

# Blue Ridge District Awards

2014 - 2015

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **AWARD YEAR:** The award year is January 1 – December 31 of the current year.
2. **DECEMBER 1** is the **DEADLINE** for submitting entries to the **Blue Ridge District Awards Chairman**, Sharon Jones, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-4530, 540-719-2466, [toddie1904@aol.com](mailto:toddie1904@aol.com)
3. All entries will be judged by the District Awards Committee, unless otherwise stated. Winners will be sent to the VFGC Awards Chairman by December 15 to compete for VFGC, SAR, and NGC Awards.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:** Only VFGC members are eligible to apply for VFGC Awards unless otherwise stated in the award description. Members are: member garden clubs, groups of member clubs, and individual members of garden clubs. Junior, Intermediate, High School Garden Clubs, Individual Youth must be sponsored by a member garden club to be eligible for specific VFGC, SAR, and NGC awards.
5. **APPLICATION FORMS:** The new application form must be used when applying for all awards except the Award of Excellence or Flower Show Achievement Awards. (The application for the Award of Excellence or Flower Show Achievement Awards can be obtained from the corresponding National Chairman.)
  - Binders and vinyl sheet protectors are no longer required or allowed.
  - Applications will not be returned. Exceptions noted.
  - Forms are available on the VFGC website, [www.virginiagardenclubs.org](http://www.virginiagardenclubs.org) , and from District and State Awards Chairmen.
  - Example of Awards Application filled out can be found on the Awards page of the VFGC website.

## PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING:

- Fill in District, VFGC and SAR Award number in Top right corner. Be sure to include the club size as denoted by (i) for a club with less than 30 members, (ii) for a club with 30 to 99 members and (iii) for a club with 100 or more members.
- Fill in NGC Award number and name. If there is no corresponding NGC award, leave this space blank.
- Complete the application form.
- There is a **THREE (3)** page limit, using only the **FRONT** of the page. The NGC Awards Application is page one. Up to two additional pages may be included.
- Submit the NGC Award Application (3 pages only) to your District Awards Chairman by the deadline Dec. 1. Include original and one copy.
- When the same project is eligible for various awards, submitting exact duplication of the application is not acceptable.
- Keep one copy for your records.
- **YEARBOOKS** – complete the necessary information on the NGC Application Form. Do not answer the questions. Firmly clip two copies of the completed application form to the inside front cover (send only 1 yearbook). No envelope necessary.

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- PUBLICATIONS: Submit entry for #5 (District Newsletter), #30 (Club Membership Brochure), #31 (Club Newsletter) in an envelope with one Application Form secured to outside and one enclosed inside the envelope.
  - PUBLICITY PRESS BOOKS: Complete the necessary information on the application form. Do not answer the questions. Prepare a Book of Evidence. No limit on number of pages. Deadline: January 25. The book must be sent to VFGC Publicity Press Book Chairman Barbara Ohmsen, at 2881 Meadow Wood Drive East, Chesapeake, VA 23321-4243, [basohmsen@cox.net](mailto:basohmsen@cox.net).
  - FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: Prepare a Book of Evidence. No limit on number of pages. Deadline: December 1. This book must be sent to VFGC Flower Show Schedule/Evaluation Chairman Phillipa A. Smith, 12601 Winfree Street, Chester, VA 23831-5031, 804-748-6216, [cguygo@version.net](mailto:cguygo@version.net)
  - LANDSCAPE AWARDS: Landscape awards require a landscape plan, where possible. In all Civic Beautification Awards, include a landscape plan.
6. **NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS:** Clubs may submit only one application per award. Likewise, Virginia District Award Chairmen can submit only ONE application per award for evaluation to the VFGC Awards Chairman Judy B. Hodges24405 N. James Madison Hwy. New Canton, VA 23123-2227, 434-581-1547 [judy.hodges14@yahoo.com](mailto:judy.hodges14@yahoo.com)
7. **CATEGORIES BY SIZE:** Garden Club applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members on whom NGC and state dues are paid, including ACTIVE, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.
- I Small Club: 29 members and under
  - ii Medium Club: 30 to 59 members
  - iii Large Club: 60-99 members
8. **SCALE of POINTS**
- Presentation (5 pts.) – Neat, concise, includes all required information, does not exceed 3 single sided sheets.
  - Achievement (65 pts.) – Scope of project, need and fulfillment; benefit; accomplishment; comprehensiveness of work; activities to attain goals; evaluation of goals reached; educational; prior planning; very brief history if continuing project; financial report; other.
  - Participation (15 pts.) – Size of club; involvement of members, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, others. Not all of these have to be involved.
  - Record of documentation (15 pts.) – Supporting data ( as applicable), clear, well labeled and neatly attached before and after photographs, landscape plan ( does not have to be professionally drawn), financial report, letters of appreciation, community awards, newspaper/magazine articles ( if possible), radio or TV script ( if possible), etc. Photocopies are permitted.

## CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT

### B-1 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

\$10 may be awarded to a single member garden club ( i small, ii medium, iii large ) for a distinguished civic or conservation/ beautification project making permanent improvements for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc.. Include a landscape plan. No commercial project is eligible. (S-13, SAR#3, NGC#1A)

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## **B-2 VISUAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

\$10 may be awarded to a club or council for the most outstanding comprehensive project of Visual Community improvement. Multi-faceted projects are given preference. Landscape plan needed. ( SAR#18)

## **CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENT**

### **B-3 BIRD PROTECTION**

\$10 may be awarded to a club ( i small, ii medium, iii large ) for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for bird protection and welfare, e.g. sanctuaries, providing food, houses and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare. (S-9, SAR#1, NGC#42A)

### **B-4 BUTTERFLY**

\$10 may be awarded to the club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) conducting the most comprehensive and effective project on butterflies, e.g. habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of a butterfly garden at a school or community site. (S-11, SAR#2, NGC#43A)

### **B-5 LITTER / RECYCLING / RECLAMATION**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small, ii medium, iii large) for the most outstanding activity/project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling, ex. year-long program, organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site. (S-20, SAR#10, NGC#39A)

### **B-6 ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small, ii medium, iii large) for outstanding, permanent roadside beautification. The program may be continuous, but must have advanced degree of completion prior to making application. The award may be given only once for the same program. (S-25, NGC#2A)

### **B-7 TREE PLANTING AND / OR ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small, ii medium, iii large) with the most outstanding tree planting activity and/or promotion of conservation and preservation of trees and/or Arbor Day activities. (SAR#20)

### **B-8 OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS, NATURE TRAILS**

\$10 may be awarded to a garden club for establishing outdoor classrooms, nature trails, Wild flower walks, etc. with the emphasis on wildflowers and native plants. (S-24, NGC#74A)

### **B-9 NATIVE PLANTS – CIVIC PROJECTS**

\$10 may be awarded to a garden club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on native plant material to your region. (S-23, NGC#73A)

### **B-10 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE**

\$10 may be awarded to a single club ( i small club, ii medium club, iii large club ) for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for a standard flower show. (S-34, SAR#17A)

### **B-11 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE – TWO OR MORE**

\$10 may be awarded to two or more clubs or council for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for a standard flower show. (S-35, SAR#17B)

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**B-12 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small club, ii medium club, iii large club) for an outstanding program working with youth in schools, those in prisons, or persons in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, etc. (S-19, SAR#6, NGC#19A)

**B-13 HORTICULTURE - HERBS**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (I small club, ii medium club, iii large club) growing the greatest variety of herbs for today's use. List each member with the herbs he/she grows. Then give a final listing--in alphabetical order--of all herbs grown by members. Should have a total number for herbs listed. LISTS MUST CONTAIN BOTANICAL NAMES OF HERBS.

## LANDSCAPING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

**B-14 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small, ii medium, iii large) for the best landscape project at a Habitat for Humanity project.

**B-15 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT**

\$10 may be awarded to a club with the most outstanding program establishing a garden(s) to benefit those in nursing homes/assisted living facilities, schools, prisons, low income housing, etc. Includes barrier free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at hospital, etc. (S-19, NGC#48A)

**B-16 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

\$10 may be awarded to a club - i small, ii medium, iii large - for most outstanding project/ significant contribution in planning and planting for a commercial property, church or synagogue, hospital, library, school, civic center, park, waterfront, etc. Copy of landscape plan must be included in book of evidence. (S-15, SAR#9, NGC#49A)

## PROMOTION

**B-17 DISTRICT ATTENDANCE**

\$10 may be awarded to a club with the highest percentage of members attending two district meetings of which the club is a member and the VFGC convention held during the awards year. Include a list of active members and which meetings and convention attended. (2013 award for attendance in 2012)

**B-18 MEMBERSHIP**

\$10 will be awarded to the club bring most new members into VFGC membership. Send list of members new to your club, showing date joined to VFGC Chairman by March 15 2014-2015. For 2013 award (awarded in Spring of 2014), new members joining March 1, 2013-February 29, 2014. For 2014 awards (awarded in Spring of 2015), new members joining March 1, 2014-February 28, 2015. VFGC Membership Chairman should report to VFGC Awards Chairman by March 15.

A. Clubs under 30 members

B. Clubs with 30 or more members

**B-19 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK**

\$10 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week. Emphasis on showing community awareness throughout the entire week and may include local and/or state proclamations. . (S-22, SAR#12, NGC#53A)

**B-20 THE NATIONAL GARDENER**

\$10 may be awarded to a club with the highest number of PAID subscriptions based on the percentage of club members subscribing. Address labels must be shown for each subscription. In case of a tie, the largest number wins. (SAR#11)

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**B-21 SCRAPBOOK**

\$10 may be awarded to a club for the best scrapbook for a one-year period. Must contain photos in support of club activities.

**B-22 PUBLIC RELATIONS**

\$10 may be given to a club, group of clubs or council for the most involvement of other civic organizations, businesses and agencies, etc., in garden club projects, activities and programming for the year. (SAR#14)

## PUBLICATIONS

Read NGC Publications & Communications Rules and Scale of Points.

**B-25 CLUB BROCHURE**

\$10 may be awarded to a single club (i small, ii medium, iii large) for a club creating the most unique club promotional brochure for promoting membership. (S-31, NGC#13-5A)

**B-24 CLUB NEWSLETTER**

A. \$10 may be awarded to a garden club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) publishing a one-page newsletter—at least 3 times per year under one editorship or management. Submit only three sample issues and state number issues per year.. (S-32A, NGC#12-1A).

B. \$10 may be awarded to a single garden club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) publishing a newsletter of 3-12 pages – at least six issues. Submit only three sample issues and state number of issues per year. (S-#32B, NGC#12-2A).

**B-25 YEARBOOKS**

\$10 may be awarded to the best yearbook in each of the following categories, determined by number of members on whom VFGC dues are paid. Yearbook must be from current year. No envelope necessary.

- A. Clubs under 20 members
- B. Clubs with 20-29 members
- C. Clubs with 30-44 members
- D. Clubs with 45-69 members
- E. Clubs with 70-99 members
- F. Clubs with 100-299 members

Check for information necessary for judging (judging scale can be supplied by District Awards Chairman or on page \_\_\_ in VFGC Yearbook. (S-33 A-F, NGC#16A)

**B-26 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

\$10 may be awarded to a club for the most comprehensive program in the field of environmental education involving youth. (S-29, NGC#54A)

**B-27 YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

\$10 may be awarded to a youth group for the most outstanding work in any of the NGC objectives. This includes outstanding local projects with full information provided. Include pictures, publicity, and comments. Extra credit for groups organized through garden clubs as Junior, Intermediate and High School Gardeners are eligible for NGC Youth Awards. (SAR#28)

**B-28 YOUTH HORTICULTURE EDUCATION**

\$10 may be awarded to a single member garden club for the best promotion of gardening among youth; based on the belief that youth should be educated to become future horticulturists. (S-30, NGC#8)

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## **B-29 CHUCKY CHIPMUNK**

\$10 may be awarded to the club with the most complete promotions of Chucky Chipmunk and the "STOP Throwing and START Stowing" anti-litter theme: i.e. poster contest, newsletter, school program. Send Books of Evidence to District Chairmen by December 1 deadline; winner of district competition to be sent to VFGC Awards Chairman by December 15. . VFGC Youth Activities Chairman - Sharon Jones, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-5228, 540-719-2466. (S-12) (SAR #31)

## **B-30 YOUTH CONTESTS**

See [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) under YOUTH or the Fall 2013 issue of *The National Gardener* for complete Youth Contest rules and details. Winners at the state level are sent for regional and national competition.

## **Y-1 HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROJECT – VFGC Donor**

\$25 may be awarded to a high school student, grade 9-12, for an outstanding civic project making a significant improvement for public benefit, e.g. environment, conservation, landscape, horticulture, recycling, horticulture therapy, etc.

## **Y-2 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS – VFGC Donor**

A monetary award will be awarded to winners in grades 1-5. District chairmen will be sent rules by VFGC Chairman. Deadline dates will be supplied by state chairman. VFGC Chairman – Barbara S. Ohmsen, 2881 Meadow Wood Dr E, Chesapeake, VA 23321-4243, (757)-484-1753. (SAR #33)

## **Y-3 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST**

Open to all high school students. Essay of 600-700 words on the topics listed below. District Chairmen send winning essays to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1 of each year. \$25 may be awarded to the state essay winner who is then eligible for regional and national competition. Each year, the national winner is awarded a \$1000 College Scholarship. VFGC Youth Activities Chairman - Sharon Jones, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-5228, 540-719-2466. (SAR #31)

Due Dec 1, 2013 Title: "Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's World"

Due Dec 1, 2014 Title: "Choosing to Make a Difference for a Better World"

## **Y-4 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST**

Certificates will be awarded to winners of all grade levels (K-9 grades and Special Education K-9 grades). Students must follow NGC rules. District chairmen send winning poems to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. State winners only are sent on to SAR. VFGC Youth Activities Chairman – Sharon Jones, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-5228, 540-719-2466. (SAR # 32)

Due Dec 1, 2013 Theme: "Protecting & Conserving Our Natural Resources"

Due Dec 1, 2014 Theme: "Good Stewards of Our Earth"

## **Y-5 YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST**

Certificates will be awarded to winners of all grade levels (4th-8th grades). Students must follow NGC rules. District chairmen send winning entry to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. State winners only are sent on to SAR. See Fall issue of *The National Gardener* for details. VFGC Youth Activities Chairman - Sharon Jones, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-5228, 540-719-2466 (SAR #34)