



# *Mum's the Word*

November 2023 – Volume 56, Issue 3

**Salisbury Garden Club**

[www.salisburygardenclub.com](http://www.salisburygardenclub.com)

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

## **A Message from SGC President, Connie Sorrell. . .**

How did it get to be November? The year has certainly flown. Only 39 days until Christmas!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, November seems to be a time of reflection, a time to think of our many blessings large and small, to spend time with our family and friends, and share a special meal together. Recently, I saw this quote and it reminded me of how every day is a gift for which we should be thankful.

“Don’t wait until the fourth Thursday in November to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving.” ~ Charmain J. Forde

Everyone has been very busy with our many projects and activities. New beds have been planted at the new Midlothian Fire Station and work on the new project at the Lifelong Learning Institute Garden has started. Work was also done at the Wishing Well Park and the Midlothian Post Office. Kids are working on their Smokey Bear Contest posters, Club members visited the Spring Arbor Memory Care and helped residents make flower arrangements. The Veterans Art for the Journey group worked with the Veterans to make arrangements in mini pumpkins. Our members are spreading joy wherever they go!

This month’s meeting is being held at the Manakin Episcopal Church in Powhatan. We greatly appreciate the hospitality of the Church allowing us to meet here without charge. It is a beautiful setting, and we thank the Reverend Gini DiStanislao and Jean Hillsman for the warm hospitality they have extended.

### **Today’s Program:**

“Introduction to  
Ikebana”  
by

Annette Ernst,  
Ikebana Instructor



Becky Sido and Katie Conschafter have organized a great Ikebana program for us this month and I am excited to see the very different types of Ikebana styles of flower arranging to be demonstrated.

It's almost Christmas Party Time! Martie Parch and Nancy Scherer have arranged for us to gather at the Salisbury Country Club on December 6<sup>th</sup> for our annual dinner, to celebrate the season with our gardening friends. Please join us. The deadline for sending your check is November 22.

The Spring Garden Tour will be happening in May! If you have a garden you would like us to visit, please get in touch with Fran and John Stanwix, the co-chairs.

Members' thoughts and suggestions are very important to me to help serve you better. If anyone would like to offer any suggestions about our meetings, programs, activities, or other events, please feel free to email, text or chat with me.

May your days be filled with good thoughts, kind people and happy moments.

Always keep planting seeds!

Connie



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# TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 1 to November 15, 2023

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

<b>OPERATING FUND</b>			
<b>Beginning Balance June 1, 2023</b>			<b>\$3,096.66</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Administrative</i>			
Membership Dues 2023-24 (paid 2022-23)	4,050.00		
Membership Dues 2023-24	1,200.00	5,250.00	
<i>Activities</i>			
Atlas Glove Orders	1,002.00		
December Workshop	120.00		
Richmond Council GC Hospitality	125.00	1,247.00	
<i>Donations</i>			
Penny Pines Donations	105.00		
Misc. Donations	2.00	107.00	
<i>Meetings</i>			
District Meetings Registration	855.00		
Opportunity tickets (Sep)	101.00	956.00	
<i>Social Hospitality</i>			
Christmas Party	990.00	990.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>8,550.00</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>			
<i>Administrative</i>			
Bank Fee	8.00		
Corresponding Secretary	20.60		
Liability Insurance	294.00		
Newsletter	45.08		
Piedmont District Dues	20.00		
Penny Pines Donation	68.00		
Richmond Council Dues	40.00		
VFGC Dues 2023-24	535.00		
Website Hosting, Domain (annual)	278.95		
Yearbook	685.47	1,995.10	
<i>Activities</i>			
Atlas Gloves	761.86		
Flower Show	47.41		
Richmond Council GC Hospitality	146.43	955.70	
<i>Meetings</i>			
Awards Luncheon 5/24 Deposit	500.00		
District Meetings Registration	900.00		
Monthly Programs	112.75		
Facility Rental, etc.	1,000.00	2,512.75	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>5,463.55</b>	
<b>Operating Fund Balance Nov. 15, 2023</b>			<b>\$6,183.11</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND</b>			
<b>Beginning Balance June 1, 2023</b>			<b>\$2,113.00</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Graduation Flowers	1,375.00		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>1,375.00</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>			
<i>Community Outreach</i>			
Southampton Youth Program	13.73		
<i>Civic Beautification</i>			
Fire Station	106.88		
National Garden Week	113.80		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>234.41</b>	
<b>Community Projects Fund Balance Nov. 15, 2023</b>			<b>\$3,253.59</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>			
<b>Reserve Fund Balance Nov. 15, 2023</b>			<b>\$2,895.61</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Youth Grant Awarded	125.00		
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		<b>125.00</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>			<b>\$12,457.31</b>

# NGC, VFGC & PIEDMONT DISTRICT AWARDS



December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applying for the many awards available to Clubs from the Piedmont District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) and National Garden Clubs (NGC). Nancy Lee and Kathy Ward are helping the various members complete their award applications. Please be sure to get the information to them as soon as possible. These awards help provide financial resources to fund many of our projects and our Club has an excellent reputation for winning many!



Check out the websites to see the great projects being done across the District, State and Nation. Members can go to [Awards and Grants | National Garden Clubs, Inc. \(gardenclub.org\)](https://www.gardenclub.org); to [Awards - Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs \(viriniagardenclubs.org\)](https://www.viriniagardenclubs.org); and [PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org/Forms](https://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org/forms) to see all the many types of awards and to read about the fabulous work past award winners have done.



Connie Sorrell, President

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

We have continued accomplishing so much with our fall work days.

October 19th - DanaDee Carragher, Kathy Casella, Sue Kucera, Marsha Caratelli, and Meg Winn worked on the **Wishing Well Park** border by planting chrysanthemums, daffodil bulbs, muscari and weeding and dead-heading.

October 30th - for the **Annual Daffodil Project** Susan Oakey bought 100 St. Kevever and 100 Ice Follies from Brent and Becky's Bulbs to plant at the Midlothian Fire Station. Susan Oakey, Kerri Butler, Nancy Lee, Martie Parch, Barbara Metz, Marsha Caratelli, Sandy Fry, and Meg Winn all pitched in to plant two borders leading to the antique fire wagon centered on a brick path. We look forward to the golden glow of trumpets come March. Kerri Butler is the featured star in this photo entitled "Upper Management" and the photo



below is of the SGC members who participated in the Annual Daffodil Project.



November 2nd - Barbara Metz brought assorted pansies, tulip bulbs, and Red Devon daffodil bulbs to plant at the **Midlothian Post Office**. After pulling out the spent zinnias, Candy Nasser, Nancy Lee, and Meg Winn helped to plant the garden beside the ramp. We have this space in color year-round and often get compliments

on it which gives well-deserved credit to our club!

November 7<sup>th</sup> - We met again at the new garden at **Lifelong Learning Institute** and added native geraniums, moonbeam coreopsis, chrysanthemums, and daffodil, muscari, anemone, and Leucojum bulbs. Kerri Butler, Jean Hillsman, Kathy Casella, Candy Nasser, Marsha Caratelli, and Meg Winn all helped with the placing, planting and watering.

We couldn't help resist adding this photo of the glorious "Metro Blue" bearded reblooming Iris at the **Anniversary Garden**. This plant was originally donated by former member, Suzy Miladin.



This wraps up our fall planting schedule, though we still have a few more plants for **Wishing Well Park** and will need to water until winter weather sets in. Our next ventures will be **holiday decorating in early December** at a few of our project sites – see the sign-up sheet for dates and times if you'd like to participate.

We have had good times with our wonderful volunteers and look forward to seeing glorious flowers in the spring.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Lorna Boucher & Camille Archie**



On Monday 23rd October a group of SGC volunteers, under the guidance of Jean Jordan, helped patients at **Spring Arbor Memory Care** to decorate small wreaths. Jean had made some very attractive

bows to be attached and Camille brought a mass of dried flowers plus sunflowers left over from Trader Joe's usual gift on the third Friday.

Most of the residents were wheelchair-bound and many of them

needed quite a bit help with their wreaths. Sunflowers were particularly popular but they were the very dickens to wire onto the wreaths!

What very cruel disease this Dementia is and it now seems to be becoming so prevalent. I am sure these stricken ladies were once alert and capable of dealing with their own affairs. It is heartbreaking to see now. Some were more alert than others but even they were struggling. We were full of praise for the staff who care for their patients with such gentleness and kindness.

The SGC team were: Jean Jordan, DanaDee Carragher, Kathy Crasper, Nan Futrelle, Matilda Large, Nancy Lee, Nancy Scherer, Sandy Zima Camille Archie and me (Lorna Boucher).

**Art for the Journey:** All our outreach projects are worthwhile and rewarding but none more so than the ones we do with the men and women veterans from the United States Military.

We all have a happy time thanks to the enthusiasm with which the participants enter into their tasks. This project involved making arrangements in small pumpkins.

The said pumpkins were donated very kindly by the Great Big Greenhouse.



Camille Archie and David Boucher cut off the tops - not an easy task as they were like bullets. David resorted to a saw! We placed wedges of oasis inside and the intrepid veterans made a great job of filling them with flowers and greenery. One offering was going to be an anniversary present for a veteran's wife!

Camille took some excellent photos and we promised to show them to Doug at the GBG. as our thanks for the pumpkins.

SGC members who took part were: Camille Archie, Becky Sido, Nancy Scherer, Nancy Lee, Barbara Metz. Marcia Harrigan and her niece Crystal and me, Lorna B.

**Gardening Enrichment with Homework Helpers:** On Monday and Tuesday October 23-24, students learned about Smokey Bear, his message and the Poster Contest. In addition, on Monday, the 12 children who were absent on October 9th, learned about propagating Jade plants and planted baby jade plants to take home.



Monday's helpers were: Marsha Caratelli, Katie Conschafter and Becky Sido. Tuesday's Helpers were Nancy Scherer, Lorna Boucher, Karen Rice, Marsha Caratelli, Janet Mallon and Becky Sido A big thank you to those who came to help these students!

We have a few **volunteer opportunities** coming up over the next couple of months – see page 8 for details and complete the signup sheet to participate.

### EXHIBITS – Joanne Wallace & Fran Judd

**October Exhibits:** We had 48 horticulture exhibits, 14 designs and 5 Botanical Arts exhibits. Congratulations to our winners – Nancy Lee for **Design**; Becky Sido for **Horticulture**; and Meg Winn for **Botanical Arts**!



Our October **Gardener's Exchange** was again a great success and a lot of fun. Members were able to find treasures to take home as well as sharing their own items they no longer needed.



Don't forget to sign up for our **Holiday Door Designs Workshop** on and the **Holiday Design Exhibits**. For more information see pages 10-11.

### PROGRAMS – Becky Sido and Katie Conschafter

Our October 24 tour of **Greenswell Growers**, an innovative large-scale indoor growing facility was very interesting. Thirteen members came and enjoyed learning about Greenswell's growing concept. We all left



with a gift package of Greenswell's Vibrant Greens Blend, which was delicious!

We have an exciting program for our December meeting to be held on **December 13<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday!!!)** with **Kate Vernon, owner of The Arranger's Market**. The title of her program is "Creating Festive Arrangements". Kate believes that the purpose of flower arranging is to celebrate all that nature has to offer. The focus of her program will be creating festive holiday arrangements using locally sourced materials. Opportunity tickets will be available for arrangements. For more information about Kate and her program, refer to your Yearbook page 90.



### **SOCIAL HOSPITALITY - Martie Parch & Nancy Scherer**

We hope you will join us for our **Annual Christmas Party at Salisbury Country Club** on December 6. See page 9 for details and complete the coupon on the signup sheet to participate.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Southampton Elementary School on November 20:**

We will help the children make small flower arrangements. Please bring clippers; and if you have greens, please bring those as well.

**Community Hospice House on January 4:** Volunteers will make small arrangements on January 4 and deliver them to chairman, Catherine Barnes by 3 PM.

**Gardening Enrichment on January 8-9:** Our activity will be Winter Seed Sowing, a fun way to teach about recycling and starting



seeds. Students will plant seeds in translucent 1 gallon plastic water jugs and take them home and leave outside. Seeds will germinate and grow in the mini-greenhouses throughout the winter. We will need at least 50 translucent gallon water bottles and will beg for soil and seeds at the big lot stores. I have many water bottles already saved, but we could use more.

Please join us from 2:30 to 4:30 those days. Questions, contact Becky Sido at 201-396-7217.

**If you'd like to participate in any of these projects, please complete the coupon on the signup sheet.**





**You and your guest are invited  
to the Salisbury Garden Club  
Annual Christmas Party**

**"A Jolly Jingle"**

**Wednesday, December 6th at Salisbury Country Club**  
Reservation Deadline November 22nd

Gather for cocktails at 6:00 PM  
Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM  
Cost is \$45 per person

Meals include House Salad, rolls, and dessert

A plated **Sauteed Shrimp and Scallops**  
w/ Boursin and Crispy Prosciutto & "Dirty Martini" sauce

A plated **Grilled Pork Ribeye**  
w/ Warm Spiced Apple Compote

**Chef's Choice Vegetarian**  
Pasta with Broccoli, Mushroom, Baby Kale,  
Ricotta, Pecorino

and  
Tea, Coffee and Cash Bar

If you have any questions, please contact  
Martie Parch at 804-240-5446 or [tredwr@msn.com](mailto:tredwr@msn.com)

## “Holiday Door Designs” Workshop December 4 – 1:00 PM

What better way to get in the holiday spirit than by creating your own Holiday Door Design? Join us at this hands-on workshop as we craft wreaths, decorative frames and other creative items to embellish your front door for the coming month.

Participants will be given a list of suggested items to bring to the workshop, along with their premade wreath, wreath frame, picture frame or other structure. Additional greens, ribbons and ornaments will also be available for participants to use.

All Door Designs are eligible to be judged on Wednesday, December 6th, thereby fulfilling your design requirement for the year, without having to bring a design to a meeting!



Our own talented Kathy Ward will inspire us and guide us as we make our own wreaths. For more information about Kathy and the workshop, refer to pages 86-87 of your

Yearbook. We hope you join us at **The Shed** in Reeds' Landing for this fun workshop. **Cost of workshop is \$10.**

## Holiday Design Exhibits December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM



Are you planning to decorate your door for the holidays? How about your mailbox? If so, sign up to participate in our December exhibits.

Your door and mailbox exhibits will be judged the morning of **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. This is a great opportunity for you to fulfill your design requirement to be a member-in-good-standing. For more information, see pages 24 and 89 of your Yearbook. To participate, fill out the coupon on the signup sheet. Please sign up by Thursday, November 30.

Designs must be in place by **9:30 AM on December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Remember to fill out a design exhibit tag for your wreath and for your mailbox and attach them to your display for the judges to see. (For exhibiting rules, see Appendix pages A1-A5 in your Yearbook or on our website in Members Only section.)

Both designs are **Botanical Arts**. The design titles are:

1. **“Tis the Season – Hanging Door Design”**
2. **“Glad Tidings We Bring – Mailbox Design”**



Both designs are “designer’s choice”, meaning all types of plant materials are allowed. The designer has complete choice as to what to use. Any fresh plant material may not be treated.

**Volunteers are also needed** to help the judges. If you would like to drive the judges to see the designs or clerk for them, please fill out the coupon.

If you have any questions, please contact chairman **Nancy Lee**, [nkatpatlee2@gmail.com](mailto:nkatpatlee2@gmail.com).

## YEARBOOK UPDATES. . .

**Kerri Butler** has a new email address: [elanamoo1@aol.com](mailto:elanamoo1@aol.com)

**Kathy Crapser’s** phone number should be: 540-460-1609



## ATLAS GLOVES

*Atlas gloves are still available! Because we had to order in lots of a dozen, there are still gloves available for sale in all sizes (extra small, small, medium, large, and one pair of extra-large). Atlas gloves make wonderful gifts any time of the year!*

*So... if you didn't have the opportunity to pre order, you are still in luck. No coupon needed. **The cost is \$6 per pair.** For those that ordered previously, your order is ready to be picked up on Wednesday at our meeting.*

## TREX RECYCLING CHALLENGE

Thank you to all who have already sent in plastic recycling weights! There are a few changes this year, one being it is now a 12-month program with 1000 pounds of plastic needed for a bench. We officially started October 30<sup>th</sup>, so we have until October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to reach our goal. Trex is encouraging small amounts of plastic turned in at a time, with photos for documentation. “It doesn’t need to be fancy - loaded in the car is fine.” Send Janet Mallon or me your weight & photos once a month by email or text. I will deal with Trex and the hundreds of photos. Please visit the website to learn more about which plastics are acceptable to recycle. <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>



**Contact us if you have any questions.**

Becky Sido 201-396-7217 [becky.sido@gmail.com](mailto:becky.sido@gmail.com)

Janet Mallon 203-218-9437 [janmallon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janmallon@sbcglobal.net)

# Richmond Council of Garden Clubs News

All SGC members are welcome to attend the Council Meetings on the first Friday of the month.

**The meeting on December 1 will feature Frances Thrash, NGC Flower Show School Instructor, with a program titled “Holiday Designs”.**

The location is Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Avenue; Registration/Coffee 10 AM; meeting 10:30 AM.



**Jewelry Sale:** The Council is asking each club to collect gently used or new costume jewelry to sell. Pierced earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings sell the best. The jewelry should be free of damage and with minimum wear, separated into clear plastic bags and sorted according to type.

Start bringing donations to the Richmond Council meetings or to our SGC meetings. Janice Beatty will collect whatever members would like to donate. The sale will take place at the February 2, 2024 meeting.



*The Board wishes to thank Becky Sido for hosting the November Board Meeting.*

## Bark Scale on Crepe Myrtles

The most beautiful tree in my yard is a crepe myrtle that is as tall as my rooftop and covers my patio. It is a cloud of pink blossoms from May until October. Now, it has black leaves that have dripped a gooey substance that feels like sticky-note adhesive all over my deck. This year the flowers were not nearly as profuse; the gorgeous flowers planted under the tree have been blackened with gummy soot.



My crepe myrtle in the front yard has the same dark sooty leaves and tiny white mites in colonies on the bark. When you crush them, they ooze bright red.

### **Could it be Sooty Mold?**

Sooty mold indicates there is an insect problem on the plant. These common molds are caused by fungi that grow on the sugary substance called honeydew, produced by various insects that suck sap from the plant. Aphids, scales, mealybugs, and whiteflies most commonly cause this problem. Sooty molds are unsightly but are relatively harmless, since they do not directly attack the plant. Controlling insect problems can reduce excessive amounts of sooty mold. But the bright red residue when I squished the white cottony mites is a give-away that it's something else.



### **No, it's Bark Scale.**

In 2004 crepe myrtle Bark Scale was discovered in Texas and in 2019 arrived in North Carolina and Virginia. Bark Scale is a tiny invasive insect introduced from Asia and is a danger to the crepe myrtle tree. The insects look like white cotton specks, and they feed on the crepe myrtle trees and eventually weaken them. Bark Scale produces honeydew that causes black sooty mold to develop on the trunks and branches. Bark Scale looks like little cotton deposits, and even a dusting of snow on stems and branches, not on the leaves.

### **Great Big Green House Recommends:**

If, like now, it's before the first frost and the crepe myrtle is about to lose its leaves, wait until early spring as the Crepe Myrtle is going dormant soon. Mark your calendar to go to battle in February.

February is the best time to treat Bark Scale after the crepe myrtle is pruned. We often prune a crepe myrtle then because it's leafless and we can see the branches. Crepe myrtles bloom on new growth so pruning in winter won't reduce blooming; it may increase it.

To treat Bark Scale, you will wash down the infected crepe myrtle trunk with an oil-based solution like Neem or horticultural oil. The oil smothers anything that is living on your tree. Then treat the tree with a systemic solution that will kill the rest of the infestation, carefully following the written directions. Crepe myrtle Bark Scale soil drench treatments generally recommend one application per year, but if infestations are detected later in the season, treat them promptly, as long as trees retain leaves and are actively growing. And last, feed the tree with a good 10-10-10 fertilizer so it can remain strong.

DanaDee Carragher, Master Gardener

*Next Month's Meeting - December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday!!*

*Manakin Episcopal Church, 985 Huguenot Trail*

*Refreshments 9:30 AM - Meeting 10 AM*

*(Note: Meeting place/time updated above)*

**Program: "Creating Festive Arrangements"**  
*by Kate Vernon*

*Greeter: Barbara Metz*

*Hostesses: Liz Bass, Lorna Boucher,  
DanaDee Carragher, Nan Futrelle, Sandy  
Fry, Gerri Gallagher, Shirley Gates, Barbara Metz*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

17	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
20	Southampton Elementary School Project	CP35
20-30	GardenFest of Lights – Lewis Ginter BG	
29-30	Prep for Salisbury Entrances Décor	CP20

### DECEMBER EVENTS

1	Decorate Salisbury Entrances – 10 AM	CP20
1	Deadline: District Awards Submissions	
1	RCGC (Richmond Council of Garden Clubs)	
1-31	GardenFest of Lights continues – LGBG	
4	Design Workshop – "Holiday Door Designs"	CP4
6*	SGC Board Meeting and Luncheon – 9:30 AM *Note: 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Hostess: Linda Nau	
6	Holiday Door and Mailbox Design Exhibits	CP4
6	SGC Christmas Dinner Party Salisbury Country Club	
7	Midlothian Fire Station Workday – 10 AM	CP17
7	Midlothian Post Office Workday – 10 AM	CP18
13*	SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM *Note: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday!!! at Manakin Episcopal Church	CP4
13	Mini-Bouquets for Meals-on-Wheels	
15	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34



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