

projects we accomplished this year.

March is filled with many interesting and odd holidays. It is also



National Women's History Month, a celebration that honors the remarkable contributions of women to history, culture, and society. I thought I would share some info about a few women pioneers in horticulture.

We are all familiar with **First Lady "Lady Bird" Johnson** and her contributions to create the Highway Beautification Act, reducing billboards across the country, and for her advocacy to plant natives. Here are a few notes about other women trailblazers in horticulture.

Jane Colden holds the distinction of being the first female botanist in America during the 1750s. She applied the innovative binomial system of botanical nomenclature introduced by Carolus Linnaeus to catalog and name numerous native plants in the Hudson River Valley. Her significant contributions include the first description and naming of the gardenia along with compiling the "Flora of New York."

Esteemed as a pioneer American landscape architect, **Beatrix Farrand's** extensive portfolio includes the design of over 100 gardens for various settings, from private residences to the East Garden of the White House. As one of the American Society of Landscape Architects' founding members in 1899, Farrand later served Princeton University for more than three decades as its first consulting landscape architect, breaking professional barriers in a male-dominated discipline.

Renowned civil rights and agricultural activist **Fanny Lou Hamer** created the Freedom Farm Cooperative in the 1960s to support impoverished Black communities in Mississippi. Her initiative stands as one of the earliest modern community garden examples and laid foundational concepts for contemporary food justice movement.

Known as **Buffalo Bird Woman, Waheenee** was a Hidatsa horticulturist who preserved and conveyed ancient agricultural strategies to anthropologist Gilbert L. Wilson. The collaborative work led to the publication "Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians" in 1917, which remains a valuable resource on indigenous cultivation techniques even today.

Let us continue to celebrate and uplift the stories of women who shape and beautify our world and our community!



Keep planting seeds!

Connie

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TREASURER’S REPORT: June 1, 2023 – March 20, 2024

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

OPERATING FUND

Beginning Balance June 1, 2023

\$3,096.66

Receipts

Administrative

Membership Dues 2023-24 (paid 2022-23)	4,050.00	
Membership Dues 2023-24	1,250.00	5,300.00

Activities

Atlas Glove Orders & Sales	1,238.00	
December Workshop	220.00	
April Workshop	720.00	
Richmond Council GC Hospitality	125.00	2,303.00

Donations

Penny Pines Donations	180.78	
Misc. Donations	2.00	182.78

Meetings

District Meetings Registration (Fall & Spring)	1,755.00	
Opportunity tickets	329.00	
Security deposit from SPC returned	100.00	2,184.00

Social Hospitality

Christmas Party	2,880.00	2,880.00
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Total Receipts

12,849.78

Disbursements		
<i>Administrative</i>		
Corresponding Secretary	36.60	
Liability Insurance	294.00	
Membership	59.97	
Newsletter	105.82	
Piedmont District Dues	20.00	
Richmond Council Dues	40.00	
Treasurer-Postage & Misc. Bank Fee	8.00	
VFGC Dues 2023-24	540.00	
Website Hosting, Domain (annual)	278.95	
Yearbook	<u>685.47</u>	2,068.81
<i>Activities</i>		
Atlas Gloves	761.86	
Flower Show	47.41	
Richmond Council GC Hospitality	146.43	955.70
<i>Donations</i>		
Penny Pines Donations (2)	136.00	
RCGC Youth Education Donation	50.00	
VFGC, Piedmont District Awards Sponsors	<u>40.00</u>	226.00
<i>Meetings</i>		
Awards Luncheon 5/24 Deposit	500.00	
District Meetings Registration	1,845.00	
Meeting Setup	440.00	
Monthly Hospitality	103.65	
Monthly Programs	637.75	
* SPC Facility Rental, etc.	<u>1,000.00</u>	4,526.40
<i>Social Hospitality</i>		
Christmas Party refunds	135.00	
Christmas Party	2,436.17	
Food From the Heart	<u>31.77</u>	<u>2,602.94</u>
Total Disbursements		10,379.85
Operating Fund Balance Mar. 20, 2024		<u><u>\$5,566.59</u></u>
COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND		
Beginning Balance June 1, 2023		\$2,113.00
Receipts		
Graduation Flowers	1,375.00	
Blooming Bucks Rewards	<u>54.77</u>	
Total Receipts		1,429.77
Disbursements		
<i>Community Outreach</i>		
Art for the Journey/Veterans	26.45	
Bickford	50.05	
Southampton Youth Program	13.73	90.23
<i>Civic Beautification</i>		
Daffodil Project	100.00	
Fire Station	106.88	
National Garden Week	<u>113.80</u>	<u>320.68</u>
Total Disbursements		410.91
Community Projects Fund Balance Mar. 20, 2024		<u><u>\$3,131.86</u></u>
RESERVE FUND		
Reserve Fund Balance Mar. 20, 2024		<u><u>\$2,895.61</u></u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Youth Grant Awarded	125.00	
Total Receipts		125.00
Disbursements		
Southampton School	27.51	
Plant Together	<u>55.85</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>83.36</u>
Total Restricted Funds Mar. 20, 2024		<u><u>41.64</u></u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		<u><u>\$11,635.70</u></u>

NGC Penny Pines Project

Saving Forests \$68 at a Time

National Garden Clubs (NGC) and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program.



SGC can participate in this meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68 for a Penny Pines plantation as part of the cost of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. These “plantations” provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation. To participate, just drop your loose change or bills in our Penny Pines collection jar. It’s as easy as that!

This past year members of Salisbury Garden Club provided funds for six “plantations.” We only need \$23.22 today to provide for another \$68 donation!

Piedmont District Floral Design Workshop: Design 101



Design 101 articles in *Footprints* newsletter by Kathy Ward have been very popular, so now you can enjoy learning more about floral design in a stress-free workshop. **This is a very beginning floral design program for novices; we will be making a simple linear design.** Before the workshop, participants will be instructed what materials they will need to bring.

Kathy is your the instructor and the workshop will be held on **Tuesday, April 23, from 10 am - noon.** The location is Luck’s Stone, 347 River Road West, Manakin-Sabot (first building on the right).

You can register by completing the coupon on the SGC sign-up sheet or by filling out the registration form on page 16 of *Footprints* Spring 2024 Edition. **The cost is \$15 per person and you should make your check payable to Piedmont District.**



COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS – Joanne Wallace

Congratulations, SGC!!! We won 12 blue ribbons at Monday's Piedmont District Spring meeting. Many thanks to Nancy Lee and Kathy Ward for all their hard work on the district award submissions – and thanks to the members of SGC for participating in our many projects and programs.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

The daffodils are glorious this year and it is wonderful to see their cheerful faces brightening our gardens and fields. This past fall we planted 200 at the new **Midlothian Fire Station**, 125 at **Manakin Episcopal Church** and dozens at the **Lifelong Learning Institute**. Let's enjoy the show while we gear up for another gardening season!

We have a new project at **Midlothian High School** refurbishing two garden areas that memorialize fallen folks from our community. We are looking for hardy, part-shade plants for one of the areas. We also want more plants at our **LLI garden** and **Wishing Well Park**. So if you have such, please contact Meg Winn or Nancy Lee so we can get them while the weather is good.



And please come out and help us prune, weed, and welcome our gardens back to spring! All of our upcoming workdays are listed on the sign-up sheet.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Lorna Boucher & Camille Archie

March has been a quiet month for us (except for the **Gardening Enrichment** project – see page 9), but April is making up for that!

We do have one new project with a different set of **Veterans** – we will be making decorative floral plaques. The date is April 12th at 2:00 pm at the McGuire Veterans Hospital, 1201 Broad Rock Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23249. (Beyond Hull Street; towards the

city.) Carpooling is probably our best option and we will contact volunteers with time and place to meet. A coupon is on the sign-up sheet.

All other April projects on the signup sheet will involve making small arrangements with Spring flowers. At **Spring Arbor Memory Care Unit** on May 7, we will plant Spring flowers in the garden's raised flower beds. We hope you join us!



Graduation Flowers – May 19–24.

Arranging on Sunday, May 19th pm - exact time will be notified. Watering and after care on May 20th-24th and take down will happen on the 24th after the last graduation. Specific times will be determined soon.

We will be making a new rota for collecting (from Trader Joe's) and arranging flowers for the

Monthly Flowers at the Hospice House. A coupon for this will be in April's sign -up sheet and the rota will start in September.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK – Candy Nasser

National Garden Week is June 2-8. Save some time to support this worthwhile project of the National Garden Club, when we try to encourage pride in our community and show people how much fun it is to be in a garden club.

We will be doing at least one projects each day. Our major project is making mini-bouquets for Meals on Wheels trays. We need small yogurt containers, cat

food tins, or anything you think would work for the small designs. You can bring them to a meeting, or I can pick them up.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Martie Parch

Thank you Barb Metz and Susan Oakey for their assistance in finding a slate of Executive officers for 2024-25. They are as follows:

Becky Sido, President

Lynn Nevaizer and Fran Stanwix, 1st Vice Presidents – Programs

Peggy Young, 2nd Vice President – Membership

Delora Stites, Corresponding Secretary

Katie Conschafter, Recording Secretary

Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

Today we will take nominations from the floor and vote to elect our new Executive Board members. They will be installed at the May Luncheon. Thank you.

SGC GARDEN TOUR – John & Fran Stanwix

Please mark your calendar to attend The Salisbury Garden Club Biennial Garden Tour, which will be held between 11 am to 3 pm, on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, with a rain date of May 23rd. Five or six unique area gardens will be featured.

The committee will greatly appreciate volunteers who will be present at the homes in two-hour shifts. **Please add your name to the signup sheet if you can help out and be a part of this special culmination of the 2023-2024 SGC year.**

Workshop: Make Your Own Small Platter

We have reached our limit of 13 participants for this April 9th workshop (12:30-4 PM), so can take no more reservations. However, if you are interested, we can add your name to a waiting list; just let me know at the meeting or send an email to Becky Sido at becky.sido@gmail.com.

New Member Brunch – February 14, 2024



The SGC Board members welcomed six of our new members to our New Member Brunch on Wednesday, February 14th at the home of Helen Davison, Membership Chair.



Those attending were **Kathy Crapser, Nan Futrelle, Ching Stella, Dotsie Williams, Sue McClelland and Linda Strauss.**



It was a great opportunity for us to get to know our newest members and their interests. Each member of the board and committee chairs gave an overview of their duties and



activities. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch made by our members of the board.

Gardening Enrichment

Our last Gardening Enrichment activity of the year with Homework Helpers was March 11th and 12th. Although it is our easiest project with them this year, it was quite hectic on



Monday. Lorna, Marsha Caratelli, Anita King, Janet Mallon and I helped 24 students create beautiful flower arrangements in Bia bottles to take home. We also managed to return Smokey Bear posters and pass out certificates for those who

finished their posters. Winners of Smokey Bear Posters (those that were sent on to Piedmont District) received \$5 along with their certificates.

Tuesday was much calmer, or maybe just the kids were calmer, even though we had 23 students. Tuesday, Lorna, Marsha, Anita, Barbara Metz, Karen Rice, Delora and I enjoyed watching



the children choose ribbon and flowers for their masterpieces and gave them their posters and certificates. I did hear that the kids were very excited and proud of their arrangements on their ride home. One boy was reluctant to come and make an arrangement, he wanted to play a game with his tutor. However, he quickly forgot about the game and enjoyed arranging so much, he made another one for the church office!

Becky Sido, Chairman

Time to pay SGC Annual Dues!



Our SGC annual dues for 2024-2025 are \$50; the payment deadline is May 31.

You can pay today by completing the coupon on the sign up sheet and attaching your check; or you can mail your check to Treasurer, Claudia Cosby, 3015 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-3923.

Gardener's Exchange – "Divide and Conquer"

Our Gardener's Exchange will be this **Thursday, March 21 at 3 PM** in the Manakin Episcopal Church parking lot. Spring is a great time to 'divide and share' from our garden bounty that has perhaps become too bountiful. And if you have seeds, pots, design/gardening supplies, or any other items of interest that you no longer need, bring them along.



Everyone is welcome – it's totally fine to come empty handed, but we hope you won't leave that way!!

Joanne Wallace, Chairman

Centerpieces Needed for the May 15th SGC Luncheon

Once again, we are giving our members an opportunity to earn a design exhibit credit for next year. Members may sign up to bring a floral design to our **SGC Luncheon on Wednesday, May 17th** and have it judged as a design exhibit. This would fulfill your design portion for the Member in Good Standing achievement.



These designs will be used as centerpieces and to decorate the room. The theme this year is "**Peace in the Garden**" (all fresh plant material). The designers may choose their color scheme and flowers, but the arrangements must be low enough not to obstruct one's view when sitting at the table.

If you would like to participate, **please fill out the coupon or contact either Martie or Nancy**. Thank you.

Martie Parch – tredwr@msn.com
Nancy Scherer -nancysch@aol.com

**SGC Awards and Installation Luncheon
"Peace in the Garden"
Wednesday, May 15th
The Boathouse at Sunday Park**

Please join us as we enjoy each other's company, install our new Executive Board and recognize our members' accomplishments of this past year. To attend, just complete the coupon on the signup sheet.

**The cost will be \$37.00 per person
Reservation deadline is Tuesday, May 7th**

Fresh fruit, ham biscuits and coffee will be served upon your arrival.



LUNCHEON CHOICES: Each lunch entrée will include warm rolls and butter and dessert.

BABY SPINACH & GRILLED SALMON SALAD – Strawberries, Gorgonzola cheese, candied pecans tossed in Balsamic Vinaigrette.

GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD – Romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese, garlic croutons tossed in a Caesar dressing.

VEGETARIAN WRAP - Boursin cheese spread, lettuce, roasted peppers, tomatoes on a whole wheat wrap.

Beverages served will include coffee, hot tea, iced tea, soft drinks and water. A cash bar will be available with red and white wine, Bloody Mary's and Mimosas.

If you have any questions, contact **Martie Parch** (804-240-5446) or **Nancy Scherer** (804-304-5211)

Next Month's Program – April 17, 2024

Diane Burgess is a very busy lady! Besides being President of the Piedmont District, she is a NGC Master Judge and a member of the River Road Garden Club, the Goochland Garden Club, the Piedmont District Judges' Council, the Virginia State Judges Council, the Richmond Designers' Guild as well as Ikebana of Richmond. She is currently studying the Ikebana schools of Sogetsu and Keika-Kazan.



In her design program, “April Showers Bring May Flowers”, Diane will share her talents and expertise with us to create beautiful floral designs from May flowers. There will be opportunity tickets for all of her creative spring designs. For more information about Diane and her program, see page 108.

TREX CHALLENGE UPDATE

So far 247.7 pounds has been collected in 4 ½ months – almost ¼ of the way to the 1,000 pound goal. Members will continue to weigh their own plastic and drop it off at any store they shop that has a bin for plastic. Weights and pictures can be texted or emailed to Becky or Janet.

Along with pictures supporting plastic turned in, Trex prefers the plastic be put in clear or translucent bags, so stores know it isn't garbage. So, if you remember, take a photo of the plastic you're recycling, and send it with the amount of plastic! Remember, no pet or bird food bags! Thanks!



becky.sido@gmail.com

janmallon@sbcglobal.net



RCGC Fashion with Flowers XXV 25th Anniversary Celebration

Richmond Council of Garden Clubs
fashion show and luncheon will be held on **Friday, April 5
from 10 AM** (doors open at 9:30 AM) at First Baptist Church,
2709 Monument Avenue.

Parking: Church parking lot on Monument Avenue or
Street Parking. ONLY Handicapped Parking is allowed in the
lot beside the church.

**Program: “Thinking Outside the Box: Using
Unexpected Items in Creative Floral Design”** by Kathy Ward
of Salisbury G.C. and Richmond Designers’ Guild.

Fashion Show: Dillard’s of Stony Point Fashion Park will
provide the fashions for our RCGC models. Barbara Hollister is
the fashion coordinator. Models will be RCGC members.

Lunch: Chicken Caesar Salad or Tuna Salad, with two
dessert options, coffee, tea and water – all provided by the
Ladies of First Baptist Church.

SGC will send one check for all our members who wish to
attend, so **make your check out to Salisbury Garden Club
for \$35.** For more information, see page 4 of the March 2024
newsletter at www.rvagardenclubs.com.

17th Annual Spring Garden Fest Saturday, April 27 from 8 AM to 3 PM

A free, family friendly event at Reynolds Community
College (1851 Dickinson Road in Goochland) that is a
celebration of all things related to gardening:

- The GPMGA Plant Sale – a wide variety of plants
- Ask the Master Gardener booth –
free gardening help and advice
- Gardening vendor booths – lots
of fun items to delight gardeners



You can also attend a full day of classes and tours for a one-time \$35 registration fee (additional materials fee for workshops). Classes, tours and workshops fill up quickly, so register early.

For complete descriptions and online registration, go to www.gmpga.org or by contacting the Goochland Extension Office at 804-556-5841 or the Powhatan Extension Office at 804-598-5640.



*The Board wishes to thank JJ Jordan
(and beautiful Maggie) for hosting
our March board meeting.*

Common Violets Deserve a Closer Look

Small violets herald the arrival of spring throughout Virginia. There are more than 70 species of the native purple, blue, yellow or white flowers in North America. But there is more to violets than meets the eye. A weed to some people and a sugary treat to others, violets are also an important food source to wildlife and deserve a closer look.

One interesting fact about violets is their means of seed dispersal. While many flowering plants rely on wind, water, birds and animals to move seeds from the plant of origin to a new environment, violets rely on assistance from some tiny helpers – ants. Myrmecochory, or ant farming, is a mutually beneficial relationship between violets and ants. Violet seeds have an attachment to the outer seed coat called an elaiosome, and it is rich in proteins and lipids. Ants gather the seeds and carry them home to their nests as a food source. Once the elaiosome is consumed by the ants and their larvae, the unharmed seed is then discarded, or “planted” in an enriched spot, underground and out of sight of predators. Both violets and ants benefit from this unique arrangement. Several other spring ephemerals rely on myrmecochory, including bloodroot, red and white trilliums, hepatica and trout lily.

Then, there is the importance of the plants to wildlife. Violets are the host plant for several butterflies, including the great spangled fritillary. Female fritillaries lay their eggs in late



summer. Caterpillars hatch in the fall and sleep until spring, when they awaken and eat the leaves of violets. Valuable pollinators such as honey bees, bumble bees, mason bees and blue orchard bees consume the nectar of these early spring flowers. Birds such as quail,

juncos, mourning doves and turkeys eat the seeds of violets, as do mice and other small animals.

Violet flowers are edible and are rich in Vitamin C. They can be crystallized, or sugared, and eaten as candy or used to garnish cakes and other desserts. Fresh violets can be used in salads, and to make jelly, syrup and vinegar.

Unfortunately, if you Google native violets you will find numerous articles about eradicating them from your lawn. Based on the benefits of violets to birds, butterflies and bees, it is safer, easier and less costly to learn to live with, and appreciate the small spring flowers than to eliminate them.

Article and Photo by
Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH EVENTS

21	“Divide and Conquer” Gardener’s Exchange	CP7
23-24	Virginia Daffodil Society Show – Lewis Ginter	
25-28	Flower Show School, Course II - Norfolk	CP11
26	Midlothian Post Office Workday – 9:30 AM	CP18
27	Anniversary Garden Workday – 9:30 AM	CP15
31	RVA Tropical & Exotics Plants – Plant Swap Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens	

APRIL EVENTS

7	Richmond African Violet Show/Sale - LGBG	
4	Wishing Well Park Workday – 9:30 AM	CP21
4	Community Hospice House Project	CP31

APRIL EVENTS – CONTINUED:

- 5 **RCGC** (Richmond Council of Garden Clubs)
10 AM at First Baptist Church, Monument Ave
- 5-7 **Richmond African Violet Show and Sale** – LGBG
- 6-7 **38th Annual Daffodil Festival**
Gloucester – daffodilfestivalva.org
- 9 **Workshop** – Small Pottery Platters CP4
- 10 **SGC Board Meeting** – 9:30 AM
Hostess: Kerri Butler
- 16 **Midlothian Fire Station Workday** – 10 AM CP17
- 17 **SGC General Meeting** – 9:30 AM CP4
(Exhibits must be in place by 9:45 AM)
Program: “April Showers Bring May
Flowers” by Diane Burgess
- 18 **Spring Arbor Senior Living** – 3 PM CP37
- 19 **Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House** CP34
- 20-27 **Historic Garden Week in Virginia**
vagardenweek.org
- 22 **Southampton Elementary School Project** CP35
- 23 **Lifelong Learning Institute Workday** – 9:30 AM NP1
- 24 **Bickford Senior Living Project** – 3:00 PM CP30
- 27 **Herbs Galore & More** – Maymont (maymont.org)
- 27 **GPMGA Spring Garden Festival** (gmpga.org)



Next Month's Meeting – April 17, 2024

Manakin Episcopal Church – 985 Huguenot Trail
Refreshments 9:30 AM – Meeting 10 AM

Program: “April Showers Bring May Flowers”
by Diane Burgess, NGC Master Flower Show Judge

Greeter: Gail Tatum

Hostesses: Camille Archie, Lesley Dobson, Laurie Kalata,
Susan McClelland, Deborah O’Connell, Gail Tatum,
Joanne Wallace, and Joanne Ward

Clerks: Kathy Crapser, Madeleine Guerin,
Sue Kucera, and Debbie Pinkston

Newsletter Editor: Linda Nau, naule@aol.com