



## Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc

### Richmond, Virginia

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

December 2024

#### *President's Corner*

Beautiful fall days have certainly been shared by all. What a delight to have the rain. Now the grass seed and fertilizer can do its job. The grass in my yard has started looking greener already. The acorns were certainly bountiful. Phew! Getting them up is really a task. Having the acorns up helps to make removing the leaves so much easier.

**Our Holiday Flower Show Chairman, Jennifer Wester, has started filling chairmanships.** She even has someone to write the schedule. She is rolling! Remember if you are asked to help, all you have to say is 'yes'. Certainly, we understand if there is a conflict in your schedule. Volunteers are welcomed. **Mark your calendars for December 5, 2025, at the Church of The Epiphany, located at 8000 Hermitage Road, Henrico, Virginia 23228.** Thank you for your support in helping to make this Flower Show a great success.

**We are looking forward to our program for December. Evelyn Klumb is a talented designer who will bring new ideas to many of us from the Ikebana perspective.** She will demonstrate Ikebana designs on Asian Floral Designs. Evelyn has been a very active member with the Oxford Garden Club and the RCGC for years. We are excited to have her come and demonstrate some of her Ikebana skills.

Thank you for all your interest and support in helping us to reach RCGC's goals.

Remember, there is NO RCGC Meeting in January 2025. The next RCGC meeting is February 7, 2025.

**I wish you each a blessed and a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Be safe in your travels wherever you might be.**  
Enjoy Planting and Growing,  
Barbara Hollister, President

#### **December 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**



*Barbara Hollister's VMFA Fine Arts & Flowers Design*

**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
8000 Hermitage Road  
Henrico, VA 23228**

**Registration and Coffee: 10:00 AM**

**Business Meeting: 10:30 AM**

Program: "Asian Floral Designs", presented by  
Evelyn Klumb, President of Ikebana of Richmond

Refreshments provided by Woodland Pond  
Garden Club

Open to All Members of our Garden Clubs

## December 6th Meeting

**Designer Evelyn Klumb, President of Ikebana of Richmond, will present a program entitled, "Asian Floral Designs".** She will create several designs with an Asian influence, using seasonal materials. **Asian floral designs are truly an art form that differ from traditional American designs.** Her designs, including vases, will go home with the holders of the lucky door prize tickets.



### Chairmen Reports

#### School/Youth Gardening

*Martie Parch*

**Many thanks to Hanover Towne Garden Club for their generous donation to the school/youth gardening. We encourage other garden clubs to do the same.**

We have also received two donations from the Richmond Council jewelry sales.

Through your generosity, we will be able to donate to the area Master Gardeners to assist with their School and Youth Gardening efforts.

Please encourage your club to donate to this worthy cause. It's so important to pass on gardening knowledge and skills, sustainable practices, conservation efforts, and horticulture. Our future generations are depending on us!

Thank you for your support,  
Martie Parch  
School/Youth Gardening



#### Lifetime Membership

*Kay Rafner*

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 support Nature Camp.** I know the campers as well as the administrators would welcome the extra support.

For more information, please contact Kay Rafner at [krafner@comcast.net](mailto:krafner@comcast.net).

Thank you,  
Kay



## BE PREPARED FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!



**Midlothian and Oxford Garden Clubs** are ready to meet some of your shopping needs for decorating and baking for Christmas. **Midlothian will have fresh evergreen wreaths, pinecone wreaths, small pinecone trees and other Christmas items.**

**Oxford is selling freshly harvested pecans for your holiday baking. If you think you don't need pecans, you need to try the recipe below.**

**Check out the **Christmas jewelry table** for a trinket or two to wear or to decorate a special package. Proceeds go to School Gardening. Remember - Cash or Check only.**

### **Juanita's Pecan Cookie Thins**

2 sticks butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs, well beaten  
1 ½ cups flour  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 cup chopped pecans  
½ tsp salt  
Pecan halves for tops

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Sift flour and salt. Add to butter mixture. Add pecans and blend well.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Top each cookie with a pecan half. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 – 12 minutes until edges brown. Enjoy!!!

## Horticulture Therapy

*Cheryl Williams*

**Sleepy Hollow Garden Club** made 33 arrangements on October 30<sup>th</sup> for the Elder Care Unit of The Hermitage at Deep Run.

## November Horticulture

*Jackie McDonnough*

**This is the time to plant trees, shrubs and bulbs. Supply water so their roots can start growing before the ground freezes.**

- Prune fruit trees, shrubs and other woody ornamentals while they are still dormant.
- Clean up debris to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering.
- Test soil for pH and nutrient levels- get free kits from your local extension office.
- Collect some seeds from vegetables and flowers. Use empty medicine bottles to store. Organize in over door shoe bag for easy access.

## Nature Camp

*Lynne Still*

Applications for 2025 summer sessions will begin to be accepted on **January 21, 2025.**

## Youth Gardening and How You Can Help Fund It!



When Jane and I brainstormed last year about raising money for school gardening, we were not sure of the enthusiasm and support we would get from our RCGC member clubs.

**Last April we had our first jewelry sale, and we were totally dumbfounded with the amount of costume jewelry donated and the amount of dollars earned from a sale that lasted approximately 1 ½ hours. (\$1,000 +).**

Well, that was last year. We decided that rather than lose the opportunity to sell the HOLIDAY pieces donated last year, (who wants to wear a glittery package pin or a reindeer necklace in the spring?) we would have a mini sale at our December meeting.

We have tons of attractive, tasteful, and beautiful pins (won't they look smashing on YOU or your holiday gifts!) and other items. Please continue bring costume jewelry items that you no longer wear to our December and February meetings. We will have for sale only holiday theme items in December. The non-holiday items will be saved for the BIG sale at the March meeting.

This is a reminder to ask your family, friends, and neighbors as you see them during the next few months to donate their no longer worn costume jewelry. **It would be most helpful to receive donations by the February meeting so we can get organized.**

To quote our incoming VFGC State President, Sally Harrison, "We all agree that children are our future. If children get excited about "playing in the dirt", watching a seed they planted sprout, becoming sensitive to their environment and amazed at the wonders of nature, etc., they have been given a gift to last a lifetime!" Let's support this worthy cause!

Respectfully submitted and thanks to our members,

*Erica and Jane*



## **Benefits of Choosing Locally Sourced Flowers**

*Submitted by Kathy Warnkey, Oxford Garden Club*

I attended a class through Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens at the River City Flower Exchange to learn about locally grown flowers. River City is Central Virginia's first all local flower market. It is a community of eight member farms, three associate farms, and two part-time paid staff.

We met several growers and learned that local flowers can have a more positive effect on your mental and physical health because they are grown with fewer pesticides and fertilizers. Additionally, they are not further contaminated with chemical treatments that are sprayed on imported flowers.

**Locally grown flowers are much fresher and last longer because they are usually harvested within 1-3 days of delivery to customers, unlike imported flowers which are packed dry and shipped, and then reprocessed after arrival to designer/retail customer. Local flowers also have more scent because the local scent is not bred out of them.**

Local growers use cover crops - like buckwheat and winter rye, field peas and clover - to suppress weeds, rather than using chemicals. They also catch and trap "bad" insects with Companion Plants such as Nasturtiums and attract "beneficial" insects with Alyssum and plants from the Onion family. They also plant Pollinator Strips to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. And they are also assisted by animals like ducks—which eat snails and slugs - and birds which eat caterpillars and insects.

The local growers are very concerned with soil health and use No-Till/Low-Till methods to preserve a healthy soil web. River City Flower Exchange is located at 3300 W. Broad Street, Suite 106, Richmond. They post a list of available flowers on their website each week.

**River City website is <https://www.rivercityflowerexchange.com>**

**Save the Date!**

**Richmond Council of Garden Clubs  
Holiday Standard Flower Show**

**Friday, December 5, 2025**



**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
8000 Hermitage Road, Henrico, VA 23228**

**Volunteers are Welcome for all Committees**

**Contact: Jennifer Wester, General Chairman (804) 276-7543 or [jswester@aol.com](mailto:jswester@aol.com)**

## Club News

### SALISBURY GARDEN CLUB

Midlothian residents can enjoy many of the civic beautification accomplishments of **Salisbury Garden Club** members. Every season SGC members gather for “workdays” to enhance the beauty of the Midlothian Post Office, Fire and Rescue Station 5, Lifelong Learning Institute, Wishing Well Park, local Senior Living facilities, and Manakin Episcopal Church. In springtime, beauty shines around the community from the Daffodil Project’s fall planting of daffodil bulbs. In December, Salisbury entrances are adorned for the holidays by SGC members with wreaths, garlands, and swag.



In October, for the Greater Richmond area’s enjoyment, several Salisbury Garden Club members created individual floral arrangements for display at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts’ *Fine Arts & Flowers 2024* exhibition.





Salisbury Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through April, at Manakin Episcopal Church in Midlothian. Programs vary from “First Ladies and Their Orchids” to “Our Invasive Weeds”, “Bald Eagles of the James River”, and others. In May the Annual Awards Luncheon is held at a different location.

Delora Stites, Salisbury Garden Club

## Announcements

### **16<sup>th</sup> Annual CROWN GRANT GARDEN CLUB *Holiday* Design Workshop**

***Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

6:30 – 7:00 pm Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 - 9:00 pm Workshop

***Ridge Baptist Church***  
**1515 Eastridge Road, Henrico, VA 23229**  
**(across from Kroger)**

All materials (flowers and greenery), accessories, design bowls and oasis are included to make a tabletop arrangement.

**A contribution of \$45 goes to support CGGC community projects.**

**For tickets please text or call Debbie at (804) 337-1983**

## Calendar

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Midlothian Garden Club** – Fresh Wreaths, Bake Sale and Holiday Garden Item – Winfree Church - 10am-2pm. Corner of Midlothian Turnpike and Coalfield Road.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> – Powhatan Garden Club** will have a float entitled, “Let’s Plant Flower Beds Together” in the Powhatan Christmas Parade. The parade starts at 3pm at the Powhatan County Courthouse.

**February 7, 2025 – Richmond Council of Garden Club Meeting**-Herbalist, Shauna J. Hooker, will present a program on the benefits of herb gardening for medicinal needs.

## Minutes

### RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. was held at the Church of the Epiphany, 8000 Hermitage Road on Friday, November 1, 2024.

President Barbara Hollister called the meeting to order at 10:30am and welcomed members and guests.

Chaplain Karla Ogden provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance Chairman Bonnie Parker reported that a quorum was present with 81 members in attendance.

President Barbara Hollister thanked the members of River Road Garden Club for providing refreshments for our meeting today.

Report of Officers:

President Barbara Hollister recognized Jennifer Wester who will chair our 2025 Standard Flower Show to be held on our December meeting day. She also announced that Karen Patterson’s husband is very ill.

Co-First Vice Presidents Cheryl Williams and Mary Penzer - no report.

Co-Second Vice Presidents Jeanne Stigall and Janice Beatty – Jeanne announced that Evelyn Klumb will present the December program “Asian Style Floral Designs”.

Recording Secretary Jane VanDenburgh – no report. Minutes of the October Council meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Janice Beatty, Jennifer Wester and Millie Proffitt will approve the minutes of today’s meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Susan DelSordo – no report.

Treasurer Jean Fender presented the financial report showing balances as of October 31, 2024: checking - \$10,114.59; money market - \$18,553.83 and investments - \$391,987.18. Her complete report is attached.

For her Habitat for Humanity Committee report, Jean announced that the landscaping of two houses in Ashland has been completed by Sleepy Hollow Garden Club and Northam Garden Club.

Historian Pat Merson – absent.

Adviser Millie Proffitt – no report.

Committee Reports:

Horticulture Chair Jackie McDonnough reported that now is the time to do soil testing, composting and seed collection. She reminded us to not chop our leaves, but blow them into the borders, to protect the beneficial insect eggs within the leaves.

Life Membership Kay Rafner reported that we have a new supply of pins and membership cards for those who are honored with a Life Membership. The \$50 fee goes to Nature Camp.

Recycled Pop-tabs Chairman Carole Hopkins was absent, but Faye Moran thanked the clubs who brought pop-tabs in October and today. The pop-tabs will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House.

Website Chairman Jeanne Stigall was thanked for keeping our website up to date and members were reminded to use the website. Barbara Hollister reported that a prospective new member had viewed our site and contacted Barbara to find a club to join. Barbara referred her to the Midlothian Garden Club which is in her locale.

Yearbook Chairman Susie Rothenburg reported that all yearbooks have been distributed. Additional yearbooks may be purchased for \$5 each.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

Carol Bridgforth of Midlothian Garden Club announced that they will be selling fresh evergreen wreaths, pinecone wreaths and trees and other Christmas items at our December meeting and at the Winfree Church on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 2.

Melissa Ray of Chester Garden Club reported that their club is participating in the Wreaths Across America program which provides cemetery wreaths to honor our veterans.

Jackie McDonough of Oxford Garden Club announced that Oxford will have freshly harvested pecans for sale at our December meeting in time for your holiday baking.

Erica Gilliam reminded the members of the Christmas jewelry sale which will take place at our December meeting. Donations will still be accepted for pieces that can be worn for the holidays or used to decorate packages. The committee will be accepting jewelry donations at our December and February meetings for the sale in March. She thanked all members who have contributed so far.

Barbara Hollister announced that Sandra Walker recently had back surgery. She also remembered Patsy Deal, a member who recently passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.

Jeanne Stigall introduced Peggy Singlemann who presented a very informative program "Flowering Shrubs for Every Season".

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane VanDenburgh, Recording Secretary



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