

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



### ROOTED



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 VFGC members,

Happy summer! Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>! I hope your July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was truly special!

There is no doubt that all over the state of Virginia, summer temperatures and uncomfortably high humidity have arrived. Some of you have already enjoyed your vacation. Some of us are still in the planning phase. Whether grown in your garden or purchased at a Farmers Market, fresh summer fruits and vegetables are enjoyed by all. Have you planted a container or spot in your garden with red, white and blue?

Meanwhile, our District Presidents: Tracy Tuttle (Blue Ridge), Barbara Hollister (Piedmont), Valerie Vaughan (Shenandoah), Terrie Conrad (South Central), Betty Dotson (Southwest), and Glenda Knowles (Tidewater), have been working hard to finalize District meeting dates and recruiting Committee Chairman. Please join me in thanking them. I thank you for saying yes! It takes all of us working together as a team.

Do you find that time is passing by more quickly with each passing year? I do! Please remember that the deadline for Youth Project Grants and Grants to Beautify and Restore is September 15, 2025. Criteria and application forms can be found on the VFGC website:

[www.viriniagardenclubs.org](http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org). The deadline will be here before you know it. Grace Morris is the Chairman for "Keys to the Future" VFGC Youth Project Grants. Judy Ann Fray is the Chairman for Grants to Beautify and Restore. They are anxious to hear from you.

Have a Wonderful Summer!

*Sally*

Sally Harrison, VFGC President, 2025-2027

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## **CLUB NEWS:**

### **The Galax Garden Club Celebrated National Garden Week!**

To celebrate National Garden Week, the Galax Garden club had a plant and garden ware sale at the Galax Farmer's Market on June 7. Fliers were placed in local businesses 10 days before the event. Our goal was to raise awareness in the community of the Galax Garden club. Members donated different plants from their gardens, garden decorations, seeds, pots and baked goods for sale. The Farmer's Market was well attended even though it rained for a short time. We gave out information on the club to potential members and sold lots of plants!



Left to right: VP Suzan Hamilton, Frankie Frank, Suzie Woodley, Carol Morris, Nancy Luague, Pres. Kathy Wood, Nancy Westmoreland. Below is the poster displayed at the sale and below that the flier posted in local businesses.



Galax  
Garden Club

Celebrates  
National Garden Week  
June 1st - 7th

Come learn &  
grow with us!

BENEFITS OF JOINING A GARDEN CLUB:

MEETING & MAKING NEW FRIENDS

COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A GROUP

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS @ MONTHLY MEETINGS

GARDEN TOURS, DAY TRIPS

SHARING OUR LOVE OF PLANTS!

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## **The Natural Bridge Garden Club**

The Natural Bridge Garden Club participated in the annual May plant sale sponsored by the Rockbridge County Council of Garden Clubs at Hopkins Green in downtown Lexington. Members contributed approximately 375 plants as well as other garden items to sell.

The funds are used to support community projects, including scholarships for Nature Camp, a nationally recognized summer camp Vesuvius Virginia. NBGC took in a record amount of money!

Said Maureen Becker, club second vice president and exhibits chair, “There are two reasons why we do this: the plant sale is an engine for fundraising, and it makes people “really happy. “





## **The Rapid Ann Garden Club**

Rapid Ann Garden Club visited White Oak Lavender Farm in Harrisonburg, Virginia on June 11, 2025. The owner, Julie Haushalter, gave us a 90-minute tour, barely enough time to cover everything going on at this extraordinary agri-tourist destination. There are fields of lavender, lovely gardens, a gift shop, a petting zoo, alpacas, a music stage, an education building, and other venues. The farm is an official Monarch way station. A brewer/vintner and a beekeeper are on staff.

Picking your own lavender is included in the tour. The scent of fresh lavender is intriguingly aromatic, refreshing, and relaxing.

The Haushalters process the lavender buds in their own still and make over 100 productions right there on the farm. They sell everything from essential oils to tinctures, creams, dry rubs, lavender for cooking, and lavender honey. They also sell wine and garden-related items.

Lavender plants thrive with poor soil, good drainage, and full sun – at least 6 hours a day. Deer don't eat them! English lavender generally survives Virginia winters and lasts about 10-15 years. Lavender is a woody shrub that is a member of the mint family. Trim it for more blooms and prune it in the fall.

Everyone enjoyed the tour tremendously, learned a lot about lavender, and got a head start on Christmas shopping at the glorious gift shop!





## **Are you planning a Flower Show?**

What a wonderful event flower shows are for your members, clubs and the community. Whether you are having a small, standard, holiday or specialty show, consider applying for the NGC Flower Show Achievement Award. All that applied last year won an NGC Award...that speaks volumes for the quality of VFGC flower shows.

If you are considering applying for an Award, your schedule needs to be reviewed. In fact, all schedules should be reviewed. We all learn from this process. Three judges will be selected from your judging panels...they will review the show/evaluate and tell you if you are able to work on the Book of Evidence, in other words the show scored 95 or greater.

Book of Evidence – Information on preparing a Book of Evidence for a Flower Show Achievement Award, including format and deadlines (**VFGC Book of Evidences must be in by January 1**), can be found on the NGC Website. The Book of Evidence must be submitted electronically to the VFGC Flower Show Evaluation Chairman.

The following forms must be included with the Book of Evidence. a. b. NGC Flower Show Achievement Award Application Form (fillable PDF) NGC Flower Show Achievement Award Show Data Form (fillable PDF). There is a sample of a Book of Evidence on the NGC web under Flower Show School forms and information and in the Awards Section...under the circle, type awards: this will bring up a wealth of information.

We already have 4 schedules applying for an NGC Award, and there are at least two others in the works.

Send your schedules for review....by email!! And most importantly keep having flower shows...any size club can have a show.

More information to come in future issues of Rooted.

Should you have questions feel free to contact **Val Story** by email or phone. 540-272-0975 or [valstory@aol.com](mailto:valstory@aol.com)

**FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:** For future editions of ROOTED, please email your club's announcements to [rootedvfgc@gmail.com](mailto:rootedvfgc@gmail.com). In this edition, two announcements follow:

## 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**

**[francesthresh@cox.net](mailto:francesthresh@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
Wed., Aug 20	3:45 – 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test
	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)**

