



# FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
*Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.*  
VOLUME 32 NUMBER 3 SPRING 2021

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

It is an understatement to say that this past year was the most unusual ever. But everything has an end, and thank goodness 2020 has gone. As I write this with a lot of hope and looking forward, we are more than ready to welcome spring. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been forced to change our method of volunteering as garden club members. Although I did not get to see you very often (except when judging those clubs that did find a way to convene) I stayed in touch with many of you via Zoom and e-mail.

While we would love to see you in person and will do so as soon as we can, I am sorry to have to tell you that our March 2021 District meeting has been cancelled. I'm sure that's no surprise to anyone. On the bright side, however, the Virginia Museum's Fine Arts & Flowers has been rescheduled for this fall...the dates are October 20-24, 2021. There will be approximately 80 floral designers from VFGC, GCV, and Ikebana interpreting works of art with flowers. And we will plan once again to have our next District meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021...keep your fingers crossed!

In the meantime, think of how you can explore avenues to provide worthwhile projects in your communities. Gardeners are known to be planners, so let's add some plants to our gardens, prep those veggie beds, read a good gardening book, and keep doing what we do best: planning and planting for beautiful spring days ahead.

As you may know, it is now time to vote for a new administration for the District. At the District Board meeting in January, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Mary Owen, presented the following slate of officers for the 2021-2023 term:

President	Sally Harrison	River Road GC, Richmond Designers Guild
Director of Hospitality	Diane Burgess	River Road GC, Richmond Designers Guild
Director of Programs	JoAnn McNabb	West Hanover GC, River Road GC, Richmond Designers Guild
Treasurer	Linda Nau	Salisbury GC
Recording Secretary	Susan DelSordo	Thomas Jefferson GC
VFGC Nominating Comm Rep	Diane Burgess	River Road GC, Richmond Designers Guild
Alternate	Janet Minock	Thomas Jefferson GC

Normally we would vote on the election of officers at our spring meeting; however, this year it will be handled via e-mail. Garden club presidents will be notified about that process later on.

A huge benefit of belonging to a garden club is the friendships we develop with others who have the same interests. I would never have had the opportunity to have the friendships I have formed without my garden club involvement. Not only have I learned valuable lessons about floral design and gardening, I have also learned so much about environmental issues that impact us all. So, at this time I would like to thank everyone, especially our Board members, for your friendships and support over the last two years. I look forward to continuing on in my new role as Director of Programs, and I do hope we can resume our activities this fall.

# Remembering Our Garden Club Friends

by Pamela Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

At each spring district meeting, we take a few moments to honor the memory of deceased members. This year, we take the opportunity in the spring edition of *Footprints* to continue this special tradition.

## HIS SPRING

Dear heart, perhaps you cannot find God's hand  
Or see His face through some hour of despair.  
Do not be grieved, go seek the good, clean land,  
And you will find Him there.

He is a part of every wind that sweeps  
Across the furrow, down their upturned length.  
Breathe deeply of it—here is where God keeps  
Stored healing and stored strength.

Wander awhile down some still wooded way;  
Stoop to the lichen, dig through the mossy sod.  
Stir in the leafmold—and the feathery spray  
Of a fern can show you God.

You can touch Him as you touch the bark of a tree;  
You can hear His voice in the voice of the singing birds.  
Dear God, may we listen—God, may we look and see  
Thy face, and hear Thy words.

God spoke! And from the arid scene  
Sprang rich and verdant bowers,  
Till all the earth was soft with green—  
He smiled; and there were flowers.  
We bid welcome to His spring.

OUR members are like flowers.  
Their varieties are endless  
Their beauty stupendous.  
And each and every one,  
In the Piedmont District Garden,  
We call by name and welcome as friend.



Rosa David Austin, copyright ggh

## We honor the memory of Piedmont District garden club friends lost since March 2019

### Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

Joan Clements -former president  
Ada Clark Davis  
Thelma Jensen  
Ann Kyker  
Jane Peterson

### Fluvanna Garden Club

Luvenia Rogers

### Ginter Park Garden Club

Patricia Heindl  
Frances Morris

### Violet Bank Garden Club

Gita Agrawal-former president  
Eloise Ward

### Salisbury Garden Club

Marjorie Flaig

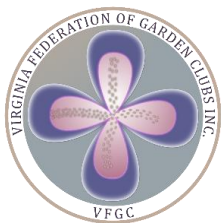
### Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

Alice Scott – former president  
Jackie Stansbury – former president  
Helen Ryan  
Alice Viverette

### Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

Julie Abbott

## Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



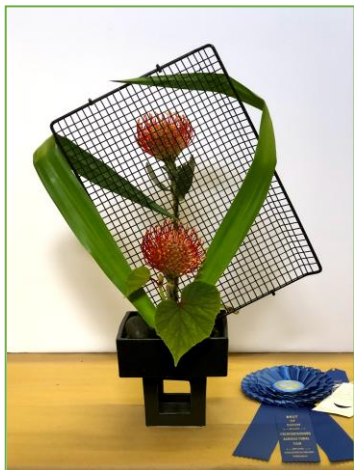
**Eighty-Seventh Annual Convention  
at the Short Pump Hilton  
April 25-27, 2021  
Has Been Cancelled**

### Calendar

Feb 15	Piedmont District Grant Applications due
Apr 17-25	Virginia Historic Garden Week
May 17-20	NGC Convention, Rutherford, NJ
June 6-12	National Garden Week
June 30	VFGC Yearbook Sponsor deadline
Oct 18	Piedmont District Fall Meeting
Oct 20-24	Fine Arts & Flowers, VMFA, Richmond

### “Vision of Beauty” Calendars Available

There are still 2021 calendars for sale @ \$6 each. The calendars are an excellent resource, featuring award-winning designs from around the world. This is a great fundraiser for Piedmont District. See the order form on p 8 of this issue.



Congratulations to Mary Wiblin on the selection of her transparency design for “July” in the 2021 calendar!

“Can You See It?”

by Mary Wiblin

A see-through metal grid is placed behind and in front of protea and yucca foliage.

**Fine Arts & Flowers**, a spectacular museum-wide exhibition of floral designs inspired by works in the VMFA collection, is scheduled for Oct. 20-24, 2021. Presented by The Council of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, with floral designs by Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, the Garden Club of Virginia, Garden Clubs of Virginia and Ikebana of Richmond. The exhibition is free; tickets for related events go on sale May 1, 2021. Advance purchase is recommended.



For tickets and a complete schedule, visit

[www.VMFA.museum/FAF](http://www.VMFA.museum/FAF)

### VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Everyone needs a Life Membership into the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Please consider giving one to several garden club members or to yourself. The cost is \$50.00. You'll receive a pin shown. If you want to make it a surprise, the pin can be sent to designate on the presentation can be



Meeting (arrangements must be made in advance) or at a garden club meeting. The \$50 is a tax-deductible donation to the VFGC scholarship fund. You may also receive or give a Book of Honor award. You won't receive a pin but you will receive a card. Go to [http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org/VFGC/Life\\_Memberships.html](http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org/VFGC/Life_Memberships.html) for the applicable form/s. Or call or email Jane Denton, Life Membership Chairman at 804-435-6877; email: [denton@va.metrocast.net](mailto:denton@va.metrocast.net).

*Violet Bank Garden Club  
Design Show & Luncheon  
Wednesday, May 5, 2021  
CANCELLED*



## Be a Yearbook Sponsor VFGC Yearbook – 2021-2023

Deadline: June 30, 2021  
by Darlene Nelson, VGFC Yearbook Chair

Garden entry and events continue with timed tickets ordered online in advance. Face coverings are required. Garden is open Wednesday – Sunday. [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org)

### Zooming with David Pippin at LGBG

As part of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's online programming during the pandemic, David Pippin has been featured in monthly floral design programs. The programs are offered in a live Zoom format and have drawn participants from around the U.S. Member price is \$20.

Upcoming David Pippin programs:  
Feb 13 – Designing with Tropicals  
Mar 13 – St. Patrick's Day Design

### “Gardening in Central Virginia” Zoom Learning

Upcoming programs:  
Feb 20 – Soils 101  
Feb 27 – Boxwood 101



The US Botanic Garden is offering excellent online programming via Zoom.

Of note is an upcoming lecture on March 11:  
“Hillwood: a Garden for All Seasons”

This lecture by Kate Markert, author and Hillwood Executive Director, explores the stories behind the extraordinary gardens of Hillwood (Washington, D.C.) and celebrates the publication of *A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood*.

To register for this or other free garden programs, visit [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov).

### Who can be a Sponsor?

**Each club and every club member can be a sponsor**

Sponsor Benefits:

- Listed on the *Sponsors Page*
- Receive a yearbook insert (*\$10 Sponsor*)

Each member club receives **two** gratis yearbook inserts and each VFGC/district officer and chairman receive **one** gratis yearbook insert.

### What's in it for me?

- A directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all VFGC officers and chairmen, district officers and chairmen, all garden club presidents, and SAR and NGC officers.
- Information that Garden Clubs need—on dues, donations, Life Memberships, etc.
- Calendar of Events
- Awards offered by VFGC, SAR and NGC for clubs and individuals
- List of Flower Show Judges and Landscape Design Consultants
- VFGC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules

See application form at the end of this issue of *Footprints*.

## Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

by Pat Merson, Chairman



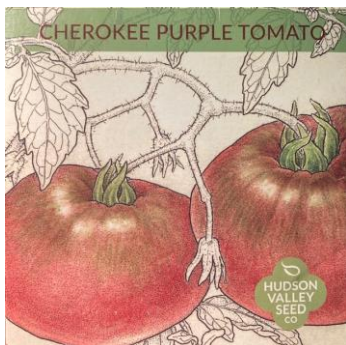
Due to the Pandemic and schools having different schedules during 2020, there were no posters submitted for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Hopefully, schools will resume in-person learning for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Thank you for your garden clubs' continued support!

## “Organic, Heirloom & Non-GMO”

by Jane Earle, Piedmont District Horticulture Chairman

Whether your seed catalogs are from traditional seed companies or the new trendy seed kit start-ups, the goal for bountiful returns is the same. Using a seed catalog to order from for-profit or non-profit organizations, as well as seed bank exchanges with environmental issues or a farmer owned cooperative can save time in organization and planning of this planting season!



The restrictions at all garden centers seem to be the same everywhere this year: “We are sorry our visitor center is closed.” or “Limited numbers for inside shopping.” A safe alternative is to sign up for the free catalog, and then you will be invited to browse the website until your free catalog arrives in about four to six weeks. If a company’s website allows free usage, frequently asked questions with answers (FAQs) can also help in your garden master plan, such as: “Are your seeds Certified Organic?” or “Are your seeds genetically modified?” Some sites offer the option to call a contact number for a free catalog order and bypass all the internet traffic. Call locally or watch out for time zones and possible limited hours of operation.

Perusing seed catalogs yields an enormous amount of helpful planning information:

- Color schemes
- Size and height of blooming perennials and annuals
- Sun or shade recommendations
- Watering requirements
- Recommended dates for planting by climate zone
- Vegetable seed catalogs provide critical germination guidelines that must be followed that affect growth stages for later pollination controlled by temperature confines. Small or beginner growers without a greenhouse, may

prefer seedlings when available, since some seeds require a long growing period before any yields appear.

Congratulations to all members who already have their catalogs and are enjoying the advantages of early ordering before their favorite variety is “out of stock”. If you are active on a mailing list, the Spring Catalog is on its way with new varieties to excite and inspire!

## A New Edible Plant to Enjoy!

by Kathy Ward

What are you planning to put in your garden this spring? During these cold, dark days of winter, I’ve enjoyed looking through seed and plant catalogs, as well as the internet, to see what new plants are being introduced this year. Here is a new edible I found that you may enjoy:

### Echalion ‘Crème Brulee’ (*Allium cepa* ‘Crème Brulee’)

This echalion\* is the first-ever shallot to win the All-American Selection (AAS) Edible Vegetable Winner designation. (AAS is the oldest non-profit that coordinates plant trials throughout the U.S. and then evaluates these new seeds and plants).

Growing a shallot from seed is fun and unexpectedly easy.

These easy to peel, single-centered bulbs have a bright coppery pink outer skin and a pretty rosy-purple interior with thick rings. The sweet



tender bulbs are earlier to mature than other echalions and have a slight citrusy flavor when eaten raw. When caramelized, things get even better as the natural sugars are enhanced and do not leave any overpowering aftertastes. A fantastic variety for containers, the home gardener and the farmer. Introduced by Bejo Seeds, Inc. (Description courtesy of All-American Selections)

\*An echalion is an onion-family plant also known as a “banana shallot” for its elongated shape. It more resembles a clove of garlic than an onion, and has a mild oniony flavor with a hint of citrus.

Photo courtesy of All American Selections - [www.all-americanselections.org](http://www.all-americanselections.org)

## Recycling Recommendations

by Sharon Lemke, Recycling Chair



It's spring—time to plant! And many of you will acquire a stockpile of plastic plant containers.

You can save them for your friends to divide plants, donate them to a local garden center, but what other uses could they have?

Here are some ideas—

- Those small plastic containers can make great shakers for fertilizer, animal repellent, or other granular material.

- If you dump mulch in your flower beds rather than carefully spreading it, you know you can end up burying your plants. Those pots can help protect your plant from being buried and will keep the mulch away from the crown of the plant.

- They can be useful to use as a soil scoop when filling flower pots. The thin rigid edges make the better scoop.

- Some ceramic containers have no drainage hole and who wants to ruin them by drilling holes. So, place a plastic pot that fits inside the solid container and raises it a bit with a bed of stones. Also, it can be handy to occasionally lift your plant of the pot if needed.

- With an impending frost, these pots can be used as row covers for tender plants. Once it warms up, remove the pots.

- Some large planters/pots can become very heavy when filled with soil, so overturning a plastic container in the bottom of the large pot will cut down on the amount of soil needed and the weight. Also, if there is room around the sides, it can be filled with bunched up newspaper. The newspaper will eventually decompose making room for expanding roots.

- If you like to swap out container plants seasonally, you can create a permanent planting hole by installing a black plastic container in the ground that is larger than the seasonal plants you buy.

- Last, but not least, those old plastic pots can be renewed as planters. Spruce them up by painting them; first roughen the surface with sandpaper to help the paint adhere. Start with a primer coat of paint followed by 2-3 coats of paint followed by a sealant. Those new metal and stone paints can add an interesting texture.

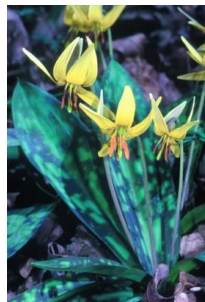
So, happy planting and recycling!

## Know Your Natives

by Carolyn Shiflet

Spring will be here very soon! My daffodils are up about two inches. After this long year at home, it would be refreshing to take a walk in the woods. Take notice of the native wildflowers while walking.

Look for *Erythronium Americanum*, also called Trout Lily or Dogtooth Violet or Adder's Tongue. It is found in the shade



of moist woods and meadows and grows about six inches tall with nodding yellow blooms which close at night. The blooms are evident from March through June. The elongated leaves have markings similar to brown or brook trout, thus the name. It is a spring ephemeral, which means it goes dormant with the heat of summer.

Another interesting native you might consider for your shade garden is *Gaultheria*, also known as Wintergreen, Teaberry, Checkerberry or Boxberry. This is an evergreen groundcover which is matt forming and grows about six inches tall. It likes dry soil and is drought tolerant. The flowers are evident May thru August and are pink to white. The leaves and branches make fine herbal tea with winterberry flavor. The striking red berries and leathery foliage put on a show between October and December. These are a food source for birds and small animals.



## Have I Got a Recipe for You!

by Phillipa Smith

I woke up this past Thursday to SNOW on the ground, perhaps an inch. Just my type, I told a friend, I love snow that comes and quickly goes. But, now two days later, it is still there waiting for more to fall, and those faultless weathermen are predicting just that.

Our fascination with the local crow flock continues. I am convinced that they send out a scout to case the yards and see who is putting out food for them. A small crow flies in and lands on the same branch each morning and raises a ruckus to get our attention. I get up, put dog food into a coffee container and take it out and sprinkle it in the yard. And, voila, crows invade the yard shortly thereafter.

Then, I happened to see a magazine article on how to recycle old limbs that fall into your yard to feed the birds. I thought it would be good to share with all of you.



"Phillipa's Crow", copyright ggh

How to create it:

- Take an old tree limb that has fallen into your yard and drill maybe three holes along its side. No perches are necessary because the birds naturally hang onto the bark or the tree limb itself.
- Mix up the following concoction: one part flour to three parts yellow cornmeal/ chick starter placed in the largest mixing bowl of your electric mixer/food processor.
- Add spoonfuls of lard (not shortening) and combine until the mixture will make firm balls. These are then packed into the holes drilled into the logs.
- A hook is placed on the end of the log so that it can be used either hanging or simply left on the ground.

This homemade feeder appeals to a wide variety of birds, and even my crows have learned to use it, clever birds that they are. So, if you are looking for a little something to keep you busy during this continued "stay at home" mode, this is a small project that is easy to do and cheap to keep up. And the BIRDS will thank you for it.

## "Garden Clubbing During the Pandemic"

Something to share? Please send your ideas to JoAnn McNabb at [josiemcva@gmail.com](mailto:josiemcva@gmail.com)

### Chesapeake Bay Garden Club – Karen Luzuriaga

We wanted to touch base with our fellow clubs. The year 2020 has been a difficult time for garden clubs.

- This fall the club managed to have two meetings. One outside at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and one inside at the Festival Hall. The annual Christmas Luncheon was cancelled.
- On the positive side, a **plant sale** is planned for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Heathsville Farmers' Market at 17 Monument Place in Heathsville, VA, 22473. Members are providing plants from their gardens to sell. It will be a pleasant morning of shopping at the market.
- On May 14-15, CBGC will be hosting a **flower show** at the Tavern Meeting Building in Heathsville, VA. Let's mark our calendars for some fun!



### Violet Bank Garden Club – Jan Pingel

- On December 2, 2020, seven members of Violet Bank Garden Club met at Violet Bank Museum to decorate the outside of the building for the holidays. Even though the annual candlelit open house was cancelled this year, the curator, Wendy Alvis, encouraged garden club members to make natural wreaths and garlands to enhance the exterior of the building.



# PIEDMONT DISTRICT FUNDRAISER

by Mary Wiblin, Chair

The National Garden Clubs Inc. 2021 "Vision of Beauty" Calendars are still available. 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.

This is also a very easy way to help the Piedmont District raise funds. The cost is \$6.00 each and includes shipping and handling.

Please make checks payable to Piedmont District, VFGC. Calendars will be delivered to club contacts.

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

## 2021 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS ORDER FORM

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## FOOTPRINTS

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:

MAY 1, 2020 – SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2020 – FALL

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – WINTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2021 – SPRING

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.

### *Old Dominion Gardener*

**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.



**Be a Yearbook Sponsor**  
**VFGC YEARBOOK – 2021-2023**  
**Deadline: June 30, 2021**

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Please print your NAME as it is to appear in the yearbook.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB SPONSOR

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

District \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contact (Treasurer) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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