



# Mum's the Word

October 2024 – Volume 57, Issue 2

Salisbury Garden Club

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

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

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

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

"As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands,  
canvas and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see."  
~ Vincent Van Gogh

The feeling of Autumn surrounds us. Cool mornings, sweaters, pumpkins and mums are around everywhere. Many of my flowers are ready to go to sleep, although I suspect some of my new shrubs might even be dead.

Salisbury Garden Club has many events and projects planned for the rest of October. I hope you all take the time to read Mum's the Word for all the information. Under the Civic Beautification umbrella, we have Lifelong Learning, Wishing Well Park, Annual Daffodil and Manakin Church workdays, many chances to work outside and get to know other SGC members. Our Community Projects has Monthly Flowers for Hospice House, and Gardening Enrichment with Homework Helpers.

Come and enjoy the amazing arrangements at Fine Arts and Flowers at VMFA, many created by talented SGC members. If the date of our tour doesn't work for you, be sure to come another day. A functional clay tile workshop with Cindy Edmonds is scheduled for Nov. If you haven't had the pleasure to take a workshop with Cindy, sign up. One of my favorites, our annual "Gardeners' Exchange – Trunk or Treat" will be held at Manakin. I love sharing seeds and other gardening "things" and finding treasures that others are tired of. Keep checking your emails, as the new parking lot is currently under construction, so the date may be changed.

### Today's Program:

"Bug Farming 101"  
by

Conner Parrish,  
Blossoming Roots Farm



There has been a request from event chairs: please sign up for the upcoming events if you are coming. If you forget to hand in your SIGNUP SHEET, please email Claudia or let her know somehow. Chairs stress over few signups, and sometimes changes happen in time or place and chairs always inform those who signed up. I know I have forgotten to turn in my signup sheet, so now I print it and bring it filled in to the meetings.

There are many ways to care for our world. One easy way is to bring canned food for the Manakin Food Drive, share some flowers or herbs from your garden with a sick or lonely neighbor, smile and say hello to the clerk at the store. I know it is hard to not cut down brown plants in the fall, but by leaving the stems we leave homes for beneficial bugs, something I am sure today's speaker, Conner Parrish will encourage. Saving Bai drink bottles to reuse as vases helps reuse plastic and hopefully keeps them out of the trash. If anyone drinks Bai drinks, please start saving your bottles for me.

"May you Fall in love with October and all the beauty it brings,  
May your life be as colorful as the turning of the leaves,  
On each blessed autumn day."  
~ Charmaine J. Forde

Becky



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# TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE 1, 2024 – OCTOBER 16, 2024

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

<b>OPERATING FUND</b>					
<b>Beginning Balance June 1, 2024</b>					<b>\$3,096.66</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Administrative</i>					
	Membership Dues 2024-2025 (paid 2023-24)		4,500.00		
	Membership Dues 2024-2025		500.00		
<i>Activities</i>					
	SGC Notecards	20.00			
	November Workshop	300.00	320.00		
<i>Meetings</i>					
	Piedmont District Meetings Registrations	765.00	765.00		
<i>Misc. Unbudgeted</i>					
	Herb Books	55.00	55.00		
<b>Total Receipts</b>				<b>6,140.00</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
<i>Administrative</i>					
	Liability Insurance	294.00			
	Newsletter	45.08			
	Piedmont District Dues	100.00			
	RCGC Dues	40.00			
	Treasurer-Postage	13.60			
	VFGC Dues 2024-2025	505.00			
	Yearbook	560.57	1,558.25		
<i>Donations</i>					
	VFGC, Piedmont District Awards Sponsors	40.00	40.00		
<i>Meetings</i>					
	Judges' Gifts	40.00			
	Monthly Hospitality	41.03			
	Monthly Setup	110.00			
	Program Speakers	150.00			
	Piedmont District Meetings Registrations	810.00	1,151.03		
<i>Social Hospitality</i>					
	Awards Luncheon Deposit	500.00	500.00		
<i>Miscellaneous</i>					
	VFGC Yearbook Sponsor	10.00	10.00		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>				<b>3,259.28</b>	
<b>Operating Fund Balance October 16, 2024</b>					<b>\$5,977.38</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND</b>					
<b>Beginning Balance June 1, 2024</b>				<b>\$2,314.45</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Donations</i>					
	Graduation Flowers	385.00			
		1,375.00			
<b>Total Receipts</b>				<b>\$1,760.00</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
<i>Community Outreach</i>					
	Graduation Flowers	431.62			
	National Garden Week	144.47	576.09		
<i>Civic Beautification</i>					
	Daffodil Project	103.54			
	Fire Station	100.00			
	Post Office	46.85	250.39		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>				<b>826.48</b>	
<b>Community Projects Fund Balance October 16, 2024</b>					<b>\$3,247.97</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>					
<b>Beginning Balance June 1, 2024</b>				<b>\$4,247.14</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>					
	SAR Award won	25.00			
<b>Total Receipts</b>				<b>25.00</b>	
<b>Reserve Fund Balance October 16, 2024</b>					<b>\$4,272.14</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS</b>					<b>\$13,497.49</b>



## Upcoming VFGC Event

**Symposium** will be held at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Garden Center (3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke 24018) on **November 11-12**. Any interested individual is welcome and invited to attend; all attendees must register in advance. **Registration deadline is October 23**. For more information, refer to the **Fall 2024 edition of the VFGC Old Dominion Gardener, pages 15-16**.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

Our scheduled fall workdays began at the **Anniversary Garden** on September 27th. Meg and Keith Winn did some heavy pruning and clean-up. As Autumn arrives, we hope to enjoy the crimson Japanese Maple leaves, the pink Muhly grass tassels, and the blossoms on the 'Metro Blue' bearded iris.



On a wet September 27th, we worked at the **Wishing Well Park**. Connie Sorrell, DanaDee Carragher, Susan Preston, Nancy Lee, Liz Trolan, and Meg Winn mostly pruned and weeded. We also discussed plans for improving and expanding the flower borders there.

On a sunny Monday, October 7th, Barbara Metz, Sue Kucera, Gay Kistler, Nancy Lee, and Meg Winn met at the **Midlothian Post Office** and pruned and weeded around the crepe myrtles and the foundation borders. (Linda Nau happened by and acted as photographer). The zinnias are still showy with sleepy bumblebees reclining on the blossoms as we clipped. Next scheduled workday we'll replace the spent zinnias with bulbs and snapdragons .



Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we worked at **Manakin Episcopal Church**. Jean Hillsman, Gay Kistler, Nancy Lee, and Meg Winn

organized and planted a wonderful assortment of shade-loving plants: Solomon's Seal, Autumn fern, heuchera, cranesbill geranium, hellebores, Lenten Rose, var.carex, and epimedium were some of the beautiful additions that Connie Sorrell, Janice Beatty, and Candy Nasser donated to the cause.

Jean Hillsman and Kerri Butler planted hydrangeas in the courtyard and chrysanthemums around the lamp posts in September. Our next project there will be to plant several hundred daffodil bulbs near the redbuds in front of the church.



**Thank you to all our generous volunteers** helping to bring the beauty of nature to our corner of the world (such as this gorgeous dahlia at the **Lifelong Learning Institute**)! See the **signup sheet** for our upcoming workdays – we hope you join us!

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

#### **Bickford Senior Living:**

Ellen Pinnow, who takes charge of the projects we do at Bickford, organized the first session of this SGC year with a project whereby residents made flower arrangements in small glass jars which had originally contained yogurt! Ellen purchased the flowers (Chrysanthemums and



Michaelmas Daisies) and SGC members provided greenery to go with them. The participants enter into the activity with great enthusiasm and the end results were delightful. When they were massed together for a photograph they looked quite spectacular. The arrangements were to be

spread around the central rooms so all residents could enjoy them. SGC members who helped were: Ellen Pinnow, Nancy Scherer, Anita King, Camille Archie and Lorna Boucher.

**Gardening Enrichment:** In September, SGC members enriched the lives of 44 elementary students by helping them create small flower arrangements using Bai bottles as vases. Not only did the students learn about flowers, and tying knots and bows, but also how easy it can be to recycle/reuse something. Most of the flowers and greens both days came from members' gardens. Please check



out the **Thank You Poster** from Homework Helpers with the photos of the happy kids.

On Monday Sept 16, Anita King, Marsha Caratelli, Debbie Jackson, Karen Rice, Nancy Scherer, and Becky Sido helped 22 students. On Tuesday Sept 17, Lorna Boucher, Marsha Caratelli,

Debbie Jackson, Karen Rice and Becky Sido assisted 22 more students.

**Our second Gardening Enrichment Activity will be October 21 and 22** when the students will learn about and start creating their own Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl Posters. This allows students time to work on their posters, which will be collected in early December. This is a joint program by National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service. Please join us as we help the students learn about caring for their environment and fire safety – just complete the coupon on the signup sheet.

**Spring Arbor Memory Care:** Anita King agreed gracefully to take over the chairmanship of our Spring Arbor Memory Care project. She did a great job on her first assignment! On this occasion we replenished the free-standing flower boxes in the gardens with plants bought by Katie (Facility Manager) and Anita. We did some tidying of garden beds but a professional company deals with this on a regular basis. SGC Volunteers: Anita King, Sue Kucera, Janice Beatty, Marcia Harrigan, Nancy Scherer, Jean Hillsman, Camille Archie and Lorna Boucher

Plans are in place for residents to make **little flower arrangements in tea cups** at the next session at the facility (**date and time TBD**). This project does require a good number of SGC volunteers as the residents need a great deal of help. As we know, Alzheimer's and Dementia are heart-rending diseases and we do our best bring some stimulating enjoyment to the patients.

**Other upcoming projects:** On Monday, November 18, we will be at **Southampton Elementary School** (2:30 PM) helping the children make Thanksgiving arrangements for their families. On Thursday, December 5 at 11 AM, we will assist the residents at **Spring Arbor Senior Living** with a holiday-themed botanical project. We hope you can join us at one or more of these worthwhile projects – refer to the coupon on the signup sheet to participate.

## EXHIBITS – Joanne Wallace & Fran Judd

Congratulations to our September exhibit winners: **Nancy Lee** for Design; **Camille Archie** for Horticulture; and **Jean Hillsman** for Botanical Arts!!



**Captain Mike info:** For those interested in further information about September's speaker, **Captain Mike Ostrander**, and his tours, his website is –

DiscoverTheJames.com. Phone number – 804-938-2350; and email – [Mike@DiscoverTheJames.com](mailto:Mike@DiscoverTheJames.com).

## GARDENER'S EXCHANGE - OCTOBER 23

Our fall Gardener's Exchange, "**Trunk or Treat**", will be held on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Manakin Episcopal at 3 PM.

Fall provides a chance to clean out the closet/garage/shed of items we no longer use in our gardens or for our design, and they might be the perfect treasures for someone else.

We hope you join in the fun. Everyone is welcome; even if you come empty handed, we hope you don't leave that way!



Joanne Wallace, Chairman

# VMFA *FINE ARTS & FLOWERS 2024* Field Trip FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 10:15 AM



Calling all who love flora and their artful use in interpretive designs! Join fellow SGC members at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts biennial exhibition, *Fine Arts & Flowers 2024* on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Featuring over 70 floral interpretations from garden clubs around Virginia, the exhibition will include designs from Salisbury Garden Club members: Mary Arakelian, Lili Aram-Bost, Martie Parch and Dawn Lerch, Ellen Pinnow, Kathy Ward and Peggy Young.

Our club members will meet by 10:15 am, in the lobby of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia USA 23220-4007. Doors open at 10 am with free admission to all. The parking deck is free for VMFA members, and \$6.00 for non-members. Once inside the lobby we will divide into small groups for self-guided tours of the designs. Printed locations of, and comments from, the designers should be available free of charge to the public.



Please make sure to use the sign-up sheet to let us know you are interested in attending what promises to be an amazing exhibit.

For more information about the VMFA and their exhibits, go to their website: <http://VMFA.museum>. For more information about this field trip, please call or email Fran Stanwix, 804-893-4794, [fandjstanwix@comcast.net](mailto:fandjstanwix@comcast.net).



The board wishes to thank Jean Hillsman for hosting our October board meeting!



## WORKSHOP: FUNCTIONAL CLAY TILES IMPRESSED WITH BOTANICALS



**IT IS NOT TOO LATE!** A few spots remain to join local potter Cindy Edmonds for an afternoon of relaxed creativity at **The Shed in Reeds Landing, from 1 – 5 PM on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Collect your choice of natural materials before the class and use them to create a unique, garden themed wall tile or trivet. If time allows, we'll make a holiday ornament also. Clay, glaze and pottery supplies are included in the **\$60 cost**. Please bring an apron and a variety of natural materials to imprint into the clay.

Do not miss out on this opportunity! Just complete the coupon on the signup sheet and make your \$60 check payable to Salisbury Garden Club – if you're not at the meeting, you can mail it to Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

**For more details, see page 80 of the Yearbook or call Fran Stanwix, 804-893-4794, with any questions.**

### MEMBERS' CORNER. . .

We're excited to add some photos from your gardens or other achievements. Below we have photos from **Martie Parch's** garden; **Anne Margaret White's** garden; and a photo of **Lili Aram-Bost and Mary Arakelian's** latest design at VFMA.





## TREX NEWS

The first Trex Bench is on its way to Manakin Episcopal Church! The board decided at the meeting to make another bench for Manakin. **Please continue to save your plastic until November** when we can start another bench collection. More information will be shared then. Thank you to all who contributed to this project!

## Holiday Design Exhibits – December 4<sup>th</sup>



Are you planning to decorate your door for the holidays? How about your mailbox? If so, sign up to participate in our December exhibits.

Your door and mailbox exhibits will be judged the morning of **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. This is a great opportunity for you to fulfill your design requirement to be a member-in-good-standing.

For more information, see pages 24 and 87 of your Yearbook. **To participate, fill out the coupon on the sign-up sheet. Please sign up by Wednesday, November 27.**

Designs must be in place by **9:30 AM on December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Remember to fill out a design exhibit tag for your wreath and for your mailbox and attach them to your display for the judges to see. (For exhibiting rules, see Appendix pages A1-A5 in your Yearbook or on our website in Members Only section.)



Both designs are **Botanical Arts**. The design titles are:

1. **“Tis the Season” – Hanging Door Design**
2. **“Glad Tidings We Bring” – Mailbox Design**

Both designs are “designer’s choice”, meaning all types of plant materials are allowed. The designer has complete choice as to what to use. Any fresh plant material may not be treated.

**Volunteers are also needed to help the judges.** If you would like to drive the judges to see the designs or clerk for them, please fill out the coupon. If you have any questions, please contact chairman **Nancy Lee**, [nkatpatlee2@gmail.com](mailto:nkatpatlee2@gmail.com).



You and your guest are invited  
to the Salisbury Garden Club  
Annual Holiday Party

**"The Gifts of Peace and Joy"**

**Wednesday, December 4th at Salisbury Country Club**  
Reservation Deadline November 20th

Gather for cocktails at 6:00 PM  
Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM  
Cost is \$50 per person

Meals include House Salad, rolls, and dessert

**Sautéed Shrimp and Scallops**  
with Chef's Choice Accompaniments

**Pork Rib Chop**  
with Farro Succotash, Apple Jus, Onion Marmalade

**Chef's Choice Vegetarian**  
Pesto Gnocchi with Peas, Asparagus, Ricotta,  
Black Pepper Cream

and  
Tea, Coffee and Cash Bar

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Martie Parch** at 804-240-5446 or [tredwr@msn.com](mailto:tredwr@msn.com)  
or **Janice Beatty** at 804-337-6152 or [luv2plyNdrt@gmail.com](mailto:luv2plyNdrt@gmail.com)

# Come Fly with Me!

An abbreviated copy of our **May 2025 Flower Show** schedule, **Come Fly with Me!**, has been posted on the Salisbury Garden Club website ([salisburygardenclub.com](http://salisburygardenclub.com)).



To find it, go to the Special Events Tab and click on 2025 Flower Show. This schedule has all the Sections and Classes listed but not all the rules. It is a tentative schedule and may have minor changes made to it as the staging is better established.

**Please take a look at the possible exhibits and contact:**

**Barbara Metz** ([barbarahmetz@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarahmetz@yahoo.com)) to sign up for Design, Botanical Arts Design and Botanical Arts Artistic Craft

**Joanne Wallace** ([dougandjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:dougandjoanne@gmail.com)) to sign up for Photography

**Lindsay Boswell** ([lindsaygosak@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaygosak@gmail.com)) to sign up for an Education exhibit

There is no need to sign up to bring horticulture.

I look forward to seeing what you create!

Kathy Ward  
Flower Show Chairman

## Attention All Would-Be Photographers!

As some of you may know, we are adding **Photography to the Botanical Arts Division of our SGC Biennial Flower Show** this May. To help you brush up your skills (or help you discover skills you never knew you had!), we have some special programs planned.

- Our November program at the general meeting will feature Tom Hennessy, a juried photographer, who will teach us about “Floral Photography” (Salisbury GC Yearbook, page 84)



- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Tom Hennessy and Lili Aram-Bost will lead a tour at Lewis Ginter, giving you pointers and answering questions on shooting the best pictures (Salisbury GC Yearbook, pages 100-101).

- Our March exhibit schedule includes two classes of 5 x 7 photos which won't be judged but entries will get credit for exhibiting and a chance to show off your photos! (Salisbury GC Yearbook, page 105)



So dust off those cameras and iPhones! We'd love to have a plethora of photographs entered in the Flower Show!

Joanne Wallace  
Flower Show Photography Chairman

**Note:** Photographs by Tom Hennessy  
Titles “White Calla Lily” and “Tiger Swallowtail”

## Design Tips:

### Decisions Before Designing – Containers

Before you can begin making your floral design, you must choose what container you will use. It goes without saying that **the container that you choose should be watertight and stable**. To test for leaks, fill your container with water and place it on a newspaper or towel. Let it sit for at least 5 minutes. Any water leakage will be visible on the newspaper or towel. If your container has a leak, but you still want to use it, you may use a plastic liner in your container or perhaps spray the interior of the container with a sealant. A heavy container will tend to be more stable than a lightweight one. Likewise, a container with a larger base will be more stable than one with a



smaller base. Container stability can be increased by adding weight (stones, glass beads) into the bottom of your container.

The **color** of the container will also impact your design. Containers that are black, brown, gray or green tend to complement any flowers or design styles. Other colored containers can also be used when they reflect the colors in your design. A glossy container will appear more dominant, whereas a matte container will tend to recede. Glass containers are usually not used as you do not want the flower stems or mechanics to be visible.

Lastly the **style** of the container will impact on your design. A traditional design requires a traditional container. Traditional containers are bowls or vases that have a single opening. For a creative design, any item may be used as a container if it is stable and waterproof. There may be more than one opening from which plant material may emerge.

Kathy Ward  
NGC Life Flower Show Judge

**Note:** All the Design Tips are available on our SGC website.

# Love Your Soil

A successful garden depends on a lot of things, but the most important element is the soil. So often, we discover damaged or yellowed leaves or weak blooms on our plants, only to discover the real problem lies in the soil. The first step to improving your soil is to get a soil test!

Soil begins with sand, silt or clay. Most of the soil in our southern gardens is clay. You can improve the soil by planting cover crops, such as hairy vetch, crimson clover, or winter peas. This will add nitrogen and increase the growth and health of your plants.

Another method is to add compost. Compost can break up clay so that nutrients and organisms can penetrate the soil and get to the roots of the plant. It can also amend sandy soil by adding water and thickening it.



Most of us have composting materials that are easily accessed: small twigs and grass clippings, dry leaves (carbon), and kitchen scraps (nitrogen) – that can be vegetable and fruit peels, egg shells, and coffee grounds. Chop all of these materials before you mix them together. Never use diseased materials.

Add water and let it “cook”. Keep the pile moist and turn it every few weeks.

In a couple of months, you’ll have rich compost to add to your soil creating a healthier garden. Soil with good structure holds the roots of plants and retains moisture and nutrients. With organic material amending your soil, you will need fewer plants and use less pesticides.

Happy soil, happy garden!  
Martie Parch, Master Gardener

## Sources:

[Hudsonvalleyseed.com](http://Hudsonvalleyseed.com)

[soiltest.vt.edu](http://soiltest.vt.edu)

[pubs.ext.vt.edu](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu)



**Next Month's Meeting – November 20, 2024**

Manakin Episcopal Church – 985 Huguenot Trail

Refreshments 9:30 AM – Meeting 10 AM

**Program:** "Floral Photography"  
by Tom Hennessy, Photographer

**Greeter:** Kerri Butler

**Hostesses:** Lili Aram-Bost, Kerri Butler, Katie Conschafter,  
Claudia Cosby, Anne McCormick, Linda Nau,  
Becky Sido and Kelly Tartaglia

**Clerks:** Lindsay Boswell, Susan McClelland,  
Fran Stanwix and Kathy Ward



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**OCTOBER EVENTS**

17	Lifelong Learning Institute Workday	CP22
18	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
21	Wishing Well Park Workday	CP21
21-22	Gardening Enrichment Program	CP32
23	"Trunk or Treat "Gardener's Exchange	CP7
23-27	Fine Arts & Flowers at VMFA	
25	Museum Trip: Fine Arts & Flowers at VMFA	
30	Annual Daffodil Project	CP16
31	Manakin Episcopal Church Workday	NP2

**NOVEMBER EVENTS**

1	RCGC (Richmond Council of Garden Clubs)	
4	Ceramics Workshop	
7	Lifelong Learning Institute Workday	CP22
11	Midlothian Post Office Workday	CP18
11-12	NGC Symposium – Roanoke, VA	CP1
13	SGC Board Meeting – 9:30 AM	
14	Redeemer Courtyard Workday	CP23
15	Midlothian Fire Station Workday	CP17
15	Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House	CP34
18	Southampton Elementary School Project	CP35
18-30	GardenFest of Lights – Lewis Ginter BG	
20	SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM	CP4



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