

FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4 SUMMER, 2017

A Message from Melissa Damiano, your President -- 2015-2017

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.

It's raining outside today, which is o.k. as my plants need it, and since I've been catching up on garden chores, I needed the rain to force me inside to write my last message as district president.

District communications -- The 2015-2017 administration started off with change. No one likes change, but we survived those to the district communications. This has been work in progress, and I appreciate your patience as well as your input with this transition. The district website was launched providing easy access to our district calendar, documents, and links to useful websites (VFGC, SAR, and NGC.) Also an electronic version of FOOTPRINTS is now posted to this website. All members can now keep up to date on the news and activities of clubs and district.

Our District Meetings had something for everyone. The horticulture programs varied from making Japanese moss balls to learning all aspects of orchids. Our afternoon design programs included a wealth of talent from the state. And of course, the vendors were well received. If you were looking for plants, design mechanics, beautiful pottery, even jewelry & clothing, you were not disappointed. We also recognized clubs for their wonderful projects and contributions to their communities through the annual awards presentation (2017 Award details on Pq. 3)

Awards -- Piedmont clubs shined at the state conventions as you collected many VFGC and SAR awards. Congratulations! This year our district received three blue ribbons: District Newsletter, District Website, and Number of Participants in Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Finally, Lu Cavallaro received a much deserved VFGC Distinguished Member Award. Congratulations, Lu!

Community accomplishments -- I'm proud of all the clubs and all that you

have accomplished in our communities! We have clubs that: enthusiastically participated in the Presidents' Projects; started a youth garden club; partnered with their city to assist with working & financing (\$13,000+) the refurbishing of a local park; and added five men in the last two years! See a summary of the variety of projects Piedmont clubs participated in the last two years in on Pg. 2 this issue.

Change is once again upon us as we start the next administration and I know it will bring renewed energy to our district. In closing I'll just say it's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. These two years have flown by as the board members made my job easier. Thank you, club presidents, for leading your club. You are the glue that holds us all together. I am grateful for the assistance all clubs members provided when it was needed - we called on you and you said 'Yes, I can do that!' It has been a successful two years.

Enjoy your summer! Melissa

A Message from Judy Durant, your President -- 2017-2019

"Plant and Nurture Members with Seeds of Information and Awareness. Grow Everlasting Knowledge and Friendships"

Being a life-long Virginian, one of my favorite things is looking forward to the change of seasons. I love each season, but I especially love spring when tiny buds emerge on branches and flowers seem to push out of the ground overnight. Each day brings lots of different and wonderful "surprises" in the garden!

As with the seasons, your Piedmont District officers have changed. I liken them to budding flowers, as they assume their roles in the garden of the Board. Likewise, you will see a few new "flower faces" among the Chairmen.

Also new this year will be our location – we are firmly "planted" at the Four Points by Sheraton Richmond on Midlothian Turnpike.

The National Convention is right around the corner – yes, literally right around our corner, and we are excited to see our own Nancy Hargroves installed as President! Her theme is "Plant America". Our State President, Marty Bowers', theme is "Planting Today for Future Generations – Learning, Living, and Building". To carry on their "*Planting*" themes, I have chosen as my theme for the next two years, "*Plant and Nurture Members with Seeds of Information and Awareness. Grow Everlasting Knowledge and Friendships*".

I can hardly wait to see the fruits of our labor.

Plant, Nurture & Grow. Judy

2015-2017 Projects and Activities of PD Clubs Melissa Damiano, President 2015-2017

Blue Star Markers – Two installed at Fort Lee Army Post (Nathanial Cawsey GC) and Midlothian Middle School (Midlothian GC); District refurbished 4 older,

weather-worn Blue Star markers located in Port Royal, AP Hill, Greensville County and Dahlgren

Piedmont District Grants - \$2700 total granted to 8 Clubs **District Horticulture Scholarships/Internships** - to programs at J. Sargeant Reynolds and Maymont Intern Program. Total \$4000 (\$2000/year divided) **38 of 58 clubs returned President Reports (Summary follows)**

- 4 Added new members- 48 Clubs
- ↓ 1 or more member attended either FSS or VLDCC School -16 Clubs
- ✤ Donated to Planting Trees for Tomorrow -10 Clubs
- 4 Award a Club Horticulture Scholarship 7 Clubs
- Worked with Youth 15 Clubs
- Educated on Frightened Frog -3 Clubs
- Plant Together Community Projects 14 Clubs
- Held Tree Plantings 7 Clubs
- Butterfly Waystations 36 Waystations across 8 Clubs
- + Flower shows presented- 12 Clubs, some do yearly shows
- Garden Tours Organized– 10 Clubs (Phil. Flower Show; Brent & Becky's; Norie Burnett; local church/community or club members' gardens)
- Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster contest.
- Started a youth garden club 1 Clubs
- Programs for Seniors- 5 Clubs -- 2 clubs/twice yearly, -- 2 Clubs /monthly
- Partnerships with Community organizations:
 - Habitat 4 Humanity 2 Clubs provided landscaping for homes-
 - Meals on Wheels 9 Clubs made small arrangements to be delivered-
 - Women's Shelter -Club decorated 2 Christmas trees/auctioned off
 - Relay for Life Club provided centerpieces for local event
 - Richmond Autism Integrated Network (RAIN) Club provided corsages and boutonnieres for event
 - City of Manassas Cub assisted and provided financing for park restoration
 - Town of Kilmarnock Club provided 550 gallon rain barrel for town watering

Piedmont District Clubs are making differences in the communities.

Chaplain's Message -- Pam Mann

"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so."

(Genesis 1:11)

Summer is about to arrive with all it's joys of flora and fauna; the aromas of cut grass and rich soil; the fragrance of flowers; and, yes, the work—of shoveling, weeding, hauling, watering and waiting.

We plant a seed, practice patience and -- wait.

"But if we hope for what we do not see, then we eagerly wait for it with perseverance." (Romans 8:25)

It's all good. With work complete, a comfortable feeling of tiredness envelopes us. We retrace our steps from shed to porch with sweet satisfaction. For now the fragrance of roses lifts our spirits on the wings of pleasant memories. A glance back at the now well-groomed plantings makes the work worthwhile.

I wish you a blessed 2017 summer gardening experience.

CALL PIEDMONT DISTRICT SUMMER BOARD MEETING

2017-2019 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

WHEN: Monday, August 21, 2017 Registration: 9:30 a.m. Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, 1800 Lakeside Avenue Henrico, VA 23228 DEADLINE: Monday, August 14, 2017

Call or e-mail: Johanna Gilbert, Registrar (804) 270-6056;

wieckmann@verizon.net

Please let her know if you are attending or not.

We need to be sure that we have a quorum present and prepare set-up. Bring three copies of your report. Keep a fourth for your records. If you are unable to attend, send your reports to:

President, Judy Durant 8283 Silkwood Dr. Mechanicsville, VA 23116-1890 jgdurant@verison.net

Message of thanks from Melissa

Thank You All! It is such an honor to receive an NGC Life Membership L pin, especially knowing that this supports youth scholarships. Thank you to the board members for the beautiful Japanese Pagoda Lantern. It is such a special gift as I love the serenity of Japanese gardens and am told that one will soon spring up around this lantern. Melissa

Piedmont District Awards 2016-2017 -- Judy Futch, Piedmont District Awards Chairman

Congratulations to all members of the following clubs who continue to strive for excellence in all they do, and the remarkable *footprints* they leave behind! See next page for PD Dist. VFGC awards

Amelia Garden Club

PD 11 Membership -- Blue PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Red PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Red S-15 Butterfly (i) -- White S-33 Membership -- Yellow

Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

PD 11 Membership -- Blue PD 12 National Garden Week -- Blue PD 18 "The Frightened Frog" Ed -- Blue PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Red S-34 National Garden Week (iii) -- Blue S -40 "The Frightened Frog" Ed --Red S-48 Publicity Press Book - Red SAR-11ii National Garden Week

Chester Garden Club

PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Blue

Crown Grant Garden Club

PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Yellow PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Red

Fluvanna Garden Club

PD 15 Special Achievement Blue - White Rosette PD 26 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters 3rd grade student -- Red 4th grade student -- Red S-35 - Special Achievement (ii) -- Blue

S-37 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters -- Blue

S-42-2 Educational Publications (ii) -- Blue

Hilliard Park Garden Club

- PD 7 Horticultural Therapy Garden -- Blue PD 8 Plant Together Community Garden
- Project -- Blue
- PD 12 National Garden Week -- Blue
- PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Blue
- PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Blue
- PD 23 Flower Show Schedule -- Red
- S-3 VFGC Special Achievement Plant Together --Blue
- S-28 Plant Together Community Garden Project (i) -- Blue
- S-32 Horticulture Therapy-Garden Project (i) -- Blue
- S-34 National Garden Week (i) -- Red
- S-43B Club Newsletter (3+pg.) (i) -- Yellow
- S-44 Club Yearbook Red
- FS-XI (i) Standard Flower Show staged in
- Public Bldg. (i) -- Pink/Burgandy Rosette SR-7i* Garden Therapy Horticultural

Lake Anna Garden Club

PD 5 Decoration of Historic Building -- Red

Midlothian Garden Club

PD 21 Club Newsletter -- White PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Red S-45 Flower Show School –Red FS-XI Std Flwr Shw Pblic Bldg-Pk/Brg Rosette

Oxford Garden Club

PD 1 Bird Protection -- Blue PD 20 Club Membership Brochure -- Blue PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Yellow S-14 Bird Protection (i) -- Blue S-42-5 Club Membership Brochure (i) -- Blue

Rappahannock Garden Club

PD 2 Butterfly -- Blue PD 16 Youth Environmental Ed. -- Blue PD 18 "The Frightened Frog" Ed.-- Blue PD 20 Club Membership Brochure -- Blue PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Blue PD 26 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters 4th grade student -- Blue; 5th grader -- Blue S-1 VFGC Special Achievement- Monarch Butterfly Way Stations --Blue S-15 Butterfly (ii) -- Blue S 35 Special Achievement -- Blue S-25 Blue Star Memorial Landsc. (ii) -- Red S-38 Youth Environmental Ed (ii) -- Red S-42-5 Club Membership Brochure (ii) -- Red S-43B Club Newsletter (ii) -- Red S-48 Publicity Press Book (ii) - Red

Richmond Designers' Guild

PD 23 Flower Show Schedule -- Blue FS-1 Standard Flower Show -- Purple Rosette

Rock Spring Garden Club

PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Blue PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Blue PD 23 Flower Show Schedule -- Blue S-43C Club Newsletter (12+ pg.) iii -- Blue S-44 Club Yearbook -Blue S-45 Flower Show Schedule (iii) -Blue

Rosecrest Garden Club

S-35B Special Achievement -Planting Trees for Tomorrow -- Blue

S-2 VFGC Special Achievement- Planting Trees for Tomorrow -Red

Salisbury Garden Club

- PD 1 Bird Protection -- Blue
- PD 2 Butterfly -- Blue
- PD 5 Decoration of Historic Bldg --Blue
- PD 6 Horticulture Therapy -- Blue
- PD 8 Plant Together Comm. Garden Project -- Blue
- PD 11 Membership -- Blue
- PD 12 National Garden Week -- Blue
- PD 17 Youth Horticulture Education -- Red

Salisbury Garden Club, cont'd.

PD 20 Club Membership Brochure -- Blue PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Blue PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Blue PD 25 Club Website -- Blue S-3 – VFGC Special Achievement-Plant Together Comm. Garden Proj. -- Yellow S-4 -VFGC Special Achievement- Plus One Membership Campaign -- Blue S-14 Bird Protection (iv) -- Blue S-15 Butterfly (iv) -- Blue S-16A - Backvard Wildlife Habitat (iv) -- Blue S-28 - Plant Together Community Garden Project (iv)-- Yellow S-30 Decoration of Historic Building (iv) - Blue S-31 Horticulture Therapy (iv) -- Blue S-34 National Garden Week (iv) Blue S-35 Special Achievement (iv) -- Red S-42-5 Club Membership Brochure (iv) --Blue S-43 Club Newsletter (3+pg.) (iv) -- Blue S-47 Website - Blue SAR-2iv Bird Protection SAR-3iv Protecting our Pollinators SAR-9iv Club Newsletter - multipage SAR-11iv* National Garden Week

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Red Stonehenge Garden Club

S-33 Membership -- Red

Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

PD 1 Bird Protection -- Blue PD 17 Youth Horticulture Education -- Blue PD 18 "The Frightened Frog" Education -- Red PD 21 Club Newsletter -- Red PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Blue Member Award of Honor -- Lu Cavallero S-14 Bird Protection (ii) -- Blue S-39 Youth Horticulture Education (ii) -- Red S-44 Club Yearbook

Violet Bank Garden Club

PD 2 Butterfly -- Blue PD 9 Community Landscape Design -- Blue PD 10 Littering/Recycling/Reclamation -- Blue PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Yellow S-15 Butterfly (i) -- Blue S-19 Litter/Recycling/Reclamation (i) -- Blue S-26 Community Landscape Design (i) -- Blue SAR-3i Protecting our Pollinators SAR 4i Community Beautification SAR-28 Litter/Recycling

Westham Garden Club

PD 22 Club Yearbook -- Yellow

Woodland Pond Garden Club

PD 5 Decoration of Historic Building -- Blue S-30 Decoration of Historic Building (i) -- Red

Piedmont District Receives VFGC Awards

#8 Newsletter (900+ members) -- Blue #9 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters -- Blue #10 Website -- Blue

National, State, Federation, and District Officers and Their Themes for 2017-2019 Administration

NGC -- President Nancy Hargroves 1235 Dover Creek Lane Manakin Sabot VA 23103-2532 inbleum@comcast.net

Theme: Plant America SAR -- Director Judy Barnes

3616 Schoolhouse Lane Charlotte, NC 28226-6640 <u>ncgardenjudy@gmail.com</u> 703-533-1413

Theme: -- The Beauty of Nature: Protect, Preserve, Enjoy

VFG -- President Marty Bowers 2854 Hickory Cove Lane Moneta, VA 24121-6029 <u>martbw@gmail.com</u> <u>540-309-1676</u>

Theme: Planting Today for Future Generations: Learning-Living-Building

PD -- President Judy Durant 8283 Silkwood Dr. Mechanicsville, VA 23116-1890 jgdurant@verison.net

Theme: Plant and Nurture Members with Seeds of Information and Awareness. Grow Everlasting Knowledge and Friendships

Piedmont District Officers 2017-2019

President – Judy Durant -- Hanover Towne GC and Marathon 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

CALL PIEDMONT DISTRICT FALL GENERAL MEETING – Monday, October 16, 2017

WHERE: Fou 990

Four Points Sheraton 9901 Midlothian Turnpike Richmond, VA 23235

WHEN: Monday, October 16, 2017

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM -- TBD

8:30-9:45 Registration 10:00-11:30 Morning Session-General Meeting 11:30-12:00 Break/Shopper's Spree 1:00-2:45 **TBD**

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, October 02, 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:

President, Judy Durant 8283 Silkwood Dr. Mechanicsville, VA 23116-1890 jgdurant@verison.net

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-LINE AT: PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org

-- 4 -- FOOTPRINTS, SUMMER 2017

Litter Prevention/Recycling -- Lorraine Van Wickler

Kudos to Violet Bank Garden Club!!! Way to go Ladies! The V.B.G.C. became aware of a plastic bag collection program offered by Trex Co.

Trex is the world's largest manufacturer of high-performance wood-alternative decking and railing. They are located in Winchester, Va. If your club could collect more than 500 lbs. of plastic refuse in a 6 month span, Trex would donate a high - performance composite bench to our community. Trex supplies a promotional poster and two cardboard recycling bins. You must register with Trex to join the program. The email address is: trex.com/recycling/recyclingprograms/. Go to the web site and see what is required, click on the University/Community Groups link for a total list of plastics and all sorts of information.

Jan Pingel was the project chairman for their project and was supported by club President, Gay Whitaker, who involved her exercise class and women's church group. So, this can really be a community project and get youth groups involved. What a way to make them Stewards of the Land. More will be in Footprints about this venture. Please let me know what's happening in your club with litter prevention/recycling.

Native Trees of Virginia -- Laura Dooley, Chairman



Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera L.*) You probably know this beautiful staple of the eastern hardwood forest as the Tuliptree or Tulip-Poplar. These common names come from the lovely yellowy green, tulip-shaped flowers with orange bands at the bottom that the poplar produces in spring. *Liriodendron* means "lily tree" in Greek.

The Yellow Poplar is the tallest eastern hardwood, typically reaching 90 to 110 feet in height, with a trunk diameter of 2 to 3 feet, but specimens reaching 200 feet high, with trunks 10 feet in diameter, have been known. That is a tall tree indeed!



Yellow Poplars have light gray bark and very long, straight trunks topped by a compact, pyramidal crown of leaves. The leaves are 4 to 6 inches across and long, with 4 lobes, although the middle two lobes are joined across the top, forming a distinct, easily recognizable shape.

This tree species is highly valued both by nature's creatures and humans. The sprouts and buds are a major food for deer, and squirrels and birds eat the seeds. The flowers are an important source of nectar for pollinators and honey production. With its tall, impressive appearance, it makes an excellent shade tree in the landscape.

Native Americans used the wood to make dugout canoes, leading early European colonists to call the wood "canoewood."

Today the wood is used for a range of items. Poplar wood is soft, light, and easily worked, and it is used in furniture, lumber, plywood, veneers, chipboard, and trim, making it one of the most valuable hardwoods in the United States.

And here's an interesting fact for any mushroom fanciers: stands of Yellow Poplar make the best habitat for morel mushrooms, which grow at their base.

Birds of Virginia -- Laura Dooley, Chairman Gray Catbird Dumatella carolinensis

The gray catbird is one of the most inquisitive, though secretive, backyard inhabitants. This cardinal-sized bird, common in Virginia gardens, is found throughout the United States east of the

Rocky Mountains. You are more likely to hear this cheeky bird than see it, though. It prefers to move about in brushy undergrowth and tangled vines. In fact, its Latin name, *Dumatella*, means "tangled thicket." The gray catbird is just that: slate gray all over, relieved only by a black cap and a rufous patch under the tail. Males and females look alike.

Along with mockingbirds and brown thrashers, catbirds are members of the *Mimidae* family. And although catbirds are less accomplished singers than the more famous mockingbird, they are skilled borrowers of many sounds. More than forty other bird songs, mechanical noises and even the call of a tree frog have been recorded. You'll know it's a catbird, though, when you hear, interspersed among the whistles, cackles, and caws, its characteristic "mew"—the sound for which it is named. Both males and females sing in spring and summer, and the best male singers are thought to be especially desirable to females.

Catbirds pair up for the nesting season, and if the pair is successful in raising a brood, they'll reunite the next year. They build a nest of twigs three to six feet off the ground in a shrub, small tree, or viney thicket. They favor dogwood, honeysuckle, hawthorn, roses, and brambles. The female lays three or four dark blue-green eggs and incubates them for almost two weeks. The young fledge quickly, leaving the nest after just twelve days.

Catbirds eat insects supplemented with lots of berries and fruit in spring and summer. They are not strongly migratory, and they winter along the East and Gulf Coasts. Their cheering presence in the garden makes them one of my favorite birds, and I hope you enjoy their company when you are outdoors as well.

Sen Todal Sen Todal

Arboreta/Botanical Gardens --Julie Abbott, Chairman

When you make your travel plans for the summer, do include visiting public gardens. You will get lots of fresh ideas for your garden. If you are a member of a botanical garden, carry your membership card with you as most gardens have reciprocal arrangements with each other. Some offer free admittance, discount in gift shop or other perks.

- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden has Butterflies LIVE! in full swing until mid-October.
- The Richmond Rose Society Show—May 27, 1-4PM & May 28, 11AM-3:30PM
- Wild Art: A Journey Off-Canvas local artists entwine art & nature—May 26-October 1
- May 3-June 7, Ginter Gallery II in the KEC--New drawings of greenhouses by India and Richmondbased multi-disciplinary artist Pallavi Sen
- > PokeMondays Mondays only through Oct. 30

For additional information concerning the above or classes, check website <u>www.lewisginter.org</u> or call 804-262-9887

Mints, Mints, Mints

Meredith Tullos, Powhatan Garden Club

Many words describe mint: cool, fresh, sweet, green, and ... invasive. This perennial plant spreads through a runner system and prefers a moist, rich soil.

Most mints (Mentha) grow to a height of about 36 inches. Their unruly habit can be contained by planting in a container. The pot can then be placed with other flowers in the garden or sunk into a hole dug into the soil. Its running habit will be contained.

Use mint to flavor Indian and Greek dishes, for tasty Mojitos, or to make iced tea. Gather the newest leaves from the tips of the branches and wash them well. Use the leaves in a "tea ball" or infuser to brew with tea leaves or add sprigs to a tall glass of iced tea.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden -- Sept. 26 - 27, 2017

Make plans now to attend Landscape design School, Course II, in September. More information will be available on the website.

This school not only gives students an awareness of personal landscaping, but delves into the aspects of landscaping public places.

Give it a try -- you will learn a lot and have fun visiting gardens and sharing the knowledge of the instructors.

-- 6 -- FOOTPRINTS, SUMMER 2017

Rappahannock GC Happenings Margie Redlin

Rappahannock Garden Club has been involved in various community events and projects.

Arts & Flowers exhibition. -- Members Carol Clark and Cathie Elliott joined Rappahannock Art League for Arts & Flowers exhibition. Each chose a piece of art from the gallery and created an interpretation of it through floral design. Both designs were striking and members were proud to have their club represented.

Just Gardens tour -- Member Margaret Curtis has taken part with Just Gardens tour which supports The Haven Shelter & Services for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Margaret's property is colorful and beautifully maintained. Well-planned niches are most inviting. As anyone who has participated in this spring event knows, tremendous amounts of planning and work go into the preparation.

Northern Neck Free Health Care Clinic -- Members joined RGC's Northern Neck Free Health Care Clinic landscape chair, Cathie Ward, for a spring cleanup and planting of annuals. For nearly two decades members have maintained the landscape surrounding the building. It is a labor of love and the community and employees of the clinic enjoy the landscape.

Frighten Frog program -- Mary Ann McKay, RGC youth



chair has taken the Frighten Frog program on the road. She was assisted by members Jenny Boyenga who plays Frieda the Frog, Susan Edmonds and Pam Lazorchak. They presented a one-hour program to 36 children and 12 adults at the Middlesex County Library in Urbanna. Also assisting was RGC's honorary youth

member Chrissy Ketner.

Special Achievement Award -- Finally, RGC was grateful to receive a Special Achievement Award for the most monarch waystations in a medium size club. Thirteen members currently have created monarch habitats. Great work ladies!

2017 Handbook for Flower Shows A must for 2018

The **2017 Handbook for Flower Shows** is available from NGC Headquarters Member Services. Although the effective date is July 1, requirements for Judges refreshing anytime during 2017 will be grandfathered in to allow them to use the credits garnered prior to July 1.

However, judges refreshing in 2018 must meet the guidelines found in the **2017 Handbook**.

Garden Therapy – Catherine Abrams

Stonehenge Garden Club --



Providing fellowship for more than a quarter of a century

North Chesterfield's Stonehenge Garden Club, just south of



Richmond, has offered garden therapy to nursing home residents for more than 25 years. Mary Curley, Chair of the club's Garden Therapy Committee, reported 15 years of ongoing programs at the nearby Laurels at Willow Creek nursing home that followed 10 or more years at the Lucy Corr Nursing Home. Pictured above are Arlene Sweeney, Dulce Lawrence, Mary Johnson, Mary Curley, Edith Hensley; Dulce Lawrence repotting the planters with flowers for the summer; and the trees, shrubs and flowers in this area of the nursing home planted by the garden club, and maintained by members for the past six years



Stonehenge GC's 30-35 members supply flowers and greens twice a year, usually in May and December, to nursing

home residents eager to create floral arrangements in 20 supplied rose bowls for the home's dining room.





Photos of Christine Wheeler and Mary Curley Arlene Sweeney and Dulce Lawrence helping residents make arrangements.

May arrangements use spring flowers with various greens. December ones use red chrysanthemums, white carnations and evergreens. The arrangements are beautiful and the residents are proud of their creations. The club also maintains an outdoor courtyard's flower beds and planters for the residents' enjoyment. A bench and picnic table in the courtyard encourage people to sit and admire the pansies or summer flowers. Arlene Sweeney leads this project. As last notes on the club's community projects, Stonehenge helps supply a church's food pantry with club food drives on "Tuna Fish Day" or "Peanut Butter Day". Club members also collect aluminum can pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are sold and recycled, providing funds that lower costs for needy hospital families. Thank you, Stonehenge GC, for your commitment to bring joy and wellness to your community! -- Photos supplied by club historian Marian Schwenk

Garden Therapy program sharing from the Rock Spring Garden Club – Marjory Melnick

For many years, the Rock Spring Garden Club (RSGC) has had one committee that focused on helping children with special needs learn about gardening, designing and have fun while learning. We began last fall at the Glebe Elementary School a few days before Thanksgiving. How did we do it?

We began with a story, told to the little children (3 years old through 6 years) in a circle. Then, I taught them a Thanksgiving song (they each mentioned something they were thankful for), while I played the autoharp. They loved the music and the instrument, too! Then they moved to the tables, where (with our help, of course!) the children made designs of greens and flowers in little pumpkins. Cookies followed this enterprise, and they really hated to see us go!

In December, evergreens were the subject, and one member shared a children's book about evergreen trees. I followed with "Jingle Bells!" complete with jingle bells for each child to shake. Then the children made arrangements using all kinds of evergreens---Dorinda Burroughs provided them from her yard! (She had a wonderful variety.)

The arrangements were really beautiful, with very little help from us. Refreshments followed: Santa figures made from sliced bananas, sliced strawberries for the hat, marshmallow fur and pretzel arms, held together on a stick.

This program involves about 8 members, and is very well received. The teachers love it and so do the members--- and the children have a wonderful time

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contests Pat Merson, Chairman

It's time for the 2018 Smokey Bear Poster Contest that is open to children in first through fifth grades.

You don't have to wait until September when school starts; you can reach children this summer – think day care, summer day camps, 4H, etc.

Last year I received four "local" winning posters from various PD Garden Clubs. All posters were from the second, third and fourth grades. It would be nice to have a representative winning poster from each of the applicable grades this year. Please note that there are several rules, but the most important rules are below. Each year we have received beautiful posters that have featured Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear together [see Rule #2]; posters on poster board [see Rule #5]; and lovely posters without the proper message from Smokey Bear and/or Woodsy Owl. For ALL Rules and Guidelines qo to

www.PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org.

Excerpt from the Official Rules

- Posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must not feature both together.
- Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only you Can Prevent Wildfires! Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's conservation message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!
- Each entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size.

Children from first through fifth grades are invited to participate in the 2018 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate, through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl, their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles.

Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "*Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!*", encourages personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!", and to take an active role in caring for

the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.

Posters are due to me no later than **January 5, 2018**. My mailing address is: Pat Merson, 11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy., Chesterfield, VA 23838

Piedmont District Grants

Congratulations to the following 3 Clubs that won PD Grants at the Piedmont District meeting on March 13.

Ginter Park Garden Club has an ongoing landscaping project at the Ginter Park Woman's Club where several garden club organizations meet as well as many community groups. They have previously installed plants and a semi-circle with crushed Mountain Green gravel and now plan to put an urn in the semi-circle and continue to maintain the plant material and mulch.

Lake Anna Garden Club's project is at Buckner Park in Bumpass, Virginia. They want to complete an unfinished garden that lacks a backdrop, focal point, and other areas of interest, and have submitted a very detailed landscape plan and a well thought out plan for execution. Once completed, the garden will be enjoyed by all who visit the park as well as being beneficial to the birds, bees, and butterflies with the addition of plants that will provide food for them. They will also install a sign entitled "Lake Anna Garden Club Memorial Garden".

Lastly, Violet Bank Garden Club submitted an application for an ongoing landscape project at the Historical Violet Bank Museum. This will be a continuation of a boxwood hedgerow with an additional 60 Korean boxwoods to be installed in October. The City of Colonial Heights will match the grant funds.

These clubs will submit a report to the District once the project is completed to show how the funds were spent.

GRANTS TO BEAUTIFY AND RESTORE Shirley Edillon, VFGC Chairman

The purpose of Grants to Beautify and Restore is to provide financial support for clubs to restore gardens that have been damaged by natural disasters within Virginia or to beautify areas within communities. Priority is given to natural disaster restoration projects.

Applications can be found in the May issue of the *Old Dominion Gardener* or on the VFGC website. Club Guidelines are also available on the VFGC website or from the Chairman, Shirley Edillon (<u>swe@cox.net</u>).

Application DEADLINE: September 15

Take advantage of money offerings to support your club projects. You could be a winner!

Chesapeake Bay Garden Club Presents "Festivities of the Northern Neck" A Standard Flower Show Friday, June 9, 2017

Come and join us on Friday, June 9, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Transportation Building, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett Tavern in Heathsville, VA. This standard flower show will highlight the beauty and charm of the Northern Neck. The talented members of our club will inspire you as you walk through floral designs, educational exhibits, and horticulture based on the Northern Neck. There is no charge for this standard flower show. Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon in the Northern Neck.

For any additional information, check our website www.chesbaygc.org. You can also contact Sharon Lemke, the president of the club, at salemke@wildblue.net. Come and join us on Friday, June 9, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Transportation Building, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett Tavern in Heathsville, VA. This standard flower show will highlight the beauty and charm of the Northern Neck. The talented members of our club will inspire you as you walk through floral designs, educational exhibits, and horticulture based on the Northern Neck. There is no charge for this standard flower show. Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon in the Northern Neck.

For any additional information, check our website www.chesbaygc.org. You can also contact Sharon Lemke, the president of the club, at <u>salemke@wildblue.net</u>. Lorraine Van Wickler is the general chairman of the flower show, and she can be reached at <u>dragonfly14@va.metrocast.net</u>

Old Ivy Garden Club SAVE-THE-DATE HOLIDAY MAGIC VII



Will be held on Friday, Nov. 17, 2017 Details will

follow as we get closer to the date.





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"*.

The Keynote Speaker for the convention is P. Allen Smith, an award-winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert

GARDENIAS Kristi Hendricks, Surry Garden Club



Don't be lead down the garden path, gardenias can temperamental when sited in the wrong place. Yet having this old fashion, soft wood shrub in your collection is worth every effort to find the right site. These broadleaf evergreens bring the scent of exotic Asia to our Piedmont Region are on the edge of the

home habitats. Parts of the Piedmont Region are on the edge of the cold hardiness zone to effectively grow them outside year round.

The genus name *Gardenia* honors a Scottish botanist. The specific epithet *jasminoides* means "like jasmine" for its sweet essence, hence the befitting common name cape jasmine. Ivory-colored flowers reward the gardener with powerful fragrance from spring into fall. Glossy, deep green leaves add rich luster to four-season landscapes.

If you have a healthy shrub, try propagating for more. Harvest stems for rooting either in planting medium (mixture of sharp sand and peat moss) or simply water. The 5-6" cutting should be taken from the stem's tip. Remove all leaves except those at the very top. Tiny root hairs should form in about a month after placement on a window sill that receives morning sun only.

Take care to allow for an adjustment period outside in a protected area with light shade before placing newly-rooted gardenias in the ground. Like azaleas and camellias, gardenias enjoy naturally acid soils. Test your soil and learn how to adjust the pH level to accommodate such plants, if needed. Feed gardenias with an acid plant food in mid-March and again in late June to encourage an abundance of blossoms. Avoid fertilizing in autumn as this may stimulate tender growth.

Gardenias can also be used as specialty potted plants but inside care is tricky. They need high humidity, sufficient light and cooler nighttime temperatures. Outdoors, gardenias require light to moderate shade and are even known to enjoy morning sun. Avoid placing gardenias where their roots will be disturbed or compete with tree roots for nutrients and water.

The best companion plants for gardenias are those that love the same growing conditions. Feathery ferns pair nicely in the shade allowing the shrub to take center stage. Virginia sweetspire's fall foliage and arching branches provide striking color and form contrast.



2016-2017 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 use 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 2017-2018

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

Club Treasurer 2017-2018:

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

Club's Piedmont District Representative 2017-2018 (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

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 -- 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		

APPLICATION -- GRANTS TO BEAUTIFY AND RESTORE

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

Date:		INC. S
District:		
Name of Club		
Contact Person (Name, address, phone number, em	nail):	
Restoration Project: Yes No Disaster/s	s Date:	
Beginning date: Completion date:		
Amount Requested: Total Project Budget:		
Brief description of how the funds will be used.	Judging is based on the following Scale of P	oints:
Please use separate sheet and list the following:	DEmphasis on live plant material	45
1. Nature and severity of disaster (if applicable)	Scope of project	40
2. Location of area to be restored/beautified	Scope in relation to number of club members	
3. Proposed plan by garden club/s	ONetworking with other groups in project	5
4. Landscape plan	Application form complete	5
5. Estimated itemized costs of your project		100
 Other funds received toward project Participation of club members 	Mail to: Shirley Edillon, Chairman Email: sv - Or 4858 Glenbrook Drive SW Roanoke, VA 24018-2800	ve@cox.net

"KEYS TO THE FUTURE" -- Youth Project Grants

Melissa Damiano, VFGC Chairman

The "Keys to the Future" Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs. All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant up to \$1000 for the purpose of helping youth realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats for becoming good stewards of the earth. The scope of these programs may include benefits to the community, environmental awareness/education, plant-to-food connections, outdoor classroom projects, horticulture education, and the social aspects of gardening.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPT. 15, 2017

HOW TO APPLY: Please fill out the application form, include a budget and mail to:

Melissa Damiano, VFGC Grants Committee 9436 Park Bluff Terrace Chesterfield, VA 23838-8957 email <u>mtdamiano@aol.com</u> -- Phone: 804-796-3287

*The application is available in a Word document at <u>www.virginiagardenclubs.org</u> or by email from Melissa Damiano.

PROGRAM CRITERIA:

In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- number of youth participating/reached
- benefits to the community
- environmental awareness/education horticulture educational focus or curricular/program integration
- plant-to-food connections
- social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community
- support, or service-learning

FUNDING GUIDELINES -- Grants will not be provided for:

- projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect
- salaries or benefits of school personnel
- field trips outside Virginia
- political action programs
- Eagle Scout projects
- capital drives and building funds
- scholarships
- endowments
- lawsuits and litigation
- overhead costs
- consumable, one-time use items or giveaways, such as T-shirts, tote bags, food, admission fees, or tuition.

-- 11 -- FOOTPRINTS, SUMMER 2017



National Garden Week, June 4th – 11th, 2017

"Leap into Action" and make plans to celebrate National Garden Week, June 4th – 11th, 2017.

Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening and involvement of Garden Clubs in your community.

This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

-- What a great ride! --Carolyn Ball, Footprints Editor

A little over two years ago, I was asked and consented to take on the role as editor of *Footprints* -- it was an unknown project to me. Of course I was familiar with Footprints, having read it over the years. But, to take on the challenge as editor was, uh, intimidating.

However, after starting to receive your articles, and having Melissa's guidance to walk me through the nittygritty of it, I realized that my job wasn't that difficult after all! *That's because of all the wonderful material you have given me to work with -- and that's what got us a Blue for this publication*. How great is that?!!

Think of it this way, Melissa's theme of "Dream Green, Create in Color" came true in one way in going green by going electronic, and providing all the wonderful color full photos of your projects. And, I get the enjoyment of reading your articles, seeing your photos, and compiling them for our readers. What a great assignment!

As we continue into the next two years I look forward to what is yet to come -- so -- keep them coming.

And for you readers who have not yet submitted articles on your club activities -- please start sending them!

This can be part of what Judy, our current President, means when she chose *"Plant and Nurture Members with Seeds of Information and Awareness. Grow Everlasting Knowledge and Friendships"*, as her theme.

CALENDAR 2017

May 18-20	NGC 2017 Convention, Richmond Marriott Hotel
June 04-10	National Garden Week
June 09	CBGC Standard Flower Show Heathsville, VA
Sept. 26 - 27	Landscape Design School, Course II Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Nov. 17	Old Ivy Garden Club, HOLIDAY MAGIC VII
	DEADLINES
May 31	CLUB TREASURERS Renew your 2017-2018 PD membership (pg. 9)
Jul. 01	
J ul. V I	"Vision of Beauty" orders (pg. 9)
Aug. 01	"Vision of Beauty" orders (pg. 9) Articles for Fall edition of Footprints

2018

Jan. 05

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contests



FOOTPRINTS

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

Articles are due **<u>before</u>** the following dates

AUGUST 1, 2017 – FALL NOVEMBER 1, 2017 - WINTER JANUARY 1, 2018 - SPRING MAY 1, 2018 – SUMMER AUGUST 1, 2018 - 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.

Be a Yearbook Sponsor VFGC YEARBOOK - 2017-2019

Deadline: June 1, 2017

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Please print your NAME as it is to appear in the yearbook. Name District Garden Club

Telephone Number

E-mail

CLUB SPONSOR

Garden Club Name District Club Contact (Treasurer) Contact Phone Number E-mail

	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Yearbook Insert		\$10.00	
Yearbook Binder with VFGC logo		\$8.00	
Total Order			

Checks payable to *VFGC, Inc. Mail check and form to:*

Claudia Cosby 3015 Mount Hill Dr. Midlothian, VA 23113-3923 chcosby@verizon.net 804-794-7798

Who can be a Sponsor?

Each club and every club member can be a sponsor

SPONSOR BENEFITS

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

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

What's in it for me?

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

Be a VFGC Yearbook Sponsor and Receive Your Copy of the VFGC Yearbook!

Yearbook Binders will have the VFGC logo in green on the front cover, and VFGC on the spine.