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







October 9, Shenandoah District Fall Meeting
October 13, Piedmont District Fall Meeting
October 13-14, Landscape Design School
October 16, South Central District Fall Meeting
October 18, Southwest District Fall Meeting
October 22, Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting
October 30, Tidewater District Fall Meeting
November 3-4 VFGC Symposium

#### Dear VFGC members,

Fall is officially here! The VFGC District meetings are scheduled starting October 9. I am really looking forward to meeting you at your District meeting and to making new friends. Landscape Design School is scheduled October 13-14 at Lewis Ginter (see page 14). It is a great opportunity to learn just for fun if you don't want to become a certified landscape consultant. The instructors are experts in their field! Flower Show School held in Roanoke in August was outstanding too.

As you know, our own Val Story is now the NGC Chairman for Plant America Grants Committee. The application deadline for a Plant America Grant is October 15!

Please look on the home page on the NGC website: <a href="http://gardenclub.org">http://gardenclub.org</a>. Click on the Plant America Tab for more information. Donna Donnelly's theme for NGC for her administration is Plant America for the Next 100 Years. As explained under the Plant America tab, Barbara Baker has generously agreed to match contributions to the Plant America campaign. So as an individual or Club, please give a contribution to Plant

America some thought. Working with other organizations, NGC is making plans for member clubs to plant Red, White and Blue flowers around Blue Star memorials and other locations to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As featured in this Rooted, a number of Clubs have planned Flower Shows and other exciting activities. Please plan to attend at least one if you can! The Tidewater District just had a sensational "All Hallows Eve" District Flower Show complete with witches cauldrons and seasonal treats. Judy Durant again led VFGC volunteers to man a very popular booth at the Viriginia State Fair.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support your garden club, your District and VFGC!

Very Gratefully, Sally

Sally Harrison, VFGC President, 2025-2027

Beyond Bees and Butterflies: Beetles as Pollinators

Beetles? That's what I said when I first learned that a beetle was a pollinator. Did you know that? I was on a tree walk with my garden club members and a representative of Bartlett Trees. We were standing under a beautiful huge magnolia tree when he shared that magnolias had been around before bees! Before bees? So how were they pollinated? I had no idea they were pollinated by beetles! Beetles still pollinate them today.

When you think of pollinators, the first thing that comes to mind are bees and butterflies. Beetles certainly aren't what I think of first. So, I had to do a little research.

Beetles like large cup-like flowers that are typically open during the day, heavily scented blossoms, and tough petals and leaves. People tend to describe flowers pollinated by beetles as spicy, sweet, musky, or fermented like overripe fruit. Magnolias have large, thick petals with sturdy carpals. This prevents the beetles from doing damage. Because flower-visiting beetles are mostly interested in pollen as a food source, these plants must produce enough pollen to ensure some is left over for pollination to occur. Beetles do not have any specialized structures or mechanisms for picking up pollen; rather, pollen grains stick to their bodies as they move from flower to flower. They are sometimes referred to as "mess and soil pollinators" since they will eat through leaves and petals, leaving small holes, and bits of plants behind. Now you know!



Submitted by:

Debbi Babashanian, VFGC Chair Bird, Butterfly &Pollinator Education

Longhorn Beetle on Magnolia - Canva Al

## **CLUB NEWS:**

## THE COLONIAL HERITAGE GARDEN CLUB:

There is a spectacular garden in our community! It has been lovingly created and cared for by Michele Garrard and her husband Jay, located at 4264 Old Lock Road.

I had the pleasure of sitting with Michele and heard about her careers and life here in Virginia. Originally a native of the northern neck, King George's County in Virginia, she and her husband Jay, moved to Colonial Heritage in 2009 after purchasing a townhouse in the community. One year later, they moved into the charming cul-de-sac of Old Lock Road and have transformed the property into specular gardens that surround the house.

Michele's 46-year-old son, John-Paul, currently resides in Richmond and Michele's mother is close by in an assisted living community. Both she and her husband are retired after a lifetime of interesting careers. Michele retired in 2001 after a 33-year career with the Department of Navy. Her roles included Director of Fleet and Family Services at Norfolk Naval Station, Yorktown Weapons Station and Newport News Shipyard, overseeing education and training, life skills, and clinical counseling programs. During the first 18 years of her career, she worked in the IT field supporting multiple Navy programs throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. Her combined roles kept computers functioning and sailors and their families at peak performance and ready to be deployed. Her husband is an Army veteran who retired from Naval Station Norfolk as IT Program Director in 2005 and is currently working towards a second retirement at a non-profit.

When asked about notable flowers in her landscape, Michele started off by describing the yellow flowered cut-leaf cone flower. A native plant that is an aggressive spreader but easy to sculpt to the desired size of your space. Celosía "Cock's Comb can be found in abundance in her garden with colors of scarlet and flaming orange. They are very popular with bees and self-seed easily from season to season. Edgeworthia, (Paper bush) is a delightful winter-bloomer with white lightly-scented flowers that form

on a mounding evergreen shrub. The Obedient plant is a recent native acquisition to her garden with its swaying pink flowers blooming in the late summer till fall.

The Button Bush, a native pollinator has white, round, flowers with satellite-like spikes, looks like it could be straight out of a science fiction movie! Both bees and butterflies can be seen in throngs mobbing the flowers for its popular pollen Carolina Allspice, blueberries, elderberries, native yarrow, and fig trees are all planted in the magnificent planting beds that surround her house. Planted in raised beds in the backyard are her kitchen herb garden, watermelons, peppers, and tomatoes.

#### Other Endeavors

If you haven't guessed by now, Michele is a Master Gardener. She volunteers in Colonial Williamsburg's arboretum where she gives tours of the gardens and notable trees to visiting guests. She also donates her time to the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, working to establish their certified Level 1 arboretum.

#### Gardening Advice

And what is her sage gardening advice? Do not be deterred if your plants don't survive. According to Michele, 20% of plants don't make it as they can be devoured by deer or rabbits, and can perish from disease, poor soil, or inclement weather. Hope and perseverance are the gardener's best friends!

She also recommends that all gardeners purchase a Hori Hori gardening knife (hers was acquired from Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester but they are readily available at a multitude of garden tool suppliers). The Hori Hori is an extremely useful gardening tool that can break up the ground and



easily weed. She cautions, "keep your gardening tools sharp and clean". An additional recommendation is to plant herbs like thyme, mint, rosemary, and lavender in between the flowers to deter deer and rabbits (they do not like fragrant plants).

#### Home and Hearth

Michele loves Williamsburg and feels like this is "home" and is happy that fate brought her home and garden bring her joy as do her two poodles, Ginger a 13-year-old, and her new 4-month-old puppy, Penny.

Michele was awarded the Beautiful Garden of the Season award for Fall 2025 by the Colonial Heritage Garden Club and received a \$50 gift card and a placard announcing her as the winner. Congratulations, Michele! Submitted by Kiki Keating

## **Thomas Jefferson Garden Club:**

## Awarded the NGC Flower Show Achievement Award

This Spring, Thomas Jefferson Garden Club, a member of Piedmont District, VFGC, Inc., received the NCG Flower Show Achievement Award and Rosette for the Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, "Springtime Splendor", which it hosted on April 25, 2024, at the Trinity Lutheran Church. Additionally, Thomas Jefferson received the Standard Flower Show Award from the South Atlantic Region (SAR).

All 37 members of Thomas Jefferson Garden Club participated in the event, resulting in 106 entries in Horticulture and 2 entries in Education. Of the 38 classes, thirteen 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.

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. Tours were also provided for the Trinity Lutheran Church preschool classes. Submitted by Susan Delsordo





#### THE GREEN SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS:

### HOLIDAY TRADITION in COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, VA

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. The first Tour was held in 1961 in

conjunction with Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination, the spectacular fireworks celebration of the Colonies' that recalls the tradition commemorating significant events with light - candlelight, lanterns and fireworks! The Tour is still held on the first weekend in December in conjunction with Grand Illumination. Through decorating the town, our guests are given the chance to experience holidays in the colonial spirit and true Williamsburg hospitality.

The 2025 Annual Christmas Home Tour, to be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, is the 64<sup>th</sup> 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 is decorated with exquisite fresh and dried floral designs done in the Colonial Williamsburg style. The designs are composed to complement the features and quirks of each home using



only materials available in Williamsburg at the time. As guests proceed through parlors, dining rooms, kitchens, and studies, hostesses highlight special architectural features and notable furnishings as well as tell the tales of the property owners, including one of the nation's founders. The 2025 Annual Christmas Home Tour features:

- The Lightfoot House: One of the original eighty-nine homes of the Historic Area, the Lightfoot House was constructed in the mid-1700's with the final design completed in 1750 for the prominent Yorktown family of Phillip Lightfoot. It now serves as the official residence of the President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.
- 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 on the original foundation in 1938. The beautiful Prentis Garden has been constructed behind the house.
- 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 193031. The stunning Doric columns and pediment of the front porch were retained in the
  restoration even though they postdate the colonial period. The kitchen, dairy,

- smokehouse, and privy, dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, are among the few surviving early outbuildings.
- 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. Thomas Nelson, Jr., owner during the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, signed the Declaration of Independence and succeeded Thomas Jefferson as governor of the Commonwealth of 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, Virginia! Tickets and additional photos are available on the Club's website, <a href="https://www.greenspringgardenclub.org">www.greenspringgardenclub.org</a>.







## The Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club:

Our own Master Gardeners, Jackie Fairbarns and Barbara Wheeler educated The Buckingham- Dillwyn Garden Club with a program entitled "What's Your Plant Telling You".

After providing information on tropical plants and their care, they discussed the needs of some "sickly" plants brought by members to the meeting. After the program, two lucky members each won a beautiful tropical plant to take home.

On 9/8, Buckingham-Dillwyn Garden Club, joined by the Buckingham County Anti-Litter Task Force, separated a large bed of Day Lilies on Hwy 60, in dire need of attention. Approximately 30 paper shopping bags of bulbs were removed and taken by members to store for the winter. They'll be sold at our annual plant sale in May. The proceeds will be used for club projects which benefit our community.



## **FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:**

For future editions of <a href="ROOTED">ROOTED</a>, please email your club's announcements to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. In this edition, six announcements follow:

# THE KILMARNOCK GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS "FLORAL FANTASIES"- A HOLIDAY DESIGN PROGRAM BY KATHY WARD

The Kilmarnock Garden Club is very excited to have Kathy Ward present - "FloralFantasies" – A Holiday Design fund raising event on <u>October 21, 2025</u>, 11:00 AM at Historic Christ Church in Weems, Virginia. Kathy will create Fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's "Floral Fantasies"!

Kathy Ward is an extremely talented Floral Designer creating amazing interpretations of Art for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, in Richmond, duringTheir "Fine Arts and Flowers" events since 2012. She is a member of the Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas where she has displayed floral designs for their Kaleidoscope as well as exhibited at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Kathy is a National Garden Club Life Flower Show Judge. She has given floral design workshops and programs throughout Virginia, the Washington, DC area, and Orlando, Florida.

She is a member of the Tidewater District, VFGC; Virginia Flower Show Judges Council; Richmond Designer's Guild; Salisbury Garden Club and the Creative Floral Designers of the Americas. Kathy is a native of Rochester, New York and a graduate of Virginia Tech.

The cost of this event is \$55.00 including lunch and design program. For more information or to purchase tickets email: eve.s.runyon@gmail.com

## **The Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Program Schedule:**

RCGC 2025-2026 Programs

September 5, 2025

Name of Program: Designers choice

**Gregory Britt** 

We are very excited to have Gregory Britt of "Gregory Britt Designs",located in Charlottesville, VA to share his floral designs and knowledge with us. He designs all over the world, but mostly in Charlottesville, Richmond and Shenandoah Valley. Designing for weddings, churches, and various business, as well as teaching classes, keeps him busy. He plans to do 2 -one of a kind designs that will go to the lucky members who have the winning tickets. As well as one fun "Showstopper design". To find out more about Gregory please go to gregorybrittdesign.com

October 3, 2025

Name of Program: "Plant Native"

Virginia Witmer

Virginia has been the Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program for 29 years. She has been coordinating what is now the state wide "PLANT VIRGINIA NATIVES" initiative that began 16 years ago with the first regional native plant marketing campaign of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Virginia also represents the Virginia CZM Program and the plant Virginia Natives Initiative of the Virginia Invasive Plants Coalitition.

November 7, 2025

Name of Program: "Holiday Magic"

Frances Thrash

Frances is a past president and founding member of Lynnhaven Heritage Garden Club and president of Richmond Designers Guild. She is a Master Judge as well as Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor for both NGC flower show schools and symposiums. Frances has served of the NGC Board for 6 yrs and is currently the chairman of Floral Design. Frances has present programs and schools far and wide for garden clubs, state conventions and plant societies in numerous states.

December 5, 2025

#### RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS FLOWER SHOW

January No Meeting

February 6, 2026

Name of Program: Cooking With Herbs 101

Sheila Weisensale

Sheila resides in the Ginter Park neighborhood in the north side of Richmond with her husband, Stephen and their beloved SPCA graduate dog, Morgan. She is an avid flower gardener; loves to grow and use material from her own cut flower garden. Shelia loves to cook using fresh herbs from her garden, and she will be providing samples of a few of her recipes at the meeting for RCGC members to sample. She also likes to press flowers and make items from them as well as paper craft items. Shelia sells her work ant local shows, events and online in her Etsy Shop at www.uncommoncuts.net.

March 6, 2026

Name of Program: Bald Eagles of the James River

Captain Mike Ostrander

Captain Mike loves the James River and the Bald eagles as well as sharing his experiences along the river. If he's not leading a Bald Eagle tour you can probably find him fishing on a johnboat somewhere or just skipping rocks. When he is sharing these passions with others, that's where he truly excels. When you are with him, you can tell he is loving every minute of it. He will also share information about the Bald Eagle tours he leads celebrating this majestic bird

April 3, 2026

Name of Program: "Springing Forward"

Jane O. Smith

Jane Oliver Smith has lived in Virginia for over 40 years, mostly in Manassas, Virginia where her husband grew up and recently moved to Richmond. Jane is a partially retired attorney moving towards full retirement and in her spare time loves gardening and all. Floral things. While raising 3 boys, in the 90's she joined her local Manassas Garden club and over time studied to be a flower show judge under the National Garden Clubs organization for both horticulture and floral designs. She is a Master Flower Show Judge, served as president of her garden club, vice president of Judges' Council and president of Floralia, a specialized design group. Jane is a member of the Richmond Design Group and on the board of Creative Floral arrangers of America.

May 1, 2026. Annual Luncheon

Name of Program: Designer's Choice

Brenda McManaway

Our featured floral presenter for the Annual Luncheon, is Brenda McManaway. She is a master NGC Floral Judge, currently President of the Blue Ridge flower Show Judges Council and President of the Creative Floral Arrangers of America.

Brenda also serves on the VFGC Committee for Flower Show School and VFGC Symposium. If you attended the Piedmont District Fall 2025 meeting, Brenda presented her program "Fall Flurry".



## "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



### SAVE THE DATE: VFGC CONVENTION



## **LEARNING IS FUN!**

Landscape Design School is open to any garden club member! Whether or not you are considering becoming a certified Landscape Design Consultant, consider taking the NGC Landscape Design Course 1 that begins on Monday, October 13 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. This course is available to all those having an interest in the beauty and care of our environment through landscaping.

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL Course 1, Series 30. Monday and Tuesday, October 13, 14, 2025



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.

#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION

Course 1 Series 30 October 13, 14, 2025

Registration Deadle Name:	ine: September 20, 20	25
Address:		
	VA	
Zip:+ 4	Phone:	
E-Mail:		
Garden Club:	District:	
Check if Refreshing Is your garden club a men	Are you a Master Garden nber of VFGC?Yes	er? yes / no _No
PLEASE CHECK CORRECT	BOX	
[ ] EXAM STUDENT [ ] NON-EXAM STUDENT [ ] SINGLE DAY STUDEN	「 IT – Monday or Tuesday	\$100.00 100.00 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

#### For late registration, please contact Glenda for permission if space is available.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Hotel used previously: Springhill Suites, Richmond North, 9701 Brook Road, Glen Allen, VA. 804-266-9403. They are unable to offer a group rate this time.

Suggestion is to call to make your reservation - they offer discounts if you are a AAA member, as well as other promotional discounts.

Monday, October	13, 2025	
Time	Activity	Instructor
8:00 - 8:20am -	Registration	
8:20am	Welcome	
8:30am - 9:30am	Developing Your Garden Plan	Laurie Fox
9:40am – 10:40am	Design for the Environment	David Seward
10:50am – 11:50am	Xeriscaping: Not Just for the	Laurie Fox
	Desert	
11:50am - 1:10pm	LUNCH (The Café is	
	convenient)	
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Supplemental Subject:	Laurie Fox
	Landscapes as Classrooms	
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Learning About Your	David Seward
- 1 - 1		
6:30pm	Ecosystem	I – pay on your own
6:30pm	Group Dinner – place to be announced	1 – pay on your own
6:30pm  Tuesday, October	Group Dinner – place to be announced	
6:30pm	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of	I – pay on your own  Neal Beasley
6:30pm  Tuesday, October 8:30am - 9:30am	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design	Neal Beasley
6:30pm  Tuesday, October	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape	Neal Beasley Peggy
6:30pm <b>Tuesday, October</b> 8:30am - 9:30am  9:40am - 10:40am	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840	Neal Beasley Peggy Singlemann
6:30pm  Tuesday, October 8:30am - 9:30am	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape	Neal Beasley Peggy
6:30pm  Tuesday, October 8:30am - 9:30am  9:40am - 10:40am  10:50am - 11:50am	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840  Basics of a Site Plan	Neal Beasley Peggy Singlemann
6:30pm <b>Tuesday, October</b> 8:30am - 9:30am  9:40am - 10:40am	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840	Neal Beasley Peggy Singlemann Neal Beasley Peggy
6:30pm  Tuesday, October  8:30am - 9:30am  9:40am - 10:40am  10:50am - 11:50am  11:50am - 1:00pm	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840  Basics of a Site Plan  LUNCH (The Café is convenient)	Neal Beasley Peggy Singlemann Neal Beasley
6:30pm  Tuesday, October  8:30am - 9:30am  9:40am - 10:40am  10:50am - 11:50am  11:50am - 1:00pm  1:00pm - 2:00pm	Group Dinner – place to be announced  14, 2025  Principles and Elements of Landscape Design  Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840  Basics of a Site Plan  LUNCH (The Café is convenient)  Color in the Landscape	Peggy Singlemann Neal Beasley  Peggy Singlemann Neal Beasley

#### **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 Seward**

David Seward recently retired from Reynolds Community College as the Program Head for the Horticulture Program for 18 years. He spent a total of 25 years teaching for the Horticulture Program at Reynolds. He has worked a toral of 40 years working and teaching in the green industry, predominantly focused on Landscape management and Plant materials. While at Reynolds, he developed a Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Program, a Career Studies Certificate for Sustainable Agriculture, and a Sustainable Landscapes course. He received his BS in Biology from Old Dominion University and his MS in Horticulture from Virginia Tech.

#### 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 <u>Old Dominion Gardener</u> (ODG) is published quarterly, <u>ROOTED</u> can be sent monthly when ODG is not. So please submit articles or information you want to share in <u>ROOTED</u> by the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month to <u>rootedyfgc@gmail.com</u>. Every club has some news they can share at least once in 2025!

ODG deadlines are: August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1. 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.

**ENJOY A WONDERFUL FALL!** 

Email: rootedvfgc@gmail