

January, 2024 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED



Happy New Year: January 1, 2024
ODG Deadline: February 1, 2024
VFGC Board of Directors: February 27, 2024 (Zoom)

Hello VFGC,

December and January, maybe February bring a slower pace for garden clubs, but spring is coming and what an array of meetings are coming our way. Conventions are coming also. SAR Convention is March 18 – 19 in South Carolina, and our own is May 21-22 in Charlottesville and the NGC Convention is June 2-5 in Colorado. I do hope some may attend these, especially the VFGC Convention.

And all the district meetings are in March and April. My understanding is that several districts are having flowers show. Wow, A+.

The next ODG, will continue digital and with larger pages, more color. Club presidents, please, please do send this newsletter and ODG to your members.

The November Symposium was outstanding as I am sure all would say. Save the date for the next Symposium in Roanoke, also in November.

NGC offers a wide range of information on their WEB...there is an area that assists club presidents. This will also be on the VFGC Web site soon. As maybe a club president zoom meeting!!

NGC also offers a “Care to Share” for state presidents and regional directors...this is very helpful...so beware, hence the above as mentioned.

Feel free to contact me at any time, and do remember: “Every Person Makes a Difference”, all of you make a difference.

Val Story

Copied from the NGC Website... gardenclub.org

Penny Pines: Saving Forests \$68 At A Time

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program.

Your Garden Club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees are replaced. You may designate a specific state you wish to have benefit from this contribution.

Under a conservation agreement, the forest service will do the planting, using your donation together with federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular national forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the supervisor of each national forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation. States, regions, districts, clubs, and/or individuals may participate in this program by donating in multiples of \$68. A \$68 donation may be made in honor or in memory of ONE individual, organization, or theme.

How to Participate

Your Garden Club can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pine plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement and/or trees indigenous (Not Just Pine Trees) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe. You may designate a specific State you wish to have benefit from this contribution.

Under a Conservation agreement, the Forest Service will do the planting, using your donation together with Federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas.

For each \$68.00 contribution, you will receive a Penny Pines Certificate from National Garden Clubs, Inc. made "In Honor of: _____" or "In Memory of: _____" a special someone who has made a difference in the world, just by being in it. (Certificates will be issued according to information listed on form see below on how to obtain form).

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Contributions may be made from year to year under the original agreement, but must be a minimum of \$68.00 (or multiples of)- donations may be made online, through the NGC website or by check made payable to "NGC- Penny Pines".

Each VFGC District has a Penny Pines Chairman to answer your questions. (Their contact information can be found in the VFGC yearbook). The VFGC Penny Pines chairmen are:

Chairman: Violet Neal
Blue Ridge: Carol Rivera
Piedmont: Carol Medlin
Shenandoah: Joy Poole
South Central:
Southwest: Violet Neal
Tidewater: Audrey Kelly

"Nothing Could be Finer Than to Be in Carolina"

SAR Convention **March 18 ~ 19, 2024** **Greenville, SC**



A great adventure awaits as we share the warmth and beauty of Greenville, a jewel of a city situated in the Foothills region of South Carolina. We'll gather to honor our South Atlantic Regional Director and National Garden Club President as well as attend fun and educational garden club events.

One of the highlights of the Convention will be a Tea and Garden Tour where we will honor our special guests Carcille Burchette, SAR Director, and Brenda Moore, NGC President. The event will be held at the historic Kilgore-Lewis House which was built in the 1830's and is headquarters for the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. Tour the lovely grounds surrounding the house which include an accredited Arboretum and Garden habitat.

The convention will provide you the opportunity to attend many garden club events such as these must-see programs:

- Special "Welcome" by The Carolina Girls (Lake and Hills GC).
- "Tales from the Traveling Botanist", by Douglas A. Rayner, PhD, naturalist/author.
- "Our Endangered Monarchs" by Kelly Long (Camellia GC of Greer).
- Special Presentation "There Was No Miracle Gro in the Garden of Eden" by Bonnie Satterthwaite, Territory Sales Manager, The Espoma Company.

The Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center, located at 670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 20607 (864-676-9090). We have a special room rate of \$159+ tax which includes breakfast, evening drinks, hors d'oeuvres and free parking. This special block of rooms is limited, so please make your hotel reservations early.

- Reservations can be made by clicking on the following link:
[Garden Club of SC Booking Link](#)
- Or by calling 1-800-EMBASSY and asking for the Garden Club of SC – South Atlantic Region Convention special room rate
- Last date to make hotel reservations is by **Friday, February 16, 2024.**

We look forward to seeing each of you as we welcome Spring to the upstate of South Carolina.

CLUB NEWS:

In October, some of the members of the **Beverley Garden Club** had a field trip to Boxerwood Gardens in Lexington. We had a beautiful day for it. The garden is open to the public free of charge, though they accept donations.



A Busy Holiday Season for the [Nelson County Garden Club](#)



It was an incredibly busy and successful holiday season for the **Nelson County Garden Club!**

On November 30th, the club gathered to create over 40 arrangements, as well as pinecone and hydrangea swags, for our annual greenery fundraiser held on December 2nd. Club member Frances Van Lear provided two demonstrations about design and texture to get everyone started. Evelyn Logue, our club treasurer, took the lead on organizing these two amazing events, which raised a profit of \$1,442 (a new club record) to help support the club's annual \$1,000 horticultural scholarship given to a Nelson County High School graduating senior each May. Author Fred Wilbur also joined the fundraiser to help promote his new book, *The Nelson County Garden Club: The First Fifty Years, 1935-1985*, on sale at the Nelson County Historical Society.



On December 1st, the club gathered at the home of Missy Dickie, club president, for the annual holiday luncheon. Everyone brought a favorite dish to share. A Naughty and Nice gift swap also took place with all gifts first being judged by Grace Morris for special floral designs on top. Fun was had by all! It was noted after the luncheon that an impressive amount had recently been raised by the club through the donation jars passed around at each meeting with disbursements for December being made as follows – Middle School Closet \$206.75, Nelson Kid Care \$301, and Penny Pines \$68 in honor of former member Sally O'Neil.



On December 13th, the club traveled from Nelson County to the *GardenFest of Lights* at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. Sharon Cole, our club secretary, took the lead on organizing this wonderful trip. Everyone enjoyed touring and learning more about the gardens and “Nature in Rhythm” theme of lights and floral displays throughout. Following the tour, members met at the large Christmas tree in the Conservatory for a group photo and enjoyed dinner and shopping afterwards.



Submitted by Missy Dickie, Nelson County Garden Club President

In December members from **Rustburg Garden Club** met and decorated the dining room at Avoca in Altavista for their Christmas Open House Events. Natural greens, berries, fruit and old-world Christmas decorations were used giving the room a true Victorian Christmas look.



Submitted by Paula Yancey-President Rustburg Garden Club

Nathaniel Cawsey Garden Club
Invites you to Save the date ~May 1, 2024
Country Club of Petersburg
“Making Memories – Alfresco Style”
Featuring
Floral Demonstration by
Jennifer Mackintosh

Details to follow

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 by the 8th of each month to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. **Every club has some news they can share at least once in 2024!**

ODG deadlines are: August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1. For either publication, please submit photos in jpeg format. Please submit text in Word format.

WE WISH YOU VERY HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!

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