

WINTER 2025

OLD DOMINION GARDENER



Convention 2026 Preview
Blue Star Memorial Dedication

VOL 57 Number 3



OLD DOMINION GARDENER

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

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ROOTED

The ROOTED newsletter is managed by Sally Harrison. If you or your club have news you wish to have posted contact Sally at:

RootedVFGC@gmail.com
or by phone: 804-784-2851

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COVER PHOTO

Ice crystals on winter heather, my garden, Henrico County
Photo by Minh Chau Truong
West Hanover GC (P)

Winter Gallery

“What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter’s day?”

-Henry David Thoreaux



**Photo by Debbi Newenstyn
Camellia, Norfolk Botanical Garden
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)**



**Photo by Debbi Newenstyn
Bug Hotel, Bluebird Gap Farm
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)**



**Photo by Debbi Newenstyn
Paper Bush, Bluebird Gap Farm
Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)**



**Photo by Minh Chau Truong
“White on Green”
The woods on John Rolfe Pkwy, Henrico
West Hanover GC (P)**

President's Greeting

Come Learn and Grow with Us



Dear VFGC members,

I know we need rain. The showers we have had recently are not enough. I must confess that traveling around Virginia in October to the six District meetings, the clear blue skies and colorful changing leaves have been beautiful! It was such an honor to be invited and to have the opportunity to meet so many enthusiastic gardeners and floral designers. You are an incredibly talented group who continue to accomplish so much! Again, thank you for all that you do to support your garden club, your community, your District and VFGC! We all learn from each other. Meeting new friends who share our love of nature and who share their knowledge will always be one of the greatest benefits of joining a garden club.

It is hard to believe that it is the middle of November already. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. So will the deadline to submit your Awards applications to your District Awards Chairman. The deadline is December 1st! After all I heard at the District meetings, I am firmly convinced that every VFGC club can find at least one Award for which they are eligible to apply! The list of VFGC awards can be found on the VFGC website <https://viriniagardenclubs.org>. Click on the Awards heading to find out more, including a link to your District awards.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we all stop to think about our many blessings, starting with our families, friends and communities. Each of you truly makes a difference. Thank you for ALL that you do! Thank you for coming to Learn and Grow with VFGC!

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family ...Happy Thanksgiving ... a very Merry Christmas... and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Sally

Sally Harrison
VFGC President, 2025-2027

Shenandoah District Dedicates Blue Star Memorial

A sunny fall afternoon on October 25, 2025 marked the day of the newest Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication. Several participants and guests attended the ceremony at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield. The battlefield was holding a reenactment on this day too...cannons were heard in the distance which added to the ambiance and somber remembrance. Music played, honor guard preformed, speeches were given, the memorial unveiled, taps played, and wonderful reception were all part of the day. This is a long tradition with Shenandoah District dedicating Blue Star memorial markers at Randolph-Macon Military Academy in Front Royal, Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Luray Caverns, to name a few. A special thank you to the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation, a battlefield rich in Civil War history.



From left to right: Sally Harrison, Barbara Hollister, Jane Vaughn, Jill Quinley, Valerie Vaughn and Val Story

Event Calendar

Dec 1	Awards Applications Due to District Chairs
Dec 5	Richmond Council Flower Show
Feb 27-28	VA Orchid Society Show, LGBG*
Mar 16	Piedmont District Spring Meeting
Mar 19-22.....	SAR Convention, Parkersburg, W Va
Mar 21-22.....	VA Daffodil Society Show, LGBG*
Mar 23-26	Flower Show School Course II, Norfolk
Apr 9.....	Shenandoah District Meeting
Apr 16.....	Tidewater District Meeting
Apr 18.....	Southwest District Meeting
Apr 20-21	VFGC Convention, Williamsburg
Apr 23.....	Blue Ridge District Meeting
Apr 30.....	South Central District Meeting

*Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

Awards Applications Due December 1

Heidi Sage, VFGC Awards Chair

REMINDER that your applications for Awards (covering Jan 1 - Dec 1, 2025) are due to your District Awards Chairs by Dec 1.

For the list of awards, Special Awards, required cover sheet, points scoring, and District Chair contacts, go to the Awards section of the VFGC website:

VFGC AWARDS

SAVE THE DATE!



See the Convention Preview, p 10

VFGC Symposium 2025

Valerie Story, VFGC Symposium Chair

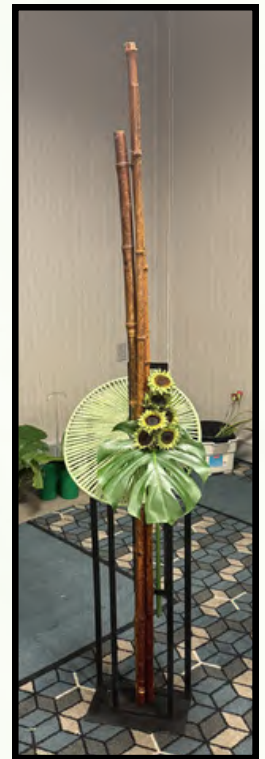
At the recent VFGC Symposium near Richmond airport, 70 judges, students, and general interest club members were on-hand for a lively two days of learning. While the majority of attendees were from Virginia, there were a number from other states as well: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia.



Gina Jogan – Design Instructor

Gina is an NGC Master Judge and Instructor in Design, Flower Show Procedure, and Allied Topics. She has exhibited widely, and her designs have been included in publications and online.

Gina taught reflective and floor designs, as well as the Allied topic: Judges' comments on entry cards. Actual comments were used for illustration purposes and were quite helpful.



David Robson – Horticulture Instructor

David is a retired horticulture and pesticide specialist from the University of Illinois. He is an NGC Master Judge and worked on the 2017 NGC Book for Flower Shows and the NGC Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging book.

David taught cut-leaf Philodendron, Collections, and the Allied Topic for Botanical Arts.



**2026 Symposium will be held
November 2-3 in Roanoke**

VFGC Scholarships

Jill Quinley, VFGC Scholarships Chair

The 2025 VFGC Scholarship Committee received several applications for evaluation but narrowed selections down to two outstanding candidates. *Ashleigh Mann, Longwood College*, received a scholarship in the amount of \$6,200. *Sirji Upadhyay, The College of William and Mary*, received a scholarship in the amount of \$6,200.00.

Notifications were sent the end of February to each recipient. NGC accepts only one application from each state, and Ashleigh Mann's application was selected by the VFGC scholarship committee and submitted to NGC for evaluation. She was granted an NGC scholarship in the amount for \$3,900.00.

Both Ashleigh and Sirji attended the April Annual VFGC Convention luncheon in Richmond. Each gave an excellent presentation to the attendees and were well received.

The scholarship awards were sent by Linda Nau, VFGC treasurer to the recipients' respective colleges in July.

Preparing for 2026, the scholarship committee has been sent a reminder of their responsibility to contact all colleges and universities in their district with VFGC scholarship information.

A reminder in closing....."**word of mouth**" **still works really well.** Complete information for you to share can be found at:

VFGC Scholarships

VFGC at the Fair



Fun times and learning happened at the State Fair this year on September 30 - October 1, as teams of VFGC volunteers worked with event leader *Judy Durant* to create bird feeders, succulent gardens, reflective spinners, and small floral designs.



Let's Have Fun!

Genny Chase, VFGC 2026 Convention Chair



Williamsburg Lodge

A Marriott Autograph Collection Hotel

Our 92nd Annual Convention promises to be a “ONE OF A KIND”!!! We will be staying in the historic gem crafted by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in 1939. **Come and immerse yourself in the charm of Williamsburg by staying at Williamsburg Lodge.** The Lodge is situated in the heart of the city and blends Southern elegance with modern comforts for a homelike feel.

Drawing from the time of Colonial Williamsburg, the Lodge has an 18th-century style which blends harmoniously with modern amenities including complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, mini-refrigerators and flat-panel TVs. If you wish to elevate your visit, pamper yourself with spa treatment or tee off at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club, (separate cost and reservations with the Lodge are required).

These accommodations are just minutes from historic Jamestown, Yorktown and Merchants Square. Walk westward down Francis Street and discover this stunning showcase of retail, dining, and historic charm in this picturesque setting known as Colonial Williamsburg's Merchants Square.



BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!! With the 250th Anniversary of the USA, Williamsburg will be very popular and busy, especially in the beautiful springtime of April 20-21, 2026. The Lodge has offered additional nightly rooms at the same cost before and after the convention dates.

The nightly rate at Williamsburg Lodge will be \$189.00 USD plus City and State Taxes of 12.00 % per night; Occupancy Tax of \$2.00 per night. A self-parking fee of \$10.00 per night will be charged upon checking in. Non-registered Lodge guests will need to use the Hotel app. Directions for using the app are displayed throughout the parking areas. This will be a larger fee, if not a registered guest. The deadline for reservations, if there are still rooms available will be March 25, 2026.

Please use this link to make your Lodge reservation for the 2026 Convention: [BOOK NOW](#)

If you have difficulty making pre or post conference reservations, call the group reservations office M-F, 9 am-5 pm, at 800-261-9530.



WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC GARDENS

Bring your best walking shoes for a fantastic, guided walking tour of three different social levels of historic Colonial Williamsburg Gardens!!! On April 20th beginning at 10:00 AM, we will meet at the Palace Green to **join the Colonial Williamsburg Horticulture Department on a very interesting and informative tour of the gardens, including the Governors Palace Garden.**

Then we'll walk to the historic Shields Tavern for a "Colonial Lunch". The cost for the tour and lunch will be on the registration form which will come out in the Spring ODG and on the VFGC website.

OR an Alternative Activity: WREATH-MAKING

For those who have worn out their best walking shoes and would like to learn about enduring plants from colonial times, we have a special workshop. **Learn the best way to grow Lavender and enjoy making your own Lavender Wreath to take home!** *Two Bees Lavender*, a local business born from a passion for lavender and love of community is coming from "Clifton", their historic farm in Kilmarnock, for this event.

This presentation and workshop will take place in the Lodge on April 20th, beginning at 10:00AM. Then this group will join the Garden Tour groups at Historic Shields Tavern for a "Colonial Lunch". The cost for this presentation including the wreath making workshop and lunch will be on the registration form in the Spring ODG and on the VFGC website.



Historic Shields Tavern Site of Our "Colonial Lunch"

There will be much more to do, learn and enjoy during this two-day convention. **We have set aside a special "meet and greet" time** before dinner and the design program on Monday evening, April 20th. Plan to come and enjoy spending time with fellow garden club members discussing the VFGC's "Bright Future"!

Shopping with vendors is always a special convention feature. The *Native Plant Society* of Williamsburg – John Clayton Chapter, will be available to answer questions and give you the opportunity to purchase native plants. *Two Bees Lavender* will also have products for sale; and there will be many more vendors.

Attendees to the convention will be the first to view our special presentation of the 3D "Virginia Landscape Mural" – this will be highlighting the unique attributes of each district with a new concept of "showing off" our entire state of Virginia, along with honoring district presidents. Leading this project is Kathy Ward, an exceptionally talented floral designer and imaginative "out of the box" orchestrator.



**“THE FINEST PLEASURES IN LIFE
ARE THE UNEXPECTED ONES!”**

**COME AND EXPERIENCE THE
UNEXPECTED AT
THE 2026 CONVENTION!!**

**NEW ZEALAND’S 2025 DESIGNER OF THE YEAR
FRANCINE THOMAS
TO BE FEATURED FLORAL DESIGNER**

What a treat we will have at our 92nd Annual Convention – Francine Thomas has travelled throughout New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Wales and up and down the East Coast of the USA demonstrating, teaching and judging.

Mrs. Thomas has a very energetic sense of humor which can be contagious and is evident in her floral presentations. She is inspired by what she sees and feels, and it comes through in her ideas for floral theatres as well as in her teaching floral art. Francine loves sharing ideas to inspire other people to do the same, and flowers are from the heart, as is her designing. She has Floral Art Society of New Zealand diplomas in teaching, judging and demonstrating and is a Floral Art Society of New Zealand Lecturer, as well as obtaining a New Zealand Qualification and Authority diplomas in Horticulture and Design.

We will experience something new to our convention this year; Francine will be LIVE FROM NEW ZEALAND. This design program will be interactive; with input from the audience as well as having your questions answered about New Zealand and her designs and techniques; with surprises!!! Francine says: “The finest pleasures in life are the unexpected ones!”

For the 2026 VFGC Convention on April 20-21, we will have a printed program again. Clubs, Districts, Councils, or individual Members may submit ads for the program. Ads can be used to:
Celebrate a milestone anniversary. Highlight a club – community partnership.
Promote an upcoming flower show or event. Memorialize lost members.
Honor special members or achievements.

The program size is 5.5 x 8.5. Ads can be either half page for \$50 or full page for \$100.
Submit payment to Linda Nau, VFGC Treasurer, at 1810 Ethelred Court, Midlothian, VA, 23113-3400.
Submit a “designed” ad -- or submit content and images for assistance with design
by March 10 to Gail Goodrich Harwood via email: gailev@aol.com

2025-26 Youth Project Grants “Keys to the Future”

Grace Morris, Chair, VFGC Youth Project Grants

Every year, VFGC offers Youth Project Grants, “The Keys to the Future”.

Here is a summary of 2025-26 projects awarded grant funds. Be inspired!

The **Hawthorn Garden Club** of the Piedmont District has taken on the project of creating a Native Plant Sensory Garden for Timber Ridge School. The goal of the project is to provide Timber Ridge students with horticultural and gardening experience, leadership opportunity and ongoing environmental awareness through the development, maintenance and care of a garden that will be a special calming area near the gymnasium. Timber Ridge School is a residential treatment facility in Frederick County, Virginia. The organization serves adolescent males from ages 11-to-21 years old who are in recovery for substance use disorder, working on mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, and behavioral issues. The Native Plant Sensory Garden will be a popular outdoor location to connect with nature. Learning such self-regulating skills will help build positive changes they will use for a lifetime. They anticipate that about 200 people will use the garden area throughout the year.

The **Crown Grant Garden Club** of the Piedmont District plans an ongoing children's design workshop annually in the spring, following spring break, in a western Henrico elementary school to teach 4th grade students about how flowers and greenery can be made into arrangements as both an art project and as a science project. As a science project, the children learn that plants can continue to live if the oasis is replenished with water. They also learn about environmental concerns as well as how seeds become flowers, fruit, or vegetables. As an art project, the children learn about the beauty and care of cut flowers and are empowered to be creative by making their own floral arrangements utilizing various shapes, textures and colors of plant material furnished by the club.

The **Rapid Ann Garden Club** of the Shenandoah District was introduced to the art of Anthotype Printing with plants and foliage (a photographic printing process that uses light-sensitive materials derived from plants to create images). They thought that this would be a wonderful project to do with 96 5th grade students. This project will take place over two visits. On the 1st visit each student will construct a flower press with 6x6 pieces of wood, cardboard, blotter paper, and rubber bands. The students will select foliage and flowers that have been collected by club members. During this lesson, students will be introduced to the different varieties of flowers and foliage that have been labeled by club members. After selecting their foliage and flowers, members will instruct students on how to prepare the items for pressing. Students will keep their presses at school for 2 weeks to allow ample drying. During the second lesson the students will be introduced to Anthotype Printing.

The **Rock Spring Garden Club** of the Piedmont District was organized in May 1953 and is located in Arlington, VA (having the distinction of being the northernmost club affiliated with Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.). Two of the four objectives of this club are to promote an interest in horticulture and artistic use of plant materials and to serve our community by participating in various community outreach projects to include youth gardening activities. The Youth Activities Committee conducts monthly programs with second graders at a local elementary school.

The **Salisbury Garden Club** of the Piedmont District aims to educate and nurture youth about the joys of gardening and protecting the environment in a wide range of ages and needs. They now reach out to 4 groups of youth, Southampton Elementary School, Homework Helpers, Redeemer Episcopal Day School, (REDS,) and a Children's Garden Faire during National Garden Week. Ten members go twice a year to Southampton Elementary School, an intercity school in Richmond, to provide educational and mentoring opportunities for 15 to 20 students, at each activity.

Plant-A-Tree

Carol Medlin, VFGC Chair

The wrath from natural disasters in recent years leaves us with a measured number of reasons to support this most worthwhile program. In addition, according to state environmental groups, **Virginia loses approximately 18,000 trees annually to development and diseases.**

Trees remove substances from the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter, and reduces rainwater runoff while their roots absorb harmful nutrients. Trees are essential habitats for animal life such as squirrels, bats, birds, and insects. It has been shown that a mature oak tree can harbor up to 500 insect species.

Virginia ranks in the "top" with donations totaling \$22,883.14. Thanks to all District Chairmen and clubs for your enthusiasm and dedication to make Plant-A-Tree a success for our state.

You may donate any amount, from as little as \$50.00 up to \$10,000.00. This is an excellent way to honor someone for any occasion.

In addition to beautifying our landscapes, your donations may be used to buy machinery and create jobs.

Mail your contributions to National Garden Clubs, Inc., 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 62110-3492. Download the form from the NGC Website for completion. Your e-mail address is required with each donation for you to receive a tax receipt and link to customize your digital certificate.

Inquiries: Carol Medlin6@gmail.com
804-580-2022

Are You Batty for Pollinators?

Debbi Newenstyn, VFGC Chair
Birds, Butterflies, and Pollinators

Are you Batty for Pollinators?



One of my favorite pollinators is...bats!!!!

There are over 500 plant species that rely on bats to pollinate their flowers. These include mango, banana, guava, and more! This is called *chiropterophily*.

Bats prefer flowers that are usually white, or pale in color, and are bell-shaped and large. Mostly nocturnal plants.

A popular plant for bats is *agave*, used in making tequila (think margaritas!) The bats that usually pollinate these plants are those who eat nectar. They have long, hairy tongues that help them reach down farther into the flower. While bats are eating the nectar, pollen is sticking to their hairy body parts. So next time you are enjoying a margarita, thank a bat!

Photo credit, istock.com

Flower Show School Course II

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School
March 23-26, 2026

Freemason St. Baptist Church
400 E. Freemason St, Norfolk, VA 23510 757-625-7579



Flower Show Procedure will cover review of Standard & Specialty Flower Show requirements, standard system of awarding, duties of flower show chairman & committee, writing a flower show schedule, and an explanation of Botanical Arts Photography Section & Botanical Arts Photography Award.

Horticulture will cover staging horticulture innovatively, petite horticulture, general requirements for horticulture Top Exhibitor Awards, judging qualities on the point scoring form, and commenting vocabulary,

Design will include table designs with the role of balance, color and texture emphasized, creative staging of tables, petite design and Top Exhibitor Awards for tables and petites, judging qualities on the Point Scoring form, and commenting vocabulary and procedures.

Design & Flower Show Procedure: Cathy Waitinas

Cathy will teach tables, petites, and flower show procedure.

Horticulture: Jan Griffin

Jan will teach dracaenas with emphasis on sanseverias and daffodils .

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

SCHEDULE

Monday, Mar 23	3:45 pm– 6 pm - Flower Show Procedure
Tuesday, Mar 24	8:00 am – 9:00 am - FSP Exam 9:15 am – 3:30 pm - Horticulture/Lunch 3:45 – 5:45 pm - Point Scoring Test
Wed, Mar 25	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 26	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 II - March 23-26, 2026

Cathy Waitinas

Design & Flower Show Procedure

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.

Jan Griffin

Horticulture

After moving from the Seattle area to Florida all the plants I knew about would not thrive in Florida's climate. I joined a Garden Club and started my quest for learning about other varied and interesting plants. I became Flower Show Judge. Now I teach Floral Design classes as well as horticulture for Flower Show Schools and have developed several horticulture and design programs for clubs, judges, and civic groups.

Being actively involved in The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Florida Flower Show Judges keeps me busy. It has been my honor to serve as horticulture chairman for six state flower shows and several District shows.

My interests other than Garden Club are my family, golf, and working in my friend's florist shop. My comment to all my wonderful design friends is that you need great horticulture to create great designs

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel is on your own. Suggestion:

Sleep Inn at Lake Wright, 1521 Premium Outlet Blvd., Norfolk, VA. 23502 757-462-6251

This hotel is near the outlets and IKEA, just off the interstate - 10 minutes at most to the church.

REGISTRATION - FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL
COURSE II Mar 23-26, 2026
Freemason St. Baptist Church, Norfolk

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 February 23, 2026****

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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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

- Anita Hinson.....previously New Castle GC
President, Blue Ridge District 2005-2007
- Amy Rickman.....Green Thumb GC
- Joanne Bolling.....Blue Ridge GC

Piedmont District

- Carolyn Bedford.....Sleepy Hollow GC
Club President, 2023-2025

Shenandoah District

- Glenda Duncan.....Rapid Ann GC
- Sarah Howlett.....Rose Cliff GC

Southwest District

- Wanda Blevins.....Lee County GC
- Patricia Hopkins.....Lee County GC
- Elizabeth Life.....Lee County GC

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

CLUB and DISTRICT NEWS

Making a Difference

Cross-Pollination



Thomas Jefferson GC Earns Top Flower Show Award

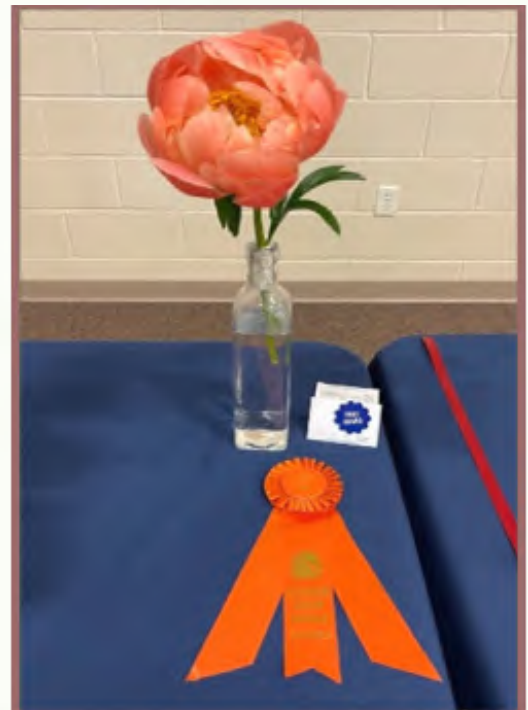
Susan DeISordo, Thomas Jefferson GC, (P)

Thomas Jefferson Garden Club, a member of Piedmont District, VFGC, Inc., received the NCG Flower Show Achievement Award and Rosette for their Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, “Springtime Splendor”, which was hosted on April 25, 2024, at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

All 37 members of Thomas Jefferson Garden Club participated in the event, resulting in 106 entries in Horticulture and two entries in Education. Of the 38 classes, 13 received awards for scores of 90+. Notably, the show featured three entries in Displays and one Collection, with a creative submission winning the Collectors Showcase Award and the Award of Horticultural Excellence. (right, top)

Prior to the event, workshops were conducted to provide guidance on creating collections, displays, and standard horticultural entries. Thomas Jefferson had many new members who had not previously participated in a flower show.

The event was attended by more than fifty people, including members from ten different garden clubs, church members, and neighbors.



Lake Smith Terrace GC Spreads Joy to Hospital Patients

Debbi Newenstyn, Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

Lake Smith Terrace kicked off their new term with one of their members, *Barb Pritchard*, offering a hands-on program for creating petite flower arrangements at their September meeting. The containers were recycled from cat food cans and covered in scrap paper strips that were recycled from a member's craft projects. Members brought greenery from their yards. Barb demonstrated how to keep designs within the petite guideline measurements as well as choosing placement of flowers and materials. They hoped to encourage more members to participate in local flower show petite categories.

As a bonus, the next day the arrangements were delivered to patients in Lake Taylor Transitional Hospital in Norfolk. Members were able to spread some floral joy, and the petites were perfect for their bedside tables.



Ye Accawmacke GC Turns 75!

Ann Bull, Ye Accawmacke GC (T)

The Ye Accawmacke Garden Club of the Eastern Shore of Virginia celebrated the 75th anniversary of their founding on October 15, 2025. The celebration was held at Historic St. James Church in Accomac. The program at St. James began with introduction of all guests including Tidewater District Board members Glenda Knowles, Audrey Kelly and Pat Cameron. Past President of YAGC, Susan Grove of Pennsylvania and Esther Evans, Honorary Member of YAGC were also recognized. Guest speaker, Dennis Custis talked about Accomac and its history, Wanda Smith presented significant accomplishments of the club for the past 75 years. Afterwards the group was invited to tour the Accomac Court Green and the new tree marker honoring the Garden Club's Restoration of the Court Green.



Centerpieces by Belmont GC Members

Shirley Grant, Belmont GC (BR)

Members of the *Belmont Garden Club* in Bedford gathered at the home of Shirley Grant, President, on September 26 for an afternoon of flower arranging. The ladies made 12 centerpieces that were used at their first Fashion Show and Luncheon held on Saturday, September 27. Our club co-chaired this event with the *Blue Ridge Garden Club*, which also provided flower arrangements. All of the arrangements added a beautiful touch to the table decor and those attending the event were given the opportunity to purchase an arrangement. There were over 100 in attendance; and proceeds from this event go to funding civic and club activities.



Green Spring GC Sponsors Williamsburg Historic Homes Tour

Pat Wilson, Green Spring GC (T)

The Annual Christmas Homes Tour is a celebrated introduction to this historic town brought to life by the Green Spring Garden Club, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Landscape and Floral Design Department, and select floral design artisans. Initiated in 1961, the Tour is still held on the first weekend in December in conjunction with Williamsburg's Grand Illumination.

The 2025 Annual Christmas Home Tour, to be held on Saturday, December 6 is the 64th Tour. It features an extraordinary selection of four seldom-viewed homes within the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area, three of which are original homes of the Historic Area and the fourth is reconstructed on its original foundation after a devastating fire. Each of these historic homes will be decorated with exquisite fresh and dried floral designs done in the Colonial Williamsburg style. The 2025 Home Tour features:

- *The Lightfoot House*: One of the original eighty-nine homes of the Historic Area
- *The Prentis House & Garden*: The home of William Prentis was constructed in 1725 and expanded in 1765, but burned to the ground in 1842. It was painstakingly reconstructed.
- *The Grissell Hay Lodging House and Outbuildings*: One of the original eighty-nine homes of the Historic Area, the core of the house was constructed in 1720 and restored in 1930-31.
- *The Nelson-Galt House and Kitchen*: One of the original eighty-nine homes of the Historic Area, the Nelson-Galt House is the oldest dwelling in town (core c. 1695) and one of the oldest houses in Virginia.

Tour proceeds are donated annually by the Club to support the gardens of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as well as other beautification projects in the historic triangle. Scholarships in environmental science and policy at local colleges and youth nature camp are also funded from Tour proceeds. The Green Spring Garden Club, Inc. members invite you to experience this grand tradition and celebrate the holidays in the Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg! Tickets (\$40) and additional photos are available on the website: www.greenspringgardenclub.org



Southside GC Presents “Jewels in the Garden”

Felice Proctor, Southside GC (BR)

On September 3, the Southside Garden Club was pleased to present an **NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show at the Montgomery-Floyd Public Library in Blacksburg, VA.**

The theme of the show was *Jewels in the Garden*, and the “jewels” from our gardens were abundant and on beautiful display for the occasion. **Nine of our thirteen club members exhibited Horticultural specimens, totaling 115 entries in all, across seven Sections and twenty-one Classes.**

In addition to the Horticulture, two teams of club members created **two very informative Educational Exhibits for the show: “The Spotted Lantern Fly in Virginia” and “Supporting Native Pollinators with Native Host Plants”.**

Club members also contributed much appreciated help and support in the areas of hospitality and greeting the public during the show’s open hours.

Happily, the open hours were very well attended, and it was especially gratifying to find that so many of the attendees were eager to engage in conversation about the plants and exhibits in addition to enjoying just looking at them.

Given the scope of the entries, Southside is especially appreciative of, and thankful for, the care, diligence, time, energy and expertise with which the judges carried out their work for our show. Our thanks to them and also to the staff of the Montgomery-Floyd Public Library for their always generous help and support in this, and every, Southside project. Good partners, indeed!



Lake Smith Terrace GC Implements “Yard of the Month”

Debbi Newenstyn, Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

Following the practice of some other garden clubs, the Lake Smith Terrace GC decided to implement the “Yard of the Month” process as a recruitment tool. A few members drive through neighborhoods and select a yard for a particular month. There were many contenders for the September 2025 “Yard of the Month” but only one excelled. The criteria are simple: find an eye-catching colorful yard which includes both plants and ornamentation; members yards are excluded.

Once a particular yard is selected, the Lake Smith GC members leave the neighbor a goody bag with a certificate, candy, a pair of garden gloves, and their member brochure which is a packet of seeds with a label on the back. The label contains their meeting information and a QR code that takes you to their Facebook page. Also included is a personal invitation to join the garden club at their next meeting.



President Debbi Newenstyn and Vice President Sue Harper deliver the “prize” to homeowners and extend an invitation to join the club.

Brae and Beck GC Beautifies Fincastle Community

Brae and Beck GC (BR)

The Brae and Beck Garden Club got into the fall spirit by planting colorful mums in front of the Fincastle library. Now visitors are greeted by bright pops of color as the butterfly bush, lantanas and coneflowers take a winter break. The club also tidied up the Monarch Waystation, weeding and thinning out plants.



“Home For the Holidays”



A Holiday NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented By

**Richmond Council of Garden Clubs
And
Midlothian Garden Club**

**Friday, December 5, 2025
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Open and Free to the Public
Handicap Accessible**

**Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
8000 Hermitage Road
Henrico, VA 23228**

Rapid Ann GC Holds Fairy Garden Workshop

Susan Prock, Rapid Ann GC (S)

Rapid Ann Garden Club held a Fairy Garden workshop for local children at the Orange Downtown Alliance Farmer's Market on Saturday October 4th.

This is one of many youth and community events that RAGC holds throughout the year.

Over 80 children (and their parents) had enormous fun creating these beautiful gardens! So did RAGC members Sharon Mohrmann, Mary Jane Ewing, Shirley Newman, Margie Clements, Bobbie Elmore and Joanie Palmer.



Lake Smith Terrace GC Flower Show Feb 15, 2026



SAVE THE DATE
Flower Show



*Love is in
the Air*

02.15.26

AT 12-3:30 PM

BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1400 EWELL ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH VA

Piedmont District's "Fall Flurry"

Janice Beatty and Lili Aram-Bost , Directors of Programs and Hospitality (P)

On October 13th, our Fall District Meeting was held at the Hilton at Virginia Crossings in Glen Allen. For "Fall Flurry" we had 173 members in attendance.

The fabulous pumpkin centerpieces were created by members of *Stonehenge Garden Club*. They made everyone smile as they entered the ballroom. The centerpieces were creative and perfect for fall season. The abundant buffet was well received, and the sublime dark chocolate flourless cake with raspberry drizzle enchanted our taste buds.

During this event, Piedmont District welcomed six "new to us" vendors. Attendees combed through the fine wares of 16 vendors with glee.

For the afternoon program, guest designer Brenda McManaway created six beautiful arrangements, describing the style of arrangements and what floral material was used. Brenda kept us all entertained with her comments, and she was very willing to answer all questions.

Opportunity tickets were sold by meeting hostesses who were members of *Ginter Park* and *Chancellor Garden Clubs*. They did an excellent job roaming the halls and seeking out possible sales.



Shenandoah District's Fall Meeting

Val Story (S)



Lots going on for "Ways and Means"

On October 9, the fall Shenandoah District Meeting was held at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester. The meeting was dedicated to the host clubs: *Hawthorne*, *Colonial* and *Glen Burnie*. Many enthusiastic members participated!

The meeting hall looked lovely with the absolutely stunning fall arrangements created by host clubs, as well as Colonial making the memorial arrangement. The name tags were made by Dianna Busch. All the host clubs manned the registration desk. District President, Valerie Vaughan ran an organized and upbeat meeting.

The Ways and Means tables were full of yummy food items, handcrafted decoupage crafts and wreaths made from dried flowers. These tables were busy places.

The morning program dealt with native plants as well as the harm in light pollution. The afternoon program was given by our own *Leslie Mack* about her lovely *Birdsong Pleasure Gardens*. The talk showed how she and her husband developed three acres into a walking wonderland. A must see!

A Shenandoah Committee (Pat Carswell, Becky Yates and Val Story) presented the new "special award program" for clubs to apply with chance of winning \$100.00. There is also a club participation award for those who attend district meetings, and an outstanding individual club member award.

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

OLD DOMINION GARDENER

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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:

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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>.