

September 2025 EDITION OF THE VFGC, INC. NEWSLETTER



ROOTED



September 15, Deadline for Youth Grants
September 15, Deadline for Grants to Beautify and Restore
September 18, NGC Fall Board Meeting
October 13-14, Landscape Design School

Dear VFGC members,

Happy Fall! I hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer!

Labor Day has come and gone. The children are back in school. Nighttime temperatures are finally cooler. Weathermen even predict that the 80's will not return for at least a week! VFGC Clubs are again meeting around Virginia. It is wonderful to catch up with Garden Club friends and to learn something new at a GC meeting. I am really looking forward to meeting so many of you when I attend the six VFGC District meetings in October.

I hope that each member will bring a guest to at least one garden club meeting this year. We have fun learning! Also, don't forget to have your club submit at least one article to Rooted or to ODG about what your club is doing. We get great ideas from each other!

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

CLUB NEWS:

The **KEYSVILLE GARDEN CLUB**, part of the South Central District, has been busy this spring and summer.

In March we created table decorations for the Charlotte County Meals on Wheels gala; we also decorated and filled treat jars for all Meals on Wheels recipients to distribute near Easter.

During our April meeting we created red, white and blue planters. We tended them and let them grow before moving them to the Keysville Veterans Park for events being held in June and July. We also placed new planters at the Welcome to Keysville sign near our new roundabout and updated the arrangements at other town locations. We continue to maintain the landscaping at the Blue Star Memorial.



Between January and May we collected and submitted over 1000 pounds of plastic film for the Trex Recycling Challenge. We have now received our fifth bench; this one will be placed in the Keysville Veterans Park and Blue Star Memorial. We continue to recycle by donating our collections to another county organization that has taken on the challenge.

June included donation of buckets, tools and gloves for five new Habitat for Humanity homes in Keysville. These were presented to property owners at the home dedication ceremony.

We hope everyone stays cool for the rest of the summer and that your flowers keep blooming! *Submitted by Mary Howard.*



NATURAL BRIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Chances are you've never seen a kokedama or might not know what it is if you did.

Recently, members of the Natural Bridge Garden Club were introduced to this Japanese art form by Sherry Godfrey, a potter/gardener from North Carolina.

Kokedama, or “moss ball”, is an ancient Japanese art form that is derived from the practice of bonsai.

The beauty of exposed bonsai roots, which would accumulate moss over time, was the inspiration behind kokedama. It was often referred to as “the poor man’s bonsai” because it was a simpler, more affordable way for people to enjoy the tranquility of a Japanese garden in their homes.

In kokedama, the root ball of a plant is coated in mud and covered in a sheet of moss, which symbolizes longevity and is in harmony with its surroundings. The plant doesn't require a lot of attention and can last as long as three years.

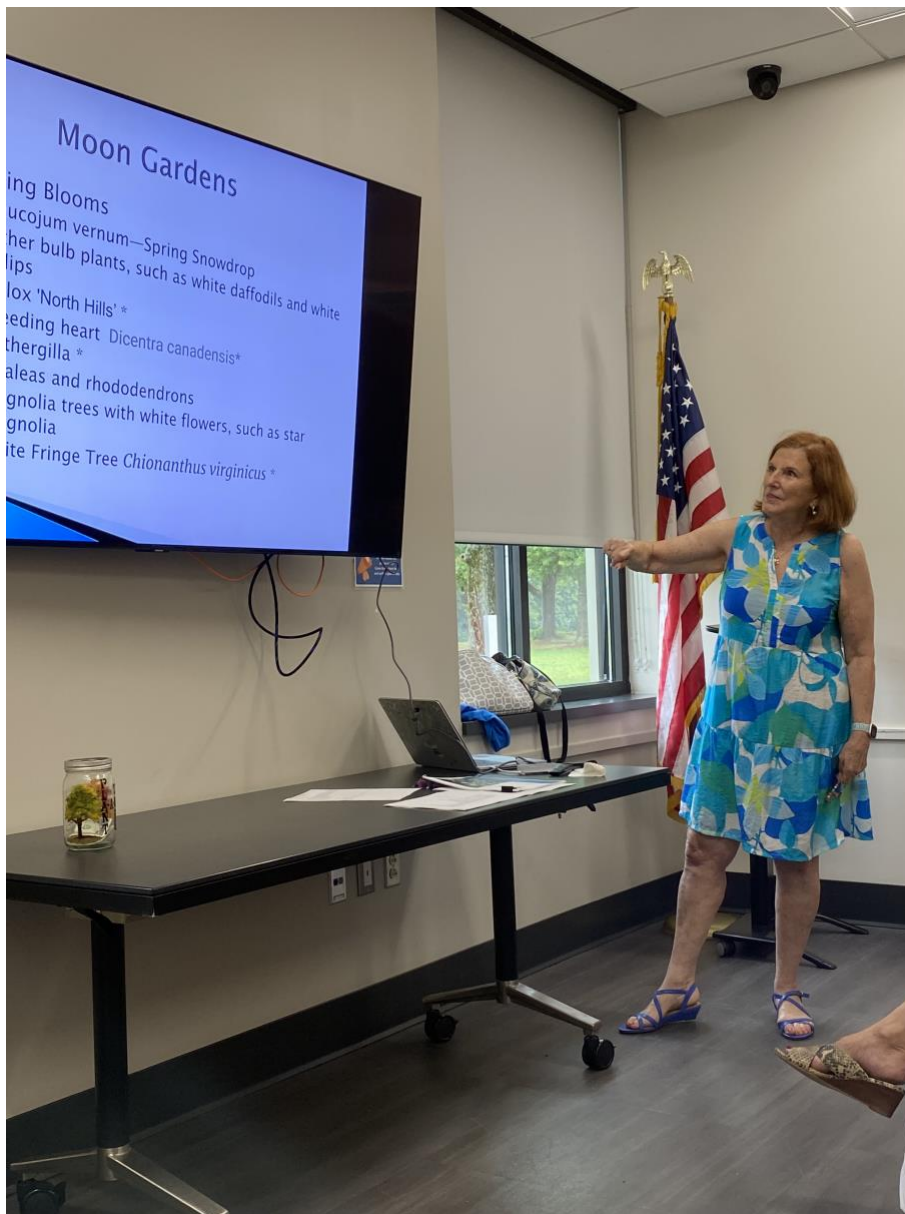


Captions (left to right): 1.) Sherry Godfrey is a potter and kokedama expert from North Carolina. She is pictured with Lucia Owens, program chair of the Natural Bridge Garden Club. 2.) Godfrey demonstrates how to make a

kokedama using the plant rootball, mud, moss and string. 3.) the kokedama plant can be watered simply by placing it in a bowl of water until it is soaked.

THE BUCKINGHAM-DILLWYN GARDEN CLUB:

On Monday, July 14th the Buckingham- Dillwyn Garden Club was pleased to welcome Connie Sorrell, a member of the Goochland - Powhatan Master Gardeners and the Salisbury Garden Club (P). She presented a wonderful program on Night Blooming Gardens with colorful slides and handouts. In addition to her research, much of Connie's information comes from hands-on experience, since she has been planting beautiful Night Blooming Plants and developing Moon Gardens at her home.



FLOWER SHOWS, TOURS and EVENTS ARE PLANNED:

For future editions of [ROOTED](#), please email your club's announcements to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. In this edition, seven announcements follow:



Clay Spring Garden Club
Presents
"Nature's Beauty & Splendor"
An NGC Small-Standard Flower Show


First Baptist Church of Ashland
800 Thompson Street
Ashland, VA 23005

Saturday, September 13, 2025, 1:00-4:00 pm
Open and Free to the Public
Handicapped Accessible

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Piedmont District of Garden Clubs

"A Day at the County Fair"

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show



Presented by The Luray Garden Club

Saturday, October 4, 2025,
2:00pm-4:00pm

VFW Corner Jones Post 621
218 Veterans Lane, Luray, Va 22835
540-335-3278

Luray Garden Club is a member of
The National Garden Club, Inc.
South Atlantic Region
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Shenandoah District

Open to the Public Handicap Accessible No Admission Fee

ALL HALLOWS' EVE



An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Tidewater District, VFGC

To be held at
Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-363-3900

October 4, 2025
Free & Open to the Public
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Affiliated With:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Atlantic Region
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

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 - “Floral Fantasies” – A Holiday Design fund raising event on **October 21, 2025**, 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, during Their “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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Green Spring Garden Club's
Annual Christmas Homes Tour

Saturday, December 6th, 2025
Williamsburg, VA

More Details: www.greenspringgardenclub.org

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 Deadline: September 20, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ VA _____

Zip: _____ + 4 _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

Check if Refreshing _____ Are you a Master Gardener? yes / no

Is your garden club a member of VFGC? ____ Yes ____ No

PLEASE CHECK CORRECT BOX

<input type="checkbox"/> EXAM STUDENT	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-EXAM STUDENT	100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE DAY STUDENT – Monday ____ or Tuesday ____	50.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Refunds can be given only for medical emergencies.

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

Make check payable: **VFGC Landscape Design School**

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

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

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 – 8:20am	Registration 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 Desert		Laurie Fox
11:50am – 1:10pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:20pm - 2:20pm	Supplemental Subject: Landscapes as Classrooms		Laurie Fox
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Learning About Your Ecosystem		David Seward
6:30pm	Group Dinner – place to be announced – pay on your own		
Tuesday, October 14, 2025			
8:30am - 9:30am	Principles and Elements of Landscape Design		Neal Beasley
9:40am - 10:40am	Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Time to 1840		Peggy Singlemann
10:50am - 11:50am	Basics of a Site Plan		Neal Beasley
11:50am - 1:00pm	LUNCH (The Café is convenient)		
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Color in the Landscape		Peggy Singlemann
2:10pm - 3:10pm	Space, Design and People		Neal Beasley
3:15pm	Review – consultants not taking the exam may leave.		
3:30pm	Exam		

INSTRUCTORS:

Neal Beasley, ASLA, ISA Certified Arborist

Neal is a Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist with over 25 years of experience in the fields of Horticulture, Arboriculture, Irrigation, Landscape Construction and Public Gardening. Neal studied horticulture at N. C. State University and was formerly the Manager of Horticulture

at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. As an Arborist, he assesses trees during the site analysis to best determine protection strategies or removal. Neal is also on the team of the Timmons Group in Richmond. Neal is the co-author of "Recycling Urban Stormwater: 1050K Street, NW Washington, DC" 2007.

Laurie Fox, Ph.D.

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

Peggy Singlemann

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

David 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 total 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 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 by the 8th of each month to rootedvfgc@gmail.com. **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.com

