

**April, 2024 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER**



**ROOTED**



- South Central District Meeting April 4
- Shenandoah District Meeting April 11
- Blue Ridge District Meeting April 24
- Southwest District Meeting April 27
- Tidewater District Meeting April 30
- ODG Deadline May 1
- VFGC Convention and Flower Show May 21-22

Welcome Spring!

When garden club members join together at the local, district and state levels, a strong network is formed and voices are heard. This is one of the greatest achievements club members have. The club president reports have been outstanding. A huge thank you for those who have sent the reports and please continue to keep sending.

I am part way through visiting the districts and this is a special time too. Visiting the districts and seeing the achievements, awards given...all good.

Around the corner is the VFGC Convention. The committee is working hard to make this a trip worth taking. There will certainly be educational opportunities, shopping and just plain fun to visit each other. Individuals, clubs, district, do consider being a sponsor for the convention...businesses are welcome too. (Convention information and registration form are included at the end of Rooted).

And of course, the awards will be presented. District Presidents will report and there will be a Virginia Flower Show Judges Council meeting. And, also a great flower show “Let the Music Play”. Consider entering. Remember the hotel phone number is 800-476-1988.

Keep the flower shows coming, what a way to let the community know what we do...and most importantly remember “Everyone Makes a Difference”

Val

### **WANTED: Your Help to Support Tomorrow’s Green Leaders**

by Val Virkler, Chair, Life Membership

THE VGFC offers scholarships to college students pursuing horticulture, environmental and other garden-related careers. **We need your donations to support these scholarships.** You can do this by purchasing a VFGC Life Membership or Book of Honor (\$50 each). Is your club willing to help? Consider purchasing a Life Membership for all club members that are not yet a Life Member. Thank you! [VFGC Forms & Info](#)

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:**

All of us understand the invasive nature of English Ivy, and the damage it can inflict on native plants as well as infrastructure if it is not contained.

Both the House and Senate in Richmond passed a bill in February to help curb that damage. The bill authorizes, but does not require, a locality to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the sale of English Ivy. Violations could be punished by civil penalty not to exceed \$50 for a first violation and not to exceed \$200 for a subsequent violation within 12 months.

The Virginia Agribusiness Council and Virginia Nursery and Landscaping Association opposed the bill, preferring to let consumers have the right to decide whether or not to purchase the product.

This proposal passed both House and Senate in February. Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

Submitted by: Mary W Haught, Chairman, Legislation

## SAR Convention, Greenville, South Carolina



**Carolina Girls  
performing at  
the Convention**

**Honor Design for  
SAR Director  
Carcille**



**Honor Design for  
SC President  
David  
Stoudenmire**

**Honor Design for  
Virginia President  
Val Story**



The two day convention was held at the Embassy Suites Golf Resort and Conference Center. South Carolina was the host state and did an outstanding job making everyone feel welcome. There were 98 who registered, and unfortunately only 4 from Virginia. There was a chance to visit Kilgore-Lewis House and garden owned by the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. A tea honoring the SAR Director, Carcille Burchette. There was an announcement the next SAR Convention will be in Raliegh, North Carolina and that Linda Howel, from South Carolina will be the next SAR Director.

### **VFGC Memorial Moment: Attention Club Presidents:**

Each year at the annual convention, we solemnly remember all members who have died in the previous year. Would the Club President or designated member please send the member's name and club name to Judy Ann Fray, VFGC Chaplain so that we can remember them. Thank you.

Judy Ann Fray, email: [jafRAY@verizon.net](mailto:jafRAY@verizon.net) or Phone: 540-948-4220.

## Common Violets Deserve a Closer Look

By Donna Cottingham

Small violets herald the arrival of spring throughout North Carolina and Virginia. There are more than 70 species of the native purple, blue, yellow or white flowers in North America. But there is more to violets than meets the eye. A weed to some people and a sugary treat to others, violets are also an important food source to wildlife and deserve a closer look.

One interesting fact about violets is their means of seed dispersal. While many flowering plants rely on wind, water, birds and animals to move seeds from the plant of origin to a new environment, violets rely on assistance from some

tiny helpers – ants. Myrmecochory, or ant farming, is a mutually beneficial relationship between violets and ants. Violet seeds have an attachment to the outer seed coat called an elaiosome, and it is rich in proteins and lipids. Ants gather the seeds and carry them home to their nests as a food source. Once the elaiosome is consumed by the ants and their larvae, the unharmed seed is then discarded, or “planted” in an enriched spot, underground and out of sight of predators. Both violets and ants benefit from this unique arrangement. Several other spring ephemerals rely on myrmecochory, including bloodroot, red and white trilliums, hepatica and trout lily.



Then, there is the importance of the plants to wildlife. Violets are the host plant for several butterflies, including the great spangled fritillary. Female fritillaries lay their eggs in late summer. Caterpillars hatch in the fall and sleep until spring, when they awaken and eat the leaves of violets. Valuable pollinators such as honey bees, bumble bees, mason bees and blue orchard bees consume the nectar of these early spring flowers. Birds such as quail, juncos, mourning doves and turkeys eat the seeds of violets, as do mice and other small animals.

Violet flowers are edible and are rich in Vitamin C. They can be crystallized, or sugared, and eaten as candy or used to garnish cakes and other desserts. Fresh violets can be used in salads, and to make jelly, syrup and vinegar.

Unfortunately, if you Google native violets you will find numerous articles about eradicating them from your lawn. Based on the benefits of violets to birds, butterflies and bees, it is safer, easier and less costly to learn to live with, and appreciate the small spring flowers than to eliminate them.

Common blue violet, *Viola sororia*. (Photo by Donna Cottingham)

**VFGC Flower Shows are planned:**

*Springtime Splendor*



**An NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show**

Presented by

**The Thomas Jefferson Garden Club**

Trinity Lutheran Church

2315 N. Parham Road

Henrico, VA 23229

804-270-4626

April 25, 2024

Open and Free to the Public 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

Piedmont District of Garden Clubs



*Celebrating  
60<sup>th</sup> Year of Cavalier Garden Club's Annual*

*Silent Auction Fundraiser & Luncheon*

*Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
Princess Anne Country Club  
3800 Pacific Avenue*

*Tickets \$45 (includes glass of wine or Mimosa) sold by Cavalier Garden Club members or  
contact : Connie Fulton 757-621-1088*

*Doors Open at 10:00 am to browse & shop the Jewelry Shop, Treasure Trove, Book Nook and Garden  
Shop. Also to check out and bid on our Silent Auction Items.*

*Proceeds benefit various city beautification projects.*

**Rose And Garden Club**  
*Beautiful Roses, Beautiful Garden Gala*

**70<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 | 5:00-10:00 PM

**The Prizery**  
**700 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA 24592**

5:00-6:00	Reception
6:00-8:00	Dinner
8:00-10:00	Musical Celebration / Dancing

CONTACT: Mrs. Juanita Johnson | 434.637.2797  
TICKETS: Individual \$60

The Hill & Valley Garden Club invites you to...

**Garden Lover's Day**  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10-4 pm, 2024

At Birdsong Pleasure Garden, Luray, Virginia

Proceeds benefit Environmental Scholarships and Land Preservation

**Plant Sale ~ Trees, Shrubs, Natives, House Plants**

**Raffle Ticket Sales ~ win Gift Certificates from our Generous Donors**

Bluestone Perennials, The Coffee Shop, Cross Creek Nursery,  
Hummingbird Hills Natives, Ivy Nursery,  
Lewis Ginter, Main St. Bakery, Merrifield, Monticello,  
Plant More Natives, Seven Bends Nursery,  
Shenandoah Music Theatre, Spelunker's,  
Village Garden Center, Woodthrush Natives,  
more to come!

Enjoy...Garden Tours, Unique Garden Plantings, Soothing Water  
Features all woven together over three acres of gentle terrain.

**\$15.00 per person includes one raffle ticket**

Refreshments ~ Local Artisans ~ Rain or Shine  
Free Parking – 1414 Longs Road, Luray, Virginia

Contact: 540-743-9389  
www.birdsongpleasuregarden.com  
birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**Green Spring Garden Club, Inc.**  
presents

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR**

**Saturday, December 7th, 2024**  
**Williamsburg, VA**

More Details: [www.greenspringgardenclub.org](http://www.greenspringgardenclub.org)

**Rock Spring Garden Club** in Arlington, VA is planning an NGC small standard flower show on **Thursday, May 16, 2024**. Our flower show, Here Comes the Sun-The Beatles in the Garden (inspired by The Fab Four) will be free and open to the public from 1pm-3pm, and is located at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207. Thank you for including this information in the newsletter.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> of each month to [rootedvfgc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**HAPPY SPRING!**

Sally Harrison, Editor, **ROOTED**, Email:[rootedvfgc@gmail.com](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com)

# VFGC 2024 Convention

Amy Gable Thorpe, Convention Chairman  
Dianna Busch, Convention Registrar



"Make a  
Difference  
Virginia"

**90<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
And Flower Show  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs  
May 21-22, 2024  
Boar's Head Resort and Conference Center  
200 Ednan Drive, Charlottesville**

**Convention Registration deadline is May 8**

**Hotel reservation deadline is April 19**

This year's VFGC Convention is not to be missed! The two-day format will continue for this convention which promises to be packed with excitement! We welcome the SAR Director, Carcille from Kentucky. A Flower Show, workshops, amazing lunch and dinner programs, shopping, awards, VFFSJC meeting, seeing old friends and making new ones. Sponsors welcome!

## **Hotel Reservations**

Venue: Boar's Head Resort & Conference Center

Hotel Reservations: 800-476-1988

Ask for the "Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Block"

Block rate per night: \$235.00, resort fee has been waived.

Most rooms are with two beds. Free stainless steel water bottle, Espresso Coffee in room, Free parking.

Hotel reservation deadline: April 19, 2024

## **The Flower Show**

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show will be showcased during the convention. Any VFGC member in good standing may enter, regardless of convention attendance.

Theme: *"Let the Music Play" tribute to the 50's, 60's & 70's.*

The schedule will be available on the VFGC website or may be requested from Pat Carswell: mamala@comcast.net

## **Vendors**

VFGC Conventions are known to provide great shopping experiences: silent auctions, opportunity tickets for designs.

## **CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

### **Tuesday, May 21**

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Flower Room Open
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Flower Show Entries Received

10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Desk Open
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Board Meeting
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Luncheon: Awards Presentation
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop: Rebecca Suerdieck
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Workshop: Rod Walker
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Flower Show Open
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b>
	<i>Program: Helena Arouca</i>

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### **Wednesday, May 22**

8:00 am – Noon	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Flower Show Open
8:15 am – 9:15 am	Continental Breakfast
9:30 am – 11:30 am	Convention Opening/ Business Meeting
10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Vendor Shopping
Noon -2:30 pm	<b>Luncheon</b>
	<i>Design Program: Laura Downing</i>
2:30 pm-3:00 pm	Flower Show entry retrieval

### ***Luncheon Program Tuesday May 21***

Heidi Sage, is the VFGC awards chairman. She is extremely knowledgeable in the award process and is willing to share this with the district award chairman, through zoom meetings and numerous emails and phone calls. She navigates the NGC changes with calm and thoroughness. Sit back and enjoy her presentation.

### ***Workshop 2:30 to 3:30 Tuesday May 21***

Rebecca Suerdieck is an award-winning historian and educator. She has delighted audiences of all ages with the variety of her programs. She specialized in making cheese and natural perfume. She lives in Williamsburg. For this program we will witness the art and science of extracting fragrance from flowers. She is one of two natural perfume makers in the USA.



**Workshop 3:30 to 4:30 Tuesday May 21**

Rod Walker serves on the Blue Ridge PRISM Board. He is on the Board of Directors for the VA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee for the State of Virginia, which recommends changes to the state's Noxious Weeds law and regulations, and the Advisory Board for the VA Forestry Association's. He and his wife, Maggie are Virginia Master Naturalists. We will learn more about our invasive weeds.



**Dinner program Tuesday May 21**

Helena Arouca is a master in the Art of Ikebana at the Sangetsu School of Ikebana. She has been practicing since 1994, having taught hundreds of classes. Helena has recently been learning to make her own ceramic vases enabling her students to practice on these unique art pieces. She is very passionate about sharing this ancient art with others and loves being able to introduce people to a new way to create harmony, beauty and awareness, shown in her floral designs. She lives in Waynesboro. Winners will receive her designs.



**Luncheon Program Wednesday May 22**

Laura Dowling is an Alexandria flower designer known for her French garden-style flowers and innovative floral installations. Her love of flowers started with a trip to Paris. From 2009 to 2015 she served as the Chief Floral Designer at the White House, where she private events, including state dinners, receptions, parties and the iconic White House Christmas. She is the author of several books including her latest one: "Bouquets". Her designs and wreaths have unusual plant material. She will give a presentation on her days at the White House as well as create 3-4 designs for the lucky winner. An absolute must see.





## VFGC 2024 Convention Credentials Form

All designated delegates and alternates, including VFGC Officers and members of the Board of Directors, must complete this form and include it with your Registration Form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Check one that applies:

- VFGC Officer/Board of Directors                       Club Delegate  
 Club President     Club Alternate

Eligibility shall be in accordance with VFGC Bylaws - number of Delegates and Alternates in accordance with size of club as follows:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1-25 members   | President or appointee – 1 Alternate   |
| 26-50 members  | President or appointee plus 1 Delegate – 2 Alternates  |
| 51-100 members | President or appointee plus 2 Delegates – 3 Alternates   |
| 100+ members   | President or appointee plus 3 Delegates – 4 Alternates Delegates have the right to vote, alternates fill in the delegate if he/she is unable to attend the Convention. |