

October, 2024 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED

Don't forget:

VFGC Booth at Virginia State Fair, October 1-2
Tidewater District Fall Meeting, October 3
Shenandoah District Fall Meeting, October 10
Piedmont District Fall Meeting, October 14
NGC Plant America Grant Applications Due, October 15
Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting, October 23
South Central Fall Meeting, October 24
Southwest District Fall Meeting, October 26
VMFA Fine Arts and Flowers, October 23-27
ODG Winter Deadline, November 1
VFGC Symposium, November 11-12
Awards Applications due to District Chairs, December 1

Hello VFGC,

I hope this message finds you safe and well. Our thoughts are with all of you who have been affected by the recent Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We all understand that this is a challenging time, and we want to offer our support and assistance in any way we can. We are all saddened to see the images of devastation and reports of lives lost wrought by Hurricane Helene in the south west area of Virginia and the other states. Please pray for those affected, first responders, local leaders and all who are involved in initial efforts to help those in need in the affected areas.

On a more positive note, I am so fortunate to attend district meeting this fall. And the flower shows continue... Tidewater District show, Piedmont Judges Council and Shenandoah has a small standard show at their meeting. All were great to see.

I know Sally Harrison is working on the 2025-2027 board, I hope she is not receiving NO's. Being on the boards are just plain interesting, fun and the best part is seeing friends and acquaintances. The Plant America Grants have been coming in...they are so great to review. The projects are wide ranging and varied. I am pleased to say that Virginia has submitted two thus far. Nancy Hargrove is to be commended for starting this NGC grant program.

Hopefully, VFGC members are learning more in regards to the Penny Pine's changes to Plant a Tree. I still feel this is a very worthwhile nationwide project, please continue submitting "Plant a Tree Donation". Also be sure to let your district representative know when you order and also the VFGC Plant a Tree. There are still VFGC awards for this category.

Enjoy Trick or Treating or as some venues have Trunk or Treat.

Please remember "Person Makes a Difference" and you do!
Val

PENNY PINES IS NOW PLANT-A-TREE

With NGC's signing of a new memorandum with the National Forest Service, major changes have come to the Penny Pines project.

First change: New Name

The Penny Pines name has been replaced with the title PLANT-A-TREE. The focus of sustaining our national forests by helping with reforestation remains the same. NGC feels the new name "better reflects the program's mission and will help reach a wider audience."

Second change: Amount of Donation

Donations are no longer required to be \$68.00 or multiples of \$68.00. Donations may be in any amount from \$50 to \$10,000. The minimum donation is \$50.00.

Third change: Designation where the donation is sent

Previously, donors had the option to designate a state or a specific National Forest to which the donation would be used. While donors may still designate a specific National Forest, they instead are encouraged to select the option that allows the donation to go to "where it is most needed."

NGC reminds us that the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need. If the donor chooses a forest where no tree planting is needed, the funds may be used for planting in another forest.

Fourth change: Certificates

After May 31, 2025, NGC will no longer mail certificates and will move to a digital format.

(More on this change in a later newsletter.) For now, a donor may continue to request a certificate which NGC Headquarters will prepare and mail.

Fifth change: New Plant-A-Tree Donation Form

Visit www.gardenclub.org/plant-tree for the new donation form for those who prefer to mail a donation to Headquarters. Donations can also be made online. NGC accepts debit card, credit card, PayPal and Venmo.

Please continue your generous support of helping reforest our national forests when wildfires and natural disasters destroy our beautiful forests.

New Awards starting Summer of 2024
Penny Pines and Plant a Tree have been Combined

In light of the new NGC decision to replace Penny Pines with Plant a Tree, The Virginia Awards Program has combined the two programs for this calendar year. Please replace the existing Penny Pines awards with this new version. District awards should mirror the state awards.

S 11 Penny Pines and Plant a Tree Combined

\$20 to be awarded to the **district** donating the most money to Penny Pines and Plant a Tree programs combined in the calendar year.

Clubs report their total donation to the District Penny Pines Chairman, who then reports totals for each district to the State Penny Pines Chairman who then informs the VFGC Awards Chairman.

No application form/ cover sheet needed, just club name, size and total money donated.

S 35 Penny Pines and Plant a Tree Combined

\$20 will be awarded to a **club** (small, medium, large) with the most money donated to Penny Pines and Plant a Tree programs combined in the calendar year.

Clubs report total dollars donated to the District Penny Pines Chairman, who reports to the State Penny Pines Chairman who then informs the VFGC awards chairman.

No application form/cover sheet is needed, just club name, size and total money donated.

CLUB NEWS:

Home Town Beautification

Kilmarnock, Virginia is the home of the Kilmarnock Garden Club (KGC) which includes in its mission statement the encouragement of community beauty and roadside beautification. Every month between March and December the KGC presents a Garden of the Month Award to a town business or private residence that exhibits a beautiful garden or landscaping. The Town has won many awards for creating a perfect balance of small-town atmosphere along with river inspired shopping and restaurants.

In August, the KGC presented yet another award to the Town of Kilmarnock, The Garden of the Month Award for the lovely plantings along Main Street. There are several areas of beautiful flowers and shrubs along Main Street. However, the original plantings were done almost 20 years ago, so it was time to consider renovation with an emphasis on perennials and native plants over annuals. KGC was delighted to be asked by the Town to participate in a renovation landscape project.

The Kilmarnock Garden Club has been involved with community beautification for many years. Some of the contributions include crepe myrtle trees along Route 3 leading into town, trees donated to the new Kilmarnock Town Park, landscape for Habitat for Humanity homes, creation of a daffodil garden and a rudbeckia garden at the YMCA just to name a few. Several years ago, KGC raised funds to purchase a large rain collection barrel that to this day is used to water the hanging planters and some of the garden areas along Main Street.

In August, Sharon Phillips, Economic Development Coordinator, presented the proposed landscape renovation project to the KGC members. Participating in this project was unanimously voted for approval by the club members. The Town project will be staged over a three-year period. Our first meeting was held at the Town Hall on September 4th and suggestions for suitable plants to replace annual plantings with perennial plants and native plants with year-long interest for the gardens along Main Street were provided for several of the garden spaces. Assisting our town with their Kilmarnock Main Street beautification project is just one more way for us to contribute to our community.



Submitted by Anita Hart,
President Kilmarnock Garden
Club

Picture

From left: Jo Manson, Olga Speck, Sharon Phillips, Sally O'Brien-McNeely, Anita Hart (KGC President), Rosemary Francis, Marie Velosky.

ATTENTION ALL VFGC CLUBS:

As your club resumes meeting this Fall, please be sure to submit news from your club at least once in the next twelve months. Every club has news to share! And it is easy...email: rootedvfgc@gmail.com

Thank you!

Sally Harrison, Editor, [ROOTED](#)

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 included in future editions of [ROOTED](#). There have been and, there may be, club road trips in everyone's future to see your club's Flower Show!

FLOWER SHOWS ARE PLANNED:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Green Spring Garden Club, Inc.
presents

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR

Saturday, December 7th, 2024
Williamsburg, VA

More Details: www.greenspringgardenclub.org



Green Spring Garden Club, Inc.

63rd Annual
Christmas Homes Tour
Presented by
Green Spring Garden Club, Inc.

December 7th, 2024

9:00am-5:00pm

Stable closes at 4:00pm



Tickets for sale online only

One Day ticket Price \$40 - for 3 Houses & Stable

One house/sight- day of tour \$15 (cash /check /online)

- 1. Colonial Williamsburg Coach & Livestock Stable- Franklin Street**
- 2. William Lightfoot House- Duke of Gloucester Street**
- 3. Taliaferro-Cole House & Kitchen- Duke of Gloucester Street**
- 4. The Travis House – Francis Street**

See Website for ticket orders in September
greenspringgardenclub.org



THE IDEA EXCHANGE:

Every VFGC Garden Club strives to sponsor great programs. But where can a club find new program ideas? Please add to the list of ideas included in this issue. **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.

WELCOME FALL!

Sally Harrison, Editor, **ROOTED**, Email:roote

