

SUMMER 2025

OLD DOMINION GARDENER

Convention Highlights
and Awards

Spotlight: Star City GC



VOL 57 Number 1



OLD DOMINION GARDENER

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Summer Gallery.....	4
President's Message.....	5-6
New Officer Team.....	7-9
Convention Highlights	10-14
Spotlight- Star City GC.....	15
Awards.....	16-19
Calendar.....	22
Symposium.....	26-27
Flower Show School.....	29-31
In Memoriam	33
CROSS-POLLINATION.....	34



ROOTED

The ROOTED newsletter is managed by Sally Harrison. If you or your club have news you wish to have posted contact Sally at:
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COVER PHOTO
by Pam Lambourne
Glen Burnie GC (S)

Summer Gallery

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



**Photo by Carolyn Frye
Monarch
Glen Burnie GC (S)**



**Photo by Marie Butler
Banana Bush, *Magnolia figo*
Lynnhaven Heritage GC (T)**



**Photo by Sherry Schryver
Glen Burnie GC (S)**



**Photo by Janice Beatty
Salisbury GC (P)**

President's Message

Come Learn and Grow with Us



Sally Harrison
VFGC President, 2025-27

Dear VFGC,

It is such an honor to be asked to be your President for the next two years. Thank you so much! While I have served as your First VP for the last two years, and as Piedmont District President before that, I know I still have so much to learn. Congratulations to our new VFGC Officers, District Presidents, Directors and Committee Chairmen! Thank you for your dedication to VFGC. I look forward to working with you. We are a team! As Val Story emphasized, every person makes a difference!

Donna Donnelly, our new NGC president, has set her NGC theme as “PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!” As you may recall, our own Nancy Hargroves (Salisbury GC,) started the PLANT AMERICA theme when she was installed as the NGC President in Richmond in 2017. Over the years, the program has become an overwhelming success. Our own outgoing president, Val Story, has been asked to chair the NGC Plant America Community Project Grants committee. Check out the NGC website for criteria, and apply!

Going forward, the VFGC theme for the 2025-2027 term will be “Come Learn and Grow with Us!”. Whether you are a gardener, a floral designer or both, we can all agree that we learn something from everything we do, starting with playing in the dirt as a child. We still have fun playing in the dirt! **Join me in reaching out to potential members** whether they are recent retirees, a new neighbor, a school child or a stranger who mentioned a passing interest. All are welcome.

Donna Donnelly's NGC projects include expanding the Plant America program for the 2025-2027 term and **Celebrating America's 250th Birthday with Red, White and Blue in 2026!** I am sure you will join me in supporting these projects. VFGC can start celebrating early. After all, we have already celebrated the 250th Anniversary of Patrick Henry's famous “Give me Liberty or Give me Death” speech at St John's church in Richmond. Many important events will be remembered in Virginia over the next two years. **Please join me in planting Red, White and Blue in at least one container or spot in your garden starting now!**

Continuing Priorities and Areas of Focus

Connecting and Sharing Gail Goodrich Harwood, our new First Vice President, has graciously agreed to continue as the Editor of the *Old Dominion Gardener*! *ODG* will continue to be published online and sent via email in the months of May, August, November, and March. *Rooted* will continue to be emailed in the months when *ODG* is not published. Both *ODG* and *Rooted* are distributed to members by Club Presidents via email. Every club is engaged in projects that are making a difference, so share your news and celebrate by submitting to *ODG* or *Rooted*!

Conservation - Please continue with our VFGC *NexTrex* Recycling Initiative.

Resources and Education

-VFGC Yearbook Claudia Cosby has graciously agreed to again put together the VFGC Yearbook for the 2025-2027 term. It contains a wealth of information about Officers, Districts, Committees, Clubs, Club Presidents, Flower Show Judges, Landscape Design consultants, key dates and so much more. See the Yearbook Sponsor form in this issue - and consider becoming a Sponsor. Yearbooks will be distributed at the August Board meeting to be held in Roanoke on Monday, August 18.

-Website Improvement Sharon Jones O'Connell will continue to update the website with information you send to her. Kathy Ward will work on defining ideas for suggested changes. If you have suggestions, please let Kathy Ward know.

-VFGC Flower Show and Landscape Design Schools and Symposiums provide wonderful opportunities to continue learning. They are open to any VFGC club member. While some of you may be attending for credit towards certification as a Flower Show Judge or Landscape Design consultant, others of us just want to learn for the fun of it!

Awards and Grants The deadline for Youth Project Grants and Grants to Beautify and Restore is September 15. It will be here before you know it! See article on p 22. Congratulations to all clubs and districts receiving awards at the VFGC Convention. See the complete list in this issue. As your club plans activities for the coming year, consider which awards you can apply for by December 1. See complete information on the website. Also, I will be working with Heidi Sage on a new President's Award with an emphasis on working with children. Don't forget the NGC and VFGC programs for children: Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest and poetry, essay, and sculpture contests.

I look forward to meeting you and attending District and other meetings around Virginia. Working together, we will accomplish our shared goal to promote and share the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility! Join us! Join in the learning! Join in the fun! You meet wonderful people who share your love of nature!

Very gratefully,

Sally

MEET THE VFGC OFFICER TEAM 2025-2027

Sally Harrison, President (Piedmont)

I am a Richmond native who left for 20 years but returned in 2000. As a 1972 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, I started my career in banking. After our son was born in Norfolk in 1983, there was finally time to join a garden club. We moved to Charlotte in 1993 where I started volunteering at Winghaven, Charlotte's answer to Lewis Ginter. I must confess learning all those botanical names was a challenge! After Tommy Lewis and I divorced, I moved back to Richmond in 2000, reclaiming my maiden name. Our son is Harrison Lewis, not Harrison Harrison! He now lives with his dog, Benny Good Man, outside of Lexington, Virginia. After working in Washington and New York, Harrison has rediscovered the joy of gardening and now trout fishing! Benny helps too!

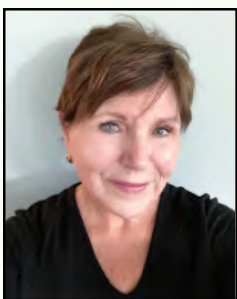
Moving to Richmond, I became an active member of my church altar guild. Fellow members were members of the River Road Garden Club, so I joined, too. In 2005, I was invited to study with the Flower Guild of the National Cathedral in Washington for a week, one of the highlights of my floral design journey. I put the knowledge to good use not only at church but also as an event floral designer with my own small business and as a volunteer at the VMFA. I have enjoyed being a part of the VMFA Hirschler Flower Guild. Since 2007, I have also participated in VMFA's *Fine Arts and Flowers*. Recently, I was very surprised to see a photograph of my interpretation of an 18th century portrait with shades of orange roses featured in the VMFA magazine.

Years ago, because some of my friends were Flower Show judges, I took Flower Show School (FSS) 3 for fun to learn about creative floral design. The FSS Chairman persuaded me to take the classes for credit. The rest is history. I am now an NGC accredited Life Flower Show Judge, one Symposium away from Master Judge. As an active member of the River Road GC, I eventually became involved at the Piedmont District level. After terms as the Director of Programs, then Director of Hospitality I served as Piedmont District President 2021-2023. In recent years, I also joined the Richmond Designers Guild and Ikebana of Richmond. Just for fun, I have taken Landscape Design School classes. VFGC offers so many opportunities to keep on learning!

For the last two years, I have had the honor of being VFGC 1st Vice President and Editor of *Rooted*. Thank you for the articles and notices you have submitted to *Rooted*! Please keep them coming. Following Val Story as your VFGC President will be challenging. She made a difference in many ways. As Val repeatedly said, "Everyone Makes a Difference!" With your help and prayers, I will do my best to lead VFGC for the next two years. Thank you again for the honor.



On vacation in Scotland last year



Gail Goodrich Harwood, First Vice President (Piedmont)

From the age of seven, I have continually cultivated purple *iris*, the Tennessee state flower. I am also partial to orange, as a Tennessee Volunteer...crazy about all my alma mater's sports teams. I lived in Chicago for 19 years, earning an M.B.A. at The University of Chicago, then on to San Francisco and Indianapolis, all with United Airlines.

In 2005, I was recruited by a management consulting firm where I coached executives and helped firms navigate large-scale organizational change. My client work took me all over the world, including opportunities to live and work in London and Basel, Switzerland. My fantastic husband has been part of these adventures, as he also left his job at United in 2005. We are celebrating 30 amazing years together. I finally retired in 2019.

A lifelong "dabbler" in all forms of art, I zeroed in on botanical art in 2009 and earned the Certificate in Botanical Illustration at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden where I now teach. I have served as President of the regional chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). I served two terms on the international Board of ASBA and continue as a member of the advisory group called the Directors League. Botanical art led me to Sleepy Hollow Garden Club. I love my garden club and its amazing legacy of friendships and community service. I have served as President and in other roles. I have served as district editor for six years and ODG editor for four. My husband Ev and I enjoy traveling and serving together on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Council. I create floral designs for the VMFA Atrium as part of the Hirshler Foundation program, and I was honored to be a *Fine Arts and Flowers* designer in 2021 and 2024. We are members at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond.



Pat Carswell, Second Vice President / Finance (S)

I was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Northern Virginia as the second oldest of 12 children. I am the stepmother of three, mother of one, and grandmother to 4. When our children got older, my husband accepted a position in Saudi Arabia and during that time, I spent ten years travelling back and forth to be with him. When possible, we tried to make time for additional trips, including a memorable one around the world with our daughter.

After returning to the U.S., we retired to Culpeper, and it is here that I was introduced by neighbors to the Calfee Garden Club in 2008. I have served as their president as well as Shenandoah District President, flower show judge and president of the Shenandoah District Judges Council and now president of the Virginia State Flower Show Judges Council. I am also a member of the Shenandoah Designers Guild.

Family remains a central part of my life and is where I spend most of my time outside of my garden club activities.



Janet Minock , Third Vice President/Membership (Piedmont)

I moved to the Richmond area from Farmington Hills, Michigan in 1995 with my husband and three children. I have a business degree from Michigan State University and spent 10 years working at General Motors in Market Research. I retired in 1987 to raise my three children. I am now the proud grandmother of three.

I joined Thomas Jefferson Garden Club in 2005 and through garden club involvement, I developed a love of floral design. I went on to get a career certificate from J. Sargeant Reynolds in floral design and have had a small business doing wedding and event flowers since 2011. I am a NGC Master Accredited Flower Show Judge and have served as president of Thomas Jefferson Garden Club, the Richmond Designer's Guild and the Piedmont District Flower Show Judges Council. I have exhibited at VMFA Fine Arts and Flowers as well as being a Hirschler Flower Volunteer at VMFA.



Jackie Fairbarns, Recording Secretary (South Central)

My more than 80 years' experience growing things began in my mother's Victory Garden in North Carolina. I lived and gardened in Fairfax, Virginia for fifty years, and after retiring from a long career in association management, moved to Buckingham County in 2009. I joined the Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club and have served three terms as co-president. I have recently completed a thoroughly enjoyable term as president of South Central District.

In 2017, I was re-certified as a VCE Master Gardener and have served as vice president of the Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners Association. I was the WFLO AM "radio voice" of HOVMG. When the station ceased operations, the radio talks morphed into a podcast and blog (available on HOVMG.org). I enjoy gardening, especially with my helpers: two sons, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Linda Nau, Treasurer (Piedmont)

An active member of Salisbury Garden Club in Midlothian, Virginia for 22 years, I have served as Treasurer, Newsletter and Yearbook Editor. I held the position of Treasurer of the Piedmont District for six years, serving an extra term due to COVID. I volunteer at my church as the database coordinator as well as other activities. My husband Bill and I have been married for 43 years. I have two married stepchildren and two grandchildren.

Convention 2025

The 91st Annual Convention and NGC Flower Show

**"Thank you, Virginia
for Making a Difference!"**



**April 27-28, 2025
The Westin Richmond**

Passionflower and Bee - Jan Pingel, Violet Bank GC



Welcome!



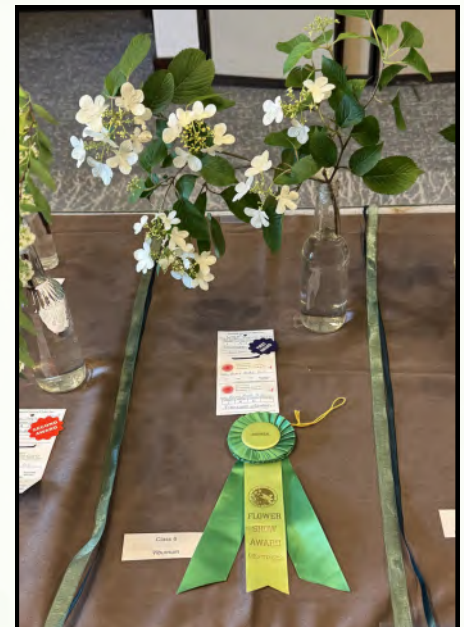
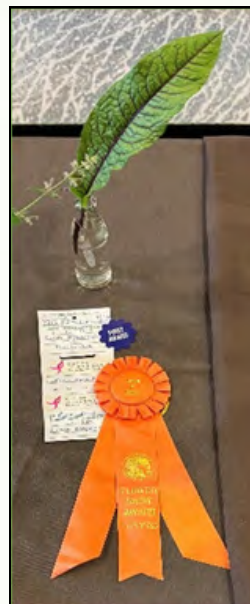
Honor Arrangements - Top right - for Val Story (VFGC) by Betty Ann Galway

Middle- from L, for Maureen Wilcox (S) by Michael Rider; for Felice Proctor (BR) by Anne Robinson

Bottom - from L, for Jackie Fairbarns (SC) by Barbara Hollister, for Diane Burgess (P) by Janet Minock,
for Mary Dixon (T) by Patsy Cameron, for Donna Altizer (SW) by Sally Harrison

The Flower Show

Pat Carswell, Chairman



TOP AWARDS

Design - Diane Burgess (P)

Horticulture - Erica Gilliam (P)

Education Division - Pat Carswell (S)

Designing by Four Types

David Pippin



Sunday Dinner Horticulture Program

"Digging In: Planting Seeds of Resilience"
Horticulture Program by Peggy Singlemann



A solemn moment as the District Presidents
gather with Chaplain Judy Ann Fray for the
Convention Memorial Service
L to R - Felice Proctor (BR), Jackie Fairbarns (SC),
Donna Altizer (SW), Diane Burgess (P), Maureen
Wilcox (S), Mary Dixon (T)



A Beautiful Shopping Experience!

The FINALE
Floral Design Program

“Bloom and Grow... A Floral Design Journey”
Design Program by Jane Godshalk



Val conducts the Convention Meeting



A surprised Sally, our new VFGC President,
receives the lovely European-style bouquet.



A NOTE FROM VAL STORY

The 91st Annual VFGC Convention was wonderful. The honor designs and table centerpieces were festive, adding to the ambience of the meeting spaces. The flower show added another positive element to the days' events.

The speakers were knowledgeable and kept our attention, also giving us a laugh or two. The planning for the convention took many hours. Thank you to all who were a part of this endeavor.

I thank all the members and guests who attended, and I was super pleased with all the first-time attendees.



What I really want to add is a huge thank you for the privilege of being VFGC president, part of a long line of presidents who have added so much to our great organization. But really, garden club members are what make VFGC so special and exceptional.

Another thank you for the absolutely wonderful honors I received: the “smaller” version of the president’s pin, the wonderful monetary contribution to the VFGC scholarship fund, and especially the “brick” with my name on it as part of the NGC *Path of Success*. What a surprise ... thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Just one more comment: You truly made a difference!

Val

Pictured: Val Story, VFGC President 2023-25, with the honor arrangement created by Betty Ann Galway



Meet Star City... Our Newest VFGC Club!

Sherrene Wells, Star City GC (BR)

Star City Garden Club, Roanoke's ONLY nighttime garden club is proud to announce our membership in both the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and the Blue Ridge District! Founded in 2022 by Nancy Hughes, Teresa Blecksmith, and Sherrene Wells, we were honored to be sponsored by the Town & Country Garden Club. Since then, we've blossomed into a vibrant community of 30 members and growing — including several proud male members! We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (RCGC).

Our mission is simple: Connect, Learn, and Grow.

We're more than just a club — we're a hands-on community of garden lovers who dig in, get our hands dirty, and create beauty together. While our shared passion for gardening, nature, and horticulture brings us together, it's the fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships that make us truly special.

🌸 We love to learn and grow through engaging workshops with Master Gardeners on topics like landscaping, floral design, moon gardens, and rain gardens.

🌿 Our adventures have included field trips, foraging with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and hands-on projects like wreath making, bird seed wreaths, wine box herb containers, and lasagna planting.

🌱 Our community outreach includes planting at Pocket Park in Old Southwest and donating to the Keystone Community Center.

President Beth Dean and Vice President Sherrene Wells attended this year's Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Convention. Wonderful to learn about all the various districts and clubs in Virginia. Networking and exchanging ideas with everyone were the best parts of convention, along with learning from three amazing presenters.

Please reach out to Star City Garden Club if you have any questions about our organization or wish to speak at our club so we keep learning and growing!



VFGC Convention, from left, Sherrene Wells, Star City VP, Felice Proctor, BR District President, Val Sory, VFGC President, and Beth Dean, Star City President



Star City members at their Wreath Making Workshop

VFGC Awards 2024

Heidi Sage, VFGC Awards Chair

The Awards Committee

Chairman Heidi Sage

Vice Chairman Jeanne Bruton

District Chairmen:

Blue Ridge District (B) Patty Smith

Piedmont District (P) Joanne Wallace

Shenandoah District (S) Becky Yates

South Central District (SC) Kathie Kingery

Southwest District (SW) Jane Sorensen

Tidewater District (T) Jessica O'Connor

Categories by Size of Club

VFGC award applications are judged per garden club size, as determined by the number of members for whom NGC and State dues are paid as of Dec. 1st including active, associate, inactive, honorary, etc.

Small Club 20 or fewer members

Medium Club 21 – 50 members

Large Club 51 + members

Two or more Clubs

VFGC Special Achievement Awards

SP-1 Flower shows C – Most new Participants exhibiting in a show

Blue – Keysville, small (SC)

SP-3 TREX Film Recycling Challenge

Blue – Buckingham/Dillwyn (SC)

DISTRICT AWARDS

S-6 Club Membership within Districts - Blue - South Central + 2.88%

S-7 District Flower Show Schedule

B Blue - South Central District

S-8 District Newsletter

A Blue – Shenandoah - “Shenandoah Sharings”

B Blue – Piedmont – “Footprints”

S-9 Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl Posters

Blue – Tidewater - 951 posters

Red – Shenandoah – 641 posters

S-11 Penny Pines/Plant a Tree Combined

Blue - Shenandoah District

Red – Tidewater District

S-12 VFGC Life Membership – Blue – Shenandoah District

Awards 2024

CLUB AWARDS

S-14 Arbor Day, Tree Planting

Blue – Sleepy Hollow, med (P)

Blue – Lake of the Woods, large (S)

S-15 Bird, Butterfly, Wildlife Survival

Red – Merrifields, small (T)

Blue – Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Blue – Salisbury, large, (P)

S-16 Organic Gardening Practices

Blue – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

S-17 Conservation

Blue – Lake of the Woods, large (S)

S-18 Water

Blue – Seasons IV, small (SW)

S-19 A Litter/Recycling/Reclamation

Blue-Violet Bank, small (P)

Blue – Dogwood, med (SW)

Red – Town & Country, med (SW)

S-19 B Chucky Chipmunk

Blue- Town & Country, med (SW)

S-20 Food Bank Donations

Blue – Colonial Heritage, large (T)

S-21 Floral Design Program

Blue – Violet Bank, small (P)

Blue – Sleepy Hollow, med (P)

Red – Rapid Ann, med (S)

Red – South Boston, med (SC)

Red – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

S-22 Civic Projects with Native Plants

Blue - Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

Red – Rappahannock of White Stone, med (P)

Red – Wyndham, large, (P)

S-23 Reclaiming Un-usable Spaces

Red – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

S-24 Civic Beautification/Civic Achievement

Blue – Galax, med (SW)

Red – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

Red – Blue Ridge, med (BR)

Blue – Lake of the Woods, large (S)

S-26 Community Landscape Design

Blue – Francis Fauquier, small (S)

Yellow – Staunton River, small (SC)

Red – Town & Country, med (SW)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-27 Roadside Beautification

Blue - South Boston, med (SC)

Red – Town & Country, med (SW)

S-28 Plant Together Community Garden Project

Blue – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

Red – Chancellor, med (P)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-30 Decoration of Historic Building

Blue – Violet bank, small (P)

Red – Stanton River, small (SC)

Red - Seasons IV, small (SW)

Blue – Chancellor, med (P)

Red – South Boston, med (SC)

Red - Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

S-31 Horticulture Therapy

Blue – Rosecrest, small (P)

Blue – Madison, med (S)

Red – Richmond Designers Guild, med (P)

Red – Mary Farm, med (T)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-32 Horticulture Therapy Garden Project

Blue – Northam, small (P)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-33 Membership

Blue – Four Seasons, small (SW)

Blue – Rose and Garden, medium (SC)

Blue – Rappahannock County, large

S-34 National Garden Week

Blue – Green Meadow Point, small (T)

Red – Appomattox, small (P)

Blue – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

Red – Abingdon, med (SW)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

Awards 2024

S-35 Penny Pines/Plant a Tree

Blue – Monticello, small (S)

Blue – Madison, medium (S)

Blue – Colonial Heritage, large (T)

S-36 Visions of Beauty Calendar Sales

A Blue – Westchester (BR)

B Blue – Westchester (BR)

S-37 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

Blue – Green Meadow (T)

Red – Madison (S)

S-38 Youth Environmental Education

Blue – Green Hills, med (S)

Red – Town & Country, med (SW)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-39 Youth Horticulture Education

Blue – Seasons IV, small (SW)

Blue – Town & Country, med (SW)

Red – Buckingham/Dillwyn, med (SC)

Red – Chesapeake Bay, med (P)

Blue – Salisbury, large (P)

S-40 Gardening for Wildlife Education

Blue – Seasons IV, small (SW)

S-41 Pollinator Gardens with Youth

Blue – Town & Country, med (SW)

S-42 Publications

4) Blue - Sleepy Hollow, med (P)

5) Blue – Rappahannock of White Stone,
med (P)

8) Blue – Lake Smith Terrace, med (T)

Blue – Lake of the Woods, large (S)

S-43 Club Newsletter

A. Blue – Stonehenge, med (P)

B. Blue – Westchester, small (BR)

Red – Monticello, small (S)

Blue – Madison, med (S)

Red – Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Red – May Farm, med (T)

Red – Lake Smith Terrace, med (T)

D. Blue – Rock Spring, large (P)

S-44 Club Yearbooks

1) Blue – Lynnhaven Heritage (T)

Red – Monticello (S)

Red – Hilliard Park (P)

Red – Keysville (SC)

Red – Westchester (BR)

2) Blue – May Farm (T)

Red – Town & Country (SW)

Red – Greenhills (S)

Red – Chester (P)

3) Blue – Chesapeake Bay (P)

4) Blue – Rock Spring (P)

6) Blue Salisbury (P)

Red – Lake of the Woods (S)

S-45 Flower show Schedule – Single Club

Blue – Westchester, small (BR)

Blue – Thomas Jefferson, med (P)

Blue – Rock Spring, large (P)

S-46 Flower show Schedule – Two or more clubs

Blue - Piedmont flower Show Judges Council (P)

S-47 Website

Blue – Chesapeake Bay, med (P)

S-48 Publicity Press Book

Blue - Lake of the Woods, large (S)

YOUTH AWARDS

Y-1 “Saved Seed” Education Award

Blue – Chesapeake Bay, med (P)

Y-2 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

1st Grade – Reese Collier sponsored by Madison (S)

2nd Grade – Camila Watson sponsored by Calfee (S)

3rd Grade – Mika Skaggs sponsored by Merrifield (T)

4th Grade – Eric Xing sponsored by Southside (BR)

5th Grade – Eve Foytik sponsored by Green Meadow
Point (T)

Y-4 Youth Poetry Contest

4th Grade - Avriel Bears , sponsored by Madison (S)

5th Grade – Lilly Richards, sponsored by Madison (S)

Awards 2024

Flower Show Achievement Awards

FS-5 A - Club Small Standard Show - Westchester (BR) – Purple Rosette
“Surprise! It’s Christmas in July”

FS-15 A – Horticulture Specialty Show – Chartreuse Green Rosette
Richmond Designers Guild (P) “How Fair is a Garden”
Thomas Jefferson (P) “Springtime Splendor”

FS – 16 A - Design Specialty Flower Show – Piedmont Judges Council
Blue & Yellow Rosette “Good Vibrations”

Clubs Earning Certificates of Recognition and \$25 from the South Atlantic Region for 2024

#2 Bird Protection - Thomas Jefferson I (P)

7 Garden Therapy: Horticulture Garden Award – Northam (P)

#10 National Garden Week – Salisbury (P)

#11 Roadside Improvements – South Boston (SC)

15 Water Conservation – Seasons IV (SW)

#17 Litter, Recycling, Reclamation

Violet Bank small (P)

Dogwood med (SW)

18 Newsletters – Westchester (BR)

#20 A Best Program with Power Point – Sleepy Hollow (P)

#20 B Best program without slides, video or power point - Sleepy Hollow (P)

21 Website – Chesapeake Bay (P)

22 Yearbook Awards - May Farm med (T)

24 Standard Flower Show Schedule - Single Club – Thomas Jefferson (P)

Penny Pines Award

Monticello – small (S)

Madison – medium (S)

Colonial Heritage – large (T)

South Atlantic Region Youth Awards

5th Grade Poetry – Lilly Richards, sponsored by Madison (S)

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

1st Grade – Reese Collier, sponsored by Madison – 3rd place (S)

2nd Grade – Camila Watson, sponsored by Calfee, 2nd place (S)

3rd Grade – Mika Skaggs sponsored by Merrifield, 1st place (T)

4th Grade – Eric Xing, sponsored by Southside, 1st place (BR)

5th Grade – Eve Foytik, sponsored by Green Meadow Point, 2nd place (T)

VFGC 2025 Scholarship Awards

Jill Quinley, VFGC Scholarship Chair

The VFGC Scholarship Committee met February 14th, 2025 for the purpose of determining the distribution amounts for the VFGC scholarship recipients. Several ineligible inquiries were submitted leaving us with two outstanding applicants:

Ashleigh Mann, Longwood University

Sriji Upadyay, The College of William and Mary

The VFGC Finance Committee had granted the Scholarship Committee eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000.00) plus one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00) from the Nathaniel Causey Garden Club....a most generous gift which was added to the VFGC Scholarship total. It was decided to divide the total between the two candidates.

Our scholarship recipients joined members for our VFGC Annual Conference luncheon at the Westin, Sunday, April 27th, 2025. Each recipient gave interesting and informative remarks and were well received. To conclude a lovely afternoon, they stayed for the design program with David Pippin.



**VFGC President presented Ashleigh Mann
with the certificate for her 2024
NGC Scholarship Award**

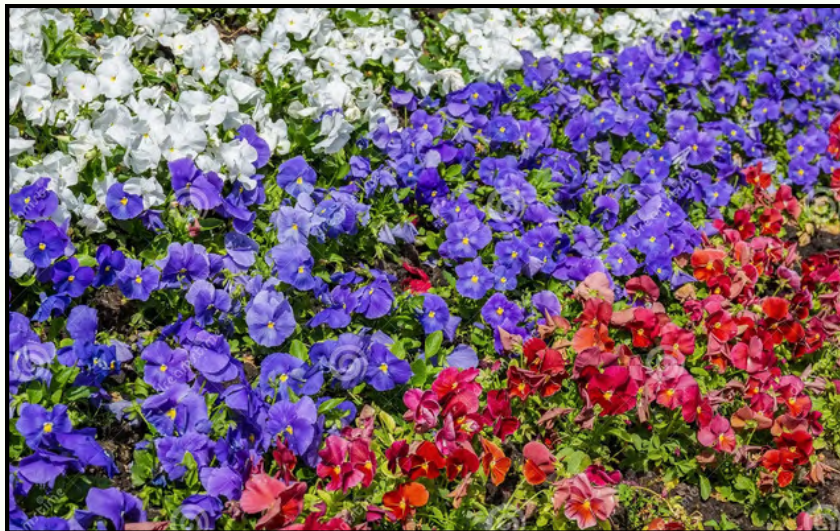


**Sriji and Ashleigh are congratulated by Val Story
on winning the VFGC 2025 Scholarships**

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Martie Parch, Horticulture Chair

Happy 250th Anniversary!



How exciting that next year, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! To honor this historical event, we should plant native red, white and blue in our gardens. And feed the pollinators!

For your patriotic shade garden, try *Aquilegia canadensis* (Eastern red columbine). Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies love this native perennial that grows well in sun or part shade. *Veronica noveboracensis* (New York Ironweed) will show pretty blues in shady spots but can withstand light sun and clay soil. *Phlox divaricata* (Woodland phlox) is an alternative that will thrive in shade. To complete your shady borders, add *Aruncus dioicus* (Goatsbeard). Their bold, fluffy, white plumes will attract birds to your yard.

If your garden is in a sunny area, try *Eupatorium perfoliatum* (Boneset). Clusters of small white flowers grow in shade or sun. Early settlers used Boneset to mend broken bones! Another option is *Phlox paniculata* 'David', prized for its fragrance and brilliant white color. The *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England aster) is a beautiful blue perennial that blooms in late summer/early fall. The tall spikes of the blue *Liatris* are lovely in floral arrangements. Rarely served as dinner for deer, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* (Eastern bluestar) displays clumps of true blue flowers. Our native red honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a favorite of hummingbirds and other pollinators. Options for sun-loving reds are *Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline' (bee balm) and *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal flower).

Whether in sun or shade, you can grow these natives together in your garden and make an attractive color combination and a patriotic statement. What a wonderful celebration for our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

Event Calendar

May 31.....	VFGC Club Dues Deadline
June 1-7.....	NGC National Garden Week
June 30.....	Deadline, Yearbook Sponsorship
August 18-21.....	Flower Show School I, Roanoke
September 15.....	VFGC Grants Applications Deadline
October 9.....	Shenandoah District Fall Meeting
October 13.....	Piedmont District Fall Meeting
October 16.....	South Central District Fall Meeting
October 18.....	Southwest District Fall Meeting
October 13-14.....	Landscape Design School, LGBG*
October 22.....	Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting
October 30.....	Tidewater District Fall Meeting
November 3-4.....	VFGC Symposium, Richmond

*Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 20 & 21, 2026
VFGC CONVENTION
WILLIAMSBURG,
VIRGINIA



*GARDEN TOUR
*HISTORIC
TAVERN
LUNCH
*FANTASTIC
FLORAL
PRESENTATION

Plant-a-Tree Update

Carol Medlin, Chair

Plant-A-Tree (formerly known as Penny Pines) continues to be a National Garden Club President's Project. I encourage all clubs to make this program a priority, as contributions are used to re-plant areas devastated by fire or other natural disasters. In the last year, VFGC contributed \$10,800 – making Virginia a top contributor.

- Contributions may be made by an individual, a club, a group of clubs, or district.
- **Donations are made in increments of \$50** – up to \$10,000.
- The **form which must accompany donations can be downloaded** from the NGC website.
- **Completed Plant-A-Tree forms and donations (by check) must be mailed to:**
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
- **NGC will no longer mail certificates to donors. A digital certificate is now available** on the NGC website. It can easily be downloaded, customized, and printed.
- **When donations are made to NGC for Plant-A-Tree, please also notify me** so that an accurate record of VFGC contributions can be kept. Carol Medlin, 594 Pine Crest Dr., Heathsville, VA 22473 or email to: medlinc6@gmail.com



VFGC Grants Available

Does your garden club have projects planned for 2025-26 but not enough funds? **Consider applying for one of two VFGC grants by Sept. 15, 2025.** All clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant of up to \$1000. This can be for a new or ongoing project. A club can apply for more than one grant in the same fiscal year if it is a different project. If the project is ongoing, a club can apply more than one time for a grant for the project (different VFGC fiscal years.) First-time applicants will receive priority over clubs that have received previous grants. The two grants have different applications, chairs, and judging panels. Grant applications can be found on www.VirginiaGardenClubs.org or contact the appropriate chair listed below. Note: a club cannot apply for both grants for the same project in the same VFGC fiscal year.

Grants to Beautify and Restore: The purpose of this grant is to provide financial support for clubs to restore gardens that have been damaged by natural disasters within Virginia OR beautify areas within Virginia garden club communities. Priority is given to natural disaster restoration projects. For more information on Beautify and Restore Grants, contact: VFGC Chair Judy Ann Fray, ja.fray@verizon.net, 540-948-4220.

Youth Project Grants ('Keys to the Future'): The purpose of this grant is to provide financial support for club members to work with youth to help them realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats and to become good stewards of the earth. The scope of these programs may include benefits to the community, environmental awareness education, plant-to-food connections, outdoor classroom projects, horticulture education, and the social aspects of gardening. For more information on Youth Project Grants contact: VFGC Chair Grace Morris, glynm@aol.com, 540-447-0042, See the "Keys to the Future" guidelines and application on the following two pages.

GUIDELINES & APPLICATION
“KEYS TO THE FUTURE” Youth Project Grants

The “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs. All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant up to \$1,000 for the purpose of working with youth and helping them realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats for becoming good stewards of the earth. The scope of these programs may include benefits to the community, environmental awareness/education, plant-to-food connections, outdoor classroom projects, horticulture education, and the social aspects of gardening.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15 of each year
Must be submitted by a VFGC member garden club.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please fill out the Application form, include a budget and mail to:

Grace Morris Phone: 540-447-0042

VFGC Grants Committee

916 Glenwood Blvd.

Waynesboro, VA 22980-3409 or email: glyonm@aol.com

PURPOSE: The purpose of “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants is to provide financial support for clubs working with youth on a specific project.

PROGRAM CRITERIA:

In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize
one or more of these elements:

number of youth participating/reached

benefits to the community

environmental awareness/education

horticulture educational focus or curricular/program integration

plant-to-food connections.

social aspects of gardening i.e., leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning
club member support and participation.

FUNDING GUIDELINES Grants will NOT be provided for:

projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect

salaries or benefits of school personnel

field trips outside Virginia

political action programs

Eagle Scout projects

capital drives and building funds

scholarships

endowments

lawsuits and litigation

overhead costs

consumables, one-time use items or giveaways, such as T-shirts, tote bags, food, admission fees, or tuition

**Note: The same project is not eligible for both Youth Project Grants and Beautify & Restore Grants
in the same VFGC fiscal year.**

APPLICATION

"KEYS TO THE FUTURE" VFGC Youth Project Grant

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Date: _____ VFGC District: _____

Name of VFGC Club: _____

Garden Club Contact Person submitting application

(Name, address, phone number, email):

*This Chair will email you that your application was received.

Please do NOT use hyperlinks. Many judges write notes on the printed applications as they score.

If information is important to your application, simply type information concisely.

New Project: Yes _____ No _____

Beginning date: _____ Expected Completion date: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____ Amount Club Provides: \$ _____ Total Project Budget: \$ _____

Number of Youth Involved in Project _____ Number Reached by Project _____

Briefly Describe Project, how funds will be used. Include the following if applicable:

1. Briefly describe project. Application including budget should be no longer than 3 single-sided pages. If handwritten, please legibly PRINT.

2. What is the youth population you are working with on this project?

3. Approximately how many Garden Club Members will be involved in this project and in what roles?

4. Brief statement of any in-kind or volunteer services; please list organization & their role.

5. Location of Project: Ex. If a garden or greenhouse is to be built/used, where is it located?

6. Does your project require special approval of authorizing groups (i.e., school board)?

7. Must include a detailed budget denoting separate line-item cost of each material/component used (i.e., potting soil, pots, plants, etc.).

NOTE: Grant funds can only be used for the stated project.

Unused grant funds must be returned to VFGC by May 15 with the Final Report. The same project is not eligible for both Youth Project Grants and Beautify & Restore Grants in the same VFGC fiscal year.

Judging is based on the following Scale of Points:

-Scope of Project 35

-Club Member Involvement 35

-Criteria Met (read Guidelines) 10

-Detailed Budget Completed 15

-Application Form Completed 5

Attach Detailed Project Budget

Mail to: Grace Morris 917 Glenwood Blvd. Waynesboro, VA 22980-3409

Phone: 540-447-0042

OR Email to: glyonm@aol.com

Any questions, please contact Grace Morris.

VFGC Symposium November 3-4 Richmond

Valerie Story, VFGC Symposium Chair

Judges, student judges, and those who are just interested in learning more about horticulture and design, register for Symposium! We will have tremendous instructors for our VFGC Symposium, November 3-4, 2025 at Four Points by Sheraton near Richmond airport.

Gina Jogan – Design Instructor

Gina is an NGC Master Judge and Instructor in Design, Flower Show Procedure, and Allied Topics. She has held leadership positions in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs. She has taught workshops in NGC schools as well as at CFAA and OFAD. Her stunning designs have been featured in many publications and online.

Gina will be teaching reflective and floor designs, as well as the Allied topic: Judges' comments on entry cards.

David Robson – Horticulture Instructor

David is a retired horticulture and pesticide specialist from the University of Illinois. An alumni of Iowa State University and the University of Illinois, David has taught for 43 years. He is an NGC Master Judge and worked on the 2027 NGC Book for Flower Shows and the NGC Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging book.

David will be teaching container-grown plants -Philodendron, Collections, and the Allied Topic for Botanical Arts.

The registration form can be found on the following page - or download the full brochure on the website: <https://viriniagardenclubs.org>

Make Room Reservations directly with

Hotel: 804-266-4300 or with

Marriott: 888-236-2427

State you are with the VFGC Block of rooms

Room cost is \$142.00 with a cut-off date of October 6, 2025

VFGC SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM
November 3-4, 2025
Four Points by Sheraton, Richmond Airport

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Club _____ District _____

Medical Dietary Restrictions _____

Status: Student () Accredited () Life () Master ()

Circle one: Testing Auditing Neither

Date of Last Certification/Audit _____

FEES

Full course price includes Monday and Tuesday Lectures and Lunches.

() Full Course \$185 _____

Single Event Options:

() Horticulture & Lunch (Mon.) \$ 95 _____

() Design & Lunch (Tues.) \$ 95 _____

() Manual emailed free of charge OR

() Printed Manual \$ 10 _____

MUST BE PREORDERED-Available at Registration

If postmarked after October 23, 2025, add \$30 late fee _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to:

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Write Symposium in memo line and mail to:

Dianna Busch, Registrar

14453 Rillhurst Drive

Culpeper VA 22701

540-353-9044

diannabusch@comcast.net

****DEADLINE: OCTOBER 23, 2025**** No refunds after this date.

BE A VFGC 2025-27 YEARBOOK SPONSOR

Deadline: June 30, 2025

Who can be a Sponsor?

Each club and every club member can be a sponsor.

Benefits:

- Listed on the Sponsors Page
- Receive a yearbook insert (\$10 Sponsor)

Each member club receives two gratis yearbook inserts, and each VFGC district officer and chairman receive one gratis yearbook insert.

What's in it for me?

- A directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all VFGC officers and chairmen, district officers and chairmen, all garden club presidents, and SAR and NGC officers.
 - Information—on dues, donations, Life Memberships, etc.
 - Calendar of Events
- Awards offered by VFGC, SAR and NGC for clubs and individuals.
- List of Flower Show Judges and Landscape Design Consultants
- VFGC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Please print your NAME as it is to appear in the yearbook.

Name _____

District _____ Club _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

CLUB SPONSOR

Club Name _____ District _____

Club Contact (Treasurer) _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Quantity	Unit Price
___ Yearbook Insert	\$10.00
___ Binder with VFGC logo	\$10.00

Total Order - _____

Make check payable to VFGC, Inc. Mail check & form to:
Claudia Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113-3923

Flower Show School

Course I

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School
August 18-21, 2025

Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs
3640 Colonial Avenue Roanoke, VA 24018 540-343-4519



Flower Show Procedure will cover an introduction to the Handbook, flower show composition, definition, purposes, and basic requirements of all standard flower shows, types of flower shows, standard system of judging, explanation of non-Top Exhibitor Awards, and an overview of the Flower Show Schedule.

Horticulture will cover plant nomenclature, entry tags, general requirements for NGC Horticulture Top Exhibitor Awards, explanation of judging qualities found on the horticulture point scoring form, horticulture commenting vocabulary, judging procedures, & discussion of two types of horticulture & practice point scoring of them.

Design will include a brief history of floral design, emphasis on the elements & principles of design, general requirements for NGC Design Top Exhibitor Awards, explanation of judging qualities found on the Design Point Scoring form, design commenting vocabulary, judging procedure, and practice point scoring of two types of traditional designs.

Design: Cathy Waitinas

Cathy will teach traditional mass, line mass, and line.

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure: Pam Braun

Pam will teach potted aroids and cut needled evergreens.

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

SCHEDULE

Monday, Aug 18	3:45 – 6 pm - Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Aug 19	8:00 – 9:00 am - FSP Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm - Horticulture/Lunch
	3:45 – 5:45 pm - Point Scoring Test
Wed., Aug 20	8:00 – 9:00 am - Horticulture Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm - Design/Lunch
	3:45 – 5:45 pm - Point Scoring Test
Thursday, Mar 27	9:00 – 10:00 am - Design Examination

Required Books: Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, NGC Exhibiting & Judging, both available on the NGC Website for purchase or download.

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 Instructors , Course I - August 18-21

Cathy Waitinas

Design

Cathy Waitinas is an NGC Master Accredited Flower Show Judge and FSS Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She is a member of Arissa and Garden Guild Garden Clubs, CFAA and the Society of American Florists. Cathy is an NGC Board Member, Chairman of the TN Federation of Garden Clubs' State Headquarters. She has taught school and served 30+ years in the nuclear industry in safety and technical writing. Cathy and Jerry have 3 daughters and live out in the county near Oliver Springs where she has a woodworking shop in her basement. Cathy's carpentry projects show up in many of her design structures.

Pam Braun

Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure

A garden club member for almost 50 years, Pam Braun is currently a member of Leipers Fork and Gateway Garden Clubs. She is member of TN District II and a board member for the TN Federation of Garden Clubs and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. She is an NGC accredited master flower show judge, an NGC horticulture, flower show procedure, and symposium instructor, and member of numerous plant societies. She specializes in exhibiting collections and displays of numerous different plant groups and has won many top exhibitor awards for her horticulture. Besides horticulture, she enjoys floral design and has been a speaker, leader of workshops, or exhibitor at all levels from district to internationally. She has enjoyed growing plants all her life and the plant material she uses for both designs and instruction often comes from her own garden or indoor plants.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Suggested hotel is Holiday Inn Tanglewood

4468 Starkey Road, Roanoke

888-465-4329

**REGISTRATION - FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL
COURSE I Aug 18-21, 2025
ROANOKE COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS
NO REFUNDS after July 18, 2025**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Email_____

Home Phone_____Cell Phone_____

Club_____District_____

Credit_____Non-Credit_____

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 July 18, 2025****

**Make check payable to Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
with Flower Show Schools in the memo line and mail to:**

**Val Story
Flower Show School Registrar
2122 Whithorn Hill
Jeffersonton, VA 22724-1873
540-272-0975
valstory@aol.com**

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global resources to every tree and
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IN MEMORIAM

**We honor those we have lost but have not
forgotten. They live on in our hearts, and memories
of them are blessings.**

Blue Ridge District

Marcia Albert.....Hunting Hills GC

Piedmont District

Barbara Holmes.....Midlothian GC

Martha S. Saunders.....Thomas Jefferson GC
*Former Piedmont District President, Master Flower Show Judge,
Master Gardener, long-time Treasurer of Nature Camp*

South Central District

Jean Bainbridge.....Banister GC
Peggy Reid.....Buckingham-Dilwyn GC
Christeen Petty.....Rose and Garden GC

Southwest District

Betty Fleenor.....Dogwood GC

**"IN MEMORIAM" honors the memory of current garden club members.
Please send notification to Claudia Cosby; cosbych1205@gmail.com**

Making a Difference

Cross-Pollination



Winchester Council of Garden Clubs “Tablescapes” Fundraiser 2025

Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S))



Tablescape by Marsha Barley
Glen Burnie GC

Once again, members of the Winchester Council of Garden Clubs entered beautiful designs in ‘Tablescapes’, a fundraiser for *Wheels for Wellness*. Sue Spangler and Marsha Barley from Glen Burnie Garden Club and Wendy Stark from Colonial Garden Club created stunning and creative entries for this annual event.



Tablescape by Wendy Stark
Colonial GC



Tablescape by Sue Spangler
Glen Burnie GC

Glen Burnie GC Partners with Kernstown Battlefield Association

Diedra Dain, Glen Burnie GC (S)

The Glen Burnie Garden Club (GBGC) is thrilled to partner with historic Kernstown Battlefield Association (KBA) on a project to plan, plant, and maintain several garden areas on the 290-year-old property using both historically appropriate and native plants. Following their carefully researched detailed plan, volunteer club members removed unhealthy shrubs and transplanted others, added an attractive stone pad at the entrance interpretive sign to the park, enlarged both shade and sun beds, amended the soil and planted contributions from their home gardens. The club approved a minimal budget to purchase additional plants and materials.

A special addition to the property's landscape is an herbal and medicinal bed our members are creating. The medicinal use plants will provide the docents with a breadth of period-appropriate solutions to ailments the resident family and Civil War soldiers would have experienced. Visitors will gain a full appreciation for the cultural aspects of daily life from the late 1700's to the late 1860's; signage will reinforce their understanding of the meaning and purpose of each plant.



Over time, GBGC will perform ongoing maintenance to all plantings, including regular watering, and replacements when necessary. In turn, we are grateful that the KBA offers us its conference center for occasional club meetings. Overall, this collaboration reflects the type of community engagement that's possible through garden enhancement which nurtures learning for all involved!

Glen Burnie Garden Club members Marsha Barley, Janet Bordwine, Tricia Boyd, Deidra Dain, Sherry Schryver and Margaret Walsh joined with Susan Sheppherd from Kernstown Battlefield on this exciting project.



Learning and Fun at Natural Bridge GC

Sharon Littlepage, Natural Bridge GC, Rockbridge County (S)



Beth Owerhohle hosted the first meeting of the year at her historic home in Steeles Tavern. She's with members Vicki Goodhart and Mary Wheeler.



Master Gardener Maureen Becker instructs members about the types of lines in floral design.



President Diane Weaver received the Sweepstakes award for winning the most blue ribbons in 2024.



Members received new personalized aprons to wear at the plant sale on May 10, sponsored by the Rockbridge County Council of Garden Clubs in Lexington.

(Left, up the stairs) Ann Nay, Sharon Littlepage, Maureen Becker, Judith Wycoff
(Front row) Anna-Lisa Fitzgerald, Pat Gibson, Lucia Owen, Beth Owerhohle, Irene Condie, Virginia Cooke
(Row 2) Carla Zorn, Sandee Greene, Rosanne Facciolo, Doris Fredricksen, Vicki Goodhart
(Back row) Tiny guest Esther Fitzgerald with former NBGC member Donna Welch, Mary Wheeler, Leslie Giles, Carolyn Kuper, Diane Weaver, Diane Harrell, Jennifer Young.

Purely for Pleasure
Celebrating Gardens & Gardeners



Sleepy Hollow Garden Club's Flower: the Magnolia Grandiflora

A National Garden Clubs
Horticulture Specialty Flower Show
Presented by
Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

Epiphany Lutheran Church – Price Hall
1400 Horsepen Richmond, Virginia 23226

June 10, 2025
Free and Open to the Public 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Free parking and fully accessible.

Entries open to any VFGC member in good standing.
To request a schedule, contact Tatter Hartmann, Chair:
maryhartmann279@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Green Spring Garden Club's
Annual Christmas Homes Tour

Saturday, December 6th, 2025
Williamsburg, VA

More Details: www.greenspringgardenclub.org

ALL HALLOWS' EVE



An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Tidewater District, VFGC

To be held at
Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-363-3900

October 4, 2025
Free & Open to the Public
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Affiliated With:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

Ye Accawmacke GC Makes a Difference!

Ann Bull, Ye Accawmacke GC (T)S)

Members of the Ye Accawmacke Garden Club were surprised to see the planters at the entrance to the newly completed Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center and Library in Parksley, Virginia, filled with artificial flowers. A group from the club led by Jane Kellam, Ann Bull, and Betty Farley (pictured) remedied the situation by planting mini boxwoods, pansies, and ornamental cabbages in the planters. This group will continue to water and maintain the plants, ensuring a more pleasing and natural entrance to the Library.



"Fun" - Raiser for Tidewater District

Adele Lundquist - Tidewater District Editor

There are fundraisers and there are "fun" raisers. The Tidewater District event held in April at the Colonial Heritage Clubhouse in Williamsburg, Virginia, was "fun" and a testament to the boundless energy and spirited leadership of its Chairman, Glenda Knowles (Colonial Heritage GC). The "fun" raiser featured a variety of activities designed to interest the more than 200 attendees, most of whom were senior women.

As they waited to register, attendees were intrigued by a pair of mannequins adorned by Susan Porter (Thoroughgood GC) and Frances Thrash (Lynnhaven Heritage GC) to reflect the theme "Dancing & Designing".



There were fifteen themed baskets, chaired by Sue Harper (Lake Smith Terrace GC) strategically placed in the front of the room inviting guests to "bid on me". At times, the interest in the silent auction (the baskets plus three pieces of fine jewelry) was so great that it was difficult to get a close-up view. One basket caught the interest of a group of women from Aviva-Pembroke, a recently opened senior living facility in Virginia Beach. The women were determined to win the "Charcuterie Goodies" basket for their Friday happy hours.



As bidding increased, the guests were asked to return to their tables, to enjoy the performance of The Showgirls and Their Men, a group of talented dancers who formed a tap dance interest group for fun and exercise several years ago.



Another highlighted event was "Fashions by Chicos" narrated by Gloria Nelson (Colonial Heritage GC). It was refreshing to see the models cross the stage in styles appealing to the attendees. Chico's Travelers Collection was a big hit.

Following a flavorful lunch, the "Dueling Designers", David Pippin and Al Brockwell, entered the stage surrounded by an assortment of containers and plants provided by Frances Thrash. In less time than it takes some of us to complete one floral arrangement, they each had created seven exquisite designs which went home with fourteen lucky ladies. And that "Charcuterie Goodies" basket? The Aviva-Pembroke ladies placed the highest bid and savored its contents at happy hour the next day.



A Delightful Shenandoah Spring Meeting

Val Story, District Editor (S))

On April 13, 2025 the spring Shenandoah District Meeting was held at the Tinkling Spring Church in Fishersville. The meeting was dedicated to the host clubs: Town and Country/Stuart Draft, Beverley and Nelson County. The attendance was great with many enthusiastic members participating.

The meeting hall looked lovely with the absolutely stunning spring arrangements created by Beverley and Nelson County Garden Clubs, as well as Town and Country making the memorial arrangement. The name tags were made by Dianna Busch. All the host clubs manned the registration desk. District President, Maureen Wilcox ran an upbeat meeting

The morning program Becky Yates presented the Shenandoah District awards with a wonderful power point presentation. The Awards were received enthusiastically. The terrific afternoon program was about the “vital bee”. The bee history was presented as well as the life and culture of bees. Members received a jar of honey.

One of the two scholarship applicants was presented by Heidi Sage (Shenandoah Scholarship Chairmen), Breann Frankel. She spoke to the attendees about her academic history and how she became interested in gardening. She thanked her family for their support and encouragement. She also thanked the committee for the scholarship. Heidi and Breann are pictured, right.



The new slate of officers was voted upon and later installed by VFGC President Val Story. Incoming officers are Valerie Vaughn: President, Missy Dicky: Director Secretary and Dianna Busch: Director Secretary. (Valerie and Val pictured.)

Lucky opportunity ticket holders received the table centerpieces. Many wished there were more to give away!

Awarding and Designing at Piedmont District's Spring Meeting

Gail Goodrich Harwood, District Editor (P)

On March 17th, our Spring District Meeting was held at the lovely Hilton at Virginia Crossings in Glen Allen. **184 members representing 37 clubs attended** the meeting, enjoying the bountiful buffet luncheon, lots of great vendor shopping, and the District Awards program. **28 clubs were presented with Awards** by Diane Burgess, District President and Joanne Wallace, District Awards Chair. The annual Memorial program honored club members we have lost.

Sally Harrison presented a delightful floral design program entitled "Easter Is Coming," featuring five traditional mass themed designs.



Two garden clubs received grants for their youth projects at the District Spring Meeting!

Chester GC was awarded \$50 for their program called "Let It Grow: Starting an Herb Garden" at the Chester County Library on April 26. The purpose was to introduce Preschoolers to herbs and how to grow them. A story about a child exploring an herb garden was read to the children. As the herbs were mentioned, they were passed to the children to feel and smell. The children received herbs planted in cups, as well as handouts. Club member Sara Gibson led the project with club members and the librarian assisting.

Crown Grant GC was awarded \$150 for conducting two-day workshops in April at Maybuery Elementary School in Henrico, with 80-90 students from four classes attending. The purpose was to educate fourth graders on how seeds become flowers, fruits, and vegetables. On the second day Mary Ann Delano, project chair, along with club members, assisted the students as they prepared designs to bring home. Club members are devoted to this continuing project at various elementary schools in western Henrico County.

OLD DOMINION GARDENER

ODG Editor

Gail Goodrich Harwood
gailev@aol.com

ODG Proofreader

Adele Lundquist, et al.

ODG Deadlines

Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1



"IN MEMORIAM" honors the memory of current garden club members.
Please send notification to Claudia Cosby; cosbych1205@gmail.com

Submit ODG articles in MS Word
format with separate image files (300 dpi jpeg)
to our District Editors:

Blue Ridge - Shirley Edillon
540-989-3137
shirle4858@gmail.com

Piedmont - Gail Goodrich Harwood
804-317-8091
Footprints@piedmontdistrictvfgc.org
Subject line "For ODG"

Shenandoah - Val Story
540-272-0975
valstory@aol.com

South Central - Valerie Virkler
434-432-8757
val@rgbartlett.com

Southwest - Lizzie Mann
276-739-2302
kynana3@msn.com

Tidewater - Adele Lundquist
757-717-1953
lundquac@cox.net



Calling All Photographers!

Thanks to all members who have submitted their beautiful photographs, not only for this issue, but for future issues. This is a terrific way to "travel" around the Commonwealth.

To submit your photographs:

- Select seasonal photographs to complement the ODG seasonal publication schedule. Select either long shots or close-up photos.
- Send 300 dpi jpegs – if submitting a phone photo, and your email gives you a size choice, select "Actual" or "Large" size.
- Photographs for the cover must be 'portrait' orientation – inside gallery photos may be either portrait or landscape orientation.
- If your photograph is not of your own garden or plant(s), please gain permission to print in the ODG.
- Send to your district editor by the deadline– include your name and club name; add a caption & location of the photograph.
- Submission is considered permission to print.

To access current and past issues of Old Dominion Gardener, go to the website
<https://virginagardenclubs.org/Publications>.