

FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3 SPRING 2020

A Message from JoAnn McNabb, Piedmont District President

January is the month that we finally tend to slow down, and sometimes even the weather demands it. It is a month for planning, relaxing, and reflecting on the past year's events. February is when we all look forward for winter to be over. For me, it is time to look through all the seed catalogs that I have been saving for weeks. It is when I head out to the local greenhouses to purchase forced bulb plantings in anticipation of an early spring.

Then comes March when we all get together again for our spring district meeting. If you have not done so, please mark your calendar for Monday, March 16, 2020. Information about our design program can be found on the following page of this newsletter, and this looks like another fabulous program planned by Diane Burgess, Program Chairman, and Sally Harrison, Chairman of Hospitality.

Recognition of awards will be another highlight of our meeting. Awards Chairman Joanne Wallace has done a fabulous job of collecting, reviewing and organizing applications submitted by Piedmont clubs. Even if your club did not apply for an award this time around, please come out to congratulate those clubs that did. I had the privilege of being one of the nine judges who reviewed the applications, and I am in awe of the wonderful contributions our clubs are making to our communities.

Garden Clubs in Piedmont generated \$501.27 in donations to the No-Bake, Bake Sale. Congratulations and many thanks to Amelia County, Chesapeake Bay, River Road, Salisbury, Sleepy Hollow, West Hanover, and Woodland Pond clubs for participating. These monies will be donated to Youth Scholarship projects.

With the new year just beginning, what better way to plan your garden club activities than to attend the upcoming VFGC Convention in Roanoke at the end of March. There will be great speakers, wonderful vendor shopping, and an opportunity to see friends you haven't seen in a while. Full meeting details and registration forms are in the Winter Issue of the *Old Dominion Gardener*. If you cannot find it, send me an e-mail and I will send to you.

Come on out and support your district on March 16th! I look forward to seeing you there.

"What's Your Purpose?"

Message from Pam Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

It's a new year, and a new day. While the garden is still at rest, it's time, to figure out—what's best for 2020? Not only for the garden, but for you, too. What are your goals? What is your purpose? What should you do? <u>Like- a tiny seed drawn by the light of the sun.</u> Purpose is not some dark secret that you must struggle to discover. Decide to allow it, and purpose will find you. <u>Like- a gentle breeze you feel at the turn of a corner. It's there.</u>

Purpose is not so much a matter of what you do. It's more about the way you feel while doing whatever it is you are doing. Those things you know without having to learn, connect you to purpose.

<u>Like</u> – The way a person who loves gardening feels when digging, planting & planning.

Purpose is not merely what you think you might believe, but what you're certain of.

<u>Like</u> – In my heart I know, only God could make a rose. Purpose is the unconditional, limitless realm in your life that cannot be diminished by anything that happens. Whatever you undertake from the sense of that purpose brings great fulfillment and richness of life.

Does purpose elude you? Amelia Barr wrote: "Let us sit down before the Lord to consider our resources and see what we are not fit for. Then, simply give up wishing for it." Let us decide honestly what we can do, and then do it with all our might. Give your best to each moment—and the blessing of purpose will come.

March 16 Meeting Program Preview

by Diane Burgess

CALL

PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING MEETING Monday March 16, 2020

WHERE: Four Points Sheraton 9901 Midlothian Turnpike Richmond, VA 23235

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

- 8:30-9:45 Registration / Shop
- 10:00-11:30 Morning Session-General Meeting
- 11:30-12:00 Break / Shop / Cash Bar
- 12:00-1:00 Luncheon
- 1:00-2:45 Design Program: Robert Allen Hunt

COST: \$30.00 check payable to Piedmont District, VFGC. (Sorry, we are unable to issue refunds -- please find substitutes.)

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

DEADLINE: Monday March 9, 2020

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

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

JoAnn McNabb, President 18226 Vontay Rd., Rockville, VA 23146

CLUB PRESIDENTS: It is important that you pick up the Presidents packet for your club. Please arrange for someone to pick up your packet if you will not be attending.



Robert Allen Hunt

Our featured floral presenter at the March 16th Piedmont District Meeting is a distinguished floral designer and event planner. He is known for his design work in Colonial Williamsburg, The Williamsburg Inn and the surrounding area as well as in Tidewater. He also creates floral designs for special events at Disneyworld.



Robert's extensive travel in the hospitality industry always provides new ideas and inspiration for his designs. We can expect 'fabulous floristry' at the March meeting. All his designs will be raffled off. Be sure to reserve early (as a club or individually)!



Calendar

Mar 10	Early registration deadline,		
Mar 16	VFGC Convention Piedmont District Spring Meeting		
	Richmond, VA		
Mar 28	Ginter Park GC Spring Market		
Mar 29-31	VFGC Convention		
	Roanoke, VA		
Apr 17-18	River Road GC Flower Show		
Apr 18-25	Virginia Historic Garden Week		
Apr 19	Appomattox Garden Club's		
	Annual Tea Party		
Apr 30 – May 2	PlantFest (spring plant sale)		
	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden		
May 9	Wonder City GC Plant Sale		
May 11-16	NGC Convention		
	Milwaukee, WI		
May 22	Blue Star Memorial Dedication		
Jun 7-13	National Garden Week		
Oct 19	Piedmont District Fall Meeting		
	Richmond, VA		



Hyacinth © ggh

Wonder City Garden Club

58th Annual Plant Sale

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 2020 8 a.m. – 12 Noon

WHERE: Weston Plantation on the *Appomatton River* 400 Weston Lane at 21st Avenue Hopewell, Virginia 23860

The Wonder City Garden Club will hold its 58th annual plant sale from 8 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, May 9, at Weston Manor, 400 Weston Lane, in Hopewell. The plant sale will include a variety of local plants ready for spring planting. This year's offerings will feature some lovely specimens from the private gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Skaggs.

Prince George Master Gardeners will be available for questions. Weston's "All Manor of Things" ladies' boutique will be open, and the event will also feature the work of several local artisans.

All proceeds from the sale are used to support local horticulture and education programs. Like us on Facebook!

Wonder City Garden Club

Celebrating 63 Years of Gardening – Established 1957

Falling Creek Blue Star Memorial Dedication

by Barbara Hollister, Chair

When: Friday, May 22, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Where: American Legion Post 284 located at 505 Springdale Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Let's have a great Piedmont District turnout!

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 armed forces or anyone interested in honoring our wonderful United States armed forces.

Environmental Justice

by Susan DelSordo, Legislative Affairs Chair

While researching the Virginia General Assembly website for new bills relating to the environment, I came across a Senate bill related to Environmental Justice.

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of their race, color, sex, national origin or income with the respect to the development, implementation and enforcement.

Environmental justice emerged as a concept in the United States in the early 1980s; its proponents generally view the environment as encompassing "where we live, work, and play" (some definitions also include 'pray' and 'learn') and seek to redress inequitable distributions of environmental burdens (such as pollution, industrial facilities, and crime). Root causes of environmental injustices include "institutionalized racism; the comodification of land, water, energy and air; unresponsive, unaccountable government policies and regulation; and lack of resources and power in affected communities."

Another Senate bill establishes the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice, which will consist of 24 members, to advise the Governor and provide recommendations intended to protect vulnerable communities from disproportionate impacts of pollution and provide them meaningful involvement in the decision-making process.

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

What to Do with All Those Plastic Bags?

by Sharon Lemke, Recycling and Litter Chair

We've all been there. You have the best intention to take a reusable shopping bag to the store. But you forget ...and you end up using the store's bags. So, you want to do the right thing and recycle those bags.



First, separate plastic bags from your other plastic recyclables. Why? The bags can wrap around and jam recycling equipment or contaminate paper bales. Each community has a place to dispose of used plastic bags for recycling. I bring mine to the local Walmart.

You might be curious about how these bags are recycled and made into products. They are cleaned, baled then turned into flakes and pellets which are used to make a variety of products. Many recycled bags end up as composite lumber. This is a mix of plastic and wood scraps, such as sawdust and wood pallets. This type of lumber is long lasting and durable. The Trex Company and Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc. are the main manufacturers of this type of lumber.

Some bags are melted down and used to create new batches of plastic bags. This process is more efficient than making them from scratch. A portion of your recycled bags may end up in the nanotechnology field. Scientists have developed a new way to create carbon nanotube membranes from recycled plastic bags, which may potentially be used for energy storage and biomedical innovations.

So now you don't feel so bad, as those bags are being reborn into a useful product rather than bowing off some landfill site and ending up in the waterways.

What's the bottom line? The best thing would be to bring your own reusable shopping bag to the store. If not, please recycle your bags in the proper place. Support those businesses that no longer use plastic bags and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Know Your Natives...

by Carolyn Shiflett

"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"



Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Posters

by Pat Merson, Chair

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters were submitted by participating garden clubs by the January 3, 2020 deadline. The winning local posters by children in grades 1-5 were very creative and illustrated Smokey Bear's message: "Only you can prevent wildfires". Awards for the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be announced at the Piedmont District meeting in March. A special thank you goes to the garden clubs that participated in the poster contest: **Rappahannock**, **Salisbury, Sleepy Hollow**, and **Wyndham**.

Spring Meeting 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

Before long the days will become warm and flowers will begin to emerge. I would like to encourage you to look for some new and different plants in the native variety.

The first one is **Mayapple**, *podphyllum peltatum*. This one can often be found on woodsy walks. It is a perennial in the barberry family. It likes moist, humus rich soil. The nodding white, rose colored, fragrant flowers in April and May resemble apple blossoms. The leaves are fragrant and umbrella-like. The early summer flowers are followed by fleshy fruit containing seeds. These green "apples" ripen to a golden color later in summer. The mayapple goes dormant in hot weather.



May Apple

Fire Pink, *silene virginica*, is an interesting perennial native you might see in rocky, open woodlands. It grows in full sun and will also grow in rock crevices. The deep red flowers emerge in February through April and provide nectar for hummingbirds.



Fire Pink

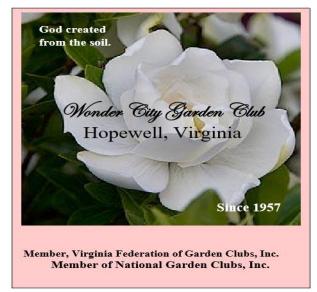
Another native to look for is **Wild quinine**, *parthenium integrifolium*, a member of the aster family. It grows in meadows and woodland edges in full sun. It has a long bloom season from June to September. The flowers are fuzzy white clusters. They are attractive landing pads for many predatory insects such as bees and wasps. The roots improve soil fertility and filter ground water.



Wild Quinine

Wonder City GC Is Back! (in the Virginia Federation)

by Rita Joyner, President Wonder City GC



Wonder City recently became a member of the Virginia Federation after an absence of 30+ years. We initially received a charter in 1958, a year after our club was organized. Although some of the information is sketchy, it seems that the club left the federation in the 1980's.

Our club is a bit different in that we have ALWAYS met at night, so the composition of our members is different from some of the other clubs. We have a large number of professional women who are members. Our members are intensely interested in the environment --- and always have been. I think that both the VFGC and the Garden Club of Virginia are finding that younger members are more interested in environmental issues than in some other aspects of gardening.

Wonder City has 20 active members. The club has staged an annual plant sale for 58 years! This year's event takes place on Sunday, May 9th at Weston Plantation in Hopewell. See announcement on p 3 of this newsletter.

We are thrilled to be a part of the Federation! We have three clubs in the City, and now all three of us are members of the Federation. We are forming a Council, albeit a small one. Clearly, the common membership in the Federation has fostered a synergy that did not exist before.

"MOTHER EARTH AWAKENING"

An NGC Small-Standard Flower Show Presented by the River Road Garden Club April 17 -18, 2020

> River Road Presbyterian Church Kemp Hall 8960 River Rd, Richmond, VA 23229 804-740-7083

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. South Atlantic Region Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Piedmont District





VFGC Life Membership

by Jane Denton



A Life Membership Pin can be yours or yours to give as a thank you or as a gift for only \$50.00. Your \$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.virginiagardenclubs.org/ VFGC/Life_Memberships.html for the applicable form/s or call or email Jane Denton, Life Membership Chairman at 804-435-6877 denton@va.metrocast.net.

Appomattox Garden Club's Annual Tea Party

April 19, 2020 form 3-5 Weston Manor, 400 Weston Street, Hopewell Admission \$10

For information, contact Marilyn Brown mbteach@hotmail.com

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club Creates Designs to Support University of Richmond Fundraiser

by Susan Gordon and Gail Harwood, Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

In early December, Sleepy Hollow Garden Club created designs for the home of Susan and John Gordan, one of five homes on a Holiday House Tour sponsored by the University of Richmond Chapel Guild. Funds raised were to support the UR Office of the Chaplaincy. Approximately 450 tickets were sold at \$45.00 per ticket, resulting in about \$20,000 before expenses.

Sleepy Hollow members were delighted to support this effort with Susan, who is a club member. Susan and John's home was the oldest one on the tour. The house was built in 1927 in the Tudor Revival style, consistent with the Collegiate Gothic style of the University. As frequent visitors to auctions, estate sales, and antique shops, Susan and John have collected fine furnishings, many of which reflect English styles consistent with the character of the house. Susan's background in art has given her a love for beautiful objects which has inspired, among other things, her collection of Chinese and Japanese porcelain. Their mutual love of the visual arts has resulted in a collection of paintings, heavily oriented toward landscapes, and prints from a variety of cultures.

The club's objective for the tour event was to complement the classic beauty of the house, its furnishings and art with natural plant material. Many of the designs were large-scale. Participating designers included Nancy Anderson, Cindy Butler, Susan Gordon, Tatter Hartmann, Gail Harwood, and Maria Prince. Club members were pleased to hear that there were many favorable comments about how the designs enhanced the beauty of the home.



Photos by Maria Prince

Left: a mass design of apricot roses punctuated with green button mums complements dining room place settings

Middle: a window ledge in the living room provides the perfect setting for a large-scale design of gilded fascinated willow, cryptomeria and Frazier fir

Right: a design atop a vintage chest features an armature of dogwood and willow branches, framing Alstroemeria, Leyland cypress and juniper

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."

- Henry David Thoreau



Photo Permission obtained.

Chespeake Bay Garden Club used *The Saved Seed* for their seed-toplant pumpkin project with firstgraders. (Winter *ODG*). For more info about their project, contact Karen Luzuriaga: <u>Karen.luzuriaga1@gmail.com</u>



The Saved Seed is a K-4 children's book available @ \$10 through the NGC website.

Edible Container Gardening

by Kathy Ward

During the cold winter months, we gardeners peruse our plant and seed catalogs as we plan for the new gardening year. This year why not consider growing your own veggies? Not enough sun?... no problem! Deer and other critters? ... No problem! Poor soil? ... NO problem! This year consider planting your edibles in containers!

There are many advantages to planting vegetables in containers. A container garden can be set up anywhere, even on your driveway, where there may be more sun. They can be placed on your deck or close to your house or covered with netting to deter the deer and squirrels. They are elevated and make gardening easier on our older joints. Containers also have the advantage of fewer weeds. All you need to get started is a bag of good soil, a trowel and the right sized container!

When it comes to size, the bigger the pot, the better. Large pots hold more soil and therefore hold water, so you won't have to tend to them as often. Look for containers that are at least 10 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Larger flowerpots, half barrels, plastic-lined bushel baskets (with drainage holes) and window boxes. Even 5-gallon buckets from the hardware store work well.

Organic potting mixes will help your plants thrive and give you a better tasting veggie. It can either be purchased from a nursery/hardware store or you can make your own by blending equal parts of peat moss, potting soil, and vermiculite. Perlife or clean sand can be substituted for the vermiculite.



Container - grown Brandywine Tomatoes © ggh

When choosing your plant or seed, be sure to look for vegetable varieties developed especially for containers. They are also disease-resistant and produce good yields. Any vegetable you would grow in the ground has special varieties developed for containers. A few examples are Bush Baby Cucumbers, Little Finger Carrots, Bright Lights Chard, and Glacier Tomatoes.

Resources: Savy Gardening (savygardening.com), Urban Farmer (ufseeds.com) and Burpee Seeds (burpee.com) which have many container vegetable varieties listed. The Harvest to Table website has extensive information on soil mixture, container sizing, planting time and more (https://harvesttotable.com/category/container-gardening/). Happy planting!

--8-

Bags to Benches

by Penny Melino, Cartersville Garden Club



- March 13 Nature Study Reading Society, 11am-12noon; held the second Friday every other month in the Robins Library Reading Room
- March 28 Virginia Daffodil Society Show
- April 17 Butterflies LIVE! Daily through October 12
- April 30 PlantFest Members only presale, 4-7 pm
 May 1-2 Spring Plant Sale open to the public Friday, 9am – 5 pm Saturday, 9am-3 pm Also... Visit the Garden Shop: Members receive a 15% during PlantFest



You get a bench! You get a bench! You get a bench!

The Cartersville Garden Club has completed its third TREX challenge and received a third bench, which was the second one to go to the Cumberland Public Library. The benches have been positioned in the back of the library, making a nice little reading and conversation area for library patrons. The first bench was donated to the Cartersville Volunteer Rescue Squad and sits prominently in front of that building.

We were lucky enough to have sat next to some members of the Violet Bank Garden Club at a luncheon and learned what they had been doing. We've been very successful enlisting our entire community to contribute soft plastic to our effort. It's such a help to our environment and a wonderful cause for the entire area to participate in.

"What is this all about?", you ask. The TREX Corporation allows communities and organizations to sign up for a six-month challenge, in October and April, to recycle 500 pounds of soft plastic in exchange for a bench provided by TREX.

The Cartersville Garden Club began their first challenge October 2018. We were able to achieve our goal through the help of a lot of contributors. What is meant by soft plastic? It's plastic shopping bags, clean and dry food wrappers, any wrapping around appliances, electronic devices, deflated bubble wrap. The plastic needs to be clean and dry. We collect it, weigh it and then take it to our local Food Lion, who sends it to their distribution center where TREX picks it up. Food Lion has an arrangement with TREX and has been very supportive of our efforts. Once a month, we report our total weight to TREX.

Our next challenge begins in April of this year. That's when we will re-enroll in the program and start reporting totals. In the meantime, we are barely able to contain the enthusiasm of our plastic donors, and will continue collecting, weighing and taking it to the store. We feel so good about what we're doing for the oceans, our environment and our community.



FOOTPRINTS

Old Dominion Gardener

Send articles to: Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due <u>before</u> the following deadlines: MAY1, 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 or fundraisers.

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 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. Lavender Fields Herb Farm 11300 Winfrey Road Glen Allen, VA 23059

Piedmont District, VFGC Fundraiser

To: Members of the Piedmont District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

From: Lavender Fields Herb Farm

Book a Tour at the Farm for your Garden Club and Raise \$50 for the Piedmont District, VFGC

Enjoy a free walking tour for your garden club. The tour starts in our shop and includes farm history, a stroll through our gardens, a stop by the bee hives, and ends in our lavender field.

- Reservation Deadline February 28, 2020
- \$50 deposit required to reserve your group date and time
- Group size 20 or more
- If you have less than 20 in your group then coordinate with another group to guarantee donation to the Piedmont District, VFGC
- Tour Dates Available Monday-Thursdays in May and June 2020
- Tour lasts approximately 40-45 minutes
- Dress for the weather
- After your group tour \$50 will be donated to the Piedmont District, VFGC
- This exclusive offer is only available to Virginia Federation of Garden Club members
- At least a \$200 value for your group

Call 804-262-7167 to reserve your group tour today.

REGISTRATION FORM PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: Monday, March 16, 2020 (DEADLINE: MONDAY, March 9, 2020)
COST: \$30.00
CLUB
NAME
CLUB
PRESIDENT
CONTACT
PERSON & PHONE #
CONTACT
EMAIL

NAMES OF ATTENDEES - PLEASE PRINT		PHONE NUMBER	VOTING STATUS
(Include dietary restriction			
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total Number Attending	Total Amount Enclosed \$		

Use another sheet of paper for additional names - please print.

Rules for Registration

Due to problems we have had with checks being lost in the mail, registration is as follows.

1) Club emails the names of the attendees with the following information. Club Name, Name & Email address of Club Contact person, Attendees indicating Voting delegates as follows: Club 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. NOTE: Please indicate any dietary requirements or allergies for the individual.

2) Mail check to registrar and the club will be notified when the registrar receives the check. <u>Seating will be in the order the check is received.</u>

You can also still mail in the Check and Registration form together. Be sure to include a email address as registrar will notify you when it is received. IF you do not receive an email confirmation call Johanna.

Check payable to PIEDMONT DISTRICT.

Send COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK to: Johanna Gilbert, registrar, 8423 Shannon Green Ct; Henrico VA 23228-1876 – (804)-270-6056 - omagilbert@aol.com. No telephone registrations. We are unable to issue refunds, please find your own substitute.