



FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 2 WINTER 2019 - 2020

A Message from JoAnn McNabb, Piedmont District President

I want to thank everyone who made our fall district meeting a success. From the many comments (and compliments) I received, the program and luncheon were well received... and Kathleen Hawryluk outdid herself with her floral interpretation of "Auntie Mame" and her adventures. Six of her fabulous designs were given away.

Mary Sue Floyd, President of VFGC could not be with us, but Mary Owen, First V-P, spoke to us about the many rewards of being a garden club member and ways to keep our members excited about learning new things and making a difference in our communities as we promote the love of gardening. Reach out to grow and become the best garden club member you can be! Mary also talked about our new President's initiative, the "No Bake, Bake Sale". This is a fundraising event for "Keys to the Future" to help more clubs receive grants for youth projects. If you have not already heard about this from your club president, you should very shortly. Also, please review the details in this newsletter. Since this is Mary Sue's first "promotion" as President of VFGC, I really want our district to support this initiative with 100% participation. Be creative with it and make it fun!

Club Presidents will receive from me shortly a very brief questionnaire to complete and return to me with a copy to Mary Sue.

Many clubs will be sponsoring holiday events in the coming weeks and I hope you will be able to attend these fun gatherings. At this time of year, it is always a special treat to visit with clubs in our district, spending time with club friends and observing their many talents. As we move into the holiday season enjoying our families and friends, let us be mindful of those around us who are not as fortunate as we are. Whatever your plans for the holidays, enjoy and be safe!

"Legendary Birds"

Message from Pam Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

It's time to think of holiday things. Like, pine trees, poinsettias and prettily wrapped presents. Much has been written about the plants and trees traditionally used for decorations. But what about the birds? Well, legends abound. Here are two to share with family and friends at your Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings.

The Spanish tell us that while the Holy Family was seeking escape from Herod and his soldiers, a variety of birds accompanied them, encouraging them with song. When it looked like the family would be overtaken, the dove and quail flew to safety but a lark led the family to concealment. When the soldiers asked, "which way did they go?" the lark sang "follow me" and successfully steered the soldiers away.

All the birds returned to the Family and journeyed onward with them. Since then, quails have been unable to fly to great heights. They sleep on the ground in a circle, heads pointing outward towards their enemies. The legend notes that doves have since been unable to sing a happy song. The dove forever will lament a song of sadness for forsaking the Holy family. The lark continues to sing its flutelike song and is known as the herald of strength.

Oh, how we love our bluebirds! According to medieval lore, these birds were once grayish in color, but the night of the Christ Child's birth, they sang so beautifully that the angels granted them any wish they might make. They desired to be the color of the sky. And so, they took on an azure hue. They were recognized from then on as a symbol of happiness.

And that is what the Piedmont District officers wish for you. May you enjoy blessed gatherings of friends and family—and happiness. Happy Thanksgiving, merry Christmas and a splendid New Year.

Memorial Moment

At the spring meeting, the District will hold its annual recognition of deceased members (Feb. 2019 to March 2020). Send the following information to Chaplain Pam Mann:

Club name, member's full name, longevity of membership. Note if member was a charter member or former president (year)

Pamann1724@yahoo.com or call 598-2650

Does Your Club Deserve an Award?

by Joanne Wallace, District Awards Chairman

You might be surprised to learn that your club may be in the running to receive an award this year!

There are 30 award categories listed on the Piedmont District website. Even if you have applied (and won) in the past, it's worth scrolling through them since there are several new awards listed. The first page guides you through the process.

Award applications must be postmarked **NO LATER** than **DECEMBER 1st** in order to be eligible, so check them out TODAY! www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org.

Awards will be presented at the spring district meeting.

If you have any questions, contact me at dougandjoanne@gmail.com.



Magnolia grandiflora © ggh

SAVE THE DATE
March 29-31, 2020



2020 VFGC Convention
Roanoke, VA

Calendar

Our spring meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2020 at the Four Points by Sheraton on Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond. Mark your calendars!

Dec 1	Awards Deadline: Forms to District Chair
Jan 3	Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl posters due to District Chair
Feb 15	Piedmont District Grants Deadline
Mar 16	Piedmont District Spring Meeting Richmond, VA
Mar 29-31	VFGC Convention Roanoke, VA
Apr 18-25	Virginia Historic Garden Week
May 11-16	NGC Convention Milwaukee, WI
June 7-13	National Garden Week



FOOTPRINTS

Old Dominion Gardener

Send articles to:

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor

email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org

PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due before the following deadlines:

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 - SPRING

MAY 1, 2020 - SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2020 - FALL

Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due dates. Electronic transmission preferred; photos and graphics are encouraged. Club news for Old Dominion Gardener: to allow time for review and editing to meet the ODG submission deadlines, please submit by January 15, April 15 and July 15, and indicate in the email subject line: 'ODG submission'.

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Posters Due January 3rd

For all rules and guidelines about the poster contest for students from first through fifth grades, go to:

www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org

Posters are due to Pat Merson, District Chair, no later than **January 3 , 2020**.

Send to:

Pat Merson

11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy.

Chesterfield, VA 23838



“Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!”

**“Only
You
Can
Prevent
Wildfires!”**



Piedmont District Grant Applications Due February 15th

by Jean Fender, District Grants Chair

Once again, Piedmont District will have funds to award for worthwhile Club Projects in your community. Last year we only had one application and were able to award \$800 to Hanover-Towne Garden Club for their project at Bon Secours Regional Medical Center. These projects can include landscaping public spaces such as schools, other public building grounds, roadsides, youth activities, garden therapy, Blue Star Memorials, or other environmental and community projects. Projects other than landscaping can also be submitted. Priority is given to projects supporting the Presidents' Projects (NGC, SAR, and VFGC). These funds are for new projects or projects not yet completed that clubs would be unable to undertake without a grant.

Please consider participating in this valuable program. You may receive funding for a project that gives your garden club a sense of pride and recognition for work in your community. Deadline is February 15, 2020. Winners announced and checks awarded at the spring District Meeting on March 16, 2020.

See grant application in this issue of *Footprints*.

7th Annual Ginter Park Garden Club SPRING MARKET

Saturday, March 28th from 10-4
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
3601 Seminary Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

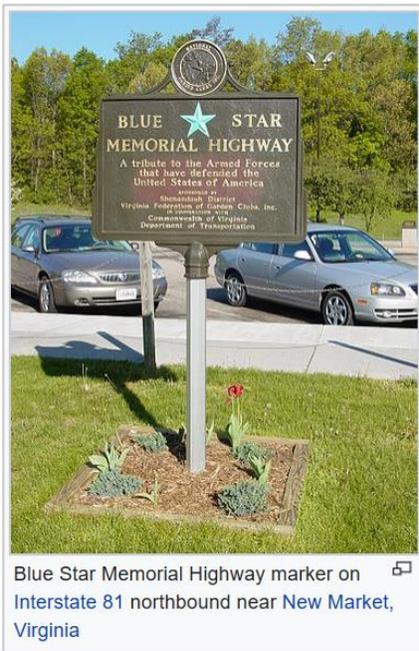
Shop juried local artisans & vendors! Garden items!
Bake Sale!
Clothing! Jewelry! Unique Artisanal Goods! Lunch!
Door Prizes!
\$2 Admission

Plan to Attend the Falling Creek Blue Star Memorial Dedication

by Barbara Hollister, Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Marker for Falling Creek, located on #301 highway, has been purchased and placed in the Falling Creek Park by VDOT. Plans are being made to dedicate this marker on Friday May 22nd, 2020 at 11:00 am. The dedication will take place at the American Legion Post 284 located at 505 Springdale Avenue, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834. The facility holds 300 plus people. Let's have Piedmont District fill the room!

Clubs will be invited to assist with the dedication. The American Legion is not charging for use of their facility, and they are eager to work with us for this very special event. Please mark your calendars and plan to come with your friends, veterans, people serving the army forces or anyone interested in honoring our wonderful United States armed forces.



Blue Star Memorial Highway marker on [Interstate 81](#) northbound near [New Market, Virginia](#)

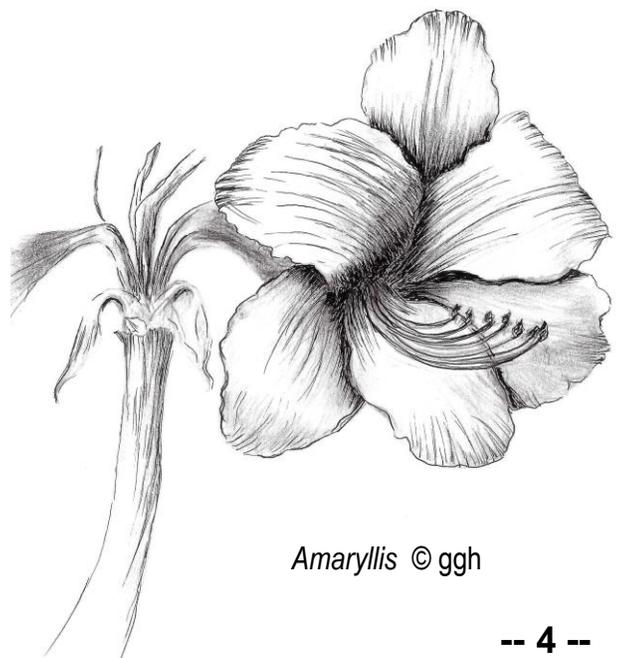
Blue Star Memorial Highways are highways in the United States that are marked to pay tribute to the U.S. armed forces. The National Council of State Garden Clubs, now known as National Garden Clubs, Inc., started the program in 1945 after World War II. The blue star was used on service flags to denote a service member fighting in the war. The program has since been expanded to include Memorial Markers and Memorial By-ways. These markers are used in National Cemeteries, parks, veterans' facilities, and gardens. ≈

Participate in VFGC's "No-Bake Bake Sale"!



The No-Bake Bake Sale is a fundraiser for VFGC and for our district as well. Since the holidays are approaching, most of us do a lot of baking; so, instead of baking whatever it was that you were going to make, list the ingredients, tally the cost and donate that amount to the No-Bake Bake Sale. Use the attached form. It's that easy!

So, at one of your holiday meetings, share your recipe with members and then donate the cost to VFGC. Proceeds will go to 'Keys to the Future' to help more clubs receive grants for youth projects. In January, the district will receive a check in the amount of 10% of the total collected in the district. ≈



Amaryllis © ggh

Hopewell Garden Clubs Decorate Weston Plantation for Christmas

by Wonder City Garden Club, Rita Joyner, President



On Wednesday, December 4th, members of Hopewell's three garden clubs --- Appomattox, Nathaniel Cawsey, and Wonder City, all members of the VFGC, will join forces once again to decorate historic Weston Plantation, a magnificent 18th Century structure that has been described as a "classic example of Virginia Georgian architecture and the very essence of the Tidewater plantation mansion." Owned and operated by the Historic Hopewell Foundation (HHF), the plantation is the setting for an annual Christmas party, a highly anticipated community event that is sponsored by the Board of Trustees of HHF. The splendid architecture and graceful proportions of the rooms provide inspiration for these gifted designers. This year's theme, "An Old-Fashioned Christmas", will incorporate natural materials and antique objects, as members interpret Weston Christmas celebrations through the centuries. The success of this joint effort has sparked interest in the formation of a Hopewell Council of Garden Clubs. The clubs look forward to playing a larger role in the social and cultural life of the community. ≈

Know Your Natives... Focus on the Paw Paw

by Carolyn Shiflett

Remember the song, "Pickin' up paw paws, putting 'em in her pockets, Way down yonder in the paw paw patch'?" Well, paw paws are a native tree that grows in the Piedmont region of Virginia. You might see it growing as an understory tree in ditches, ravines or flood plains while hiking in the woods. It is a small tree growing to 30 feet tall in a pyramidal shape. It does produce suckers that grow into additional plants and eventually a thicket of growth. Thus, the paw paw becomes the proverbial **patch**. It produces one of the largest native fruits in North America at six inches in length. Humans find it tasty: like banana with hints of mango, vanilla and citrus. Opossums, foxes, squirrels, raccoons and birds all relish it. However, deer won't touch it. It has deep burgundy flowers in spring and yellow foliage in fall. ≈

Look for this interesting native on your next walk in the woods!



A Fun & Educational Garden Club Program

by JoAnn McNabb
President, Piedmont District

Several weeks ago, I spent a wonderful day with one of our Piedmont District clubs, the **West Hanover Garden Club**, at Reynolds Community College, Goochland Campus. Every year we fund a memorial scholarship for a horticultural student in memory of one of our deceased members...the Ann Tenser Scholarship Award. We have been doing this for several years and in so doing we have formed a reciprocal relationship with the college.

On this bright and sunny fall day we started off with an hour of classroom instruction on propagating plants, either by seed or cuttings. We were then allowed to stroll through the gardens and take eight cuttings each of a plant that we wanted to propagate. Then on to the greenhouse where we received instruction on how to properly do this. Once completed, we left our cutting trays in the care of the horticulture department to overwinter and root in their greenhouse. (Lucky for us!) The plants will then be available in April for the club to sell at our annual spring plant sale, held in conjunction with the Goochland Master Gardeners sale on the same day at the college campus.

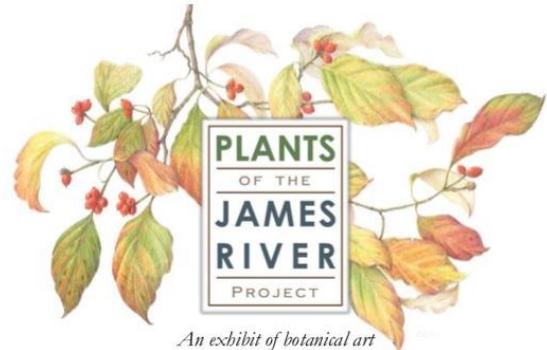
Afterwards, club members enjoyed a nice lunch at a nearby restaurant. All in all, a great day to “Grow, Learn & Laugh” together.

If your club would like to experience a similar outing, contact Karin Stretchko at 804/523-5950, Reynolds Community College, Goochland Campus. Please note a donation to the horticulture department would be expected. ≈



Native Plants at the River's Edge

by Gail Harwood



An exhibit of botanical art

Anarrow's List:
Native plants at the river's edge

October 1 to December 22, 2019

View this exhibit at VCU Cabel Library until December 22. Free and open to the public.

Who is Newton Ancarrow, and why should we care?

In the 1960s, Richmond native Newton Ancarrow was a boating enthusiast who established a dock on the James River which came to be known as Ancarrow's Landing. The river was so polluted that the paint peeled off his prized and beautiful wooden boats. That's the point at which he began an earnest appeal to the city to clean up the river. He also began to document the plants of the James River system. Ultimately he would photograph over 400 plant species. Along the way, he realized that these photographs could provide the impetus for building the awareness and leverage needed to inspire action.

Ancarrow created a slide show depicting wildflowers and the effects of pollutants. He then engaged garden clubs across the state to build awareness and create a growing chorus of voices that would result in clean-up of the river.

In 2017 Ancarrow's original work inspired a small group of botanical artists to form a group called Plants of the James River Project. The group has worked with other community organizations and has produced two botanical coloring books to build awareness about invasive plants and plants native to the James River system. The current exhibit of original art is inspired by "Ancarrow's List" and features native plants of the James River. ≈



Gardenfest Illumination Weekend:

- Friday, November 22
- Saturday, November 23
from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Dominion Energy Gardenfest runs nightly from 5-10 PM , November 22 through January 6. Closed on Thanksgiving Day and December 24-25.

“I wonder if the snow *loves* the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.”

– Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*

What the Birds Taught Us Last Summer

by Phillipa Smith



Sparrows playing in the water. . Source: Pinterest.com

This past summer as my husband Guy and I waited for his knee replacement surgery clearance, we both became fascinated by birds and their behavior. It became a morning routine for Guy to fill the birdbath with fresh water. Some birds would visit just as soon as the bath was filled, but most would not come until late afternoon in the heat of the day.

The birds would land on the edge of the bath and be super alert for the first few minutes, scanning the sky for predators. But then they would drink and bathe, flicking their wings to force the water over their heads and down their backs. They would do this with such joy that one would have no doubt as to the pleasure the water was giving them.

We observed all sizes of birds from chickadees to a beautiful brown thrush. Other frequent visitors were robins, cardinals, jays, sparrows, titmice, Carolina wrens, purple finches. A favorite was this year’s mourning dove who would land on the edge, walk out into the water, sit there, flick their wings and bathe. Other birds such as cardinals would stand in the water and not bathe at all. Just cooling their feet was an interesting bird behavior.

At times we would be visited by what looked to be whole families of birds, particularly Eastern bluebirds. The birdbath was even visited by a yellow-bellied woodpecker. His feet, made to cling to the bark of trees, created an interesting splayed effect on the edge of the bath. Even our tiniest visitor, a ruby-throated hummingbird, amazed us with its boldness.

We eagerly waited for the birds to arrive each day and enjoyed every minute they stayed to entertain us. Such simple pleasures we can find in Nature if we would only look. ≈



BAKE SALE

(Actually, How About a No-Bake Sale?)



Your Virginia Federation of
Garden Clubs would like each Club to hold a
(NO) Bake Sale
during
November or December

Plan your Date, Share your recipe with Club
members. Then Donate the Cost of your Item to
VFGC

(Send a Club Check to Hazel Vance, 210 North Branch Rd
Bedford VA 24523-1240)

Club Name _____ ||

District _____

Amount _____
List some of the items you didn't Bake

Proceeds will go to Keys to The Future to help more clubs
receive Grants for Youth Projects
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PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION
Deadline – February 15, 2020

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, 2021)

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, 2020** TO: JEAN FENDER, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 9245 ROYAL GRANT DRIVE, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116-4195 OR EMAIL IT TO JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET. ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-730-2256. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 16, 2020.