



# FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
VOLUME 32 NUMBER 1 FALL 2020

## ***A Message from JoAnn McNabb***

Life has a way of reminding us all that we are not in control. As painful as that can be, it also presents us with an opportunity to choose how we deal with the hand we're dealt. The last several months have been some of the most challenging times many of us have faced—as a nation, as small business owners, as families, as garden club members. One of the things I have learned during this pandemic is that sometimes being forced to slow down is exactly what I need.

One of the more positive things during this time has been discovering the resourceful ways gardeners and floral designers are sharing their ideas. I have been spending a lot of time on social media these days, as I suspect many of you have... Facebook, Instagram, You Tube, to name a few.

For floral designers, check out Hitomi Gilliam on YouTube and Francine Thomas on Facebook. There are numerous gardening videos that are sure to be of interest, check out P. Allen Smith's video "10 Late Summer Gardening Tips & Projects: August 2020".

And let's not forget NGC's website (username: "member", password: "conserve") for its informative content/articles of interest. Here you will find "Keeping in Touch", a bi-monthly publication of NGC that covers a whole host of garden club initiatives around the country. And, of course, there is the "National Gardener Magazine", which is also found on this website. And, if you didn't know, VFGC has its own Facebook page...check it out!

Garden club members are discussing what's the best way to move forward in September. Some are discovering how to "zoom" to stay connected; others are planning late summer/early fall socials with appropriate distancing measures. Many clubs have submitted their meeting/program ideas for the upcoming year, and you

can view those in an article entitled, "What is Happening in Piedmont District Clubs" in this newsletter page 7.

### **Piedmont District Fall Meeting Cancelled**

To safeguard our members' health and well-being, I regret to have to tell you that once again we will be cancelling our next district meeting that was scheduled for October 19, 2020. I miss seeing all of you, and I know this is disappointing, but together we can stay strong and keep the faith that better days will be here again. I wish you peace and strength as we find our way during this challenging journey. Stay safe everyone!

*Tending plants has always been one of the world's most popular hobbies, but no one was prepared for this surge in gardening—and nurseries are still propagating as fast as they can to keep up.*

*The renowned seed company Burpee sold more seed packets this spring than at any time during its 144-year history, according to Reuters. Britain's Royal Horticultural Society has seen a five-fold rise in queries for gardening advice on its website during the lockdown.*

*People are taking time to reconnect with the earth, and an added bonus arrives for the climate every time a plant goes into the ground because it pulls out carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.*

*"Gardening Is Booming During the Pandemic"  
The Good News Network*

# The Spirit in the Wind

by Pamela Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

This too shall pass, for seasons come and go.  
Sooner than you know, those trees you see will  
trade their subtle shades of green for autumn's amber  
glow. In these times of stress and uncertainty,  
I invite you to relax and focus on the trees.  
Watch as the wind blows through the leaves.  
Then listen awhile to discern the spirit in the wind.(PM)  
(In Greek and Hebrew, the same word translates as either  
wind or spirit.)

Consider that tree trunks don't move and branches barely  
bend. The leaves do all the talking--with the help of the  
wind.



Image source: Etsy

Scripture describes many wind-related events:

East wind brought blistering heat (Gen. 41:23), storms, and  
locust (Ex. 10:13).

West winds drove them into the Red Sea. (Ex. 10:19).

Southern winds guided ships smoothly, quieted the earth  
(Job 37:17); and warmed Solomon's gardens. (Sol. 4:16)

North winds brought ice, cold, and rain.

Scripture also notes many windy characterizations.

If we watch the wind and never plant, or worry about rain  
clouds and don't harvest, where is our faith? (Eccl 11:4)

If we doubt our faith, it "is like a wave of the sea driven  
with the wind and tossed." James 1:6

Sometimes false teachers who resemble empty clouds  
confuse us. " ... they are without water, carried about by  
winds:" Jude 12

Am I finished or just full of wind myself? No! Not done.  
God also used the wind to guide His people. For example,  
when David became King of Israel, the Philistines  
threatened to wage war. It began in the sunken plain called  
the Valley of Repheim southwest of Jerusalem.

David called upon Yahweh for help and was told to listen  
for instructions before each battle. In the final attack, the  
signal would be the sound of wind in the trees.  
"...fetch a compass behind them and come upon them over  
against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou  
hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry  
trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself." II Samuel 5:23-24

The winds rose, the leaves stirred, David advanced, and  
the Philistines were defeated. The sound in the treetops  
came from the native quaking aspen *Populus euphratica*  
which lines the river streams from Syria to Palestine. The  
heart-shaped, drooping leaves are obliquely attached to  
the stem.

The slight twist and angle causes leaves to droop, and  
continually sway back and forth like "weeping and wailing  
women." This species is thought to be the "willow" on  
which the Hebrew exiles hung their harps by the river of  
Babylon. (Ps 137:2)

What to do? We have been "gifted" with some down time.  
Not all of us need it—but most do. Use it to dance with the  
wind and train your spiritual senses to discern His  
presence. Not only can you enjoy the seasonal view, but  
you can listen and enrich your life with its sounds.  
Remember, you have a God for all the seasons.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the  
sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and  
whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit."  
John 3:8

Note: There will once again be a *Memorial Moment* at the  
spring 2021 District meeting. If you have lost a member  
during the time of spring 2020 to spring 2021, please  
forward the name(s). We would like to recognize them.  
Include : 1.Club name, 2.Member's full name, 3.How long  
a member 4.If a charter member or served as president  
(which years served). Send to: [pamann1724@yahoo.com](mailto:pamann1724@yahoo.com)  
or call 804-598-2650

# Garden Club Themes and Projects 2020-2021

## National Garden Club

President: Gay Austin  
Theme: **Plant America**  
Projects: Plant America Community Grant Program helping clubs fund projects: emphasis on conservation, natural habitats, membership and youth participation.

<http://www.GardenClub.org/>

## South Atlantic Region

Director: Carolyn S. McCafferty  
Theme: **Jump at Every Opportunity**

<http://www.SouthAtlanticRegionGardenClubs.org>

## Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

President: Mary Sue Floyd  
Theme: **Today's Actions Pave the Way to Tomorrow**  
Projects: Monarch Butterfly Waystations  
Planting Together Community Projects  
Planting Trees for Tomorrow

<http://VirginiaGardenClubs.org>

## Piedmont District

President: JoAnn McNabb  
Theme: **Let's Learn Grow & Laugh Together**

<http://www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org>

### Blue Star Memorial Marker Notice

by Barbara Hollister, Blue Star Memorial Chair

Dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker located on highway #301 in Chester will NOT take place on November 11 as originally re-scheduled.

Hopefully, the dedication can take place in May 2021.

SAVE THE DATE  
April 25-27, 2021



2021 VFGC Convention  
Richmond, VA

- "Vision of Beauty" Calendars are again available from Mary Wiblin. Orders due by September 1 – see order form at end of this newsletter
- As part of the NGC Plant America initiative, a special daffodil cultivar is offered exclusively to Garden Club members, with a portion of proceeds going to NGC –order form at end of this newsletter
- VFGC's Virtual Plant Sale fundraiser is happening now to support the VFGC Scholarship fund – details, see last page of this newsletter

## Calendar

### 2020

Aug 31-Sept 3 Flower Show School, Course I  
Lynchburg, VA (details, Summer ODG)  
Sept 1 "Vision of Beauty" Calendar orders due  
Sept. 15 Youth Projects Grants Deadline  
Nov 1 VFGC Virtual Plant Sale checks due  
Dec 1 Awards Deadline: Forms to District Chair

### 2021

Jan 4 Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl posters due to District Chair  
Mar 15 Piedmont District Spring Meeting  
Richmond, VA  
Apr 17-25 Virginia Historic Garden Week  
Apr 25-27 VFGC Convention, Richmond  
May 17-20 NGC Convention, Rutherford, NJ  
June 6-12 National Garden Week

## “KEYS TO THE FUTURE”

### Youth Project Grants

by Melissa Damiano

The “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs. All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant up to \$1000 for the purpose of working with and helping youth realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats, becoming good stewards of the earth. The scope of these programs may include benefits to the community, environmental awareness/education, plant-to-food connections, outdoor classroom projects, horticulture education, and the social aspects of gardening.≈

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020** Must be submitted by a VFGC member garden club.

FORM: More information and forms under the **Youth** tab, on the VFGC website [www.viriniagardenclubs.org](http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org)

HOW TO APPLY: Please fill out the application form, include a budget and mail to:  
Melissa Damiano - VFGC Grants Committee  
9436 Park Bluff Terrace Chesterfield, VA 23838-8957 or  
email [mtdamiano@aol.com](mailto:mtdamiano@aol.com). Phone: 804-796-3287

## Every Vote Matters

by Susan DelSordo  
Piedmont District Legislative Chairman



The one way to ensure that we as individuals and our communities are well represented by our legislators is to get out and vote! Not to mention the fact that voting holds elected officials accountable for their behavior while in office. Voting and democracy is important to our nation because it provides us with a voice to express our opinions and vote for what we believe in as individuals.

Make sure to vote in the presidential and Virginia state and local elections November 3, 2020.

## 2020-2021 Awards

by Joanne Wallace

**Deadline for Awards Applications:  
December 1, 2020**

Club Presidents, Awards Chairmen and committees can find applications and additional resources on the Piedmont website:

<http://www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org>

Awards lists can be found on the **Forms** Page.

Please feel free to contact your Piedmont District Awards Chair, Joanne Wallace:

804-683-9006

[dougandjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:dougandjoanne@gmail.com)

## Event Rescheduled

### *Violet Bank Garden Club*

(circumstances permitting)

## Hosts a Design Show and Luncheon

*Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
at the Country Club of Petersburg  
1250 Flank Road, Petersburg, VA*

*Doors open at 9:00 AM  
Design Show at 10:00 AM  
followed by the luncheon*

*Ticket donation: \$35.00  
Available from Jan Pingel*



Garden entry continues with timed tickets ordered online. During August, enjoy Flowers after Five, Fidos after Five, and Fridays Alfresco. Face coverings required.

**Ginter Fall PlantFest** Friday, September 18, 9AM- 5PM  
and Saturday, September 19, 9AM-3PM



# Horticulture and Quarantine Gardening in Virginia's Piedmont District

by Jane Earle, Piedmont District Horticulture Chairman

Successfully growing your own vegetables is a highly respected skillset that is acquired at different ages. You may have learned at an early age how tasty a home-grown tomato is or how freshly grown green beans are the best.

Supply and demand during the pandemic and quarantine that we have experienced so far in 2020 can rekindle those passions for freshly grown kitchen gardening trends that have been so popular in recent years.

Congratulations to the many who have participated in helping with the food supply chain and shared their bounty!



Image source: copyright ggh

Fortunately, neighbors have shared their delicious vegetables. When the aspiration of enjoying a sustainable harvest from a personal vegetable garden does not pan out, learning from this experience serves as an introduction to plentiful resources in a continuum.

For anyone interested in growing winter vegetables, a virtual visit to the local county extension office and/or their website of reliable supporting publications regarding soil

Ph acidity and alkalinity, and mixes of compost, gardening soil and fertilizing is compelling. Almost any topic is covered and if you cannot find an answer to your question, the teams are in place to find an answer.

While spending more time in the immediate home environment outside, be on the lookout for any signs of problems that can affect the community. One specific invasive pest that can be traced to specific horticulture is the Spotted Red-Lanternfly.

Virginia Extension Office of Virginia Polytechnical University: Contact Protocol/

Use your county office or see state contact available here

<https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html>

The information available includes the plants that feed the Red Lanternfly and are fruit trees, grapes and hops, Walnut trees in addition to the Tree-of-Heaven.

Please see the following link of the Virginia DCR and On the *Virginia Invasive Plant Species List*, you will find at the top of the list for the last five years, Tree-of-Heaven, High Invasiveness in the Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal Regions.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Reservation, Division of Natural Heritage. Natural Heritage Technical Document 14-11. Richmond. Citation and Photo credits are at the following link for your viewing and reporting.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>

Annuals, biennials, perennials, and bulbs are still my favorites as well as flowering shrubs. Yes, there is help for preventing pests that will compromise the beauty of your garden. Please be observant and follow protocol and plan for your next plantings and removal of plants that may be propagating the infestation.

**Fall Kitchen Gardens Zoom class August 22nd**  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

## Native Plant Recommendations for Dry Shade

by Carolyn Shiflet

In the heat of summer, the flowers seem to dry up even when watered -- all the more reason to use our *natives*. Let me introduce you to a few natives for dry shade that you could consider for the next planting season. These would be planted under pines, or broad leaf oaks or even maples. There should be dense tree roots with shallow soil. Compost with chopped leaves and other material would be helpful with the planting.

You might try *Anemone quinquefolia* or Wind Flower. This is a spring bloomer with white flowers that sway in the breeze.



Another is *Lobelia siphilitica* which is a blue variety of lobelia. Blues are a welcome contrast in the landscape of many other colors. Lobelia reaches about two feet tall and blooms from July to October.

Lastly, let me suggest *Conoclenium coelestinum* or Mist Flower. It is lovely mixed with other annuals or perennials with its fuzzy blue blooms. It can be aggressive but is a welcome addition when it is too hot to work in the garden.



All these selections seem to withstand our adverse weather conditions, as good natives would.

## The NGC Virtual Flower Show: *Perfect Vision 2020*

The National Garden Club convention was cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic, but that didn't stop the show, the flower show, that is. The leadership quickly devised a way to change *Perfect Vision 2020* into a virtual flower show to keep our members involved. This international event had approximately 540 entries from over 10 countries and 30 states, in the Horticulture, Design and Botanical Arts Divisions.

Virginia was well represented in the award winner and 90+ exhibits. **Congratulations to Piedmont District garden club members:**

- In Design, **Diane Burgess**, of River Road Garden Club and the Richmond Designer's Guild, received a 90+ for her underwater design in Class 2, I Can See Clearly Now.
- In the Horticulture Division, Section B Perennials, **Kathy Ward**, of Salisbury Garden Club and the Richmond Designer's Guild, received a first place for her *Hippeastrum* 'Charisma'.
- In Horticulture Section D, Foliage Perennials, **Diane Burgess** received a 90+ for her *Polystichum polyblepharum*
- In Horticulture Section E, Container Grown Plants, **JoAnn McNabb** of West Hanover Garden Club, River Road Garden Club and Richmond Designer's Guild, received a 90+ for her *Phalaenopsis amabilis*.

The results and photos of some of the horticulture, designs and botanical arts can be seen on the National Garden Clubs' Facebook page.

The winners and 90+ entries from Division III, Seeing is Believing, the photographic section, were absolutely amazing. They can be seen here:

<http://gardenclub.org/resources/2020-convention/NGC-Seeing-is-Believing-Contest-Winners.pdf>

## “Garden Clubbing During the Pandemic”

Several weeks ago, a request was sent out to Piedmont District garden club presidents asking them to submit their club’s plans during the pandemic. Here are a few of the responses received...

### Amelia County Garden Club

- In September we will meet at a local nursery; afterwards, members can shop for mums.
- In October and going forward, we will meet, socially distanced, in the large County conference room. We will not have hostesses; members can bring a drink and snack.
- Members will still bring exhibits and talk about them, but they will not be judged.
- We will continue to maintain our strong presence in the county newspaper with 3+ columns/ articles per month that are written by Jean O’Malley, President of the club.
- Have cancelled our normal Horticulture Therapy programs at the local nursing home until 2022.

### Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

- September meeting will be held in the outdoor pavilion of the local museum, bringing our own lawn chairs and lunch. The program on cascade designs will be presented by one of our members, who happens to be a member of Creative Floral Arrangers of America.
- Another meeting will be a seed-planting workshop which will supply plants for our April plant sale at the local farmers’ market.
- Our Conservation Committee has been successful in prompting our county board of supervisors to establish an anti-litter committee. This has resulted in communication with other committees in neighboring counties, who will share ideas and accomplishments with us at one of our meetings.

### Ginter Park Garden Club

- Will meet regularly, practicing social distancing and all other safety protocol
- Will continue to plan for Spring Market on March 27, 2021

- We will continue to support the needs of Ginter Park Elementary School and Garden Therapy with the residents at The Hermitage when facility access is allowed

### Manassas Garden Club

Outdoor meeting with social distancing at Nelson Park, which our club has been instrumental in beautifying this year. One of our members will present a tutorial program.

- Tour of gardens at Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg
- Making boxwood wreathes (club presenter)
- Flower arranging (club presenter)
- Semi-annual flower show (May 2021)

### Oxford Garden Club

Contacted the Masonic Lodge, where we hold our meeting, and they have set their safety procedures in place for us to follow. This too is subject to change depending on health safety protocols of our city/state.

### River Road Garden Club

- River Road Garden Club-COVID-19 Rules will be followed for 2020-2021 programs: social distancing 6 feet & wear a mask. Due to COVID-19, meeting location will be reviewed each month.
- September 2020: Meeting will be held at Tuckahoe Plantation, tour gardens and grounds
- Angie Bowald, daylily grower, will make a presentation on “Growing & Caring for Daylilies”, either at our regular meeting location, or via a virtual meeting if conditions warrant it.
- Possible zoom/virtual meeting with a pre-recorded presentation from possibly one of the master gardeners’ advanced training programs.
- We will have design and horticulture exhibits; if meetings are virtual, members will take a photo of their exhibit and they will receive exhibit credit.
- Flower show planned for April...hope to have it!  
*...continued, following page*

## The Joy of Birds in Trying Times

by Phillipa Smith

### Salisbury Garden Club

- We have created design and horticulture exhibit schedules for the year but to start off, we are asking that members take photographs and send them in; they will not be judged but they will get exhibit credit.
- We are not sure what the year will bring, but we have planned programs for our meetings from September to January. In the fall, we are so lucky to have talented club members presenting programs, and they have graciously offered to roll over into the spring, in case the fall meetings are canceled due to the pandemic. Consequently, we have not planned meetings in the spring yet.
- We are polling our members to ask if they would be willing to zoom for these programs. We're also looking at possibilities of tours at Cross Creek nursery and Colesville. It's a very different year for garden clubs, so flexibility is the key!

### West Hanover Garden Club

- We are planning to have a Zoom meeting in August to touch base with our members and to test the system.
- A field trip to a local flower grower in September.
- In October we are planning to have design and hort exhibits in our president's back yard. Members will bring their own lawn chairs and we will get boxed lunches from Homemades by Suzanne in Ashland.
- We will have design and horticulture exhibits as usual
- Future planning is ongoing.

**We hope this will help you in your planning efforts, and if you have something to share, please send your ideas, club programs, to JoAnn McNabb at [josiemcva@gmail.com](mailto:josiemcva@gmail.com) and she will get them out to the club presidents.**

I must say this has been a most peculiar summer. I hope that you and yours are staying safe and using all the savvy universal precautions to keep yourself that way! It's so simple to wear a mask, wash your hands more frequently, avoid large crowds and use common sense about going into situations that raise some questions about safety. My husband and I have made some small day trips, and we have discovered a couple of new favorite spots. I have learned to zoom and have been to several meetings that way. And I've enjoyed my time at home getting to know the love of my life again. We've had sad times as well. We lost Guy's brother recently. He will be greatly missed.

Despite unusual and sometimes sad times, our backyard birds continue to be source of joy. We have had a pair of doves which visit every afternoon; a goldfinch has joined the regulars; our brown thrasher continues to thrill me; and many tufted titmouse, purple finches, and bluebirds have appeared. Last summer we had families of bluebirds which came to the birdbaths, and now they have returned. And the doves continue to walk out into the birdbath and just sit enjoying a quiet end of the day in the water.

Just the other day, we enjoyed seeing a ruby-throated hummingbird. We put several pots of red flowers on the patio this summer, and they must have drawn this little bird. Many years ago, we began to put out sugar water on a regular basis. But we haven't done that in a long time, as it became harder and harder to keep the water clean. Well, maybe I'll start putting that sugar water out again. I have until October to do it, and hummingbirds are so fascinating.

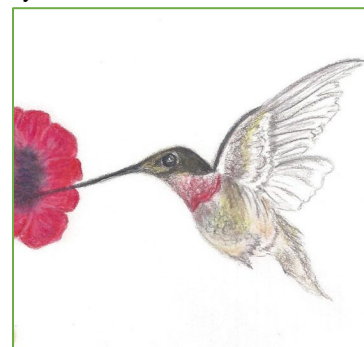
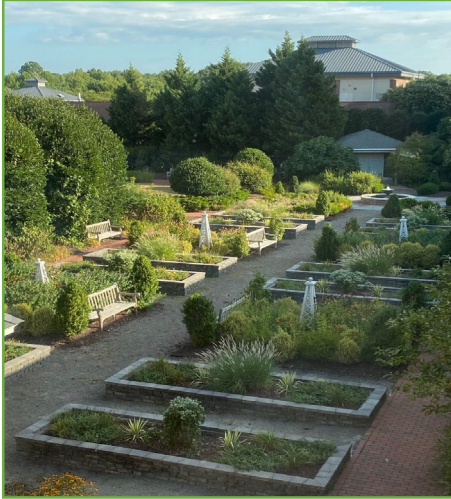


Image: copyright ggh

**I have an idea: why don't you write to me and tell me your own backyard bird story?** I will compile what you send me and include it in a future edition of *Footprints*. My email is [cguygo@verizon.net](mailto:cguygo@verizon.net). Hope to hear from one or two of you in the near future.



## Healing Garden at Bon Secours



A Piedmont District Grant helped Hanover Towne Garden Club renovate part of this lovely healing garden at Bon Secours, Mechanicsville..

The next deadline for Piedmont District grant applications is February 15, 2021.



### FOOTPRINTS

#### *Old Dominion Gardener*

Send articles to:

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor

email: [Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org](mailto:Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org)

PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due before the following deadlines:

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – WINTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2021- SPRING

MAY1, 2020– SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2020- FALL

Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due dates.

Electronic transmission preferred, photos and graphics encouraged. Please submit photos in jpeg format. Submit text in

Word format, preferably non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, special events, announcements about upcoming events or fundraisers.

**Club news for *Old Dominion Gardener* is also submitted to the *Footprints* editor.** To allow time for review and editing to meet the ODG due dates, please submit ODG articles two weeks prior to the above due dates please submit two weeks in advance of the deadlines above and indicate in the email subject line: 'ODG submission'. Ideally we would not duplicate feature articles in both *Footprints* and *ODG*, although some announcements may be specified for both publications.

## Butterfly Garden Planted in Memory of Gita Agrawal

by Jan Pingel

Violet Bank Garden Club dedicated a butterfly garden at White Bank Park in Colonial Heights, VA. in May 2020. The raised bed garden was built and planted in memory of Gita Agrawal, a long-time Violet Bank member who passed in January 2020. The garden is part of the Maddie Mann Play Park for Accessible Play, completed in October 2019 and dedicated on December 7, 2019.



*Violet Bank club members prepare to plant the memorial butterfly garden*



With the assistance of Jan Pingel, project chairperson, the raised bed was built by the Colonial Heights Recreation and Parks Department under the direction of Amy Armstrong, city horticulturist, using retaining wall concrete stones and filling the bed with compost. On a rainy day in May, four members of Violet Bank Garden Club planted two 'Lo and Behold' butterfly bushes, one hardy *lantana*, *coreopsis*, *rudbeckia*, and butterfly weed. A metal commemorative sign was designed by the Violet Bank Garden Club planning committee and printed by a local business.

Funding for this project was provided by the City of Colonial Heights Recreation and Parks Department, a Piedmont District Grant affiliated with the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, and the Violet Bank Garden Club.

# It's Time to Start the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest!

by Pat Merson, District Chairman

The 2021 Smokey Bear Poster Contest that is open to children in first through fifth grades. Last year I received five "local" winning posters from various PD Garden Clubs. The posters were from first, second, fourth, and fifth grades. It would be nice to have a representative winning poster from each of the applicable grades this year.



Image source: NGC website

Please note that there are several rules, but the most important rules are those I have included below. Each year we have received beautiful posters that have featured Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear together [see Rule #2] ; posters on poster board [see Rule #5]; and lovely posters without the proper message from Smokey Bear and/or Woodsy Owl.

You don't have to wait until September when school starts, you can reach children this summer – think day care, summer day camps, 4H, etc. Winning local posters are due to me no later than January 4 , 2021 to be considered in state competition.

Go to [www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org](http://www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org) for ALL Rules and Guidelines.

Posters are due to me no later than **January 4 , 2021.**

Send to:

:

Pat Merson  
11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy.  
Chesterfield, VA 23838

## What Your Club Needs to Know

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2020 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles.

### Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

### Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.

### Excerpt from the Official Rules

2. Posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must **not** feature both together.
3. Smokey Bear posters **must include** Smokey's wildfire prevention message: "Only you Can Prevent Wildfires!" Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's conservation message: "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!"
5. Each entry should be **11 x 17** inches in size.

## New Litter /Recycling Challenge

Submitted by Deanna Schwartz, VFGC Litter Prevention/Recycling Chairman

As we consider how we can best support our Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Theme, "Today's Actions Pave the Pathways of Tomorrow," the emergence of the Coronavirus and how we practice safety to prevent the spread of this virus has created a new threat to our environment. Plastic in huge quantities has entered our lives in a new form: disposal masks and gloves.

If you already have a container in which you collect empty plastic, this solution will help because you already are geared toward recycling problems. But! Plastic disposal face masks and gloves used for preparing and serving food or helping to care for sick people present a new disposal problem. According to the Confederation of Paper Industries, these items cannot be disposed with household recycling items, for doing so would contaminate resources that could be recycled and also potentially put frontline workers at risk of infection.

CPI recommends that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be treated in the same way as domestic medical waste: bagged separately and disposed of in general waste, not with recycling plastics. Last month leading waste and recycling companies urged anyone experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to stop household recycling until they are fully recovered. All waste should be double-bagged and put in trash bin 72 hours before disposing of it.

Our actions today truly do impact tomorrow's future. Where in the past we focused on promoting proper disposal of plastic bottles, aluminum cans, paper products, cardboard, or tires, we have a new goal due to the necessity of preventing the spread of the Coronavirus.

In researching this subject, I have found no guideline offered to residents of Virginia concerning the recycling process of disposal face masks and gloves. The recommendations that apply for recycling centers in other states should apply to Virginia. It is recommended that cloth masks be used, for they can be washed and reused many times leaving no negative mark on our environment.

As members of VFGC, we are caretakers of our communities and state and as such we need to make sure this information reaches every person living in Virginia. Begin by sending out letters to your garden club members, contact local newspapers, radio stations, social networks on the internet and television stations. From our homes we can make a positive difference for future generations. Proper methods of recycling are essential for the health of our nation and planet.

## Growing Youth Gardeners

by Margie Redlin, Rappahannock Garden Club

This spring, Rappahannock Garden Club (RGC) joined volunteers from the Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club by donating 140 tomato plants for the Boys & Girls Club's tomato-growing challenge.

Plants were distributed to the youth with instructions for planting and observations to make such as the tomato blooms turning into the fruit. The contest was introduced to encourage added interest. Siblings John and Heather Headley were the first to submit photos of their plants bearing tiny green tomatoes. They were chosen as the winners. The children's mother, Amber Headley, was very proud of her children and their growing interest in gardening.

RGC thanks Joni Carter from the Boys and Girls Club for partnering with us on this youth opportunity.

Pictured is RGC member Cathie Elliott delivering tomato plants.







**Brent and Becky's Bulbs**  
**Introduces a**  
**New Narcissus Cultivar**  
**for**  
**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**N. 'Plant America'**



**N. 'Plant America'**

- **Named for and available ONLY to NGC Members.**
- Please order EARLY – Only a limited number available

**N. 'Plant America'** – A split corona daffodil - Color Code: 11 W-Y

The yellow perianth segments of this mid-season flower fold back smoothly over its white petals. It has a nice thick substance, which is why its flowers last so long. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12"-16", depending on the richness of the soil.

1. Sold only in quantities of 5 bulbs; \$8.00 per bag of 5 bulbs. *(Limit 50 per person)*
2. May be ordered individually, with friends or as a club; club orders are encouraged in order to save on shipping.
3. If they are being shipped to Virginia, add 5.3% sales tax (.42/bag).
4. **Purchase of this bulb is NOT eligible for Bloomin' Bucks Program orders.**
5. Shipping Charges:

East of the Mississippi	10% of Total or \$7.00 minimum
West of the Mississippi	15% of Total or \$9.00 minimum
Alaska, Hawaii	Actual cost of UPS/FedEx 2nd Day Air or \$15.00 minimum

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Ship-to address if different from above:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email for order confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Schedule	
Zones 3-4	Sept 15 - Oct 1
Zone 5	Oct 1 - 15
Zone 6	Oct 15-Oct 30
Zone 7	Oct 30 – Nov 15
Zones 8-9	Nov 15 – Nov 30

Item #	Number of bags	Price per bag	Total
01-1135		\$8.00	
+ Sales Tax (5.3% for Virginia shipments only)			
+ Shipping East of MS River: 10% of order total or \$7 minimum			
+Shipping West of MS River: 15% of order total or \$9 minimum			
+Shipping to Alaska, Hawaii: Actual cost of UPS/FedEx 2nd Day Air or \$15.00 minimum			
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>			

**Check payable to:** Brent and Becky's Bulbs     **Mail to:** 7900 Daffodil Lane - Gloucester, VA 23061  
**Credit card orders:** Call 877/661-2852 (toll-free) – 804/693-3966 (local)



## PIEDMONT DISTRICT FUNDRAISER

Vision of Beauty Calendars-Mary Wiblin, Chairman The National Garden Clubs Inc. will be offering the "Vision of Beauty" Calendars again this year. This Flower arrangement and Engagement Calendar has full-page color designs by club members from around the world. This calendar is a great resource for creative ideas for your own designs. **Yours truly, Mary Wiblin, has a design in the 2021 calendar.**

This is also a very easy way to help the Piedmont District raise funds. Please make sure to place your order by September 1, 2020. (Order form below). The cost is \$6.00 each and includes shipping and handling.

Please make checks payable to Piedmont District, VFGC. Calendars will be delivered to clubs and individuals at the Fall District Meeting.

If you have any questions please contact: Mary Wiblin at [mikeandmarywiblin@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeandmarywiblin@hotmail.com)

2021 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS ORDER FORM --  
**ATTENTION!!!! DEADLINE September 1, 2020**

MAIL TO: Mary Wiblin, 12208 Mt.Hermon Road, Ashland VA 23005-7807 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Piedmont District, VFGC

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Calendars @ \$6.00 = Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact Person\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_

Zip+4\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

## VFGC Fundraiser Virtual Plant Sale



Following the success of the 2019 "No Bake" Bake Sale, VFGC is staging another virtual fundraising event.

From August to November, VFGC is holding a Virtual Plant Sale to raise funds for the VFGC Scholarship Fund. Since this is a virtual sale, no plants need to be grown, watered, or weeded!

Clubs send one club check to Hazel Vance, 210 North Branch Road, Bedford, VA 24523-1240. Include club name, district, total donation amount and a list of plants *not* purchased.