

# BLUE RIDGE DIGEST

Blue Ridge District

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I can't believe my term is coming to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our Blue Ridge Clubs and all of you wonderful, inspiring, hardworking members. The 2015-2017 administration has been a joy and honor to work with. You all really make me proud to serve.

I am so pleased to report that after months of preparing and with District and State support; Piedmont Estates Garden Club was officially voted by the VFGC Board of Directors as a new club of Blue Ridge District. Please help me formally welcome them at our Spring District meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Please look for the registration form in this newsletter). The Spring District meeting will be the last of this administration and I hope you will join us for a fun day. The food at Hunting Hills is always delicious, the scenery is beautiful and with little business to share, it will be a great opportunity to enjoy friends, a nice lunch and say good-bye to the current administration. After a quick vote, we will say hello to our new administration and learn about the other exciting events of this spring.

Spring continues with the Blue Ridge District Flower Show, *Making Connections*, on April 3 during the 2017 VFGC Convention at Hotel Roanoke. Our Flower Show Committee has been very busy preparing and is excited to announce that the schedule is available now and has been distributed to your club President. All entries will be received on Sunday, April 2 and your participation is needed. Pre-register your design, prepare your horticulture entries and let's make Peacock Alley sparkle. The VFGC Convention registration is found in the Winter ODG. I hope to see you there.

We'll have several weeks to recover from the VFGC Convention and the exciting times continue! As you know VFGC is hosting the NATIONAL CONVENTION in Richmond, May 18-20. Information and registration are available in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener* and online at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). As Vice Chairman of this huge event, I am responsible for volunteers and I have a job for everyone. Contact me to see how you can assist! To make attendance easier Blue Ridge District is providing bus transportation for an overnight which will allow the opportunity to attend a workshop, Thursday's dinner banquet, shopping and the luncheon with P. Allen Smith! Please look for the ad in this newsletter and contact me with any questions.

Think Spring, it's just around the corner!

Lisa



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### New Castle GC

Barbara Winstead  
Darlene Charlton

### Blue Ridge GC

Dianne Fain  
Belvia Tate  
Ruth Marzigliano

### Belmont GC

Judy DeRocco  
Kayla Payne

### Sugar Loaf GC

Nancy Hughes



## IN MEMORY

**Jackie Rudrud**  
**Mary Alice Tomlinson**  
Belmont GC

Please let the BRD Editor  
know of the death of  
a member in your club.

## CLUB NEWS

### Attention all Club Presidents

Please send the names of any members of your club who have passed away since last April's District Meeting. These members will be remembered at a Memorial Service on March 23 at the Blue Ridge District Spring Meeting. You will want to contact Chaplain, Sandy Houck, so they will be included.

dshouck@jetbroadband.com or  
Sandy Houck 420 Waverly Lane, Moneta, VA 24121

**Moneta Garden Club** was awarded \$920.00 from the 2016 Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Youth Project Grants. This club sponsors Moneta Elementary School's Gold Dusters Junior Garden Club. It provided an electric heater, wiring, and installation to heat the greenhouse at the school. This project reaches 163 children.

The **North Lake Garden Club** fundraiser is a Card/Board Game Party. There are usually lots of bridge players but this year they hope to see some more players who bring board games. The afternoon goes by fast when you spend time with good friends, a delicious lunch (included) and door prizes. There is a limit of 20 tables so register early. There will be many door prizes, a table with jewelry for sale and a lunch of homemade goodies.

**When:** Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 10am-3pm

**Where:** Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue

**Tickets:** Tickets are \$20 each or \$80 per table

Mail money to: NLGC Attn. Stella Bennett, 7817 College View Court, Roanoke, VA 24019 or call 366-0733.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Your Blue Ridge District chair for HFH is Carol Buriak. She has served as chair since 2003 and is a member of the Salem GC. Contact her at 540-890-5393 or [cburiak@yahoo.com](mailto:cburiak@yahoo.com) if your club has performed any projects for HFH so that she may report Blue Ridge District activity to the state level. She is happy to help your club become involved with HFH.

Please consider donating your knowledge of all things green to a future homeowner who has never had the opportunity to own property. They need someone to explain the basics of lawn, tree and shrub care.

The HFH staff purchases the plants, delivers them to the home and provides the manpower to "install" them. But their staff isn't necessarily knowledgeable about proper methods. Surely each garden club has at least a few members able to direct workers in this type of endeavor! Grab a floppy hat, dress in comfortable clothes, and "tell the man where to dig"! What's so hard about that?

Of course, if your members want to play in the dirt, then by all means your club should be involved with Habitat! Salem GC has members who share plants from their yards to landscape homes and pitch in on the day of planting.

Your club can dictate the level of involvement with which you are comfortable. Simply contact the HFH Volunteer Coordinator Gina Dunnivant at (540) 224-0747 or [gina@habitat-roanoke.org](mailto:gina@habitat-roanoke.org)

## SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Blue Ridge District Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the 2017-2019 administration:

**President –**

Sharon Jones, Moneta Garden Club

**Director Secretary –**

Barbara Badger, Boones Mill Garden Club

**Director Treasurer –**

Linda Bosiger, Moneta Garden Club

**VFGC Nominating Representative –**

Janice Clem

Congratulations go to these ladies as well as appreciation for their willingness to share their time, talent and ideas for the future.

This slate will be voted on at the Blue Ridge District Spring meeting, March 23, 2017 at Hunting Hills Country Club.

They will be installed at the VFGC Convention, April 2-4, at Hotel Roanoke, where Moneta Garden Club member, Marty Bowers, will be installed as the new VFGC President!

Please plan to attend this Convention and show our support for these talented Blue Ridge District members.

## THE BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT PRESENTS

A Standard Flower Show

*“Making Connections”*

April 3, 2017

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Hotel Roanoke—Peacock Alley

110 Shenandoah Avenue NE, Roanoke VA 24016

Flower show schedules are available through your Club Presidents. Pre-register all designs by March 3. Entries, including horticulture, are received and placed April 2, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Nancy Goodman at 540-400-8518 to pre-register for a design. Should you have questions - for general information contact Brenda McManaway at 540-580-3838, for design information contact Rita Leiser at 540-890-3006, and for horticulture information contact Lisa Robinson at 540-352-9085.

This show is in honor of our current VFGC President, Janice Clem, and our VFGC President-Elect, Marty Bowers, both from Blue Ridge District. Let's have a show they'll be proud of!

We'll be looking for participation from across the state, but especially from our talented Blue Ridge District members, so sign up now to exhibit and help make Peacock Alley sparkle!



Virginia Federation of Garden Club members are needed to help with various aspects of the National Convention in Richmond.

Volunteer or just come partake in all of the fun activities!

The **Registration Form** can be found on the National Garden Clubs' website and in the *Old Dominion Gardener*.



# INVITATION TO THE VFGC CONVENTION

April 2-4, 2017  
Hotel Roanoke - Roanoke, VA

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



Honored Guest National Garden Club President, **Sandra Robinson** will be attending the convention and speaking at the Installation Banquet on Monday. "*Leap into Action*" is the theme for her administration.

**Dr. Alex X. Niemiera** is an Associate Professor at the Dept. of Horticulture and Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction at VA Tech. He has spent the last 24 years teaching students about the many aspects of horticulture at Virginia Tech, conducting research on container-grown plants, and sharing his knowledge with horticulture industry personnel and the gardening public of Virginia. He will speak about "*Our Native Sun Worshipers: Native Trees ~ Facts and Lore*", which will directly be in relation to the "*Planting Trees for Tomorrow*" endeavor.



**Paige Canfield** is the owner of Sumner B. Designs which is a boutique flowers firm specializing in fresh floral design. Paige started her professional career in the municipal bond industry. She made a big leap to the creative world in 2003 when she secured an internship in Washington, DC. in the floral shop at the Blair House. After floral training, she began to decorate for holiday house tours, small weddings and events and home tabletop decor. Her topic for the convention is "*The Life and Times of Florist Constance Spry- Queen Elizabeth's Coronation and Wedding Flowers*".

**David Pippin** is the owner of David Pippin Inc. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. He is a facilitator & consultant for Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, providing teachers with lessons to help students understand where our food and fibers are grown. He is also an adjunct professor in the Horticulture Department at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. David is currently the floral designer for The Executive Mansion of Virginia.



**Al Brockwell**, owner and operator of Flora Culture, AIFD, CFD, is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers. He has traveled the world learning "the art of floral design" with other artists. Al is a lecturer, an instructor at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and a traveling show designer. Al has been in the floral business for over 30 years, winning numerous awards for his work. He considers himself a freelance designer. Enjoy seeing David and Al create floral designs using the same flowers with different results.

**David Roos** has a gardening design and consulting practice, worked in nurseries, wrote a newspaper column and gives garden lectures. He received his design training at the New York Botanical Garden's Landscape Design certificate program in New York City. Mr. Roos' gardening philosophy emphasizes a hands-on approach and common sense practicality. He will speak about "*Gardening in the 21 Century*".



The Convention Registration Form ([Deadline March 15, 2017](#)) and hotel information can be found in the Old Dominion Gardener and on the VFGC website.



## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

**June 4-10**

This observance is a super way for the public to know more about gardening and the good works the BRD clubs are doing! It is not too early to start thinking about a special club activity for National Garden Week.

Information and ideas (also a poster) may be found on the VFGC website as well as the NGC website.

Be sure to provide publicity for your activities and send information to the BRD Chairman Hilda Lindell. Her contact information is in the VFGC Yearbook.



## VIRGINIA is for GARDENERS

National Garden Clubs Convention

Schedule of Events for May 18-19, 2017:

### Thursday May 18

2:30-4:30pm	Business Meeting
4:45-5:45pm	Seminars on: Design Mechanics 2017 Flower Show Handbook Restoring Pollinators
6:00-7:00pm	Social Hour
7:00-10:00pm	Dinner & Awards Banquet
9:00am – 6:00pm	Vendors Open

### Friday May 19

9:00am – 6:00pm	Vendors Open
9:00-11:30am	Business Meeting
12:00-2:15pm	Luncheon and Keynote Speaker <b>P. Allen Smith</b>

See full schedule/Convention and Hotel registration information in  
The National Gardener, Winter issue or NGC website:  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

## LET'S GO TO CONVENTION!

AVOID THE INCONVENIENCE OF DRIVING,  
THE COST OF GAS AND PARKING  
AND THE HASSLE OF  
GETTING AROUND RICHMOND

## BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO THE 2017 NGC CONVENTION

Round trip transportation from Roanoke to  
Richmond, leaving Tanglewood Mall

Thursday May 18 at 11:00am  
returning

Friday May 19 at 5:00pm

**\$50.00 per person**

Price includes box lunch on Thursday  
and door to door service to the Rich-  
mond Marriott downtown.

\*Reservations must be made by  
April 22, 2017.

\*Convention and Hotel Registrations  
are **not** included and must be  
made by each attendee.

\* Space is limited so book your seat now!

For more information or bus registration form, contact:  
Lisa Robinson [gardenlisa@r22sml.com](mailto:gardenlisa@r22sml.com)



## BOOK REVIEW



### Bringing the Garden Indoors

By P. Allen Smith

Many of you are already familiar with some of the books written by P. Allen Smith. Allen is best known for his garden designs using mixtures of colors, plants and containers in a relaxed "homey" atmosphere. P. Allen Smith will be one of the speakers at the NGC Convention in Richmond, VA, May 16-21 and his books will be available for purchase. His engaging personality and enthusiasm for gardening are inspiring.

This book, *Bringing the Garden Indoors*, presents various ideas on how to bring the beautiful blooms and plant material from your garden into your home to enjoy in other ways.

Allen starts with the front entrance and using a variety of containers and plants sets the stage for what is to come inside the home, always changing with the seasons. He carries his themes into the foyer and then proceeds through the home with ideas for the living room, bedroom and bath. He also has suggestions for outdoor dining.

Using collections of "finds" from antique shops, flea markets and many other places, he crafts ways of designing a dining table arrangement, something to fill a nook, a citrus tree in the kitchen or any other place to bring the outside garden in. However, he also states that if you don't have a garden, you can purchase flowers at the super market and still enjoy these ideas.

Allen devotes a section of the book on interesting ways of growing and showing paper whites and also forcing blooms in the early spring. The book ends with a resource guide and other suggested reading on the subject.

The photography throughout this book is very good showing both blooms and plants in vivid color and technics in an easy to understand way.

Remember, plants are healthy for you, so why not surround yourself with interesting and creative ideas for adding colorful blooms and plants in your home.

Other books by P. Allen Smith: *Colors for the Garden*; *Garden Home*, *Creating a Garden for Everyday Living*; *Container Gardens*; *Living in the Garden Home*, *Connecting the Seasons*; and *Seasonal Recipes*.

Be sure to sign up to attend the NGC Convention Luncheon on Friday, May 19, to hear and meet P. Allen Smith.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Any club or member wishing to honor someone (or yourself) with a Life Membership in the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, South Atlantic Region or National Garden Clubs should contact district chairman, Carol Underwood at [susique4@aol.com](mailto:susique4@aol.com) or (540) 774-1984.



## NEW CULTIVARS

Check out some new plants for 2017 such as *Hosta* 'Branching Out' - a breeding breakthrough from Plant Delights Nursery.

Ann Meisoll of Stanges Nursery recommends Mirage Hot Pink autumn sage (*Salvia greggii* 'Balmirhope') and *Pentas* BeeBright mix. She also likes "Mad Hatter" pepper and 'Patio Baby' eggplant. For outstanding flowering shrubs she recommends Diamond Rouge hydrangea (*H. paniculata* 'Rendia') and 'Cayenne' dogwood (*Cornus amomum* 'Cayenne').

Butch Whitton of Campbell & Ferrara in Alexandria says he has "always been a fan of the many *Heuchera* varieties. The leaf colors get more interesting with every new introduction. This year, two new varieties, 'Forever Purple' (shown above) and 'Grape Soda' bring more breadth to this shade- and sun-loving versatile plant."

The last two recommendations come from *Virginia Gardener* February 2017 issue.

The Blue Ridge District, VFGC  
Invites You To The

## 2017 SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Hunting Hills Country Club  
5220 Hunting Hills Drive  
Roanoke, VA 24018

### SPECIAL PROGRAM:

*Connections Through Design*  
presented by  
*Shenandoah Designers Guild*

The Shenandoah Designers Guild is a group of nationally accredited flower show judges. They strive to strengthen the creative process through improving their designs and having them critiqued by their peers.

They have created a book "Designs from the Handbook" featuring their own designs and have sold many at district and other meetings. There is another book in the works.

#### Designers:

Linda Baron – Angular  
Pauline Butcher – Tubular  
Gloria Crump – Creative Line  
Grace Morris – Synergistic  
Barbara Meeh – Transparency  
Linda Taylor – Creative Line Mass

### Schedule of Events:

9-10am	Meeting Registration (Project Displays and Vendor Booths open)
10am	Business Session
11am	Design Program
Noon	Luncheon
12:45	Business Continues Shopping, Door Prizes, Announcements



## BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

**Deadline: March 16, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

### Check all that apply:

- ☐ Past District President
- ☐ BRD Board Member
- ☐ VFGC Board Member
- ☐ Garden Club President
- ☐ VFGC Life Member
- ☐ SAR Life Member
- ☐ NGC Life Member
- ☐ Guest



Special Diet Required \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration & Lunch: \$27.00**

**Please make check payable to:**  
Blue Ridge District, VFGC

**Send registration form & check to:**  
Linda Slaughter, Registrar  
4741 Brookwood Drive  
Roanoke, VA 24018-2837  
540-776-0102  
[linda.slaughter@cox.net](mailto:linda.slaughter@cox.net)

### Club Sales Tables are limited!

Sign up early! Contact Brenda McManaway at  
[brendamc@shentel.net](mailto:brendamc@shentel.net) for information and  
registration for your Club Sales/Project Table.

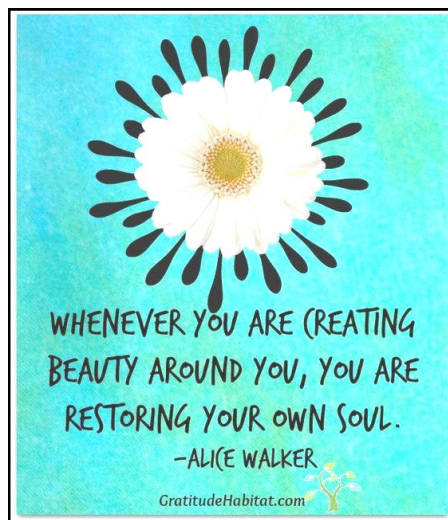


## BRD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **2017**

March 20	Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs—7pm, Robert McDuffy-Gardens Around the World, \$10
March 22-26	SAR Convention-The Greenbrier
March 23-26	ART GO BLOOM at the Taubman Museum with Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs
March 23	Blue Ridge District Spring Meeting—Hunting Hills Country Club
March 26-28	SAR Convention—The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV
April 1	North Lake Game Party p. 2
April 1	Spring Plant Sale -The Community Arboretum at VA Western Friends Sale: 9 a.m.-Noon Public Sale: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
April 2	BRD Flower Show ENTRY—Hotel Roanoke-Peacock Alley
April 3	BRD District Flower Show p. 3
April 3-4	VFGC Convention—Hotel Roanoke
April 11-12	Landscape Design School Course I - Woodlands Conference Center, Williamsburg

May 1	Blue Ridge Digest DEADLINE
May 18-20	NGC Convention, hosted by VFGC, Richmond Downtown Marriott
June 4-10	National Garden Week



Shirley Edillon, Editor  
4858 Glenbrook Drive SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018-2800



# ART GO BLOOM

**March 23-26, 2017**

**Taubman Art Museum**

**110 Salem Ave., Roanoke**

Featuring 20 masterpiece arrangements inspired by the Museum's permanent collection and created by floral designers from the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs.

This 4-day festival will feature:

David Pippin

Matilda Bradshaw

Brenda McManaway

Opening Night Beer Tasting

Saturday Tea

Wine and Chocolate Tasting

Family Activities

Docent tours

Go to [taubmanmuseum.org](http://taubmanmuseum.org) for complete schedule of events, or call 540-342-5760