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# PIEDMONT DISTRICT FOOTPRINTS

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
MEMBER, NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
VOLUME 34, NO. 2 WINTER 2022

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## ***A Message from Sally Harrison Piedmont District President***

Against a deep blue-sky, leaves are turning glorious shades of red, orange, and yellow. The days are clearly getting shorter. At times, there is a noticeable chill in the air. I don't know about you, but I feel like I need a hard hat when I walk my dog. The squirrels must be happy with the bumper crop of acorns. But is Mother Nature trying to tell us something? Who knows?

Looking out over the room at our fall Piedmont District meeting, it was wonderful to see so many lovely, smiling faces! **We had 189 members attending, representing 35 clubs.**

Clubs in the Piedmont District have been busy making and executing exciting plans for this year. Not only are you planning informative programs and field trips, but some clubs are also planning anniversary celebrations. JoAnn McNabb and I went down to Kilmarnock to be with the Rappahannock Garden Club when they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Frances Thrash was with the Rosecrest Garden Club on in Petersburg as the featured designer for their anniversary luncheon celebration. Nathaniel Cawsey Garden Club will be celebrating a milestone anniversary in April. I know there are other clubs actively planning special events including Flower Shows. We are, have been, and will be busy...as our VFGC President Mary Owen would describe it, "digging into action."

Stonehenge, Canterbury, Sleepy Hollow and Woodland Pond Garden Clubs have each earned a Trex® Bench. Violet Bank even earned three

benches! My club, River Road, did not collect enough plastic last year to earn a Trex® bench. But we are starting on a new six-month challenge. That is a lot of recycled plastic that is not going into landfills!

Combined, clubs in the Piedmont District have supported 10 Penny Pines plantations in 2022. Many thanks to each of you for sharing your time and talent with your club, the Piedmont District, and VFGC. Together we ARE learning, having fun, and making a difference in our communities. Please submit your articles and pictures to *Footprints*. We all want to know what your club is doing. Inspire us!

As we look to 2023, we have wonderful opportunities to connect and learn. Both Flower Show and Landscape Design Schools will be offered in winter and early spring. See details and forms in the *Old Dominion Gardener*.

Exciting conventions are planned as well:

**March 5-7** – South Atlantic Region Convention at *Hotel Roanoke*

**April 23-24** – our VFGC Convention at the *Historic Hotel 24 South* (aka, the Stonewall Jackson Hotel) in Staunton

**May 2-5**– right next door in West Virginia, the NGC Convention at *The Greenbrier*

Be sure to mark your calendars for the spring **Piedmont District Meeting March 20<sup>th</sup>**. See the preview on page 4. As we approach the Holiday Season, we all realize how blessed we are. I wish you and yours healthy and happy holidays!!

**Sally**

[Sally.c.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:Sally.c.harrison@gmail.com) H: 804-784-2851

## Forever Seeds

*Pam Mann, District Chaplain*

Our Gardener's Creed is a lovely prayer. With it we ask help to grasp the mysteries of nature.

For a moment, we might muse upon the secrets of the seed.

Years ago, a vase was found near a mummy in an Egyptian tomb. When the vase was sent to the British museum, a worker noticed that in the bottom of it were a few hard, shriveled peas. They were estimated to have been buried in the tomb over 3000 years.

As an experiment, researchers planted the ancient peas. After about a month, green shoots appeared, and they grew.

Just think, God placed a substance within those peas that enabled them to bring forth new life.

And He has hardwired into our nature the ability to be seeds of life for others. Each tiny moment is an opportunity to grow and make a difference.

With each and every thing you do, with each thought you think, with every word you speak, you are planting seeds.

Those seeds will continue to grow, long after the moment and you have passed. Think and act as if each thing you do will start a chain reaction. Because that's exactly what will happen. So, give your best to each moment.



An old Welsh proverb: *A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible.*

Photo ggh 2022

## Piedmont District Fall Meeting Program

Frances Thrash and Kathy Ward delighted attendees at the fall district meeting, using the same materials to create creative designs (top photo) and traditional designs. (bottom photo).



Photos by Stephanie Horacek, Sleepy Hollow GC

## CALENDAR

Dec 1	Awards Applications due to Joanne Wallace
Jan 6	Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters due to Pat Merson
Jan 15	<i>Footprints</i> Deadline, Spring Issue
Jan 23	Piedmont District Board Meeting
Feb 15	Piedmont District Grant Deadline
Feb 27-Mar 2	VFGC Flower Show School IV
Mar 5-7	South Atlantic Region Convention, Roanoke Hotel
Mar 20	Piedmont District Spring Meeting
Mar 27-28	VFGC Landscape Design School
May 1	<i>Footprints</i> Deadline, Summer
April 23-24	VFGC Convention & Flower Show Staunton, Historic Hotel 24 South
May 3-5	NGC Convention, The Greenbrier
Jun 4-10	NGC National Garden Week

## Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Reminder

Pat Merson, Chairman



Piedmont District Garden Clubs are making preparations for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

The contest is open to elementary students in first through fifth grades.

Go to [VFGC.org](http://VFGC.org) for contest rules and regulations.

Posters are due to Pat Merson, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman, by **Friday, January 6, 2023.**

Pat's Address: 11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy.,  
Chesterfield, Va. 23838

Email: [prwtm@aol.com](mailto:prwtm@aol.com)

## Salisbury GC Awarded 2022 Youth Projects Grant

Congratulations to Salisbury GC who will sponsor several programs for youth. First, they will show preschoolers how to create gifts from planting paperwhites in the fall and a dish garden in the spring. Second, elementary students will learn how to make holiday baskets with fresh plant material; then in May, youth will learn how to create fresh flower arrangements. Finally, club members will teach elementary students from a disadvantaged area on fire prevention and basic environmental conservation. The children will create posters of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl showing an understanding of these topics. The club received a \$250 VFGC Youth Projects "Keys to the Future" grant.

## Piedmont District Grant Applications

**Due February 15, 2023**

*Jean Fender, District Grants Chair*

Clubs are reminded to get busy planning a landscape project and apply for a Piedmont District Grant to help cover your cost.

Last year we were able to award::

\$450 to Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

\$300 to Woodland Pond Garden Club,

\$300 to Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

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.

The application **deadline is February 15, 2023.** Winners will be announced, and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting March 20, 2023.

A grant application was included in the President's Packet at the Fall District meeting and is also in this issue of *Footprints*.

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

## Reconsidering Floral Foam

*Dawn Williamson*

*Conservation Chair, Hanover Towne Garden Club*

When I was in the garden club in my late twenties, I didn't think about what floral foam was made of, it was this amazing green brick of possibilities. I could soak it in water and cut it into all sorts of shapes and stick it in a vase. Then I could place my floral stems into it and let the magic begin. I very likely used it for my first arrangement entered in a kitchen category. I overheard the judges, a husband-and-wife team, as they casually debated if my debut in a pink transferware compote was appropriate for a kitchen. He said, "Well, you don't know what her kitchen looks like."

Sometime in between leaving the garden club to start a family and coming back 25 years later, the floral foam reality set in. How does one gently tell a bunch of women, all of us much older now, and set in our ways, this green stuff is a single-use plastic. It is in a group of plastics made of phenolic resins or phenol formaldehydes. There is no safe way to dispose of it either, basically it is green trash and not the good kind of green.

All of this is to say there are other ways to create lovely designs.. There are flower frogs, the kind found in vintage and antique shops (pictured), or chicken wire. There are methods using willow. We can find vases with smaller necks which help hold stems in place. We may have to get a little more creative. Hopefully, as a conservation organization we can move away from products which ultimately harm the environment and are sold to us for convenience and ease.



<https://flowersmagazine.com.au/2019/11/27/floral-foam/>

## Right on Topic...Save the Date!

*Monday, March 20, 2023*

Piedmont District Spring Meeting Program  
Features Floral Design Artist,

### **Betty Ann Galway**

"Floral Designs for the Home  
without Using Oasis"



Betty Ann Galway is a Floral Design Artist, Instructor & Speaker -VA. AIFD Certified Floral Evaluator/Judge, NGC Master Judge, and Member Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs.

Check out Instagram Photos and Videos:  
[@bafloraldesigns\\_aifd](https://www.instagram.com/bafloraldesigns_aifd)

### **Trex® Plastic Film Recycling**

To participate, in the recycling project and earn a beautiful garden bench, each club must go to [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com) and register. On the website, there is additional information about the program and support materials (flyers that tell what types of plastic can be recycled, posters). Promotional materials and bins to collect plastic will be sent to you once you register. **Your club selects a six-month period in which to collect plastic film for recycling and drop it off at one of many convenient locations.** More information on the program can be found on the Trex® website: [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com). At the bottom of the homepage, under Our Company, click on Recycling.



## Focus on *Aucuba japonica*

Jane Earle, Horticulture Chair

Acclimated to USDA Hardiness ZONE 6 and South, *Aucuba japonica* is native to Japan, Korea, and Asia. The broad-leaf evergreen brightens the landscape with year-round color in Southern zones. In Northern Cooler zones, the foliage is enjoyed as a houseplant.



Both Horticulturist and Floral Designers enjoy the plant for its versatility and accessibility. 'Gold Dust' variety presents a variation of dark glossy green leaves with golden speckles in harmonious disbursements. Leaves are serrated and ovate with growth up to 8 inches in length.

Female and male plants grown close by together will produce red berries on the female plant in the fall. (Diecious) Either are accepted in flower shows and may be plain (no markings) or variegated with gold or white specks.

Remember with horticulture exhibits, the central leader with an apical bud must be dominant even with branched and abundant leaves. Cleaning for inside use can be challenging especially the underside of the leaves.

In the landscape, *Aucuba japonica* is known as a shade loving shrub and displays well as an understory planting. Partial sun and full sun may cause paler colors and still add value in beautification.

See NGC Handbook **Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging** pp.27 and 28

Thanks to information from UNC, UMS (2008), U of FI.

[https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/shrub\\_fact\\_sheets/aucjapa.pdf](https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/shrub_fact_sheets/aucjapa.pdf)

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/aucuba-japonica/>

### **VFGC Flower Show School IV**

Dates: Feb 27-March 2.

Location: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Center, Roanoke

### **VFGC Landscape Design School**

Course IV, Series 28

Dates: March 27-28.

Location: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

For full school schedules and registration forms, see the winter issue of *Old Dominion Gardener* or the VFGC website.

# VFGC Convention 2023

Mark Your Calendars!



**“GROWING INTO ACTION”**

**Convention 2023  
and Flower Show  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs**

**April 23-24**

**Historic Hotel 24 South  
(Formerly Stonewall Jackson Hotel)  
Staunton**

An event to look forward to! Mark your calendars and plan to attend Convention 2023 VFGC. President Mary Owen will preside over the convention. Enjoy workshops, lunch and dinner speakers, expert demonstrations, and more.

The complete convention program and registration form will be published on the VFGC website and will be included in the spring issue of *Old Dominion Gardener*, which should be in your hands by early March.

## ***The Venue***

The historic and gracious Hotel 24 South (the former Stonewall Jackson hotel) is in the heart of Staunton, within easy walking distance to galleries, shops, and restaurants.

## ***Flower Show***

In conjunction with the convention, we will be holding an NGC Flower Show.

All VFGC members in good standing will be eligible to enter the flower show.

Look for details and a flower show schedule to be published in “ROOTED” – our VFGC e-newsletter.

## ***Shopping***

No convention is complete without shopping.

Invited vendors include handmade pottery, jewelry, clothing, floral design accessories, and more!

## ***Program Ads***

Clubs and business organizations may place ads in the 2023 Convention Program. The program size is the same as ODG: 5.5” by 8.5” Ad costs are \$50 for half-page or \$100 for a full-page ad.

Checks may be made to VFGC (convention ad in memo line) and submitted to Claudia Cosby, VFGC Treasurer. Indicate Club or other organization and size of ad purchased. Send to:

Claudia Cosby

3015 Mount Hill Drive

Midlothian, VA 23113-3923

Ad copy should be submitted in non-pdf format, preferably MS Word. Any photos or graphics work best if submitted as separate jpeg files. Submit to Gail Goodrich Harwood, program designer, at: [gailev@aol.com](mailto:gailev@aol.com) If desired, Gail can help with your ad design.

## Garden Clubbing in the Piedmont

### Appomattox Garden Club Tea



Sunday, April 16, 2023  
3pm to 5pm  
Weston Manor  
Hopewell, VA

Tickets \$10 in advance \$12 at the door  
Contact: Marilyn Brown (804)678-9040



**Fluvanna Garden Club** made 75 dried bouquets to "Spread Joy" to local Meals on Wheels recipients. Club members dried a variety of flowers, rosebuds, golden rod, and grasses to use.

**Nathaniel Cawsey GC** is planning to hold their Annual Garden Club Party, April 19, 2023 at Petersburg Country Club, Petersburg, VA.

**Wonder City Garden Club** is part of a community action group which also includes VFW, American Legion and City of Hopewell personnel. They used a \$300 VFGC Grant to renovate and restore Washington Circle / Veterans Memorial Circle to a beautiful memorial honoring local Veterans. Congratulations on their first VFGC Grant that helped to beautify the City of Hopewell.

### Be a Yearbook Sponsor

Now taking orders for the 2023-2025 Yearbook. Individual or Club Sponsorships. See the form at the end of this *Footprints* issue.

### Piedmont District Memorial Moment

The traditional "memorial moment" will be held at the Spring 2023 District Meeting. Send notices of deceased members to Pam Mann (March 2022 – March 2023) [pamann1724@yahoo.com](mailto:pamann1724@yahoo.com)

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



Cardinal in the Snow

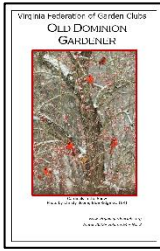
Photo by Joanne Wallace, Salisbury GC

*"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation."*  
-Paul Theroux



## 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 wonderful 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
  - Submission is considered permission to publish

## Piedmont District Officers 2021-2023 District Officers

President	Sally Harrison
Director of Hospitality	Diane Burgess
Director of Programs	JoAnn McNabb
Treasurer	Linda Nau
Recording Secretary	Susan DelSordo
VFGC Nominating Comm Rep	Diane Burgess
Alternate	Janet Minock

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Subscribe on the NGC website:  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)



“Ice Candle”

Photo by Donna Hohman, Hanover Towne GC

## Footprints & ODG

Send articles and photos in separate files to:

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor

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

PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due before the following deadlines:

**JANUARY 15, 2023- SPRING**

**MAY 1, 2023- SUMMER**

**AUGUST 1, 2023- FALL**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – WINTER**

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 in text. Submit text in Word format, non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, unique 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

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**PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION**  
**Deadline – February 15, 2023**

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, 2024)

Clearly describe your project on one side of paper. Use up to three 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 staffing, 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, 2023** TO: JEAN FENDER, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 10000 Berry Pond Lane, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116-2707, OR EMAIL IT TO [JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET](mailto:JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET). ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-730-2256. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 20, 2023.

## Be a VFGC 2023-2025 Yearbook Sponsor

Deadline: June 30, 2023

### Who can be a Sponsor?

Each club and every club member can be a 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—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

#### INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### CLUB SPONSOR

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

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yearbook Insert		\$10.00	
Binder with VFGC logo		\$8.00	
<b>Total Order</b>			

Make checks payable to VFGC, Inc. Mail check & form to:  
Darleen Nelson. 153 Bushfield Road Montross, VA 22520-3813  
[darlydurl@aol.com](mailto:darlydurl@aol.com) 804-472-9710