



# FOOTPRINTS

Piedmont District  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2      WINTER, 2017

## ***A Message from your President, Judy Durant***

The days are definitely getting shorter; however, the early morning coolness has been giving way to warm afternoons. These warm afternoons beckon me into the garden, and I begin the task of putting my garden to bed for the winter. Even as I begin this task, my thoughts stray to springtime so I start digging holes and planting Daffodil bulbs in every nook and cranny.

The glorious colors of autumn are beginning to show in the changing leaves. Colorful Mums and Asters dot the landscape. Beautyberries are at their finest and reblooming Irises give out another burst of color. The brilliant fall sunsets are breathtaking.

Our "Season of Change" in Piedmont District happened with our first meeting of this Administration taking place at our new location with new Board Members and new Chairmen. Everyone jumped feet first into their various duties. Your Board and Chairmen go beyond the call of duty, and I appreciate their giving of their time and talents! Check the Piedmont District Website for all the latest information. Presidents and Representatives, you are the lifeline to your club members. Please remember to send out the notice regarding *Footprints* when it is available on line.

You can be extremely proud to be a member of Piedmont District. Now it is your turn to make a difference by nurturing your members with "Seeds of Information and Awareness". "Grow Everlasting Knowledge and Friendships" – invite friends and neighbors to attend your meetings. Working together we can accomplish great things – just wait and see!

Here's wishing each of you a warm and cozy holiday season filled with many blessings . . . when I count my blessings, I count my Piedmont family twice.

Peace, Love & Joy,

*Judy*

## **Chaplain's Message -- Pam Mann**

In the throws of the upcoming holidays, family and friends will travel near and far. They will come to break bread, recharge relationships and revel in their blessings. Such a time brings to mind the manna God provided the Israelites who arrived exhausted & hungry at the wilderness of Sin. Exodus 16: 1-2 tells us that God gifted them with bread & meat in the form of manna & quail.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, declared the last Thursday of November a national day of thanksgiving. It begat feastings and the tradition of prodigal sons and daughters returning, if only for a day.

The word November is believed derived from 'novem', the Latin number nine. In the ancient Roman calendar, November was the ninth month after March. It was the 'Snow Moon' month according to pagan belief, and 'Moon of the Falling Leaves' by Indian tradition.

Then follows December, gowned in glitter and the glory of Christmas day. Floral arrangers and gardeners delight in the dual seasons. With nature as their mentor and supplier, they design displays of Christian thanksgivings and Christmas homage.

The symbolic treasures are unending. Grapes and wheat recall the Last Supper. Ruby red pomegranates, described as 'apples with grains', and 'house of a thousand seeds,' speak of unity. Mistletoe, from Druid times, calls out for peace, bare branches for hope, oak leaves—strength and bowls of pinecones bear seeds of faith.

Slice an onion open and reveal the universe—of heaven, earth and the nether world. Cattails remind of Christ's costly purchase of salvation. And graceful *Deodora* cedar limbs mimic Mary, the Mother who cared for Him,

We can be thankful for our thanksgiving and Christmas seasons; thankful for the opportunity to gather and to pray with a thankful heart.

"Count your many blessings name them one by one,  
and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

## **.Piedmont District Memorial Moments**

If your club has lost a member(s) during the period of March, 2017 to March, 2018, we would like to recognize that member(s) at our spring meeting. Notify Chaplain Pam Mann. [pamann1724@yahoo.com](mailto:pamann1724@yahoo.com) or call 598-2650. Include the following: members full name, club name, how long a member, if a charter member, if served as club president with the years. A contact number should there be questions

**“How to Design What's  
New” Judy Binns  
Monday, March 12,  
2018**

Judy Binns of the Salisbury Garden Club is a past VFGC President and an NGC Design instructor.

We have heard the names...Cascade, Low Profile, Featured Plant Material, Grouped Mass and Botanical Arts but how do you design something you have never seen?

Judy will show us at the Piedmont District meeting.

**CALL  
PIEDMONT DISTRICT  
WINTER BOARD MEETING  
2017-2019 OFFICERS AND  
CHAIRMEN**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018

**Registration:** 12:30

**Meeting:** 1:00

**WHERE:** Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 2341 Winterfield Road, Midlothian, VA

**DEADLINE:** Monday, January 8, 2018

**Call or e-mail:** Johanna Gilbert, Registrar (804) 270-6056; [omagilbert@aol.com](mailto:omagilbert@aol.com)

Please let her know if you are attending or not.

We need to be sure that we have a quorum present and prepare set-up.

Bring three copies of your report. Keep a fourth for your records. If you are unable to attend, send your reports to:

President, Judy Durant - 8283 Silkwood Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23116-1890

[jgdurant@verizon.net](mailto:jgdurant@verizon.net)

**CALL**

**(Registration has changed, PLEASE READ)  
PD SPRING GENERAL MEETING –  
Monday, March 12, 2018**

**WHERE:** **NOTE: NEW LOCATION**  
Four Points Sheraton  
9901 Midlothian Turnpike  
Richmond, VA 23235

**WHEN:** Monday March 12, 2018

**SCHEDULE & PROGRAM -- (NEW TIMES)**

8:30-10:15 Registration & Shop

10:30 -- Call to Order

11:15-12:00 Break/Shop/Cash Bar

12:00- 1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:45 Design Program-Judy Binns

**COST:** \$30.00 (includes tax, gratuity & Program)

**MAIL TO:** Johanna Gilbert, Registrar  
8423 Shannon Green Ct.  
Henrico, VA 23228-1876

804-270-6056 -- [omagilbert@aol.com](mailto:omagilbert@aol.com)

**New Rules for Registration --** Due to problems we have had with checks being lost in the mail, we are changing the registration.

Mail check to registrar and the club will be notified when the registrar receives the check. Seating will be in the order the check is received.

Have the club email the names of the attendees with the following information: (Club Name, Voting delegates, Club 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.

Ck payable to Piedmont District -- (We are sorry but we will unable to issue refunds-- please find a substitute)

**DEADLINE:** Monday, February 26, 2018

**NOTE:** Please indicate on your registration form any dietary requirements or allergies

**CHAIRMAN:** If you are unable to attend, send 3 copies of your reports to:  
President, Judy Durant,  
8283 Silkwood Dr.  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116-1890  
[jgdurant@verizon.net](mailto:jgdurant@verizon.net)

Keep a 4th copy for your records.

**REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE FOUND ON-LINE AT:  
[PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org](http://PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org)**

## HORTICULTURE -- Carolyn King

Last fall I decided to skip my flower bed clean up and catch up in the spring. When spring came, I left some of the leaf litter and thought it would be good as mulch. The birds loved this for warmth and a source of insects. As a result of not raking, I had a bumper crop of weeds to remove through the summer. Then came our hot, dry August followed by a late rainy spell, which was too late to revive many of our annuals and perennials. The foliage on the trees is still green, but the leaves are falling. Fall colors this year will be muted due to the drought.

Don't be too tidy at the end of the growing season. Leave plants with seed-filled flower heads where they grew. Coneflowers, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, lavender, globe thistle, and sunflower are likely to reseed themselves. Then in the spring if you have a bumper crop, you can thin them out or replant some of seedlings in other areas.

Birds will feed on many of the seeds left on flower stalks, so don't worry about leaving plants until later. You can supplement with feeders in the winter. Don't forget bird baths for clean water for the birds.

Now is the time to plant and/or divide bulbs and some perennials. Be sure to check out Brent and Becky's catalogue – you can never have too many daffodils. Plant them in clumps, rows, or toss them and plant them where they land. Of course, Brent and Becky's offer a whole variety of bulbs to plant in the fall to bloom in the spring.

A good layer of mulch in the garden blocks weeds, looks nice and helps to keep the soil warm and moist. The mulch will help protect roots and bulbs from frost. Fall and winter tend to be dry seasons and unprotected soil loses water much faster during the cold months.

Some perennials and shrubs may need to be covered to protect them from damaging frost. Cloth is best. Avoid plastic as it can potentially trap moisture creating freezing condensation that can damage plants.

Preparing herbs for winter. Sage is a perennial in most areas and does not need special treatment for winter. Rosemary is a tender evergreen perennial and should be sheltered outside of potted up and brought inside. Thyme will go dormant in the fall, then revive in the spring. Parsley is a biennial and will withstand a light frost. Chives are hardy perennials.

Be sure to clean and put away your garden tools. Then sit back and enjoy seed catalogues to plan for next year.

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## Native Plants -- Carolyn Shiflet

Landscaping with Native Plants is a good thing! Try a new adventure in gardening! The style can be naturalistic. It is environmentally friendly. Wildlife habitats can be preserved. Water sources can be protected from chemical pollutants. Topping all that, they are low maintenance. You may very well have some natives in your own garden. They are the ones that survive difficult weather conditions and require less special attention. These include *rudbeckia* (black eye susan), *aquilegia* (columbine), *coreopsis*, and *echinacea* (purple cone flower). These are all hardy perennials and well worth a try if you haven't had them.

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## Litter Prevention/Recycling -- Lorraine VanWickler

With the Holidays just around the corner, it's time to start thinking of unique gifts for those special family members and friends.

At District Meeting I met Gloria Armentrout, a lovely woman who started her business in 2011 from an idea while recuperating from surgery. She creates pocketbooks, tote bags and bookcovers from vintage things (Coats, suit jackets, skirts, bolts of material left over from some project, etc.). How about that Jacket from a favorite suit, or that skirt of your mom's or grandmother's, even that baby coat of your first born.

All are custom made bags, one of a kind! Each bag has a front and back, outside cell phone pockets and an artistic motif made especially for that bag.

You can email her at [GloriousBags@comcast.net](mailto:GloriousBags@comcast.net), or [www.ebay/shop/GloriosBags](http://www.ebay/shop/GloriosBags), or call Gloria at 540-256-2649

Happy Holidays to All!

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## 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows A must for 2018

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

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

## VIOLET BANK GARDEN CLUB DEDICATES BENCHES FOR THE VIOLET BANK MUSEUM GARDENS --

Sandra Coleman and Jan Pingel

Violet Bank Garden club has brought beauty to the landscape at Colonial Heights' Violet Bank Museum at 303 Virginia Avenue.



It all began when the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Piedmont District Grant of \$500 was awarded to the club in March 2016. The project was to plant a registered Monarch butterfly waystation and a boxwood hedgerow on the museum grounds.

John Hennessee, a city recreation and parks employee at the time asked Jan Pingel, president of our club, if the club would be interested in sponsoring a project to collect plastic bags to recycle with TREX, a manufacturer of high-performance wood-alternative decking and railing in Winchester, VA, and earn a composite bench for the garden. He was interested in dedicating a bench to Violet Bank Museum in memory of his wife, Joan.

If the club collected 500 lbs of plastic refuse in six months, TREX would donate a high-performance wood alternative bench.

Collecting the plastic went so well that the president contacted the TREX recycling manager and was told that the club could earn two benches per year. By May 2017 a total of 1034 lbs had been collected. In June, two benches arrived for the museum gardens.



On September 27<sup>th</sup> Violet Bank Garden Club dedicated the benches. One was placed in the beautiful butterfly garden while many species of butterflies fluttered around. The second bench was given in memory of Joan Hennessee, wife of John Hennessee. This bench was placed opposite the garden in a quiet shaded place on the grounds where one can enjoy observing the birds and admiring the unusual Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia Acuminata*) that has been there since before Robert E. Lee used the building for his headquarters in 1864 during the Civil War.

With the help of Russell Woodburn, Violet Bank Museum Curator; Craig Skalak, CH Recreation and Parks Director; Amy Armstrong, CH Horticulturist; and their staffs, our project was completed. When you are in Colonial Heights, stop to see the butterfly garden and benches while you visit Violet Bank Museum.

Our club is also proud to have received three blue ribbon awards from both the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and the Southern Atlantic Region for our (#15) Butterfly Garden, the (#19) Litter, Recycling, Reclamation Project, and the (#26) Community Landscape Design Plan that we were able to complete at Violet Bank Museum.

## Learning and fun on the Northern Neck --

Karen Luzuriaga -- Publicist, Chesapeake Bay Garden Club

Learning and fun go together with the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club. One warm Thursday morning this August, some new and interested others from CBGC met at the Northumberland Library to learn about mass table design and vertical angle designs. Members brought with them their own containers, clippers, flowers and even weeds from their gardens to make their arrangements.



Barbara Yinger, master accredited flower show judge, instructed the class. Sharon Lemke and Lorraine Van Wickler assisted with the instruction. Sharon and Lorraine are also accredited flower show judges. Sharon and Barbara are co-chairing the CBGC floral design committee. The end result was that each member created a beautiful arrangement. It was a fun time for all. Friendships were created as well as beautiful arrangements.

Other design workshops will be held in October and January to study other designs

Chesapeake Bay Garden Club extends an open invitation to join them on the fourth Tuesday of each month for their general meeting. The meetings are held at Festival Hall in Reedville. Come around 11:30 and join us for lunch and different learning experiences. Chesapeake Bay Garden Club has something for everyone.



## Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contests -- Pat Merson, Chairman

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

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

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

### Excerpt from the Official Rules

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

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

### Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

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

### Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "*Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!*", and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.

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

## Oxford Garden Club's Second Annual Trip Philadelphia Flower Show March 7-9, 2018

Alicia Wilburn-Dickens



*The Oxford Garden Club cordially invites you to join us on our annual trip to the Philadelphia garden show March 7th through the 9th. We will also be touring Winterthur Gardens in Delaware on the 9th before we head back to Richmond. The trip includes one of our brand new Oxford Garden Club bags, transportation to and from Richmond, a private tour at Winterthur Gardens in addition to the grounds and a ticket to the flower show as well. Next year's Philadelphia Flower Show will aim to make a splash. The theme for the show, to run March 3-11, 2018, is "Wonders of Water" -- a topic designed to offer equal parts*

*inspiration and conservation.*

*Following the flower show we will depart for Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Once a Du Pont family country retreat, this estate's spectacular gardens surround a 175-room mansion housing the world's finest collection of American decorative arts from 1640-1860.*

*Reserve your seat today for only \$250, the remainder balance (\$255) to be paid February 10, 2018.*



\*Prices are based on a full bus (38-person) with double occupancy hotel rooms -- Slight price increase for unoccupied seats --Private rooms available -- please contact Alicia (information below) for pricing. Please tell Alicia your roommate choice when paying your non-refundable deposit.

TRIP CORDINATOR -- Alicia Wilburn-Dickens 804-309-2326 |  
oxfordgardenclubrva@gmail.com



## Piedmont District Grants --Jean Fender

Once again Piedmont District will have funds to award for worthwhile Club Projects in your community.

Last year we gave a total of \$1,000 in grants for 3 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 a 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, 2018. Winners will be announced and checks awarded at the Spring District Meeting on March 12, 2018. See application in this issue of *Footprints*.

### PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION

**Deadline – February 15, 2018**

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, 2019)

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, 2018** TO: JEAN FENDER, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 9245 ROYAL GRANT DRIVE, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116-4195 OR EMAIL IT TO [JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET](mailto:JEAN.FENDER@COMCAST.NET). ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-730-2256. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON MARCH 12, 2018.

## 2018 Home Gardener Day

January 15th at the Founders Inn -- 5641 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach, VA

The Virginia Horticultural Foundation invites you to **A Bit of Spring in the Middle of Winter --** You're invited to the **2018 Home Gardener Day** -- Gardening in the South.

Join with gardeners from around the region for a day dedicated to - **the love of gardening**. Enjoy a catered lunch, visit educational booths and garden vendors, place a bid at the Silent Auction, shop the bookstore, and take home a few additions for the garden from our newest feature - **Winter Plant Sale**. Afternoon workshops round out the day with hands-on projects. Kick off a **new year of gardening** with us on January 15th at the Founders Inn.

Home Gardener Day Coordinator The Virginia Horticultural Foundation [info@vahort.org](mailto:info@vahort.org) [757-523-4734](tel:757-523-4734)

**Six nationally and regionally renowned garden speakers**

**Afternoon workshops with Make & Takes -- \*NEW\* Winter Plant Sale**

### Who can receive an NGC Life Membership?

Jane Denton, Life Membership Chairman

**YOU** can become an NGC Life Member or honor someone such as a garden club member, a wife, or someone in the community who shares the NGC garden club interests with a \$200 donation. The recipient receives a lifetime subscription to *The National Gardener* magazine and may attend the National Life Member Banquet at all conventions. Plus a portion of the contribution is tax deductible.

Call Jane Denton at 804-435-6877 or send an email [denton@va.metrocast.net](mailto:denton@va.metrocast.net) to get the application process started.

### Habitat for Humanity of Virginia

Barbara Metz

The Habitat for Humanity project is chaired this year, 2017, by Anne McCormick and Barbara Metz.

Our project will incorporate all Piedmont District Clubs in a joint effort to work with their local habitat affiliate. The project will include working with habitat volunteers and home buyers to landscape the various homes in each individual community.

Garden club members and habitat volunteers will be involved in forming ideas about plant material as well as on site installation. Soon, more information will be mailed to each President so they can organize a committee and plan on the many ways we, as a State organization, can share our knowledge and love of gardening.



### FOOTPRINTS

Send articles to: Carolyn Ball, Editor  
Email: [Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org](mailto:Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org)  
PH: 804-580-6035

Articles are due **before** the following dates

JANUARY 1, 2018 - SPRING

MAY 1, 2018 - SUMMER

AUGUST 1, 2018 - FALL

Officers and Chairmen - Please mark your calendars to allow time to meet the due date. If you want your article to appear in more than one issue, please indicate which ones.

**Please try to limit articles to one column (350-400 words).** Electronic transmission preferred; photos and graphics are encouraged. If you have the information ahead of time, don't hesitate to send it early.



### CALENDAR 2017/2018

Jan. 17 PD WINTER BOARD MEETING  
Feb. 26 VGFC Winter Board Meeting  
Feb. 26 - Flower Show School - Course II  
Mar. 01  
Mar. 12 PD SPRING GENERAL MEETING  
Mar 18-19 SAR Convention

### DEADLINES

Jan. 01 Articles for **FOOTPRINTS** Spring  
Jan. 05 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contests  
Jan. 8 Registration - PD Winter Board Meeting  
Feb. 26 Registration -- PD Spring General Meeting