

October 2023 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED

Don't forget!

Landscape Design School #1: October 2 – 3, 2023
NGC Grants Deadline: October 15, 2023
ODG Winter Deadline: November 1, 2023
State Judges Council Meeting November 6, 2023
NGC Judges Symposium: November 6-8, 2023
Awards Deadline: December 1, 2023

Hello VFGC,
Such pretty Fall days and so much cooler too!

There have been Blue Star dedications at Lewis Ginter and at Norfolk Botanical gardens. Now two Botanical Garden Blue Stars in Virginia and the USA! The dedications are so meaningful and rewarding to attend.

Soon there will be District meetings, I am looking forward to attending...what a chance to promote VFGC and all the districts. One goal is to promote flower shows! This is a real way to promote garden clubs and to be visible in the community. Also, judges and student judges really need more shows to continue their credits.

Check out the VFGC website, Facebook and Instagram! The people working on social media are terrific. And before you know it, the 2024 VFGC Convention will be around the corner. Boars Head is the place. WOW! More detail coming soon.

And, of course, "Every person makes a difference", all of you make a difference.
Val Story

NGC NEWS:

Gardening for Wildlife

As garden club members we should be aiming to practice sustainability in our personal landscapes. Habitats are being lost to development and we can hold the key to preserving them for future generations. As development pushes natural habitats further and further back, we can encourage wildlife to co-exist with us in our own landscapes. Biodiversity is a key to successful wildlife habitat. You get to choose the wildlife you want to encourage. It may be only birds, small mammals, and insects. You can provide food, water, cover and places for animals and insects to raise their young. Work to reduce areas of lawn. Make conscious choices when choosing plants for your garden. Look for plants that are native and keep away from invasive species. Good plant choices provide fruit and seeds for native wildlife. Native trees make good choices. Keep a clean water source such as a small fountain or birdbath, or if you have enough property, build a pond. Provide a wood pile or leave a dead tree. Check the NGC website for the application and get YOUR GARDEN registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat. You will receive a certificate and may purchase a plaque to display in your garden. I am looking forward to seeing these plaques in member gardens across the United States.

For questions regarding the PLANT AMERICA- Wildlife Habitat Certification Program

Barbara Campbell- Wildlife Habitat Certification Chairman

Apply to Register Your Garden

APPLY HERE to have your garden registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat! Once approved, you will have the option to purchase the NGC signage below to display in your garden.



NATIONAL GARDEN



**CLUBS'
CERTIFIED**



WILDLIFE HABITAT



VFGC NEWS: Virginia's Historic Trails

The historic preservation of gardens and trails involves not only identifying potential projects; developing preservation plans; and implementing those plans but also sustaining these treasured completed projects. Please consider actively promoting and using these wonderful historic trails throughout Virginia. Many of these trails were promoted through local enthusiasm of treasured natural assets. Through these historic trails not only are there ecological benefits but social and educational benefits. These are our “outdoor classrooms” to encourage observing, protecting, and embracing nature.

Did you know that the longest historic trail is the Mount Vernon Trail at 37 miles. Or that the Shenandoah Park is home to 15 historic trails. And there are many more throughout the state.

Explore your community for the hidden natural jewels and become involved not only with volunteering for ongoing maintenance but in identifying potential projects. As Val Story, our VFGC President, has stated “Every Person Makes a Difference.” Please take advantage of these incredible resources to ensure their sustainment for future generations.

Listed below are resources elaborating on the historic trails throughout Virginia.

<https://www.alltrails.com/us/virginia/historic-site>

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/virginia-trails>

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/national-trails>

Or consider visiting historic ruins via a historical trail such as the six trails discussed at:

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/trails-lead-to-ruins-in-va/>



Tidewater District holds a Blue Star dedication at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens Oct 3, 2023



VFGC Club News:

Fawn Evenson of the **Rappahannock County Garden Club** drops off a 6 month collection of plastic film to the Trex Collection Site at Flatwood Dump in Rappahannock County. This goes towards the third one that the Garden Club has sponsored, supported by the Lion's Club as the primary organizer of the program. And then two days later she hijacked a Haverty's Furniture Truck making deliveries in town and took all of its plastic wrap for the Trex bench. It about filled up her whole cargo space.

One bench is at the county park and another at the new Post Office in town, which we helped landscape. As of October 1 we will be working on a third bench, this one to go outside the new post office.

A TRIP TO THE MOSS LADY On a blisteringly hot day in July, a group of **Ginter Park Garden Club** members had the privilege of visiting Norie Burnet, aka “The Moss Lady,” and her incredible garden named Eden Woods. Most of us were so enchanted that we forgot to take any pictures. Fortunately, Jce managed to snap a couple and Norie very kindly sent us photos she took of our group.

Norie is one of the most remarkable women I have had the pleasure to meet. Now in her *mid-nineties*, she is still energetically gardening!! Eden Woods is a substantial, sprawling group of “garden rooms” that have evolved over the course of decades, bit by bit.



Meticulously planned yet retaining an air of serendipity, Norie’s garden is filled with interesting plants - some planned and some not. She has accented each space with garden ornaments, whether they be classical or whimsical and charming. All these elements add up to a whole that is not only beautiful but deeply personal. Walk through Eden Woods and you have quite a good idea just what sort of person Norie Burnet is.

But what struck me above all as Norie explained how she came to be a moss gardener was that early on, as she struggled to grow the grass she believed she wanted, she eventually came to the realization that surrendering to Mother Nature versus fighting her was the answer. Once she began to embrace the natural order of her plot of land in the woods, she hit on the key to what was going to bring her joy in what would become her own personal spot of Eden.

Gardening keeps us humble. Over the course of my own gardening life, it took me far longer to get to that place of surrender and acceptance than Norie did. All gardeners fall victim to hurricanes, insects, diseases, and many other vicissitudes as we try to carve out our own little paradises. It is never easy. Once we can come to terms with, and learn to work with Mother Nature and whatever she throws at us, we find that we can roll with a lot of other stuff life throws at us, too. I believe that is a good thing. It’s something I could never have imagined when long ago I planted my first flowers.

Cackie McCarty

In 2024, the **Rose and Garden Club** will be celebrating its 60th year of service to Halifax County and the surrounding area. Getting its celebration off to a good start, the Club has joined the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC), and is part of the VFGC South Central District (SCD). Members of the Club recently met in Farmville with officers of the SCD for an informal luncheon and exchange of information. Pictured (seated front row) Jackie Fairbarns, Buckingham, SCD President and Juanita Johnson, Halifax, Rose and Garden Club



President. Back row are Club member Sallie Roberts, **South Boston**, SCD Immediate Past President LouAnn Dumminger, Farmville, Club Member Barbara Daniels, Halifax, Club Member Barbara Dickerson, Nathalie, and SCD Treasurer Barbara Wheeler, Buckingham. The Rose and Garden Club will have an official welcome at the SCD Fall Meeting on October 26 at Red Hill in Brookneal. The Fall meeting is being hosted by the **Red Hill Garden Club** at the home of Patrick Henry.

Please join us in welcoming the Members of the Rose and Garden Club to VFGC!

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 WISH YOU A HAPPY FALL!

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