

WINTER 2023

OLD DOMINION GARDENER



Preview: 2024 Convention

Spotlight: Violet Bank Garden Club

Inspiration: Staging a "Home" Flower Show

VOL 55 Number 3



OLD DOMINION GARDENER

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

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ROOTED

The ROOTED newsletter is managed by First VP Sally Harrison. If you or your club have news you wish to have posted contact Sally at:
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COVER PHOTO
"Cedar Waxwing in the Berries"
by Debbi Babashanian
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

President's Message



Greetings VFGC Members,

Welcome to the great new look of the ODG. There are bigger pages, a magazine format, much more color. Please indulge yourself in the wonderful latest edition. Gail is a master! Club presidents, thank you for sending the ODG to your members.

During the past few weeks, I have visited each district during their fall meetings. The drives were beautiful with the changing colors and falling leaves. What fun and a pleasure to see what clubs and members are doing. I am going to highlight each district and **you will see for yourself how much we are making a difference.**

Shenandoah: Their meeting was held in Culpeper and had a good membership attendance. The morning power point program "Making a Morning Tour Through Our District Projects" consisted of a summary on clubs' community projects, and the afternoon was a great presentation from the "Gourd Father." The vendors were just too good!

Piedmont: Great venue (though they are moving to a new place), good turnout and all in all a fun day. A very well-run and organized meeting. Design programs by Mary and Lili are always interesting with their unique designs -- this time utilizing old relics as the base. A common thread: the vendors were just too good?

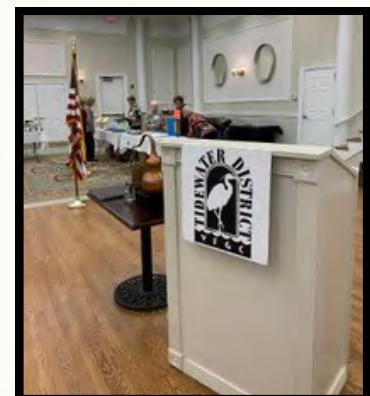
Tidewater: The meeting was held in the lovely Colonial Heritage Club House. Again, attendance was good. The room looked festive with table decorations and bright colors. Tidewater is busy!! The afternoon program by Rebecca was terrific. She spoke on the history of making perfume and how she makes it today...would like to see her again. Vendors, wow!!



Mary Haight, speaking about Shenandoah history



President Diane Burgess and presenter Lili Aram-Bost at the Piedmont meeting



Tidewater meeting

Blue Ridge: What a lucky district to have a great place to meet, envy of others for sure. Vendors super, even my husband partook in their wares. The program by Piedmont's own Sally Harrison. She is a master with traditional designs and gave unique tips for all. She gave a history of her time at the National Cathedral. Members were happy to win one of her designs.

South Central: Brookneal, have never heard of the town before this meeting...Patrick Henry's final home and resting place. The education center was a great place to meet. Membership attendance was up by 30%...good show. The program was by Robert Henkle and a good friend of his, Billy. Lucky members won the designs!

Southwest: Another great meeting room at the Jubilee House in Abingdon. When the Blue Star chairman asked how many members in the room have been involved with a dedication, almost all raised their hands. I clapped. Wow! There was an amazing presentation on bats and then we were able to make Origami Bats. And I won a basket full of goodies.

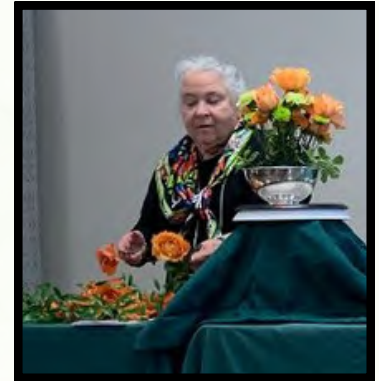
As I said at the meetings; the holidays will be here soon. Do enjoy this time with your club members and family, this is so important.

And remember "every person makes a difference" ... and Happy 90th Anniversary VFGC.

All the best to you and yours this holiday season.

Val Story
VFGC President 2023-25

presenters.



Sally demonstrating at the Blue Ridge meeting



South Central President Jackie Fairbarns and new member from Rose and Garden Club



Southwest President Donna Altizer speaks at the Southwest meeting

Everyone Makes a Difference

Winter Gallery

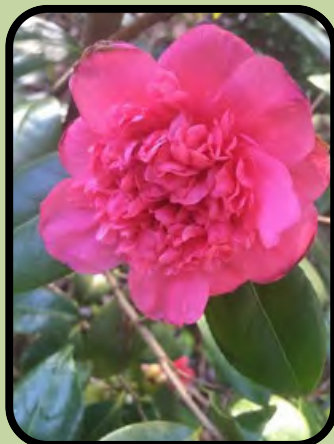
"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation." - Paul Theroux



"Winter Beauty"
Photo by Carolyn Frye
Glen Burnie GC (S)



Camellia - Norfolk Botanical Garden
Photo by Debbi Babashanian
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)



Camellia
Photo by Linda Wynne
Chester GC (P)



Lenten Rose
Photo by Karen Lynch
Glen Burnie GC (S)



Fire Bush, UVA Garden at Wise
Photo by Sandy Yun
Town and Country GC of Wise (SW)

VFGC Celebrates 90 Years



Rives Cosby Ford, President 1933-1936

In 1933, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs was established with 31 charter clubs organized into four districts:

Piedmont - "Rolling Hills, Green Countryside"

Shenandoah - "Mountains and Valleys"

Southwest - "Mountains"

Tidewater - "Seashore"

The first convention was held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton, in October, 1933.

President Rives Cosby Ford inspired attendees with a challenge still relevant ninety years later:

"We stand tonight at the zero point of a great undertaking, a great achievement. Whatever success we shall have will be in direct proportion to the enthusiasm, the faith, the interest, and the love we put into our effort. It is for us to make of this organization a living power for good in the State of Virginia."

CHARTER CLUBS, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Garden Club of Norfolk	Beverly Garden Club	Henrico Garden Club
Clifton Forge Garden Club	Hampton Roads Garden Club	Jameson River Garden Club
Colonial Palace Garden Club (Richmond)		Staunton River Garden Club
Lakewood Garden Club	Wayside Garden Club	Forest Hill Garden Club
Westover Hills Garden Club	Shenandoah Garden Club	Greenwood Garden Club
Luray Caverns Garden Club	Fluvanna Garden Club	Thomas Jefferson Garden Club
Barton Heights Garden Club	Gabriella Garden Club	Waynesboro Garden Club
Colonial Palace Garden Club of Norfolk		Three Ridge Garden Club
Woodland Heights Garden Club	Magic City Garden Club	Larchmont Garden Club
Chesterfield Court House Garden Club	Burkeville Garden Club	Longwood Garden Club
Hopewell Garden Club	Ginter Park Garden Club	Garden Club of Manassas
Pinewell Garden Club of Norfolk	Lochaven Garden Club of Norfolk	
	Garden Club of Danville	

2024 Convention Preview

Amy Gable-Thorpe



Boar's Head Resort ★★★★★

200 Ednam Drive Charlottesville Virginia 22903 US Tel. 888-337-3237

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
presents the

90th Annual Convention

May 21-22

Make a Difference Virginia



Join us at the iconic Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville, VA for an unparalleled resort and convention experience. Enjoy a Flower Show, programs, workshops, auction, vendors and fun with fellow garden club members!

viriniagardenclubs.org

The 2024 VFGC Convention is not to be missed!

Valerie Story, VFGC President, will preside over the convention. The two-day convention format was popular last year and will be repeated this year.

You can count on a fast-paced event packed with excitement: a Flower Show, workshops, inspiring lunch and dinner programs, shopping, awards, connecting with old friends, and making new friends.

See you at the convention!

Theme: "Make a Difference Virginia"
Flower Show Title: "Let the Music Play"

Sessions to look forward to:

Meet Tammy Maxey
Educator: Virginia Farm Bureau
Agriculture Department

Meet Rebecca Suerdieck
Historian, Educator and Entertainer,
perfume maker, cook,
and history buff!

Learn more about invasive plants
and how floral designers choose their
material and accessories.

See a live falcon demonstration!

Full Schedule of programs and activities
and the registration form
will be published in the
Spring Issue of
OLD DOMINION GARDENER
and on the website

President's Project Focus

Staging a home flower show is a great "icebreaker" for first-time shows, for small clubs, or for clubs who feel they are a little "rusty."

River Road Garden Club (P) staged a home flower show several years ago... the club's first-ever show. It was rainy and windy, so horticulture was set up inside - -- otherwise it would have been set up on a porch. Afterwards, we were enthusiastic to stage another show!

Benefits of staging a home flower show:

- Cost-savings: not necessary to find or pay for a facility.
- Members are familiar with placing designs in a home setting.
- Small-standard or standard show, depending on club's choice and home/homeowner's preference.
- Ready-made staging using home furnishings - fewer tables, table coverings, etc. Design Division & Classes staged on furniture - ideally a class (four designs) per room, and usually schedule does not require staging panels. Petite designs can be staged on kitchen counters, mantles, bookcases, etc.
- Horticulture Division tables can be staged in a sunroom, kitchen (great for herbs), even a garage.
- Publicity easy (suggestions- District newsletter, ODG, Rooted, Club newsletter, District website, VFGC website + Facebook, also possibly a neighborhood newsletter) It's a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors & friends.
- Convenient for Judges' hospitality.
- It's simpler!

Staging a Home Flower Show

Diane Burgess



Takes about 8-12 months to plan and complete a home flower show. Steps:

- Club agrees to have a show
- Date and home selected
- Set Budget
- General Chairman selected
- Schedule Chairman appointed
- Other Chairmen appointed: Divisions, Staging, Publicity
- Schedule drafted and reviewed by district schedule chairman
- Invite Judges
- Prep members at each meeting

Happy club bonding and happy show!

Spotlight: Violet Bank Garden Club

Jan Pingel, President, Violet Bank GC (P)



Violet Bank Garden Club was organized in 1949 at Violet Bank, the former home of Alice Vaughan Duncan Pierrepont, historian and author, who resided there from 1919 to 1948. Violet Bank was purchased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1948 and was used as a meeting site and community center. When the founding members of Violet Bank Garden Club met in the home, they decided to name the garden club after the historic house. The first president was Mrs. Fred J. Swearingen, Sr., who was a member for 44 years.

Today, Violet Bank Garden Club has 19 active members who meet at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church on the second Monday of the month at noon from September to June of each year. Violet Bank, which was acquired by the City of Colonial Heights in 1959, first used by the Chamber of Commerce and later as the public library, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a museum that our garden club supports in various ways. We planted a boxwood hedge around the perimeter using three Piedmont District Grants and city funding. In 2016, our members designed, installed, and now maintain a pollinator garden that is certified and registered as a Monarch Waystation on the grounds of the museum. Since 2017, our members have decorated Violet Bank Museum for the holiday candlelit tours using natural materials. We attempt to maintain the style of the historic period of 1815-1873. (Pictured)

Our garden club members **have planted pollinator gardens in the Maddie Mann Play Park at White Bank Park and Roslyn Landing along the Appomattox River.** We have been collecting plastic through the TREC program since 2016. With the help of our members, neighbors, the Community Center, Wesley United Methodist Church, and the Colonial Heights Food Pantry, our club has **earned 13 benches which have been placed at Violet Bank Museum, the Colonial Heights War Memorial, Roslyn Landing Trail, and the pickle ball courts at Colonial Heights Middle School.**

Violet Bank Garden Club **hosts a Design Show and Luncheon each November** that includes a program and vendors. We start planning for this event during the summer and begin selling tickets in September. **The proceeds for this event are designated for Violet Bank Museum.** Our monthly meetings usually include exhibits of horticulture and designs with a theme. We have a variety of speakers who present programs on design, floral crafts, caring for our gardens, and civic opportunities.

Since 2016, Violet Bank Garden Club has been awarded several ribbons at the district and regional level for our projects. **This past year, our Floral Design Program FD-2 was recognized by the National Garden Clubs with a Certificate of Commendation. Two of our members, Jan Pingel and Betty Benton, led a "Floral Design Workshop: How to Make a Triangle Design."** The purpose of the workshop was to encourage our members to participate in future design exhibits at the monthly meetings and to prepare our members to make the table centerpieces for our Design Show and Luncheon in November 2022. As a result of this instruction, our members were successful in making 15 centerpieces for the event. This year, members are confident that they can make the centerpieces for our Design Show, November 15, 2023.

The members of Violet Bank Garden Club are like sisters who care about and for each other and enjoy working together in our Colonial Heights community. We encourage each other to try new adventures and applaud each other's successes.

Member Spotlight

What Being in a Garden Club Means to Me

Jana Falat, Gardener and Beekeeper

Submitted by Lynnhaven Heritage GC (T)

Memories from my childhood shaped who I am as a gardener today. I cherished the visits to my grandmother's house. She had not so much a lawn as a grassy field where I could run wild, where I could pick freely from apples, plums and gooseberries planted in rows, and where lilacs, peonies, and daffodils grew all over the place. I always hoped for such an Eden of my own, for a pantry full of preserves, and jars full of flowers on the table and on the windowsill.

My grandmother's lovely garden is now gone, her land paved over with a network of roads. But I keep the promise of her garden each time I plant something in mine. I buy more seed packets than I ever have space for. I can geek out for hours on the topic of compost. I carry a shovel in my car even for a trip to the mall, and I would drive almost anywhere for a good load of cow manure.

I joined a garden club to share the triumphs and challenges of being a gardener. I aspire to garden thoughtfully and to leave a gentle footprint on the land that brings so much beauty and bounty into our lives.

Individually, we can each stand out as a solitary garden flower. But together, we can thrive as a true companion planting. As a group, we hold immense power to inspire, to lead by example, to encourage, and to leave the seeds of our efforts for seasons to come and gardens yet to be planted.



Jana's letter won first place in the Virginia Beach Council of Garden Clubs' Garden Paper Competition.

What Is “Horticulture” or “Garden” Therapy?

Marian Quigley, Garden Therapy Chair, Shenandoah District

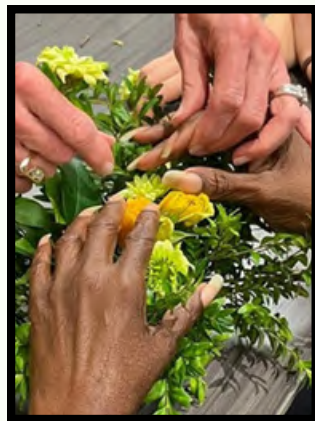
Over the past two decades, many people have become aware of the **positive benefits of human interaction with nature, the importance of plants to the health of humans and animals and ultimately, survival of the earth.** We can all appreciate what our gardens provide us every day: joy, peace, and relaxation.

The world changed with the global pandemic...altering every facet of our lives. Although there was a huge amount of fear, many organizations worked hard to promote the power of plants to support our mental and physical wellbeing, and it started to work. In an article from Seed Your Future – it stated: “While we can never say that there is a ‘silver lining’ to the pandemic, the fact is – there are more people expressing interest in plants, growing their own food and flowers, purchasing houseplants, seeds, garden supplies and spending their time improving the world around them with plants. A ‘green lining’ as it were.”

The **impact of involvement in horticulture activities and exposure to nature can be seen in cognitive, psychological, physical, and social areas, and studies continue to show increased benefit** among many groups of people. **VFGC garden clubs have actively pursued horticulture or garden therapy projects -- one of the most impactful endeavors we can undertake.**

Members of the Salisbury Garden Club (P) recently took part in an “Art for the Journey” program for vision-impaired veterans at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Member Kathy Casella submitted this photo and told us about the experience:



“I thought this was a sweet moment when one of our 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 experience for all.”

The American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) has put together the following outline to define the terms associated with people-plant relationships:

Horticultural therapy is the engagement of a client in horticultural activities facilitated by a trained therapist to achieve specific and documented treatment goals. AHTA believes that horticultural therapy is an active process which occurs in the context of an established treatment plan where the process itself is considered the therapeutic activity rather than the end product. Horticultural therapy programs can be found in a wide variety of healthcare, rehabilitative, and residential settings.

Therapeutic horticulture is a process that uses plants and plant-related activities through which participants strive to improve their well-being through active or passive involvement. In a therapeutic horticulture program, goals are not clinically defined nor documented but the leader will have training in the use of horticulture as a medium for human well-being. This type of program may be found in a wide variety of healthcare, rehabilitative, and residential settings.

Social horticulture, sometimes referred to as community horticulture, is a leisure or recreational volunteer activity related to plants and gardening. No treatment goals are defined, no therapist is present and the focus is on social interaction and horticulture activities. A community garden or garden club projects are great examples of social horticulture setting.

Healing gardens are often associated with hospitals and other healthcare settings, designated by the facility and designed to benefit most users. It's typically designed as a retreat and an area of respite to patients, visitors and staff. **Note: there is a VFGC Healing and Meditation Garden located at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, established in 2003.**

A therapeutic garden is designed as a component of a treatment program like occupational therapy, physical therapy or horticultural therapy programs., designed to meet the needs of a specific user or group. This type of garden can include horticulture and non-horticulture activities.

A horticulture therapy garden is a sub-group of therapeutic gardens with a primary focus on horticulture activities only. It is designed to also allow clients themselves to participate in planting and maintaining the gardens.

A restorative or meditation garden can be either private or public and not necessarily located in a healthcare setting. The design of a restorative garden focuses on the psychological, physical and social needs of the users.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

What's the difference? Variety? Cultivar? Nativar?

Martie Parch, Horticulture Chair

- A **variety** is a natural plant within a species that produces true-to-seed. That means the seeds of the plant can be sown to make a plant with the same characteristics.
- A **cultivar** is a plant that has been propagated and maintained by humans but does not produce seeds.
- A **nativar** is bred from a native plant. They also have sterile seeds.

A variety and a cultivar are similar in that they both have certain characteristics of a plant. However, a variety has occurred in nature, and a cultivar has been produced through grafting, cuttings, and propagation of seeds.

A good example of a cultivar is a Knock-out rose, which originally was bred by a man in 1989. These roses have become very popular because they are profuse bloomers and need very little pruning or spraying. Cultivars have also been propagated from various apples and tomatoes to enhance color, taste, and yield.

Smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle') is a native plant with large, beautiful blooms on weak stems that tend to flop. A nativar with stronger stems has been propagated (*Hydrangea arborescens* "Abetwo").

Echinacea (coneflower), a native plant that many gardeners admire, is now available in a shorter version and colors of red, green and various pinks.

Consider the non-native, invasive butterfly bush (*Buddleia*). Over 160 non-invasive cultivars have been produced with a sweeter smell, a variety of colors, and more graceful blooms. And they still attract the butterflies we all love to see in our gardens!

As long as there are plants that have undesirable characteristics, we will have cultivars and nativars. Just remember to read the tags on the pots you purchase to know the difference.



Hydrangea "Abetwo"

Sources:

<http://extension.unl.edu>

www.thespruce.com

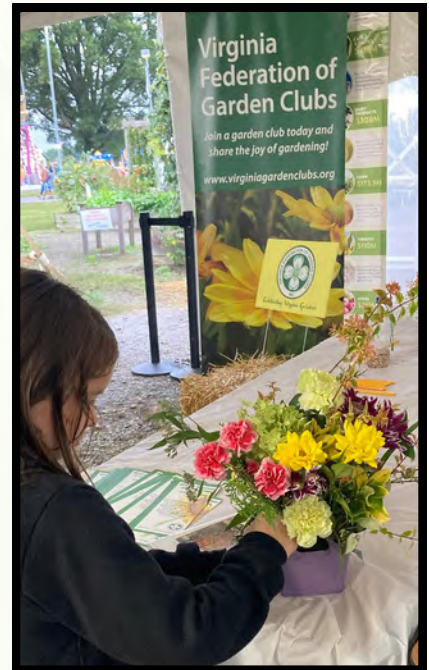
Delighting Visitors at the State Fair

Judy Durant



On September 26-27, VFGC volunteers helped Fair visitors of all ages discover the thrill of gardening and floral design. Hands-on learning projects included creating wind spinners and bird feeders, creating terrarium gardens with succulents, creating mini designs in recycled containers and larger designs in dollar store containers.

Thanks to VFGC volunteers who greeted our visitors with enthusiasm, kindness, and expertise. Helpers included Val Story, Sally Harrison, Gail Harwood, Sherry Sale, Donna Hohman, Mary Ann Delano, Rachel Moran, Jane Smith, Janet Minock, Kathy Ward, and Marty Thornhill.



Making a Difference -- "The Dogwood Society"

Claudia Cosby

The Dogwood Society was established about ten years ago to encourage donations to the Virginia Federation of Garden Club's four Virginia Funds: **Blue Star Memorial, Youth Project Grants, Grants to Beautify and Restore, and Scholarship. Clubs, individuals, and districts giving to all four Virginia funds each year from June 1 to May 31, are recognized as members of the Dogwood Society.** Giving a VFGC Life Membership or Book of Honor counts as a donation to Scholarship.



Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is most grateful to the individuals, garden clubs, and organizations for their generous contributions in any amount to support the programs of this non-profit educational organization dedicated to all aspects of gardening. VFGC is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions to the organization are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor. We notify recipients of all gifts received in their honor and notify family members of memorial gifts, in accordance with donors' instructions.

If you would like a form, please contact the VFGC treasurer, Linda Nau: naule@aol.com

"Keys to the Future" Grant Awards

Lizzie Mann, VFGC Youth Project Grant Awards Chair

The Youth Project Grant committee received seven club applications, from four districts! I am happy to report that the committee awarded grant monies to all applicants.

PIEDMONT DISTRICT

Crown Grant GC will conduct a Spring Design Workshop for 100 fourth graders at a local elementary school in Henrico County. Students will learn how seeds become flowers, and how cut flowers can continue to "live" in oasis and water. Each student will design a floral arrangement using flowers and greenery to share with their families. Awarded \$250.

Salisbury GC will provide gardening experiences for up to 50 Kindergarten to 5th-grade students in an after-school program, "Homework Helpers." Youth will learn about Smokey Bear and fire prevention to create posters for the Smokey Bear Poster Contest. Students will also plant donated jade plant cuttings to grow at home. In January, the students will plant seeds in translucent gallon jugs, and will maintain these "mini greenhouses" at home. Floral designs for 15 to 20 students at Southampton Elementary school's after-school program will make holiday baskets and Spring floral arrangements in repurposed plastic bottles. Awarded \$125.

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT

Cedar Run GC will work with 25 students from the Boys and Girls Club of Warrenton to make fresh floral arrangements for the Christmas holidays and Mother's Day. It is the first time many of these students have been exposed to working with real flowers. Awarded \$200.

Rapid Ann GC will work with 51 4th-graders from the Orange County Elementary Gifted Specialists on a field trip to Rounton Farm, Orange VA, to learn about Edna Lewis and her love for growing food, nature, and cooking. Students and club members will travel to the farm to participate in a variety of activities such as a visit with a beekeeper to sample honey, a hands-on nature watercolor lesson, visit an animal farm and make "Apple Crisp" recipe cards, and eat freshly made apple crisp. "Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie" will be read to the students. This book, as well as "The Bee Book" and "Chef Edna - Queen of Southern Cooking" will be purchased for each of the four classrooms to enjoy and to elaborate on the programs attended. Awarded \$175.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Green Thumb GC will create a vegetable, herb, and flower garden at the Norton Community Center. Club members will work with 30 Pre-K to 6th-grade students in the Girls Inc of Bristol after-school program. Youth will plant seeds in the greenhouse and outdoor grounds to raise tomatoes, sweet peppers, basil, savory, and much more. They will also be working alongside, senior citizens, tending their nearby pollinator and vegetable gardens. Youth, seniors, and the community will all get to enjoy eating all their homegrown vegetables and herbs! The club will also be creating art and storytelling activities focusing on pollinators and plants with the students. Awarded \$750.

Town & Country GC is focused on a Hydroponics Gardening project with 30 students from the Wise County Christian School Jr Garden Club. Hydroponics is a growing technique that maximizes plant production in a minimal amount of space focused on the use of a water-based mineral nutrient solution rather than soil. Students will be responsible for creating and scheduling individual job roles and responsibilities such as planting, monitoring, and revitalizing nutrients. They will also harvest and process the plants for consumption in salads, smoothies, and stir fry dishes. Educational programs such as "Green Our Planet's School Program", the "National Park Service Kids Gardening," and "Microgreens Farm to Cafeteria" will be utilized. Awarded \$750.

TIDEWATER DISTRICT

May Farm GC will establish raised vegetable garden beds at The Hallow, a Samaritan House organization in 2024. The Hallow will provide safe housing and programs for human trafficked youth survivors, aged 12-18 years old. The club's goal is to provide an outlet for healing and positivity for these young residents through vegetable gardening. Club members will work with these youth to plant, nurture, maintain, and harvest vegetables from these garden beds for consumption as well as a therapeutic source of healing and renewal. Awarded \$750.

Benefits of Landscape Design School

Donna Cottingham

VFGC offers members so many educational opportunities, and Landscape Design School is one of them. Each course consists of two days of educational information presented by landscape architects, horticulturalists and others who are experts in their fields.

There are a total of four two-day courses offered, and they can be taken in any order. At the end of the second day, students take an exam. Courses are offered spring and fall. After completing all four courses and passing the exams, participants receive a Landscape Design Consultants Card and certification. After a Consultant's fourth refresher, without taking exams, he or she may then apply for the Consultant's Master Certification Card.



Benefits for Students

- Your confidence and skill level will grow as you continue classes. Design elements, prospective, plant selection and other criteria will become part of your own thought process in your approach to landscape design at home and in garden club projects.
- You will learn the broad foundation of landscape design, including the history, important styles and eras, influential people in the field and much more.
- Landscape architects will show you projects and explain all the processes start to finish, giving you key insight into the subject from a professional point of view.
- Your knowledge will peak your curiosity to visit gardens for your personal pleasure and inspiration, and to view them with a trained eye.
- After completing one of the four courses and passing the exam, you are eligible to join Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council. Members visit and learn about gardens with others who share a common interest. Meetings are held twice a year in conjunction with a garden tour. Last year the group visited the private garden of the late Rachael (Bunny) Mellon, whose garden has often been featured in Architectural Digest, as well as numerous books about landscape design. Most recently members and students toured Agecroft Hall and Garden in Richmond on Sunday afternoon before Landscape Design School began on Monday. Membership is \$20 for two years.



Photos: above, Agecroft Hall tour
Photos by Donna Cottingham

For information about Virginia Landscape Design School contact Marty Bowers, martbw@gmail.com.

The next school is March 11-12 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond.

**To learn more about Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council,
contact Melissa Damiano, mtdamiano@aol.com.**

An Invitation to Increase Your Design Skills at the CFAA Seminar February 22-24 in Orlando

Lili Aram-Bost , Piedmont District 2nd VP/Programs and CFAA 2nd VP/ Vendors and Kaleidoscope

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, seven of the finest floral arts designers that make their home here in the Old Dominion State will headline the afternoon floral arts program at the Creative Floral Artists of the Americas (CFAA) Seminar.

Designers presenting this afternoon program include Kathy Ward, Frances Thrash, Diane Burgess, JoAnn McNabb, Mary Arakelian, Brenda McManaway, and Lili Aram-Bost.

These seven "wow worthy" designers will be presenting life-sized floral art and would love our fellow Virginians to come out and support our efforts!!

Please join us for an extended weekend, February 22-24, 2024 to be completely entranced, dazzled and filled with floral art ideas by the design award worthy creativity of our home team!!

Virginia's own Betty Ann Galway will also be presenting a Friday, February 23rd evening floral arts program during this CFAA seminar. Many of these Virginia-based floral artists will have a design in the 2024 "Kaleidoscope" Gallery. **Kathy Ward will also be presenting a workshop on "wearable botanical arts."**

Our featured presenter on Saturday night, February 24 will be the **internationally acclaimed floral designer Francine Thomas, joining us from New Zealand.**

Sign up asap for preferred seating at presentations and workshops!!



Designs created at the 2023 CFAA Seminar.

**Check out the new CFAA website at www.creativefloral.org.
Registration information is now online for the 2024 design programs
and eight unique workshops.**

VFGC Event Calendar

- Dec 1.....Deadline: Award Applications to District Chairs**
- Feb 1ODG Submission Deadline**
- Mar 11-12.....Landscape Design School, Richmond**
- Mar 17-20.....SAR Convention, Greenville, SC**
- Mar 18.....Piedmont District Meeting**
- Mar 25-28.....Flower Show School II, Norfolk**
- Apr 4.....South Central District Meeting**
- Apr 11.....Shenandoah District Meeting**
- Apr 24.....Blue Ridge District Meeting**
- Apr 27.....Southwest District Meeting**
- Apr 30.....Tidewater District Meeting**
- May 1.....ODG Submission Deadline**
- May 21-22.....VFGC Convention & Flower Show**
- June 1.....Deadline for VFGC Dues Payment**
- June 2-5.....NGC Convention, Denver**
- June 2-8.....NGC National Garden Week**

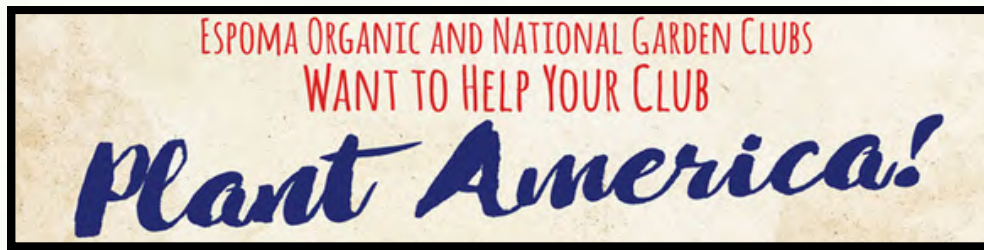
PENNY PINES Update

Violet Neel

97 Penny Pines Plantations have been donated to restore damaged land during the period April – October 2023.



Blue Ridge District	13 Plantations	\$ 884
Piedmont District	8 Plantations	\$ 544
Shenandoah District	31 Plantations	\$2108
South Central District	6 Plantations	\$ 408
Southwest District	7 Plantations	\$ 476
Tidewater District	30 Plantations	\$2040
VFGC	2 Plantations	\$136
TOTAL	97 Plantations	\$6596



Members of National Garden Clubs are passionate about growing with a purpose and The Espoma Company wants to help! Together, we're looking for NGC Affiliated Garden Clubs with a vision that can be brought to life. We're selecting up to 20 clubs with projects in 2023-2024 to receive a \$250 grant for Espoma Organic plant foods and potting soils.

THE GRANT PROGRAM

Espoma's 'Plant America' Grant Program was announced at the 2017 NGC Annual Convention in Richmond. Grants for \$250 of Espoma products may be awarded to up to 20 NGC clubs annually. Since that time, **over 115 grants have been awarded to clubs in 38 states.** These creative NGC clubs have used these Espoma resources to beautify their local communities and improve the quality of life for their members, friends, neighbors and communities.

ATTENTION 2023-24 WINNERS – Send your project update with 5 completed project photos by April 15, 2025. Your club may be the "BEST of the BEST" WINNER of a \$500 cash award from ESPOMA! Sorry, no late project updates accepted. The BOB Winner will be announced at the 2025 Convention!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Grant applications for 2023-24 are accepted October 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024

Simply complete the online form at <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> or on NGC's site

- Be sure to attach 'before' photos of your site/s and a simple master plan sketch or diagram, plant list, etc. – clubs who do not, stand little chance of winning an Espoma Grant
 - Tell us when your project is scheduled to begin

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- NGC / Espoma will select NGC Member Clubs as grant winning recipients
- Selected winning clubs will be directed to a local retailer for their choice of products

WHEN THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE

Send description/photos of the completed project by April 15, 2025 to grants2023.25ngc@gmail.com

Remember, your club could then be selected as the "BEST of the BEST" Winner!

- Forward local press information so we can send a press release about your club's good work!
 - **REMEMBER:** Applications are accepted October 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024

WHAT WE WILL DO WITH YOUR WINNING SUBMISSIONS

- Share on NGC's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
 - Release for publication in The National Gardener

CLUB PRESIDENTS - APPLY FOR YOUR CLUB!

Applying for the Espoma Plant America grant is easy. Simply click on the link to the Espoma Grant Program Application. Go to <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> Complete the form, add photo .jpgs and your project description/master plan sketch/plant list, etc. (as a WORD DOC) and submit. We look forward to receiving your application by the May 31, 2024 deadline!

Questions? Contact Debi Harrington, Espoma Committee Chairman at: grants2023.25ngc@gmail.com or 505-206-0930MT.

Do not contact Espoma directly - except to apply via the link.

Flower Show School Course II

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

March 25-28, 2024

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



LOCATION: Freemason St. Baptist Church 400 E. Freemason Street Norfolk, VA 23510

Flower Show Procedure will cover review of Standard & Specialty Flower Show requirements, standard system of awarding, duties of flower show chairman & committee, writing a flower show schedule, and an explanation of Botanical Arts Photography Section & Botanical Arts Photography Award.

Horticulture will cover staging horticulture innovatively, petite horticulture, general requirements for horticulture TEA Awards, judging qualities on the point scoring form, and commenting vocabulary.

Design will include table designs with the role of balance, color and texture emphasized, creative staging of tables, petite design and TEA Awards for tables and petites, judging qualities on the Point Scoring form, and commenting vocabulary and procedures.

Design & Flower Show Procedure: Lynn Fronk teaching tables, petites, & flower show procedure.

Horticulture: Sue Kirkman teaching orchids, holly, & African violets.

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

SCHEDULE

Monday, Mar 25	3:45 – 6 pm - Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Mar 26	8:00 – 9:00 am - FSP Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm - Horticulture/Lunch
	3:45 – 5:45 pm - Point Scoring Test
Wed., Mar 27	8:00 – 9:00 am - Horticulture Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm - Design/Lunch
	3:45 – 5:45 pm - Point Scoring Test
Thursday, Mar 28	9:00 – 10:00 am - Design Examination

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Flower Show School Chairman – Frances Thrash

2109 Cocoa Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-2213

francestrash@cox.net

757-481-3484 or 757-478-5791

LYNN FRONK

Flower Show Procedure & Design

Lynn is a National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge, Flower Show Schools Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She has taught in 42 States, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She has judged major flower shows in the United States such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and the Rhode Island State Flower Show. She is the winner of the Mildred-Heter Buckingham Award for outstanding service for the Garden Club of Ohio and has several designs featured in Designing by Types. Lynn is a Past President of Garden Club of Ohio. She is a member of the Flower Show Schools Committee serving as Symposium Chairman for 2023-2025 for the National Garden Clubs, the Symposium Chairman for the Garden Club of Georgia and has recently relocated from Ohio to Flowery Branch, Georgia. She is a Master Environmental Consultant and a Gardening Consultant for NGC.

SUE KIRKMAN

Horticulture

Sue Kirkman is a Horticulture and Symposium instructor, member of the Garden Club of Frankfort, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant, Master Gardener, former American Iris Society Judge and a member of Bluegrass Iris, Bluegrass Daffodil, and North American Lily societies. A retired college instructor, State of Kentucky aging director and gerontologist.

REGISTRATION FORM: Flower Show School-Course II

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Credit _____ Non-Credit _____

Full Course with/without exam (Includes tuition, two lunches, and reserved seating on Front rows.)	\$150_____
Flower Show Procedure (Mon.)	\$40_____
Horticulture & Lunch (Tues.)	\$75_____
Design & Lunch (Wed.)	\$75_____
Manual will be e-mailed (free of charge.)	\$10_____
Printed Manual available at Registration if preordered.	\$10_____

TOTAL _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

****No refunds after Feb 25, 2024**

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 Registrar
5531 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, Virginia 24065

Hotel Information: VA Flower Show School block, #VH23P8, at Country Inn & Suites, 5808 Burton Station Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, at \$134.10 plus tax per night, for 2 queen beds.

Reservations must be made by February 24, 2024, to receive this rate, 757-734-1303

VFGC Landscape Design School

Course 2 Series 29 March 11 - 12, 2024

Sponsored by Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

Registration Deadline February 20, 2024

SCHEDULE

TIMING	ACTIVITY	INSTRUCTOR
Monday, March 11		
8:00 am	Registration	
8:20 am	Welcome	
8:30 am-9:30 am	Landscape Design Process	Laura Petrella
9:40 am-10:40 am	Overused, Often Invasive Plants and Native Alternatives	Neal Beasley
10:50 am-11:50 am	Designing a Themed Garden (Supplemental Subject)	Laura Petrella
11:50 am-1:10 pm	LUNCH (Café is convenient)	
1:20 pm- 2:20 pm	Accessible, Enabling, and Therapeutic Gardens	Laura Petrella
2:30 pm- 3:30 pm	Development of N.A. Landscape Design	Gordon Chappell
6:30 pm	Group Dinner - Location TBD (pay on your own)	
Tuesday, March 12		
8:30 am- 9:30 am	Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures	Gordon Chappell
9:40 am-10:40 am	Plants for the Landscape	Laurie Fox
10:50 am-11:50 am	Redesign of Areas	Neal Beasley
11:50 am-1:00 pm	LUNCH (Café is convenient)	
1:00 pm- 2:00 pm	Structures in the Landscape	Gordon Chappell
2:10 pm- 3:10 pm	Designing for Pollinators and Wildlife	Laurie Fox
3:15 pm	Review (Consultants not taking exam may leave)	
3:30 pm	Exam	

Course Location

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Education Building Classroom

1800 Lakeside Drive

Richmond, VA 23228-4700

Phone (804) 693-9393

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.

REGISTRATION - LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
COURSE 2 SERIES 29 March 11 - 12, 2024
LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN, RICHMOND
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Email _____ Phone_____

Club _____District_____

Check if Refreshing _____ Master Gardener? ___ Yes ___ No

Is your garden club a member of VFGC? ___ Yes ___ No

PLEASE CHECK CORRECT BOX

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXAM STUDENT | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NON-EXAM STUDENT | 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE DAY STUDENT: Mon __ Tues ___ | 50.00 |

Order TOTAL \$_____

Refunds can be given only for medical emergencies.

Make check payable: VFGC Landscape Design Schoo

Mail to: LDS Registrar Claudia Cosby Phone: 804 794-77
3015 Mount Hill Drive Midlothian, VA 23113-3923
E-mail: cosbych1205@gmail.com

LDS Chairman, Marty Bowers

Email: martbw@gmail.com Phone: 540 309-1676

LDS Co-chairman, Glenda Knowles

Email: ggknowles6@gmail.com Phone: 757 651-0401

HOTEL INFORMATION

Start Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024

End Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Last Day to Book: Sunday, February 11, 2024

Hotel offering the VFGC special group rate:

SpringHill Suites Richmond North

9701 Brook Road, Glen Allen (804) 266-9403

special rate 109 USD per night plus taxes

Click this link to book your reservation:

[Book your group rate for Va Federation of Garden](#)

INSTRUCTORS - LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Gordon W. Chappell, FASLA

Gordon Chappell has taught the Landscape Design School for many years in several states. From Georgia, Gordon is a graduate of the University of Georgia, a former garden director at Colonial Williamsburg, and a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architecture. His private practice of landscape architecture in James City County focuses primarily on historic properties.

Neal Beasley, ASLA, ISA Certified Arborist

Neal is a Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist with over 25 years of experience in the fields of Horticulture, Arboriculture, Irrigation, Landscape Construction and Public Gardening. Neal studied horticulture at N. C. State University and was formerly the Manager of Horticulture at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. As an Arborist, he assesses trees during the site analysis to best determine protection strategies or removal. Neal is also on the team of the Timmons Group in Richmond. Neal is the co-author of "Recycling Urban Stormwater: 1050K Street, NW Washington, DC" 2007.

Laurie Fox, Ph.D.

Laurie Fox is a faculty member in the Horticulture department at Virginia Tech and is based at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Virginia Beach, VA where she has extension and research responsibilities. She received her BS & MS degrees in Horticulture from North Carolina State University, with an emphasis on landscape design, ornamental plant production, and weed science, and her Ph.D. from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Laurie is an author and the publisher of Best Plants for Hampton Roads - A Landscape and Garden Companion.

Laura Petrella

Laura Petrella received a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been an adjunct instructor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, teaching classes in design history, theory and graphics. During her career, she designed and managed large city, state park, military installation and department of transportation projects, ranging from fishing piers and noise walls to planting plans, traffic signals and the Richmond Floodwall.

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IN MEMORIAM

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

Piedmont District

Sue Rebecca 'Becky' Dowell.....Manassas GC

Anne Seymour.....Windsor Farms GC

South Central District

Alice Johnson.....Ruth Adams GC

Southwest District

Artie Bailey.....Town & Country of Wise GC

Tidewater District

Chris Lisee.....Lynnhaven Heritage GC

"IN MEMORIAM" honors the memory of current garden club members.
Please send notification to Claudia Cosby; cosbych1205@gmail.com

CLUB and DISTRICT NEWS

Making a Difference

Cross-Pollination



Advocating GREEN Projects -- BY the Community -- FOR the Community

Mary Anne Mather, Town and Country GC (BR)

Town and Country Garden Club got wind of a community-based "Pocket Park" initiative brewing in Roanoke's historic Old Southwest neighborhood, got excited, and adopted the project! Members provided guidance, identified grants, and joined neighbor-volunteers on designated work days—including definition tree-planting and "lasagna" mulching to prepare newly-planned garden beds last December, and an occultation workshop to naturally eradicate turf grass in May 2023. An October 7th work party accomplished installation of the new corner pollinator garden and installation of a native-species hedgerow to define the park's boundary.

What attracted Town and Country Garden Club to champion the project was the emphasis on collaboration and the project's thoughtful purpose. All plantings are native species that support pollinators, birds, and small wildlife habitats. Collaborators include: Old Southwest Inc., Star City Garden Club, Mill Mountain Garden Club, Roanoke's Storm Water Division, Trees Roanoke, and pro bono natural landscape design consultant, Sharon Burnham of Garden Vitals (GardenVitals.com).

In case this is the first you've heard of pocket parks, they are small public green spaces that can pop up on vacant lots, in center medians, and other neglected spaces. Their purpose varies; but urban "pockets" have REAL potential to beautify, quell crime, spark livability, absorb air pollutants, reduce stormwater runoff, and mitigate heat island effect caused by lost tree canopy.

The budding Day Avenue Pocket Park is "growing" on two long-vacant house lots donated to Old Southwest, Inc., the neighborhood's non-profit volunteer community organization. **Town and Country Garden Club is a proud recipient of a Beautify and Restore Grant from Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and a Plant America Community Project Grant from the National Garden Clubs** to create this exciting and creative greenspace developed BY the community -- FOR the community.



Town & Country Garden Club members Mary Anne Mather, Nancy Hughes, and Julia Gale joined Catherine Prescott, an Old Southwest neighbor, for an "Occultation Workshop" and workday at the developing Day Avenue Pocket Park in the historic Old Southwest neighborhood of the City of Roanoke.

Green Spring Garden Club Offers 2023 Christmas Homes Tour

Jane Filz, Green Spring Garden Club (T)

Green Spring Garden Club hosts its Christmas Homes Tour, Saturday, December 2nd. We are thrilled to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Reverend W.A.R. Goodwin's return to Williamsburg. In 1923, Reverend Goodwin, known as the "Father of Colonial Williamsburg," would plant the seed that would flourish into the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

The tour will feature four houses in the historic area. In each, aspects of Rev. Goodwin's life and contributions will be highlighted. As a bonus, Bruton Parish Church has graciously extended an invitation for you to learn more about Reverend Goodwin by visiting the church and the Heritage Center located on Duke of Gloucester Street. Come and feast your eyes on the lovely seasonal floral arrangements that will be on display both inside and outside of every home.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased on the Green Spring Garden Club website at: www.greenspringgardenclub.org where you will find detailed descriptions of each house featured on the tour as well as photographs from past Homes Tours.

Green Spring Garden Club donates tour proceeds to fund scholarships for William and Mary College and Christopher Newport University. Local middle and high school students benefit from scholarships to Nature Camp. Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown have been the recipients of funds for garden restorations and beautification projects. Note: The punch bowl photo is from last year's tour.



Welcome Rose and Garden Club to VFGC

Jackie Fairbarns, President - South Central District

In 2024, the Rose and Garden Club will celebrate 60 years 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) as part of the VFGC South Central District (SCD).



Members of the Club recently met with officers of the SCD for an informal luncheon and exchange of information. Pictured are: (seated front row) Jackie Fairbarns, SCD President and Juanita Johnson, Rose and Garden Club President.

Standing: Club member Sallie Roberts, SCD Immediate Past President LouAnn Dummering, Club Member Barbara Daniels, Club Member Barbara Dickerson, and SCD Treasurer Barbara Wheeler.

Commenting on the Club's new affiliation, Club President Johnson noted that the Club works to educate and encourage interest in horticulture and conservation, to cultivate appreciation for gardens and flowers in home and community, to increase knowledge of flower arranging and to work with other garden clubs on these objectives. "The goals of the VFGC," she said, "are closely related to our own and we look forward to working with gardeners throughout Virginia, and in a larger sense, the world, through being a part of the National Garden Clubs, Inc." Individuals interested in gardening or in joining the Club are invited to contact Juanita Johnson at 1971jjohnson@gmail.com for information about the Club and its programs.

A Trip to “The Moss Lady”

Cackie McCarty, Ginter Park Garden Club (P)

On a blisteringly hot day in July, a group of Ginter Park Club members had the privilege of visiting Norie Burnet, aka “The Moss Lady,” and her incredible garden named “Eden Woods,” located in Bon Air, Virginia.

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. **Her gardens are filled with 14 different types of mosses, as well as a variety of woodland perennials.** 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.

What struck me most was hearing Norie explain how she came to be a moss gardener. Early on, as she struggled to grow the grass she wanted, she eventually came to the realization that surrendering to Mother Nature 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 whatever Mother Nature throws at us, we find that we can roll with a lot of other stuff life throws at us, too. That is a good thing, isn't it?



Learn more about Eden Woods and Norie Burnett on
YouTube [CLICK HERE](#) (skip ads)

Saving the Planet, Earning Benches

Fawn Evenson, Rappahannock County GC (S)



Fawn Evenson drops off a six-month collection of plastic film to the Trex Collection Site at Flatwood Dump in Rappahannock County. This is part of the third plastic recycling project that Rappahannock County Garden Club has sponsored, supported by the Lion's Club as the primary organizer of the program. Two days later she "hijacked" a Haverty's Furniture Truck making deliveries in town, and collected all of its plastic wrap, just about filling up her whole cargo space. (What a great idea!) One TREX bench is at the county park, and another is at the new Post Office which our club helped landscape. October 1st marked the start of a new collecting cycle to earn a third bench, this one also to be placed outside the new post office.

More Impact, More Benches for the Community

Sandy Yun, Town and Country of Wise GC (SW)

Town and County Garden Club of Wise, Virginia, is participating in the inspirational environmental impact of rescuing plastics from going into landfills. A lot of work is involved but the rewards are genuinely fulfilling to be an active part of the Trex project. The club has now placed four recycled plastic benches: one at the Blue Star Memorial Garden (pictured), and three on Main Street. Two are in front of the County Court House and the third most recent one is in front of the neighborhood Barber Shop (Pictured). We are now working toward another bench. Thank you VFGC for letting us join in on this worthwhile project.



It's a Weeding Party!

,Debbi Babashanian, Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

The Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club maintains four beds in their neighborhood. On Saturday, September 16, 2023, they hosted their first WEEDING party! The focus was on the pollinator garden in the Haygood Point Park area of Virginia Beach. This bed was originally planted with the assistance of the City of Virginia Beach but is maintained by the members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club. Eleven members armed with hoes, trimmers, shovels, and spades donned their garden gloves and hats to tackle the bed preparing it for winter. With only 33 members, that was a third of our club. In a two-hour span we totaled 22 hours of work. We were rewarded for our efforts with delicious Krispy Kreme donuts and fantastic fellowship. A bonus was a mini session on what is a weed and what isn't! We hope to do this four times during our term.



(L to R) Harry Maixner, Deb Hargis, Keren Pernini, Sylvia Williams, Jennifer Keirle, Charlotte Sykes, Sue Harper, Kate FitzHugh, Phil FitzHugh, and Teen Foshay.

Glen Burnie GC Decorates Historic Area Homes

Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S)



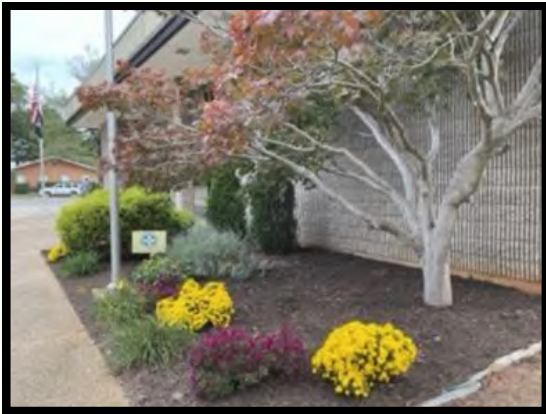
Glen Burnie members, family, and friends are planning a November bus trip to Longwood Gardens to see the Christmas Display. What a wonderful treat! This will give us inspiration as we decorate our local historic homes for the holidays: Belle Grove in Middletown and Abrams Delight in Winchester. (Pictured - 2022 decorations at Abrams Delight.)

In the winter and spring of 2024, we will be focusing more on flower show mechanics and "tricks of the trade." Our club is fortunate to have four flower show judges and a host of Master Gardeners to teach and guide us! Club members are looking forward to a many learning opportunities in the coming year.

Blue Ridge GC Tidies Up Community Gardens

Sherry Shadle, Blue Ridge GC (BR)

On Friday, October 6th, six members of the Blue Ridge Garden Club Civic-Conservation Committee took on the Domestic Violence Memorial Garden in Bedford. Armed with garden tools and purple mums, we weeded, tidied up the mulch, watered, and planted mums. Five of us then visited our Bedford Post Office Garden, then went to the flagpole garden at the Greenwood Cemetery, which is in need of a do-over. Plans are underway!



Appomattox GC to Host Spring Tea

Rebecca Slagle, Appomattox GC (P)



**Appomattox Garden Club
Spring Tea**

Sunday, April 21, 2024

3pm to 5pm

Weston Manor

Hopewell, VA

Tickets \$15

Contact: Marilyn Brown (804)678-9040

Culpeper GC's Community Outreach

Michelle North, Culpeper GC (S)

The Culpeper Garden Club participated in two new community outreach programs this year - the Culpeper Downtown Farmer's Market and the E.B. Wood Community Pocket Park.

From April to October at the Farmer's Market, club members generously donated plants and divisions from their gardens in exchange for financial donations to their scholarship fund. The stall attracted both new and seasoned gardeners and developed quite a following. In addition to acquiring locally grown cut flowers, perennials and shrubs raised by club gardeners, patrons left with planting advice from the very knowledgeable club members.

Due in part to the financial success at the market, the club's Peter F. Stetson Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Sciences **Scholarships were presented to three outstanding Culpeper County high school graduates** who are continuing their education in the sciences at community college and university. The last market day of the 2023 season was a rainy one but that did not dampen the spirits of the "Hardcore Farmer's Market Crew" club members. They were on site from the crack of dawn until the closing bell at noon, every other Saturday from April through October.

On August 29, 2011, an earthquake destroyed a historic brick building on Main Street in Culpeper, Va. Five years later, an attractive "pocket park" was created on the empty lot. However, over time the large garden planters became neglected and the park was not being utilized as first envisioned.

In the spring of 2023, the Culpeper Garden Club approached Culpeper Renaissance, who had oversight of the park, with the offer to take responsibility for the maintenance of the planters. Shortly thereafter, an energetic group of members gathered with their wheelbarrows, trowels, and clippers to clean out the planters, replenish the soil and plant the large pots with a selection of perennials and annuals they chose from area nurseries. This is a long-term club project with members committed to ensuring the park remains a welcoming and appealing environment year-round for locals and visitors alike. A permanent sign was recently installed at the garden's entrance noting the club's involvement with a QR Code that links to the club's website.



Chancellor GC Thriving and Making a Difference

Sharon Moser, Chancellor GC (P)

Our members enjoy "living" the garden club mission: to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

Ten new members joined the club so far this calendar year! We were most successful with recruiting by 'bringing a friend' to meetings. Many of our first-time attendees become members on the spot. We also had three club members taking NGC Flower Show School Course I, and two student judges.

Fulfilling our civic mission, we **partnered with the local Woman's Club in Fredericksburg to assist a local girl scout** accomplish her Silver project to create a pollinator garden at Patawomeck Park. **We hosted Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair's two back-to-back standard flower shows.** This year, the shows were renamed the "Virginia Estes Flower Show" to honor CGC's long time member and flower show judge emeritus, Virginia Estes. The renaming is a tribute to her commitment to garden club and the fair's flower show exhibitions.

This fall, we kicked off a new year of programs with a **field trip to Lansdowne**; selecting, grooming, and staging horticulture; **fall planting at Chancellor Battlefield Visitor Center**; **decorating holiday trees for auction to benefit Hope House.** We will also be decorating **the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop in historic downtown Fredericksburg.** Come visit!



Southwest District Holds 2nd Annual Summer Social

Jane Sorensen, SW District



Southwest District's 2022 "post-pandemic social" was such a success, we decided that it should be an annual event. So, in August of 2023, Seasons IV Garden Club hosted the second summer social at the Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park and Kimberly's Greenhouse in Tazewell. Over sixty members attended, including VFGC President Val Story, former VFGC President Janice Clem, WV President Martha Hilton (a charter member of Seasons IV Garden Club), and SW District President Donna Altizer.



Members spent the morning at the Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park visiting the museum and walking on the grounds. The weather was beautiful, and many members got to reconnect with old friends. After a lunch catered by Fisher & Company, members visited Kimberly's Greenhouse at Pisgah to see her annual, perennial, and cut flower gardens, as well as to shop for new plants.

Tidewater District Dedicates Blue Star Memorial at Norfolk BG

Leilani Ozment, District Blue Star Memorial Chair

Tidewater District Garden Clubs, VFGC, Inc. dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker on October 3, 2023, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. The location in the gardens at the base of the NATO Tower (North American Treaty Organization) was an appropriate setting for the patriotic music provided by the Fleet Forces Brass Quintet.

Remarks by Tidewater District President Mary Dixon and VFGC President Val Story were appreciated. VFGC Blue Star Chair Barbara Hollister shared the interesting history of the Blue Star Memorials. Norfolk Mayor Kenneth C. Alexander spoke and then unveiled our Blue Star By-Way Marker. Our guest speaker was Captain Mathew Fraenzimmer, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads. Among our honored guests of veterans were several Gold Star Mothers.

The Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was accepted by the newly appointed CEO of Norfolk Botanical Garden Peter Schmidt. This was the first Blue Star By-Way Marker placed in Norfolk and the second in a Botanical Garden. After the benediction, the bugler from the Fleet Forces Band played "Taps." Refreshments followed, which were all in recyclable containers. A moving ceremony and beautiful day were enjoyed by all.



Tidewater District Holds Flower Show Despite Impact of Tropical Storm "Ophelia"

**Sue Harper, General Show Chairman,
and Adele Lundquist, District Editor (T)**

The Tidewater District was partnering with the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners to hold its flower show, "Fall Reflections", in conjunction with the Master Gardeners' Fall Garden Festival at Virginia Tech's Agricultural Research and Extension Center in September. With predictions of high winds and heavy flooding caused by Tropical Storm "Ophelia," the Master Gardeners were forced to cancel their outdoor event. However, since the flower show was being held indoors, the District determined "the show must go on." Even though it was damp outside, it didn't dampen the spirits of those involved in the show or the visitors enjoying the designs and exhibits.

Sue Harper, General Show Chairman, and Mary Dixon, Tidewater District President (pictured right) took pleasure in welcoming guests and guiding them around the designs and exhibits.



DIVISION WINNERS

Division I – Horticulture

Award of Horticultural Excellence:
Nancy Freeman, Virginia Beach GC

Division II – Design

Award of Design Excellence: Laura
Jacobson, Church Point GC (Laura also
earned the Table Artistry Award)

Division III – Education

Educational Award: Ann Juniker, Poplar
Estates GC, Germantown, TN

Division IV – Botanical Arts Horticulture

Botanical Arts Horticulture Award: Mary
Hubbard, Master Gardener



OLD DOMINION GARDENER

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ODG Deadlines

Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1



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format with separate image files (300 dpi jpeg)
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Calling All Photographers!

Thanks to all members who have submitted their beautiful photographs, not only for this issue, but for future issues. This is a terrific 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 orientation.
- 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 & location of the photograph.
- Submission is considered permission to print.

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<https://virginagardenclubs.org/Publications>.