



## PIEDMONT DISTRICT

# FOOTPRINTS

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
MEMBER, NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
VOLUME 36, NO. 3 WINTER 2024

### ***A Message from President Diane Burgess:***

As we head into another holiday season, I want to extend my personal thanks to every club president and to each of you as members for your support, involvement, enthusiasm, and determination in continuing our District's success.

The **Fall District Meeting** was very successful; 35 clubs were represented, the largest number in recent years. *VMFA President Val Story* greeted us and highlighted her theme "Every Person Makes a Difference" - and all of you certainly do! See page 2 for meeting highlights.

The **District Judges' Council September 30<sup>th</sup> Flower Show, "Good Vibrations"** was as much fun as it was inspiring and beautiful. The Show received a 95+ rating!

At the **VMFA's October "Fine Arts & Flowers" 23 Piedmont District Clubs were represented.** Many thanks to all our designers and volunteer helpers. 76 designs brought art to life in floral interpretations. By all accounts, it was one of the most creative and beautiful events in recent memory. I hope many of you were able to view it!

In these winter months when trees are so visible, remember their importance. The **NGC's Plant-a-Tree program (formerly "Penny Pines") will help to offset some of our many natural disasters.** A \$50 contribution could be a gift from your club, an honorarium, or a resolution to continue club donations. Also, I encourage all

clubs to **keep up Trex recycling**; their benches can brighten a garden area or school play yard.

**Do mark your calendars for March 17<sup>th</sup>, the next District Meeting** at the popular Virginia Crossings location. There will be an election of Officers, announcement of Awards and Grants, and a Memorial Service. The tasty buffet lunch will be rearranged to create more speedy service. Those clubs interested in priority seating may volunteer to be hostesses or table designers (Contact Lili at [lilikatebost@gmail.com](mailto:lilikatebost@gmail.com)). As usual, clubs that register early have best seating. Details will be in the spring issue of *Footprints*.

**In the coming year, I hope you will be planning Flower Shows.** Flower Shows are not only enjoyable but are opportunities for our judges and student judges to earn or keep their accreditation. Remember, you need them to judge at your monthly meetings, too! Help with planning flower shows is always available.

May you, your family, and your garden club friends be blessed with joyful holidays and lovely dreams of happy gardening... and many beautiful flowers.



*Diane*

([burgessdiane@gmail.com](mailto:burgessdiane@gmail.com))

## District Fall Meeting Highlights

JoAnn McNabb, Director of Hospitality  
Lili Aram-Bost, Director of Programs

Members representing 35 clubs enjoyed our fall meeting and program at the beautiful Virginia Crossings Hilton Hotel. Chaplain *Lorna Boucher* started us off with inspiring thoughts. President *Diane Burgess* presided in her classic, gracious way. Diane also met with new club presidents before the meeting.

Val Story, VFGC President, was on-hand to encourage the great work of PD clubs and thank us all for making a difference. Val presented *NGC Award Certificates of Appreciation to Piedmont District clubs: Violet Bank, Oxford, Town and Country, Sleepy Hollow, Thomas Jefferson, Hilliard Park, Rappahannock Garden Club of White Stone, and Salisbury. Nathaniel Cawsey GC was recognized for their generous contribution to the VFGC Scholarship Fund.*

Val and Diane also presented an *NGC Certificate of Recognition to Millie Proffitt of Ginter Park GC, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club's founding.* (Pictured, L to R: Val, Millie, and Diane.)



*Shopping was delightful* with many regular vendors and a new vendor. The PD table had some fabulous finds on offer, beautifully displayed, thanks to Martie Parch and team. A *bountiful buffet luncheon* was served – and a note made to speed up the process next time around with more buffet lines to accommodate the size of our group.

Always the highlight, the design program elicited expressions of admiration and amazement. *Arlene Stewart's program "Structures and Stems: Creative Armature Fun"* featured imaginative

designs using structures constructed from IKEA sticks... to sections of bamboo. Six lucky opportunity ticket holders took home designs, and several others took home flower bundles.



It was a wonderful gathering - and the best attended since before the pandemic era. Be sure to plan on attending the Piedmont District Spring Meeting on March 17, 2025.

## CALENDAR

- Dec 1 Deadline: Awards Applications
- Jan 10 Deadline: Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl
- Feb 1 Deadline: *Footprints* and *ODG*, Spring
- Feb 15 Deadline: Piedmont District Grants
- Mar 17 Piedmont District Spring Meeting
- Mar 24-27 VFGC Flower Show School IV, LGBG
- Apr 7-8 VFGC Landscape Design School, Series 29 Course 4, LGBG
- Apr 27-28 VFGC Annual Convention, Richmond
- May 18-22 NGC Annual Convention, Charleston, South Carolina

### Piedmont District Memorial Moment

The traditional "memorial moment" will be part of the Spring 2025 meeting. Send notices of deceased members to Lorna Boucher: [lornaboucher710@gmail.com](mailto:lornaboucher710@gmail.com) Include: club name, deceased member's name, year of passing, and whether she/he served as president and/or was a charter member.

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

Presents

**The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention  
and NGC Flower Show**

***"Thank You, Virginia  
for Making a Difference!"***



**April 27-28, 2025**

**The Westin Richmond  
6631 West Broad Street**

*Block your calendars...and get ready for an inspiring, educational, fun, jam-packed two days!*

*Look for registration details which will be posted on the website and included in the spring issues of Footprints, Rooted, and ODG. Meanwhile, the next couple of pages will give you a peak at an event not to be missed.*

*Val Story, VFGC President, will preside over the convention. Diane Burgess and JoAnn McNabb are Convention Co-Chairs.*

*Passionflower & Bee: Jan Pingel, Violet Bank GC*

## ***The Venue***

Richmond is the location... **The Westin** is the venue... a beautiful hotel with every amenity, including an indoor pool.



The selection of this venue was based in no small measure on the hotel's extensive renovation, proximity to the interstate, and wonderful shopping areas. The large conference space is set apart from other hotel functions and will be dedicated to VFGC.

## ***The Flower Show***

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show will be showcased during the convention. Any VFGC member in good standing will be eligible to participate. More information will be forthcoming in the VFGC *ROOTED* e-newsletter.

## ***A Special Silent Auction***

Dust off that "prized" (but seldom-if-ever used) container, design sculpture or accessory... and enter them in our Convention Silent Auction. This will be a chance to recycle your quality design piece(s), spark others' creativity, and set your own starting bid. You will receive 50% of the selling price while supporting the VFGC. A win/win opportunity!

## ***Vendors***

VFGC Conventions are known to provide great shopping experiences. The 2025 Convention will follow suit. Invited vendors will feature handmade pottery, jewelry, clothing, floral design accessories, and more!

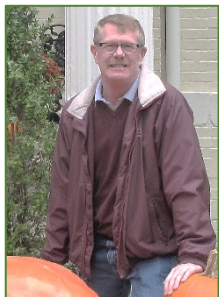
## 2025 Convention Program Featured Speakers

### **Peggy Singlemann**

is nationally known as a foremost gardening expert. She is the longtime co-producer and host on the familiar TV show, *Virginia Home Grown*.



As Director of Park Operations and Horticulture at Historic Maymont Park, Peggy is well known for overseeing the work at its 100 acres for 38 years. She is recognized for her transformative role in restoring and renovating their famous Italian and Japanese Gardens. Peggy, an early proponent of the benefits of creating sustainable landscapes, holds professional certifications as an arborist, horticulturist, and landscape designer.



**David Pippin** is a well-known, inspiring and sought-after teacher and Floral Designer. He hails from Louisa County and graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education.

David is an adjunct professor in the Horticulture Department at Reynolds Community College. He has been the floral designer at The Executive Mansion in Richmond since 2014. His designs are both practical and inspiring.



## Floral Design Program Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

### **“Bloom and Grow... a Floral Design Journey”**

Design Program by Jane Godshalk  
AFID Floral Designer, Instructor and Speaker



**Jane Godshalk**, AIFD, is an exciting and internationally recognized floral designer with a uniquely American style, fresh and uncomplicated. Her designs reflect passion and connection with nature... its shapes, colors, and textures. Each season's materials are new inspiration.

An instructor at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia, Jane teaches a variety of classes from beginning to advanced, and a collection of elective classes. Her lectures and workshops are a collaboration with each individual group, tailored to inspire a wide audience. Jane's talent has been recognized with national awards from the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Club of America.

All of Jane's designs will be raffled off.





**Piedmont District Designers at VMFA Fine Arts & Flowers 2024**

*JoAnn McNabb, VFGC Liaison*

23 Piedmont District designers interpreted masterworks at this year's Fine Arts & Flowers event:



Left, upper – *Rebecca Elston – Wanda Allen, Chesapeake GC*

Left, lower – *Mary Owen, River Road GC*

Right, upper – *Judy Durant – Pat Merson, Hanover Towne GC*

Right, lower – *Melissa Snow – Suzanne Spooner-Munch, Oxford GC*

## Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest District Entries Due Jan 10<sup>th</sup>

Pat Merson, District Chair

It is time to prepare the posters for the Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl poster contest. Students in the first through fifth grades are eligible to participate. Garden clubs can refer to the updated 2025 information on the Piedmont District website.

Please mail submitted posters to the following address:

Pat Merson – Chairman  
Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest  
11231 Woodland Pond Parkway  
Chesterfield, Virginia 23838

Posters are due Friday, January 10, 2025.



*Pictured s: the 2024 National Grand Prize Winner sponsored by a Mississippi garden club.*

## Recycling: Trex® Project Continues



All clubs are encouraged to continue - or start - new recycling challenges. **The recycling period is one year – and the pounds collected to earn a bench are 1,000 pounds.** Decide on a one-year challenge period and sign up by going to <https://trex.com>.

## Piedmont District Grants Update

Lynn Bell, District Grants Chair

Many thanks to *Crown Grant Garden Club* for submitting a well-prepared “Final Report” for the grant they received in March 2024: a flower design workshop at Jackson Davis Elementary School in western Henrico.

Crown Grant club members worked with 75 fourth graders in two-day sessions: the first day for demonstrations; the second day assisting students in creating their own designs. Club members and students enjoyed this fun project, and the office and custodial staff received flower arrangements in appreciation for their help!



REMINDER – Piedmont District Grant applications for new or continuing 2025 club projects are due by February 15, 2025. Priority is given to projects supported by NGC, SAR, VFGC and PD.

See the grant application form at the end of this issue of *Footprints* for examples of types of projects eligible and the specific information required.

Winners will be announced, and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting on March 17, 2025.

## HOLIDAY TRIBUTE IDEA

Celebrating the Contributions  
of a Club Member  
While Supporting VFGC Scholarships  
*Jnae Oliver Smith, District Chair*

What a wonderful gift for a special garden club member...a garden club or individual can honor a club member with a VFGC Life Membership or Honor Roll award. This is a special way to appreciate a beloved member or recognize their contributions. The application is available on the VFGC website under Forms & Info: [Forms & Info – Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs \(virginiagardenclubs.org\)](https://www.virginiagardenclubs.org/forms-and-info).

For \$50.00, you or your club can honor a garden club member AND support VFGC scholarships for college students pursuing horticulture, environmental and other garden-related subjects. Life Membership honorees receive a life membership pin and card. Book of Honor honorees and supporters receive a card. All honorees and supporters are listed in the Permanent Record Books housed in the VFGC Headquarters in Richmond.

Now, you may ask, “What is the difference between a Life Membership and the Honor Roll?” Answer: The Honor Roll designation assumes that the person is already a VFGC Life Member and does not need another pin. Both result in a \$50.00 contribution towards VFGC scholarships and a listing in the Permanent Record Books.

When Val Virkler, VFGC Life Membership/Honor Roll Chair 2023-2025, receives an application, she will acknowledge receipt to the email contact listed in the application and will promptly mail the pin and/or card with a congratulatory letter to the recipient and club or friend. All materials are sent via USPS. Val Virkler may be reached at [val@rgbartlett.com](mailto:val@rgbartlett.com); (434) 257-4625 (cell/text). Jane Oliver Smith, District Chair, may be reached at [josmithlaw@gmail.com](mailto:josmithlaw@gmail.com) (703) 937-7580.

## Award Applications Due Dec 1

*Joanne Wallace, Piedmont District Awards Chair*

It's that time of year again! Time to apply for District, State and maybe even National awards. All of the information you need can be found online at <https://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org>. Click on “Awards” in the green box below the menu bar to find how to apply, the awards available and information regarding the evaluation rubrics used by judges. Penny Pines and Plant a Tree programs have been combined, now officially ‘Plant a Tree’. The award number is S-35. For more information, please contact me.

Contributions and support for funding awards are accepted by making a check payable to Piedmont District with AWARDS written in the memo line. Mail to: Claudia Cosby, Piedmont District Treasurer, 3015 Mount Hill Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113-3923. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ADVANCE!!**

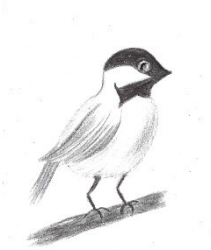
Joanne Wallace  
[dougandjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:dougandjoanne@gmail.com)  
(804) 683-9006

## Educating State Fair Visitors and Creating Smiles!



## We Need Birds More Than They Need Us!

Sharon Lemke, District Chair



The bird population has decreased dramatically in the last 50 years. Estimates are that 2.9 billion are gone. So, if this trend continues will they be missed? YES!

### What Do Birds Do for Us?

#### Control Pests

Birds eat 400-500 million tons of insects a year. They are so efficient that nest boxes have become practice throughout Europe.

#### Pollinate Plants

Hummingbirds and honey eaters are specialists in this practice especially in high altitudes and hot climates. They favor sight over smell. 5% of plants that humans use for food or medicine are pollinated by birds.



#### Spread Seeds

Birds take seeds they have eaten with them and disperse them through droppings. They help shape the plant life we see around us.

#### Keep Coral Reefs Alive

Seabirds play a key role in cycling nutrients and helping to fertilize marine ecosystems such as coral reefs. When seabirds return from feeding out in the ocean, they deposit layers of guano at their colonies. The guano(droppings) at their colonies leaches into the ocean and helps to fertilize coral communities.



#### Act as Nature's Clean-up Crew

Vultures are quick to clean up roadkill before less efficient scavengers such as feral dogs or rats, thus preventing the spread of disease. A single vulture provides waste disposal services worth around \$11,600.

#### Transform Entire Landscapes

An example is the salt marshes of southeastern USA where cordgrass thrives, filtering local water and protecting the coast from sea erosion. The salt marsh Periwinkle grazes on the cordgrass and were if not for predators such as oystercatchers, curlews and plovers, these tiny snails would devour the entire marsh leaving only mudflats.



#### Birds Inspire Science

Technology of flight, invention of zippers, and Darwin's studies on Galagoes on natural selection are just a few examples of birds' contribution to science. Birds are great messengers to tell us about the health of the planet. They respond to changes in the environment.

**And don't forget what you can do** to promote the science of studying these remarkable creatures by participating in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** February 14-17 2025. For information go to <https://birdcount.org>



# DESIGN 101

## aka Floral Design made Easy!

by Kathy Ward

### Article Six – TABLES

As so many clubs are having flower shows this spring, I thought we'd talk about a favorite design type at flower shows - the table. It is one of the design types that most schedules include and many new designers feel comfortable with. According to pages 76-77 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows* (2017 edition), there are two types of tables - the Exhibition Table and the Functional Table.

#### The Functional Table

The one we see most often is the Functional Table. This is a table that is planned and artistically set for actual food service. It includes dishes to eat from, glasses or cups to drink from, napkins, and usually a tablecloth and/or placemats. Flatware can be included but often it is not to keep the table less cluttered. A "decorative unit" must be included. This is a design that contains some plant material. A potted plant alone does not qualify as a design. Additional accessories are also allowed, unless the schedule specifies otherwise.

The schedule will usually define the type of table and the style of dining. It often tells you the number of place settings required. The table can be set in an informal manner (casual dining) with paper products, stoneware or other table appointments that fit the prescribed style. A table may also be semi-formal for more sophisticated dining. The schedule could state that the dining would be alfresco (outside). A tray for one is also popular on schedules. For a tray, the setting should be ready to carry and set in front of someone, therefore no napkin is allowed on the plate and the decorative unit must be stable.

#### The Exhibition Table

An Exhibition Table is an exhibit that is not meant to be functional. It just suggests the service of food with no requirement as to the type or number of table appointments. Plant material must be used, but it need not be a design. An exhibition table reminds me of a display you would see in the housewares area of a department store.

#### Judging Table Designs

As with all designs, the functional table and exhibition table are judged by the design scale of points.

- Almost half of the allotted points are based on the balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm and scale within the design.
- Additional points are from the selection and organization of components, conformance to design type (functional or exhibition table), expression of title and distinction (craftsmanship, uniqueness, creativity).
- A card is required for table designs, listing not only the plant material used, but also the make/pattern of dishes and beverage service, if included.

**Creating a Table Design –** To create your table design, you will need to decide on an item or two that you would like to build your design around. It could be a plate with a pattern or an accessory that exemplifies the Class title. In creating your table design, it is important to repeat some of the colors to create cohesiveness. For example, a color in a plate could also be found in the tablecloth and the floral design.

The list of possible table appointments includes

- Dishes (paper, glass, plastic, metal, wood, china, porcelain, stoneware).
- Glasses/cups/mugs (glass, plastic, china, paper) for beverages.

- Flatware (metal, plastic, wood).
- A tablecloth, placemat, a runner, napkins.
- Salt and pepper shakers
- Candlesticks, with or without candles.
- A design or plant material.

Not all of these components need to be present in every table design. Too many items on a table can impact the rhythm, as well as the overall aesthetics. In choosing your components, it is important to remember the style of design, as specified by the schedule. A silver water pitcher would look out of place with a picnic setting. Likewise, you would rarely use paper napkins with a fine china plate. Use of fine china or silver flatware is discouraged, as breakage or “misplaced items” could occur.

For a functional table, the floral component must be in proportion to the table size. As a rule of thumb, it should take up no more than one-third of the table space. If the diners are seated across from each other, the design should be low enough (or high enough) that it doesn't impact the line of sight of the diners. If the diners are seated on adjacent sides of the table, the design may be higher.

Here are three examples of Table Designs.



**Exhibition Table**



**Table for One**



**Functional Table**

## Garden Clubbing in the Piedmont

### Appomattox Garden Club Spring Tea



Sunday, April 27, 2025  
3pm to 5pm  
Weston Manor  
Hopewell, VA

Tickets \$15  
Contact: Marilyn Brown (804)678-9040

## Piedmont District Judges' Council Flower Show

### "Good Vibrations"

*Designing to the Music of The Beach Boys*

September 30<sup>th</sup>

Deep Run Park, Richmond

### NGC Design Specialty Flower Show



## Sleepy Hollow Garden Club's Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, members of the club along with a son and a husband joined with a Habitat for Humanity homeowner and her family to add foundational plants, bulbs, daylilies and irises at her new home in Ashland. A plant care guide was presented to the homeowner the next week. This project is part of Richmond Council of Garden Clubs' ongoing Habitat for Humanity landscape project.



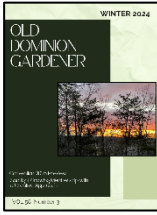
Exhibitor: Jean Fender  
Section A, Class 1: Sloop John B.  
An Angular Design

Exhibitor: JoAnn McNabb,  
Section A, Class 3: Surfin'  
A Creative Design



## Calling All Photographers!

Gail Goodrich Harwood, ODG Editor



Thanks to all members who have submitted their beautiful photographs, not only for this issue, but for future issues. This is a terrific way to “travel” around the Commonwealth.

To submit your photographs:

- Select *seasonal photographs to complement the ODG seasonal publication schedule.* Select either long shots or close-up photos.
- Send 300 dpi jpegs – if submitting a phone photo, and your email gives you a size choice, select “Actual” or “Large” size.
- Photographs for the cover must be ‘portrait’ orientation – inside gallery photos may be either portrait or landscape orientation.
- If your photograph is not of your own garden or plant(s), please gain permission to print in the *ODG*.
- Send to your district editor by the deadline– include your name and club name; add a caption & location of the photograph.
- Submission considered permission to print.

## Footprints & ODG

Send articles and photos in separate files to:

Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor

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

PHONE: 804-317-8091

Articles are due before the following deadlines:

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 – SPRING

MAY 1, 2025 – SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2025 - FALL

NOVEMBER 1, 2025 - WINTER

Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due dates. Electronic transmission preferred, photos and graphics encouraged. Please submit photos in jpeg format as separate files, not embedded with text. Submit text in Word format, non-pdf. All articles welcome: club projects, special events, announcements about upcoming events.

Mark the subject of your e-mail submission “Footprints” or “ODG” – ordinarily the same article will not appear in both publications, but some announcements and some parts of articles may appear in both.

*Footprints* masthead art: Black-eyed Susan and Bordered Patch butterfly © 2021 G Goodrich Harwood  
Botanical and bird illustrations © 2023 G Goodrich Harwood

## 2023-25 Piedmont District Officers

President	Diane Burgess
Director of Programs	Lili Aram-Bost
Director of Hospitality	JoAnn McNabb
Treasurer	Claudia Cosby
Recording Secretary	Susan DelSordo
VFGC Nominating Comm Rep	Judy Hodges
Alternate	Mary Wiblin

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<https://gardenclubs.org>

**PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION**  
**Deadline – February 15, 2025**

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, 2026)

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 a 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 the club and outside the club.
- 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 a grant.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY **February 15, 2025** TO: LYNN BELL, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 2361 CASTLE HILL ROAD, MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23113-1143 OR EMAIL IT TO [lhbell1120@aol.com](mailto:lhbell1120@aol.com). ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-320-8578. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2024.