

April 2026 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED

April 9 Shenandoah District Meeting
April 13 VFGC Finance Committee (Zoom)
April 13-14, Landscape Design School
April 16 Tidewater District Meeting
April 18 Southwest District Meeting
April 20 VFGC Board of Directors
April 20-21 VFGC Convention
April 23 Blue Ridge District Meeting
April 30 South Central District Meeting
May 1 ODG Deadline
May 4-7 NGC Convention



Dear VFGC members,

Happy Spring! Looking at the above dates on the VFGC Calendar, it is going to be a very busy month for many of us. Despite Mother Nature's reminder that: "Wait five minutes and Virginia weather will change", perennials in my small garden are again coming up. I haven't taken my winter coats to the cleaners yet, but I am tempted.

I feel very fortunate to be able to travel around Virginia. It is so beautiful this time of year! I know that details about District meetings have been shared. Thank you to Genny Chase and her committee who have worked hard to also make the VFGC Convention in Williamsburg truly special. If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! The final Registration deadline is April 8th!

Thank you to Frances Thrash and to Glenda Knowles too! Flower Show School was just held in March. Information about Landscape Design School is included in this edition of *Rooted*. Thank you to Heidi Sage and to all Clubs who applied for awards. The results will be announced at the Convention. Spoiler alert... VFGC did well at the SAR regional level too! I look forward to seeing you all. It is the best part of my job.

Again, thanks to each of you for all that you do to support your club, your district and VFGC!

Sally

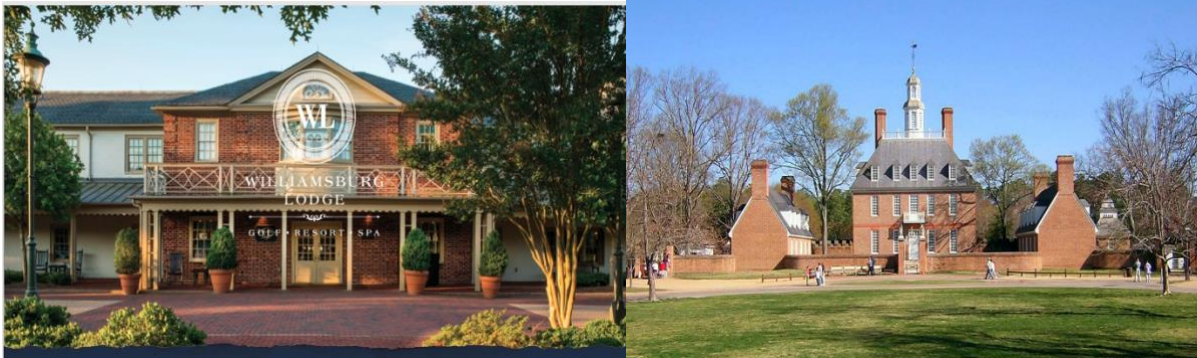
Sally Harrison, VFGC President, 2025-2027



92ND ANNUAL VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS CONVENTION

UPDATE

Time is getting close to the start of the VFGC 92nd Convention, if you haven't registered for our "ONE OF A KIND" convention DO IT NOW!!



It isn't too late to take the hotel up on their special discounted ticket to have the inspiring past of **Historic Colonial Williamsburg, come to life**. The ticket is for your **entire stay, not just one day entrance** into the colonial buildings and businesses. This ticket is available for purchase on the registration form which follows and is available on the VFGC Website.

TOUR OF HISTORIC GARDENS AND LUNCH AT SHIELD TAVERN

JUST ABOUT FULL, there are still a few openings for the guided walking tour at 10:30 AM April 20th. The Horticulture Department of Colonial Williamsburg will conduct tours of three different social levels of historic Colonial Williamsburg Gardens, followed with lunch at Shields Tavern. Contact Claudia Cosby, Registrar ASAP if interested as space is very limited.



LAVENDER PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP

UPDATE

Currently the Two Bees Lavender presentation and workshop is full on April 20th. Unfortunately, the second presentation and workshop on Tuesday, April 21st, did not materialize.



UPDATE

As time is limited for a design workshop at our convention, Francine Thomas has opened her schedule to offer Zoom workshops – these workshops will be interactive where you will create a design and Francine will critique it live. The workshop dates are May 12, 2026 (*USA time 7:00 PM*) and May 18, 2026 (*USA time 4:00 PM*). Francine will send you, via email, what you need to have on hand to create the design she will teach/demonstrate. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Registration table during convention; cost will be \$35.00 per person (per workshop) When signing up make you check payable to VFGC 2026 Convention – put “Francine Thomas workshop” on the memo line. Questions email Claudia Cosby, VFGC 2026 Convention Registrar.



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

Francine Thomas has she just returned from Sydney, Australia after demonstrating and visiting the venue where the upcoming World Flower Show will be held in March of 2027. Mrs. Thomas will be representing New Zealand on stage, exhibiting and competing in the World Flower Show. What a treat we have during our 92nd Annual Convention, to have Francine as our featured floral demonstrator. She has travelled throughout New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Wales and up and down the East Coast of the USA demonstrating, teaching and judging.

Francine will be coming to us LIVE FROM NEW ZEALAND with her fabulous “out of the box deigns”!! This will be an interactive presentation where you - convention attendees - will have the opportunity to ask questions about her designs, New Zealand and the world flower show. She has a very energetic sense of humor which can be contagious and is evident in her floral presentations. **Francine says:**

**“THE FINEST PLEASURES IN LIFE ARE THE
UNEXPECTED ONES!”
COME AND EXPERIENCE THE UNEXPECTED AT
THE 2026 CONVENTION!!**

A very special display has been guided by Kathy Ward incorporating the VFGC six districts. These six district designers have been hard at work bringing their ideas to fruition, for the first of

its kind at any VFGC convention, a special presentation of a 3D “Virginia Landscape Mural” – This will highlight the uniqueness of each district with a new concept of “showing off” our entire state of Virginia, while honoring all six district members and their district presidents.

As always, we have terrific vendors for your shopping pleasure, along with spending time with old friends and making new friends. Learning what each district has been doing to attract new members, their involvement in the communities that have made a difference toward the VFGC’s “Bright Future”.

Brenda McManaway will be heading up the 50/50 silent auction of floral containers and accessories, if you are downsizing or just need more space bring it to convention and place it for sale. To let Brenda know you will be bringing a piece for this silent auction or for more information contact Brenda at Brendamc@shentel.net.

Submitted by:
VFGC Convention Chairman
Genny Chase

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: (**A late fee applies to Registration forms mailed after March 31 but received by April 8, 2026**)

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:

(Please select **TIME**)

1 **Monday April 20**, morning Guided Garden \$ _____

Walking Tour and lunch at Shields Tavern

\$70.00

10:00 AM **FULL** **OR** 10:30 AM _____

2 Wreath Workshop and lunch at Shields Tavern

10:00 AM **FULL** _____

LUNCH AT SHIELDS TAVERN 1:00 PM \$ _____

50.00

Monday April 20, evening Reception (Cash Bar)
Dinner and Design Program **\$110**

Colonial Williamsburg special access ticket for _____
Length of stay **\$27.00**

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

ALL ATTENDEES MUST Add Registration Fee \$ 18.00
After March 31, 2026 add \$10 late fee - \$ 10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

**** NEW ADDITIONS**

TAKE YOUR REGISTRATION INTO THE POST OFFICE FOR A DATED POSTMARK!! A Late Fee of \$10.00 must be included for all envelopes postmarked after 3/31/2026. Any registrations postmarked after 4/8/2026 will not be processed or accepted. No walk-ins. 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*

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.

CLUB NEWS:

No individual club submitted articles or pictures for this edition of Rooted. But members of several different clubs submitted the following article about CFAA!



CREATIVE FLORAL ARRANGERS *of the Americas*

Hello Virginia garden club members...We at CFAA wanted to share with you the date(s) and agenda for an exciting creative floral arrangers seminar happening this June. You may have heard of CFAA (pronounced ceefa); if not we'd like to introduce you to it. CFAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the art and practice of creative floral design with a mission to teach and inspire. Some of you may already be familiar with CFAA; if not, you

should become familiar with it. Of course, the best way to do this is to attend its annual seminar in Tampa, Fla. this May.

Illumination 2026 is shaping up to be one of our most exciting seminars yet. May 27–30 in Tampa, four days of creativity, connection, and inspiration with some of the most talented designers in the Americas. World-class designers reveal techniques that make your creative heart sing!



OUR PRESENTERS & DESIGNERS



This year's program features an extraordinary group of creative talent:

- Hitomi Gilliam, AIFD — Internationally renowned floral artist, educator, and innovator known for intricate designs and sustainable floral practices
 - Keith Stanley — Celebrated structural botanical designer blending European classical techniques with Japanese Ikebana discipline
 - Frances Thrash — Midollino and sculptural design
 - Carol Friedman — Adjustable armature techniques
 - Genny Chase — Tropical flowers and foliage
 - Sandra Deery — Palm weaving artistry
 - Patsie Uchello — Acrylic painting for floral designers
 - Tina Foutz — Reed weaving and container transformation
 - Brenda McManaway — Design mechanics
- ...and more to come!



WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU



Hands-on workshops with world-class instructors



Design presentations that will spark your imagination



Kaleidoscope — a spectacular exhibition of designs by our own CFAA members
Signature Member Exhibitions & the Design Challenge



Breakfast, happy hour, and time to connect with friends old and new



May 27–30, 2026



Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore



\$159/night — two-room suite with complimentary airport shuttle, cooked-to-order breakfast, and evening reception



50% off parking for CFAA members

Seating at programs and workshops is assigned in order of registration — so the earlier you sign up, the better your spot!



Register now at CFAACreativeFloral.org/seminar-2026

Website: www.cfaacreativefloral.org

Don't miss this one. Your designing friends are already signing up!



Virginia CFAA Board Members Attending: JoAnn McNabb, Frances Thrash,, Brenda McManaway, Jane Oliver Smith

We hope to see you there!

LEARNING IS FUN!

Flower Show School and Landscape Design School are open to any garden club member! Whether or not you are considering becoming a certified Landscape Design Consultant, consider signing up for Landscape Design school which will be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Don't miss the Million blooms there this spring! The details follow:

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

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Course 2, Series 30

Monday and Tuesday

April 13, 14, 2026

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Education Classroom

1800 Lakeside Drive

Richmond, VA 23228-4700

Phone (804) 693-9393

Sponsored by **VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

SCHEDULE

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.

Monday, April 13, 2026			
Time	Activity		Instructor
8:00 – 8:20am – 8:20am	Registration Welcome		
8:30am – 9:30am	Overused, Often Invasive and Native Alternatives in Your Area		Laurie Fox
9:40am – 10:40am	Designing for Pollinators and Wildlife		David Pippin
10:50am – 11:50am	Accessible, Enabling and Therapeutic Gardens		Laurie Fox
11:50am – 1:10pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Plants in the Landscape		Laurie Fox
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Supplemental Subject -Art and Nature Appreciation		David Pippin
6:00pm Group Dinner – place to be announced – pay on your own			
Tuesday, April 14, 2026			
8:30am - 9:30am	Landscape Design Process		Neal Beasley
9:40am - 10:40am	Development of North American Landscape Design		Peggy Singlemann
10:50am - 11:50am	Redesign of Areas		Neal Beasley
11:50am - 1:00pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures		Peggy Singlemann
2:10pm - 3:10pm	Structures in the Landscape		Neal Beasley
3:15pm	Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.		
3:30pm	Exam		

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

- EXAM STUDENT \$100.00
- 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

FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:

For future editions of **ROOTED**, please email your club's announcements to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. There are four announcements in this edition!



Ginter Park Garden Club

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



*Clay Spring
Garden Club*
PLANT SALE!

Saturday, May 9th
9:00am - 3:00pm
on the sidewalk of Bealls
205 N. Washington Hwy, Ashland

“CHORUS FOR THE COUNTRY”
Celebrating Early Patriotic Songs

An NGC Patriotic Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Rock Spring Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Central Atlantic Region,
National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.,
District III, and
South Atlantic Region,
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Piedmont District

Friendship Hall (Lower Level)
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Free and Open to the Public
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

* Beverley Garden Club *

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16th
8:00am - 12:00pm

Cheese Shop Country Market & Deli
2366 Tinkling Spring Rd. Stuarts Draft, VA

All plants
locally grown
by the Beverley
Garden Club

Special thanks to:



Houseplants
Perennials
Native Plants
Annuals
Shrubs
Herbs
Groundcovers

Cash, check, or credit card

Proceeds support:
Nature Camp Scholarship
Jones Garden
Project Grow
Shenandoah Green



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

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 in **ROOTED** by the **1st of each month** to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. **Every club has some news they can share at least once in 2026!**

ODG deadlines are: August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1. Refer to the back page of ODG for submission instructions.

For either publication, please submit photos as a pdf or in jpeg format. Please submit text in Word format.

Happy Spring to All! Happy Easter too!

Email: rootedvfgc@gmail.com