



PIEDMONT DISTRICT

FOOTPRINTS

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
MEMBER, NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
VOLUME 35, NO. 2 FALL 2023

A Message from President Diane Burgess: "Growing Together"

With the cooler temperatures of fall, it is a time for planting so that roots grow deep and healthy. Resuming our club activities at meetings, sharing ideas, seeing our gardens' bounty, as well as enjoying our camaraderie, we enrich those "roots" for seasons to come. The horticulture exhibits and floral designs entered at meetings are always an important part of the club experience. They bring beauty, inspiration, cheer, and education; plus, they are so appreciated! The judging process is informative and instructional. **With these shared experiences - we are "Growing Together."**

Our Fall District Meeting will be held Monday October 16th at the Doubletree in Midlothian. All members and your guests are invited. The ballroom will be rearranged for better viewing and hearing. The registration fee will be \$45, as the cost of everything has gone up. Luncheons alone will cost almost that much when including the Hotel's 23% service charge. We promise a DAY of enjoyment and opportunity – a delightful floral design program by Lili and Mary (back by popular demand), a delicious luncheon, exciting vendor shopping, opportunity tickets for the floral arrangements created, and even a chance to win a Hilton Hotel stay! Mark your calendars and remember to register early for the best seating. See details on p 2 and registration form on p 14.

Award and grant opportunities at the District, State and National levels are included in this issue. I am so proud of all the Piedmont clubs honored by NGC. See pp 3, 5, 7. I know that many of you have projects in the works. Do pay attention to the deadlines. I encourage you to read

through all offered; if not this year, you may consider applying in the future. Advance preparation is key!

Penny Pines, Smokey Bear, and TREX® recycling programs continue in full force. See pp 6-7. I encourage all Piedmont District clubs to participate in these impactful programs to help restore and improve our environment.

Our new "Design 101" program is headed by gifted teacher and designer Kathy Ward. See the first in a series of articles in this issue (pp 9-10). In the future, Kathy will be offering hands-on instruction to complement the articles. Stay tuned! **Further educational offerings** include the Oct 2-3 Landscape Design Course and the Nov 6-8 Symposium. See the fall issue of *Old Dominion Gardener* for details and registration forms. I hope you will take advantage of these wonderful opportunities as we continue "Growing Together."

As we inevitably grow older, so do our clubs. I encourage you to invite someone younger, perhaps a daughter, granddaughter, or neighbor to your club so they can see the wonderful time we have Growing Together. Men are welcome too!

Please let me know your thoughts - whether ideas, questions, or complaints - I am here to serve you. I look forward to seeing many of you at our fall meeting on October 16th.

Diane Burgess
(burgessdiane@gmail.com)

Piedmont District Fall Meeting and Design Program

Lili Aram-Bost Program Chair
and JoAnn McNabb, Hospitality Chair

“Dazzling Designs Recycling Virginiacea” by Mary Arakelian and Lili Aram-Bost



At the fall meeting, mother and daughter design duo Mary and Lili will present a floral design program entitled "Dazzling Designs Recycling Virginiacea."

Mary was the 2018 NGC "Vision of Beauty" calendar designer of the year, and in 2024 she will have two creative designs featured in the "Vision" calendar. She is a former special educator who enjoys many creative endeavors. Mary has been known to retrieve "junque" treasures from estate sales and roadsides.

Lili is the current 2nd vice president of Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and Director of Programs for Piedmont District of VFGC. A former California speech-language pathologist, she currently is the "volunteer of the month" at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, as well as the Bloemendaal Council representative for VFGC. Lili has had multiple creative "Vision of Beauty" floral designs published including one in the upcoming 2024 issue. She enjoys recycling, painting, and plaiting dried plant materials.

Mary and Lili, both master level NGC judges, belong to CFAA, OFAD, Richmond Designer's Guild, Piedmont Judge's Council, and Salisbury Garden Club. Their floral designs have been featured in Fine Arts and Flowers as well as Hirschler Foundation VMFA atrium displays.

PIEDMONT DISTRICT FALL MEETING

Monday October 16, 2023

WHERE: Doubletree by Hilton
1021 Koger Center Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23235

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

8:30-9:00 President's Meeting
8:30-9:45 Registration
10:00-11:15 General Meeting
11:15-12:00 Break / Shopper's Spree
12:00-1:00 Luncheon
1:00-2:45 Program:

Mary and Lili the present a clever design program featuring recycled items.

COST: \$45.00

MENU CHOICES: Italian herb-grilled chicken breast with olive oil and a nut-free pesto sauce with seasonal vegetables and oven roasted potatoes; or grilled filet of salmon with a lemon beurre blanc sauce, steamed rice, and seasonal vegetables; or Chef's Choice Vegetarian option; all served with Caesar salad with parmesan and croutons, rolls, beverages, and seasonal fresh fruit tart for dessert.

Reservation Form – see page 14 of this *Footprints* issue or download from the website:
<https://piedmontdistrictvfgc.org/>

Mary's design at
the 2022 VFGC
Convention



New Administrations, New Presidents, New Themes

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

<https://gardenclub.org>

NGC President

Brenda Moore

“Go Green – Plant America”

bmoore@gardenclub.org

South Atlantic Region (SAR)

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

SAR Director

Carcille Burchette

“Go Green...Plant Natives”

carcillecburchette@hotmail.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org>

VFGC President

Valerie Story

“Every Person Makes a Difference”

valstory@aol.com

Piedmont District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

<https://piedmontdistrictvfgc.org>

Piedmont District President

Diane Burgess

“Growing Together”

burgessdiane@gmail.com

VFGC State Convention 2024

90th Annual
Convention

May 21-22

Make a Difference
Virginia



Boar's Head Resort, Charlottesville

CALENDAR

- Aug 21-24 VFGC Flower Show School I
- Sept 15 Deadline: Grants to Beautify & Restore
- Sept 15 Deadline: Youth Project Grants
- Sept 26 3-7 pm VFGC at Virginia State Fair
- Sept 27 10a-2pm VFGC at Virginia State Fair
- Oct 2-3 VFGC Landscape Design School
- Oct 15 Deadline NGC Grant Applications
- Oct 16 Piedmont District Fall Meeting
- Nov 1 Deadline: *Footprints* and ODG, Winter
- Nov 6-8 VFGC Symposium
- Dec 1 Awards Applications deadline
- Jan 5 Smokey Bear poster submittals due
- Feb 1 Deadline: *Footprints* and ODG, Spring
- Feb 15 Deadline: Piedmont District Grants

Apply for District Grants by Feb 15

Lynn Bell, Chair

Piedmont District will continue to offer grants for NEW and CONTINUING worthy club projects during the 2023-2025 term. Worthy projects can include landscaping at schools, libraries, roadsides and other public spaces, environmental and community projects, youth activities, and garden therapy. Priority will be given to projects that promote the Presidents' Projects (NGC, SAR, VFGC) and that could not be undertaken without some financial assistance.

Why not consider applying for funds for a club project? The “user friendly” grant application form is included in this *Footprints* issue (p 15) and is also on the PD website. Please submit only one application per club per year. Deadline for submission is February 15, 2024. Applications will be reviewed by committee, and winners will be announced at the Spring District Meeting on March 18, 2024.

Reflections on a New Role

Lorna Boucher, District Chaplain

I have to begin by saying that Diane has taken a tremendous leap of faith by entrusting me with the Chaplain role for Piedmont District. I will try very hard not to let her down.

With thoughtful insight, Pam Mann encouraged us not only to look closely at the natural beauty of our world, but also to ensure that we are diligent custodians, looking after it for future generations. Pam, you have been an inspiration to us all and I am truly privileged, although downright nervous, to be taking over from you -- wishing you good health and much happiness in the years ahead.

So that members are not too puzzled by the strange voice you will hear when I speak at our meetings, I thought I should provide a tiny bit of background! I was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland. My father was Irish, and my mother was born in Tipperary, Ireland, although her parents were Scottish. I married an Englishman who brought me here in 1993. We have two sons and four grandchildren. I have to confess that I did not want to leave my job where I had charge of a pre-prep school. We still have close ties with the UK, but we count ourselves very blessed to be here in Richmond where we have made so many truly wonderful American friends.

As we embark on another year in our "Gardeners' World," please help us, O Lord, to count our blessings. Help us to be strong in adversity and brave in times of sadness. Remind us that you are always there to relieve us and comfort us if only we ask. Nevertheless, let us rejoice in all the wonders, love, and happiness which, undoubtedly, will touch our lives as well. Thank you for this amazing world and helping us to look at it with determination to keep it that way.

Blue Star Memorial Dedication



On August 4th, the long-awaited dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker took place at the conservatory and the VFGC healing garden, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. VFGC Program Chair *Barbara Hollister* presided over the ceremony that included Presentation of Colors, patriotic songs, the history of the Blue Star program by VFGC President *Val Story*, and inspiring remarks by military veterans.

VFGC Vice President *Sally Harrison* created and presented the memorial wreath featuring Poet's Laurel, the time-honored symbol of victory. *Mary Owen*, VFGC President 2021-23, made the official marker presentation to *Brian Trader*, President and CEO at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.



Barbara Hollister – Blue Star Memorial Chair - at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden post-ceremony reception with the stunning centerpiece created by JoAnn McNabb



Congratulations! Piedmont District NGC Awards

We can all be very proud of the national recognition earned by our District, as announced at the National Convention at The Greenbrier in June.

Piedmont District Certificate in Appreciation for Publication MAE 4-B-1 for Footprints

Hilliard Park Garden Club – Certificate in Appreciation for Therapy Garden GC-3

*Richmond Designers' Guild for Club Standard Flower Show Award 1 B – **Certificate of Merit and Purple Rosette** for "It's Summertime and the Living is Easy"*

*River Road Garden Club for Club Small Standard Flower show Award 5 B **Certificate of Merit and Gold Rosette** for "Mother Earth Awakening"*

Salisbury Garden Club- Certificate in Appreciation for Website designed and managed by Club Members – MAE 2A.

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club- Certificate in Appreciation for Beautification Project CE-5

Sue Lindsay, Salisbury Garden Club, Certificate in Appreciation for Edible Gardening GC-2

Thomas Jefferson Garden Club - Certificate in Appreciation for Landscaping of public grounds CE – 8

*Violet Bank Garden Club **Certificate of Commendation** for Floral Design Program FD-2*

Awards Applications Due Dec 1

Joanne Wallace, Piedmont District Awards Chair

On the last day of the VFGC State Convention this year, thirteen clubs within the Piedmont District were awarded blue ribbons for excellence achieved on many levels. Many of those award winners were further recognized at the national convention. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Please take time to visit

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org> where all State awards are listed. Click on "Awards," then click on "VFGC Award Winners," located on the right side. Hopefully, more clubs will be listed next year!

Information regarding award applications can be found under the 'Forms' tab on the website:

<https://piedmontdistrictvfgc.org/>

The application cover sheet has been designed to simplify submission. This year, submissions may be made either by mail or sent online.

Applications must be received (or postmarked) by December 1st to be eligible. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me for help. Good luck to each and every garden club!!

Contact: Joanne Wallace

[Dougandjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:Douganjoanne@gmail.com)

(804) 683-9006

Piedmont District Memorial Moment

The traditional "memorial moment" will be held at the Spring 2024 meeting. Send notices of deceased members to Lorna Boucher:

lornaboucher710@gmail.com

Include: club name, deceased member's name, year of passing, and whether she/he served as president and/or was a charter member.

Restoring Forested Land through NGC's Penny Pines Project

Carol Medlin, Chair

Piedmont District is proud to support NGC's "Penny Pines Project". The Natural Disasters/USA Fund was established in 1999 by NGC in



partnership with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Service. Many states continue to suffer from Natural Disasters: floods, wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, earthquakes, development, and disease. In Virginia alone, according to state environmental groups, 16,000 acres of trees are lost annually to development and disease. Penny Pines donations are made in units of \$68.00. Donations are used by the USDA Forest Service or state forestry, supplementing federal funds to replace burnt, damaged, or destroyed trees.

You may make a club or individual donation to honor, memorialize, or recognize any club member – or a friend or family member not connected with garden club. A lovely NGC certificate will be sent upon receipt of your donation.

To support Penny Pines:

- Download / print the form from the website.
- Donations are \$68.00. If you make more than one donation, a form must be completed for EACH \$68.00 donation.
- Make checks payable to 'NGC-Penny Pines.'
- Send completed form(s) and check(s) to Carol Medlin: 594 Pine Crest Drive, Heathsville, Virginia 22473-4304

Recycling: Trex® Project Continues



Piedmont District clubs have been enthusiastic participants in the VFGC Trex® plastic film recycling challenge. The project continues to be a focus in 2023-25.

Congratulations to Piedmont District top recycling clubs who have earned Trex® garden benches for each 500 pounds of plastic film collected and recorded.

*Canterbury Garden Club
Hanover Towne Garden Club
River Road Garden Club
Salisbury Garden Club
Sleepy Hollow Garden Club
Stonehenge Garden Club
Violet Bank Garden Club
Woodland Pond Garden Club*

All clubs are encouraged to continue - or start - new recycling challenges. Decide on a six-month challenge period and sign up by going to <https://trex.com>.



NGC Plant America Grants 2023-2024

Through the Plant America Grant program, up to **\$2,000.00** may be awarded to be used for direct expenses of projects. Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects in communities may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

Applications must be submitted by October 15.

To learn more and apply, go to:

<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants>

September 15 VFGC Grants Deadline

Melissa Damiano, VFGC Grants Chair

VFGC has two grant programs available to member garden clubs:

Youth Project Grants ('Keys to the Future'):

Provides financial support for club members to work with youth and help them realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats for becoming good stewards of the earth. Contact:

VFGC Chairman Melissa Damiano,
mtdamiano@aol.com, 804-796-3287

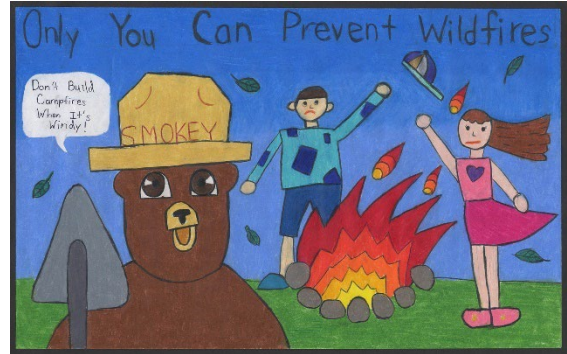
Grants to Beautify and Restore: Provides financial support for clubs to restore gardens that have been damaged by natural disasters within Virginia OR beautify areas within Virginia garden club communities. Contact: VFGC Chairman Judy Ann Fray, ja.fray@verizon.net, 540-948-4220.

For more information and applications, go to:

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org> .

Smokey Is Turning 80! It's Time for the 2024 Poster Contest Honoring Smokey

Pat Merson, District Chairman



For over 50 years, children in first through fifth grades have participated in the Poster Contest. Children demonstrate their knowledge about wildfire prevention and environmental conservation principles. **For 2024, the contest is focused exclusively on Smokey Bear in honor of his 80th birthday.**

The posters are first judged on the district level. Winning first through fifth grade posters are sent to the state level for judging. *Congratulations to Sleepy Hollow Garden Club* for submitting the 2023 fifth-grade winning poster (tie) at the VFGC state level.

Garden clubs can contact elementary schools, after-school programs, scout troops, daycares, and 4H programs about contest participation.

Go to <https://viriniagardenclubs.org> for contest rules and regulations.

Posters are due to Pat Merson, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Bear Chairman, no later than January 5, 2024. Pat's address:

11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy., Chesterfield, Virginia 23838

All Piedmont District Garden Clubs are encouraged to participate. Let's showcase kids' artistic ability and creativity by participating in the Smokey Bear Poster Contest!

Tips for Spring-Blooming Bulbs

Janice Beatty – Horticulture & Cultivar Chair

We plant spring blooming bulbs in the fall because they need their “beauty sleep.” Planting bulbs in the fall is a good investment for money spent, giving you years of seasonal color. The word ‘bulb’ is often used for any plant that can store food underground. The list includes not only tulips and daffodils (true bulbs) but also crocus (corms), anemone (tubers), lily-of-the valley (rhizomes), and ranunculus (tuberous roots).

Planting Requirements

-The optimum pH for the soil is 6-7. A soil test will provide this information plus give recommendations to improve your soil.

-The soil must drain well.

-Select a site with at least 5-6 hours of direct sunlight a day.

-Decide on a design. Bulbs are much more attractive when planted in mass design or drifts.

-Select bulbs that are plump and firm. Discard any that are soft, rotted, moldy, dented, or nicked.

-Spring flowering bulbs should be planted late September to mid-December.

-The general rule of thumb for successful beautiful blooms is to plant them at a depth of two to three times the height of the bulb.

-Tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths should be planted with the point of the bulb up and root downward.

If your goal is to plant in a drift or grouping, it is recommended to dig and loosen the entire bed to the proper depth. Press the bulbs into the soil and cover with soil. The planting should last longer in a fully excavated bed because soil will drain better. You will also be able to admire them from afar.



“Drift” Planting. Philadelphia Flower Show.
Photo Credit: J Beatty

To provide needed moisture, water the bed and settle the soil. Cover the bed with mulch to minimize the effect of fluctuation in temperature and maintain moisture.

Maintenance Requirements: Post-Bloom Care

Cut off flowers when faded to prevent seed formation which allows more food to be stored in the bulbs underground.

After blooming, the foliage should NOT be removed or mowed off until it turns yellow and dies back naturally. The plant needs these leaves to manufacture nutrients that are stored in the bulb for next year’s beautiful blooms.

If you do nothing else this week, get your bulbs. Then figure out where to plant them!

References: New Jersey Cooperative Extension

DESIGN 101

aka Floral Design made Easy!

by Kathy Ward

Article One – The Basics

Does the idea of creating a floral design make you break out in a cold sweat? Would you like to be able to make floral designs but have no idea where to start? If so, please keep reading!

I have been asked to help Piedmont District members see the fun in creating floral arrangements. This will be accomplished with quarterly articles in the Piedmont District newsletter and by holding floral design workshops for Piedmont District members. We are hoping to hold our first class in the winter or spring of 2024. Look for more information in the *Footprints* winter edition.

This first article focuses on what you need to do before you start your design. The many decisions you make before cutting a stem will impact your resulting creation. You will need to decide which container to use, which flowers to include, and how you will keep your flowers in place.

Choice of Container - The most important characteristics of containers are that they are watertight and stable. Before using a container, always test it by filling it with water and placing it on newspaper or a towel. You will be able to see very quickly if the container is leaking, by the water spot that appears. If your container leaks, 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. Weight can always be added to the bottom of a container by adding stones or glass beads. A container with a wider base will be more stable than one with a narrow base.

The color of the container will also impact your design. In general, when new to floral design, it is

better to choose containers that are solid black, brown, gray or green with a matte finish. This type of container will complement any flowers or design styles. Initially, it is best to avoid containers that are white, very bright or shiny. Glass containers can also be tricky to use, as you do not want to be able to see the flower stems in the container.

Choice of Mechanics – Mechanics are how you hold your plant material in the desired position. Mechanics should be easy to use and invisible in the final design. Two of the most common ways of holding stems in place are a pin holder or floral foam. A pin holder, also known as a kenzan or frog, is usually used when you are making a design with a limited amount of plant material. The best kenzans are heavy and have needles close together. They can be used for fresh or dried plant material.

The second common type of mechanic is floral foam. It comes in two types – one for dried plant materials and one for fresh. The floral foam for fresh plant material is called wet floral foam, as you must soak it in water before using it. Foam should always be placed on the surface of the water and allowed to absorb the water slowly.

Choice of Plant Materials – The plant material that you incorporate into your floral design should be a combination of various forms, colors and textures. These contrasting elements will create interest in your design.

Plant material comes in basically three different forms – linear, round and filler.

- **Linear** forms help establish the structural framework of the design. Examples of linear plant materials include decorative wood, sticks, branches, cattails, pussy willow, iris leaves, delphiniums, liatris, gladiolus, etc.
- **Round** forms include chrysanthemums, roses, lilies, Gerbera daisies, sunflowers, dahlias, tulips, etc.

- **Filler** plant material generally has smaller blooms. Fillers can include spray forms of roses and chrysanthemums, fern, statice, goldenrod, Limonium, hypericum berries, etc.

When choosing your plant material, color choice is also important. You will want to create color palettes that are pleasing to you. They may be different shades of a single color (monochromatic) or perhaps colors that are close together on the color wheel – for example reds, oranges, and yellows (analogous) or possibly colors that “pop” and are across from each other on the color wheel like purple and yellow (complementary). When choosing a color palette, I like to start with a bicolored or tricolored flower and then choose other flowers that will echo these colors.



A simple floral design made with sticks for line, sunflowers for the round flower form and filler of purple Canterbury bells and goldenrod.

You now have a good idea of the decisions you need to make before beginning your floral design: choose a container, choose a mechanic, and

choose your plant material. I hope this has given you some things to think about as you study the flowers at the grocery store or look at floral designs at your club meetings. You will never see floral arrangements the same way again!

If you are interested in learning more about basic floral design, Flower Show School Course I will be taught in Richmond on Wednesday, August 23. It is an opportunity to learn what makes a good design. Everyone is invited to participate. You are welcome just to come and learn. Taking the exam is optional. For more information, see the Piedmont District website (<https://piedmontdistrictvfgc.org>).

Rosecrest Garden Club
invites lovers of flowers,
holiday decorations, and fashion to

*Fabulous Fall
Holiday Gala*

Country Club of Petersburg
1250 Flank Road, Petersburg, VA
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Doors open at 8:45 a.m. Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Gala will feature a floral decorating demonstration
by Betty Ann Galway of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Enjoy a delicious luncheon by the Country Club chefs and
a Fashion Walk by All Manor of Things
with an opportunity to purchase a variety of items.
Exciting door prizes and a silent auction!

Tickets are available for a donation of \$40.
Proceeds help support the Rosecrest Scholarship program.
Limited seating, so please plan early to attend.
Deadline—October 11, 2023

For tickets contact chairpersons
Carolyn Shiflet
carolyn.shiflet0865@gmail.com 804-536-0865
OR
Marie Crites
mstcove@yahoo.com 804-265-5923

Plan to attend for a fun-filled time with folks who love flowers!

What Is the Impact of Climate Change on Birds?

by Sharon Lemke, Committee Chair

Bird populations are declining around the world. While many factors contribute: habitat loss, outdoor cats, pesticides, and window collisions, it is increasingly clear that climate change is an important driver behind this worrying trend. For any species to survive with climate change, it will depend on how well they can adapt. Birds are impacted in many ways, both direct and indirect.

Direct Impacts

Climate change can alter where birds live, the timing of their migration patterns, egg laying, and even the sizes and shapes of their bodies. Data sets have shown that many North American bird species have been shifting their winter and breeding ranges northward over time, which means some birds have been seen further north than a few decades ago. Some measurements have shown that in many species, birds' bodies are getting smaller, and their wings are getting longer as global temperatures heat up. Smaller bodies may help disperse excess body heat in warming habitats.

Indirect Impacts

Drought and fire—Intense drought and more frequent wildfires can alter or destroy nesting areas and habitat upon which vulnerable species rely.

Sea-level rise—As sea-levels rise, some species such as the saltmarsh sparrows can easily be drowned by high tides. Their survival will depend on how quickly new marshes form further inland.

Disease—Drought and warmer temperatures are driving the spread of West Nile virus. The virus is threatening wild birds, especially corvids such as crows and jays.

Timing mismatches—Many birds initiate their northward flight based on day length and not temperature, so because of a shift in climate conditions, seasonal food sources that they rely

on, such as caterpillars, may already be past their peak for the year, reducing breeding success.

What can we as garden club members do?

- Plant trees and include native plants in your landscape as food sources for the birds.
- Try to reduce your carbon footprint by making wise choices on how we live and travel.
- Educate and promote garden club projects in your community that are bird friendly.

Garden Clubbing in the Piedmont

Midlothian GC Celebrates 70 Years

On June 6th, 2023, the Midlothian Garden Club celebrated their 70th anniversary as a Federated Garden Club.



Members attended a luncheon to celebrate the anniversary and installation of new officers. Special Guest *Val Story*, VFGC President, installed the incoming 2023-2025 officers.
– Submitted by Carol Bridgforth

Violet Bank Garden Club
Hosts
**"Celebrate Every
Magical Moment"**
Design Show and Luncheon
*Featuring Whitney Walk, Floral Designer
From The Flower Mart, Petersburg, VA*

*Wednesday, November 15, 2023
at the Country Club of Petersburg
1250 Flank Road, Petersburg, VA*
Doors open at 9:30 am
Floral Design Show at 10:30 am
Luncheon at Noon

*Ticket donation: \$40.00
Available from Gay Whitaker
804-586-1281*

All proceeds donated to Violet Bank Museum

Hilliard Park GC Creates Memorial Garden in Honor of Gladys Bowles

Gladys Bowles was well-known and loved by members of garden clubs in Richmond as well as in the State. Hilliard Park Garden Club was fortunate to have Gladys as a member for many years, serving in numerous capacities, including President. She went on to serve in other clubs, as well as the Piedmont District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, and Richmond Council of Garden Clubs where she was Chaplain when she passed away on December 24, 2022.



Gladys was known for her outgoing personality, her storytelling, her musical abilities, and her talent for singing and dancing. When the opportunity was presented to Hilliard Park Garden Club to create a memory garden at Laurel Presbyterian Church, where Gladys' devotion led her to a lifetime of service as music director and organist, we immediately stepped up and applied for a \$500 grant from Richmond Council which we received in May 2023. A Memorial Service and Garden Dedication are planned for September 9, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

- Submitted by Jean Fender

VFGC at the State Fair!

Volunteer to "man" our VFGC hands-on activities booth at the State Fair. Two slots:

September 26 – 3 to 7 pm OR

September 27 – 10am to 2pm

This is a fun experience – and a great way to introduce members of the public to horticulture and design. To volunteer, contact Judy Durant: jgdurant@verizon.net

VFGC President's Projects

by Kathy Ward

Our new VFGC President, Val Story, has been very busy planning programs to aid all Virginia clubs. These include:

- Revamping the VFGC website to make it more user-friendly and informative. The revised site went on-line in June. Take a look at <https://viriniagardenclubs.org>.
- Creating a new state committee which will focus on community relations, virtual education for all members, and an increased social media presence.
- Placing more of the VFGC Yearbook content on-line so that the information is easily available to all clubs. This includes awards information, bylaws, standing rules, and job descriptions.
- Creating new special Presidents Projects/ Special Achievement awards:
 - *Flower Show Awards* - including an award to recognize clubs having their first flower show, clubs who have gone the longest since having a flower show; and one is for clubs with the most new participants exhibiting in their own show.
 - *"Plant America - Feed America"* Award - where clubs keep track of the pounds of produce they donate to local food banks.
 - *TREX® Film Recycling Award* – which awards the club that recycles the most plastic film, while earning TREX® garden benches.

Calling All Photographers!

Gail Goodrich Harwood, ODG Editor



Thanks to all members who have submitted their beautiful photographs, not only for the fall issue, but for future issues. This is a terrific way to “travel” around the Commonwealth.

To submit your photographs:

- Select *seasonal photographs to complement the ODG seasonal publication schedule.* Select either long shots or close-up photos.
- Send 300 dpi jpegs – if submitting a phone photo, and your email gives you a size choice, select “Actual” or “Large” size.
- Photographs for the cover must be ‘portrait’ orientation – inside gallery photos may be either portrait or landscape orientation.
- If your photograph is not of your own garden or plant(s), please gain permission to print in the ODG.
 - Send to your district editor by the deadline– include your name and club name; add a caption & location of the photograph.
 - Submission will be considered permission to print.

2023-25 Piedmont District Officers

President	Diane Burgess
Director of Programs	Lili Aram-Bost
Director of Hospitality	JoAnn McNabb
Treasurer	Claudia Cosby
Recording Secretary	Susan DelSordo
VFGC Nominating Comm Rep	Judy Hodges
Alternate	Mary Wiblin

Footprints & ODG

Send articles and photos in separate files to:

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor

email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org

PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due before the following deadlines:

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – WINTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – SPRING

MAY 1, 2024 – SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2023 - 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 as separate files, not embedded with text. Submit text in Word format, non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, special events, announcements about upcoming events.

Mark the subject of your e-mail submission “Footprints” or “ODG” – ordinarily the same article will not appear in both publications, but some announcements and some parts of articles may appear in both.

Footprints masthead art: Black-eyed Susan and Bordered Patch butterfly © 2021 G Goodrich Harwood

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Piedmont District Meeting Registration Form

Monday October 16, 2023

Doubletree by Hilton 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235

Registration Deadline: October 6

Registration Process Steps – please review before registering

- 1) **Via email:** Club Contact sends registration info to the Registrar via email. Include: club name, club contact, number of seats requested (*no registrations by telephone*)
- 2) **Via mail:** Club contact submits the completed registration form and one check covering all registrations. Make check payable to VFGC/ Piedmont District
- 3) **Registrar will confirm** registration(s) via email once the form and check are received
- 4) **Table assignments** will be made in the order in which checks are received
- 5) **Refunds cannot be made.** Club contact is responsible for managing substitutes

Club Contact Information

Club Name _____

Contact Name _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Registrant Information

Name (print neatly please)	V Voting Status if applicable *	Circle entrée choice
	CP <input type="checkbox"/> VD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> FDP <input type="checkbox"/>	Chick Salmon Veg
	CP <input type="checkbox"/> VD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> FDP <input type="checkbox"/>	Chick Salmon Veg
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	CP <input type="checkbox"/> VD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> FDP <input type="checkbox"/>	Chick Salmon Veg
<p>*Voting Status Codes: CP= Club President VD= Voting Delegate (up to two delegates per club) DO= District Officer DC = District Committee Chair FDP = Former District President</p>		

Please ensure the appropriate boxes above have been checked and entrée choice circled.

Total # of Registrations @ \$45 _____ **Total Check Amount:** _____ (one check)

Registrar: Johanna Gilbert **Email:** omagilbert@aol.com

Mail form and check payable to VFGC/Piedmont District; send to Johanna Gilbert:
 8423 Shannon Green Court Henrico, VA 23228-1876

PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION
Deadline – February 15, 2024

Club: _____ Number of Members: _____

Club Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Project: _____

(Can include Landscaping Public Spaces such as schools, other public building grounds, roadsides, etc.; Youth Activities; Garden Therapy; Blue Star Memorials; or other Environmental and Community Projects.)

Project Beginning Date: _____ Proposed Completion Date: _____
(Completion date should be no later than March 1, 2025)

Clearly describe your project on 1 side of paper. Use up to 3 additional sides for landscape plans, budget, and before photos.

- Location of project.
- Purpose of the project and who it will benefit.
- If a landscape project, give approximate dimensions and include copy of landscape plan.
- Include “before” picture of area.
- Include list of plant material.
- Include a proposed budget and source of funds, i.e. from club, outside.
- Source of manpower, i.e. club members, others.
- If this is a new phase of a project, briefly describe what was previously done and include a photograph of the previous project.
- Who will maintain the property once it is complete?
- If not a landscape project, fully describe the project.
- Priority and weight will be given to projects that support the Presidents Projects (NGC, SAR, VFGC). These funds are for new projects or projects not yet completed that clubs would be unable to undertake without grant.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY **February 15, 2024** TO: LYNN BELL, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 2361 CASTLE HILL ROAD, MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23113-1143 OR EMAIL IT TO lhbell1120@aol.com. ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-320-8578. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2024.