

JANUARY, 2025 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED



ODG Winter Deadline, February 1
VFGC Finance Committee, (Virtual)
VFGC Board of Directors, February 25 (Virtual)
SAR Convention, March 9-10, 2025
VFGC Convention, April 27-28, 2025

Happy New Year, VFGC!

The new year, brings a new chapter and tons of new memories we can make together! I am so grateful that you could be part of VFGC to celebrate the coming year! May all your hopeful wishes follow you everywhere you go through the new year.

Blue Ridge's and VFGC's loss of Marty Bowers has a profound effect on many of us. She was an integral part of many, her club in Moneta, Blue Ridge district, VFGC, SAR and NGC. She was a mentor, a friend and had a heart of gold. She will be missed.

Later this month we will have our first Virtual Club meeting...all may certainly join and hear what is hoped to be accomplished. This will just be a preliminary start...will need officers, meeting and educational decisions.

This is the “lull” before all the club meeting, district meeting and conventions start. However, the meetings are the best part of being a president, officer or member. We are all here to learn and have great social times.

The SAR Convention is March 9 and 10 in Raliegh, North Carolina. If you have not attended, maybe you should consider doing so. The meetings are short, the programs great and food (well you always know!). The new SAR Director Linda Howell (South Carolina) will be installed. More information will be in Rooted and is on the VFGC website.

The VFGC Awards will be reviewed later this week (a bit of a delay...snow!) This is always an exciting time to see how talented the clubs are...districts too. There are four flower shows being submitted to NGC for Flower Show Achievement Awards. Let’s have even more next year.

There were many flower shows last year...I hope there are many more this year. I know of a couple of clubs who are having a flower show that has not had one in years. Three cheers to these clubs. Try to enter for an NGC Achievement award...another way to be recognized.

As you know Rooted comes out monthly and the ODG quarterly. Both are great sources of information and ways to keep current on VFGC, club and district news. Consider contributing to both. A special thank you to the editors, Sally and Gail for a “job” well done.

The VFGC Convention will be around the corner. April 27-28, a Sunday/Monday. There will be a flower show, outstanding speakers and of course vendors. The Westin is a lovely hotel in Richmond. More information coming. JoAnn and Diane are great co-chairman.

With the VFGC Convention coming soon the president elect, Sally Harison, may be calling/emailing to fill board positions. I can not stress enough how wonderful being on the board is...do say yes when you receive that call to help. Again, we learn always and have great comradery. Say, yes to Sally!

One more thought, please remember every person makes a difference and you have...for this I am grateful.

Thank you, Val

CONSIDER ATTENDING THE SAR CONVENTION: March 9-10 in Raleigh, NC

An invitation follows:

2025 SAR CONVENTION

December 13, 2025

Dear Friends,

I am excited to invite you and your state garden club members to the 2025 SAR Convention March 9-10, 2025 at Embassy Suites in Raleigh, North Carolina!

Under the leadership of President Linda McLendon and her dedicated Dream Team, headed by convention co-chairs Frances Cain and Marilyn Wright, this event promises to be both memorable and enjoyable. A wide range of wonderful activities and events is being carefully planned for us in Raleigh.

This planning comes despite the challenges faced by western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee after the devastating hurricane rains earlier this fall. Amidst these efforts, preparations are also underway for the 100th anniversary celebration of GCNC—proving that sometimes, these moments of focus can be a welcome blessing.

Please share this invitation with all your state's members. Encourage them and their guests to register for this special two-day convention. One of the highlights will be witnessing Linda Howle from South Carolina being installed as SAR Director by NGC President Brenda Moore.

President Linda, along with Frances and Marilyn, warmly invites us all to join them for two days of education, inspiration, and enjoyment. On behalf of our sister state, North Carolina, it is my pleasure to extend this invitation to an event where new friendships can be made and old ones renewed.

Carcille Carloftis Burchette

SAR DIRECTOR, 2023-2025

2025 SAR Convention Registration Form: [Registration Link](#)

Program Booklet Ad Form Link: [Program Booklet Ad Form Link](#)

Preliminary Schedule Link: [Preliminary Schedule Link](#)

CLUB NEWS:

ATTENTION ALL VFGC CLUBS:

As your club resumes meeting in 2025, 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](#)

SALISBURY GARDEN CLUB

Midlothian residents can enjoy many of the civic beautification accomplishments of **Salisbury Garden Club** members. Every season SGC members gather for “work days” to enhance the beauty of the Midlothian Post Office, Fire and Rescue Station 5, Lifelong Learning Institute, Wishing Well Park, local Senior Living facilities, and Manakin Episcopal Church. In springtime, beauty shines around the community from the Daffodil Project’s fall planting of daffodil bulbs. In December, Salisbury entrances are adorned for the holidays by SGC members with wreaths, garlands, and swags.



In October, for the Greater Richmond area’s enjoyment, several Salisbury Garden Club members created individual floral arrangements for display at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts’ *Fine Arts & Flowers 2024* exhibition.



Salisbury Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through April, at Manakin Episcopal Church in Midlothian. Programs vary from “First Ladies and Their Orchids” to “Our Invasive Weeds”, “Bald Eagles of the James River”, and others. In May the Annual Awards Luncheon is held at a different location. Submitted by Delora Stites, Salisbury Garden Club

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!

The VFGC Convention is planned for April 27-28, 2025

As Val Story mentioned, the annual VFGC Convention will be held at the Westin Hotel in Richmond. Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb, Convention Co-Chairs, have planned two exciting days. Look for details in ODG and District newsletters coming out soon!

VFGC CONVENTION PROGRAM ADS

Clubs, Districts, and business organizations are encouraged to place ads in the 2025 Convention Program. **This is a great way to promote an upcoming club or district event, celebrate a milestone, or honor a special club member.**

The program page size will be: 5.5” by 8.5”

Cost: \$50 for half-page ad or \$100 for a full=page ad.

Deadline for ad orders is March 15.

Checks may be made to VFGC (convention ad in memo line) and submitted to Linda Nau, VFGC Treasurer.

Indicate Club or other organization and size of ad purchased.

Send to: Linda Nau, 1810 Ethelred Court, Midlothian, VA 23113-3400

Ad copy must be submitted by March 15th in non-pdf format, preferably MS Word. Any photos or graphics work are best submitted as separate jpeg files. Submit to Gail Goodrich Harwood, program designer, at: gailev@aol.com. Gail can help with your ad design if desired.

FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:

COMING SOON!

***APRIL 3, 2025 in the Colonial Heritage Ballroom
10:00 am Registration - 10:30am Program Begins***

***“Dancing & Designing”
A “fun” raiser by Tidewater District
Featuring***

***“The Dueling Designers”
David Pippin & Al Brockwell, Floral Designers***

***Fashions by Chico’s Merchant Square and New Town
“The Showgirls”***

“Themed Baskets”

Lunch
Opportunity Tickets for David & Al's floral designs
Door Prizes
Tickets – donation of \$50
Tickets are going fast - time to act now!
Make checks payable to Tidewater District, VFGC

Glenda Knowles, Chairman
Ggknowles6@gmail.com
757-651-0401

David Pippin

Arranging for a Spring Party

About the Event

David Pippin is well-known in Richmond's horticulture world as a sought-after designer of inspired floral arrangements. He is known for his garden-themed, hands-on programs and as an educator with a wide range of horticulture knowledge and experience. David will teach all about how to create beautiful floral arrangements.

4 MARCH 2025

6:30 - 8:30 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
N 2ND AVE.
HOPEWELL, VA
23860

PROGRAM SPONSORED
BY WONDER CITY
GARDEN CLUB,
A MEMBER OF VIRGINIA
FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS



DONATION

\$15

RESERVE YOUR SEATS
BY FEBRUARY 16, 2024
CONTACT: LOVENA RAPOLE
LOVBALRAP@GMAIL.COM
804-837-1801

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL IV (FSS) AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL (LDS) ARE ANNOUNCED:

Both schools are open to any garden club member who is interested in learning more about Floral Design, exhibiting and judging Horticulture and/or Landscape Design. Garden Club members who are interested in becoming a Flower Show Judge or Landscape Design Consultant take the courses for credit, including passing tests. Many other members are taking the courses *just for fun*, to learn and to meet fellow garden club members from Virginia and other states.

*Flower Show School
Course IV*

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

March 24-27, 2025

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

1800 Lakeside Avenue

Richmond, VA 23228

804-262-9887

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs



VFGC President – Val Story

For more information contact:

**Flower Show School Chairman – Frances Thrash
2109 Cocoa Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-2213**

francesthresh@cox.net

757-481-3484 or 757-478-5791

Flower Show School – Course IV

Date: March 24-27, 2025

**Location: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens,
1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228**

Design: Judy Binns

Judy will teach abstract creative designs.

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure: David Robson

David will teach FSP, collections and displays, and echeverias

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

Schedule:		
Monday, Mar 24	3:45 – 6 pm	Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Mar 25	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 26	8:00 – 9:00 am	Horticulture Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm	Design
	3:45 – 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test
Thursday, Mar 27	9:00 – 10:00 am	Design Examination

Hotel Information: Suggested hotel is Candlewood Suites, Richmond South, 4301 Commerce Road, Richmond, VA 23234, 804-271-0016.

Required Books to have:

Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, NGC Exhibiting & Judging, both available on the NGC Website for purchase or *Handbook* may be downloaded.

Flower Show Procedure will cover a review of judging etiquette & ethics, Flower show achievement awards, flower show writing assignments, writing a flower show schedule with emphasis on format and general rules along with evaluating an NGC flower show.

Horticulture will cover collections & displays, review of horticulture schedule writing, botanical arts horticulture section, club competition displays and gardens, review of top exhibitor horticulture awards, & review of the collections point scoring form. Discussion of echeverias.

Design will include creating a design schedule with sections & classes; creative design general characteristics; elements & principles as they relate to creative design; dynamic balance, penetration of space, & plastic organization. General requirements for TEA Design Awards; Discussion of Design Botanical Arts Division; Review of judging qualities found on the design point scoring form and design commenting vocabulary.

David Robson

Flower Show Procedure & Horticulture

David Robson is a retired horticulture and pesticide safety specialist with the University of Illinois, first as a horticulture adviser in Sangamon County (Springfield), and then a regional horticulture educator

covering the bottom ½ of the state, and finally a campus-based specialist in Urbana. A graduate of Iowa State University and University of IL, he has taught for more than 43 years. He was president of the Springfield Civic Garden Club from 1995-1997, after serving on the board of directors for many years. He currently is the Recording Secretary of the Club. He has served 10 years (2 different terms) as the Garden Clubs of IL Awards Chairman. He currently is the 3rd Vice-President. He is a National Garden Club Master Judge since 1992, and Flower Show School and Symposium instructor since 2008, teaching Horticulture Judging and Flower Show Procedures, traveling to all but 5 states. He is the past chairman of Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure Instructors for the NGC Flower Show Schools and was chairman of the Handbook Revision Committee. He is also an IL State Fair Food Judge for the past 12 years. He currently serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Plant America Community Projects Grant Chairman, NGC Headquarters Grounds Chairman, Finance Committee Member, and a PH&E Trustee.

**Judy Binns
Design**

Judy is a member and former president of the Salisbury GC, NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, former President of Piedmont District and President of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs from 2011-2013. She was awarded the National Garden Clubs Member of Honor Award for the South Atlantic Region for All-Around Excellence in 2006 and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors since 2007. She has exhibited designs in “Fine Arts and Flowers” at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and served as “Fine Arts and Flowers” Co-Chairman in 2007 and 2010. Judy is an NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor and has given floral design programs and workshops in Virginia as well as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She is a member of the Piedmont District Judges Council, Virginia Flower Show Judges Council, Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and National Flower Arrangers.

Judy is a native Virginian from the Shenandoah Valley. She enjoys spending time in her garden and specializes in floral designs for weddings and other occasion

REGISTRATION FORM: Flower Show School-Course IV

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Credit _____ Non-Credit _____

Continued:

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)	
Printed Manual available at Registration if preordered.	\$10_____
TOTAL	_____

Dietary Restrictions_____

****No refunds after February 24, 2025**

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, 5612 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, Virginia 24065-2321

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Course 4, Series 29

This course is available to all those having an interest in the beauty and care of our environment through landscaping

**Monday and Tuesday
April 7, 8, 2025
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Education Classroom
1800 Lakeside Drive
Richmond, VA 23228-4700
Phone (804) 693-9393**

Sponsored by

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC

**COURSE REGISTRATION
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
Course 4 Series 29 April 7, 8, 2025
Registration Deadline: March 18, 2025**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ VA _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

Check if Refreshing _____ Are you a Master Gardener? yes / no
Is your garden club a member of VFGC? ___Yes ___No

PLEASE CHECK CORRECT BOX

- [] EXAM STUDENT \$100.00
[] NON-EXAM STUDENT 100.00
[] SINGLE DAY STUDENT – Monday ___ or Tuesday ___ 50.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Refunds can be given only for medical emergencies.
LDS will refund all but \$20 if cancellation (other than medical) is within five days of first day of class)*
Make check payable: **VFGC Landscape Design School**

Mail to: LDS Registrar
Claudia Cosby Phone: 804 794-7798
3015 Mount Hill Drive
Midlothian, VA 23113-3923 E-mail: cosbych1205@gmail.com

LDS Co-chairman, Glenda Knowles
Email: ggknowles6@gmail.com Phone: 757 651-0401

SCHEDULE

Monday, April, 7, 2025			
Time	Activity		Instructor
8:00 – 8:20am – 8:20am	Registration Welcome		
8:30am – 9:25am	Community Participation In Landscaping Projects		Laurie Fox
9:30am - 10:30am	History and Development		Laurie Fox

Hotel accommodations at:
Springhill Suites, Richmond North,
9701 Brook Road, Glen Allen, VA
804-266-9403. Rate is \$109 + per
night. You can use the link below.
Cut-off date for block reservation is
March 14, 2025.

Hotel: Springhill Suites Richmond
North/Glen Allen @ \$109 USD per
night

**Book under group rate for
Landscape Design School**

	Of Community Gardens		
10:45am – 11:45am	Contemporary Landscape Design Trends		Peggy Singlemann
11:50am – 1:10pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Supplemental Subject - Designing for Bees, Birds, and Butterflies		Peggy Singlemann
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Suburban Design		Gordon Chappell
6:30pm Group Dinner – place to be announced – pay on your own			
Tuesday, April 8, 2025			
8:30am - 9:00am	Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs of Residential, Public and Commercial Properties -using the NGC LDS Form 14		Gordon Chappell
9:15am - 10:15am	Evaluations of Landscape Design - Tour/Lecture		Gordon Chappell
10:30am- Noon	Evaluations of Landscape Design - Tour/Lecture		Gordon Chappell
Noon - 1:15pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Evaluations of Landscape Design - Tour/Lecture		Gordon Chappell
2:30pm - 3:15pm	Evaluations of Landscape Design - Tour/Lecture		Gordon Chappell
3:15pm	Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.		
3:30pm	Exam		

INSTRUCTORS

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.

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*.

Peggy Singlemann

Peggy Singlemann is nationally known as one of the foremost gardening experts. Her experience in the field is exceeded only by her infectious enthusiasm in sharing knowledge of best practices. She is a familiar figure as the longtime host and co-producer of Virginia's only TV show, *Virginia Home Grown*, on Virginia Public Media/PBS. Peggy is also prominent in this field for her transformative role renewing and overseeing the garden and grounds of the historic estate Maymont in Richmond. She holds professional certifications as an arborist, horticulturist, and landscape designer and has greatly expanded knowledge in the gardening/landscape design fields through her national and regional speaking engagements, contributions to publications, and consulting work via her business, RVA Gardener LLC. In 2022, the Virginia General Assembly presented a commendation to Peggy for her outstanding guidance, restoration, and preservation of Maymont's gardens, grounds, and arboretum over 38 years of service

From the VFGC Corresponding Secretary –

Please let me know if you have an email address change.

Also, if you are not the current Garden Club President, please ask your replacement to provide his or her email information to me.

Thank you,

Dianna Busch

VFGC Corresponding Secretary

Email: diannabusch@comcast.net

THE IDEA EXCHANGE:

Every VFGC Garden Club strives to sponsor great programs. But where can a club find new program ideas? **Please share information about your club's favorite programs and contact info by sending it to: rootedvfgc@gmail.com for THE IDEA EXCHANGE.**

While the Old Dominion Gardener is published quarterly, **ROOTED** can be sent monthly. So please submit articles or information you want to share by the 8th of each month to rootedvfgc@gmail.com.
Every club has some news they can share at least once in 2024!

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

