

## FEBRUARY, 2025 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



### ROOTED

Don't forget!

ODG Winter Deadline, February 1  
VFGC Finance Committee, February 16 (Virtual)  
VFGC Board of Directors, February 25 (Virtual)  
SAR Convention, March 9-10, 2025  
Flower Show School IV, March 24- 27  
Landscape Design School, April 7-8  
VFGC Convention, April 27-28,2025



Happy Valentine's Day VFGC members,

Valentine's Day is a holiday when love is expressed through greetings and gifts. This day is also called St. Valentine's Day. The holiday has expanded to express affection between relatives and friends and no doubt started in the Roman days.

I am expressing this to all of VFGC. The membership is in the mid 3500 strong; we have lost a few clubs, but also gained one or two clubs (one in Blue Ridge and one for VFGC) and also new members. This is the positive side of garden clubs. Flower show school course 4 is March 24-27 and Landscape Design School is April 7-8, both at Louis Ginter. More schools will be in August and September, with Symposium November. 3-4 at the four Points by the airport in Richmond.

Be sure to attend the 2025 VFGC Convention in Richmond...many details will be in the ODG. The SAR Convention is March 9-10 in Raleigh, NC and the NGC Convention is May 19 -22 in Charleston, SC (by the airport). I hope some VFGC members will be attending these conventions...especially the VFGC convention. Remember a flower show will be held there, will have great speakers and the awards presentation, plus much more!

Flower Shows are flourishing, this is so positive. I know of several coming in April, May and even on into December. What a way to “show off” your skills to club members and the community. And Judges, think this is wonderful!!

The scholarship committee is meeting soon to select candidates for the VFGC scholarship fund...I hear there are excellent choices.

Let’s hope we may have seen the last of the snow, but still time for more (unfortunately...pretty, but??). However, I am sure you are thinking a planning your gardens and refreshing your pots, all the fun spring choirs.

Please remember “very person makes a difference” and “you all do”.  
Val

## **CLUB NEWS:**

### **Crown Grant Garden Club**

The Crown Grant Garden Club’s holiday workshop occurred on Monday, December 9, 2024. The first picture is of Carter Rosser & Anna Marie Mizell setting up the table. The second picture is of Anna Lazarchic in the middle with her daughters. The third picture is of Sherri Sale on the far left & Patty Crook beside her with some of the ladies that attended.





## **Natural Bridge Garden Club:**

The group picture shows members who “decorated” themselves for the holiday event, which took place at the Natural Bridge State Park Visitors Center.

(Seated, l-r) Virginia Cooke, Joanne Peretti, Judith Wycoff, Jennifer Young, Sandee Greene, Carla Zorn, Vicki Goodhart, Maureen Becker; (standing) Diane Weaver, Lucia Owens, Leslie Giles, Irene Condie, Beth Oweremohle, Sharon Littlepage, Rosanne Facciolo, Carolyn Kuper, Doris Fredricksen, Ann Nay, Anna-Lisa Fitzgerald, Mary Wheeler.



Jim Jones, manager of the Natural Bridge State Park, received a certificate from NBGC for his years of leadership, including the park being named as one of only four Virginia state parks to be designated as an International Dark Sky Park.

## **Kilmarnock Garden Club:**



MOTHER shrub – a Tasty Program!

On October 15, 2024, the Kilmarnock Garden Club welcomed Meredyth Archer, founder and owner of MOTHER shrub in Richmond, VA. Meredyth gave a very informative program about shrubs but not the gardening kind! Meredyth was first introduced to drinking vinegars as a child growing up in West Virginia, when she would drink a sweetened vinegar with her grandmother, who thought it was the answer to *everything*. Years later, she came across a recipe for sweet fruit vinegar in a family cookbook from the late 1800s. She remembered the tart and sweet taste from her youth and decided to make a batch. Many shared batches later, MOTHER shrub drinking vinegars was born. In 2016 MOTHER shrub was the winner of the Best New Product at the Virginia Food & Beverage Expo. Most recently MOTHER shrub was selected as 2024 Shrub Producer of the Year for the International Non-Alcoholic Beverage Awards.

These shrubs are made using a combination of responsibly sourced organic and non-GMO ingredients. The artisanal products come in a wide variety of flavors to include grapefruit, lime, salted honey, cranberry, blood oranges, etc.

Today, MOTHER shrub is sold across the country as well as throughout Virginia. MOTHER shrub products are also available at the shops at the NY Botanical Garden and the Morton Arboretum in the Chicago area. Check out her website at [mothershrub.com](http://mothershrub.com) for locations and products.

Following her program, members were treated to shrubs made with a variety of fruits and vegetables. Cheers to Mother shrub in 2025 for 9 years in business!

### **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](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Sally Harrison, Editor, [ROOTED](#)

### **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](mailto:gailev@aol.com). Gail can help with your ad design if desired.

# FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:

*David Pippin*

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

*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



DONATION  
**\$15**

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

**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](mailto:Ggknowles6@gmail.com), 757-651-0401**

**Come Fly with Me**

*An NGC Standard Flower Show*



at the  
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
2341 Winterfield Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
(804) 378-7481

**May 5, 2025  
1:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Presented by the Salisbury Garden Club

A Member of:  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
South Atlantic Region  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Piedmont District

Open to the public

No Admission Fee



Midlothian Garden Club  
proudly announces  
An NGC Standard Flower Show,

***Springtime in Midlothian***

Friday, April 25, 2025

1-4 p m

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road

Midlothian VA

Free admission; **All** are welcome

**Garden Lover's Day**

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10-4 pm

Birdsong Pleasure Garden

Luray, Virginia

Artisans, Plant Sale, Raffle,  
Music, Door Prizes,  
Local Wines, Food Truck

Hosted by *Hill and Valley Garden Club*

[hillandvalleygc.com](http://hillandvalleygc.com)

Tickets on Site ~ Environmental HS Scholarship Fund  
[birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com](mailto:birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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***

<b>Schedule:</b>		Flower Show
Monday, Mar 24	3:45 – 6 pm	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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:cosbych1205@gmail.com)

LDS Co-chairman, Glenda Knowles  
 Email: [ggknowles6@gmail.com](mailto:ggknowles6@gmail.com) Phone: 757 651-0401

**SCHEDULE**

<b>Monday, April, 7, 2025</b>			
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 Of Community Gardens		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**

10:45am – 11:45am	Contemporary Landscape Design Trends		Peggy Singlemann
11:50am – 1:10pm	<b>LUNCH</b> (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 <b>Group Dinner – place to be announced – pay on your own</b>			
<b>Tuesday, April 8, 2025</b>			
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	<b>LUNCH</b> (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	<b>Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.</b>		
3:30pm	<b>Exam</b>		

## 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](mailto:diannabusch@comcast.net)

### **Attention:::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 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 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.**

PS: Thank you, Kilmarnock GC, for sharing the idea about MOTHER Shrub... a Tasty Program!

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 2025!**

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](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com)

