

SHENANDOAH SHARINGS



Shenandoah District

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member,
National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Edition 70

General and Club News

Aug/Sept.
2024

President's Message

Can you believe that it is already the end of August? Where has the summer gone? I'll bet that some of us are saying "good riddance" after the drought and the scorching July weather. My garden suffered terribly. I am on a low producing well so I cannot water. Anything that I plant has to be tough! One good thing that I can say about this summer is that I experienced almost no Japanese beetles. Maybe my persistent killing in past years has finally paid off.

But August will soon be behind us and we can look forward to cooler fall weather and all the new varieties of flowers that it brings. I anxiously await the riot of color from fall mums. Get to work early cleaning up your gardens and preparing them for winter. Do the weeding now and you will thank yourself in the spring.

And to add to your fall excitement is the upcoming Fall District Meeting, October 10th in Charlottesville. If you haven't attended a District Meeting, this one is a must-see. It is flower show mania. The programs will inform, educate and entertain and the day will feature a judged flower show. Special thanks are extended to the creative talents of Pat Carswell, Val Story and their hard-working committee.

Think about entering an exhibit. There is a special category for amateurs. Details for both the District Meeting and the flower show are found later in this issue.

Hope to see many of you around the district. Let me know of any special events that your club is planning - I love to visit!

Whatever the season, continue to appreciate **"Your Garden ... Your Refuge"**. *Maureen*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SHENANDOAH BOARD MEETING: SEPT 12

VFGC GRANTS DUE: SEPT 15

SHENANDOAH JUDGES COUNCIL: OCT 7

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT MEETING: OCT 10

SYMPOSIUM: NOV 11-12

AWARDS DUE: DEC 1



IN MEMORIAM
Our Deceased Members



Hill and Valley
Doris Miller

Rapid Ann
Ann Meade Falconer



WELCOME NEW COMERS

Lake of the Woods

Avril Adams
Aino Leedom

Glasgow

Gretchen Wilder

Natural Bridge

Patricia Gibson
Mary Wheeler

Beverley

Sharon Moye
Karen Olivares
Erin Wright

Calfee

Carla Riga

Rapid Ann

Hazel Arruda
Caryn Block
Pam Dutile

Culpeper

Barbara Bernard
Sarite Faught
Julie Fritter
Rice Summer Wagner
Elle Walker

Hill and Valley

Carol Florian
Susan Rocke

Nelson County

Brenda Jo Harris

Madison

Nancy Pike
Mary Anne Hankla

NGC AND SAR NEWS



**NGC President
Brenda Moore**



Objective of NGC Awards

Individual members, clubs, groups of clubs, states and regions all work together to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility, fulfilling the mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc. The NGC Awards Program recognizes the time, effort, and resources expended by each throughout the year. To each entity we extend our sincere thanks for all that you do. We hope that you will take a bit of time along the way to submit awards applications for the many good works you accomplish so that you can be recognized and provide inspiration to others.

Youth Grant Opportunities

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is excited to provide a grant opportunity for Garden Clubs working with youth clubs or groups planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators. Youth will learn the importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter, and practicing sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting, and maintaining these pollinator gardens.



**South Atlantic Region Director,
2023-2025
Carcille Burchette
Theme: "Go Green...Plant Natives"**



No doubt that summer is here! The heat is stifling at times. And the downpours are so welcome but then the humidity soars! Please make sure you and your family and pets stay hydrated. Since the lovely SAR Convention in March, I have had the great pleasure of traveling to the state conventions of my own state of Kentucky, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Virginia. North Carolina had their convention at the same time as GCKY. It has been a spring of traveling, planning, writing, answering and sending emails, and phone calls. It seems that there is always garden club business. And now it is flower show season! I enjoy judging the creative designs and the beautiful horticulture entries with sweet, sweet fellow judges. The NGC Essay Contest is back! I know our SAR state presidents and essay chairpersons are happy, especially since the decision was made last year to continue with the SAR Essay Contest. The SAR Bylaws Review committee and Fundraising Committee will meet soon as SAR strives to prepare for a promising future. It is the next generation of earth protectors and gardeners that we need to nurture. We all can help nurture the next generation by honoring someone, whether a garden club member or not, with and SAR Life Membership. The funds go toward our SAR Scholarships. Ms. Dorothy Richardson will gladly take care of your applications. Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy the fresh fruit and vegetables, the lovely flowers and greenery, flower shows and tours.

VFGC REPORTS

Val Story, VFGC PRESIDENT

“Every Person Makes a Difference”



Hello Shenandoah District,

There will be a flower show for the next Shenandoah District meeting. “Southern Charm” will be a small standard flower show with two educational exhibits. Right now we need members to enter for designs and bring horticulture. We really would like non judges to fill the slots.

I will be attending district meetings soon...this is always a pleasure. Every district does their meeting a bit differently, but all are fun and educational. VFGC has a wonderful group of members.

I will continue to encourage applying for a Plant America grant...grants awarded up to \$2000.00. I know somewhere a Shenandoah Club has a project to apply for such a grant.

Thank you again for the wonderful news and articles coming in for Shenandoah Sharings. Hopefully many will attend the Shenandoah District meeting.

Penny Pine is a must...please donate to such a wonderful cause...reforestation. Shenandoah must succeed in having the most plantations!

And don't forget to honor a member with the VFGC life member pin. We have so many that deserve to be recognized. I know some clubs have given life member pins in recent months.

Check the VFGC web...more info with links to SAR and NGC...you can go on one web now to look at all organizations. If your club is having an anniversary do not hesitate to let me know...you can be recognized by VFGC and NGC.

Val



An Ode to Autumn

Shenandoah District Fall Meeting & Flower Show

October 10, 2024

at

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1500 Rio Rd. E, Charlottesville, Va 22901

District Meeting Information

Registration Begins at 9:15 a.m.
Club Presidents Meeting at 9:45 a.m.
Meeting Begins at 10:15 a.m.

Registration Cost: \$29.00

Deadline - October 3, 2024

Post marked after this date add \$10.00 to registration

Please send a form for each person attending

Programs

Morning Program - Design Overture . . . Containers - Valerie Vaughan
Afternoon Program - ABC's of a Flower Show - Pat Carswell and Val Story

Pam Lamborne, Chaplin, will conduct a Memorial Service for deceased club members. Please email Pam with the names at pamlamborne@yahoo.com

Board Members & Clubs: If you are interested in having a vendor table please contact Valerie Vaughan: vrvcolours@hotmail.com or 540-377-2239.



Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of Club _____

Name of District if other than Shenandoah _____

Make checks payable to Shenandoah District - VFGC

Mail form and check to:

Dianna Busch

14453 Rillhurst Dr.

Culpeper, VA 22701-9711

Credentials (please circle all that apply)

Club Member

Club President

SD Board Members

Past District President

District President

VFGC Board Member

Guest

Other

Diet Allergies: _____

Registration Fee \$29.00

Deadline: October 3, 2024

Post marked after this date add \$10.00 to registration

Please send a form for each person attending

Registrar Use Only

Check # _____

Amount _____

Date Rec'd _____





An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

Presented by the Shenandoah District
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 10, 2024

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1500 East Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA

Open & Free to the Public

Affiliated with:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region

This flower show will be at the Shenandoah District Meeting. The schedule has been sent to club presidents and board members. Do consider entering this show...just for fun. There will be 12 designs, 2 educational exhibits and hopefully lots of horticulture. Call or email Heidi, Pam L or Val S for registering or for questions. This is a good show to enter for the first time!!

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT NEWS

Scholarships

You may remember meeting our scholarship winner, Nora Waide at our spring district meeting at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. I am delighted to announce that she will be attending Virginia Tech this fall. We routed her scholarship money from Northern Virginia Community College to Virginia Tech when she was accepted into their Environmental Resources Management Program starting this fall. She is also hoping to attend Oxford University in their graduate program in Sustainability, Enterprise and Environment. Now Nora will be eligible to apply for VFGC scholarships to continue in her studies at Tech.

The one thousand dollar Shenandoah District Community Scholarship is funded by donations from individuals and clubs. Information about it and about the state scholarships is posted on the district and the VFGC website scholarship pages. Thank you to our supporters,

Heidi Sage

Shenandoah District Scholarship Chairman



PENNY PINES UPDATE

Penny Pines is being renegotiated with the National Forest Service. There will be changes in the name and how we will tally our donations.

Since I no longer receive the Shenandoah District totals for the NGC, I will be asking each garden club to keep me informed on your total donations for the year 2024. Starting at the October District Meeting, I will have a sheet for clubs to list their donations in 2024 from January till September. I will check with each club by email before the end of the year for any additional donations. Please list your donations with the month you mailed your check so I have a better idea of the correct count. I will let you know if I learn any other informations in the future. You may also mail me the information at: Joymarie42@gmail.com.

Thank you. Joy Poole

Results from January to July

Blue Ridge District	3 Plantations	\$ 204
Piedmont District	12 Plantations	\$ 816
Shenandoah District	8 Plantations	\$ 544
South Central District	7 Plantations	\$ 476
Southwest District	7 Plantations	\$ 476
VFGC	3 Plantations	\$204.00
Total 40 Plantations		\$2720.00



LIFE MEMBERSHIP INVENTORY

Take a look at your club membership and assess if those who have stepped up and deserving of recognition have received either a Life Membership or Book of Honor for those whom already have Life membership. A thoughtful gift to present to the worthy person for their birthday or at a club Christmas Luncheon. What a pleasant surprise that would be.

The process is simple. Go to viriniagardenclubs.org website under Forms & Info and download the pdf to submit your application. Mail to state chair and email myself of your request for our

District records. All the info is on the form. If you have any questions please reach out to me and I'll be happy to assist. All proceeds go towards the district scholarship fund which awards an annual scholarship.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Henderson
chadenva@aol.com

Community Gardens

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley Events

If you haven't visited the Gardens of Glass exhibit there's still time....

Glen Burnie Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley beginning June 8 through **October 13** will feature the exhibition, Gardens of Glass: The Art of Craig Mitchell Smith. Thirty larger-than-life floral and other forms will be displayed throughout the garden. Smith will create a special piece evoking apple blossoms. The Charlevoix, Michigan, artist has been creating floral forms in kiln-fired glass since 2006, and his revolutionary techniques have made him one of the most innovative kiln-glass artists in America. Smith's artwork has been displayed in Epcot Center in Disney World, Missouri Botanical Garden, and many other locations.

PLEIN AIR AT THE STATE ARBORETUM – A FESTIVAL OF ART AND NATURE

10:00 AM. - 5:00 PM Saturday, September 21st

En plein air is a French term that translates into to in the open air. And what better place to paint *en plein air* than at the beautiful State Arboretum of Virginia. For four days, September 18th through 21st, 100 plein air artists from across the region and country will visit the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm to capture the beauty of our many vistas on canvas. The event will culminate with a public festival featuring some of the award winning plein air art painted during the week, including some novice youth work completed by children in the 5th to 7th grade.

What to expect: The public festival will also include food trucks, music, an occasion to mingle with plein air artists, and of course an opportunity to purchase and take home a one-of-a-kind piece of art of your favorite Blandy landscape. Kids can participate in their own Plein Air art at the three Family Art Tables.

Who can come: All ages. FREE Event. A portion of the Art Sales benefit the Foundation of the State Arboretum

What to bring: Comfortable shoes and cash or credit to purchase art!

For more events/workshops visit <https://blandy.virginia.edu/programs-events-calendar>

LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN FALL PLANT SALE

Friday, September 20 & Saturday, September 21, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

One of Central Virginia's most-anticipated plant sales. Dozens of vendors and knowledgeable Garden volunteers help you choose your best plants!

The Fall Plant Sale is held outside in Parking Lot B at the Garden (no admission fee or ticket necessary.)

National Botanic Garden, Chantilly – Prelude to Fall October 5-6

If you haven't visited this garden, self-guided walking tours will be offered the first weekend of October.

For more information visit <https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/Preludetofallatthegarden>

If you have a special garden or event to recommend please contact me, ksokol606@gmail.com
Happy Gardening!

Submitted by Katie Sokol



Awards

Fall is quickly approaching, and it is time to think about your submissions for the Shenandoah District Awards Committee. Last year was a banner year for awards and I am anxious to see what your clubs have been doing in 2024.

Here are some deadlines to share with your clubs and mark on your calendars. Remember that deadlines are firm so plan accordingly.

Youth Contests Y-1 and Y-2 are due by Nov. 1, 2024.

Youth Poetry Contest is due Nov. 1, 2024.

Smoky Bear and Woodsy Owl (You will receive notice from the committee chairperson)

All other Awards are due by Dec 1, 2024.

Club scrapbooks are due no later than the Spring District Board Meeting. Applications for awards can be found on the VFGC website along with the required cover sheets. Topics for youth awards are listed as well. Deadlines are posted on the Shenandoah District Website along with instructions for submission. Please read instructions carefully.

*Awards can be submitted electronically to me at RebeccaY@comcast.net or by good old snail mail.

Last year several clubs sent Flash Drives!! I Loved it!!

Rebecca Yates

7927 Wellington Dr.

Warrenton, VA 20186

More detailed information will be available for club presidents at the District meeting in October.

My committee looks forward to seeing your submissions. (Can't wait!!!!)



Rebecca Yates

Shenandoah District Awards Chairperson



Centennial Garden Club

cordially invites you to our

October Fest Garden Fair 2024!



11am
to 3pm

Monday, October 21st
Cedar Run Brewery
12801 Hazelwood Dr., Nokesville, VA



\$30 per
ticket

Schedule of Events

- 11:00am Sign in and get your goodie bag
Check out raffle ticket items & vendors
Purchase a Cedar Run Adult Beverage
- 11:30am Luncheon
- 12:30pm Visit Demonstrators, Educational
Exhibit and Vendors
- 2:00pm Raffle, *must be present to win*
- 3:00pm Garden Fair concludes

Admission ticket includes

Delicious Luncheon featuring dishes from Centennial members, *Goodie Bag* with complimentary raffle ticket for themed baskets and items from demonstrator and vendors!

Demonstrators

Keith Stanley: Renowned Sculptural Botanic Designer

Jason Alexander: Potter - Locally made pottery, including planters, garden items, functional and sculptural pottery

Educational Exhibit

Living Springs Microgreens - Information on the interesting world of microgreens with free samples!

Vendors

The Arrangers Market - fresh cut flowers, unique vases, flower arranging supplies and garden-themed gifts.

Diversity Acres, Irises - Local, environmentally sustainable iris and daylily hybridizer.



The brewery will be open
to purchase adult
beverages!

Register and pay online (\$30 per person) at <https://centennial-garden-club.square.site>
or

Mail form with a check for \$30 per person, payable to Centennial Garden Club to:
Arlene Stewart at 12200 Ashley Ct, Manassas, VA 20112

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Native Hydrangeas



Everyone loves hydrangeas, but nobody wants to see a year's worth of blooms wiped out by a deep winter freeze or a badly timed pruning session. Fortunately, there are a few closely related North American native species that bloom on new wood, which means they can be pruned any time from fall to early spring, or even killed to the ground by frost, without sacrificing their lovely blooms. I recently read an article where for five years, staff and volunteers at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware, evaluated smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*, zones 3-9) and two close relatives: ash hydrangea (*H. cinerea*, zones 4-9) and silver-leaf hydrangea (*H. radiata*, zones 3-8). A collection of native plants as "wild hydrangeas." Most of the plants in the trial were smooth hydrangea cultivars (i.e., natives), with a few selections from other species and one interspecific hybrid. The inflorescences of wild hydrangeas and related species fall into two categories: lacecaps and mopheads. Most of the plants in the trial bloom for just a few weeks in early summer; however, the flower heads remain attractive through late summer, fall and even into winter. Most have white flowers, though some pink-flowering cultivars have been introduced in recent years. Most of the hydrangeas in the trial performed best in shade, which helps to keep sterile flowers and leaves from burning, especially in hotter, drier weather, which we have all been experiencing these last few years. But they found that many of the cultivars were surprisingly sun tolerant, especially if they had been planted in moisture-retentive, well drained soil. Some of the pink-flowered varieties scored consistently better in sun than in the shade. In hotter summer climates, however, all of these hydrangeas will likely require supplemental water to help them tolerate the sun without being damaged.

So now for the top performers: **Haas Halo smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens* 'Haas' Halo)** earned a perfect score of 5, the only plant in trial to do so, and was propelled to the top by its stellar pollinator rating. It's a lacecap. In trial, plants grown in full sun displayed flower heads that were consistently among the largest in the entire evaluation, averaging 8 inches in diameter. A spring cutback magnified the already substantial floral display and reduced the height of the plant from 7 feet to 4 feet. It had nearly flawless performance in shade, where it displayed uniform growth, dark green foliage, and flower heads that remained attractive for months after their midsummer bloom. I have bought two of these in 4" pots from American Meadows online. Looking forward to seeing these two perform in my own garden. Next was **Incrediball Blush smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens* 'NCHA4')** is a petite mop-head with pink sterile flowers that become more intensely colored as the fertile flowers prepare to open. With its smaller size, about 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide, it is an accessible choice for smaller spaces. It is also quite sun tolerant, and if it has ample moisture, ample sun, and excellent drainage, it will develop into a truly spectacular shrub. Its super sturdy stems are especially impressive, they never flop, even when the plant is in full bloom and completely covered with massive flower heads. I also bought two of these, from Proven Winners, but are also available from Great Garden plants online. The last exceptional performer was **Lime Rickey hydrangea (*H. SMNHALR*)**. It was the only interspecific hybrid in the trial, having been developed from a cross between silver-leaf hydrangea (*H. radiata*) and 'Pink Pincushion' smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens* 'Pink Pincushion'). Lime Rickey is a nice, big, attractive plant that does well in both sun and shade. Its unique mophead blooms have sterile flower buds that start off lime green and then fade to off-white or ivory as they open.

Continued from Page 10. The raspberry-pink fertile flowers that open a little later offer a unique contrast; there was no other plant in the trial quite like this one. As the flowers finish, they fade back to a soft green. Unfortunately, those interesting blooms did not attract a large number of pollinators. I am a collector of hydrangeas, and really should be included in tests trials, just saying, lol, but I'm on the fence with this one, as I'm trying to bring more plants into my garden for the pollinators.

Now for the front runners with remarkable vigor and improved performance, another mophead, **Invin-**
cibelle Spirit II smooth hydrangea (H. arborescens 'NCHA2'), is tied with Incrediball Blush for the highest score among pink-flowered cultivars. It is bigger and has a more robust habit than Incrediball Blush, although its blooms are smaller, they contain more fertile flowers per cluster. It also attracted the most pollinators of all the mopheads, though its pollinator counts could not compare to the high numbers that the lacecaps attracted. **Incrediball smooth hydrangea (H. arborescens 'Albetwo')**, an outstanding upgrade to an enduring favorite, "Annabelle", a white mophead with a notoriously floppy habit, especially in late summer. I can attest, as I have them in my garden, now moved towards the back, but still going strong. **'Mary Nell' smooth hydrangea (H. arborescens 'Mary Nell')**, is a lacecap similar to 'Haas' Halo' but with a double ring of sterile flowers around the outside. Like most other lacecaps, it attracted a large number of pollinators. It was found to be a little less tolerant of full sun than some of the other cultivars, so site in partial to full shade. I have not been able to find this hydrangea for sale on line, but the search continues. Maybe one of these will be added to your gardens, let me know how they do.

Donna Courtney
Native trees and Heritage plants

Mophead vs Lacecap What's the difference?



Mopheads may be eye-catching, but lacecaps are better at attracting pollinators. Wild hydrangea inflorescences, technically called corymbs, are typically flat to dome-shaped clusters containing hundreds of individual flowers, some fertile, some sterile. The mix of sterile and fertile flowers determines the flower type. The mophead flower form is a naturally occurring mutation that has given rise to many of the most popular and well-known cultivars, but are these ornamental blooms still beneficial to pollinators? There were two separate studies, the Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware and the University of Delaware. The two studies came to similar conclusions where they overlapped. With few exceptions, lacecaps attracted much higher numbers of pollinators, interestingly the University of Delaware researchers did note higher proportions of non-bee pollinators on mopheads, including beetles, true bugs and flies. The data shakes out pretty cleanly, lacecaps attract many more pollinators and are the best choice for a wildlife garden. Information was compiled from an article in Fine Gardening, August 2023,

Donna Courtney
Native trees and Heritage plants

Educational

Judy Lyke, Rapidan River Master Gardeners, (843) 345-4764 comes highly recommended with her program on plant identification which includes handouts and computer app recommendations.

Rob Alexander from Harrisonburg, VA can be reached at profrobalexanderjmu@gmail.com, 303-818-0418. He presents a wide range of Virginia environment laws and policies which include plastics, pollution, and urban sustainability.

Submitted by Jill Quinley



SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST 2025

The new school year will be starting soon. Where did the summer go? There will be last minute trips to the beach, school supply shopping and kids jumping with excitement for a new year, new grades and new teachers.



The new year school also includes Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl!

I will be sending an email to all the club presidents later this month to request the name and contact information for their poster contest chairman. I will then communicate with the chairman on the contest rules and timeline throughout the contest period.

To view the 2024 National contest winners, go to:

National Garden Club web site

Click on Home page

Click on Youth & Scholarships

Click on Youth & Scholarships again to Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl 2024 poster winners for each grade, they are amazing!

I believe we can work together to make this another truly successful contest year!

Submitted By: Toni Shreve

Shenandoah District Poster Contest Chairman

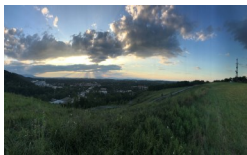
CLUB NEWS

Rose Cliff Garden Club

The Rose Cliff Garden Club has kicked off a new year with another re-sounding success of our annual Picnic at Coyner Springs Park in Waynesboro.

Our next meeting included the presentation, How to Make Your Garden 'Greener' by Erin Wright, the owner of a local flower farm, Quince and dock in Staunton.

We then had an informative meeting on the next phase for Sunset Park, a new Waynesboro City Park. We managed to not melt under the pavilion while enjoying the fabulous views of the city and mountains. In the evening there is a spectacular view as well.



Our next meeting will involve a field trip to the Birdsong Pleasure Gardens in Luray. And we are planning on visiting the Fine Arts & Flowers at the VMFS where one of our members, Grace Morris, will be participating in creating a

floral display.

Submitted by Stephanie Selmer



Bur-

Beverley Garden Club

Members of the Beverley garden club making arrangements without using Oasis. This was a workshop to see what we could do while protecting the environment, and we had a great time and learned a lot from each other. We have more new members, too! We must be doing something right! Even have a couple of young people!

Submitted by Nancy Pyle



National Garden Week

Glasgow Garden Club members celebrated by creating floral arrangements with residents at Shenandoah Health and Rehab on June 6th.



“A Walk in the Garden”

Garden Tour of the Teass Garden, Serocki Garden and Vaughan Garden

For their June Garden Club Program members were excited to tour three of the members gardens. It was so interesting to tour three entirely different garden styles and yet see the love of gardening so visible. Gardens on the tour included: Garnette Teass' which featured plantings enhancing her swimming pool and a side garden of annuals and perennials. Kim Serocki has a country garden which included both floral and vegetable plantings. Her chickens were happy to have guests. Lunch and a walk in Jane and Val's various gardens featured a rose garden, cutting garden and vegetable growing area. It was a fun and educational experience especially since we approved a new member after a salad and dessert lunch!! Submitted by Valerie Vaughn



Calfee Garden Club

June ushered in the end of our club year, celebrated by gathering for Calfee's annual June Luncheon. Members shared potluck food items at beautifully decorated tables, complete with lovely arrangements made by our own Pat Carswell. The luncheon ended with members posing for a picture in front of a garland covered arch, a memento of a happy day.



No sooner does one club year end then another begins. Committees met in July, setting up programs, design and horticulture schedules. This year, four of our ten meetings will be held at member homes which is always a treat. Programs will be interesting and varied, such as "Hiss or Miss" with Barry Buschow, Herpetologist, a workshop making modge podge pumpkins Brenda McManaway, plus "Just the Basics", a program aimed at our newer members and a refresher for us 'oldies'.

Extreme heat, humidity and rain made working in the garden somewhat unpleasant. Calfee Members weren't always anxious to do their 'park duty' at our community garden at Yowell Meadow Park. But it's a project near and dear to our hearts. The garden looks beautiful thanks to our members and Chair, Katie Hash. It's August now and the leaves are starting to turn on the Dogwood trees. Can cooler temperatures be coming soon? Lets hope so.

Submitted by Melanie Brown

Winchester Council Joint Meeting

Winchester Council of Garden Clubs is once again hosting a Joint Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024. The event will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church on Rt 522 North, just outside of Winchester.

This year the program will be presented by Grace Morris. Grace is a member of several NGC garden clubs, the Shenandoah Designers Guild, and an NGC accredited judge. She has been taking classes in the art of Ikebana and will share design tips and ideas in this exciting style.

Grace is an accomplished designer who will entertain us with many examples of this exciting design style. Bring a friend! This is a great way to get that friend excited about garden club membership!

Sales tables will open at 9:30 am and the program will start at 10:45. A raffle will be held throughout the morning. Luncheon, provided by members of each club, will be at noon, with time afterwards for a club meeting if desired.

Winchester area club members look forward to this meeting each year as a great way to learn fresh ideas, get some great buys at the sales tables, and enjoy time catching up with friends. If you would like to join us, please contact Susan Creasy: 540-667-4193 or rick.creasy@gmail.com. RSVP by Monday, September 9.

Submitted by Carolyn Frye



Greenvale Garden Club members hon-

ored "National Garden Week", June 2-8 by providing floral arrangements for the Hardesty-Higgins Visitor Center in Harrisonburg.

On July 16, Greenvale visited the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester and toured the *Gardens of Glass, the Art of Craig Mitchell Smith* followed by a tour of the historic Glen Burnie House. We explored the seven acres of gardens and enjoyed viewing the 30 larger than life glass sculptures of flowers, insects and more. Several sculptures were created just for the display in Virginia, including the sculpture of the state flower, the apple blossom and the state insect, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. A most interesting display of artistic interpretations and a must see for all gardeners and flower lovers.

By Lucinda Eye



Rappahannock County Garden Club

The Rappahannock County Garden Club celebrated its 75th anniversary in April at the annual business meeting and member potluck in Washington, VA. RCGC continues to grow, with more than 60 members now, including several new members who have joined this year. Through our annual Holiday Greens Workshop fundraiser, the group has provided scholarships to local high school graduates to help fund their education at two- or four-year colleges or at trade schools, and helps to fund campers at the Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA and at the closer-to-home Rappahannock Nature Camp each summer. RCGC is deeply involved in our community, sponsoring and helping with events for senior citizens, an annual Seed Swap at the county library, and more. Participating in the TREX plastic film recycling program has provided three RCGC benches for the enjoyment of Rappahannock County residents, with more to come. The annual tree give-away in partnership with Friends of the Rappahannock has resulted in more than 53,000 native trees planted in the county, and projects with the after-school group at the county elementary school is helping to nurture future gardeners and, maybe, future garden club members!

Submitted by Laurie Harbert



Natural Bridge Garden Club

Natural Bridge Garden Club enjoyed a lovely day at the home of Maureen Becker, as they celebrated their annual time-honored "picnic" luncheon together. In addition to the luncheon, Maureen organized an intra-club flower show for the members.

Categories showcased "June"...with a wedding theme, Gemini twin arrangements complimenting each other and the emergence of summer budding flowers. Ribbons were awarded to members for their beautiful arrangements, as well as "Best in Show."

Pictured are Maureen Becker and Carla Zorn, who was awarded "Best in Show" for her interpretation of Gemini Twins.



Picture of members: left to right...Sharon Littlepage, Virginia Cooke, Leslie Giles, Diane Harrell, Rosanne Facciolo, Diane Weaver, Irene Condie, Jennifer Young, Sandee Greene, Ann Nay, Maureen Becker
(seated in front:) Doris Fredricksen, Carla Zorn and Anna-Lisa Fitzgerald.

Submitted by Diane Weaver

Hill & Valley Garden Club – “*Happenings*”

July Meeting - *Daughter of the Stars Theater and Cultural Center, American History at our door-step.*

In support of the Daughter of the Stars Theater and Cultural Center, HVGC members met for a guided, personal theater tour, and business meeting, at this historic town entertainment center in Stanley, VA.

The DotStars theater was built in 1926. It specialized in showing old Westerns and War films. Over time, the theater was abandoned. In 2021, Patrick Burns and others, decided to make something from this hollow shell of history into a rich and diverse center for music, art, and the cultures of the Shenandoah Valley.

Monthly performances are posted on their website - <https://www.daughterofthestarstheater.com/>



View of the stage from the theater's balcony.

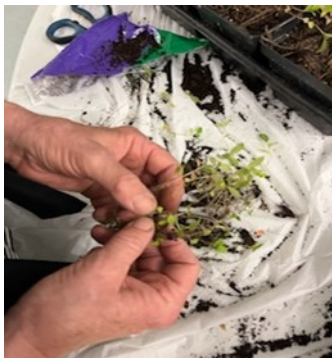


Patrick Burns, operations manager

Dibbling - What is that?

Dibbling, Dibbler, or Dibble... From the 16th century, a dibbler is one who used a dibble, a small hand tool, to make small dibbled holes in the ground for tiny plants, seeds, or bulbs.

In preparation for the Hill & Valley Garden Club's - Garden Lover's Day – Saturday, May 17th, 2025, 10-4, club members dibbled over 350 tiny baby native plants into quart pots. These tiny native plants will grow out over the next 10 months and be ready for purchase in May of 2025.



Separating the tiny, tiny seedlings to plant. All hands on deck - dibbling



Over 350 dibbled seedlings.

Hill and Valley Garden Club – *Happenings, continued*

August Meeting - Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon was hosted by Inez Myers at Castle Vineyards in Luray. Castle Vineyards is a wine tasting & event venue, and cattle farm with newly planted grape vines. Their bright and airy wine tasting room has lovely open seating with country tables & chairs enough for forty or more people. All with beautiful mountain views of Page County's valley.

Inez and Katie Sokol decorated the tables with fresh flowers on lovely antique table cloths.

The H&VGC members brought their spouse, relatives, or friends, and their favorite salad, or dessert, to share in this yearly celebration with the Garden Club's members.



October Bulb Sale - Fall is a Great Time to Plant Spring Bulbs!!

The Hill & Valley Garden Club is excited about and gearing up for their 1st Annual Bulb Sale – Saturday, October 12th, 2024, at Luray Caverns, Luray, Virginia.

Daffodils, Iris, Peonies, and Native Plants will be available for purchase. Funds raised from the Bulb Sale will be used for the Club's Environmental Scholarship Program. This past June, the Club was able to award two \$500 Scholarships to two area High School Seniors.



Written by – Lesley Mack;

Photo Credits – DotStars, Adelhide Osmers, Lesley & Tom Mack

Information on Club Happenings, Events, Membership, Speakers, and History can be found at:

Website - www.hillandvalleygc.com

facebook - www.facebook.com/HillandValleyGardenClub

Culpeper Garden Club

Valor Award Banquet:

The morning of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce Valor Award Banquet, 25 Culpeper Garden Club members gathered to create floral arrangements to grace each of the 24 banquet tables. It is one of the many service projects the members choose to support with their time, talent and club funds during the year. This year the garden club was proud to be a major sponsor of the July event, which recognizes community first responders, firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement officers.

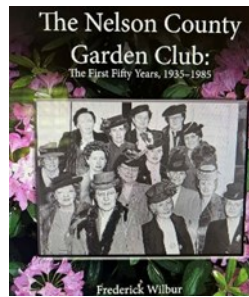
Flower Show:

Mark your calendars for May 7, 2025. In celebration of our 90th anniversary, the Culpeper club will be hosting a standard flower show. In addition to horticulture and design exhibits, the event will offer free sessions on gardening and floral arranging by area experts. Local plant nurseries will have annuals, perennials and small shrubs for purchase with a portion of their sales to benefit the club's outreach programs.

For more information on the Culpeper Garden Club and their various programs: culpepergardenclub.org



Nelson County Garden Club



In July, the NCGC was honored to welcome VFGC President Val Story and author Fred Wilbur as our special guests. We gathered at Rockfish Presbyterian Church in Nellysford for a wonderful luncheon provided by the board. Afterwards, it was a joy to hear Val talk firsthand about her role as VFGC President and her encouraging words about our club's achievements, especially over the past year. Val applauded our club's traditions, such as the hat parade, and cheered us on to consider doing a flower show in 2025. Continuing our community involvement was also emphasized, and most of all, our passion for each other. Following her remarks, Val was presented with a signed copy of *Nelson County Garden Club: The First Fifty Years, 1935-1985* written by Fred Wilbur, who was our outstanding July program speaker discussing the extraordinary accomplishments and women in the NCGC from 1935-1985.



Our August meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church, Arrington, included summer refreshments, a business meeting, and an impressive program by club member Frances Van Lear about dried flower techniques and decorating. During our business meeting, three active honorary members were elected unanimously – Eula Clark, Barbara Marshall, and Shirley McGatha. They will be honored at our September meeting. The club also welcomed another new member, Brenda Jo Harris, bringing our total to 13 new members since spring 2023.



Submitted by Missy Dickie, NCGC President

APPLICATION FOR VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP/BOOK OF HONOR

Check One: _____ Life Membership
 _____ Book of Honor

Name of Honoree

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Honoree's Garden Club

Honored by

District

Date of Presentation

Surprise? _____ Yes _____ No
Club Meeting _____ District Meeting _____

Send life membership pin and card or Book of Honor Card to:

Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____
E-mail _____

CHECK payable: VFGC, Inc.

MAIL to Shenandoah Life Membership Chairman:

Denise Henderson 540-222-5176
513 Trailside Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22911-8495
chadenva@aol.com

Contributions to

Blue Star Memorial

Make Payable to

Shenandoah District, VFGC

In honor of President or Individual:

Name of Club or Individual making

Donation: _____

Check memo line: Blue Star Memorial
Send Check and form to

Polly Gable

540-347-7708---pollygable@gmail.com
6416 Summerfield Lane
Warrenton, VA 20186

Contribution to

**Shenandoah District
Scholarship Fund**

Make payable to:

Shenandoah District, VFGC

Check Memo Line: Scholarship Fund
Send Check and Form to

Heidi Sage
1057 Jacks Shop Road
Rochelle, VA 22738-3907

Print: _____
Club Name