



FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1 -- FALL 2016

A Message from your President, Melissa Damiano

Welcome back! I hope you all had a mostly relaxed couple months. Summer in central Virginia has been hot. This is quite evident as I look out my windows at the pots of cannas, elephant ears, and banana trees (*Musa*, and *Ensete mourelii*) that are scattered around outside. These plants have become favorites of mine since they are not preferred food of my deer, and they can take dry or wet conditions. But at this time of the year when rain clouds skirt the area they are practically beating on my front door for another drink of water.

Two decades ago I would not have considered planting in pots. I've been the type of gardener who likes to place a plant in the soil and let Mother Nature take it from there. Pots would require me to water them a few times a week, heck, that's like having another pet. If I wanted another pet I'd go to the SPCA and get something that would bark at strangers. I wasn't going to have any part of that maintenance. So what happened? I visited gardens. It was there that I fell in love with the big-leafed tropicals (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*, *Colocasia esculenta*) and the drama that they added to the garden. For years I resisted buying any but then... it was end of season and I happened across a red-leafed banana and it called my name. Now I have several tropicals – with leaves that are blue (*Canna glauca* 'Taney'), red (*Canna* 'Australia'), or dramatically striped (*Canna* 'Blueberry Sparkler'). Some are big (*Alocasia* 'Portodora') and some small (*Colocasia* 'Bikini Tini'). These larger leaves stand out against the small leaves of boxwoods, Japanese hollies, and viburnum plus when they're placed in a vibrant pot there is instant color all season without needing one bloom.

I hope you all had the opportunity to visit a garden this summer, and take away a new landscape idea, if not a new plant. (Have I told you I love visiting gardens?!)

I'm sorry to have missed the Virginia Landscape Design Consultants trip to Pennsylvania visiting five fabulous gardens (including one of my favorites!). During this educational opportunity, consultants were able to see first-hand the gardens and gardening styles that they may only have read about during the course of study. You can read more about this experience on page 7.

Please join us for the Piedmont District meeting on Monday October 10, 2017. We will have a President/Award meeting in the morning. The afternoon program features a designer from northern Virginia. Also you will want to be among the first to hear about the events and speakers that are in place for the 2017 NGC Convention!

Chaplain's Message –

Pam Mann

As summer departs, it is with a cautious heart -- that we bid Autumn enter. This poem by Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM describes the mixed emotions that often usher in this special season.

PRAYER FOR AUTUMN DAYS

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, -- letting go of what has been.

We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves, lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.

As we observe those patterns, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives.

As we recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind, - and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our heart from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, For all this, we are grateful.

Amen

And during this season, we now bid farewell to our dear friend Jo Casler, who served as Piedmont District President 1983 to 1985.

VIRGINIA is for GARDENERS

Save the Dates

May 18-20, 2017

National Garden Clubs Inc Annual Convention

Richmond, Virginia

Visit www.viriniagardenclubs.org to see how you can be a part of this exciting event

Keynote Speaker: P. Allen Smith

CALL

PIEDMONT DISTRICT FALL GENERAL MEETING “FALL SENSATION”

WHERE: Doubletree by Hilton
1021 Koger Center Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23235

WHEN: Monday, October 10, 2016

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

8:30-9:45 Registration
9:00-9:40 President's / Award Meeting
10:00-11:30 Morning Session-General Meeting
11:30-12:00 Break/Shopper's Spree
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-2:45 Getting Back to the Roots of Floral Design
Jenn Pineau from Nature Composed

COST: \$30.00 Ck payable to Piedmont Dst, VFGC
*(We are sorry but we will unable to
issue refunds-please find a substitute)*

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

DEADLINE: Monday September 26, 2016

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:

Melissa Damiano, President
9436Park Bluff Terrace
Chesterfield, VA 23838
or mtdamiano@aol.com
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.

(You will find registration form on page 11 of this newsletter.)**

Jenn Pineau speaker and designer at Fall General Meeting

Submitted by Janet Minock

I am so excited to welcome Jenn Pineau from Nature Composed to be our main speaker and designer at the Fall General Membership Meeting. Jenn has been featured in magazines such as *Martha Stewart Weddings*, *Style Me Pretty*, and *Washingtonian*. Martha Stewart named her one of the “62 Floral Designer’s To Book for your Wedding”.

Jenn has a studio and farm in Rochelle, VA and a store in Middleburg. Her approach to floral design is of a natural nature using locally grown materials. She has an art degree from VCU as well as a certificate in Permaculture from GMU. Permaculture is a growing trend to work ecologically within the landscape system to bond food, energy, shelter and water. She keeps all of this in mind as a designer and cuts waste by composting, capturing rainwater, and using locally grown products therefore cutting down on packaging.

Her program is titled “Getting Back to the Roots of Floral Design”. She will be showing us ways to design without using Oasis using all locally grown materials -- some from her own farm.

To read more about our designer, please Google “Nature Composed: An Interview With Eco-Friendly Designer Jenn Pineau”, as written in Swooned Magazine.

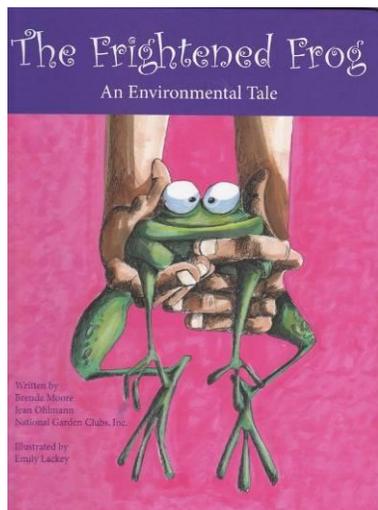
NGC Convention 2017 Needs YOU!

Submitted by: Judy B. Binns, NGC Convention 2017 Chairman

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**”. At that time, Virginia garden club members will welcome garden club members from all across the country plus international affiliates to share in the rich history of our state as well as educational programs from well-known speakers and experts that highlight gardening and floral design.

The Keynote Speaker for the convention is P. Allen Smith, an award-winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. Smith is one of America’s most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration. He is the author of the best-selling Garden Home series of books and the recently published cookbook, *Seasonal Recipes from the Garden*. Mark your calendar s-- P. Allen Smith will speak at the luncheon on Friday, May 19. 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. At the Fall District meeting, stop by the NGC Convention table to volunteer as hostesses, floral designers, and more. Let’s show the members of National Garden Clubs that “**Virginia is for Gardeners**”.

**Frightened Frog Poetry
Contest Encourages
Creative Writing
2016-2017 Theme:
“We Three: Bees,
Butterflies and Me”**



Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. Be imaginative and join the winners to see your poetry in a printed booklet! Poems do not have to rhyme. They may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick or Haiku.

Eligibility: Special Education & English as a Second Language: K-9th Grade. General Education: K-9th Grade.

Basic Rules: All entries MUST be typed and titled, sponsored by a garden club, and received by December 1, 2016. For more detailed rules & information contact: Melissa Damiano mtdamiano@aol.com

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl 2017 Poster Contest

Encourage local children (1st - 5th grade) to participate in the 2017 Poster Contest sponsored by 2017 National Garden Clubs, Inc., and The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Students demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

SMOKEY BEAR SAYS: ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES! -- Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention. Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

WOODSY OWL SAYS: LEND A HAND – CARE FOR THE LAND! -- Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of 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.

PRIZES

- The National Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be honored with a Recognition Ceremony in Washington, DC. Round-trip airfare and accommodations for four will be provided.
- The National Garden Clubs, Inc. will award \$50 check to each of the First Place national winners in all five grades.

DEADLINE: Dec. 1, 2016 Posters must be received by Melissa Damiano, 9436 Park Bluff Terrace, Chesterfield VA 23838. Rules & Information can be accessed on our website or mtdamiano@aol.com

Keys to the Future Youth Project Grants

Sharon Jones, VFGC Chairman, Youth Project Grants

The VFGC "Keys to the Future" Youth Grant Projects committee will be accepting applications for the 2016 grants until Sept. 15, 2016. Applications and guidelines can be found on PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org -- Go to the 'Site Map' tab, scroll down to 'Youth'. If you have questions regarding the grants please email or call me. toddie1904@aol.com -- 540-719- 2466.

I look forward to receiving a lot of applications this year. 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.

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

"Where the Sidewalk Ends"

A Standard Flower Show
The Midlothian Garden Club
September 13, 2016
Jennifer Wester, Publicity Chair

The Midlothian Garden Club is pleased to present a standard flower show on September 13 with the theme: "Where the Sidewalk Ends", highlighting favorite children's books for the designs presented by our talented members.

The flower show will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 2341 Winterfield Road, Midlothian, VA. 23113.

Where the Sidewalk Ends is where our gardens begin - our horticulture, our designs and our educational exhibits.

Children's books inspiring the designs include The Borrowers by Mary Morton, Charlotte's Web by E.B. White, Owl Moon by Jane Yolan, Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor, Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel, and Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban, among others.

The flower show Chair is Barbara Dillard. Midlothian Garden Club's President is Karen Patterson.

Also featured will be horticultural and educational exhibits. The show is free and open to the public.

Rosecrest Garden Club's Holiday Gala

October 19th, 2016



Rosecrest Garden Club's 6th annual Holiday Gala will be held October 19th, 2016 at the Country Club of Petersburg,

with a floral design presentation by Edwin Little, Lunch, a Fashion Walk by All Manor of Things, a Silent Auction, and door prizes galore! Contact Barbara Smith, 804-526-2609, or Marie Crites, 804-720-5198, for reservations.

All proceeds go to our scholarship fund.

PD Flower Show Judges Council Flower Show.

This will be a small standard flower show entitled "Hearts and Flowers", to be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church at 11300 West Huguenot Road, Midlothian, VA. It is open to the public from 12 noon until 2 pm. and there is no admission charge. All entries, design and horticulture, will be prepared by your Piedmont District flower show judges. Submitted by Kathy Ward

Kilmarnock Garden Club to host

"Flowers for a Song" -- Wednesday, November 2, 2016 Holiday Songs Interpreted into Floral Designs by David Pippin

The holiday songs, representing Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and other holidays, will come to life in a creative fun floral design program hosted by the Kilmarnock Garden Club on November 2, 2016. The club's fundraising event promises to be a very entertaining program as only David Pippin can do.

David Pippin was born in Louisa and graduated with a degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech in 1983. He opened his current business in 2000 and has been the floral designer for Virginia's Executive Mansion since 2014. David has presented floral designs programs for numerous garden clubs, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs district meetings, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – Fine Arts and Flowers, and his designs are often displayed in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts atrium as part of the Hirschler flowers.

An addition to the Kilmarnock Garden Club's event will be Bridgette Swepston, a well know sculptor from the Richmond area. Bridgette will offer her unique metal sculptures, kenzans, and accessories for sale during the 11:00 AM shopping/social time, before and after the program.

This fun and entertaining floral design program and luncheon event will be held at the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club, 326 Club Drive in Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482, beginning with a shopping/social time at 11:00 AM, lunch at 12:00 PM, and the floral design program at 1:00 PM. The cost of this event is \$35.00 -- call 804-438- 5560 to purchase tickets or for more information. All proceeds support the Kilmarnock Garden Club's community projects.

Rock Springs Garden Club's SHOWCASE OF MEMBER GARDENS

Rock Springs Garden Club had a tour of six members' gardens as part of the program for our June meeting. This completed a year of activities that featured talents of our membership including floral designs created by members and sold at our Holiday Design Event, arrangements to decorate a member's house for our Holiday Tea, and entries for the Horticulture, Design, and Special Exhibits Divisions of our Standard Flower Show. Rock Spring Park, which is partially maintained by our club as mentioned in the Washington Post recently, was also a stop on the tour.

Looking at the different choices for plantings, water features, and unique items such as statuary and birdhouses was very interesting and revealed the different personalities of the gardeners. Special features of these gardens included a "lawn-free" yard with curving walkways around beds of a large variety of plantings, a collection of unusual conifers, and roses that have been maintained by the same family for over sixty years.

It was fun to see what our members can do and to spend the time together as groups traveled from house to house.

Doings with Rappahannock Garden Club -- Margie Redlin

RGC President Bonnie Schaschek announced the club's theme, "Environmental Stewardship - participate, educate, implement and restore". And the club has been doing just that --

This spring the annual *Just Gardens* Tour included 5 local gardens three of which belonged to RGC members, Bonnie Schaschek, Susan Edmonds, and Deborah Brooks. It took months of preparation but only one weekend to share their gardens, and their knowledge, with visitors who purchased tour tickets. Participating in this local event certainly showed their devotion to gardening and community.

This spring RGC awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to Lancaster High School students Nicole Saunders and Dylan Rose. As high school students, they also attended Rappahannock Community College, working on associate degrees. Both plan to major in biology at university.

RGC Flower Power Committee makes monthly floral arrangements for patients at Bon Secours Hospital in Kilmarnock. Recently, they have been including interested members of the Northern Neck Boys & Girls Club. Committee members share their design knowledge with the children as they create arrangements. We are happy to report there are some "budding" future designers.

When Janice Clem spoke to RGC about pollinators, butterflies and saving the monarchs, member Carol Clark was so motivated that she immediately bought milk weed plants from a local nursery to encourage monarchs. Upon doing so she spotted several monarch caterpillars on the plants. Working with the nursery and collecting the larvae, Carol started a butterfly project at her home. She has nurtured the caterpillars and released over 42 monarch butterflies.



Under the guidance of RGC Youth Chair, Mary Ann McKay, the club has launched a seven week environmental lesson plan featuring the NGC book, *Frighten Frog*, with the Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club. Mary Ann has a different lesson plan each week including a craft. RGC member Jenny Boyenga has been dressing the part of the frog. This has quickly become a favorite with the club members and the children. Only through education can we teach our future environmental stewards!



PHOTO from left RGC members Anne O'Bryant, Margaret Curtis, Mary Ann McKay, Bonnie Schaschek, Jenny Boyenga, Cathie Elliott, Muffin Fitzpatrick, Mary Hutya,

Leaf Them Alone -- Kristi Hendricks, Surry Garden Club

Deciduous trees shed their magical leaves to conserve water and energy as harsh weather approaches and to assist wind-blown pollination in spring. Leave them alone until you mow them over. The kaleidoscopic collection of autumn leaves on your lawn, that is.

Learn more about native trees and natural mulch before you rake. Mulching leaves directly back to the turf canopy is a cost effective and time-saving means of disposal, adds nutrients to the soil, and suppresses weeds from growing in turf voids.

The eco-friendly practice of keeping yard waste out of the landfill benefits not only the home gardener, but also wildlife. Organic matter such as leaves and twigs provides vital habitat for earthworms, box turtles and toads. In return, they aerate and enrich the soil and work to minimize harmful insects and organisms.

Save money on mulch and fertilizer by combining leaves with fescue clippings to build your own compost for enriching and moisturizing vegetable beds and planting shrubbery. Store the heap behind an evergreen shrub until fermented. Share excess with friends who have mistakenly depleted their lawn of hardwoods.

Trees offer an endless array of gifts. With spring come fragrant blossoms, summer cooling shade and winter lawn art. But particularly now, the wise gardener offers thanksgiving when swirling leaves turn our landscape into an enchanted Land of Oz.

Given that native trees are often too large to include in the petite urban landscape, note these beauties when out for a scenic drive. Pignut hickory leaves turn bright gold in autumn. Hickory nuts may have been too bitter for early Colonists' taste, but their pigs were known to munch happily on the fruits. Native Americans looked to the sassafras for bark tea. Artfully-shaped leaves are bright green until showcasing vibrant fall colors of yellow, purple and red. Bluish-black berries borne on scarlet stalks also mature in fall.

The sorrel (sourwood) tree resembles dogwood with an understory growth habit, fissured bark, and crimson fall leaf color. In springtime, there is no mistaking the white drooping flower panicles found so attractive to bees. Silver-colored fruit capsules offer winter interest.

VFGC Scholarship Award Winners for 2016-2017 as listed below:

Bonnie Schulkers, Chairman

Samantha L. Durham: University of Mary Washington; Thelma Utt Scholarship \$2000.00.
Career Goal: Filed Researcher and Outdoor Educator.

Bianca Gilliam: Virginia State University; Rita M. Costello Scholarship \$1000.00.
Career Goal: Improve areas underserved by agriculture.

Stacey Taylor Bradshaw: Virginia State University; Peg Grinus Scholarship \$2000.00 and \$2000.00 scholarship from the South Atlantic Region (SAR).
Career Goal: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Garret Hunter Chambers: Virginia Tech; Ruth Moss Scholarship \$2409.00.
Career Goal: Independent Family Farmer.

Ashley Renee Light: Virginia Tech; Minna D. Adams Scholarship \$2000.00.
Career Goal: Agriculture Teacher.

Ella Robyn Reeves: Virginia Tech; President's Horticulture Scholarship \$2000.00 and National Garden Club Scholarship \$2000.00.
Career Goal: Extension Agent, Research Associate.

Matthew Allen Roberts: Virginia Tech; Rita Costello Scholarship \$1000.00.
Career Goal: Soil conservationist.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT -- NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB WEEK

Jean Fender, Hilliard Park Garden Club

Hilliard Park and Hanover-Towne Garden Clubs partnered with Hanover Habitat for Humanity to landscape 4 houses in Ashland for National Garden Club Week. Three of us met together in May and developed landscaped plans for all 4 houses and then went to work trying to get shrubs and plants and mulch donated along with manpower. We had wonderful response! Glen Allen Nursery donated 29 shrubs and 2 flats of variegated liriopse with a total value of over \$500; Pete Rose Landscaping, Inc. donated 6 cubic yards of black mulch valued in excess of \$150; several of our garden club members and members from 2 other garden clubs donated 14 more shrubs, 2 crepe myrtle trees, and lots of perennials, all valued at several hundred dollars. Habitat for Humanity recruited a team of 7 from CapitalOne to help with the installation.

On June 6, several of us gathered together all the donated shrubs and set them in place at the four houses along with outlining the areas to be mulched. On June 7, a total of 23 met at the houses at 8:00 a.m. to begin planting. There were 8 from Hilliard Park Garden Club, 3 from Hanover-Towne Garden Club, 1 from Windsordale Garden Club, 2 from Habitat for Humanity, 7 from CapitalOne, and 2 homeowners. We worked until 1:30 to complete all 4 houses. Hanover Habitat brought in snacks and lunch for us. Grass that had grown up to the foundation of the houses had to be removed before planting the shrubs. Once all shrubs and perennials were planted, we mulched the entire areas. How nice the houses all looked! Each house is built differently and we developed each landscape plan differently with a variety of plants and shrubs.

We planted Azaleas, Dwarf Burford Holly, Camellia, Crepe Myrtle, Euonymus Emerald Gaiety, Gold Mop, Nandina Firepower, Knockout Rose, Loropetalum, and Skypencil, along with daylilies, iris, hosta, sedum, and variegated liriopse.

We prepared Homeowner's Landscaping Journals for each of the 4 homeowners telling a little about each plant used at their house and how to care for it. We included a copy of the landscape plan for each particular house along with pictures of their house, before, during the planting process, and after it was complete. Hanover Habitat and all of the homeowners were most appreciative of our accomplishment. One of the homes is pictured at right.



The Richmond Designers' Guild will sponsor A Standard Flower Show "Autumn, the Year's Last, Loveliest Smile" at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Library on Saturday, October 1, 1pm – 4pm -- Free Admission -- Open to the public

“Springtime in Paris” (Paris au Printemps), a Standard Flower Show, was presented by Hilliard Park Garden Club on May 6-7, 2016 in the ballroom at the Pavilion of the gated community of CrossRidge. It was open to CrossRidge residents and garden club members and their guests. Well over 100 people attended the 2-day event. The Show took you to Paris complete with French (and English) signage and Eiffel Towers and French art. There were table displays of Paris fashion pictures and small dress forms with fashions and jewelry, French art and objects, a horse on a carousel pole, a black metal tea cart with pots of spring flowers, 4 pedestals with ferns, a Paris Café complete with curtains and French “mock” pastries and wine and glasses, and a small café table with 2 chairs in the corner, and many Eiffel Towers and stacked round hat boxes decorating the horticulture tables.

The Design Division, “Bonjour”, (Good Day) had 3 Sections with 4 classes each. Section A, “Mai a Paris” (May in Paris), class 1, was staged on furniture in the foyer outside the ballroom with a large picture of a couple on a Paris street and small statues of a French maid and butler holding trays with tea cups. Classes 2 and 3 were staged inside the ballroom with background panels required. Jean Fender won the Designers Choice Award for her creative design “Le Moulin Rouge”, (Moulin Rouge Paris) which also won the Award of Design Excellence.

Section B, “Bon Appetit” (Enjoy Your Meal), consisted of an informal functional table class, a semi-formal functional table class, and an Exhibition Table Type I class. The Table Artistry Award was won by Jean Fender for her Exhibition Table, “Delicieuses Madeleines” (Madeline’s Delicious Pastries).

Section C, “Paris, ville belle et magnifique”, (Magnificent Paris), had 2 classes of small designs and 1 class of miniature designs. Carolyn Evans won the Petite Award for her miniature design, ‘La Tour Eiffel”, (Eiffel Tower).

The Horticulture Division, “Les Jardins” (The Gardens) had 6 Sections. Awards of Merit were awarded to Shirley Berger for her *Iridaceae Intermedia*, Jean Fender for her *Euonymus Golden*, and Donna Micci for her *Hosta Extra Large Leaf*; Arboreal Awards to Pat Johnson for her *Cornus Canadensis* and Cheryl Smith for her *Weigela Florida Folis Purpureis* which also won the Award of Horticultural Excellence.

The Special Exhibits Division, “Pont des Arts” (Pedestrian Bridge in Paris) had 3 Exhibits with Sandra Wilson winning the NGC Educational Award for her “Du Vin et Du Fromage” (Wine and Cheese) exhibit.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL –

Submitted by Judy Hodges, President – Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council

*******Landscape Design School is scheduled for September 28-29, 2016 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden -- registration form can be found on the Piedmont District website*******

In June of this year an NGC approved Refresher Tour was enjoyed by the Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council members and friends. Several members refreshed their credentials. All attendees enjoyed three days of visits to some of the top gardens in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Gardens visited were:

David Culp’s Brandywine Cottage and Garden – David’s latest book *The Layered Garden* remains on the New York Times Best Sellers list.

Valley Forge Flowers & Mrs. Hamilton’s Gardens & Greenhouses - the shops were filled with wonderful flowers and gardening items. The greenhouses and gardens were a gardener’s dream come true.

Chanticleer Gardens - 47 acres of imaginative and outstanding examples of horticulture and many gardens within the main garden.

Barnes Foundation Arboretum and Library - The Barnes Foundation offers horticulture and landscape student courses on academic and professional levels.

Sofuso Japanese House and Garden - historically Japanese gardens are situated to be viewed from the interior of the structure. This experience presented a new way of planning gardens adjacent to homes.

Bartram’s Garden - an example of the early American homestead.

Nemours Mansion and Gardens - an outstanding and magnificent mansion with extensive formal French inspired gardens.

The planning, organization and tour were all graciously done by our own Susan Gaskill. Susan is a professional tour director and one of our own Virginia Landscape Design Consultants Council members. Additionally, she has been active in garden club for many years. {Thanks to Susan again for her outstanding and meticulous planning of this event}

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Symposium -- All garden club members are eligible to attend.

November 9-10, 2016 -- Four Points by Sheraton, 4700 S. Laburnum Avenue, Henrico, Virginia

Design: Lynn Fronk will teach “*Kinetic Designs*”, both traditional and creative, and “*How to Create an Armature*”.

Horticulture: Gay Austin will teach *Sansevieria* and ferns, as well as “*Imagination Unleashed*” (miniature gardens).

Additional information is available at www.virginiagardenclubs.org/VFGC/Symposium.html

Piedmont District Grants

Jean Fender, Chairman

Once again Piedmont District is expected to have excess funds to allocate to grants for worthwhile Club Projects in your community. Last year we gave a total of \$1,700 in grants for 5 different projects. These 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 grant.

Please consider participating in this valuable program. You 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, 2017.** Winners will be announced and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting on March 13, 2017.



PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION

Deadline – February 15, 2017

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 May 31, 2018)

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, 2017 TO: JEAN FENDER, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 9245 ROYAL GRANT DRIVE, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116-4195 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 13, 2017.

Arboreta/Botanical Gardens -- Julie Abbott

Butterflies LIVE! has reopened following damage to Conservatory roof during the storm in June and will continue through October 11, 2016.

All ages are having fun locating the LEGO sculptures throughout the Garden. Twenty-seven sculptures of creatures and plants of various sizes will be on display through September 18. Everyone has a favorite or two. Sean Kenney, the artist of New York, has done an amazing job with his creations.

Even in the very hot weather, the Community Kitchen Garden volunteers have been harvesting produce which is donated to FeedMore. In mid-July 562 pounds of fresh produce was delivered to them. Included in pounds: onions 32, leeks 10, peppers 32, slicing tomatoes 166, Roma tomatoes 82, cherry tomatoes 8, summer squash 121, cucumbers 40, okra 4, eggplant 47, and swiss chard 20. It takes a lot of chard to make 20 pounds. Year-to-date total 1,535 pounds. Some of the tomato and pepper plants developed blight and had to be removed. The goal is to donate 7,000 pounds of produce for this season.

Children continue to enjoy the water play in Children's Garden and other activities. There is seating throughout the Garden and also some cool, shady spots.

Dates and topics of interest:

- ☐ Extended hours on Thursdays from 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM through September 8
- ☐ Flowers after Five -- Thursdays 5-9PM with music through August
- ☐ Botanical Mosaics with LEGO bricks by Brian Korte in Kelly Education Center hallway gallery
- ☐ Butterflies LIVE! in north wing of Conservatory through October 11
- ☐ Nature Connects Art: with Lego bricks through September 18
- ☐ PlantFest (plant sale) Friday and Saturday September 16 and 17
- ☐ November 25 beginning of GardenFest with a different theme each year

The Library offers a cool respite from the heat as well as lots of books to browse through. Membership offers the privilege of checking out books.

For additional information on activities and classes, check website www.lewisginter.org or call 804-262- 9887. Be sure to check out the Blog.

Refresh your spirit and visit a botanical garden!

GARDEN THERAPY -- Kate Abrahams

The Sleepy Hollow Garden Club in Glen Allen brings happiness to vulnerable community members through two garden therapy programs.

Club President, Pamela Bosserman, shared news about the club's activities in this area.

Twice a year, usually in October and March, 10 - 15 club members set up a flower arranging activity in the local assisted living community. Usually about 28 arrangements are created by residents themselves in a large main room at the home. The club donates the flowers, oasis, and vases and members provide any guidance that might be needed.

Additionally, in February, club members meet in a member's garage to assemble red, pink, and white flower arrangements in Valentines Day themed mugs to donate to the local chapter of Meals on Wheels. Usually they make around 20 mug arrangements to send cheer during the winter months to home-bound individuals. When complete, the colorful mugs are delivered to the Meals on Wheels organizers who will distribute them with the meal deliveries in nearby Goochland County.

Many thanks to Sleepy Hollow Garden Club members for their good works and kindness in the community!

Legislative -- Jane Caldwell, Chairman

Let's Remember the Environment

As we near the big election coming up this fall, it is important to remember that the Piedmont District is always interested in the preservation of our environment in all respects to the quality of our air, water, and land.

Sounds simple doesn't it? -- but it all rolls into a very complex whole.

As we go to the polls for state and national elections, let's remember the environment and take a look at the candidates and their stand on these important issues that have such an impact on our quality of life. To name a few: fracking, proposed gas pipelines, solar power, wind power, pollutants released into our rivers and bays from fertilizers and agricultural animal waste, and now coal ash, overfishing, industrial air pollution, etc., etc.! These are the biggies that are routinely in the headlines, but the list goes on and on. Please take the time to be concerned about our environment and consider it in your choices as you go to the polls on Nov. 8 th.

REGISTRATION FORM -- PIEDMONT DISTRICT FALL GENERAL MEETING

WHERE: Doubletree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235

WHEN: Monday, October 10, 2016 (**DEADLINE: MONDAY September 26**)

COST: \$30.00

CLUB NAME _____

CLUB PRESIDENT _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____

CONTACT EMAIL _____

NAMES OF ATTENDEES - PLEASE PRINT (Include dietary restrictions or allergies)	PHONE NUMBER	VOTING STATUS
1 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____

Total Number Attending _____ **Total Amount Enclosed \$** _____

Use another sheet of paper for additional names – please print. **NEW THIS YEAR**-you may use the standard procedure of mailing your registration form with a check OR email a list of attendees with name, phone number, and voting status to Johanna Gilbert at wieckmann@verizon.net and then immediately mail a single check to cover fees.

Clubs: President (CP) 1 vote, 2 Voting Delegates (VD) 1 vote each, District Officer (DO) 1 vote, District Chairman (DC) 1 vote, Former District President (FDP) 1 vote. **Registrations must be accompanied by a check payable to PIEDMONT DISTRICT, VFGC -- Please note any dietary requirements or allergies**

Send COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK to: Johanna Gilbert, registrar, 8423 Shannon Green Ct; Henrico VA 23228-1876 -- 804-270-6056 wieckmann@verizon.net No telephone registrations. We are unable to issue refunds

Calendar – 2016

- Aug. 22 Piedmont Board Meeting,
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
 - Aug. 29 VFGC Board Meeting, Lynchburg, VA
 - Aug. 29 thru Sept. 01 Flower Show School, Course 4
Lynchburg, VA
 - Sept. 12 PD FSJC Meeting
 - Sept. 13 Midlothian Garden Club
Standard Flower Show
 - Sept. 15 DEADLINE: VFGC Grants to
Beautify & Restore
 - Sept 28-29 VLDC Course LGBG
 - Oct. 10 Piedmont District Meeting
Richmond, VA
 - Oct. 19 Rosecrest Garden Club's
6th annual Holiday Gala
 - Nov. 02 "Flowers for a Song"
Kilmarnock Garden Club
 - Nov. 09-10 VGFC Symposium – Henrico, VA
- 2017**
- Feb. 06 PD Flower Show Judges Council
Flower Show,
 - Feb. 06 Piedmont Board Meeting
St. Matthias' Episcopal Church
 - March 13 Spring District Meeting, Richmond
 - May 18-20 2017 Convention for National Garden Clubs,
Richmond Marriott Hotel



FOOTPRINTS

Send articles to: Carolyn Ball, Editor
Email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org –
PH: 804-580-6035

Articles are due **before** the following dates.

NOVEMBER 1, 2016 -- WINTER
JANUARY 1, 2017 - SPRING

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.