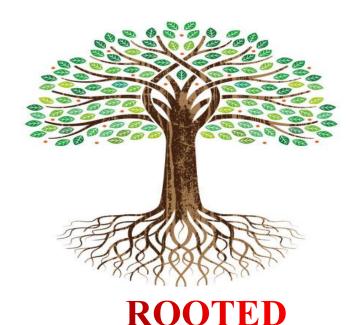
March, 2025 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER





SAR Convention, March 9-10, 2025 Flower Show School IV, March 24-27 Finance Committee Meeting, April 6 Landscape Design School, April 7-8 VFGC Convention, April 27-28,2025 NGC Convention, May 18-22

Dear VFGC Members,

This looks like another exciting Rooted...always look forward to reading.

As the term winds down, one always reflects on what was accomplished and what was not quite finished. On most accounts, I am pleased with the results of all the Districts and VFGC. One goal was to have more flower shows and that certainly has been accomplished. Fortunately, there are many more on the schedule.

I am also looking forward to attending the upcoming District meetings... a high light of being in this rewarding position. Keep submitting the club's reports.

I hope many of you will attend the VFGC Convention is Richmond. Register now! The speakers look great as do the vendors...and meeting of course as well as the installation of new District and VFGC officers. There will be a flower show too.

You might consider attending the Symposium in November, also in Richmond...learn about collections, potted philodendron and floor design and reflective designs.... you do not need to be a judge to attend!!

Be sure to give VFGC Life membership, as well as SAR pins...all go to the scholarship funds. What a way to recognize members.

The SAR Convention was in Raleigh earlier this month. The speakers were interesting and the awards Virginia received were many. Congratulations! Again, come to the VFGC Convention to see who won at SAR also.

Please remember "Every person Makes a Difference". I truly believe this and has also witnessed such! Val

START PLANNING NOW

National Garden Week: June 1-7, 2025

Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community!

Join NGC clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, June 1-7, 2025. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.



Ideas to Consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

CLUB NEWS:

Buckingham Dillwyn Garden Club





Left picture:

Jackie Fairbarns (left), South Central District President, presided over the installation of the newly elected officers of the Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club on March 10, 2025.

Next to Jackie are Co-presidents Pam Murray and Barbara Knabe, Historian Suzanne Vandegrift, Treasurer Barbara Wheeler, Secretary Pat Howe, Co-vice presidents Marie Baker and Elsie Towler

Right picture:

Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club collecting plastic towards its 4th bench. Jackie Fairbarns, South Central District President, Suzanne Vandegrift, Donna McRae Jones, our Club's Trex Chairperson, and not pictured, Kay Carter, combined and weighed all the plastic brought to our meeting on Monday, March 10th, by our members, totaling 217 lbs.

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

VFGC 2025 Convention

Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb, Convention Chairman Claudia Cosby, Convention Registrar

91st Annual Convention
"Thank You, Virginia, for Making a Difference"
The Westin, Richmond
6631 West Broad Street

Convention Registration deadline is April 7 Hotel reservation deadline is April 11

Enjoy the Flower Show, amazing Silent Auction, presentations, inspiring lunch and dinner programs, shopping, awards. See old friends and make new ones. Fabulous venue. **Don't miss it!**

Hotel Reservations

Venue: The Westin, Richmond Hotel Reservations: 1-888-627-7786

Ask for the Group Rate - Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs - \$179 plus applicable taxes.

Deadline to reserve group rate: April 11th

The Flower Show

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

Theme: "Thank You, Virginia, for Making a Difference.".

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

Silent Auction

This will be a chance to recycle your quality design piece(s), spark others' creativity, and set your own starting bid. You will receive 50% of the selling price while supporting the VFGC. A win/win opportunity!

Vendors

VFGC Conventions are known to provide great shopping experiences, and this one will be exceptional.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 27

8:30 am - 9:30 am Flower Show Entries Received

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Silent Auction Open

9:30 am - 6:00 pm Registration Desk Open

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vendor Shopping

10:00 am - 11:30 am Board meeting

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Luncheon & Awards Presentation

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Flower Show open

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Floral Design Program by David Pippin

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Social Hour (cash bar)

6:30 pm Dinner and Program Peggy Singlemann

Monday, April 28

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Registration Desk Open

8:00 am - 2:30 pm Silent auction Open

8:00 am - 10:00 am Plated Breakfast and Convention Opening/

Business Meeting; Election and Installation of Officers

9:00 am - 12:30 pm Flower Show Open

9:00 am - 12:30 pm Vendor Shopping

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Luncheon and Floral Design Program: Jane Godshalk

2:30 pm- 3:00 pm Flower Show Entry and Silent Auction Item Retrieval

Luncheon Program Sunday April 27

Heidi Sage is the VFGC awards chairman. She is extremely knowledgeable in the award process and navigates the NGC changes with calm and thoroughness. Sit back and enjoy her presentation and learn if your club won!

Design Program 3:30 to 5:00 Sunday, April 27. "Design by Four Types"

David Pippin is a well-known, inspiring and sought-after teacher and Floral Designer. He hails from Louisa County and graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education. David is an adjunct professor in the Horticulture Department at Reynold Community College and teaches in the Floral Design program, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. He has been the floral designer at The Executive Mansion in Richmond since 2014. David's program will be based on NGC's "Designing by Types." His designs will be taken home by lucky opportunity ticket holders.

<u>Dinner program Sunday, April 27</u> "Digging In: Planting Seeds of Resilience"Horticulture Program by Peggy Singlemann Peggy Singlemann is nationally known as a foremost gardening expert. She is the co-producer and host on the familiar TV show, *Virginia Home Grown,* and was the longtime Director of Operations at the Maymont estate in Richmond. At the heart of every thriving garden lies resilience - — the ability to grow, adapt, and flourish despite the challenges nature presents. "Digging In: Planting Seeds of Resilience" highlights the importance of cultivating gardens that are not only beautiful but strong and sustainable.

This session explores how gardeners can create resilient landscapes by fostering soil health, selecting adaptable plant species, and implementing sustainable practices that allow gardens to thrive year after year. Just as a seed requires nurturing to grow, a garden's resilience is built through thoughtful planning, care, and an understanding of the environment.

Key Takeaways:

- Strategies for building resilient garden ecosystems
- The role of soil health in long-term garden success
- Selecting plants that thrive in varying conditions
- Sustainable gardening practices for lasting impact

Luncheon Design Program Monday, April 28

"Bloom and Grow... a Floral Design Journey"

Jane Godshalk, AIFD, is an exciting and internationally recognized floral designer with a uniquely American style, fresh and uncomplicated. Her designs reflect passion and connection with nature... its shapes, colors, and textures. Each season's materials are new inspiration. An instructor at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia, Jane teaches a variety of classes from beginning to advanced, and a collection of elective classes. Her lectures and workshops are a collaboration with each individual group, tailored to inspire a wide audience. Jane's talent has been recognized withnational awards from the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Club of America. All of Jane's designs will be won by lucky opportunity ticket holders.

91st Annual VFGC Convention Registration Form April 27-28, 2025

"Thank You for Making a Difference, Virginia!"

Registration: Please complete the form; make check payable to "VFGC 2025 Convention" and mail both to Claudia Cosby 3015 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-3923; cosbych1205@gmail.com; Postmark by April 7.

none ()	Email address
Zip	
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Please check for any dietary requirements and list details
A Late Fee must be included for all envelopes postmarked after 4/7/25. Any registrations postmarked after 4/11/25 will not be processed or accepted. No Walk-I registrations. No refunds after 4/11/25. Refunds requested by 4/11/2025 are subject to retention of registration fee.
VFGC 2025 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 President () Club Delegate
() 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 26-50 members 51-100 members 100+ members President or appointee – 1 Alternate
President or appointee plus 1 Delegate – 2
Alternates

Alternates

President or appointee plus 2 Delegates - 3

Alternates

President or appointee plus 3 Delegates - 4

Delegates have the right to vote, alternates fill in for the delegate if he/she isunable to attend the Convention.

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

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



Come Fly with Me



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



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

francesthrash@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 RobsonDavid will teach FSP, collections and displays, and echeverias

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

Schedule:Flower ShowMonday, Mar 243:45-6 pmProcedureTuesday, Mar 258:00-9:00 amFSP 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

City	_StateZip
E-mail	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone
Club	_ District
CreditNon-Credit	
Continued:	
Full Course with/without exam	
(Includes tuition, two lunches	\$150
And reserved seating on front rows)	
Flower Show Procedure (Mon.)	\$40
II- "4'14" 0 I1 (T)	¢75
Horticulture & Lunch (Tues.)	\$13
Design & Lunch (Wed.)	\$75 \$75
Design & Lunch (Wed.) Manual will be e-mailed (free of	\$75
Design & Lunch (Wed.) Manual will be e-mailed (free of charge)	\$75
Design & Lunch (Wed.) Manual will be e-mailed (free of	\$75

**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:	
	VA
Zip:	Phone:
E-Mail:	Fax:
Garden Club:	District:
	Are you a Master Gardener? yes / no nember of VFGC? Yes No

PLEASE CHECK CORRECT BOX

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

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 -	Registration			
8:20am	Welcome			
8:30am – 9:25am	Community Participation	Laurie Fox		
	In Landscaping Projects			
9:30am - 10:30am	History and Development	Laurie Fox		
	Of Community Gardens			
10:45am – 11:45am	Contemporary Landscape	Peggy		
	Design Trends	Singlemann		
11:50am - 1:10pm	LUNCH (The Café is			
	convenient)			
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Supplemental Subject -	Peggy		
	Designing for Bees, Birds, and	Singlemann		
	Butterflies			
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Suburban Design	Gordon		
		Chappell		
6.20		_		
6:30pm	Group Dinner – place to be announ	ced – pay on your own		
Tuesday, April 8, 2025				
8:30am - 9:00am	Guidelines for Evaluating	Gordon		
	Landscape Designs of	Chappell		
	Residential, Public and			
	Commercial Properties -using			
	the NGC LDS Form 14			
9:15am - 10:15am	Evaluations of Landscape	Gordon		
	Design - Tour/Lecture	Chappell		

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.

10:30am- Noon	Evaluations of Landscape	Gordon
	Design - Tour/Lecture	Chappell
Noon - 1:15pm	LUNCH (The Café is	
	convenient)	
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Evaluations of Landscape	Gordon
	Design - Tour/Lecture	Chappell
2:30pm - 3:15pm	Evaluations of Landscape	Gordon
	Design - Tour/Lecture	Chappell
3:15pm	Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.	
3:30pm	Exam	<u> </u>

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

Book under group rate for Landscape Design School

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

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 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 for THE IDEA EXCHANGE.

PS: Thank you, Thomas Jefferson Garden Club for the following ideas:

We have hosted the following presenters at our Thomas Jefferson Garden Club meetings:

- Peggy Singlemann, Creating Paradise for Pollinators
- Chadwick's and Sons presentation on Orchids:
- Captain Mike Ostrander, Discover the James Bald Eagle Program
- Sheila Weisensale, Cooking with Fresh Herbs 101 and Tried and True Plants
- David Pippin, floral designer
- Donna Cottingham, Plant It and Forget It
- Freckled Flower Farms, floral design

While the <u>Old Dominion Gardener</u> is published quarterly, <u>ROOTED</u> can be sent monthly. So please submit articles or information you want to share by the 8th of each month to <u>rootedvfgc@gmail.com</u>. 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