



FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3 SPRING 2017

A Message from your President, Melissa Damiano

Hello 2017! We have been anxiously awaiting your arrival and can allow the gardener in us to curl up with a pot of tea and plant catalogs. While we decide on the changes and additions to our gardens, one thing remains constant – green is our neutral backdrop, and it's likely you have many shades of green in your gardens; but do you have Pantone® #15-0343 called 'Greenery'?

Pantone® is a company that developed a color matching systems (PMS) for standardizing colors so that people can communicate an exact shade of color, not just 'grass green' or 'spruce green'. It's not unusual for nature's palette to headline as Pantone® Color of the Year, for example **Chili Pepper** 19-1557 **Honeysuckle** 18-2120 and **Blue Iris** 18-3943 have all been featured. This year 'Greenery', nature's neutral, has been elevated from a backdrop color to the forefront as Color of the Year for 2017.

Greenery can be described as the bright yellow-green of spring. It is a life affirming color of rejuvenation, emphasizing our desire to reconnect with nature and one another. What great advertising for garden clubs! Let's use the energy of **Greenery** to connect with friends and club members.

I encourage all to attend the **Spring District meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017** when we have Nancy Ross Hugo demonstrating the revitalizing power of nature's palette thru lush floral designs. Also the **Piedmont District Awards** will be presented during the morning program of this District meeting. This is a time that all clubs want to be present celebrating our fellow members and the accomplishments of their clubs. This year we go back to 'regular programming' with the VFGC and SAR awards presented at the VFGC Convention and not at our District meeting.

Remember, although we turned the page on the calendar, we still want to hear about your garden club's successes in 2016 as well as your activities planned for 2017. In this issue of **FOOTPRINTS**, you'll learn not only about other PD club projects, but also more details about the **upcoming VFGC Annual Convention & NGC Convention**.

Exciting times are ahead! In the meantime, while snowflakes may fly, let's Dream **Green(ery)**, while awaiting **Spring** to **Create** in **Color!** Stay warm & dry! *Melissa*

Chaplain's Message -- Pam Mann

To me, gardening in any form, offers time to really concentrate on what matters in life. Just--inhale the fragrance of rich moist soil. Or -- enjoy the eye-candy of simply seeing dew-drop sprinkled flowers. Feel the clinch of a praying mantis on your finger, or hear the hum of hummingbirds. All those things are little tranquilizers prescribed by God for us to use in the midst of enmity. We have rushed into fall, and fallen in winter.

Without time to take a breath came Halloween, Thanksgiving, shopping, Christmas, sale shopping, New Year's, and here we are, looking to step into spring.

Stop, sit awhile, and turn your face into the warmth of the sun. Breathe! Think awhile! What's it all about?

(from Springtime by Bonnie J. Knapp)

"Thank you, God, for all the things you gave to make this day.

Thank you for my eyes to see and wisdom to obey.

The sky was filled with His great love and clouds with great array.

With mountains reaching toward the sky to brighten up the day.

The flowers stood so straight and tall, just looking toward the sky.

Each flower seemed so special to the people passing by.

District Memorial Moment

Note: If your club would like to put forth the name of a member who deceased in Jan., 2016 to this day of 2017, send the following: Member name, club name, note if a charter member or president (years),contact person (phone or email). Send to Pam Mann -- pamann1724@yahoo.com or 598-2650.**

Spring District Meeting – March 13, 2017

Art Chadwick of Chadwick Orchids

As our morning speaker, Art Chadwick of Chadwick and Son Orchids and Co. will demonstrate how to use potted orchids in a floral design. While doing this demonstration Art will give us helpful tips about growing orchids in your home as well as how to get your orchids to re-bloom. Come prepared with your orchid questions - we will leave plenty of time for questions. Additionally, Chadwick and Son Orchids will be one of our vendors. Orchids make a lovely spring addition to your home as well as a great gift. Art speaks worldwide and will be a speaker at the World Orchid Conference in Ecuador in 2017. His company has been featured in 'The New York Times' as well as 'Southern Living.' We are fortunate to have Art donate his time to speak to us.

-- AND THEN --

Our Featured Afternoon Speaker and Designer -- Nancy Ross Hugo

Nancy lives, gardens, and arranges flowers in central Virginia, where she is best known for her work as garden columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and education manager at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Did you know that Nancy is a highly regarded floral designer?



No longer conducting arranging workshops at Flower Camp, she and her daughter, Kate, owner of The Arranger's Market, occasionally conduct afternoon and evening workshops in Short Pump, VA, and lead a three-day design workshop every September at Shrine Mont, in Orkney Springs, VA. In her arrangements and workshops, Nancy's emphasis is always on enjoying the creative process, celebrating nature, and showcasing local plant material. Her arrangements almost always include flowers, greens, or sticks from her own garden, and her designs take their inspiration from nature.

Nancy presents programs throughout the mid-Atlantic on a variety of topics ranging from the art of creating tiny arrangements on a windowsill to designing **lavish** arrangements for weddings and public events. Rarely does Nancy conduct design programs of this latter type, but we are **fortunate to have Nancy share her creative process as she creates luxuriant designs for Piedmont District members.**

For best seating make your reservation early! For your convenience (and our benefit) Nancy Ross Hugo's books will also be available for sale at our meeting.

CALL

PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING GENERAL MEETING – March 13, 2017 – “A CELEBRATION OF SPRING”

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

WHEN: Monday, March 13, 2017

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM -- “Earth Art: Floral Design with a Naturalist’s Eye”

8:30-9:45 Registration
10:00-11:30 Morning Session-
General Meeting and Awards Presentation
11:30-12:00 Break/Shopper’s Spree
1:00-2:45 **Nancy Ross Hugo**

COST: \$30.00 (includes tax, gratuity & Program)

MAIL TO: Johanna Gilbert, Registrar
8423 Shannon Green Ct.
Henrico, VA 23228-1876
804-270-6056 wieckmann@verizon.net

Ck payable to Piedmont District (**We are sorry but we will unable to issue refunds-please find a substitute**)

DEADLINE: Monday-February 27, 2017

NOTE: Please indicate on your registration form any dietary requirements or allergies

CHAIRMAN: If you are unable to attend, send 3 copies of your reports to:

Melissa Damiano, President
9436Park Bluff Terrace
Chesterfield, VA 23838
or mtdamiano@aol.com

Keep a 4th copy for your records.

CLUB PRESIDENTS: It is extremely important that you pick up the Presidents packet for your club. It contains much information that will help your club plan for the coming year. Please arrange for someone to pick up your packet if you will not attending.

**REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE FOUND ON PG. 12
OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND ON-LINE AT:**

PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Hilliard Park Garden Club

On a chilly November 12, 2016 morning (42 degrees), 14 volunteers met at a newly constructed Habitat for Humanity House in Ashland to landscape the front and plant an aucuba beside the deck in the back. There were 3 members of Hilliard Park Garden Club with their husbands and a grandson, the wife and college age son and daughter who are the new homeowners, and 4 Habitat volunteers.



The house has a lot of shade in the front yard and even more shade in the back. We had talked to the homeowner who liked our idea of azaleas and nandina for the front. We planted an azalea bed with 4 red Autumn Embers Encore Azaleas and 3 white Autumn Angel Encore Azaleas on the right front, then planted 2 large nandinias one on each end of the house with variegated liriopie in the small narrow 12" x 7' strip between the front of the porch on the left which has a white lattice background and the sidewalk extending to the driveway on the left. Variegated liriopie was also extended to the nandina on the left and planted on the edge of the azalea bed on the right to bring that bed together with the nandina on the right end of the house. This created a nice balance when viewing the front of the house.

A gold dust aucuba was planted in the back by the deck. Black mulch was placed in all areas landscaped and extended around the front of the deck in the back. Lattice work will be added to the deck in the near future.

The formal dedication of the house was held on November 19, 2016, with the new homeowners moving in the week after that. Habitat volunteers and the new homeowners were well pleased with and appreciative of our landscaping project. Total cost of the project was \$253.59. Donations received from Piedmont District \$50, Richmond Council of Garden Clubs \$150, Hilliard Park Garden Club \$53.59.

Garden Therapy – Catherine Abrams

The Thomas Jefferson Garden Club recently initiated a gardening enrichment program at the Trinity Lutheran Church preschool in Henrico.

For a diverse group of 20-35 preschool children, ages 2 1/2 to 5 years, the club provides 3-4 activities a year which last from 45 minutes to an hour.

Janet Minock, Committee Chair, shared some details about their activities.

Approximately 10 club members volunteer for each activity assisted by the preschool teachers.

In November, the preschoolers prepare small rock containers used to force paperwhites to bloom. Some are taken home by the children. Additional rock gardens are kept in each classroom so the children can watch the bulbs' roots grow and eventually create a blossom as a science experiment.

In March, the club sprays color onto plastic laundry caps and uses them as vases for miniature floral arrangements. The club provides greens and small flowers for the children to create their designs.

Another project involves reading a book about how seeds grow after which the children plant grass seeds into soil filled cups that will be decorated with faces. When the grass grows, it will be the hair on the heads above the faces!

A new activity will be reading aloud **The Frightened Frog, An Environmental Tale**, a children's book from National Garden Clubs, to the class this school year.

After reading the book, the children will each assemble a paper frog-shaped puzzle for coloring and gluing to a background mat. The book is above preschool reading level but the members will simplify the content to adjust for the very young audience.



Congratulations to the **Thomas Jefferson Garden Club** for reaching out to teach our youngest gardeners and adding fun activities to their preschool.

VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS & BOOK of HONOR

A tax deductible \$50.00 donation may be given to honor club members, friends and associates. This money is used for VFGC Scholarships. The honorees for Life Membership will receive a Life Membership pin and card.

Those who already have a Life Membership may be honored with a Book of Honor induction and will receive a card noting this honor. Now is the time to consider honoring an outgoing President or a valuable member of your club.

An application form is available on Page 16 of the 2015-2017 VFGC yearbook. There is also a link on PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org. Please send the form to: Patsy Cameron, VFGC Life Membership Chairman. Remember to allow 4 weeks for processing.

The following Piedmont District members were honored with VFGC Life Membership/Book of Honor since January 1, 2016. Congratulations to the following with their honor noted.

VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Jean Tremaine O'Malley – Amelia County
Jan Ball - Chesapeake Bay
Mary Frazer – Chesapeake Bay
Anne Haynie – Chesapeake Bay
Sharon Jachimski – Chesapeake Bay

Barbara Boor - Clay Spring
Mirian Wickham - Oxford
Kay Gray - Oxford
Donna Cottingham - Salisbury
Molly Burkhardt - Woodland Pond

BOOK of HONOR

Janice Clem - VFGC President, Honored by Rappahannock GC
Inga Millner – Stonehenge

VIOLET BANK MUSEUM HAS A NEW HEDGROW

On October 25, 2016, five members of Violet Bank Garden Club collaborated with the Recreation and Parks Department of Colonial Heights, VA, to plant and mulch forty Korean boxwoods in a hedgerow across the front of the Violet Bank Museum property.

The decision to plant boxwoods is historically accurate because colonial gardens typically grew boxwoods as a part of the landscaping according to the museum curator, Russell Woodburn. With the input of the city horticulturist, Amy Armstrong, it was decided to purchase Korean boxwoods because of their hardiness, low upkeep, mounding characteristics, and deer and rabbit resistance.

The boxwoods were purchased with funds donated by the Violet Bank Garden Club and a Piedmont District Grant which were matched by the City of Colonial Heights as part of the five year plan “for general restoration and improvements to the most important and recognized city-owned historic building, Violet Bank”.

Because the cost of the boxwoods was less than was budgeted, the city horticulturist was able to order sixty bushes. The Director of Recreation and Parks, Craig Skalak, asked the garden club to extend the hedgerow along the north side of the property.

After the city workers marked and cleared the space, six garden club members, Amy Armstrong, and her assistants met on November 21, 2016, to plant and mulch the additional twenty



boxwoods. In the next year, Craig Skalak would like to be able to complete the hedgerow on the north side of the property and continue planting boxwoods along the back of the Violet Bank grounds.



Amelia County Garden Club INNOVATIVE OUTREACH & FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Jean Tremaine, Amelia County Garden Club

To thrive and grow, ACGC consistently challenges itself to reach into its community to cultivate relationships, increase memberships and raise funds for garden club projects. In a non-transient rural county, a club needs to be innovative in its efforts.

ACGC is one of the oldest and smallest member clubs in the Piedmont District. For a small club with just 20 members, member growth – or in some cases, just sustaining numbers at an existing level without loss – is a serious challenge. To this end, the ACGC developed an Outreach Committee separate from Membership and PR, *specifically* to raise the club's profile within the local community.

This kind of outreach does not garner overnight results. But after a few years, ACGC has seen its ranks grow. To date, the club has four new members—20% growth!

The club has also extended its reach into the local community through some innovative fundraising efforts and educational programs. Last Spring, the Outreach Committee offered a free Saturday program on container gardening to draw interest.

Most recently, noted Virginia painter, Michele Tremaine, donated two framed original oil paintings featuring a Monarch butterfly and a hummingbird to ACGC to raise funds for its Memorial Garden in Amelia. The Memorial Garden is a recognized Monarch Way Station and active pollinator garden.

The paintings were displayed in a community art show and generated a great deal of interest among local collectors. The pictures are framed, oil on linen canvas and approximately 12" x 12" each. They are meant to hang as a pair.



Anyone interested in tickets or more information about ACGC and its Outreach efforts is encouraged to contact ACGC President Kay Burke at 804-561-4099 or bbkburke@tds.net

Donations are being accepted at \$4/ticket or 3 tickets for \$10.

One ticket will win both paintings. Tickets will be available at all upcoming ACGC fundraising events, including its annual plant sale. The winning ticket will be selected on Amelia Day (May 13, 2017). The winner need not be present to win.

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Wyndham Garden Club

June Hiller

"It was a great project!"

During the December meeting of the Wyndham Garden Club members decorated artificial tabletop trees to donate to the **Doorways** for a festive look to a place that provides an emotionally supportive environment for those who need to be close to the hospital but still have a feeling of "home."



The **Doorways** provides temporary lodging and non-medical services to patients and their families referred through their



participating Richmond-area hospital partners. The garden club donated the decorated trees and several members delivered them to the **Doorways**.

The staff at the **Doorways** was delighted that their residents were included in holiday thoughts by the Wyndham Garden Club.

PD-11 MEMBERSHIP – New Members could win your club \$\$\$\$

Lynne Still, District Membership

\$20.00 will be awarded to the club (i -- small, ii -- medium, iii -- large, iv -- extra large) bringing the most new members into VFGC.

(S# 33) No application required.

Simply:

- List new members who have joined your club between March 1, 2016 and Feb. 28, 2017;
- Remember to show their joining date;
- then, by **March 1, 2017**, send list and information to Piedmont District Membership Chairman:

Lynne Still
13520 Cotley Lane;
Henrico, VA 23233-7631
or email to wjstill@aol.com.

Manassas GC of Manassas, Va. celebrates 84th years as a Virginia Federated Garden Club

Dale Daly, President, Manassas Garden Club

The Manassas Garden Club of Manassas, Va. will be celebrating our 84th anniversary in March as a Virginia Federated Garden Club. We have a rich history of activities for our members and a legacy of "giving" to our community.

Approximately 10 years ago we developed a 150 foot border garden at the Manassas Museum and our members have continually maintained this beautiful garden. This past year our club donated a sizable sum to our city to replace four ash trees in one of our centrally located parks and new plantings around the large fountain. Unfortunately our city, like so many others, lost numerous ash trees. This is a small example of the contributions we have made for the beautification of Manassas over 84 years. We have been able to continually "give" by having two major fund raisers each year. In the Fall we take orders for Poinsettias with delivery in early December. In the Spring we have a very large plant sale of annuals. We have loyal, loyal customers for which we are so grateful.

Our garden club year is from September to June. We have a Holiday Party and a June Social with our significant others each year. Our September 2016 meeting was a Teaching Garden Tour of the Benedictine Monastery which featured growing vegetables and displays of low maintenance gardening techniques. The October meeting was "A Cup of Tea and Thee" with our speaker Cyndie Rinek, presenting the history of teas, how they are grown and how tea parties came about. It was accompanied by a wonderful slide presentation! The refreshment was a traditional high tea and we all dressed to honor the occasion. A Design Workshop was held in November and it was a "hands on" program lead by two talented designers. We are preparing for our every two year flower show to be held in May 2017

The Club annually decorates the Manassas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for the holidays in December. We decorate four trees, hang numerous decorated wreaths and create arrangements throughout the facility. The happy smiles and gratitude of the patients and staff are a wonderful reward! In December we also assisted seniors at the Manassas Senior Citizen Center in making Christmas arrangements for their holiday tables and it will now be another annual event for our Club.

The January program will be two speakers presenting "How To Help and Protect Our Bees". We then look forward to our Spring programs, warmer weather and digging in our gardens.

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New president for Kilmarnock Garden Club Grace Ann Miller

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2018

H-[804-436-1404](tel:8044361404)

C-[804-436-2910](tel:8044362910)

gmillervol@aol.com

Appomattox GC (AGC) Tea Weston Manor -- Hopewell, VA

Jane McCullen

The Annual AGC Tea will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 3-5pm at Weston Manor in Hopewell. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from Becky Hyatt 804 458 1023 or Judy Marks 804 541 1184. Tickets may also be purchased at the All Manor of Things Gift Shop at Weston Manor. The Manor will be decorated with fresh spring flowers for Garden Week in Virginia. Come and enjoy a lovely setting on the Appomattox River with special flower arrangements, great food, tea, and punch in a 1789 Manor House.

A Sentimental Journey – Salisbury GC

Mar. 29 2017

Deirdre Knight, Publicity Chairman

Plan now to join more than 100 creative members of Salisbury Garden Club, March 29th 2017, for a Standard Flower Show. 1:30 -- 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer, 2341 Winterfield Road, Midlothian, VA. No Admission Charge...

Whether a quiet moment with a cherished friend, a well loved family heirloom, or the memory of excited children exploring the Magic Kingdom, our talented members will inspire you as you take "A Sentimental Journey" through 48 floral designs, educational exhibits and superb horticulture .

Check our website at www.salisburygardenclub.org. Also for any questions, contact Lesley Dobson LESLEYWYORK@AOL.com, or Doris Morris at 804 379 7584.

"Symphony in Flowers" -- March 12, 2017

Genny Chase, Kilmarnock Garden Club

Searching for a unique experience? Consider the combination of an international floral designer and a high school symphonic band in a **one of a kind event**... "Symphony in Flowers". The Kilmarnock Garden Club and the Lancaster High School Band, have a unique approach to fundraising and opening the minds of attendees to "thinking outside the box", in this case where flowers and music are combined in a non-typical presentation.



International floral designer, Francine Thomas is from Tauranga in the North Island of New Zealand where she grew up in a family of floral designers. From Country Garden Clubs to Floral Theatre Presentations Francine has gained a wealth of experience in the floral industry working in all

areas of business. Mrs. Thomas has assisted Hitomi Gilliam from Canada; Tomoki and Suri from Japan; Gregor Lersch from Germany; Marie Françoise Deprez from France and many others. She has the Floral Art Society of New Zealand diploma in Teaching, Judging and Demonstrating and New Zealand Professional Florist, Inc. Mrs. Thomas has appeared on the Good Morning television show in New Zealand. In 2014 Francine was chosen to represent New Zealand at the World Flower Show in Dublin, Ireland, as their National Demonstrator, in front of over 1,000 people. In 2016, Mrs. Thomas won the New Zealand National Designer of the year.

Over the years **Lancaster High School Band** -- directed by **Robbie Spires** since 1985 -- has been featured in



halftime shows at the Peach Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl and twice at the BCS National Championship.

"Symphony in Flowers" will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at the Lancaster Middle School, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock, Virginia, 22482. Tickets are \$35. To purchase call 804-435-6902 or email anitahart2577@gmail.com. Proceeds from this event benefit the Kilmarnock Garden Club's community projects and the Lancaster High School Band.

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PD FLOWER SHOW & JUDGES' COUNCIL WINTER MEETING

February 6, 2017

A small standard flower show

"Hearts and Flowers"

Show open to the public -- 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. --
No admission charge - St. Matthias Episcopal Church
11300 W. Huguenot Road, Midlothian, VA.

Powhatan Garden Club

Presents Our 2nd Annual

"Play with Paint" Mardi Gras Edition

February 28, 2017 at 7pm

St. John Neumann Catholic Church,
2480 Batterson Road, Powhatan, VA 23139

Come out and celebrate Mardi Gras by creating a painted masterpiece! Paint session will be led by artist Kathy Rivera. Admission: \$35.00. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Contact Meredith Tullos at meretull1@hotmail.com for information.

Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

Invites you to experience

"Happenings in the Northern Neck"

A Standard Flower Show

Friday, June 9, 2017

At the Transportation Building -- On the Grounds of
Rice's Hotel/Hughletts Tavern, Heathsville, Va. --

Free admission -- Open to the public from 1:00-4:00
pm. Please come!

NGC Convention 2017 Needs YOU!

Judy B. Binns, NGC Convention 2017 Chairman

The 2017 Convention for National Garden Clubs, Inc. will be held on May 18-20, 2017 at the Richmond Marriott Hotel in Downtown Richmond with the theme, **“Virginia is for Gardeners”**.

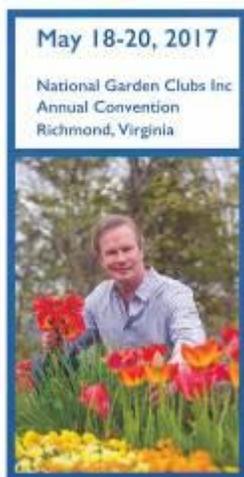
At that time, Virginia garden club members will welcome garden club members from all across the country plus international affiliates to share in the rich history of our state as well as educational programs from well-known speakers and experts that highlight gardening and floral design.

The **Keynote Speaker** for the convention is **P. Allen Smith**, an award-

winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. Smith is one of America’s most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration. He is the author of the best-selling Garden Home series of books and the recently published

cookbook, *Seasonal Recipes from the Garden*. Mark your calendar s-- P. Allen Smith will speak at the luncheon on Friday, May 19.

Virginia is proud to be the host of the NGC Convention in 2017. Plan now to be a part of this special event—by both attending and volunteering to help -- Let’s show the members of National Garden Clubs that **“Virginia is for Gardeners**.



This is your invitation to the VFGC Convention “CONNECTIONS”

April 2-4, 2017

Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA

Honored Guest National Garden Club President, **Sandra Robinson** will be



attending the convention and speaking at the Installation Banquet on Monday. **“Leap into Action”** is the theme for her administration.



Dr. Alex X. Niemiera, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Horticulture and Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction at VA Tech, will speak

about **“Our Native Sun Worshipers: Native Trees ~ Facts and Lore”**, which will directly be in relation to the “Planting Trees for Tomorrow” endeavor.

Paige Canfield is the owner of Sumner B. Designs, a boutique flowers firm specializing in fresh floral design. Her topic for the convention is **“The Life and Times of Florist Constance Spry - Queen Elizabeth’s Coronation and Wedding Flowers”**.



David Pippin, owner of David Pippin Inc., graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education; is a facilitator & consultant for Virginia Agriculture in the classroom, providing teachers with lessons to help students understand where our food and fibers are grown; is an adjunct professor in the Horticulture Department at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College; and is currently the floral designer for The Executive Mansion of Virginia.

Al Brockwell, owner and operator of Flora Culture, AIFD, CFD, has traveled the world learning “the art of floral design” with other artists. Enjoy seeing David and Al create floral designs using the same flowers with different results.



Registration form can be found on pg. 11 of this newsletter. Full schedule of events and registration form can be found in the Winter, 2016 Old Dominion Gardener.

Litter Prevention/Recycle Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

Lorraine VanWickler, Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

This is the time of the year to sit back -- relax -- and think of ways to recycle, reuse, or repurpose.

My new favorite site is "dyiinspired.com" from recycled cereal boxes to vintage door knobs. It has a little bit of everything.

Happy New Year to everyone! And remember, if you and or your club are doing any litter prevention/recycling **please let me know.** Dragonfly14@va.metrocast.net

2016 -- Busy and Productive Year for Rappahannock Garden Club

Margie Redlin, RGC Publicity

The Rappahannock Garden Club resumes regular meetings in March 2017, but reflects on the 2016 season as a very busy and productive year.

Some highlights include

- ✚ RGC scholarships given to two high school seniors;
- ✚ the RGC "Root Cellar" helping fund the scholarship program by selling homemade cakes, food, and crafts;
- ✚ a successful 7-week Frighten Frog Program with the Boys and Girls Club;
- ✚ a fundraiser with guest speaker and NGC president-elect Nancy Hargroves;
- ✚ an honorary youth membership to third grader Chrissie Ketner;
- ✚ many interesting lectures and workshops;
- ✚ participation in their community projects;
- ✚ 2 members continuing with Flower Show School;
- ✚ several members registering their butterfly gardens;
- ✚ the addition of 6 new members;
- ✚ and the year-end holiday and awards luncheon.



RGC member Mary Ann McKay was awarded the club's highest honor - the Most Valuable Gardener - for her leadership with **The Frighten Frog Program.**

Harbinger of Spring

Kristi Hendricks,
Surry Garden Club



Wild columbine is a no foolin' around harbinger of spring. Bring the feel of natural woodlands to your landscape with this native herbaceous perennial. You'll be delighted as the *lantern-like blossoms dance on a light breeze*, enticing all manner of wildlife to pause for a sip of sweet nectar throughout the months of spring.

Columbine thrives in Virginia and is used to create an inviting habitat for bees and butterflies. Ruby-throated hummingbirds also value the nectar found in the flower's long backward-pointing tubes (spurs) that have knob-like bulges at the tip. Finches and buntings dine on the decorative seed heads that form after flowering. Bumblebees and various species of hawk moths are major pollinators of columbine.

While wildlife enjoys the food source, you'll prize the attractiveness of the bell-shaped flowers. Numerous bright yellow stamens hang below nodding red sepals and contrasting yellow petals. The petals are upward spurred, resembling the talons of an eagle about to pounce on prey, thus giving rise to the genus name *Aquilegia*. The blooms last a good two weeks before going to seed.

Don't discount the foliage of Eastern red columbine as the compound leaves are semi-evergreen and showcase soft blue-green color. *Aquilegia canadensis* can grow to 2' in height making for a stunning addition to your shade-loving garden, especially when paired with bleeding heart and comingled with ferns. Columbine has a taproot so take care not to injure this central root system when transplanting or dividing.

As with all plants, research the optimal habitat for a plant before placement. This wildflower likes moisture but placement in well-drained, sandy soil. Too much moisture can result in crown rot. Don't site in full sun or its three-lobed leaves will likely burn and growth will be stunted.

As winter's closure nears, sow seeds now on the soil's surface and lightly tamp into the dirt. Columbine will flower the second year following germination, so just enjoy the foliage the first season. Once established columbine readily self-seeds. Remove old seed heads and spent stems to keep a tidy look to the clumping foliage and encourage additional blooming.

Be mindful that the adult harlequin stink bug enjoys the plant sap from columbine as well as sun-loving snapdragons and sunflowers. While this bug can easily



spoil a plant's appearance, deer tend to avoid columbine during all seasons.

PIEDMONT DISTRICT FUNDRAISER 2018 Vision of Beauty Calendars- Lee Bedsole, Chairman

The National Garden Clubs Inc. will be offering the "**Vision of Beauty**" Calendars again this year. This Flower arrangement and Engagement Calendar has full-page color designs by club members from around the world. This calendar is a great resource for creative ideas for your own designs. This is also a very easy way to help the Piedmont District raise funds. Please make sure to place your order by July 1, 2017. (Order form below). The cost is \$6.00 each and includes shipping and handling. Please make checks payable to Piedmont District, VFGC. Calendars will be delivered to clubs and individuals at the Fall Board Meeting and the District Meeting. If you have any questions please contact: Lee Bedsole: lee.bedsole@gmail.com.

2018 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS ORDER FORM -- **ATTENTION!!!!** --

DEADLINE JULY 1, 2017 -- MAIL TO: Leola Bedsole, 7090 Covenant Woods Drive, Apt. M-210, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-7025 Tel: [804-417-5162](tel:804-417-5162) -- lee.bedsole@gmail.com

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Piedmont District, VFGC _____ Number of Calendars @ \$6.00 = Total \$ _____

Club Name _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

REGISTRATION FORM -- PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2017 -- Doubletree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235

(DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017) COST: \$30.00

CLUB NAME _____ CLUB PRESIDENT _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____ CONTACT EMAIL _____

NAMES OF ATTENDEES - PLEASE PRINT	PHONE NUMBER	VOTING STATUS
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1 _____	_____	_____
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2 _____	_____	_____
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3 _____	_____	_____
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4 _____	_____	_____
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Total Number Attending _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Include dietary restrictions or allergies)
Registrations must be accompanied by a check payable to PIEDMONT DISTRICT, VFGC.

Clubs: President (CP) 1 vote, 2 Voting Delegates (VD) 1 vote each, District Officer (DO) 1 vote, District Chairman (DC) 1 vote, Former District President (FDP) 1 vote.

Please print -- Use another sheet of paper for additional names. You may use the standard procedure of mailing your **COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH A CHECK** -- OR -- email a list of attendees with name, phone number, and voting status to Johanna Gilbert at wieckmann@verizon.net and then **immediately** mail a **single check to cover fees** to: Johanna Gilbert, registrar, 8423 Shannon Green Ct., Henrico VA 23228-1876 -- 804-270-6056 -- wieckmann@verizon.net No telephone registrations. We are unable to issue refunds.

**2017 VFGC CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM -- April 2 - 4, 2017 •
The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center**

Please complete form, make check payable to: VFGC Convention, Mail to: Ruth Rider, Registrar, P. O. Drawer 73, Warrenton, VA 20188 -- rbrgrammy@verizon.net • 540-347-3436 -- **Postmark by March 15, 2017 for On-time Registration.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

May we confirm registration by your email noted above? ___ Yes ___ No

Check **ALL** that apply:

- National Officer/Chm District President NGC Life Member
- Regional Officer/Chm District Director SAR Life Member
- Former VFGC President Club President VFGC Life Member
- State Officer/Chm Club Member Visitor/Guest
- VFGC Life Member or Book of Honor since May 1, 2016

***Special Package Plan \$195.00 –**

Includes registration fee (add \$5.00 if after March 15), Breaks, 4 meals, and all programs)... \$ _____

-- OR --

Early Registration Fee on or **before 3/15/2017**.....\$10.00. \$ _____

Or Registration Fee postmarked **after 3/15/2017** \$15.00. \$ _____

Sunday April 2, 2017	Dinner and Design Program.	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
Monday April 3, 2017	Continuous break, lunch and dinner	\$115.00	\$ _____
	Break and Lunch.	\$70.00	\$ _____
	Dinner/Installation.	\$60.00	\$ _____
Tuesday April 4, 2017	Breakfast	\$35.00	\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

_____ check if special needs menu is requested. List details here or on back if needed. _____

Please check if attending the following:

- Sunday, April 2: () 3:30 p.m. "Our Native Sun Worshipers: Native Trees by Alex Niemiera •
- Monday, April 3 () 2:30 p.m. "Gardening in the 21 Century" by David Roos;
- 4:00 p.m. () Leadership Workshop for Club Presidents, Treasures and other club officers
by Janice Clem and Claudia Cosby.

**VFGC CONVENTION 2017 – "CONNECTIONS"
The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA**

Hotel Reservations

The Convention room rate is \$119.00 (for single, double, triple or quad) plus tax.

Hotel Reservations **Deadline: March 15, 2017.**

State you are with Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs to receive this special rate: 844-442-8746.

Piedmont District Nominees for 2017-2019.

The Piedmont District nominating committee, consisting of Susan Bradshaw, Jean Fender, Pam Mann, Phillipa Smith and Theresa Tremper, is pleased to announce the slate of officers for the 2017-2019 administration.

All nominees have agreed to serve and will be voted on at the March 13, 2017 District Meeting. Additional nominees may be offered from the floor at that time. Many thanks to these very qualified members for giving their time and talents to serve Piedmont District as elected officers for 2017-2019.

Nominated are:

President – Judy Durant, Hanover Towne GC
 Director, Hospitality – Joann McNabb, River Road and West Hanover GC
 Director, Programs – Sally Harrison, River Road GC
 Recording Secretary – Mary Wiblin, Clay Spring GC
 Treasurer – Linda Nau, Salisbury GC
 VFGC Nominating Committee delegate – Mary Owen, Fluvanna GC
 VFGC Nominating Committee delegate (alternate) – Kathy Ward, Salisbury GC

Time is running out to apply for PD Grants -- Deadline February 15, 2017

Jean Fender, Chairman

The Piedmont District is expected to have excess funds to allocate to grants for worthwhile club projects in your community. 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 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. Winners will be announced and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting on March 13, 2017. **Application form can be found on line at PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org. PLEASE SUBMIT BY February 15, 2017 TO:** Jean Fender, PD grants chairman, 9245 Royal Grant Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-4195 – email: jean.fender@comcast.net. any questions call 804-730- 2256.

CALENDAR 2017

Feb. 06	PD Flower Show Judges Council Flower Show and PD Board Meeting St. Matthias' Episcopal Church	May 18-20	NGC 2017 Convention, Richmond Marriott Hotel
Feb. 28	Powhatan GC, "Play with Paint"	June 9	CBGC Standard Flower Show Heathsville, VA
Mar. 12	"Symphony in Flowers", Kilmarnock, VA		DEADLINES
Mar. 13	Spring District Meeting, Richmond	Feb. 15	PD Grant registration (pg. 11)
Mar. 29	Sentimental Journey, Salisbury GC Standard Flower Show	Feb. 27	Registration for Piedmont District Spring General Meeting (10)
Apr. 1-2	Virginia Daffodil Society Show- LGBG	Mar. 01	PD-11 New Members (pg. 5)
Apr. 2-4	VFGC 2017 Convention, Roanoke, VA	Mar. 15	On-time Registration 2017 VFGC Convention & hotel registration BOOK EARLY – SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$ (pg. 11)
Apr. 14-16	African Violet- LGBG	May 31	CLUB TREASURERS -- Renew your 2017-2018 PD membership (pg. 13)
Apr. 22	Spring Garden Fest www.pgmgga.org	Jul. 01	"Vision of Beauty" orders (pg.10)
Apr. 23	AGC Tea, Weston Manor in Hopewell		
May 5-6	Lewis Ginter PlantFest –LGBG		

2017-2018 Piedmont District membership Dues and Communication Fee Registration Form

Club Treasurer -- It's time to renew your 2017-2018 Piedmont District membership. Dues and Communication Fee total \$20/club. Thank you for using the form provided below or on the District website. Include with your check for \$20 payable to Piedmont District, VFGC and send to:

BEFORE May 31, 2017

JoAnn McNabb, Treasurer - 804-749-8383
18226 Vontay Road
Rockville, Va. 23146 - Josiemcva@gmail.com

AFTER May 31, 2017

Linda Nau, Treasurer - 804-514-0095
1810 Ethelred Ct
Midlothian, VA 23113-3400 - naule@aol.com

Payment is due no later than May 31, 2017, so mail today so it is not forgotten. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Thank you!

Club President 2017-2019

Address Street: _____
City, State, zip: _____
Phone # () _____
Email address _____

Club Treasurer 2017-2019:

Street: _____
City, State, zip _____
Phone # () _____
Email address _____

Club's Piedmont District Representative 2017-201 (This is NOT the president. This is to be a 2nd person in your club to also receive emails/notifications from Piedmont District).

Name _____
Phone # () _____
Email address _____



FOOTPRINTS

Send articles to: Carolyn Ball, Editor
Email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org
PH: 804-580-6035

Articles are due **before** the following dates

MAY 1, 2017 – SUMMER

JULY 1, 2017 – SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 1, 2017 – FALL

Officers and Chairmen - Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due date. If you want your article to appear in more than one issue, please indicate which ones.

Please try to limit articles to one column (350-400 words). Electronic transmission preferred; photos and graphics are encouraged. If you have the information ahead of time, don't hesitate to send it early.