

June 2026 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED



June 7-13 National Garden Week
July 4 **CELEBRATE** our Country's **250th Birthday**
August 24 VFGC Flower Show "Virginia's National Treasures"
August 24-27 Flower Show School 3
September 28-29 Landscape Design School, Course 3, Series 30

Dear VFGC members,

Summer is here! National Garden Week begins, Monday June 7th. July 4th will be here before we know it. Please remember to send pictures and a description of what your club is doing to rootedvfgc@gmail.com to celebrate National Garden Week and to implement Plant Red, White and Blue in recognition of our Country's 250th Birthday.

Thank you to all VFGC members who attended The VFGC Convention in Williamsburg, April 20-21! Genny Chase and her committee worked hard for months to make it a special event for all. Statistically, 112 people attended including 12 guests. Of the 59 attendees who responded to the post-Convention questionnaire, 78% thought the experience was valuable, more valuable or much more valuable than expected. The District Displays, new this year, were a hit. Your suggestions have been passed along to Gail Goodrich Harwood and to Janet Minock as they finalize the plans for the VFGC Convention next year. So please save the dates: April 26-27, 2027.

Holding an event at a hotel is expensive. So, this year, the VFGC Flower Show, open to all VFGC members, will be held in Richmond at the Trinity Lutheran Church at the intersection of Parham Road and I 64 as Flower Show School begins on August 24, 2026. The complete schedule is attached to the cover letter. Please consider entering, following the instructions included in the schedule.

The beautiful VFGC ornaments designed by Beacon Designs have arrived... much faster than we expected! As mentioned in ODG, the famous White House ornaments are also designed by Beacon Designs. The order form is included on page 16 of Rooted and in ODG. The ornaments will be distributed at your District meetings this fall. I have already placed my order. Please place your order. Net proceeds will help fund Scholarships, Awards and other VFGC projects

Thank you for all that you do to support your Club, your District and VFGC!

Very gratefully,

Sally

Sally Harrison, VFGC President, 2025-2027

Children are our Future

Summer is here and we anxiously await time to nurture our new gardens. Have you and your club considered nurturing a love of gardening too? There are as many ways to get dirt under young fingernails as there are NGC clubs!

Both Girl Scouts of America and Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) offer badges with which you individually and as a club can assist. Do you have a knowledge of vermiculture or composting? Do you know how to prepare soil? Do you grow vegetables and flowers? You could be a counselor for the Scouting America Gardening Badge! Scouting America is for everyone. There are over 100,000 girls and young women in the program.

Perhaps you have a Daisy, Brownie or Junior Girl Scout in your family, neighborhood or church. Do you enjoy experimenting with seeds? Designing gardens? Protecting the environment? You would be an excellent volunteer or your club could become a Program Partner for Girl Scouts from kindergarten through 5th grade.

4H has an almost limitless variety of projects that always need volunteers. Each 4H Youth Development Extension Agent shapes programs for interests in their locality. Volunteers may assist with garden to table projects, work on birdhouses, teach floral design and so much more!

Scouting and 4H have safety protocols which must be met before volunteers can begin. These are not burdensome, but you do want to check well in advance of any planned program for instructions.

Do your club members have children or grandchildren in daycare? Does your YMCA or church have afterschool care or summer programs? This is the perfect time to provide assistance for young ones to plant in pots. A pizza pot with tomatoes and herbs may get lots of press but how about a red, white and blue pot? Or, maybe you can provide materials and instructions for a berry pot. Growing vegetables from waste such as carrot tops, avocado seeds or potato eyes is also fun for children. Lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard and radishes can provide faster results for impatient little gardeners. Peas can be fascinating to watch climb a trellis. Mini pumpkins can be grown in a pot and go well with the book, *The Saved Seed*. They will actually reseed themselves if left alone! Summer library programs are the perfect pairing for children's gardening or environmental books and hands-on projects. Maybe your club can sponsor artwork with seeds and a story time to go with it. Pantyhose "pets" can be made from soil, seed, rubber bands, googly eyes and some felt ears. White clover or grass seed grows fast to cover the pets. If you are working with older children (school aged), you can make artwork from recycled items. Pieces of ribbon, plastic bottlecaps, the rings that hold bottles and cans together, egg cartons, scrap paper, drywall tape and pieces of fabric make a few good choices for this project. This is also a Youth Awards Contest which will be addressed in the late summer.

Other reading and "art" projects for clubs working with youth include selecting a favorite book for a class or group of children. An example would be, *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit*. The children would then design the garden described in the book and list the vegetables to be planted. To take it a little further, you could then plant the actual garden with the children. **Both are club award projects that can be entered by 12/1/2026.** (Refer to the VFGC website www.virigniangardenclubs.org Awards list for SP – 1 YOUTH AWARD – READING IS FUN BUT SO IS GARDENING).

You can find more ideas and resources on the NGC webpage at www.gardenclub.org under the Project tab/Youth and Scholarships. Additional projects for all groups and ages can be found in, *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*. Look in your library for copies of Bill Nye the Science Guy books, especially, *Consider the Following*.

LouAnn Dummering
Chairman, Youth School Activities/Scouts/Enrichment Programs

CLUB NEWS:

MERRIFIELDS GARDEN CLUB

Merrifields Garden Club in the Churchland area of Portsmouth has maintained the entranceways into the Merrifields Community for over fifty years. The main entrance on

Rivershore Road and Merrifields Boulevard features two brick walls with a small garden in front of each one. Recently the club designed and purchased a sign to show the community that the area is maintained by the Garden Club. Members volunteer to rake leaves, put in shrubs and flowers and mulch. This photo shows the new sign and members who helped with the cleanup.



The Club also selects a Yard of the Month, supports Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve, Wreaths Across America, Smokey Bear/ Woodsey Owl Contest and provides scholarships for Portsmouth children to attend 4-H camp.



**BUCKINGHAM – DILLWYN
GARDEN CLUB:**

1. The Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club presented a check to a 4-H Representative, at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Center, to make it possible for another child to attend 4-H summer camp.

Pictured left to right are:

Pam Murray and Barbara Kanabe, Club Co-presidents, Rochelle Clabough, 4-H Representative, Suzanne VanDeGrift, B-DGC Historian



And the **RUTH ADAMS GARDEN CLUB**

2. The next project was the Screen. A project assigned to each VFGC District to be displayed at the VFGC Convention in Williamsburg on April 20th and 21st. The members who created South Central District's screen from left to right are: Jackie Fairbarns and Suzanne VanDeGrift, Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club and LouAnn Dumminger and Belinda Coles, Ruth Adams Garden Club



LEARNING IS FUN!

Flower Show School, Landscape Design School and the Judges Symposium are open to any garden club member! Whether or not you are considering becoming an

accredited Flower Show Judge or certified Landscape Design Consultant, consider attending Flower show School (FSS), Landscape Design School (LDS) or Symposium.

Flower Show School

Course III

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

August 23-27, 2026

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
1800 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, VA 23228
804-262-9887

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs



VFGC President – Sally Harrison

For more information contact:

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

francesthresh@cox.net

757-481-3484 or 757-478-5791

Flower Show School – Course III

Date: August 24 - 27, 2026

Location: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, 1800 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, VA 23228

Design: Judy Binns

Judy will teach creative designs.

Horticulture: Sue Kirkman. Sue will teach combination plantings, aucuba, and Flower Show Procedure.

Attendance at all Sessions is Required for Credit

Schedule:		Flower Show
Monday, Aug 24	3:45 – 6 pm	Procedure
Tuesday, Aug 25	8:00 – 9:00 am	FSP Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm	Horticulture/Lunch
	3:45 – 5:45 pm	Point Scoring Test
Wed., Aug 26	8:00 – 9:00 am	Horticulture Exam
	9:15 am – 3:30 pm	Design Point Scoring
	3:45 – 5:45 pm	Test
Thursday, Aug 27	9:00 – 10:00 am	Design Examination

Hotel Information: Hotel is on your own.

Required Books to have:

Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, available on the NGC Website for download.

Flower Show Procedure will cover an explanation of Education Division and judging educational exhibits. It will also cover Youth/Sponsored Groups and requirements to become an accredited judged, along with judging etiquette and ethics and a review of writing a flower show schedule.

Horticulture will cover creating a horticulture schedule, a review of general requirements for TEA Horticulture Awards, review of judging procedures, review judging qualities found on the combination plants point score form, along with a discussion of growing and showing one plant type (aucuba) and plants appropriate for combination plantings.

Design will include creative designs, creating a design schedule, staging options, general creative design characteristics, elements & principles, dynamic balance, plastic

organization, juxtaposition, and abstractions of creative designs; TEA design Awards, review of judging procedures and qualities found on the design point scoring form.

REGISTRATION FORM: Flower Show School-Course III

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Credit _____ Non-Credit _____ Audit Credit _____

Full Course with/without exam \$150 _____

(Includes tuition, two lunches, and reserved seating on Front rows.)

Flower Show Procedure (Mon.) \$40 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Tues.) \$75 _____

Design & Lunch (Wed.) \$75 _____

Manual will be e-mailed (free of charge)

Printed Manual available at \$10 _____

Registration if preordered.

TOTAL _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

****No refunds after July 23, 2026**

Make check payable to **Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** with **Flower Show Schools** in the memo line and mail to:

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

**Judy Binns
Design**

Judy is a member and former president of the Salisbury GC, NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, former President of Piedmont District and President of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs from 2011-2013. She was awarded the National Garden Clubs Member of Honor Award for the South Atlantic Region for All-Around Excellence in 2006 and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors since 2007. She has exhibited designs in "Fine Arts and Flowers" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and served as "Fine Arts and Flowers" Co-Chairman in 2007 and 2010. Judy is an NGC Flower Show School Design Instructor and has given floral design programs and workshops in Virginia as well as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She is a member of the Piedmont District Judges Council, Virginia Flower Show Judges Council, Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and National Flower Arrangers.

Judy is a native Virginian from the Shenandoah Valley. She enjoys spending time in her garden and specializes in floral designs for weddings and other occasions.

**Sue Kirkman
Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure**

Sue Kirkman is a member of the Garden Club of Frankfort. She is the Horticulture Symposium Chair for NGC, an NGC Flower Show Judge, NGC Flower Show School Instructor teaching Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure and Symposium. Sue is a retired college instructor and gerontologist. She and her husband live in a Civil War farm house in Frankfort, KY

SYMPOSIUM

**Sponsored by
VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
November 2-3, 2026
Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs**

SYMPOSIUM CHAIRMAN

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

VFGC CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN

Rebecca Elston
3332 Mob Neck Road
Heathsville, VA 22473-2307
804-580-6713 elston.marshwood@gmail.com

VFGC SYMPOSIUM REGISTRAR

Dianna Busch
14453 Rillhurst Drive,
Culpeper VA 22701
540-353-9044 diannabusch@comcast.net

Monday, November 2, 2026

7:30 - 8:15am	Registration
8:15 - 8:30am	Welcome and Announcements Introduce
8:30 - 9:30am	Allied Topics Flower Show Evaluations
9:30 - 9:45am	Early Morning Break
9:45 - 10:45am	Botanical Arts Horticulture
10:45 - 11:00am	Mid-Morning Break
11:00 - 12:00pm	Container grown plants
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00pm	Practice Point Scoring
3:00 - 3:15pm	Afternoon Break
3:15 - 5:15pm	Point Scoring Exam

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

7:30 - 8:15am	Registration
8:15 - 8:30am	Welcome and Announcements Introduce
8:30 - 9:30am	Allied Topics: Design Techniques
9:30 - 9:45am	Early Morning Break
9:45 - 10:45am	Assemblage Design
10:45 - 11:00am	Mid-Morning Break
11:00 - 12:00pm	Low-profile Design
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00pm	Practice Point Scoring
3:00 - 3:15pm	Afternoon Break
3:15 - 5:15pm	Point Scoring Exam

Seating will be assigned in order of receipt of paid registration. Accredited and Life Judges, who are taking the symposium for credit, will be seated in the front rows.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Cell Phone # _____
 Email _____
 Club _____ District _____
 Medical Dietary Restrictions _____
 Status: Student () Accredited () Life () Master ()
 Circle one: Testing: Auditing: Neither
 Date of Last Certification/Audit _____
 Taking Point Scoring Exam: Yes _____ No _____
 Master Judge Auditing: Yes _____ No _____

Full course prices includes Monday and Tuesday Lectures and Lunches.

FEES

- () Full Course \$185 _____
- Single Event
- () Horticulture & Lunch (Mon.) \$ 95 _____
- () Design & Lunch (Tues.) \$ 95 _____
- () Manual emailed free of charge **OR**
- () Printed Manual \$ 10 _____

MUST BE PREORDERED-Available at Registration

*If postmarked after **October 26, 2026** _____
add \$30 late fee*

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to:
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Write Symposium in memo line and mail to:

Dianna Busch, Registrar
14453 Rillhurst Drive
Culpeper VA 22701
 540-353-9044 diannabusch@comcast.net

****DEADLINE: October 26, 2026****

No refunds after this date.

Instructors

Design Instuctor: Lynn Fronk is a NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Flower Show Schools Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She has taught in 42 states, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She has judged major flower shows in the United States such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and the Rhode Island State Flower show. She has presented for CFAA, several State Conventions, NGC Convention and the Deep South Convention. She is the winner of the Mildred-Heter Buckingham Award for outstanding service for the Garden Club of Ohio and has several designs featured in *Designing by Types*. Lynn is a Past President of Garden Club of Ohio. She is a member of the FSS Committee serving as Symposium Design Chairman for 2025-2027 for NGC, the Symposium Chairman for the Garden Club of Georgia and has recently relocated from Ohio to Flowery Branch, Georgia. She is a member of Stonehedge Garden Clubs, Creative Floral Arrangers of the

Americas, The Designer's Club of Georgia and the National Flower Arranger Guild. Lynn is a retired nurse from Columbus Children's Hospital and is active in many community activities such as Buford-Lanier Women's club. She is the author of "Merry Christmas from My House to Yours" A small booklet on Using Natural Materials for Holiday Designs

Horticulture Instructor: Jan Griffin

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 Symposiums 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. She also enjoys golf!! 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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any interested person is welcome and invited to attend this Symposium, however all attendees must register in advance. You need not be a Judge or a Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) to attend. Only members of NGC may take this Symposium examination for NGC Credit.

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL CREDIT

To obtain refresher credit, Judges must attend **ALL** lectures in their entirety, including oral point scoring sessions and get your card punched to show attendance. **You must also bring your Handbook for Flower Shows Rev. 2017 -2nd Edition with all updates.**

Virginia Judges expecting credit for this Symposium must send completed appropriate form, along with required credentials, to the VFGC, Credentials Chairman, Rebecca Elston, at least four(4) weeks before the Symposium (by Oct 5, 2026). The following forms are available online from the NGC, Inc. website:

Form 13 for use by Accredited Judges

Form 15L for use by Life Judges


Form 15M for use by Master Judges

Out of State Judges expecting credit for this Symposium must send the completed appropriate form, as listed above, to the Credentials Chairman in their own state, before registering for this Symposium. Their Credentials Chairman sends **Form 18** to the Virginia Credentials Chairman

No Credentials will be accepted at the door.

FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:


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



**The Buckingham-Dillwyn
Garden Club
Invites You To**

**A Floral Arrangement
Demonstration by well known**

**FLORAL
PROFESSIONAL,
DAVID PIPPIN**



July 13, 2026 10:00AM-11:00AM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DILLWYN
16980 OAK ST, DILLWYN, VA 23936

**There will be a \$5 per person fee
Refreshments following the
presentation.**

For more information contact
Elsie Towler 1434-390-6521
Marie Baker 757-817-8122
Pam Murray 757-618-7448:

We look forward to seeing you!



“Seeds of Inspiration”

VFGC 93rd Convention

April 26-27, 2027

Marriott Short Pump, Richmond

See you there!

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.

Have a WONDERFUL SUMMER!

Email: rootedvfgc@gmail.com

The VFGC Dogwood ornament order form follows on Page 16.

Introducing...

the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Custom-Designed Ornament

B E A C O N
DESIGN

- Quality Brass Ornament by the designers of the White House ornaments
- Specially designed for VFGC with a beautiful rendering of white dogwood, the Virginia state flower and VFGC symbol
- A lovely any-occasion boxed gift for family, friends, and club members
- Manufactured entirely in the USA
- Ornament sale proceeds will be used to support VFGC scholarships, grants, and schools.



Dimensions: L to R, 2.65"; Top to Bottom, 3.05"
Depth approximately .5"

ORDER YOURS TODAY

Name _____ email: _____

Garden Club _____ District _____

Number of Ornaments Ordered _____ @\$25 each Total _\$ _____

Make personal check payable to VFGC, indicating "ornaments" in the memo line.

Send order form and check to VFGC Treasurer:

Linda Nau
1810 Ethelred Court
Midlothian, VA 23113

Orders will be delivered to Districts at the September VFGC Board Meeting – and subsequently distributed at Fall District Meetings or by other arrangement with your District president.

Questions, contact Linda at naule@aol.com or 804-514-0095.

PLEASE ADD YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER ON THE FORM!