



Mum's the Word

April 2024 – Volume 56, Issue 8

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

A Message from SGC President, Connie Sorrell. . .

“Gardeners are the Seeds of Change.”

As my term of office is coming to close next month, I wanted to take a moment here to thank all the members for the gifts of their friendship, talents, and hard work. We have amazing members who are most generous with their many innovative ideas, willingness to take on new projects and to devote their time and energy to making our community a special and beautiful place in which to live. You all have my deep appreciation and respect for all you do to make Salisbury Garden Club the very best organization!

April has arrived, signaling the full bloom of spring with its soft greens and early flowers. And of course, April showers are here. It is the month of Earth's awakening, new beginnings, and the joyful promise of warmth. And it's time to plant seeds!

Here are a few quotes about April, I thought you would enjoy:

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”

~ William Shakespeare, Sonnet XCVIII

“April is a gentle reminder that life's transformations are beautiful and inevitable.”

~ Ellen Lovell

“April is like a secret whispered in the woods, a hush of green and bustling life.”

~ Sarah L. Wildes

And then there is the humorous and irreverent -

“The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.”

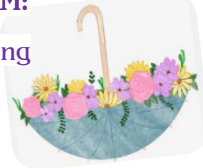
~ Mark Twain

TODAY'S PROGRAM:

“April Showers Bring
May Flowers”

by

Diane Burgess,
NGC Master Flower Show Judge



Diane Burgess will be back this month with another one of her fabulous floral design displays. She has let us know there will be extra flowers for bouquets in addition to the designs she will create. Bring your dollars! You won't want to miss the opportunity to have one of her beautiful creations!

The **Civic Beautification Projects and the Community Outreach Projects** are remarkably busy now that Spring has arrived. Be sure to sign up with the coupon sheet to enjoy working on these projects.

May will conclude our year with two wonderful events. The first is our **Annual Luncheon Meeting** on May 15 with its installation of new officers and awards ceremony, with lots of plants to be awarded for design, horticulture a botanical arts! Martie and Nancy have planned a wonderful event with special party favors at the beautiful Boathouse Restaurant by Brandermill Lake. Twenty-eight members have signed up so far. Don't forget to fill out the coupon to attend. Please come and join us!

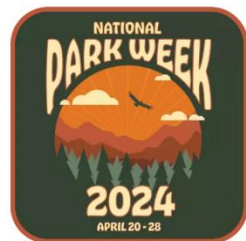
The second, exciting event is our **Biennial Garden Tour** on May 21. Our co-chairs, John and Fran Stanwick, and their committee have developed a wonderful tour of local gardens, some of which are our very own members' gardens! Read about the details later in MTW.

Finally, we have one housekeeping duty that needs to be done this summer. We need a few good women who have some history with the Club to help go through our many files and notebooks in storage and decide what to let go, according to the **Archive and Retention Schedule of the VFGC**. I will be reaching out to some volunteers so I hope you will say yes when I call.

As gardeners, we have a special place in our hearts for the beautiful National Parks we have across the country. We know how important green spaces are to our health and wellbeing.

National Parks Week is celebrated annually between April 20 - April 28. Each day of National Park Week has a special theme to highlight many ways to experience, learn, or get involved. April is a great time for a family outing to one of our national, state, or local parks.

We are fortunate to have over a dozen national parks in Virginia, including Shenandoah National Park, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts., Blue Ridge Parkway, Manassas National Battlefield, Colonial National Historical Park, Arlington House, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Assateague



Island National Seashore, Cape Henry Memorial Park, the Cumberland Gap, Historic Jamestown, Petersburg National Battlefield and many more to choose for a visit.

“In a world that is becoming increasingly virtual, the parks remain places of visceral beauty. Places where we can remember that we are but a small part of the life on this planet, and that it is a wonderful planet and the only one we’ve got.”

~ Nevada Barr

“National parks and reserves are an integral aspect of intelligent use of natural resources. It is the course of wisdom to set aside an ample portion of our natural resources as national parks and reserves, thus ensuring that future generations may know the majesty of the earth as we know it today.”

~ John F. Kennedy



Keep planting seeds!
Connie



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TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE 1, 2023 – APRIL 17, 2024

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

OPERATING FUND					
Beginning Balance June 1, 2023					\$3,096.66
Receipts					
<i>Administrative</i>					
	Membership Dues 2023-24	5,300.00			
	Membership Dues 2024-25	2,300.00	7,600.00		
<i>Activities</i>					
	Atlas Glove Orders & Sales	1,268.00			
	December Workshop	220.00			
	April Workshop	795.00			
	RCGC Hospitality	125.00			
	RCGC Luncheon	385.00	2,793.00		
<i>Donations</i>					
	Penny Pines Donations	279.78			
	Misc. Donations	2.00	281.78		
<i>Meetings</i>					
	District Meetings Registration (Fall & Spring)	1,755.00			
	Opportunity tickets	329.00			
	Security deposit from SPC returned	100.00	2,184.00		
<i>Social Hospitality</i>					
	Christmas Party	2,880.00			
	Installation & Awards Luncheon	999.00	3,879.00		
Total Receipts				16,737.78	
Disbursements					
<i>Administrative</i>					
	Corresponding Secretary	36.60			
	Liability Insurance	294.00			
	Membership	59.97			
	Newsletter	307.28			
	Piedmont District Dues	20.00			
	RCGC Dues	40.00			
	Treasurer-Postage & Misc. Bank Fee	8.00			
	VFGC Dues 2023-24	540.00			
	Website Hosting, Domain (annual)	278.95			
	Yearbook	685.47	2,270.27		
<i>Activities</i>					
	Atlas Gloves	761.86			
	April Workshop (\$15 transferred to PD)	730.00			
	Flower Show	47.41			
	Garden Tour	64.41			
	RCGC Hospitality	146.43			
	RCGC Luncheon	385.00	2,135.11		
<i>Donations</i>					
	Penny Pines Donations (4)	272.00			
	RCGC Youth Education Donation	50.00			
	VFGC, Piedmont District Awards Sponsors	40.00	362.00		
<i>Meetings</i>					
	District Meetings Registration	1,845.00			
	Judges' Gifts	160.00			
	Meeting Setup	550.00			
	Monthly Hospitality	103.65			
	Monthly Programs	762.75			
	* SPC Facility Rental, etc.	1,000.00	4,421.40		
<i>Social Hospitality</i>					
	Christmas Party	2,436.17			
	Refunds	135.00			
	Food From the Heart	78.55			
	Awards Luncheon 5/24 Deposit	500.00	3,149.72		
Total Disbursements				12,338.50	
Operating Fund Balance April 17, 2024					\$7,495.94

COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND					
Beginning Balance June 1, 2023					\$2,113.00
Receipts					
	Graduation Flowers		1,375.00		
	Blooming Bucks Rewards		54.77		
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		113.80	320.68	
Total Disbursements					410.91
Community Projects Fund Balance April 17, 2024					<u>\$3,131.86</u>
RESERVE FUND					
Reserve Fund Balance June 1, 2023					\$2,895.61
	Receipts - Piedmont District Awards		220.00		
Reserve Fund Balance April 17, 2024					<u>\$3,115.61</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	Youth Grant Awarded		125.00		
	Misc.		0.68		
Total Receipts					125.68
Disbursements					
	Southampton School		27.51		
	Plant Together		55.85		
	Gardening Enrichment		42.32		
Total Disbursements					125.68
Total Restricted Funds April 17, 2024					<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS					<u>\$13,743.41</u>
* Funds were for: SPC rental space Flower Show-\$300 (paid in arrears);					
security deposit-\$100; and Sep & Oct rental and janitorial fee (each \$300)-\$600					

NGC NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK JUNE 2-8, 2024



National Garden Week is June 2-8 this year. By trying to do a project each day, we support the National Garden Club and encourage people to learn more about gardening and the positive impact it has on the environment.

We will put **educational displays** about gardening and nature in several of the libraries. We will make mini bouquets for the trays for **Meals on Wheels**. We plan to do that at the Shed in Reed's Landing at 1:00 on Wednesday, June 5th. Keep collecting the small yogurt containers or similar ones, so we can make our mini bouquets.

We will be working at all our beautification sites planting annuals, pruning, and cleaning up. We will be meeting

Monday the 3rd at the Post Office, Tuesday the 4th at Lifelong Learning Institute, and Thursday the 6th at the Fire Station. All of these we will do at 9:30 AM.



We also plan to do a project with **Spring Arbor Memory Care** planting some of their containers on Friday, June 7th at 10:00. Hopefully some residents will join us in beautifying their garden.

You can also help by taking flowers to an elderly or ill friend. Just let me know about it. There will be further details in the next newsletter. Please set aside some time June 2-8 to help us celebrate National Garden Week – and complete the coupon on the signup sheet if you can lend a hand on any of the project days!

Candy Nasser, Chairman



90th Annual VFGC Convention and Flower Show: May 21-22, 2024

The VFGC Convention will be held on at the **Boar's Head Resort and Conference Center** (200 Ednan Drive, Charlottesville).

This year's VFGC Convention is not to be missed! The two-day format will continue for this convention which promises to be packed with excitement with a Flower Show, workshops, amazing lunch and dinner programs, shopping, awards, and seeing old friends and making new ones.

Hotel reservation deadline is April 19 and the registration deadline is May 8. For details and registration information, visit the VFGC website at **viriniagardenclubs.org**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

Our spring garden clean-up has commenced with four work days: On March 22nd, Nancy Lee organized planting at a new-to-us site at **Midlothian High School**. We planted hardy specimens from our gardens, including hellebores, daylilies, carex, creeping jenny, violets, and cranes-bill geranium. Those helping were Camille Archie, Katie Conschaffer, Barbara Metz, Susan Oakey, and Meg Winn. Nancy also placed an imprinted stone near the dogwood tree planted several years ago in memory of Beth Snelling, a beloved science teacher and colleague at the school. We will help maintain the site as a botanical learning center.

On March 26th, Barbara Metz led a crew at the **Midlothian Post Office** in weeding and pruning. Afterwards they admired the daffodils and tulips that were planted in the fall. Those helping were Sue McClelland, Anita King, Nancy Lee, and Kerri Butler.

The next day, March 27th, DanaDee Carragher, Nancy Lee, Barbara Metz, Marsha Caratelli, and Meg Winn met at the **Anniversary Garden**. We admired the Thalia daffodils and Metro Blue bearded iris (which has 24 buds!) and did some weeding and pruning before being chased away by a sudden rain shower.



On April 4th, we met at **Wishing Well Park** and trimmed the grasses and checked on the perennials emerging, including coral honeysuckle, irises, and baptisia. Those helping were Linda Strauss, Marsha Caratelli, Barbara Metz, Nancy Lee, and Meg Winn. We will try to maintain our plantings while we await the Project Swing renovations.

We really appreciate our volunteers and look forward to the rest of our spring spring gardening days – please join us!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Lorna Boucher & Camille Archie

Community Hospice House – Catherine Barnes, Chairman: Many thanks to everyone who participated! We ended up with more than 30 arrangements! The staff was absolutely amazed that so many members would take the time to do such gorgeous

arrangements. I helped to place them, except those in the patients' rooms, and got a tour of the beautiful facility and courtyard.

Those participating were: Fran Judd, Kathy Casella, Connie Sorrell, Lili Aram-Bost, Mary Arakelian, Jean Peters, Camille Archie, Lorna Boucher, Laurie Kalata, Peggy Young, Debbie O'Connell, Nancy Scherer, Janice Beatty, Sandy Fry, Nancy Lee, and Katie Conschaffer.

McGuire Veterans Hospital: Our newest project involved a visit to McGuire Veterans Hospital where eight of our members met with 14 veterans – 1 gentleman and 13 ladies. They were all delightful – completely ready and willing to set about the project which Camille had thought up for them.



The plan was to decorate a plaque with dried flowers and a variety of other interesting dried material. The available background colors were black, red, a



pretty shade of pink and two or three silvery ones.

Camille and I thought that the ladies would go for the pink ones – but wrong!! There were more pink plaques left over and somebody is going to get them next time!



Everybody was in really good spirits and much jolly discussion went on about designs colours materials and so on. It is truly uplifting to realize the bravery and stoicism shown by these people who have devoted their wisdom, time and energy selflessly for the good of their country.

SGC Volunteers: Janice Beatty, Nancy Scherer, Gay Kistler, Connie Sorrell, Peggy Young, Becky Sido, Camille Archie and Lorna Boucher.

Upcoming Projects: Thanks to all the volunteers, we have enough helpers for our last three projects.

EXHIBITS – Joanne Wallace & Fran Judd

Congratulations to our March exhibit winners: Lynn Neviaser – Design; Janice Beatty – Botanical Arts; and Joanne Wallace – Horticulture!



SOCIAL HOSPITALITY – Martie Parch & Nancy Scherer

We had so many members sign up to make centerpieces for our **Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon**, we have no need for any additional arrangements.

There is, however, plenty of room for you to **join us for the luncheon!** See the details on page 10 and complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet if you'd like to come. It's always a very special event!

WORKSHOP UPDATE. . .

The **Make Your Own Small Platter Impressed with Botanicals** held on April 9 was delightful. Many have already requested another pottery workshop with Cindy next year. Here are our plates, ready to be bisque fired, then clear glaze and glaze fired.



TREX CHALLENGE UPDATE. . .

As of April 13, we have recycled 332 pounds of clean, dry plastic. Please continue to weigh and take a picture of your plastic before dropping it off at any store that has a bin for plastic. Weights and pictures can be emailed to Becky or Janet. Trex prefers we use clear or translucent bags, such as bread bags, TP or paper towel overwrap to collect your plastic in.



If you're getting a new mattress or other furniture wrapped in plastic, that's a great source of clean plastic. When I saw an employee gathering large amounts of plastic at Costco, I asked if I could recycle it. I'm sure they thought I was crazy, but they were happy to share.

Any questions, please contact Janet Mallon or Becky Sido. Thanks!!
janmallon@sbcglobal.net becky.sido@gmail.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 sign-up 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)

SGC BIENNIAL GARDEN TOUR

If you have not marked your calendar to attend The Salisbury Garden Club Biennial Garden Tour on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024** (rain date 5/23), from **11 am to 3 pm**, mark it now! Five



area homeowners are enthusiastic to have you stroll their unique gardens, to learn about and enjoy the fruits of their labor. In addition to these five gardens, please re-acquaint yourselves with the club's 50th Anniversary Garden at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

Tour itinerary and map will be available at the April General Membership meeting, the May luncheon, as well as in the Members Only section of our website:

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Set up your carpools now and do not miss this special culmination of the 2023-2024 SGC year!

John and Fran Stanwix, Co-Chairmen

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 ASAP.

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.

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.**



The Board wishes to thank Kerri Butler for hosting our April board meeting in her lovely home in a beautiful setting!

HAMMERHEAD WORMS

Be on the lookout for hammerhead worms and jumping worms, particularly in potted plants that come from the nursery. Please report it to the local extension office if you find one, take a photo and put it in a plastic bag with alcohol. Do not touch hammerhead worms with your hands. If you do touch one, wash your hands well.



Hammerhead worms have been spotted in Virginia, Tennessee, and other states. According to The Washington Post, hammerhead worms secrete **tetrodotoxin**, a neurotoxin also found in puffer fish.

The following information is extracted from the Pennsylvania Cooperative Education website.

Land planaria, which are also called terrestrial flatworms (and some of which are called hammerhead worms), are flattened, small to

large worm-like animals that live in moist, terrestrial environments. Species in North America are typically yellow or orange with dark stripes to dark brown or black. Elsewhere in the world, land planaria can be brightly colored, including reds, pinks, greens, and



blues, as well as having stripes and other striking color patterns. Some species have distinctive half-moon or crescent-shaped heads, while others have pointed heads.

Land planaria are predatory on soft-bodied invertebrates, including earthworms and other annelid

worms, mollusks such as snails and slugs, isopods, and insects. Terrestrial flatworms capture prey by engulfing it with mucous and their bodies.

Terrestrial flatworms are hermaphrodites, which means that every individual has both male and female reproductive organs. This makes sexual reproduction easier as each individual worm only needs to find another individual to mate rather than males and females needing to find the opposite sex. Land planarians can also reproduce through a procession called "binary fission" where an individual flatworm spontaneously breaks in half. Each half regrows then the missing half – the head regrows the tail and the tail regrows a head – in about a week,

Land planaria mucous is distasteful to animals and very few things eat them. There are no documented instances of pets or children being sickened by ingesting flatworms or humans being sickened by handling flatworms. However, **caution should be used when handling flatworms as they are obviously chemically defended and may be irritating to the eyes or mouth. If land planaria are handled, you should wear gloves or wash your hands immediately afterward.**

Individual flatworms can be killed by placing them in alcohol or into a bag and freezing them. When handling flatworms, gloves should be worn or the hands washed after – the risk from prolonged exposure to chemicals in land planaria mucous is likely low but unknown, so caution should be used regardless. Salt can be applied to individual planaria if you want to avoid touching them altogether. If salt is used, use caution when applying it around plants to avoid harming vegetation.

If land planaria are discovered in plant pots, especially recently purchased plants, they should be preserved in ethanol and submitted to your state department of agriculture as there are many potentially invasive species that are not yet established or are only partially or patchily established in North America.

Submitted by Connie Sorrell

Invasive jumping worms in Virginia

Article from the Gloucester Mathews Gazette Journal

POSTED ON AUGUST 3, 2022

Jumping worms are in Virginia and getting close to our area. Since 2019, they have been found in several counties, including Northumberland, according to the Virginia Tech Department of Entomology.



While many worms are considered good for the soil, jumping worms are invasive, probably entering Virginia in potted plants. They feed on leaf litter and mulch, said a report from Virginia Tech. They

“remove an important organic layer “and leave the soil underneath “bare, with a uniformly dry, granular appearance resembling coffee grounds.”

The worms, 3 to 6 inches long, can be recognized by erratic jumping and thrashing behavior when handled or disturbed. They are red to brownish purple in color, identifiable by a smooth, milky-colored band of tissue encircling the body.

Homeowners who believe they have found jumping worms should take a photo or video and report the finding to a local office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the release said.

Submitted by Connie Sorrell

HORTICULTURAL HINTS

This is my favorite time of the year! I love digging in the dirt, planning the garden and planting the early season flowers. I also use these cool days to move plants around that may have either outgrown their locations or just aren't happy where they are. I usually give them a second chance to survive and thrive. However, we've also had to make hard decisions about azaleas that have just been destroyed by the increased deer pressure. I'm replacing with shrubs that seem to be repugnant to the deer – spireas, laurels, viburnum and diervillas.



We had such a good time last year starting some annuals from seed that we're doing it again. The dahlias were the most fun! It was like Christmas when the buds would open because we didn't know what color they would be.

And they really attracted bees and other pollinators. We also started zinnias from direct sow into the ground. They did great! This year we're growing dahlias, zinnias, marigolds and tropical asclepias from seed. All pollinator friendly and deer resistant. I even added fennel plants to the flower mix. They are



a great food source for the black swallowtail butterfly. I buy the fennel in the herb section at the nursery since that is the leafy plant and does not produce the fennel bulb that you cook with.

I don't know if you have the same deer, vole and rabbit problems that I do but, I recommend you try some of these flowers as a direct sow in your gardens. Your bees and butterflies will thank you and you will enjoy the cutting garden that you have created.

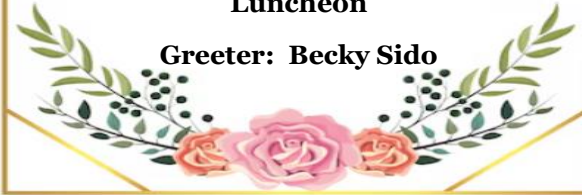
Sandy Mattes
Master Gardener

Next Month's Meeting – May 15, 2024

The Boathouse at Sunday Park
4602 Millridge Pkwy, Midlothian 23112
Refreshments begin at 9:30 AM

Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon

Greeter: **Becky Sido**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL EVENTS

18	Spring Arbor Senior Living – 3 PM	CP37
19	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
20-27	Historic Garden Week in Virginia	
22	Southampton Elementary School Project	CP35
23	Lifelong Learning Institute Workday – 9:00 AM	NP1
24	Bickford Senior Living Project – 3:00 PM	CP30
27	GPMGA Spring Garden Festival	

MAY EVENTS

3	RCGC – Annual Meeting and Luncheon	
3-4	Spring Plant Sale – Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden	
8	SGC Board Meeting/Luncheon – 9:30 AM	
15	SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM	CP4
15	Annual Awards/Installation Luncheon	
15	VFGC Finance Committee Meeting - Virtual	
17	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
18-19	Richmond Rose Society Show – LGBG	
19-24	Graduation Flowers Workdays	CP33
20	Celebrate World Bee Day	
21	SGC Biennial Garden Tour	
21	Anniversary Garden Workday – 9:00 AM	CP15
21	VFGC Board of Directors Meeting	
21-22	VFGC Convention	CP1
28	Lifelong Learning Institute Workday – 9:00 AM	NP1
30	Wishing Well Park Workday – 9:00 AM	CP21
31	DEADLINE for SGC Dues	
31	DEADLINE for Piedmont District Dues	

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