



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

## **Richmond, Virginia**

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

May 2024

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

As we approach the closing of our session, I wish to thank all of the Officers, Chairmen, Past Presidents and Members for their hard work, dedication, and being present at meetings.

Wow!! We had great attendance for Fashion with Flowers, and many compliments received. The Program was dedicated to the memory of Judy Erdman, President 2021-2024.

Many Thanks to Pat Merson for coordinating the lovely venue of the First Baptist Church, and overseeing all details. The Ladies of the Church provided a delicious meal, and Pat surprised us with a special cupcake to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> year!

Barbara Hollister graciously procured the fashions from Dillard's, Stony Point Fashion Park, selected the models, and transported the outfits to the church. The models looked lovely in the outfits chosen by them. Thank you, Kristina Gilbert, Laura Kalata, Suzanne Spooner-Munch, Millie Proffitt, Julie Proctor, Kay Rafner, Linda Greer, Lynn Still, Susie Rothenberg, and Bridgette Swepston!

Dr. Peggy Young of Salisbury Garden Club was the Fashion Show Moderator and did a fabulous job. She was accompanied by beautiful piano music played by Rev. Gayle Taylor.

The Design Program was fantastic with Kathy Ward providing tips using everyday items found in various stores, including foods!

Behind the scenes, we appreciate the work by Bonnie Parker and Johanna Gilbert keeping attendance, organizing the table seating, and monies.

Joyce Williams gave us an inspiring devotional and blessings.

Thanks to Woodland Pond Garden Club for selling opportunity tickets, Member Clubs for providing beautiful centerpieces, and Judy Durant for collecting the centerpieces and getting them to the tables.

Jobs Well Done!!  
(Continued on Page 2)

### **May 3 Meeting**



Photo from Sukie McCormick's garden (Oxford GC)

**Meadowbrook Country Club**  
**3700 Cogbill Road**  
**Richmond, VA 232**

**Registration and Coffee 9:30 a.m.**

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

**Around the Summer House**  
**Kate Vernon and Louisa Rucker**

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

(Continued from Page 1)

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2024-2026 term.

President – Barbara Hollister, Midlothian Garden Club

Co First Vice Presidents – Cheryl Williams and Mary Penzer, Canterbury Garden Club

Co Second Vice Presidents – Jeanne Stigall, Oxford Garden Club. Janice Beatty, Salisbury Garden Club.

Recording Secretary – Jane VanDenburgh, Old Ivy Garden Club

Treasurer – Jean Fender, Hilliard Park Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary – Susan DelSordo, Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

Historian – Pat Merson, Woodland Pond Garden Club

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at the Meadowbrook Country Club, and dedicated in the memory of Judy Erdman, RCGC President 2021-2024. Registration will begin at 9:30 am on the upper level. The Meeting will be held in the Terrace Room on the lower level. There is an elevator located on the right side of the Club for those who have needs. Be sure to walk out to view the beautiful Charles Gillette Gardens.

We will have two special guests, Dr. Phillip Coulling, Executive Director of Nature Camp, Inc., and Mr. Danny Cox, Vice President of Horticulture at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Awards will be presented, and newly elected officers will be installed.

A tasty Salad Bar Extravaganza will be offered, followed by a served dessert of Meadowbrook Pie!

The program “Around the Summer House” will showcase Fantastic Designs to be created by Kate Vernon of the Arranger’s Workshop, and Louisa Rucker, a former member of the National Cathedral Flower Guild.

It has been my privilege to have served as your President from January through May 2024. Thank you to the Board, Past Presidents, and Members who have given me advice and guidance. I could not have accomplished the goals of the Presidency without each of you. I have enjoyed working with some lovely, talented members, and making wonderful new friends.

Best wishes to the incoming Board.

Have a fantastically fun, safe summer, and I will see you again in September! Happy Gardening!

Sincerely Submitted, Millie Proffitt, President

“Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you” ~ Misty Copeland

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## **Program for May 3 meeting**

**Around the Summer House** by Kate Vernon (The Arranger’s Workshop) and Louisa Rucker (a former member of the National Cathedral flower guild). Kate and Louisa will create designs for different rooms of the home plus outdoor areas like the porch or garden. Opportunity tickets will be drawn for the winners of the designs.

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## **First Vice President’s Annual Report 2023-2024**

As my second year as First Vice President comes to a close, I am thankful to have served the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs.

Due to the illness of our President Judy Erdman, we were only able to visit one member club, Crown Grant, but thoroughly enjoyed their meeting. We received great suggestions to help make the Council more productive.

It was my privilege to file five associate membership applications, and one member club application.

Sheila Weisensale, Bay Seale, Sandy Pence, Susan Stephenson, and Dr. Sandra Curry were approved membership as associate members. The Chancellor Garden Club of Fredericksburg was approved as a new member club into the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs.

New membership forms were updated and are available on the website.

I also served on the Bylaws Committee which presented a complete Bylaws and Standing Rules revision which was adopted.

As a member of the Finance Committee, I helped compile the 2024-2025 proposed budget.

I procured the venue for the Annual Meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club held on May 3, 2024 with the assistance of President Judy Erdman, Co Second Vice President, Programs Jane VanDenburgh, and Treasurer Jean Fender. Together we assembled a lovely meeting space, design program, and delicious meal.

Email invitations were sent to Nature Camp, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and Maymont representatives to join us as guests at the Annual Meeting.

Our President Judy Erdman, unexpectedly passed on January 12, 2024, and I became President to finish her term through May 2024.

Thank you for allowing me to guide the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs as your First Vice President. I enjoyed every program and meeting new friends.

My best wishes to the upcoming Co First Vice Presidents, Cheryl Williams and Mary Penzer of Canterbury Garden Club.

Sincerely submitted,  
Millie Proffitt, First Vice President

## **Fashion with Flowers XXV**

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

The 25th anniversary celebration of Fashion with Flowers XXV was a SUCCESSFUL event!  
HAPPY SPRING!

Pat Merson, Fashion with Flowers Chairman

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## **Habit for Humanity**

Two clubs (Greenfield and Sleepy Hollow) made monetary contributions to the Habitat Fund this fiscal year and two clubs (River Road and Hilliard Park) landscaped Habitat houses.

Please have your club consider making a monetary contribution to the Habitat for Humanity fund so we can continue to landscape Habitat houses in Hanover or contact me for information on your club taking on one of the houses as a project. There are currently 5 houses under construction (3 will be ready for landscaping in the Fall and the other 2 in the Spring of 2025). [Jean.fender@comcast.net](mailto:Jean.fender@comcast.net) or 804-730-2256.

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## **Tab Tops**

Please remember to bring your tab tops.

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## Horticulture

As temperatures start increasing and the summer growing season begins, here are a few simple things that can keep your yard in perfect condition.

### Turfgrass

- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized now.
- Seeding of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June.

### Trees and Shrubs

- Watch for Bagworms on junipers, Elm leaf beetles on elms, and Lace bugs on sycamores and azaleas.
- Soak new transplants and newly planted trees unless rainfall is abundant.
- Protect trees from lawnmowers and weed eaters by mulching.

### Flowers

- Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.
- Plant summer bulbs such as canna, dahlias, elephant ear, caladiums, and gladiolus.

### Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, etc.
- Fruit spray programs should be faithfully continued during the next several weeks.



## School Gardening

Hello RCGC friends,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the 8 RCGC member clubs who have generously given donations for Youth/School Gardening Program. They are—Old Ivy GC, Woodland Pond GC, Crown Grant GC, Hanover-Towne GC, River Road GC, Salisbury GC, Sleepy Hollow GC, and Hilliard Park GC.

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, Youth/School Gardening Chair



RCGC Minutes of the  
April Meeting/Fashion with Flowers  
April 5, 2024

The April meeting was held at First Baptist Church Richmond. President Proffitt called the meeting to order at 10 o'clock and welcomed members, guests, and past presidents. Chaplain Joyce Williams gave the invocation. Registrar Bonnie Parker stated that a quorum was present.

Co-2nd VP Erica Gilliam reminded members that the May meeting will be held at Meadowbrook Country Club and will be the Annual meeting. Kate Vernon and Louise Rucker will be presenting a program called "Around the Summer House." The deadline for reservations is April 15.

Treasurer Jean Fender gave the monthly report. The checking account balance on March 1, 2024 was \$9,562.18 with income of \$140 and disbursements of \$944 leaving a balance of \$8,758.18. The Money Market account balance on March 1 st was \$10,020.46 with interest income of \$34.99 creating a balance of \$10,055.45. The total in Investments as of February 29, 2024 was \$401,773.39.

Crown Grant GC received a check for Horticulture Therapy arrangements.

The budget for 2024-2025 will be voted on at the Annual meeting in May.

President Proffitt reminded clubs that an email has been sent from the Hospitality chairman to club presidents for next year's hospitality hosting. A response needs to be sent as soon as possible so the list can be included in the 2024-2025 yearbooks.

Please leave tab tops for Ronald McDonald House on the table and they will be collected.

Susan DelSordo chairman of the Nominating committee announced that the committee consisting of Susan DelSordo chairman Thomas Jefferson GC, Jane VanDenburgh Old Ivy GC, Jackie McDonnough Oxford GC, Sherrie Sale Crown Grant GC, Millie Watkins Stonehenge GC was presenting this slate of officers for 2024-2026:

Historian: Pat Merson-Woodland Pond GC  
Treasurer: Jean Fender-Hilliard Park GC  
Corresponding Secretary: Susan DelSordo-Thomas Jefferson GC  
Recording Secretary: Jane VanDenburgh-Old Ivy GC  
Co Second Vice President: Jeanne Stigall-Oxford GC  
Co Second Vice President: Janice Beatty-Salisbury GC  
Co First Vice President: Cheryl Williams-Canterbury GC  
Co First Vice President: Mary Penzer-Canterbury GC  
President: Barbara Hollister- Midlothian GC

President Proffitt thanked the nominating committee for their time and effort in creating this proposed slate of officers. Parliamentarian Susan DelSordo presented the bylaws procedure which will be used for voting today. Roberts Rules of order will be followed.

President Proffitt stated that we would proceed and asked candidates to stand when their name was called.

Pat Merson, Woodland Pond GC was nominated for the position of Historian. President Proffitt asked if there were any other nominations for this office. Sandra Walker, Woodland Pond GC, made a motion to close nominations for Historian. Not hearing any other nominations, the nominations for Historian were closed.

Jean Fender, Hilliard Park GC, has been nominated for the position of Treasurer. President Proffitt asked if there were any other nominations. Terry Yeatts, Hilliard Park GC, made a motion that the nominations for treasurer be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for treasurer were closed

Susan DelSordo, Thomas Jefferson GC, has been nominated for the position of Corresponding Secretary. President Proffitt asked if there were any other nominations for this office. Joyce Parker, Ginter Park GC, made a motion that nominations for Corresponding Secretary be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Corresponding Secretary were closed.

Jane VanDenburgh, Old Ivy GC, has been nominated for the position of Recording Secretary. President Proffitt asked if there were any nominations for this office. Judy Motley, Old Ivy GC, made a motion to close the nominations for Recording Secretary. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Recording Secretary were closed.

Jeanne Stigall, Oxford GC, has been nominated for the position of Co Second Vice President. President Proffitt asked if there were any nominations for this office. Jackie McDonnough, Oxford GC, made a motion that the nominations for Co Second Vice President be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Co Second Vice President were closed.

Janice Beatty, Salisbury GC, has been nominated for the position of Co Second Vice President. President Proffitt asked if there were any nominations for this office. Kay Rafner, Crown Grant GC, made a motion that nominations for Co Second Vice President be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Co Second Vice President were closed.

Cheryl Williams, Canterbury GC, has been nominated for the position of Co First Vice President. President Proffitt asked if there were any nominations for this office. Marth Blessing, Lake Anna GC made a motion to close the nominations for Co First Vice President. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Co First Vice President were closed.

Mary Penzer, Canterbury GC, has been nominated for the position of Co First Vice President. President Proffitt asked if there were any nominations for this office. Karen Fritter, Clay Spring GC, made a motion that the nominations for Co First Vice President be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for Co First Vice President were closed.

Barbara Hollister, Midlothian GC, has been nominated for the position of President. President Proffitt asked if there were any other nominations for President. Bridgette Swepston, Midlothian GC, made a motion that nominations for President be closed. Not hearing any nominations, the nominations for President were closed.

President Proffitt asked Parliamentarian, Susan DelSordo, to read Bylaw Article V, Nominations and Elections, Section 1, D. Since there were no nominations from the floor, President Proffitt, the presiding officer and President, by the Bylaw Article V Nominations and Elections, Section 1, D, declared the nominees elected by unanimous consent.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of Richmond Council of Garden Clubs 2024-2026.

#### OLD BUSINESS

A committee continues to search for a new location for RCGC monthly meetings. If you have any suggestions of locations, please contact the president.

Ways and Means/Fashion with flowers Chairman Pat Merson thanked First Baptist church for their hospitality, Barbara Hollister for her work with Dillard's, the models and many other items. There were many others who helped make this event possible.

President Proffitt adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Jane VanDenburgh introduced Kathy Ward who presented our Design program.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Fritter, Recording Secretary

**RCGC Dues and Yearbook Information for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

**Active Club Membership shall pay annual Council dues as follows:**

- clubs with 51 plus members - \$40.00
- clubs with 26-50 members - \$30.00
- clubs with 11-25 members - \$25.00
- clubs with 10 or fewer members - \$15.00

Dues are per club and are payable no later than May 31, 2024. If dues are not received by July 1, the club shall be delinquent and shall be notified by the Treasurer. If dues are not received by September 1, 2024, club membership in Council shall be forfeited.

**RCGC Yearbook Information for 2024-2025**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year Organized \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members \_\_\_\_\_

When meetings are held (ex. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, daytime) \_\_\_\_\_

President's name, address, telephone number(s), email address:

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Representative's name, address, telephone number(s), email address:

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**Associate Individual Membership shall pay annual dues of \$30.**

Name, address, telephone number(s), email address:

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**Please send this form along with your check for 2024-2025 dues made out to Richmond Council of Garden Clubs by May 31, 2024, to:**

**Jean Fender, Treasurer, 10000 Berry Pond Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.**



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

**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



**OXFORD GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE!**

**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



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# PLANT SALE

BY  
THE POWHATAN GARDEN CLUB  
MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY 8 A.M - 1:00 P.M.



IN FRONT OF MODEL HOME OF [Country Living Homes](#) 2504 Anderson Hwy, Powhatan, VA

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We are planning to offer:

Vegetable plants

Houseplants

Herbs

Trees

Succulents

Perennials

Fairy Gardens

Ostrich Ferns

*VERY REASONABLE PRICES !*

Shrubs

Flowering Annuals

Hosta

Lily-of-the-Valley



*CASH, CHECK OR CHARGE*



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Outside Vendors will be selling Bluebird houses, soaps & lotions, cut flower bouquets and garden decorations & crafts.

## *“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

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*Calendar of Upcoming Events!*

**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