcements
9:15 - 10:15 am	Horticulture: Cucurbita
10:15 - 10:30 am	Morning Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	Horticulture: Evergreens
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 2:30 pm	Horticulture Point Scoring Practice
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Afternoon Break
2:45 - 4:45 pm	Point Scoring Exam

Wednesday, November 8th

8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Announcements
9:15 - 10:15 am	Design - Panel Designs
10:15 - 10:30 am	Morning Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	Design - Spatial Thrust Designs
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 2:30 pm	Design Practice Point Scoring
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Afternoon Break
2:45 - 4:45 pm	Point Scoring Exam

REGISTRATION FORM: SYMPOSIUM November 6-8, 2023

Doubletree by Hilton 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

Club _____ District _____

Medical Dietary Restrictions _____

Judging Status _____

Date of Last Certification/Audit _____

Full course (exam or audit). Includes tuition, two lunches \$195 _____
and reserved seating on front rows for those taking exams.

Single Event

Allied Topic \$ 40 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Tuesday) \$ 98 _____

Design & Lunch (Wednesday) \$ 98 _____

Manual will be emailed free of charge. **OR**

printed manual available at registration if **pre-ordered** \$ 10 _____

Late fee:

If postmarked after October 21, 2023, add late fee \$ 30` _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Make check payable to **Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
with **Symposium** in the memo line and mail to:

Claudia Cosby
VFGC Symposium Registrar
3015 Mount Hill Drive Midlothian, VA 23113-3923
cosbych1205@gmail.com

****DEADLINE: October 23, 2023**
No Refunds After October 23rd

Be a VFGC 2023-25 Yearbook Sponsor

Deadline: June 30, 2023

Who can be a Sponsor?

Each club and every club member can be a 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 receive **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—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

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

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

Name _____

District _____ Club _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

CLUB SPONSOR

Club Name _____ District _____

Club Contact (Treasurer) _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Yearbook Insert		\$10.00	
Binder with VFGC logo		\$8.00	
Total Order			

Checks payable to VFGC, Inc. Mail check and form to:
Claudia Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Drive Midlothian, VA 23113-3923
cosbych1205@gmail.com

Creative Clubs Beautify and Restore Communities

by Judy Ann Fray, Chair – Grants to Beautify and Restore

In September 2022, three VFGC Clubs applied for and received VFGC Grants to Beautify and Restore.

New Castle Garden Club (BR) was awarded \$1,000.

They removed overgrown shrubs, grasses, and perennials in late fall, before adding soil in preparation for shrubs and plants in the new landscape for the New Castle Post Office this spring. New plantings were chosen for deer resistance, drought tolerance, and general low maintenance. Post Office landscape projects provide an opportunity to educate a large percentage of the population, as (almost) everyone visits the Post Office, perhaps even daily.

Midlothian Garden Club (P) was awarded \$400.

The club completed their project to re-do and beautify the Memorial Garden of Bethel Baptist Church, often the location of the Garden Club's meetings. Most of the 20-year-old boxwoods and other shrubs had overgrown the benches, statues, and sidewalks, obscuring the original "garden." A trellis with coral honeysuckle now overlooks an outdoor stairwell. This recent photo shows a garden that is tranquil and inviting.



Citizens of Old Southwest Roanoke are excited that **Town & Country Garden Club (BR) was awarded \$400** to help beautify two vacant housing lots that had become overgrown with undesirable plants and trees, and in the process, to build a 'small' park for the neighborhood. The overall goal of the project is to "raise awareness about environmental needs of urban areas and ways a community can address those needs." Roanoke City is interested in removing old hardscape from the property to allow excess stormwater to sink into the ground.

The grant has enabled the purchase of three Redbud trees and an American White Oak that is expected to grow to provide shade when the very old Boxelder Tree can no longer be kept alive. Arborvitae trees have been spaced along one 'border' to delineate the park from neighboring houses. Small trees and flowering shrubs will be added as the project grows. The Cooperative Extension Service is providing a workshop for people to learn about mulching and adding a cover that will kill undesirable grasses and weeds rather than using chemical sprays.

This project has become a model for the City of Roanoke and other areas as numerous volunteers 'show up' when something is going on with the vacant lot 'park.'"

Applications for VFGC Grants to Beautify & Restore will be posted on the revised VFGC website later this summer. Completed applications with well-defined projects are due to Judy Ann Fray, Chairman, by September 15. Contact her at 540-948-4220 or ja.fray@verizon.net for more information.

Thank You to Dogwood Society Donors!

by Claudia Cosby

The Dogwood Society was established in 2012 to recognize clubs, districts, and individuals that donate to all four of the Virginia funds in a club year. The funds are Blue Star Memorial, Youth Projects Grants, Grants to Beautify and Restore, and the Scholarship Fund (a VFGC Life Membership/Book of Honor counts as a donation to the Scholarship Fund). Gifts such as these make it possible for us to continue supporting our clubs and communities, as they educate and beautify our state.

The VFGC is grateful for the following individuals and groups who donated to the Society during the 2022-2023 club year: *Abingdon Garden Club, Stonehenge Garden Club, Seasons IV Garden Club, Claudia Cosby, and Shenandoah District who made two donations during the year*. These seven donations raised a total of \$593.00 for the four funds! Thank you all for your generosity.

The Dogwood Society application may be found on the VFGC website at www.virginiagardenclubs.org on the Forms and Info page, under the heading of National Garden Clubs Life Membership. Please send your donations to the current VFGC treasurer, Linda Nau, 1810 Ethelred Court, Midlothian, VA 23113.

Remember, your gift is tax-deductible, and no amount is too small!

Trex® Plastic Film Recycling Program Update

At the VFGC Convention, Chair *Carolyn Nichols* reported that VFGC clubs have recorded **more than 25,000 pounds** in plastic film recycling. **42 Trex® garden benches have been earned** to date. Two small clubs earned the VFGC Special Achievement Award: Violet Bank (P) – Red, and Dogwood (SW) – Blue.

TOP RECYCLING CLUBS - Current Cycle

Garden Club	Pounds	Time Period
Woodland Pond (P)	557	10/20/22 - 4/20/23
Lake of the Woods (S)	503	10/12/22 - 4/12/23
South Boston (SC)	506	10/3/22 - 4/3/23
South Boston (SC)	502	4/3/23 - 10/3/23
Rappahannock Co. (S)	500	10/6/22 - 4/6/23
Dogwood (SW)	521	11/9/22 - 5/9/23
Green Thumb (SW)	514	12/1/22 - 6/1/23
Nelson County (S)	535	9/8/22 - 3/8/23
Bedford (BR)	630	11/15/22 - 5/15/23
Salisbury (P)	595	9/19/22 - 3/1/23
Hanover Towne (P)	515	10/1/22 - 4/1/22
Town & Country Wise (SW)	503	10/3/22 - 4/3/23
Blue Ridge (BR)	530	11/1/22 - 5/1/23
River Road (P)	524	10/24/22 - 4/24/23
Canterbury (P)	563	9/11/22 - 3/11/23
Westchester (BR)	504	10/1/22 - 4/1/23
Hawthorne (S)	527	11/1/22 - 5/1/23
Sleepy Hollow (P)	545	9/1/22 - 3/1/23
Madison (S)	500	11/3/22 - 5/3/23
Maywood (BR)	510	11/1/22 - 5/1/23

38 Penny Pines Plantations Donated in 1st Quarter - 2023

Total Value - \$2,584

Submitted by Joy Poole, VFGC Chair



Blue Ridge	1
Piedmont	7
Shenandoah	12
South Central	11
Southwest	-
Tidewater	6
VFGC – Board	1

VFGC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 30 VFGC Yearbook Sponsor Deadline
- Aug 1 ODG Fall Deadline
- Aug 4Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication
- August 21-24..... Flower Show School, Course I
- Sept 15 Grants to Beautify & Restore Deadline
- Sept 15Youth Project Grants Deadline
- Oct 2-3.....Landscape Design School, Course 1
- Oct 12Shenandoah District Fall Meeting
- Oct 16.....Piedmont District Fall Meeting
- Oct 24Tidewater District Fall Meeting
- Oct 25.....Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting
- Oct 26.....South Central District Fall Meeting
- Oct 28.....Southwest District Fall Meeting
- Nov 1 ODG Winter Deadline
- Nov 6-8..... VFGC Symposium
- Dec 1.....Deadline: Award Applications to District Chairs

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
- 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.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Blue Ridge District

Carol Baker.....Maywood GC
Donald Rude.....Southside GC
Gelene Amos.....Boones Mill GC
Charter Member

Piedmont District

Gladys Bowles.....Pamunkey River GC
Liz Martin.....Pamunkey River GC
Kathy Porwoll.....Violet Bank GC

Shenandoah District

Evelyn H. Peery.....Hot Springs GC
Wilma Hoover.....Middleburg GC

South Central District

Charlotte Snoddy.....Buckingham-Dillwyn GC
Judy Jamieson..... Ruth Adams GC
Sue Willis.....Ragged Robin GC

Southwest District

Nona T. Nassif.....Richlands GC

Tidewater District

Gloria Slosser.....Cavalier GC

"IN MEMORIAM" honors the memory of current garden club members.
Please send notification to VFGC Treasurer: Linda Nau naule@aol.com .

A Special Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication

It has taken a lot of effort as well as NGC involvement, but we have finally achieved approval to install a Blue Star Memorial marker at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. LGBG is in the top ten list of U.S. gardens – at number seven – and will be the first garden of the top ten to have a Blue Star Memorial marker. Plan to attend: **9:30 am, August 4, 2023, in the Healing Garden at LGBG, Richmond.**

Rappahannock Garden Club - 60 Years and Counting

Submitted by Margie Redlin, Rappahannock GC (P)

Rappahannock Garden Club (RGC) is in its 60th year! The season began with a celebratory meeting. The intention for the meeting was to recognize the past while energizing for the future.



Special guests included Piedmont District President, *Sally Harrison* and former

Piedmont District President, *JoAnn McNabb*, and they both expertly judged the Horticulture and Design exhibits. *Pictured: Marty Wilson with Sally and JoAnn.*

This well-planned meeting also included components for “friend-raising” as well as fundraising. Former RGC members and emeritus members were invited with handwritten invitations, and current members were encouraged to invite friends. The meeting's social time included a flea market, a bake sale, and a plated lunch. Members and their guests were able to acquaint themselves with the benefits and components of the club.

The meeting proved to be very successful. We not only generated funds to continue with student scholarships but added six new club members. The celebration was perfect for recruiting and retaining members!

Piedmont Estates Garden Club Celebrates 52 Years

Submitted by Lavenia Hairston, Piedmont Estates GC (BR)



On February 7, 2023, Piedmont Estates Garden Club celebrated its anniversary - exactly 52 years to the day of the club's founding. Beginning with 14 members, the club's founders had several purposes:

- To encourage care and beautification of the area in which they lived
- To help members develop skills for gardening, landscaping, floral arrangements.
- To beautify the area by growing flowers in their yards and creating and bringing flower arrangements to meetings and flower shows

The club is still active and maintains a community garden in Piedmont Estates. Members participate in the community Christmas Cheer program and work with other organizations such as the Salvation Army, Grace Network, Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAH), and Hairston Convalescent Home.

Pictured from front left: Doris Cole, Ann Norman, LaVarra Hagwood, Stella Roy, Lavenia Hairston

Back row from left: Norma Ricard, Frances Kisse, Mayor L.C. Jones, Deborah Mitchell

**Keysville Garden Club Stages
NGC Small Standard Flower Show**
Submitted by Kathie Kingery, Keysville GC (SC)

On April 25, 2023 Keysville Garden Club presented "Melodies of Life," an NGC Small Standard Flower Show, at the Ash Camp Baptist Church in Keysville, Virginia.



*Pictured L-R back row are Mary Howard, Judith Reynolds, Kitty Mason, Liz Peaden
Front row L-R are Carol Alderman (President), Velda Agee, Anne Stinson, and Kathie Kingery. Not pictured: Gail George, Jean Bigger, Deanna Schwartz, Bernardine Tucker, Elsie Myers*

Design classes for "Melodies of Life" were:

Class 1 – Our Childhood, "Toyland, Toyland", which were petite designs measuring no more than 12 inches.

Class 2 – Our Youth, "Climb Every Mountain", with a design space of 23.5 deep and wide by up to 30" tall and were to depict memories of our youth.

Class 3 – The Wedding, " We've Only Just Begun", with a design space of 23.5 deep and wide by up to 30" tall and were to depict wedding designs.

Class 4 – Growing older and better!, "September Song," design space of 23.5 deep and wide by up to 30" tall and were to depict growing older using antique containers.

Horticulture sections were:

Section A – Annuals "April Showers"

Section B – Biennials and/or Perennials "Now and Forever"

Section C – Bulbs, Rhizomes, Corms and Tubers "From Little Things Big Things Grow"

Section D – Arboreal Shrubs and Trees " The Dreaming Tree"

Carol Alderman won Best of Show for her Class 4 design entry of white carnations and bakers fern arranged around driftwood in an antique oil lantern base. *Velda Agee* won Best of Show for her Section D horticulture entry for a most excellent specimen of Kings Solomon's Seal.

Glen Burnie Garden Club Projects Abound

Submitted by Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S)

Glen Burnie has had a great start to 2023! In January, members created an instructional video presentation for our *ongoing 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!

Next, we focused on workshops to prepare our members for entries into the Winchester Council of Garden Clubs' Standard Flower Show, "Alice in Wonderland." Our members had an incredible showing, taking Arboreal, Merit and Horticultural Excellence awards in Horticulture, as well as the Designer's Choice Award for Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts.

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.

South Boston GC Succeeds with Recycling Project

Submitted by Sharon Scott, South Boston GC (SC)

South Boston Garden Club has enthusiastically embraced the VFGC Trex® Film Recycling Program. Club member *Carolyn Nichols* is the state chairperson for Litter Prevention-Recycling and also chairperson of the VFGC President's Projects which includes Trex® Film Recycling. In February of 2022, each club member was provided with a handout with the guidelines and visuals of the plastics to be recycled. Wow, a Trex® bench reward for collecting and recycling plastic, but 500 pounds of plastic within six months seemed like a lot.



With the participation of 100% of garden club members, family members, a ladies golf group, a Bible study group, Lowes, a furniture store, a farm equipment store, the post office, and a vending machine supplier, collection was full-steam ahead! For

example, ladies would arrive at the golf course with a trunk full of plastic ready to be transferred to the garden club volunteer, *Barbara Speece*, who would then weigh and drop the film at recycling bins.

Well it happened! Our first contract with Trex® spanned March – October, 2022. The club collected 549 pounds of plastic. Building on that momentum, we have since completed two more contracts, received a total of three benches, and are working towards a fourth. Developing a better understanding and appreciation for the importance of recycling within the community has given the members of the South Boston Garden Club pride in their accomplishments in this area. The choice to continue collecting the plastic has been unanimous. Who knows? We may have Trex® benches all over town!

Chancellor Garden Club's Activities Generate Membership Growth

Submitted by Thea McGinnis & Sharon Moser, Chancellor GC (P)

This last year has been both challenging and rewarding. Like every other garden club, starting up activities after the pandemic was uphill.

Despite being one of Piedmont District's smaller clubs, we hosted two NGC standard flower shows, back-to-back, for the historic Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair. The Fair is a two-week, fun, and exciting event, and it is an honor to host their flower shows. These flower shows reflect one of the primary activities of National Garden Club – educating the public in horticulture and the art of floral design. Many attendees at the Fair had never experienced a flower show, so it was especially rewarding for our members to be part of this summer event. The preparation work began months beforehand, of course: writing the schedule, planning staging, organizing the tasks, and coordinating with Fair administrators. What's probably most significant is that we accomplished the Fair flower show with fewer than 15 active members.

We also engaged in community service projects: clean-up and planting at the Chancellor Battlefield Visitor Center, decorating two trees donated to raise funds for charitable organizations, and holiday decorating in downtown Fredericksburg. Our club was assigned the Rising Sun Tavern, once owned by the brother of George Washington. All our designs and décor are fresh/naturalistic, as they would have been in colonial times. This year we will be decorating the famous Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop on Caroline Street.

All of our activities present opportunities to recruit new members. Over the last year, we increased our membership by six. That's close to a 30 percent increase in one year!

Winchester Council Stages "Alice in Wonderland"

Submitted by Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S)

The April 23rd Winchester Council of Garden Clubs' NGC standard flower show was a great success!

Donna Lee, Hawthorne Garden Club, did a masterful job of organizing and keeping everyone on track, along with Co-Chairman *Penny Haag*. *Wendy Stark*, Colonial Garden Club, used her creativity to pull together the "Alice in Wonderland" theme throughout the show. *Kay Caldwell*, Colonial Garden Club, handled publicity. *Susan Creasy*, Glen Burnie Garden Club, organized judges and oversaw the Committee Chairs for entries in the three divisions.

Colonial Garden Club won the club competition and the coveted Marion Gore Silver Bowl for their club's interpretation of 'A Mad Tea Party' (pictured)



Designer's Choice Awards in Division I Design went to *Donna Hopkins*, Hawthorne GC and *Kathy Holliday*, Colonial GC. Kathy also won the Award for Design Excellence for "Through the Looking Glass." (pictured). Division II Botanical Arts Design Award went to *Robin Sweet* Hawthorne GC. The Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award went to *Carolyn Frye*, Glen Burnie GC.



In Division III Horticulture, the Award of Merit went to *Alana Danko*, an Arboreal Award went to *Carolyn Frye*, and Award of Merit and Horticultural Excellence Awards went to *Janet Bordwine*, all of Glen Burnie GC. *Kay Caldwell*, Colonial GC, won the Grower's Choice Award, and *Michelle Sunderlin*, Colonial GC, won an Arboreal Award.

Visiting "Alice in Wonderland" was a delightful way to spend a rainy afternoon!

Shenandoah District Holds Spring Meeting

Submitted by Val Story



Shenandoah District held its spring meeting at the Old Providence Church in Steeles Tavern March 28, 2023.

The hall sparkled and looked lovely with the spring flower arrangements created by Rose Cliff and Noland Heights Garden Clubs. The "Ways and Means" creations by Jane and Valerie Vaughn were outstanding.

President Pat Carswell thanked members for attending this meeting, and recognized Shenandoah as an exceptional District. Clubs have been active in projects as reiterated by Pat. VFGC President Mary Owen gave a warm and welcoming talk; she thanked club members for all the friendly responses and diligent work completed.

Denise Gorsky presented the District Awards. Congratulations were given to all the award winners. Many awards were presented, as well as scrapbooks. The new slate of officers was voted upon and installed by Val Story. They are as follows: President, Maureen Wilcox; Director/Secretary, Toni Shreve; Director/Treasurer, Denise Gorsky.

Another special recognition was given to Pat Carswell for her diligent work, interest, and caring for Shenandoah District. Pictured are Val Story, Mary Owen, and Pat Carswell.



Learning, Celebration, and Fun at the Piedmont District Spring Meeting

JoAnn McNabb and Diane Burgess

Two hundred members from 36 clubs enjoyed the Piedmont District spring meeting, awards presentation, luncheon, shopping, and program on March 20th. Fifty-five district awards were presented by Awards Chair *Joanne Wallace* and President *Sally Harrison*. Piedmont District Grants were also awarded to two clubs.

VFGC President *Mary Owen* was on hand to congratulate award winners and to present incoming District President *Diane Burgess* with her president's pin.



Floral designer and Master Judge, *Betty Ann Galway* worked magic as she "Took the Mystery Out of Mechanics." She demonstrated multiple ways to create design structures for decorative home designs ...and "going green" – designing without a block of Oasis.

Tidewater District to Stage Fall Flower Show

FALL REFLECTIONS



An NGC District Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Tidewater District, VFGC

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center (AREC)
1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-363-3900

September 23, 2023
10:00am – 3:00pm
(Rain Date: September 24, 2023)

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Monarda, photo by Christy Boone
Blue Ridge Garden Club