



# **Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.** **Richmond, Virginia**

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

APRIL 2024

## ***President's Corner***

April has brought us showers, and blooming beautiful flowers!

The March meeting with Josh Stutz from Friends of the James River Park informed us of the good works to restore the parks, and many new projects that will benefit park lovers. 56 members and 1 guest attended with 22 clubs represented. A lovely refreshment table was provided by Midlothian Garden Club. Canterbury and Thomas Jefferson Garden Clubs provided items for sale adding an extra treat to the day!

April 5<sup>th</sup> is Fashion with Flowers; hope you have purchased your seat. Fashions will be provided by Dillard's with RCGC members modeling. We will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> year! Design program by Kathy Ward.

There is still time to get your reservation for the Annual Meeting to be held at the Meadowbrook Country Club on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at a cost of \$35.00. Designers will be Kate Vernon and Louisa Rucker. Your Richmond Council is covering part of your reservation to allow us to keep your cost at a reasonable price point. You do not want to miss this lovely design program, meal, and fellowship!

The slate of officers for the 2024-2026 term were presented by the nominating committee chairman Susan Delsordo with the vote to take place at the April meeting. Voting members are: the Board of Trustees, Elected Officers, Committee Chairmen, the Club President (1 vote), and Club Representative (1 vote).

First Vice President, Millie Proffitt, presented a new associate member applicant for vote into membership. Dr. Sandra Curry was welcomed into the RCGC.

Reminder to the Council Board to send officer and committee reports for April and May to Jeanne Stigall 10 days prior to our meetings to be posted in the newsletter. Also, officer and committee annual reports are due to the President with a copy to the Recording Secretary, and the Historian by April 16<sup>th</sup>.

(continued on page 2)

## **April 5 Meeting**



**First Baptist Church  
2709 Monument Avenue,  
Richmond, VA 23220**

**PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE:  
Registration and Coffee 9:30 a.m.**

**Business Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.**

**Program: Thinking Outside the Box Using  
Unexpected Items in Creative Floral Design  
Kathy Ward, Salisbury Garden Club**

## **Fashion with Flowers**



**Open to All Members of  
Our member Garden Clubs**

(cont'd from page 1)

Former President, Judy Erdman's service is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 10:00 am at Christ Church Episcopal, 56 Christ Church Lane, Saluda, Va 23149. Let's be present in her honor. A donation in Judy's name has been made to The Friends of the James River Park, children's education program.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Fashion with Flowers and Annual Meetings!

Sincerely submitted,  
Millie Proffitt Happy Easter!

April showers bring new life,  
Washing away the winter strife.  
With each drop, the earth revives,  
And nature's beauty again arrives.



## **Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee submits the following Slate of Officers for 2024-2026:

President: Barbara Hollister  
Co-1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents/Membership: Cheryl Williams and Mary Penzer (Canterbury GC)  
Co-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents/Programs: Jeanne Stigall (Oxford GC) and Janice Beatty (Salisbury GC)  
Recording Secretary: Jane VanDenburgh (Old Ivy GC)  
Treasurer: Jean Fender (Hilliard Park GC)  
Corresponding Secretary: Susan DelSordo (Thomas Jefferson GC)  
Historian: Pat Merson (Woodland Pond GC)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Susan DelSordo, Jackie McDonnough, Sherri Sale, Jane VanDenburgh, Millie Watkins



## **Fashion with Flowers XXV**

Friday, April 5, 2024

First Baptist Church, 2709 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23220

**Please note Registration is at 9:30 a.m. and meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.**

Please drop plants for table centerpieces at 9 a.m. at the church parking lot entrance. Judy Durant will receive plants.

Parking – Only handicapped parking is allowed beside church entrance. Parking is available on the street or in the church parking lot which is 1 block from church on Monument Avenue.

A BIG Thank You to the following for their help with Fashion with Flowers XXV:  
First Baptist Church, RCGC Garden Clubs, RCGC Models, Dillard's at Stony Point, Jean Fender, Johanna Gilbert, Erica Gilliam, Barbara Hollister, Bonnie Parker, Millie Proffitt, Jeanne Stigall, Jane VanDenburgh

RCGC is looking forward to celebrating Fashion with Flowers' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 5<sup>th</sup>!

Pat Merson, Fashion with Flowers Chairman



## **Hospitality**

I will be contacting clubs to serve as Hostesses for the 2024-2025 Richmond Council Year in the next few weeks of March. Clubs will be contacted via email and are asked to please confirm your month as soon as possible. Thank You, Karen Patterson, Hospitality Chairman (Look for an email from: [karenpatterson11@verizon.net](mailto:karenpatterson11@verizon.net).)

Thank you to all our wonderful Club Hostesses this Year! You truly helped to make our meetings, along with our wonderful programs, an enjoyable, great Destination on the First Friday of each month! ~ Karen



## **Lifetime Membership**

Please consider giving a member of your club a Lifetime Membership. For a donation of \$50, the recipient will receive a pin and a membership card. The donation of \$50 goes to Nature Camp. I know the campers as well as the camp administrators would welcome the extra support. For more information, please contact Kay Rafner at [krafner@comcast.net](mailto:krafner@comcast.net) ~ Thank you, Kay Rafner"



## **Horticulture Therapy**

Crown Grant Garden Club delivered 25 arrangements to Grace Episcopal Church for Goochland Feedmore program. ~ Cheryl Williams, chairman.



## **School Gardening**

Hello RCGC friends,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the 6 RCGC member clubs who have generously given donations for Youth/School Gardening Program. Please know that your gifts will be utilized by the Extension offices that serve our communities for the purpose of helping kids learn more about the benefits of our natural world, and how we can help to preserve it.

Educating our youth about horticulture in today's world certainly takes a village. Kids today face many challenges and have available to them many other activities to keep them active. The funds we donate help Master Gardeners to provide education and activities to fill some of that time, in a very positive and beneficial way.

Your generous donations are much needed and greatly appreciated. If every club gives a little, just think of the positive impact we can have on today's youth.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Bright Beams,  
Janice Beatty  
School/Youth Gardening Chair



## **Penny Pines contribution**

Canterbury Garden Club, using the Penny Pines jar provided by Piedmont District, has collected and sent a donation again this year for the 100 trees and continues to use the jar to collect small amounts at each meeting for the next donation. Thank you for all you do!

RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

March 1, 2024  
Business Meeting

The March meeting was held at Ginter Park Presbyterian church. President Millie Proffitt called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. A welcome was extended to past presidents, council members, and guests. Chaplain Joyce Williams gave devotions and led the pledge of allegiance.

President Proffitt asked 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jane VanDenburgh to speak about upcoming programs. Jane reminded members that the April meeting would be Fashion with Flowers and Kathy Ward will present “Thinking Outside the Box: Using Unexpected Items in Creative Floral Design.”

The May meeting will be the Annual meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club with a program by Kay Vernon and Louisa Rucker on “Summer House Designs.”

Jane reported the jewelry sale in February raised \$720.

Pat Merson, chairman of Fashion & Flowers, was unable to attend the meeting but sent reminders for members to register by March 25 and asked clubs to sign up to bring a plant for the table. Judy Durant will meet clubs at church door for plant drop off.

President Proffitt reminded members that the minutes were printed in the newsletter and asked for any corrections. Recording Secretary Karen Fritter stated this correction: the February minutes should state that Horticulture Therapy checks were given to Canterbury and River Road Garden Clubs and Hanover Towne was recognized.

Treasurer Jean Fender reported a checking account balance of \$34,460.80 on Feb. 1, 2024 with income of \$882 and disbursements of \$780.62. The Finance Committee transferred \$10,000 to a Money Market account and \$15,000 to a Truist Bank CD maturing on June 6, 2024. The balance in the checking account on Feb.29, 2024 was \$9,562.18. RCGC investments totaled \$399,218.37.

HABITAT- Jean Fender reported that one house in Ashland was under roof and two others are in beginning stages. Bonnie Parker gave the attendance report: 56 members, 1 guest, and 22 clubs represented.

AWARDS & GRANTS: Mary Francis Gravitt and Jean Fender reminded members that the deadline for applications is April 1.

CONSERVATION: Evelyn Klumb reported that Virginia Conservation Network ([vcnva.org](http://vcnva.org)) was a good source of information about issues, events and legislative work being done to protect the Commonwealth of Virginia’s natural resources. Evelyn stressed that plastic is the main recycling problem.

HORTICULTURE: Jackie McDonnough asked members to wait as long as possible to spring clean yards. The leaves are cover for insects and dandelions are first food of the season for bees and other insects. Leaves can be chopped and used as mulch. This is also time to have your soil tested before you add to it.

HORTICULTURE THERAPY: Cheryl Williams presented three checks to Hilliard Park GC, Chester GC and Thomas Jefferson GC for their arrangements.

HOSPITALITY: Julie Proctor thanked Midlothian GC for the refreshments.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Kay Rafner reminded members that giving this is an Honor for the person receiving it but also the \$50 goes to Nature Camp.

TAB TOPS: Carole Hopkins thanked all the clubs that participated in the tab top program that benefits Ronald McDonald House.

SCHOOL GARDENING: Janice Beatty shared a thank you from Hanover Master Gardeners for \$392 that helped them provide information at their horticulture center. Janice asked clubs to consider contributing to School Gardening which contributes to the future of gardening.

## NEW BUSINESS

The chairman of the Nominating Committee, Susan DelSordo, gave the committee report:

President-----Barbara Hollister (Midlothian GC)  
Co-1stVP/Membership—Cheryl Williams and Mary Penzer (Canterbury GC)  
Co-2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Programs-----Jeanne Stigall (Oxford GC) and Janice Beatty (Salisbury GC)  
Recording Secretary-----Jane VanDenburgh (Old Ivy GC)  
Treasurer-----Jean Fender (Hilliard GC)  
Corresponding Secretary-Susan DelSordo (Thomas Jefferson GC)  
Historian-----Pat Merson (Woodland Pond GC)

Submitted by Nominating Committee:

Susan DelSordo  
Jackie McDonnough  
Sherrie Sale  
Jane VanDenburgh  
Millie Watkins

The election will take place at the April meeting.

President Proffitt introduced Dr. Sandra Curry who would like to join RCGC as an associate member and made a motion to accept Dr. Curry. Jane VanDenburgh seconded the motion. This was affirmed by a vote from voting members. President Proffitt welcomed Dr. Curry to Richmond Council of Garden Clubs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Fritter, Recording Secretary



**RCGC ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

**MEADOWBROOK COUNTRY CLUB**

**3700 Cogbill Road, Richmond, VA 23234**

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**

**Registration 9:30 am, Meeting 10:00 am**

**DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024**

**COST: \$35 per person**

**MENU:** Salad Bar Extravaganza to fit everyone’s tastes,  
Meadowbrook Pie for Dessert, Iced Tea and Coffee

**PROGRAM:** “Around the Summer House” by Kate Vernon (The  
Arranger’s Workshop) and Louisa Rucker (Former member of  
the National Cathedral Flower Guild)

Please send 1 check per garden club payable to RCGC with Registration Form to:  
Johanna Gilbert, 8423 Shannon Green Ct., Richmond, Va. 23228  
Phone: (804) 405-6225 Email: [omagilbert@aol.com](mailto:omagilbert@aol.com)

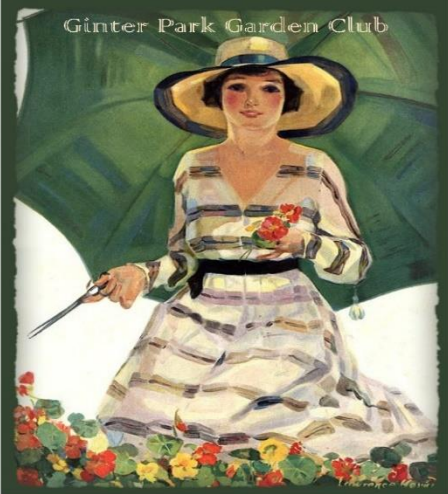
**GARDEN CLUB:** \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Contact Person, Phone, and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDEES:**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 16. _____ |

**MEETING IN TERRACE ROOM FACING THE BEAUTIFUL  
GILLETTE GARDENS**





Ginter Park Garden Club

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
Ginter Park Garden Club's  
9th SPRING MARKET

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
10 - 3

A Curated Outdoor Market  
featuring  
Local Artisans & Vendors

Come shop all things Spring!

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Walton and Seminary Ave.

~ Rain Date April 20 ~

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The CHESTER GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE  
**Saturday, April 27th from 8 AM – 2 PM**  
 at Castlewood, a historic plantation in Chesterfield.  
 10201 Iron Bridge Rd., Chesterfield, VA. 23832.  
 ~ Melissa Ray, President, Chester Garden Club

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**Annual Spring Garden Fest!**  
 Saturday, April 27, 2024  
 8 am to 3 pm  
**Reynolds Community College**  
 1851 Dickinson Road, Goochland, VA

A FREE, family friendly event that is a celebration of all things related to gardening so stop by to see:

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

Go to [www.gpmga.org](http://www.gpmga.org) to find out more and register for classes!



# PLANT SALE!

Saturday, May 4th

Sponsored By:

## OXFORD GARDEN CLUB

*Please come out and support our club's fundraiser!*

**Available For Purchase:**

- ✓ Herbs & Veggies
- ✓ Spring Blooming Plants
- ✓ Perennials
- ✓ Pots & Garden Tools
- ✓ Baked Goods

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, May 4th, 2024  
**Time:** 8:30 - 4 PM (Rain or Shine!)  
**Location:**  
 Manwood Temple of Masons  
 6787 Forest Hill Ave,  
 Richmond, VA 23225

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: OXFORD GARDEN CLUB/PIEDMONT DISTRICT

2024

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Historic Garden Week

April 20-27, 2024

TOURS STATEWIDE

PROCEEDS FROM  
THE RESTORATION OF VIRGINIA'S  
PUBLIC GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES  
AND THE G-V LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

MAGAZINE WEEK 09-25





**OLD IVY GARDEN CLUB  
PLANT SALE**

Saturday, May 11 8:00 – 12:00

Chamberlayne Heights United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
6100 Chamberlayne Road

Come ready to shop, shop, shop!  
Garden art, plants, baked goods, flower containers, gifts for  
Mother's Day

Hope to see you on May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Come shop with us!!

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***"How Fair Is a Garden"***



An NGC Horticulture Specialty Show

Presented by  
Richmond Designers' Guild

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Education Building  
1800 Lakeside Drive  
Richmond, VA 23228

575-512-5992

June 10, 2024  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Open to the Public with general admission  
to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

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

*Calendar of Upcoming Events!*

**April 5, 2024 – RCGC meeting program – Thinking Outside the Box Using unexpected items in Creative Floral Design by Kathy Ward, Salisbury Garden Club. Annual Fashion with Flowers XXV – Regular meeting will be combined with the FWF luncheon to be held at **First Baptist Church**, 2709 Monument Avenue, Richmond.**

**May 3, 2024 - RCGC meeting program – Around the Summer House, Kate Vernon (The Arranger's Workshop) and Louisa Rucker (a former member of the National Cathedral flower guild). This will be the **annual luncheon** meeting which will be held at the **Meadowbrook Country Club**, 3700 Cogbill Rd., Richmond, 23234**

*Learn about the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ their history, goals, calendar, newsletters and more.  
Visit the website - <http://rvagardenclubs.com/>*



*RCGC Newsletter*  
Jeanne Stigall  
2333 Woodmont Drive  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-3339

FIRST CLASS MAIL