

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



### ROOTED



National Garden Week: June 1-7, 2025  
Independence Day: July 4, 2025  
Finance Committee Meeting: August 17, 2025 (Roanoke)  
VFGC Board Meeting: August 18, 2025 (Roanoke)  
Flower Show School (FSS) 1: August 18-21, 2025 (Roanoke)

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

It is hard to believe that it is June already! As I write this newsletter, NGC affiliated garden clubs all over the country are celebrating Garden Week June 1 – 7, 2025. If your club participated, please send pictures to be included in the July edition of ROOTED.

Across the state, planning for the coming year has started. Val Story compiled a list of favorite programs your Club Presidents included when they responded in March to Club questionnaires. The compiled list follows next. There are some great ideas for programs! I know many clubs are working now to schedule programs for the coming year.

As you know, our VFGC **Theme** for the next two years is “**Come Learn and Grow with Us!**” Our VFGC **Project** is to “**Plant Red, White and Blue**” in at least one container or spot in your garden. Our VFGC **Goals** include:

- Increase and stabilize membership
- Improve our website
- Encourage participation in educational opportunities

- Encourage and increase opportunities for participation with youth
- Encourage participation with existing programs
- HAVE FUN!

Applying for an Award is an example of participating in an existing program. As you know, a list of VFGC Awards is included on our website [www.virginiagardenclubs.org](http://www.virginiagardenclubs.org). I hope that every club will apply for at least one Award by December 1, 2025, and again by December 1, 2026.

The VFGC website ([www.virginiagardenclubs.org](http://www.virginiagardenclubs.org)) and the NGC website ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)) list a number of programs for Youth. I know that convincing an Elementary School principal to participate in a Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl poster contest, for example, can be challenging. So, one of the new VFGC Special Achievement Awards for the next two years is:

### **SP – 1 YOUTH AWARD – READING IS FUN, BUT SO IS GARDENING**

Once a class, or group of children, selects their favorite book, they should work with VFGC club members to design a garden to illustrate it.

- The submission must include the name of the book, a diagram of the proposed garden and plant list. (For example, if the book chosen is “The Adventures of Peter Rabbit”, the design would be for Mr. McGregor’s Garden and list the vegetables to be planted.) **Any group of children is eligible, not limited to public schools.** Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.

I briefly mention Part a. of this new award *now* because I think many of our members may have children participating in a summer camp or Bible school or visiting grandchildren. They might qualify as “any group of children” for this new Award. Heidi Sage, our VFGC Awards chairman will be distributing additional information about this and other Awards to District Presidents and Awards Chairmen as well as updating the VFGC website.

Again, thank you for the honor of being your VFGC President. I look forward to working with you!

Have a Wonderful Summer!  
Sally

Sally Harrison, VFGC President, 2025-2027

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### **List of Popular Club Programs/Tours compiled by Val Story**

1. Native Pollinator Plantings by Jeremy Harold, Green Space Manager for the City of Harrisonburg. City of Harrisonburg, 320 E. Mosby Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
2. Donetta Bantle presented a workshop where the members made a Thanksgiving table arrangement.
3. Allissa Bunner from Interstate 8 Floristry conducting a hands-on workshop for our Thanksgiving table centerpieces.

Backyard Composting by Virginia Beach Master Gardener, Eileen Walsh

4. Terry Atkinson- “Bluebirds” 804-357-6529

5. Cathy McCarthy- “Garden of Eden” [Cdmccarthy@yahoo.com](mailto:Cdmccarthy@yahoo.com)

6. Jody Conway- “beeswax candle and lip balm making” 804-314-8182

7. Katrina McIntosh “ornamental pollinators gardening “ [mcintoshes95@msn.com](mailto:mcintoshes95@msn.com)

8. Shelia Weisensale- “pods, seeds and cones” 804-553-1596

9. Pollinator Friendly Gardening Using Regenerative Methods” speaker was Jody Conway from Dandelion Springs Apiary. She has a farm you can tour and has classes on crafts from bee’s wax and sells honey products - very interesting program. To contact Jody Conway: [www.dandelionSprings.com](http://www.dandelionSprings.com). Her address is 11011 Beaver Bridge Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838.

10. “My Flower Journey from Boston to Blue Ribbon” and floral demonstration by Martha Coates

11. Hidden Gem Farm- [hiddengemfarmva.com](http://hiddengemfarmva.com)

Owner is Spencer Baily. Farm in Chesapeake selling to florists & local farmer’s markets. Growing sustainable & responsible

12. Jeremy Schmidt – 757-705-6793 Local independent floral designer. Great speaker & unusual arrangements.

13. “Practice Makes Perfect”

A workshop with Kathy Ward Series 101. Encourage newer members about Creative Design and Parallel Design.

14. Bee keeper in our garden club and she usually gives a program on many aspects of bee keeping. (She has a hive that she can transport and a wonderful program printout and program that she is willing to share with other clubs.) Mrs. Gail Bayse, 65 Conner Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980 - Email: [gailzbayse@gmail.com](mailto:gailzbayse@gmail.com) Phone (cell) (917) 690-5856

15. Lady has also installed her own drip irrigation. Both of these she has accomplished for herself and shared her knowledge and some of her starter plants not asked her. But I think she would. Here is her contact information: Mrs. Karen Sikorski, 169 Benz Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980 Email: [ksikorski@mindspring.com](mailto:ksikorski@mindspring.com) Phone (cell) (404) 966-2570

She often invites members to come collect plantings when it is best for them to be planted. She has a Cottage Garden and does all her own gardening. She is very generous. She has often provided tours of her gardens and plantings. I did contact her and she is willing to do a tour of her gardens but it would depend on the time of year. She may be contacted and wanted me to indicate that her Garden is a “work in progress”. I did a “make it take it” boxwood tree workshop for 25 of our Church ladies and Anne was so generous, letting me get the boxwood from her garden. I had about 8 five-gallon white buckets. She also provided the red berries from two trees in her yard. Here is her contact information: Mrs. Anne

Flory, 12 Baynes Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980 – Email: [florybl@gmail.com](mailto:florybl@gmail.com) Phone: (Home) (540) 943-5851 (She uses her landline the most) (cell) (540) 470-0621.

16. Wood Thrush Native Nurseries in Floyd, VA, where Ian Canton (owner) gave us a tour and talk on all the native plants and trees that he propagates and sells. He described to us how he propagates the plants from seeds to maturity and then to market. It was very enjoyable, educational and we all bought natives for our home gardens!

Ian Canton, 215/ 272-1843, [woodthrushnatives@gmail.com](mailto:woodthrushnatives@gmail.com), [www.woodthrushnatives.com](http://www.woodthrushnatives.com)

17. Hope Flower Farm and Winery. We enjoyed both the tour of the farm with the owner and floral creator as well as sampling the wines in the winery.

[. \(https://hopeflowerfarm.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqqq4EUUROfJSjKiFWNJHVRdubf2m-Y1Mh074h7zncBljF1INyH\)](https://hopeflowerfarm.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqqq4EUUROfJSjKiFWNJHVRdubf2m-Y1Mh074h7zncBljF1INyH), visited Abram's Creek, and had our annual picnic at Valerie Hill Winery.

18. Environmental Stewardship trip to Abrams Creek led by Jim Smith. He is very knowledgeable about birds and plants in our area. [jlsmithoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:jlsmithoutdoors@gmail.com), 15403033983

19. Paul Westervelt, Annual and Perennial Production Manager, and Director of New Plant Research and Development at Saunders Brothers Inc. His program "Are They Better or Just New?" was outstanding and covered some of the best and worst perennials introduced in our area. [info@saundersbrothers.com](mailto:info@saundersbrothers.com)

20. Pruning workshop with Master Gardener Ron Fandetti, [fanjet50@gmail.com](mailto:fanjet50@gmail.com)

21. Tour of flower farm and gardens at wedding and event venue Pharsalia with owner and grower Foxie Morgan, followed by catered lunch under the event tent. Contact Foxie Morgan, [info@pharsaliaevents.com](mailto:info@pharsaliaevents.com)

22. Phylis Turner (hands-on activity making a Kokedama and another program on succulents)

23. Holiday candle ring wreath workshop by members, Sarah Chapman and Patsy Cameron.

24. "OWL Be Back," a presentation on owls including slides and samples of skulls and feathers. Presented by Lizzie Mann, 276-739-2302, [kynana3@msn.com](mailto:kynana3@msn.com)

25. "From Grass to Flowers: Creating a More Environmentally Friendly Lawn," including slides and seeds. Presented by Wendy Brady, 276-988-4168, [womanwcats@yahoo.com](mailto:womanwcats@yahoo.com)

26. Esther Vaughan to provide you with contact info for our speaker last September. She was listed on the Master Gardener list. I am friends with her from another organization, ODUMCA.

Kate Melhuish Home:(757) 423-0531

27. Herb Gardening and Nutrition-Old Dominion Herb Society, Sunny McGann

Richmond African Violet Society

Terrarium Workshop Connor Parrish

Gardening for the Birds Barb and Bus Sawyer, Lewis Ginter

Monet's Artistry Steve Sawyer, Lewis Ginter

28. The Natural Garden from Harrisonburg gave a talk and brought plants for sale. We took a fieldtrip to Thompson's Wildlife Preserve in Front Royal to see the trillium in bloom.
29. Member Sherry Schryver provided an excellent program on Winter Sowing. (preschoolsfun@comcast.net)
30. Presentation on Jefferson's impact on gardening by former Handley library Archivist Rebecca Ebert
31. Presentation at Kernstown Battlefield on all the restoration and conservation work there by the director, Gary Shepperd ([kba@kernstownbattle.org](mailto:kba@kernstownbattle.org)).
32. Basic principles of floral design with a focus on what judges look for when judging floral designs by Rebecca Elston, Master Judge from the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club.
33. A PowerPoint presentation of beautiful gardens here and abroad by Northern Neck Master Gardener, Anne Olsen, to inspire the creation a beautiful garden space right in your own backyard.
34. Presentation by Meredith Archer of Mother Shrub to introduce members to the health benefit and delights of Shrub (a drinking vinegar), which traces its history back to the early colonial period in America.
35. Presentation by the Town of Kilmarnock Town Main Street Planting Revamp Project with Sharon Philips, Economic Development Coordinator seeking our club involvement in the project
36. Debbie Burgess of the Northern Neck Master Gardeners presented a video of the flowers creating a beautiful cutting garden that would provide fresh flowers for your floral designs and personal enjoyment.
37. "Pollinator Friendly Gardening Using Regenerative Methods" last May. Our speaker was Jody Conway from Dandelion Springs Apiary. She has a farm you can tour and has classes on crafts from bee's wax and sells honey products - To contact Jody Conway: [www.dandelionSprings.com](http://www.dandelionSprings.com). Her address is 11011 Beaver Bridge Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838.
38. "What You Can Do for the Chesapeake Bay" presented by Jimmy Viers, Regional President of the Professional Grounds Management Assoc. It opened our eyes to what we can personally do to protect our Bay.
39. Peggy Singlemann [peggy@rvagardener.com](mailto:peggy@rvagardener.com) Flowering Plants that Beat the Heat
40. Four Season Garden Design, Agnes Stillfried [akki2763@gmail.com](mailto:akki2763@gmail.com)
41. Dried Floral Design, Sheila Weisensale [Bloomage@verizon.net](mailto:Bloomage@verizon.net)
42. Grow and Design with your own Foliage, and Barbara Hollister [budhollister@gmail.com](mailto:budhollister@gmail.com) – Holiday Designs by Barbara



43. Jayton Howard jaytonh@lewisginter.org - House Plants and Tropical Foliage

44. Jody Taylor a member myzooty1@gmail.com – Jody’s Workshop with Carnations, Eli Green  
elifullpocketfarm@gmail.com – Succulent Care and Propagation

45. Kate Vernon – Delighting in Spring’s Bountiful Gifts, [thearrangersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:thearrangersmarket@yahoo.com).

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## **CLUB NEWS:**

### **From Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club:**



Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club South Central District Awards display at the Buckingham County Library



Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club members making floral arrangements to be displayed on the tables at the Veteran's Memorial Day Observance on Monday, 5/26, at the Buckingham County Community Center in Dillwyn, Va.

Pictured from left, Donna McRae Jones Project Coordinator, Barbara Knabe Co-president, Barbara Wheeler Treasurer, Pat Howe Secretary, Pam Murray Co-president, and Pat Johnson Conservation/Landscaping Chair

## **FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:**

For future editions of **ROOTED**, please send your club's announcements to Email: [rootedvfgc@gmail.com](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com) by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month. This edition has only three announcements which follow.

# *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 Clubs

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

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



# **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**

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



**\*GARDEN TOUR**  
**\*HISTORIC**  
**TAVERN**  
**LUNCH**  
**\*FANTASTIC**  
**FLORAL**  
**PRESENTATION**

## **LEARNING IS FUN!**

### **Flower Show School 1 is offered in Roanoke, August 18 – 21, 2025**

This course offers wonderful discussion and demonstration of the basics in Design and Horticulture whether you are learning for fun or studying to become a Flower show judge. See you in Roanoke!

## *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*

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs



VFGC President – Sally Harrison

**For more information contact:**

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



[francesthrash@cox.net](mailto:francesthrash@cox.net)  
757-481-3484 or 757-478-5791 (cell)

## **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 & FSP**

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.

## **Flower Show School – Course I**

**Date: August 18-21, 2025**

**Location: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building, 3640 Colonial Ave., Roanoke, VA 24018**

**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***

<b>Schedule:</b>		Flower Show
Monday, Aug 18	3:45 – 6 pm	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
	3:45 – 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test



Thursday, Aug 21      9:00 – 10:00 am      Design Examination

**Hotel Information:** Suggested hotel is Holiday Inn Tanglewood, 4468 Starkey Road, Roanoke, 888-465-4329.

**Required Books to have:**

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

**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.

**REGISTRATION FORM: Flower Show School-Course I**  
**(Please print clearly)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Credit \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Credit \_\_\_\_\_

Full Course with/without exam      \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes tuition, two lunches,  
and reserved seating on Front  
rows.)

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      \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration if preordered.

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:

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

**From the VFGC Corresponding Secretary –**

Please let me know if you have an address, phone number and/or email address change.

Also, if you are not the current Garden Club President, please ask your replacement to provide his or her contact and email information and Club name to me with a copy to Claudia Cosby

Email: cosbych1205@gmail.com for the VFGC Yearbook 2025 - 2027

Thank you,

Dianna Busch

VFGC Corresponding Secretary

Email: [diannabusch@comcast.net](mailto:diannabusch@comcast.net)

**THE IDEA EXCHANGE:**

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

While the Old Dominion Gardener (ODG) is published quarterly, **ROOTED** can be sent monthly when ODG is not. 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 as a pdf or in jpeg format. Please submit text in Word format.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

**Email: [rootedvfgc@gmail.com](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com)**



