



# *Mum's the Word*

September 2025 – Volume 58, Issue 1

## **Salisbury Garden Club**

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

*Piedmont District, Virginia Federation of  
Garden Clubs, & National Garden Clubs Member*

### ***A Message from SGC President, Becky Sido. . .***

#### **“Caring for our World by Sharing, Enriching and Protecting”**

Welcome to another year of Salisbury Garden Club and our many activities and projects. My 2025-2026 goals for the Salisbury Garden Club continue to focus on “Caring for our World by Sharing, Enriching and Protecting,” our communities, members and the environment.

After reviewing last year's Mum's the Word newsletters, and the Historian's report I am impressed with all we achieved but not surprised. We contributed many hours of service with our eight community garden projects, arrangements for Hospice House and Meals on Wheels, the Daffodil Project, and Salisbury Christmas Decorating. Throughout the year, members also provided relevant gardening activities with Veteran's Art for the Journey, three separate groups of children, plus three seniors living centers. Our Standard Flower Show showcased the incredible talent that our members possess, which impressed and inspired our visitors. National Garden Week was an enormous success, culminating with our first Children's Faire. Our membership was enlightened and entertained by Educational Speakers, Workshops on Flower Design, Gardening Tips and Field Trips. A wonderful summary of all we accomplished last year can be found in the Historian's report on our website.

Throughout the year, our accomplishments have been shared in several community publications.

Every time I browse our yearbook, I find something new in the yearbook, or something that I had

#### **Today's Program:**

“Horticulture  
Preparation for  
Judging”

by

Evelyn Klumb, Designer



forgotten. Linda Nau has created a masterpiece of information covering almost any question one could have about our club. The process and rules of entering horticulture, designs, and botanical arts are in the Appendix. In the Monthly Calendar of Events, all the divisions for Design, Horticulture and Botanical Arts are listed for that month. At the back of the Appendix, you will find your Extra Involvement Points Record, used to determine the award winners at the May Luncheon. If you don't fill it in and return it in April, you can't win one of the plants at the luncheon. Any questions about it, ask me.

Again, we met our goal of saving 1000 pounds of plastic from the trash and have delivered another bench to Manakin Episcopal Church! This was only accomplished with the addition of Manakin's plastic contributions. Many thanks to all who have been saving and reporting their plastic recycling. Manakin has offered to help us earn another bench, location to be determined. We cannot start to record plastic weight until November, but please continue to keep plastic out of the garbage. More information will be in the October Mum's the Way.

We must thank Reverend Gini DiStanislao and Manakin Episcopal Church for their gracious offer to use their Fellowship Hall for our meetings. They have been most kind in making us feel welcome. One way to thank the church is to contribute monthly to their food drive. Thank You!



Are you ready to become an active participant in at least one club activity this year, since many hands make light work? Read our monthly Mum's the Word and learn about all the opportunities to participate in club activities this year. There is something for everyone to take part in and have fun and

each of us has something wonderful to share. I am proud to be a member of the Salisbury Garden Club because we not only care about gardening and floral design, but we also share our knowledge and time, educating upcoming future gardeners and enriching the lives of others.

I am looking forward to another great year of garden club and our many activities.

Becky

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## Piedmont District Fall Meeting October 13



The District meeting will again be held at the beautiful **Virginia Center Crossings Hotel & Convention Center**, 1000 Virginia Center Parkway, Glen Allen, VA.

Our speaker will be **Brenda McManaway**, a Master NGC Floral Judge. Her Program, "**Fall Flurry**" promises to be exciting and fun. Of course, Brenda's six designs will go home with lucky winners, so don't forget to get your opportunity tickets at the meeting.

Registration and shopping begin at 8:30 AM, followed by the general meeting at 10 AM. Lunch will be the delicious buffet we've all come to enjoy. **The cost is again \$45 per person.** Complete the coupon on the signup sheet if you'd like to attend and **make your check out to SGC**, as we will send one check for all the members/guests attending. **Our SGC group reservation deadline is today, September 17.**



## Upcoming VFGC Events

**Landscape Design School, Course 1**, will be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on **October 13-14**. The registration deadline is September 20. Details about the course can be found in the September 2025 edition of VFGC's "Rooted" monthly newsletter. If you have any questions, talk to Claudia Cosby, the LDS registrar, at today's meeting.

**Symposium** will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton near the Richmond airport on **November 3-4**. Symposium is not just for judges – anyone who is just interested in learning more about horticulture and design is welcome to register for Symposium! Details about Symposium are on page 5 of the Piedmont District "Footprints" Fall 2025 issue; and the registration form is on page 13. The full brochure is on the website: <https://virginiagardenclubs.org>



The Board wishes to thank Becky Sido for hosting our September board meeting and potluck luncheon!

## Here we grow again. . .welcome our newest member:

**Debbie Du Val** - Debbie is a Master Gardener whose hobbies are photography and gardening. Debbie joined over the summer so her contact information is in the Yearbook.



**Member updates:** Donna Cottingham, Phyllis Miles, Martie Parch and Kathy Ward have all moved. Their new addresses are in the Yearbook.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

OPERATING FUND									
Beginning Balance June 1, 2025									\$3,096.66
Receipts									
Administrative									
Membership Dues 2025-2026					4,550.00				
Meetings									
Fall District Meeting Registrations					135.00				
Total Receipts								4,685.00	
Disbursements									
Administrative									
Liability Insurance					295.00				
Donations									
VFGC, Piedmont District Awards Sponsors					40.00				
Federation									
VFGC Dues					465.00				
Piedmont District Dues					90.00				
RCGC Dues					40.00			595.00	
Social Hospitality									
Awards Luncheon Deposit								500.00	
Total Disbursements								1,430.00	
Operating Fund Balance September 10, 2025									\$6,351.66
COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND									
Beginning Balance June 1, 2025								\$1,901.77	
Receipts									
Graduation Flower Arrangement					1,375.00				
Compounded Interest added to new CD					91.84				
Total Receipts								1,466.84	
Disbursements									
Community Outreach									
Graduation Flowers					531.34				
National Garden Week					30.00				
Total Disbursements								561.34	
Community Projects Fund Balance September 10, 2025									\$2,807.27
RESERVE FUND									
Reserve Fund Balance September 10, 2025								\$4,293.89	
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS								\$13,452.82	
Checking Account Balance								\$8,360.98	
Certificate of Deposit   (15 month @ 3.85%)								\$5,091.84	
Total Accounts								\$13,452.82	

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

We had a good summer for our gardens and are anticipating autumn blooms and cool weather. Many of our dedicated chairmen are returning to their posts and we also have some new recruits. Liz Trolan will co-chair with Fran Judd at the **Lifelong Learning Institute** garden. And Cheryl Reynolds will manage the **Midlothian Post Office**. Please see page 18 in the Yearbook for the full list of chairmen and projects.



Our zinnias are thriving at the **Post Office** thanks to Cheryl Reynolds and her Watering Brigade. The perennial garden at **LLI**



was colorful most of the summer and is now transitioning into fall blooms. Jean Hillsman has continued gardening through the summer at **Manakin Episcopal Church** and we are excited to join her with more planting plans this fall. We will also have a wreath- making workshop there with

club and church members on November 28th.

We have added a **Plant Together project with REDS**

students (Redeemer Episcopal Day School). We will plant daffodil bulbs in the fall at the Redeemer campus and in spring we will plant flowers for pollinators. This is in keeping with our mission for more Civic Beautification projects with children.



We certainly appreciate all the gardening wisdom, design ideas, plant and seed donations, digging and delving that our members have shared over the years and will gratefully accept more of the same in the coming year!

Our thanks to Liz

Trolan who has painted a rock now placed by the plantings at the **Midlothian Post Office** to let passersby know who takes care of the garden.

We have many upcoming workdays – please look at the list on the signup sheet and check where you can lend a hand. Thanks!



**Note:** The photos are of plants that have been **donated by SGC members** and are thriving at various CB garden sites.

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

We have a list of nine projects for the coming SGC year. Each one has its own chairman/chairmen who will organize the activity with Camille and Lorna overseeing and helping.

The nine projects are:

Bickford Assisted Living  
Community Hospice House – Floral Arrangements  
Monthly Hospice House Flowers (from Trader Joe's)  
Gardening Enrichment activities for Children from the  
Mobile Homes Community  
Spring Arbor Senior Living Facility  
Spring Arbor Memory Care Facility  
Veterans Art for the Journey  
Southampton Elementary School  
Graduation Flower Arrangement

The chairmen are listed on page 18 of the Yearbook.

We are indebted to Kathy Casella who has chaired the activities at **Spring Arbor Senior Living** for several years. She organized the projects calmly and efficiently for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you, Kathy.

Please see the signup sheet for our upcoming projects:

**Bickford** – seasonal project; **Southampton Elem** – project TBA; **Spring Arbor Memory** – garden tidying (Oct) and posies in teacups (Nov); **Spring Arbor Seniors** – seasonal project.

**Hospice House** – posies to be delivered to Catherine Barnes house before 3 PM (2830 Park Ridge Road, Midlothian).

**Gardening Enrichment** – small flower arrangements in BAI used bottles. (Stony Point Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2330 Buford Road, Bon Air 23235).

## **Tour: Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants September 30 – 1:30 PM**



We will have a guided tour of their unique preservation display gardens and nursery at Jefferson's Tufton Farm. Highlights of the tour include the Léonie Bell Rose Garden, perennial borders, shade garden, native border, rain garden, and production greenhouse.



Following the tour, we will have the opportunity to shop a wide selection of heritage and native plants directly from their nursery. The cost of the tour is \$15 per person. For more information, see page 79 of your Yearbook.

For those interested, we will leave early enough to have lunch at Simeon Market, a French cafe, before the tour. For more info about this unique establishment, see page 80 of your Yearbook or visit their website at [simeonmarket.com](http://simeonmarket.com).



## **WORKSHOIP: ART AND THE HISTORY OF THE PRESSED FLOWER OCTOBER 16 – 1:00-3:00 PM**

Conner Parrish, our instructor, will first talk about the art and history of pressed flowers. After that, each participant will learn how to make their own pressed flower note cards, going home with a set of three. The \$65.00 cost includes a professional flower press for each participant. (Maximum 12 participants) **We will meet in the Community Room at the Bon Air Library, 9103 Rattlesnake Road, Richmond.**

For more information about the workshop and Conner Parrish, see page 85 of your Yearbook.

## **Workshop: Fall Succulent Garden in a Pumpkin October 23 – 10:00 AM to Noon**



Join us for the fun! Nancy Lee will lead us and provide all the necessary supplies to create our succulent gardens. For more information, see page 85 of your Yearbook. The cost is \$25 per person. We will meet at Nancy's house at 13220 Behetra Drive, Midlothian. (Maximum number of participants is 10)



## Exhibit?? Me??

Have you ever walked into a meeting and been met with a plethora of beautiful plant material in the form of horticulture, design and botanical art and thought you could never be a part of it? We are here to tell you in no uncertain terms that you CAN!!

**Horticulture** provides opportunities for everyone! No garden to pick from? How about that plant on your kitchen windowsill? Are your *Helleborus* spreading far and wide? Exhibit three as a collection in March. Has the weather wreaked havoc? Think outside the box with an 'unclassified' item.

**Design** always has three classes to choose from. One that is a specific design type, one that includes a little whimsy, and one design of your personal choice.

**Botanical Arts** has one of the following sections each month:  
1) Design, 2) Craft, 3) Horticulture, or 4) Photography.



Exhibiting is a very tangible way for every member to participate in one of the main goals at our District, State and National levels. Plus, it's fun!!

Need help? That's what we are here for!

Joanne Wallace/Fran Judd  
Exhibits Chairmen

## Bug Bytes: “The Goodness of Goldenrod”

Yellow is a prominent color in the fall landscape, and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp) is one of the most abundant yellow plants in autumn bloom. A member of the aster family, goldenrod is often blamed for fall allergies, but that is a false accusation. Its large, sticky pollen grains are dispersed by

insects, not wind. It is actually the pollen from ragweed that floats in the air and makes people sneeze. Besides not contributing to allergies, there are many reasons to appreciate goldenrod.

By incorporating perennial goldenrod into your garden, not only will you be adding long lasting color, you'll also be offering nature a helping hand.



According to author and entomologist Doug Tallamy, goldenrod leaves provide food to more than 100 species of caterpillars. An abundance of caterpillars is an all-you-can-eat buffet for birds feeding their young. The

flowers are also a pollen source for 35 species of bees, as well as a late season nectar source for migrating monarch butterflies.

There are nearly 40 species of native goldenrod in meadows and along roadsides in Virginia, providing blooms from mid-July through October. My favorite cultivar is "Fireworks." Goldenrod can survive drought, making it an excellent choice for native gardens. It prefers full sun and dry soil. And, as an added bonus, goldenrod is deer resistant!

Article and photo by

Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

**Note:** Bug Bytes are monthly articles by Donna which appear in our Yearbook (abridged versions) and will be in Mum's the Word in their entirety.

## Cleaning, Planting, Dividing

September is the beginning of the year for garden club and the end of summer. So, I will be cleaning up my beds in a haphazard fashion because my perennial bed has pineapple sage and asters that are late bloomers. If you need something in your garden that you have to keep checking on week after week to see if there are any flower buds, try these two. Despite my skepticism they have never disappointed. My yellow garden mums come

along right before the red sage and purple asters. Unlike the ball-shaped mum pots in the nurseries now, my yellow ones are daisy flowers on long stems and needed staking.

I try to leave seed heads for the birds to eat in the winter but in the past the birds have eaten the seeds in the fall leaving the pods or seed heads behind. They offer winter interest though. I clean out any stems that fall over, turn soggy or fail to make a statement. If I have any red stems I will arrange them in a freeze-proof pot and put them in an empty spot in the garden.



The end of the month is the earliest I plant spring blooming bulbs. If planted too early they could start to come up before the cold weather hits. To minimize disappointment when the bulbs should come up, I plant daffodils, grape hyacinths and others that deer don't like. Any others like tulips I plant in freeze-proof pots and protect the soil surface from rodent scavengers. Heavy screening works well.



For a colorful yard in fall look for these perennials: agastache, gaura, gazania and salvia may all bloom into November. Some of the decorative grasses last well into October like Miscanthus and Pennisetum for example. Coreopsis, Dianthus, alstroemeria and some clematis, Russian sage, lantana, sedum and verbena will also bloom through October.

October is the month to divide your perennials giving them a head start on growth for next summer. Plant trees, shrubs, spring blooming bulbs and pansies at the end of the month. Cut herbaceous perennials to the ground around the first frost.

No need to schedule fertilization of shrubs and trees as the advice is to avoid it in the fall. Also avoid fall pruning to allow shrubs to harden off before winter. Bring houseplants indoors for the winter, treating plants with insecticidal soap if necessary.

Pansies should last and bloom all winter unless we have an unusually frigid winter. They make a great show in mini vases on the dining room table and so do heuchera leaves which stay beautiful in a vase for weeks unless you forget to put water in the vase.

Susan Nienow, Master Gardener



## **Next Month's Meeting – October 15, 2025**

Manakin Episcopal Church – 985 Huguenot Trail

Refreshments 9:30 AM – Meeting 10 AM

**Program:** “Wildlife Neighbors: Coyotes  
and other Furbearers”

by Leah Card, Dept of Wildlife Resources

**Greeter:** Cheryl Reynolds

**Hostesses:** Lili Aram-Bost, Liz Bass, Janice Beatty,  
Lindsay Boswell, Helen Davison, Gay Kistler,  
Cheryl Reynolds, and Peggy Young

**Clerks:** Kerri Butler, Joy Mingis,  
Karen Rice and Linda Strauss

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **September Events**

18	NGC Fall Board Meeting – Virtual	
19	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
19-20	Fall Plant Sale – LGBG	
22	Wishing Well Park Workday	CP21
23	Anniversary Garden Workday	CP15
26	Manakin Episcopal Church Workday	CP25
30	Tour: Monticello Historic Gardens – 1:30 PM	CP4

### **October Events**

3	RCGC (Richmond Council of Garden Clubs)	
6	Lifelong Learning Institute Workday	CP22
6-7	Gardening Enrichment Program – 3:00 PM	CP32
7	Midlothian Post Office Workday	CP18
8	SGC Board Meeting – 9:30 AM	
9	Spring Arbor Memory Care – 10 AM	CP36
9	Community Hospice House – 3 PM	CP31
13	Piedmont District Fall Meeting	CP1
13-14	Landscape Design School, Course 1	CP11
15	Deadline: NGC Grant Applications	
15	SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM	CP4
16	Workshop: Pressed Flower – 1:00-3:00 PM	CP4
17	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
21	Redeemer Courtyard Workday	CP23
23	Workshop: Succulent Garden – 10-Noon	CP4
27	Southampton Elementary School Project	CP35
30	Midlothian Fire Station Workday	CP17
30	Beth Snelling Garden Workday	CP24
31	Wishing Well Park Workday	CP21



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