**FOOTPRINTS**

Piedmont District  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
**VOLUME 32 NUMBER 2 WINTER 2020**

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**A Message from JoAnn McNabb**

**As Time Moves Forward…**

The world is so different from just a couple of months ago. We looked forward to seeing our fellow garden club members at our district meetings. Now, we stay safe at home, attend virtual meetings and take lots of walks. We still have gardening, reading, planning and, if you are like me, puttering. We also continue zoom, zoom, zooming along, sharing and growing together with new methods of communication. As time moves forward, rather than dwell on what we cannot control, let’s set our sights on what we can.

One thing I can control is my garden -- gardening has been my “savior” during these past six months. As you can see, I still (as of this writing) have blooms galore! Here is a flower arrangement with flowers from my garden. Which side do you like best…front or back? Please vote by sending an e-mail to me at josiemcva@gmail.com.

![Flower Arrangement](image)

Front  
Back

Also, for the fun of it, go to [https://www.jigsawplanet.com/josie1948](https://www.jigsawplanet.com/josie1948) to work the puzzle of this picture.

What have you done during this time at home? Has your club held in-person meetings or met virtually? Please share your stories and images for possible inclusion in a future issue…we all need to stay in touch!

Again, rather than dwell on what we cannot control, let’s set our sights on what we can. Take a moment every day to do something nice for someone and/or yourself—maybe giving a flower from your garden to a neighbor, or say, paying for the next person’s coffee in the drive-through. These kindnesses are so easy to do.

Stay safe and stay well. One day we will be together again, and I hope that will be in March for our District meeting, March 15, 2021. Something else to look forward to: the VFGC Convention in April! See the preview on page 3.
Musings on a Leaf
by Pamela Mann, Piedmont District Chaplain

If I take the wings of the morning
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea:
Even there shall Thy hand lead me,
And Thy right hand shall hold me...
Marvelous are Thy works
And that my soul knoweth right well.
Psalm139:9-14

Today, I am writing this message. But its reading will be on a
today that belongs to you. On my today, I am encountering a
myriad of unsettling unknowns. It is 3 days to election. It is
several weeks before the Covid-19 vaccine could be
available, maybe. All day, mask on, mask off. The question
is, “How do we handle the future?”

Today, as I gaze out of my window, I note that the trees
have begun to disrobe. It is a careless kind of act. A single
leaf is tossed here, a bunch there. It does not really matter
where. They scatter to create a soft bed.

I had decided to step outside and look more closely, when a
strong gust of wind blew something onto my face.
Recovering from the shock, I pulled it off my cheek. It was a
single red leaf that had hitched a ride on this blustery
October day. I held the wayfaring Fall messenger in my hand
to examine it. Not bad. It looked like it had lived its life well.
From the number of holes, I guessed that it had fed several
hungry insects during its heyday. Maybe a little tear, here or
there.

What I see is a beautifully, radiant, red, work of art. A
statement on the autumn landscape created by the hand of
God. But here is the rest of the story. In death, this lovely
leaf will become dust of the earth, and a new story will begin.

If one red leaf can do so much, I mused, then how much
more can one human do? Since I do not really know, I’m
going to do my best to live my own life well. To live so all my
days are most beautiful: full of the colors of love, joy, and
oneness with God. Trials and tribulations and all!

Remember, you may just be one leaf in this world’s mighty
forest, but without your love and your life, the forest is less.
Remember too that tomorrow is another chance to live, to
learn, to laugh, to plant and sow. Do your best then. Share

the beauty of your gardens and yourself. During these trying
times, commit yourself to life and helping others.

God did not put you here just to hang around on a tree. He
put you here to help make this world a better and more
beautiful place for those who will follow. That is what real
garden club members do. So, I pray that when you read this
message on your today, life will be not as much of a new
normal as, simply—more normal. Hopefully, the election will
be somewhat settled, city streets quieter, your children and
grandchildren back in school, and harmony the watchword of
the day.

May your Thanksgiving be tasty—and healthy. And your
Christmas a celebration of the real reason for the season.

“I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy
hands.” Psalm 143:5

Note: There will once again be a Memorial Moment at the
spring 2021 District meeting. If you have lost a member
during the time of spring 2020 to spring 2021, please forward
the name(s). We would like to recognize them. Include: 1.
Club name, 2. Member’s full name, 3. How long a member,
4. If a charter member or served as president (years served)
Send to: pamann1724@yahoo.com or call 804-598-2650
Convention Preview…mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Eighty-Seventh Annual Convention
April 25-27, 2021

“Today’s Actions Pave the Pathways of Tomorrow”

Richmond is the location,
The Short Pump Hilton is the venue

The selection of The Short Pump Hilton as the venue for our 2021 convention was based in no small measure due to the hotel’s diligence in putting extensive procedures in place for social distancing and the protection of its guests. The large conference space is set apart from other hotel functions and will be solely dedicated to VFGC not only for privacy but precautionary measures as well.

Mary Sue Floyd will preside over the convention. Gay Austin, NGC President, will preside over the installation ceremony, where Mary Owen will be installed as President of VFGC for the 2021-2023 term.

To whet your interest…

You will have the opportunity to experience a unique program with Kathy Ward, Accredited Flower Show Judge from the Salisbury Garden Club, Piedmont District.

“Thinking Inside the Box . . . Big Box (Hardware) Store”

What do PVC pipe, temporary blinds, dryer vent hose and gutter guard all have in common? Not only do they all come from your local hardware store, but they can all be used to make amazingly creative floral designs! In this presentation, Kathy Ward, NGC Accredited Judge, will show you a new way to look at these and other items from your DIY store. You will be amazed at the possibilities!

And, Brenda McMannaway, Master Flower Show Judge of the Boones Mill Garden Club in Blue Ridge, will lead us in a hands-on workshop that blends craft and floral design. Brenda will show us how to create a structure for design from a book, of all things!

The full convention program agenda and registration forms will be available in the spring edition of ODG. So please mark your calendars now and save the dates for a convention experience that will be responsible and safe as well as exciting!

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<td>Awards Deadline: Forms to District Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl posters due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Piedmont District Grant Applications due</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Piedmont District Spring Meeting, Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 17-25</td>
<td>Virginia Historic Garden Week</td>
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<td>Apr 25-27</td>
<td>VFGC Convention, Richmond</td>
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<td>May 17-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6-12</td>
<td>National Garden Week</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Deadline: VFGC Yearbook Sponsor deadline</td>
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Calendar

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VFGC Awards for 2020-2021
by Joanne Wallace, District Awards Chair

With regard to award applications and aware that the current restrictions to club meetings will come into play, I am asking each club to please consider going forward with award applications.

The State Awards Chairman, Heidi Sage, is in contact with each district chair. As we get closer to judging the applications, more information will be available regarding the process.

I encourage each President and Awards Chairman to participate in this activity, especially because it has been such an unusual year for us all. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 1. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Let’s see the Piedmont District shine!

Joanne Wallace
dougandjoanne@gmail.com

Blue Star Memorial Markers
by Barbara Hollister, District Chair

Blue Star Memorial Markers have increased in price. The following prices are subject to change after May 1, 2022.

- The Highway Marker (Blue Star Only) price: $1590.00
- The Memorial Marker (Blue & Gold Star Families) price: $1590.00
- By-Way Marker (Blue & Gold Star Families) price: $530.00

The above prices include shipping.

The ordering forms have also changed. I encourage you to go to www.National Garden Clubs, Inc. website and check out the procedure for ordering a marker.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or more detail.

Barbara Hollister
budhollister@gmail.com

Garden entry and events continue with timed tickets ordered online. Face coverings are required.

Enjoy GardenFest, Shopper’s Weekend, and more. The traditional “Dueling Designers” holiday program featuring David Pippin and Al Brockwell is happening virtually this year: November 20th at 11:00 am. Sign up for all programs on the website www.lewissginter.org

Zooming with David Pippin at LGBG

As part of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden’s online programming during the pandemic, David Pippin has been featured in monthly floral design programs. The programs are offered in a live Zoom format and have drawn participants from around the U.S.

Each program features a theme such as “New Garden Design.” A materials list is sent in advance, which allows participants to design along with David or to watch the program and then create a design. A bonus: designs can be posted to the Google Classroom site following the Zoom session, and David provides helpful feedback via email.

So far, these programs have been offered at $20 for members. Quite the bargain!

Design created in the “New Garden Design” session
by Gail Goodrich Harwood
Piedmont District Grant Applications
Due February 15th
by Jean Fender, District Grants Chair

Once again, Piedmont District will have funds to award for worthwhile Club Projects in your community. Last year we were able to award $500 to Hilliard Park Garden Club for their project at Christ Lutheran Church in Lakeside, and $300 to Violet Bank Garden Club for their project at White Bank Park in Colonial Heights.

Projects can include landscaping public spaces such as schools, other public building grounds, roadsides, youth activities, garden therapy, Blue Star Memorials, or other environmental and community projects. Projects other than landscaping can also be submitted. Priority is given to projects supporting the Presidents’ Projects (NGC, SAR, and VFGC). These funds are for new projects or projects not yet completed that clubs would be unable to undertake without a grant.

Please consider participating in this valuable program. Your club may receive funding for a project that gives your garden club a sense of pride and recognition for work in your community. Deadline is February 15, 2021. Winners will be announced, and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting on March 15, 2021.

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

Club Membership Award

Has your club added new members February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021? If so – your club could be eligible to win the PD-11 Membership Award and $20.00.

The award is based on the percentage increase based on the dues paid to the State (VFGC). Make sure your club is up to date with the state dues for each new member. All dues for new members need to be paid no later than January 31, 2021. No application is necessary for this award – the VFGC treasurer will supply the percentage increase for each club.

Questions – email Janet Minock:
JanetLMinock@gmail.com

Violet Bank Garden Club
(circumstances permitting)

Hosts a
Design Show and Luncheon

Wednesday, May 5, 2021
at the Country Club of Petersburg
1250 Flank Road, Petersburg, VA
Doors open at 9:00 AM
Design Show at 10:00 AM
followed by the luncheon

Ticket donation: $35.00

Be a Yearbook Sponsor
VFGC Yearbook – 2021-2023
Deadline: June 30, 2021
by Darlene Nelson, VFGC Yearbook Chair

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 receive one gratis yearbook insert.

What’s in it for me?
• A directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all VFGC officers and chairmen, district officers and chairmen, all garden club presidents, and SAR and NGC officers.
• Information 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 Rules

See application form at end of this issue of Footprints.
**Landscaping Choice: Beautyberry**
by Jane Earle, Piedmont District Horticulture Chairman

**Fall into Winter 2020**
Planting Check List for a Beautyberry Bush

*Family: Lamiaecae*

*Genus: Callicarpa*

*Species: C. dichotoma*

**Prepare the soil and site**

Soil should be amended to a percentage of exchange based on consistency of clay, loam, sand, and combinations of soil textures. Remove debris, roots and rocks in order for full growth of the new root systems. Always have the soil tested for nutrients and pH factor if possible, to amend with confidence and achieve the proper soil pH balance (less than 7).

Climate and Zone USDA’s Seasonal Qualifier determines a substantial part of right plant/right place. Knowing and recording the temperature extremes hot and cold range tolerance will provide the most successful results! Exposure consideration is the availability of sunlight:

**Full Sun, 4 to 6 hours Partial Sun and Partial Shade**

Full to partial sun is recommended for this spring flowering (white or pink) perennial that bears purple berries in the fall. Birds will eat the berries and perhaps other natural species of wildlife. For humans, the berries are poisonous.

Native USA, *Callicarpa americana* shows some variance in characteristics and habits to the Japanese and Chinese species. Including size and family, typical to understory trees or shrubs.

2901-1033NP Publication

**Installation-Landscape Plan**

Prepare the plant for installation by inspection for disease or pest; water if dry and attend to watering after planting. If the root ball was dry, soaking will restore moisture. Remove any debris, broken branches, and dead foliage. Loosen any wrapped roots or roots that have bound around the ball.

Prepare to plant: Hole should be as deep as root ball height and twice as wide. Fertilizing is not necessary but organic matter needs to be present. Backfill with existing soil (10% amendment). Water the soil and surrounding area. Plant may be placed a little higher to soil level if drainage is poor. 1” to 2” of mulch helps maintain moisture and more for winterizing and preventing weeds in the spring. Watch for seedlings.

Spacing is important for growth and maturity and proper spacing will assure the competition for nutrients and water will not inhibit natural growth and achieving peak of perfection!

Pruning for spring flowering is an important consideration as in general the flowers on this one flourish on new woody growth. Following recommendations can provide many happy rewarding seasons from this popular shrub with several varieties in local garden shops.

Figure 1:

https://www.springhillnursery.com/product/early-amethyst-japanese-beautyberry?p=0475974&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxdX849zYP7AV0gKiCR15IAqMEAESABeGl0jDF

Thanks to Sandy Plants, Inc for their outline to success, and presentation to Henrico Master Gardeners Association on Perennials. [http://www.sandysplants.com](http://www.sandysplants.com)
This past year, to say the least, our lives have been disrupted in many ways. Unfortunately, this pandemic has also set back progress that has been made in recycling. For example, the Walmart near me no longer takes plastic bags for recycling. Also, as we have more restaurant takeout, and buying things online has done more to build up our landfills.

So, hopefully this too will pass, and we can get back on track after it’s over.

We can still be aware of how we consume.

Fortunately, the manufacture of some products made from recyclables is an industry that is yet to grow. So, if you are looking to buy products made from 100% recycled material, these are companies I recommend we support:

GREEN TOYS—They make children’s toys from recycled milk jugs. So far, they have recycled more than 55 million milk jugs.

All BIRDS—They sell shoes made from 100% recycled sheep’s wool, cardboard, plastic, and castor bean oil. Their manufacturing process uses 60% less energy than those shoe manufacturers that make synthetic shoes.

ROTH’S—They transform plastic water bottles to shoes by using strands of plastic woven together. Also, their packaging is sturdy and reusable.

WEWOOD—A watch manufacturer, they will plant a tree in your honor for your purchase. So far more than 600,000 trees have been planted in collaboration with “Trees for the Future.”

RECOVER BRANDS—They make clothing from all kinds of products made from recycled plastic barrels and soda bottles.

LOOPTWORKS—is a company that makes bags and accessories from recycled materials. Their name is derived from the closed loop way of manufacturing, i.e., using recyclables to create new products.

All these companies encourage transparency by educating the consumers about their manufacturing and recycling methods.

Know Your Natives
2020 Wildflower of the Year:
Geranium maculatum
by Carolyn Shiflet

What a great plant! It certainly deserves the accolades. Geranium maculatum is a woodland perennial herb found growing wild in the mountains and piedmont regions of Virginia.

It will thrive in sun or shade, growing to about eighteen inches tall. It does quite well around trees and needs well-drained soil.

The rose-purple blooms are showing from April to June.

Think of including it in a mixed-perennial border, cottage garden, or rock garden near the front of the bed. It also makes an effective ground cover but is not invasive.

Bees and swallow tail butterflies are attracted to this geranium. It is deer and rabbit resistant. Good companion plants are peony, lamb’s ear and campanula cherry bells. Please do not bother digging it from the woods because it is available from garden centers!
Helping Our Feathered Friends Make It Through the Winter
by Phillipa Smith

Winter is just about to arrive in our area. And now it is time to plan on helping our feathered friends to make it through the cold months.

First, take a hard look at your yard from a bird’s-eye point of view. Do you have some bushy shrubs which would provide them shelter from hard weather or a place to put their nests? Do you have flowers which will provide food during the winter months, i.e., berried shrubs and trees?

Consider adding shrubs which would not only provide shelter but food. These shrubs should not only add beauty to your yard but also provide wonderful horticulture exhibits for your garden club.

Some of those shrubs hardy to our growing zone are:

1. Winterberry - this hardy shrub tolerates most kinds of weather but a drawback is that in order to get berries, both male and female type shrubs must be planted

2. Cotoneaster - this is a colorful plant throughout the year with flowers in the spring and leaves turning colors of red and bronze in the fall, and then berries which last throughout the winter.

3. Pyracantha - this shrub produces white flowers in the spring and bright orange clusters of berries in the fall and winter….a drawback is that it might be invasive in some areas;

4. Beautyberry – it becomes a large shrub, both tall and wide, with pink and white flowers in spring and clusters of purple berries in the fall. It also does well in sandy soils or clay.

And, of course, the other part of this is actively feeding the birds. So here are some tips that I picked up from my ever-faithful g-to, BIRDS AND BLOOMS magazine. One man wrote that he buys a 50-pound bag of chicken scratch feed and mixes it with a 25-pound bag of sunflower seed and feeds the birds with a quality mix for less than $25.00.

Another man gives this tip: serve sunflower seed and thistle seed and high energy suet cakes to have happy birds at your feeders. I do like the suet cakes. I have been able to attract woodpeckers with them, and those birds are so interesting, it’s worth the extra expense to be able to watch them. I think that the wire cage must make it easy for them to hold on while they are feeding. Another contributor fills an old birdbath with seed. This attracts ground-feeding birds that typically stay away from feeders.

I hope some of these ideas will help you make the most of enjoying the winter season with the birds. Most recently, we have been feeding a flock of crows. They are interesting birds with a pecking order all their own. So while they feed, joining them are the local squirrels, either to aggravate or to simply to join the find, I have no idea, but there are face-offs and stand-your-ground contests that are fun to watch….all over peanuts!!
“Garden Clubbing During the Pandemic”

Something to share? Please send your ideas to JoAnn McNabb at josiemcva@gmail.com

Here are the latest responses...

**Surry Garden Garden Club**

- Fall meetings included two programs planned for last April and May:
  - Ryan Walsh, from the James River Association, spoke about native plants.
  - At a meeting entitled “Pesky Weeds,” each member will talk for a couple of minutes about a different weed.
  - When the officers met in May we had talked about planning an October 50th anniversary celebration in a small park in the center of Surry, where we would publicize the club, perhaps have refreshments, perhaps give out flower bulbs – we would do it on a Friday afternoon at the same time as the local nearby Farmer’s Market, so people would see then sign, then perhaps stop by: BUT due to Covid, the Farmers’ Market is still virtual, so we do not consider it a good idea to plan it for 2020.
  - We had hoped our December meeting would continue our tradition of decorating the Manor House at Smith’s Fort for the holidays. In June, the site manager told us that Preservation Virginia did not want us to decorate this year due to the Covid situation. We instead planned a wreathmaking workshop at Hampton Roads Winery, which is co-owned by one of our members, and has plenty of distancing space. The Winery will also be the site of our first two meetings mentioned above. (Note, before writing this memo, I checked the Smith’s Fort website, and see that they are giving private tours, with masks and distancing.)

**Sleepy Hollow Garden Club**

- October zoom meeting featured a program by Tatter Hartmann: “Everything about Daffodils” – from growing to showing. Each club member is receiving three NGC Plant America bulbs.
  - Outdoor event in October with social distancing to celebrate a belated Arbor Day. A red maple tree “October Glory” was dedicated in honor of club member Margaret Ross. 15 club members were present in addition to Margaret’s family.
  - The fall fundraiser selling Virginia Diner peanuts was led by Alice Ross and was our best ever.
  - Club members are encouraged to submit photos of horticulture exhibits and designs in accordance with the monthly schedule. Photos are compiled and shared with everyone. Credit given, no judging.
  - In lieu of our normal hands-on design workshop with residents of Commonwealth Senior Living, coordinator Raye Ryan created a hallway exhibit to show support for residents and staff.

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**FOOTPRINTS**

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

Articles are due before the following deadlines:
FEBRUARY 1, 2021 - SPRING
MAY 1, 2020 – SUMMER
AUGUST 1, 2020 - FALL
NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – WINTER

Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due dates. Electronic transmission preferred, photos and graphics encouraged. Please submit photos in jpeg format. Submit text in Word format, preferably non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, special events, announcements about upcoming events.

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 prior to the above due dates please submit 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.
Be a Yearbook Sponsor
VFGC YEARBOOK – 2021-2023
Deadline: June 30, 2021

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 __________________________________________

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Checks payable to  VFGC, Inc.

Mail check and form to:
Darleen Nelson
153 Bushfield Road
Montross, VA  22520-3813
darlydurl@aol.com
804-472-9710
PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION
Deadline – February 15, 2021

Club:_________________________________________Number of Members:________

Club Contact Name:___________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________________

Phone:____________________ Email:______________________________________________

Type of Project:_______________________________________________________________

(Can include Landscaping Public Spaces such as schools, other public building grounds, roadsides, etc.; Youth Activities; Garden Therapy; Blue Star Memorials; or other Environmental and Community Projects.)

Project Beginning Date:____________ Proposed Completion date:____________
(Completion date should be no later than March 1, 2022)

Clearly describe your project on 1 side of paper. Use up to 3 additional sides for landscape plans, budget, and before photos.

• Location of project.
• Purpose of the project and who it will benefit.
• If a landscape project, give approximate dimensions and include copy of landscape plan.
• Include “before” picture of area.
• Include list of plant material.
• Include a proposed budget and source of funds, i.e. from club, outside.
• Source of manpower, i.e. club members, others.
• If this is a new phase of a project, briefly describe what was previously done and include a photograph of the previous project.
• Who will maintain the property once it is complete?
• If not a landscape project, fully describe the project.
• Priority and weight will be given to projects that support the Presidents Projects (NGC, SAR, VFGC). These funds are for new projects or projects not yet completed that clubs would be unable to undertake without grant.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY February 15, 2021 TO: JEAN FENDER, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 10000 Berry Pond Lane, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116-2707 OR EMAIL IT TO JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET. ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-730-2256. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 15, 2021.