

SPRING 2026

OLD DOMINION GARDENER



Convention 2026 Registration

VOL 57 Number 4



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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NGC President

Donna Donnelly

"PLANT AMERICA - for the next 100 Years"

dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org

SAR Director

Linda Howle

"SAR-Watch Us Grow"

howlelinda@yahoo.com

VFGC President

Sally Harrison

"Come Learn and Grow with Us"

sally.c.harrison@gmail.com

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4401 Magnolia Ave.

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headquarters@gardenclub.org

VFGC, Inc.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Ave.

Richmond, VA 23228-4700

804-262-9887

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org>

COVER PHOTO

Daffodil at Colonial Williamsburg

Photo by Debbi Newenstyn

Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

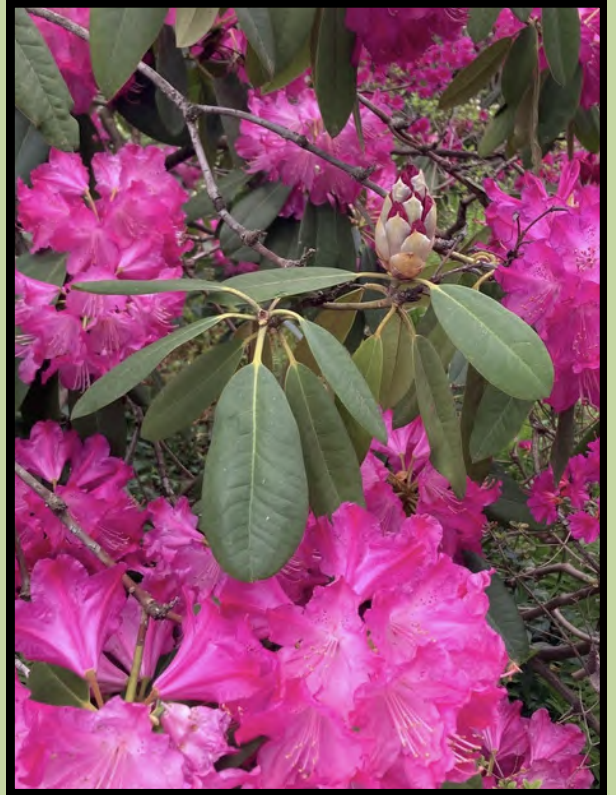
Spring Gallery

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”

-Lady Bird Johnson



Photo by Adele Lundquist
Spring Snapdragons
Lynnhaven Heritage GC (T)



Photos by Gail Goodrich Harwood
Rhododendron and Tulips at Hillwood Estate, 2025
Sleepy Hollow Garden Club (P)



President's Greeting

Come Learn and Grow with Us



Dear VFGC Members,

All over Virginia, it has been quite a winter so far. I pray that you and yours are safe and warm. In my neighborhood there are still treacherous patches of ice. Let's hope that it will all melt this week and that there will be an early spring! Unfortunately, the Groundhog says six more weeks of winter. I am hoping for early daffodils anyway!

In my travels around Virginia, many of you have mentioned that Williamsburg is one of your favorite places. Celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary and having our 92nd VFGC Convention in Williamsburg is a great way to "Celebrate Our Inspiring Past and Bright Future". Donna Donnelly, our NGC President, will join us in Williamsburg! So, make your plans to attend our VFGC Convention in Williamsburg, April 20-21, 2026. Please refer to the Convention overview and registration form on pp 8-10. Genny Chase, our Convention Chairman, has been working hard to make this event truly special! Flexibility has been included for those who want to take advantage of the Colonial Williamsburg discounted admission ticket. Be sure to register early. Spaces for the Garden Tours and Lavender Workshop followed by lunch are limited and will fill up fast. Also, while we have reserved a block of rooms at The Williamsburg Lodge, they may not be able to add rooms to the block because it is such a popular destination. Use the direct link on p 8 to reserve your room soon. Spring in Williamsburg is truly special!

Don't forget that there is a special NGC PLANT AMERICA, BLUE/GOLD STAR BEAUTIFICATION GRANT available from NGC. The application deadline is February 17, 2026. Go to the NGC website: <https://gardenclub.org> for details. Please remember to plant Red, White and Blue this year wherever you can!

VFGC Awards will be announced at the Convention. This year's presentation will be different, so come and see exhibits of some award-winning projects! While you must wait to learn about VFGC Awards, please join me in congratulating: Diane Burgess (P), JoAnn McNabb (P), Brenda McManaway (BR), Jane Oliver Smith (P), and Betty Ann Galway (S). Their designs were featured in the latest *Design Dimensions*, the internationally distributed magazine published by the Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas (CFAA)! Ladies, your creative designs are an inspiration to the rest of us. Our own Genny Chase (P), Betty Ann Galway (S), and Frances Thrash (T) will be among the designers asked to conduct workshops at the CFAA convention in Tampa, May 27 - 30!

Sally

Sally Harrison
VFGC President, 2025-2027

Event Calendar

- Feb 27-28VA Orchid Society Show, LGBG*
- Mar 16Piedmont District Spring Meeting
- Mar 19-22.....SAR Convention, Parkersburg, W Va
- Mar 21-22..... VA Daffodil Society Show, LGBG*
- Mar 23-26Flower Show School Course II, Norfolk
- Apr 9.....Shenandoah District Meeting
- Apr 13-14.....Landscape Design School II, LGBG*
- Apr 16.....Tidewater District Meeting
- Apr 18.....Southwest District Meeting
- Apr 20-21VFGC Convention, Williamsburg
- Apr 23.....Blue Ridge District Meeting
- Apr 30.....South Central District Meeting
- May 4-6.....NGC Convention, St. Louis, MO

*Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

Celebrate
National Garden Week
June 7-13

SAVE THE DATE!
2026 VFGC Symposium
will be held
November 2-3
in Roanoke

VMFA's Fine Arts and Flowers 2026

Janet Minock, VFGC Liaison to VMFA for Fine Arts and Flowers

VMFA's Fine Arts and Flowers will burst into bloom October 7 - 11, 2026. 37 designers from the Virginia Federation will help transform the museum galleries into living works of art. Floral designers will interpret iconic masterworks creating bold and imaginative displays that will surprise and delight at every turn.

The excitement extends beyond the galleries with a dynamic lineup of events, including hands-on workshops, engaging lectures, an elegant gala, and a luncheon. A chic fashion show will add style and celebration. Fine Arts and Flowers 2026 will be a must-see event.



Put October 8-11 on your calendar and watch the VMFA website for event tickets beginning May 1.

VFGC 2026 Convention

Genny Chase, VFGC 2026 Convention Chair
Claudia Cosby, Registrar



**92nd Annual Convention
Williamsburg**

**Registration Postmark Deadline is March 31
Hotel Reservation Deadline is March 25**

Our 92nd Convention promises to be a “ONE OF A KIND”!!! To begin with, we’ll be staying in the historic Williamsburg Lodge, which has an 18th-century style blending harmoniously with modern amenities. It is located within walking distance of historic Colonial Williamsburg and minutes from Jamestown, Yorktown and Merchants Square.

Your time will be enhanced with an entrance ticket to Historic Colonial Williamsburg. See working experiences such as the gunsmith shop, forge, and the apothecary shop, just to mention a few. This ticket is for your entire stay, not just one day entrance, at the fantastic cost of \$27.00! There will be ample time to enjoy the Historic area during our two-day convention – or you can extend your stay at the same rate of \$189.00 (plus tax, parking), either before or after the convention.

We’ll be concluding convention activities around midday on April 21. This is “Historic Garden Week” day in Williamsburg, so you may wish to take advantage of visiting homes and gardens on this tour (tickets purchased separately).

Hotel Reservations

Venue: The Williamsburg Lodge

Book online: [BOOK HERE](#)

If you need assistance, call 800-261-9530 Monday-Friday 9:00 AM -5:00 PM. \$189 plus applicable taxes. Parking \$10/night for hotel guests; non-registered attendees may park for posted fee.

Deadline to reserve group rate: March 25th

Silent Auction

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

Vendors

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

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Monday, April 20

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

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Silent Auction Open

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Vendor Shopping

10:00 –11:30 am Lavender Wreath Making Workshop (15)

10:00 am or 10:30am Group Walking Tour of Historic Gardens (40)

12:00 – 1:30pm Luncheon at Historic Shields Tavern

2:00 – 4:00 pm Registration Desk Open

2:00 – 3:30 pm Executive Board/Board Meeting

5:00 – 6:00pm Reception (cash bar) with special guest

6:00 pm Dinner Design Zoom Program: Francine Thomas

Tuesday, April 21

8:00 – 9:00am Registration Desk Open

8:00 – 11:00 am Silent Auction Open

8:00 am - various end times - Vendor Shopping

8:00 – 9:00 am Coffee and Tea Bar with special guest

9:00 am – 12:00pm Presentation of American Flag and special guest,

Convention Opening, welcome from Sally Harrison and Donna Donnelly; Memorial Service; Awards

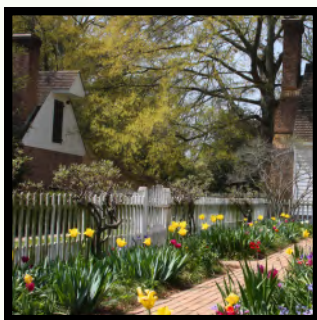
Announcements; and Business Meeting

12:00 pm - Convention Adjourns

Monday Morning, April 20th

Choose a Walking Tour or Wreath Workshop

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!!! There will be two groups, starting at 10:00 am and 10:30 am, **Limited to 20 participants in each group.** We will meet at Bruton Parish Church to join the Colonial Williamsburg Horticulture department on a very interesting and informative tour of the gardens, including the Governors Palace Garden.

Wreath-Making Workshop at the Lodge



Have you worn out your best walking shoes? Do you like the scent of Lavender? Would you like to learn about the history and uses of Lavender during the colonial times up to the present? Would you like to learn the best way to grow Lavender, and enjoy making your own Lavender wreath to take home? Then, you are in luck!!!! We have “Two Bees Lavender” a local business born from a passion for lavender and love of community coming from “Clifton”, their historic farm in Kilmarnock, Virginia for this event. This presentation and workshop will take place in the Lodge on April 20th, beginning at 10:00 am. **Workshop limited to 15 participants.**

Monday Lunch, April 20th

The Garden Tour groups and the Lavender Workshop group will join together for a delicious lunch at the historic Shields Tavern. **(Limit 55.)**



Monday Afternoon, April 20th

Free time to enjoy vendor shopping and Colonial Williamsburg, before the reception, dinner, and program Monday evening.

Design Zoom program after dinner Monday, April 20th

**Francine Thomas,
New Zealand's
Designer of the Year**



What a treat we have during 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. Francine 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 and as are her designs. We will experience something new to our convention this year; Francine will be LIVE FROM NEW ZEALAND. This Zoom 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!”

Convention Registration Form April 20-21, 2026

"Virginia: Inspiring Past, Bright Future"

Registration: Please complete form; make check payable to "VFGC 2026 Convention" and mail (postmarked by March 31) to the convention registrar: Claudia Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Drive Midlothian, VA, 23113-3923 cosbych1205@gmail.com; 804-794-7798.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail address _____
 Club _____ District _____

Select Your Attendance Options

(For #s 1 and 2, please select only one option)

- MONDAY April 20**, morning, two options:
 #1 Guided Garden Walking Tour and lunch at Shields Tavern **\$70.00** \$ _____
 10:00 AM _____ OR 10:30 AM _____
- #2 Wreath Workshop at Hotel and lunch at Shields Tavern 10:00 AM **\$75.00** \$ _____
- MONDAY April 20**, evening Reception (Cash Bar) Dinner and Design Program **\$110.00** \$ _____
- Colonial Williamsburg special access ticket for Length of stay _____ # of tickets @ **\$27.00 ea** \$ _____

TUESDAY April 21, morning coffee/tea bar, opening of convention with presentation of flag, Memorial Service, Business meeting **\$6.00** \$ _____

Registration Fee for all attendees \$ **18.00**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Include Late Fee of \$10.00 for envelopes postmarked after 3/31/2026. **(NOTE: Mail your registration at a post office counter to get a date-stamp applied.)** Any registrations postmarked after 4/8/2026 will not be processed or accepted. No Walk-In registrations. No refunds after 4/8/2026. Refunds requested by 4/8/2026 are subject to retention of registration fee.

_____ Please check for any dietary requirements / restrictions, and list details

Please check ALL that apply:

- National Officer/Chm/BdM District President NGC Life Member
- Regional Officer/Chm District Director SAR Life Member
- Former VFGC President Club President VFGC Life Member
- State Officer/Chm Club Member Visitor/Guest
- VFGC Life Member/ Book of Honor since 5/1/25 First-time attendee

VFGC 2026 Convention Credentials Form

All designated delegates and alternates, including VFGC Officers and members of the Board of Directors, must complete this form and include it with your Registration Form.

Name _____

District _____ Garden Club _____

Check all that apply:

- VFGC Officer/Board of Directors Club Delegate
- Club President Club Alternate

Eligibility shall be in accordance with VFGC Bylaws - number of Delegates and Alternates in accordance with size of club as follows:

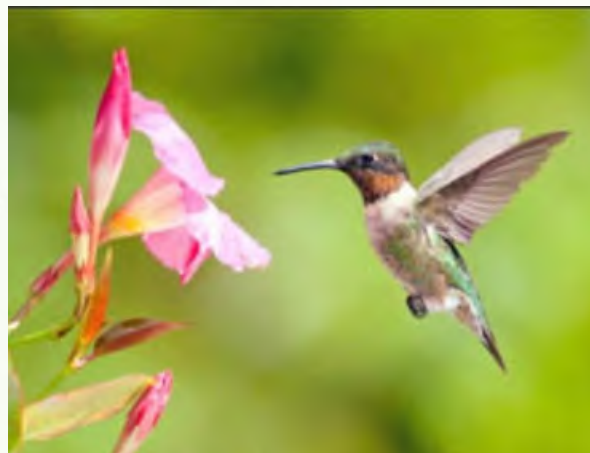
- 1-25 members President or appointee - 1 Alternate
 - 26-50 members President or appointee plus 1 Delegate - 2 Alternates
 - 51-100 members President or appointee plus 2 Delegates - 3 Alternates
 - 100+ members President or appointee plus 3 Delegates - 4 Alternates
- delegates have the right to vote, alternates fill in for the delegate if he/she is unable to attend the Convention.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Martie Parch, Chair, VFGC Horticulture

HUMMINGBIRD HAVENS

Every year, hummingbirds travel the distance from Central America and Mexico to the north, sometimes as far as Canada. These little guys work so hard, flapping their wings at over 3000 beats per minute and flying at 20-30 miles per hour. Having the fastest metabolism of all the animals and the ability to consume 1 ½ times their weight in nectar, they could benefit from your help during their migration. Yet another reason to plant natives ...Agastache, Lobelia cardinalis (cardinal flower), Aquilegia canadensis (columbine) and Penstemon produce the nectar that hummingbirds need for their journey. Monarda didyma (bee Balm) and Salvia also attract hummingbirds. They love moving water too.



If you choose to add to their diet, hang a feeder. In fact, hang several feeders and listen for the “hummers” buzzing by. The red color of the feeder draws them in, not red food coloring. Boil one part sugar and 4 parts water; wait for the sugar to dissolve; then let it cool. Be sure to wash the feeders every 3-5 days, especially in the summer. You can deter any visiting ants by making the pole slippery with petroleum jelly or olive oil. The hot sun may spoil the nectar, so place your feeders in part shade near a tree or shrub where the birds can rest at night. Hummingbirds will find a twig or branch, fluff out their feathers, and rest in a state of torpor, which is similar to hibernation, except it only lasts one night.

Such truly amazing creatures, these tiny birds will pollinate your flowers and eat insects. They tend to remember the areas where they find nectar-producing plants and feeders. So, create a haven, and you will have ruby-throated hummingbirds zooming around your garden every year!

Garden Gate. Spring Issue 2024.

OpticsMag.com. Robert Sparks. May 16, 2025

NWF.com.Mark Wexler. 4/1/2020

Celebrating National Garden Week

Felice Proctor, VFGC Chair

National Garden Week is held annually, during the first full week of June. This year's dates are June 7-13, 2026. Put them on your calendar now and start planning something special!

National Garden Week was established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. to celebrate the many ways gardens improve and beautify our lives, both as individuals and as a society, to encourage wider participation in gardening activity, and to provide information and education to the general public about all aspects of gardening through demonstrations and workshops.

So, how might your club usefully and creatively contribute to the celebration?

Open your own gardens for visits. Show them off. A beautiful garden is its own best advertisement. But you could also host a planting, transplanting, garden maintenance or plant identification workshop for visitors, or as a stand-alone event.

Partner with others: Your local library or park is a great place for educational activity both hands-on and informational.

You may also have museums close by with their own lovely, and perhaps historically educational gardens. Create a program with them and invite the public in.

And of course, consider partnering with organizations such as 4-H and Scouts on projects of specific interest to them.

The possibilities are wide open. Any project, large or small, will be a welcome addition to the celebration. Now is the time for your club to get your collective imagination and creativity going.

NexTrex Update

Christy Boone, Chair



IS THAT A FLY IN MY.... FLOWER?

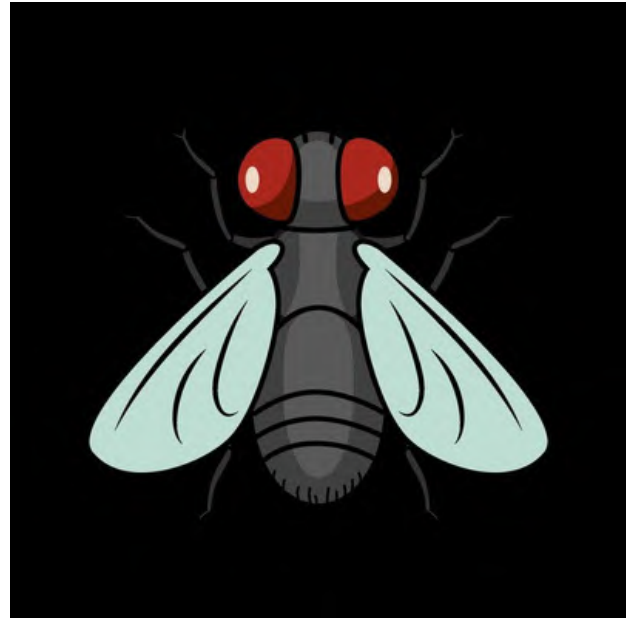
Debbi Newenstyn, VFGC Chair
Birds, Butterflies, and Pollinators

NexTrex recently provided us with this update on new program parameters. To review the official rules, visit NexTrex.com

Building from a strong foundation, we are improving the program in 2026 with some adjustments to the rewards program and timing. The program will be moving to an annual cycle beginning in January which will allow us to better support our partners and standardize the rewards cycle. We're excited to announce that instead of one opportunity to earn a reward, we will now offer quarterly drawings. This provides groups the opportunity to earn the chance to win rewards up to four times per year.

In addition, we are expanding our award offerings beyond our benches to include Solo stoves, outdoor games, and other exciting prizes. To get you started, Trex is offering NexTrex swag gifts to all participating programs once they reach the first 250-pound threshold. More on the reward program specifics and official rules can be found on NexTrex.com.

We're excited to launch this refreshed NexTrex program in the new year and hope you will continue to help us grow the recycling movement with you in 2026!



Yes, flies are pollinators too. There are some areas where less favorable conditions are not suitable for bees. Flies are attracted to flowers that are pale in color and give off smells like rotting meat or feces. They don't care for the sweet, spicy scents of most flowers. Plants such as cacao (where our chocolate comes from) and mango benefit from flies as their pollinators. Unlike bees though, flies are oblivious to the pollen. They don't take the pollen back to the "family" as bees do. It simply sticks to their bodies, and they inadvertently carry it where they go next. The common fly pollinators are hoverflies, blowflies, houseflies, and midges.

Image credit: istock.com

Awards Update

Heidi Sage, Chair

Good weather earlier in January allowed the nine VFGC judges to meet as scheduled to review over 70 State award applications. Additionally, 18 awards were reviewed remotely by emailing them to judges who evaluated them online. Those categories included websites, newsletters and flower show schedules. Five Flower Show Achievement Awards were judged separately as were the Youth Projects like posters and poetry.

There were entries from all six districts and a few new clubs participated.

I am pleased to say the **overall quality of the awards was excellent**. Many of the awards that scored red were actually well above the 90-point cut off for a blue. That means they were worthy of a blue but outscored by another application. 30 % of the awards earning blue ribbons went forward to the South Atlantic Region. And 37% of the blues were sent on to the National Garden Club. Those that didn't advance were not due to insufficient points, but rather the fact that not all award categories have counterparts at the upper levels.

The point score sheets providing feedback will be returned with the certificates, ribbons and checks at the spring convention in Williamsburg. Questions are welcome, just not who won what – that will be revealed in April.

Blue / Gold Star Memorial News

Barbara Hollister, VFGC Chair

Plans are underway to place a Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Amelia Veterans Cemetery. Your chairman appreciates all the individual donors and clubs who have donated to purchase a Byway Gold Star Marker. Remember the Gold Star Memorial Marker is to honor those men and women who lost their lives in battle, serving our great country.

Sewah Studios announced 2026 prices are as follows for Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers.

Pricing Effective Jan 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Marker, 7' post, shipping \$2,460.00

Marker, 10' post, shipping \$2,635.00

Byway Plaques \$ 785.00

Replacement 7' Posts \$ 375.00

Replacement 10' Post \$ 500.00

Refurbishment \$1,230.00

Refurbishment with Cap Repair \$1,485.00

Extra Shipping (western states) \$300.00

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

francestrash@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

Landscape Design School

Course 2, Series 30

April 13-14, 2026

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

1800 Lakeside Drive Richmond, VA 23228-4700 Phone (804) 693-9393



This course is available to all those having an interest in the beauty and care of our environment through landscaping.

SCHEDULE

Monday, April 13 8:00 - 8:20 Registration; 8:20 - Welcome

8:30 - 9:30 Overused, Often Invasive, and Native Alternatives in Your Area - Laurie Fox

9:40 - 10:40 Designing for Pollinators and Wildlife - David Pippin

10:50-11:50 Accessible, Enabling, and Therapeutic Gardens- Laurie Fox

11:50 - 1:10 LUNCH (the Cafe is Convenient)

1:20 - 2:20 Plants in the Landscape- Laurie Fox

2:30 - 3:30 Art and Nature Appreciation - David Pippin

6:30 Group Dinner, place TBA; pay on your own

Tuesday, April 14

8:30 - 9:30 Landscape Design Process - Neal Beasley

9:40 - 10:40 Development of North American Landscape Design - Peggy Singlemann

10:50 - 11:50 Redesign of Areas - Neal Beasley

11:50 - 1:00 LUNCH (Cafe is Convenient)

1:00 - 2:00 Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures - Peggy Singlemann

2:10- 3:10 Structures in the Landscape - Neal Beasley

3:15 REVIEW (consultants not taking the exam may leave)

3:30 EXAM

Currently, area hotels cannot offer us a block of rooms.

Suggestion is to call to make your own reservation at the hotel of your choice - they offer discounts if you are a AAA member, as well as other promotional discounts.

INSTRUCTORS

Neal Beasley, ASLA, ISA Certified Arborist

Neal is a Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist with over 25 years of experience in the fields of Horticulture, Arboriculture, Irrigation, Landscape Construction and Public Gardening. Neal studied horticulture at N. C. State University and was formerly the Manager of Horticulture at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. As an Arborist, he assesses trees during the site analysis to best determine protection strategies or removal. Neal is also on the team of the Timmons Group in Richmond. Neal is the co-author of "Recycling Urban Stormwater: 1050K Street, NW Washington, DC" 2007.

Laurie Fox, Ph.D.

Laurie Fox is a faculty member in the Horticulture department at Virginia Tech and is based at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Virginia Beach, VA where she has extension and research responsibilities. She received her BS & MS degrees in Horticulture from North Carolina State University, with an emphasis on landscape design, ornamental plant production, and weed science, and her Ph.D. from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Laurie is an author and the publisher of *Best Plants for Hampton Roads - A Landscape and Garden Companion*.

Peggy Singlemann

Peggy Singlemann is nationally known as one of the foremost gardening experts. Her experience in the field is exceeded only by her infectious enthusiasm in sharing knowledge of best practices. She is a familiar figure as the longtime host and co-producer of Virginia's only TV show, Virginia Home Grown, on Virginia Public Media/PBS. Peggy is also prominent in this field for her transformative role renewing and overseeing the garden and grounds of the historic estate Maymont in Richmond. She holds professional certifications as an arborist, horticulturist, and landscape designer and has greatly expanded knowledge in the gardening/landscape design fields through her national and regional speaking engagements, contributions to publications, and consulting work via her business, RVA Gardener LLC. In 2022, the Virginia General Assembly presented a commendation to Peggy for her outstanding guidance, restoration, and preservation of Maymont's gardens, grounds, and arboretum over 38 years of service.

David Pippin

David graduated from Virginia Tech in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. Prior to founding David Pippin, Inc. in 2000, he became known for his knowledge and creative talents in a variety of horticultural and education venues in the Richmond area.

In addition to running David Pippin, Inc. he is an adjunct professor in the Hort. Dept, at Reynolds Community College as well as a facilitator and consultant for Virginia Agriculture in the classroom. He is a sought-after designer of inspired floral arrangements, a provider of garden-themed hands-on programs as well as an educator with a wide range of horticultural knowledge and experience.

**COURSE REGISTRATION
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
Course 2 Series 30 April 13, 14, 2026
Registration Deadline: March 15, 2026**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ VA _____

Zip: _____ + 4 _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

Check if Refreshing ____ Are you a Master Gardener? yes / no
Is your garden club a member of VFGC? ____ Yes ____ No

PLEASE CHECK CORRECT BOX

<input type="checkbox"/> EXAM STUDENT	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-EXAM STUDENT	100.00

SINGLE DAY STUDENT - Monday __ or Tuesday __ 50.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Refunds can be given only for medical emergencies.

LDS will refund all but \$20 if cancellation (other than medical) is within five days of the first class.

Make check payable: VFGC Landscape Design School

Mail to: LDS Registrar
Claudia Cosby Phone: 804 794-7798
3015 Mount Hill Drive
Midlothian, VA 23113-3923 E-mail: cosbych1205@gmail.com

LDS Chairman, Glenda Knowles
Email: ggknowles6@gmail.com Phone: 757 651-0401

The background is a vibrant green. On the left, there are several large, pink magnolia flowers in various stages of bloom. On the right, a circular inset shows a lush garden scene with a pond, a path, and various trees and shrubs under a blue sky.

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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

Barbara Charlton.....Maywood GC

Piedmont District

Betty Dols.....Midlothian GC

Marilyn "Kay" Gray.....Oxford GC

Carole Gilliam Hubbard.....Thomas Jefferson GC

Betsy Williamson.....Sleepy Hollow GC

Shenandoah District

Michael Rider.....Rappahannock County GC
Shenandoah Designers' Guild

"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



Flower Arrangements Continue to Bring Joy

Ann Bull, YeAccawmacke Garden Club (T)

The YeAccawmacke Garden Club on the Eastern Shore of Virginia recently created flower arrangements for a local Hospital Charity Ball. The designs enhanced the event's atmosphere and provided a touch of elegance.

Demonstrating their commitment to community service and sustainability, the club members made a thoughtful decision regarding the future of these arrangements.

Following the Ball, Kay Laird and Beth Perry placed the arrangements in many areas of the Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. This generous act allowed staff, patients, and visitors to continue enjoying flowers for several days after the event. The Club's actions highlight the importance of sustainable practices and thoughtful gestures, demonstrating how small decisions can have a lasting impact on many lives.



Lake Smith Terrace GC Project: Garden Therapy and Christmas Carols

Debbi Newenstyn, Lake Smith Terrace GC (T)

Following their project of preparing petite arrangements and distributing them to patients at Lake Taylor Transitional Hospital in Norfolk, Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club was asked back to do a hands-on program with the patients. Members immediately started planning a project the patients could easily do with minimal cost to the Club.

One member donated very small vases (that would fit perfectly on bedside tables) that were left over from a baby shower. Another member donated various ribbons from her craft stash to be used to tie around the vases. Members recycled carnations leftover from their November workshop, and one member brought greens from her yard.

Garden club members led the patients in arranging the small carnations and greenery in their vases; let them choose their ribbon and helped them tie it. They then led the group in Christmas carols. It was a wonderful experience and one that bears repeating.



Upper left: member Barb Pritchard prepares materials for the workshop; upper right: a busy group; lower right: happy outcomes!

Photos courtesy of Debbi Newenstyn

Winchester Council Sponsors NGC Small Standard Flower Show: Plants and Planets

Carolyn Frye, Glen Burnie GC (S))

Mark your calendars and come to Winchester to be delighted, inspired, and educated by our community of gardeners and floral enthusiasts!

Colonial, Glen Burnie, and Hawthorne Garden Clubs of Winchester are proud to present two days of 'out-of-this-world' floral design and horticulture specimens. The theme revolves around ancient mythology about the planets, interpreted by our designers into unique floral exhibits.

This wonderful flower show event will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church of Winchester, located at 2077 N Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603. National Garden Club-accredited judges will judge the show.

Judging will take place May 15 in the morning, with doors being opened to the public from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The show will continue May 16, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The show is free and open to the public.



Salisbury GC Community Outreach Projects

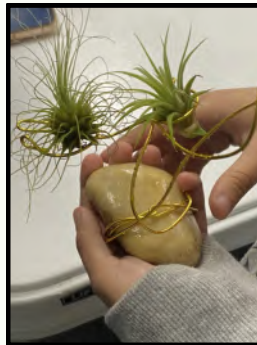
Delora Stites, Salisbury GC (P)



Besides ongoing work in Civic Beautification, Salisbury Garden Club involves folks of varying ages in Community Outreach programs. From pre-school children to senior adults in health care facilities, enjoyment is experienced while learning is taking place.

Salisbury Garden Club aims to educate and nurture youth about the joys of gardening and protecting our environment for a wide range of ages and needs. School-aged children are involved at Southampton Elementary School, Homework Helpers (Grades K-5, with assistance from Midlothian High School students), Redeemer Episcopal Day School, and a Children's Garden Faire during National Garden Week.

To cap off five days of garden related activities during National Garden Week, SGC members offer a Saturday Children's Garden Faire open to children of all ages and their families. Activities include planting, crafting, nurturing of plants, as well as gardening and environmental awareness education.



SGC provides three enriching gardening experiences for students in Homework Helpers. This free after-school program pairs a high school student with a Chesterfield disadvantaged elementary K-5 student. Students and SGC members work together to complete projects to be taken home. In October, bouquets of flowers were created by using Bai plastic bottles, ribbons, flowers, and greens. In January, air plant holders were created with wire, a rock, and an air plant, with take-home care instructions written in both English and Spanish. In March, suncatchers will be made using pressed flowers provided by SGC members, clear contact paper, and ribbon.

Twice during the year members of SGC work with residents at Spring Arbor Assisted Living to create small flower arrangements. At Spring Arbor Memory Care, with SGC members' assistance, residents help with plantings and refreshing existing plants in their flower garden. At Bickford of Chesterfield Senior Living, SGC members work with residents to create small individual flower arrangements.

Sleepy Hollow GC Conducts Mini-Workshops with Senior Group

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Sleepy Hollow GC (P)

What started out as a one-off project idea has turned into a twice yearly highly anticipated event. Northside Baptist Church in Mechanicsville has a very active senior group of about 50. We first staged a mini design workshop in April of last year. We set up sort of a production line and called up tables of eight one at a time. We all had a roaring good time – and our seniors created wonderful designs. They invited us to come back in the fall and asked, “Wouldn’t it be fun to do wreaths?’ After a moment of panic, we created a wreath-like design featuring lots of greens surrounding a realistic battery-operated candle. Again, we used the production line approach. The outcomes were stunning. Our next workshop is set for March 10th – and we’re thinking we’ll do a “challenge” event where everyone is given the same materials to create their own different and special designs. This “project” has created much joy – for both the seniors and our garden club “coaches”.



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

Ginter Park GC Spring Market



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

12th SPRING MARKET

Saturday, April 11, 2026
10 - 3

A Curated Market
featuring
Local Artisans & Vendors

Garden Stuff - Clothing - Jewelry
Unique Artisanal Goods
Bake Sale - White Elephant
Bikini Panini Food Truck

Come shop all things Spring!

St Thomas Episcopal Church
3602 Hawthorne Ave. Richmond VA 23227

Appomattox GC Spring Tea

SAVE THE DATE /
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Appomattox Garden Club's
Annual Tea Party

April 19, 2026

3-5pm

Weston Manor
400 Weston Lane
Hopewell, VA

Admission: \$15



Contact Marilyn Brown:
mbteach@hotmail.com or 804-678-9040

Piedmont District Happenings

Barbara Hollister, Piedmont District President

The Piedmont District has been “iced in” for a few days, but we are eagerly waiting to see the daffodils start peaking up out the ground.

Some exciting events for the Piedmont District lay ahead. Our Spring District Meeting will be held March 16, 2026 at the lovely Virginia Crossings. Members have been encouraged to register early. We will have most of our former vendors back and we are pleased we will have some new vendors. The nominating committee will be announced for the 2027- 2029 term. As usual, it is exciting to learn the recipients of the Awards. And we welcome the opportunity to honor those members we have lost in our Memorial Moment tradition. We will be having a guest designer, new to most of us, *Peyton Wells*. She has experience in Floral Design, Botanical Art and Ikebana. She is the owner of Peyton Wells Design, LLC, a floral design business here in Richmond.

Plans are being formulated to place a Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Amelia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia, Virginia. The Amelia Veterans Cemetery is one of the three State Cemeteries for the Veterans in Virginia.

Club Presidents have been proudly sending pictures of various area landmarks to Diane Burgess. It will be exciting to see the variety of landscapes across the state. These will be displayed at the VFGC State Convention, April 20-21, 2026. I encourage everyone to make plans to attend the State Convention to be held in Williamsburg. Register now, and I hope to see you there.



**Peyton Wells will be the guest designer
at our Spring Meeting
“Captivating and Compelling
Contemporary Designs”**

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
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Subject line "For ODG"

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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>.