

PIEDMONT DISTRICT FOOTPRINTS

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
MEMBER, NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
VOLUME 38, NO. 2 FALL 2026

A Message from District President Barbara Hollister

A WARM HELLO TO ALL,
Hopefully, each of you has had a delightful, cool and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to many of the fall activities that start up in the fall. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend these events whenever you can. Participation is fun, while learning and gaining knowledge regarding what is taking place in the garden club world.

I am extremely proud that our **Piedmont District and several clubs and councils were recognized with National Garden Club Certificates.** See the full list on p 4.

Our VFGC Standard Flower Show "Virginia's National Treasures" will be staged August 24th at Trinity Lutheran Church – the show is free and open to the public from 12;30 – 4:00 PM. Be sure to attend and take friends!

It will be a busy fall! I am looking forward to Fine **Arts and Flowers October 8-11**. Many of our members are hard at work organizing the event and preparing interpretive design exhibits.

Our **Fall District Meeting will be on October 19**, 2026 at the delightful Virginia Crossings Hotel in Glen Allen. We are in for a treat with our Design Program. **Julia Clevett will be our guest designer**. Julia's designs have twice appeared on the cover of the *Vision of Beauty* calendars. She will be demonstrating both traditional and modern designs. See the full meeting preview on page 3.

Encourage your fellow garden club members to attend and have a fun day of learning and enjoying being with other gardeners. **Please note that meeting registration is a two-step process** – a reservation email sent to Johanna, our Registrar, followed by the mailing of the registration form and check. Please follow the instructions on pp 10-11.

The lovely VFGC custom-designed ornament can be ordered now for delivery this fall. Be sure to see the description and order form on page 12.

I want to encourage you to **take advantage of our VFGC school offerings**. See the *Old Dominion Gardener* or the VFGC website for information and registration forms.
Flower Show School Course III, August 24-27, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Landscape Design School, Series 30, Course 3, September 28-29, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Our Piedmont District Board met via Zoom on June 30, 2026. Discussion was held and agreed by the majority to stage a **Standard NGC Flower Show at our Spring Piedmont District Meeting in March 2027.** *Jane Oliver Smith* has been appointed chairman. The theme and details regarding the flower show will be announced. We are thrilled to be having a Piedmont District Standard NGC Flower Show, as it has been almost ten years since our last flower show.

Remember, **"Those Who Plant Together, Grow Together."** I look forward to seeing many of you at our fall District Meeting!

Barbara

Gardens Can Be Havens of Peace

Lorna Boucher, District Chaplain

"Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be."

Would that I could fill this request, but I guess it's a forlorn hope.

In these troublesome times when there is so much animosity, unrest and sadly, war, it would be an accomplishment of mammoth proportions if any one country, one government, or even one person were bold enough to try to establish peace on Earth.

God, in His infinite wisdom, created a beautiful planet for mankind to inhabit. Almost from the very beginning, mankind has failed to be a good and faithful servant, not caring for his master's gift to ensure peaceful prosperity.

What can we do to bring peace and harmony to God's creation? What we can do is to create havens of peace and tranquility in our gardens. It doesn't matter if they are large, small or of landscape proportions, every effort will be worthwhile in the cause of peace.

St. Francis of Assisi had the right idea.

Lord make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there sadness, joy;

Perhaps we can but try to take a note of his ideals. Let peace be with you always .

CALENDAR

Aug 24	VFGC Flower Show, Trinity Lutheran
Aug 24-27	Flower Show School III, LGBG
Sept 15	VFGC Grants Deadline
Sept 28-29	Landscape Design School, LGBG*
Sept 30 – Oct 1	VFGC Workshops - State Fair
Oct 8-11	VMFA Fine Arts and Flowers
Oct 19	Piedmont District Fall Meeting
Nov 3-4	VFGC Symposium. Roanoke
Dec 1	Awards Applications Due
Feb 15	Piedmont District Grants Deadline
Mar 16	Piedmont District Spring Meeting

*LGBG – Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

It's State Fair Time!

If you would like to have fun and introduce "kids of all ages" to horticulture and floral design, come on out and help with the VFGC hands-on activities at the State Fair.

September 30: 3-7 pm

October 1: 10 am – 3 pm

To volunteer, contact VFGC Coordinator Judy Durant: jgdurant@verizon.net

Fall District Meeting Preview

Lili Aram-Bost, Director of Hospitality
Janice Beatty, Director of Programs

On October 19th, our Fall District Meeting will be held at the lovely Hilton at Virginia Crossings in Glen Allen.

We are thrilled to announce our featured Designer will be ***Julia Clevett***. Julia is originally from England and is currently living in Virginia. She studied in England with Flower Arranger Sheila McQueen and with the American Creative Floral Designer Bob Thomas. Her designs and articles on Floral Designs have been published in magazines in the United Kingdom and the United States.

You may recall seeing Julia's designs on the front covers of 2018 and 2024 NGC *Vision of Beauty* calendars. Julia is a National Design Instructor, a Master Judge, and member of the National Garden Clubs Inc. She has traveled extensively in the US, Central and South America teaching NGC Flower Show School Courses. Julia is a member of Salisbury Garden Club.



Julia's program, "Colors of Fall" will feature designs that highlight the transition from late summer greens into the deeper reds, oranges, and golds of fall. She will do some traditional design and others with a more modern look and will talk with us about the mechanics she is using.

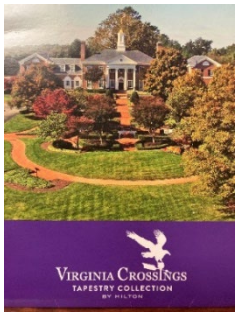
Julia plans on doing six designs for our program and will bring additional ones she has completed at home to offer for opportunity ticket holders at the District meeting. This is a program not to be missed!

Julia Clevett design photo – National Garden Clubs website

PIEDMONT DISTRICT FALL MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2026

Registration Deadline
October 5th



WHERE: Virginia Crossings Hotel & Convention Center
1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen, VA 23059

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

8:30-10:00	Registration, Coffee, and Shopping
10:00 -11:00	General Meeting
11:00-12:00	Break / Shopper's Spree
12:00-1:00	Luncheon
1:00-2:45	Design Program:

EVENT COST: $45.00

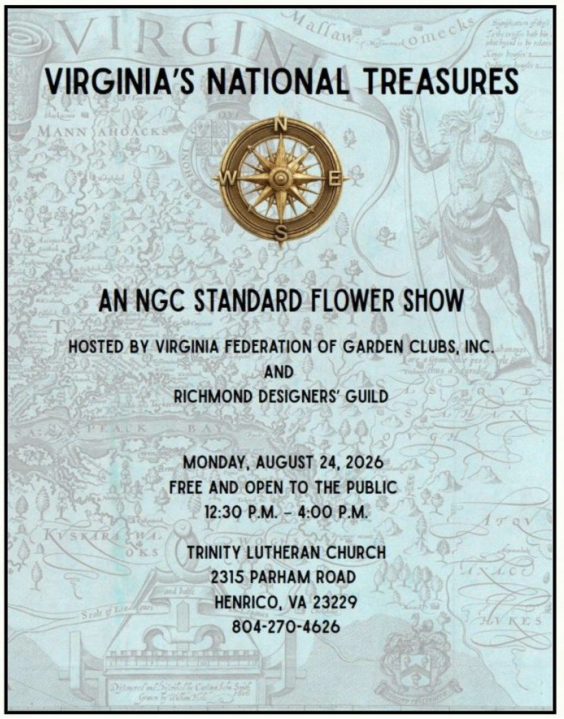
MENU:
A delicious buffet will feature green salad, composed salads, two hot entrees, plus a hot vegetarian entrée and gluten-free option, choice of three desserts, rolls and butter.
Coffee and Tea.

To Register – Deadline October 5th
First - review the registration process on page XX of this *Footprints* issue.
Step One – email Reservation to Registrar see page 10
Step Two - Registration Form – see page 11 of this *Footprints* issue or download from the website:
https://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org/

Special for Piedmont District Members: if you wish to enjoy the hotel and amenities including buffet breakfast, you may book a hotel stay Octobe18th at the rate of $147 plus taxes. Call 804-727-1400, extension 0, and ask for Piedmont District group rate – code PD.

You may also reserve your room online using group code PD
https://group.tapestrycollection.com/uszosz

The deadline for hotel booking is September 27.





VMFA's Fine Arts and Flowers 2026

Janet Minock, VFGC Liaison for Fine Arts & Flowers



VMFA's *Fine Arts and Flowers will burst* into bloom October 8 - 11, 2026. 37 designers from the Virginia Federation will help transform the museum galleries into living works of art. Floral designers will interpret iconic masterworks creating bold and imaginative displays that will surprise and delight at every turn.

The excitement extends beyond the free exhibition with a dynamic lineup of events, including hands-on workshops, engaging lectures, an elegant gala, and a luncheon. A chic fashion show will add style and celebration. *Fine Arts and Flowers 2026* will be a must-see event. **See the VMFA website for event tickets.** https://www.vmfa.museum

NGC Awards for Piedmont District Clubs Congratulations!

Crestwood Farms - Certificate of Appreciation for Wildlife Survival

Hanover – Certificate of Appreciation for Therapy Gardens

Salisbury – Certificate of Merit for Website
Certificate of Commendation for National Garden Week
Certificates of Appreciation for:
Community Gardens
Landscaping Public Grounds
Wildlife Survival
Therapy Gardens
Horticulture Education for Youth

Rosecrest with Violet Bank – Certificate of Commendation for Community Gardens

Sleepy Hollow – Certificate of Appreciation for Floral Design Program

Piedmont District – Certificate of Appreciation for District Newsletter *Footprints*

The Many Ways to Container-Garden

Martha Blessing, Garden Therapy Chair



Photo by G Goodrich Harwood

Container gardening proves that you don't need a large yard to enjoy fresh flowers, herbs, or vegetables. Whether you have a deck, porch, balcony, patio, or sunny windowsill, a few well-chosen containers can provide months of beauty and fresh harvests. The key is selecting containers with good drainage and matching the size of the pot to the plant's mature root system. Just imagine stepping into a container garden, relaxing in a favorite chair on a deck or patio surrounded by containers of beautiful flowers or favorite herbs and enjoying nature without the pressures of the day.

Jane Goodall, the world-famous English primatologist, believed that being in nature, walking, or sitting under a tree, can bring peace of mind in a chaotic world. She also believed that we can find healing in nature and that time in nature is the need of all human beings. Container gardening can turn limited space into a steady source of nature and a sense of peacefulness.

There are various types of containers that are ideal for container gardening. Tier vertical planters (with or without a trellis), grow or planting bags, or other types of containers are popular in small areas. The size and type of containers are important considerations prior to planting.

The grow or planting bags come in flexible breathable fabrics. They have good drainage and can prevent root-binding. The walls of the bags are porous allowing water to drain from the bottom and sides preventing over watering. Some of the bags are portable and can be washed and stored for the next season.

Tier vertical planters allow maximizing of limited spaces, better exposure to the sun, make watering easier and can provide a privacy screen or visual interest to a wall. They also increase the exposure to the sun and flow of air through-out the plant. Pests, plant diseases, rotting from foliage lying in the dirt is significantly reduced with tier vertical gardening. This type of gardening is also ideal for individuals with limited mobility since it can reduce some of the need to kneel or stoop when maintaining the garden.

Grouping containers with similar water and sunlight needs together makes maintenance easier. Adding a layer of mulch on top of the potting mix helps retain moisture, keeps roots cooler during hot weather, and reduces weed growth.

Even in a small space like a back deck, the benefits of flowers, fresh herbs, or produce can give one a tangible sense of accomplishment and a practical retreat from the stress of everyday life.

Happy Gardening!

Custom-Designed VFGC Ornament
Order Yours Today!

See info and order form on page 12.



VFGC Symposium November 2-3

Valerie Story, Symposium Chair

Judges, student judges. and those who are just interested in learning more about horticulture and design, register for Symposium! We will have tremendous instructors for our **VFGC Symposium, November 2-3, 2026 at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs.**

Lynn Fronk– Design Instructor

Lynn is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Flower Show Schools Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor. She has judged major flower shows such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show, and the Rhode Island State Flower Show. She is a member of the FSS Committee, serving as Symposium Design Chairman for 2025-27 for NGC.

Lynn will be teaching Assemblage and Low-Profile designs as well as the Allied topic: Design Techniques.

Jan Griffin– Horticulture Instructor

Jan relocated from Seattle to Florida and began a quest to learn about interesting and varied plants. She is active in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and teaches both floral design horticulture for Flower Show Schools and Symposia.

Jan will be teaching Botanical Arts Horticulture and the Allied topic: Flower Show Evaluation.

The registration form is on p 15 of this *Footprints* or see the full brochure on the website: https://virginiagardenclubs.org

Hotels near the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs

Hilton Garden Inn, Roanoke
4500 S. Peak Blvd, Roanoke 24018
540-776-3400

Holiday Inn Roanoke-Tanglewood
4468 Starkey Road, Roanoke 24018
540-774-4400

Sleep Inn Tanglewood
4045 Electric Rd., Roanoke 24018
540-301-1049

VFGC Grant Applications Due September 15

Melissa Damiano, District Chair

Does your garden club have projects planned for 2026-27 but not enough funds? Consider applying for one of two VFGC grants by Sept. 15, 2026. All clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant of up to $1000. This can be for a new or ongoing project. A club can apply for more than one grant in the same fiscal year if it is a different project. If the project is ongoing, a club can apply more than one time for a grant for the project (different VFGC fiscal years.) First time applicants shall receive priority over clubs that have received previous grants. The two grants have different applications, chairs, and judging panels. Grant applications can be found on VFGC website www.VirginiaGardenClubs.org or contact the appropriate chair listed below. (Note: A club cannot apply for both grants for the same project in the same VFGC fiscal year.)

Grants to Beautify and Restore: The purpose of this grant is to provide financial support for clubs to restore gardens that have been damaged by natural disasters within Virginia OR beautify areas within Virginia garden club communities. Priority is given to natural disaster restoration projects. For more information on Beautify and Restore Grants contact: VFGC Chair Judy Ann Fray, ja.fray@verizon.net, 540-948-4220.

Youth Project Grants ('Keys to the Future'): The purpose of this grant is to provide financial support for club members to work with youth to help them realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats and to become 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. For more information on Youth Project Grants contact: VFGC Chair Grace Morris, glyonm@aol.com, 540-447-0042, See the "Keys to the Future" guidelines and application in this *Footprints* issue, pp 13-14.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

Pat Merson, District Chair



Students will be returning to school soon. It's the perfect time to think about participating in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

Students in grades one through five are eligible to enter the contest. Garden clubs can access contest rules on the Piedmont District website. Let's showcase Piedmont District's talented students!

Posters are due by January 8, 2027.
Please send the posters to:
Pat Merson
11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy.
Chesterfield, Virginia 23838



NGC Grand Prize Winning Poster
Ruth Z. • 4th Grade • Suburban Garden Club • Tennessee

PD Judges' Council Meeting

Thea McGinnis

Piedmont Judges' Council will have their General Meeting on Monday, October 10, 2026 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

The group will meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center and will tour the newly expanded conservatory. Following the tour, there will be a business meeting and lunch in the café.

Apply for District Grants by Feb 15

Lynn Bell, Chair

Piedmont District will continue to offer grants for NEW and CONTINUING worthy club projects during the 2025-27 term. Worthy projects can include landscaping at schools, libraries, roadsides and other public spaces, environmental and community projects, youth activities, and garden therapy. Priority will be given to projects that promote the Presidents' Projects (NGC, SAR, VFGC) and that could not be undertaken without some financial assistance.

Why not consider applying for funds for a club project? The "user friendly" grant application form is included in this *Footprints* issue (p 16) and is also on the PD website. Please submit only one application per club per year. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the committee, and winners will be announced at the Spring District Meeting on March 16. 2026.

NGC Plant America Grants 2026-27

Through the Plant America Grant program, **up to $2,000.00** may be awarded to be used for direct expenses of projects. Projects submitted to receive a grant may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope includes:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

To learn more, go to:

https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants

Submit applications by October 15th.

Celebrate the Contributions of a Celebrate the Contributions of a VFGC Club Member Who Is Family Or Friend While Supporting Our VFGC Scholarships

Jane Oliver Smith, District Chair

What a wonderful honorarium or recognition for a special garden club friend or family member. Anyone can honor a garden club member with a VFGC Life Membership or Honor Roll recognition.

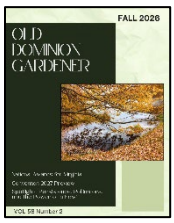
The cost is $50.00 and supports VFGC scholarships for college students pursuing horticulture, environmental and other garden-related subjects. A Life Member receives a pin and card. Book of Honor honorees and supporters will receive a card. All honorees and supporters are listed in the Permanent Record Books housed in the VFGC Headquarters in Richmond.

To obtain a life membership/Honor Roll supporter provide the form to Val Virkler, VFGC Life Membership/Honor Roll Chair 2025-2027. Val will process the application with a congratulatory letter to the recipient or applicant. An honoree may receive her life membership from the President of Piedmont District at a Piedmont District meeting. Contact Jane Oliver Smith or the current President, Barbara Hollister, 804-739-3760; budhollister@gmail.com or Val Virkler, VFGC Life Membership Chair, val@rgbartlett.com; (434) 257-4625 (cell/text).

Thank you for your support. Jane Oliver Smith, Piedmont District Life Membership Chair; josmithlaw@gmail.com; (703) 937-7580 (cell/text).

Calling All Photographers!

Gail Goodrich Harwood, ODG Editor



Thanks to all members who have submitted 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.

2025-27
Piedmont District Officers



President
Barbara Hollister
Director of Hospitality
Lili Aram-Bost
Director of Programs
Janice Beatty

Treasurer — Claudia Cosby
Recording Secretary — Susan Delsordo

Footprints & *ODG*

Send articles and photos in separate files to:
Gail Goodrich Harwood, Editor
email: Footprints@PiedmontDistrictVFGC.org
PHONE: 804-317-8091
Articles are due before the following deadlines:
AUGUST 1 – FALL
NOVEMBER 1 – WINTER
FEBRUARY 1 – SPRING
MAY 1 -- SUMMER

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 Artwork © 2024 G Goodrich Harwood

The National Gardener ***can be*** delivered directly to your inbox. Free! Subscribe on the NGC website: https://gardenclubs.org



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Piedmont District Fall Meeting

Shopping, Luncheon, and Design Program

Monday October 19, 2026

Virginia Crossings 1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Registration Deadline: October 5th

Registration Process Steps

Please review before completing the Registration Form

STEP ONE - Via email: Club Contact sends registration info to the Registrar via email. Include: club name, club contact, number of seats requested *(no registrations by telephone).* List all who are attending (name and voting status). **Please pay particular attention to the correct spelling of names.**

STEP TWO - Via mail: Club Contact submits the completed registration form. The form must be **complete. Handwritten submittals must be legible** in order to facilitate the accurate preparation of nametags. **Note that each attendee's role and voting status must be completed according to the key.** With the registration form, **one check must be included covering all registrations**. Make the check payable to VFGC/ Piedmont District.

STEP THREE - Registrar will confirm registration(s) to the Club Contact via email once the form and check are received.

STEP FOUR - **Table assignments** will be made in the order in which checks are received.

NOTE - Refunds cannot be made. Club Contact is responsible for managing substitutes in the event registrants cannot attend.

Registration Form – Piedmont District Fall Meeting

Monday October 19, 2026

Virginia Crossings 1000 Virginia Center Parkway Glen Allen, VA 23059

Registration Deadline: October 5

Mailing this form is STEP TWO – have you sent the email required in STEP ONE? *See previous page*

Club Contact Information

Club Name _____

Contact Name _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Registrant Information

Name (print neatly please)	√ Voting Status if applicable *
	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐
	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐
	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐
	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐
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	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐
	CP ☐ VD ☐ DO ☐ DC ☐ FDP ☐

***Voting Status Codes:** **CP**= Club President **VD**= Voting Delegate (up to two delegates per club)
DO= District Officer **DC** = District Committee Chair **FDP** = Former District President

Total # of Registrations @ $45: _____ **Total Check Amount: _____** (one check)

Note: Buffet will feature a variety of hot and cold choices, including vegetarian and gluten-free options, and desserts.

Mail form and check payable to VFGC/Piedmont District to Registrar Johanna Gilbert:

8423 Shannon Green Court Henrico, VA 23228-1876 email: omagilbert@aol.com

Introducing...

the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Custom-Designed Ornament

BEACON DESIGN

- Quality Brass Ornament by the designers of the White House ornaments
- Specially designed for VFGC with a beautiful rendering of white dogwood, the Virginia state flower and VFGC symbol
- A lovely any-occasion boxed gift for family, friends, and club members
- Manufactured entirely in the USA
- Ornament sale proceeds will be used to support VFGC scholarhips, grants, and schools.



Dimensions: L to R, 2,65"; Top to Bottom, 3.05"
Depth approximately .5"

ORDER YOURS TODAY

Name _____ **email:** _____

Garden Club _____ **District** _____

Number of Ornaments Ordered _____ **@$25 each** **Total _$**_____

Make personal check payable to VFGC, indicating "ornaments" in the memo line.
Send order form and check to VFGC Treasurer:
Linda Nau
1810 Ethelred Court
Midlothian, VA 23113

Orders will be delivered to Districts at the September VFGC Board Meeting – and subsequently distributed at Fall District Meetings or by other arrangement with your District president.
Questions, contact Linda at naule@aol.com or 804-514-0095.

Your phone contact #:

GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

"KEYS TO THE FUTURE" Youth Project Grants

The "Keys to the Future" Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs. All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant up to $1,000 for the purpose of working with young people and helping them 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.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: ***SEPTEMBER 15*** of each year
Must be submitted by a VFGC member garden club.

HOW TO APPLY:
Please fill out the Application form, include a budget and mail to:

Grace Morris — Phone: 540-447=0042
VFGC Grants Committee
917 Glenwood Blvd.
Waynesboro, VA 22980-3409 — or email: glyonm@aol.com

PURPOSE: The purpose of "Keys to the Future" Youth Project Grants is to provide financial support for clubs working with youth on a specific project.

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 i.e., leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning.
- club member support and participation.

FUNDING GUIDELINES Grants will NOT be provided for:

- projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect.
- salaries or benefits of school personnel
- field trips outside Virginia.
- political action programs
- Eagle Scout projects
- capital drives and building funds.
- scholarships
- endowments
- lawsuits and litigation
- overhead costs
- consumables, one-time use items or giveaways, such as T-shirts, tote bags, food, admission fees, or tuition

Note: The same project is not eligible for both Youth Project Grants and Beautify & Restore Grants in the same VFGC fiscal year.



APPLICATION

"KEYS TO THE FUTURE" VFGC Youth Project Grant

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Date: _____ **VFGC District: _____**

Name of VFGC Club:_____

Garden Club Contact Person submitting application (Name, address, phone number, email):

***This Chair will email you that your application has been received.**
Please do NOT use hyperlinks. Many judges write notes on the printed applications as they score. If information is important to your application, simply type information concisely.

New Project: Yes_____ No _____

Beginning date:_____ Expected Completion date:_____

Amount Requested: $_____ Amount Club Provides: $____ Total Project Budget: $_____

Number of Youth Involved in Project____ Number Reached by Project _____

Briefly Describe Project, how funds will be used include the following if applicable:

1. Briefly describe project. Application including budget should be no longer than 3 single-sided pages. If handwritten, please legibly PRINT.
2. What is the youth population you are working with on this project?
3. Approximately how many Garden Club Members will be involved in this project and in what roles?
4. Brief statement of any in-kind or volunteer services, please list organization & their role.
5. Location of Project: Ex. If a garden or greenhouse is to be built/used, where is it located?
6. Does your project require special approval of authorizing groups (i.e., school board)?
7. Must include a *detailed budget denoting separate line-item cost of each material/component used* (i.e., potting soil, pots, plants, etc.).
NOTE*: *Grant funds can only be used for the stated project.
Unused grant funds must be returned to VFGC by May 15 with the Final Report. The same project is not.eligible for both Youth Project Grants and Beautify & Restore Grants in the same VFGC fiscal year.

Judging is based on the following Scale of Points:

-Scope of Project	35
-Club Member Involvement	35
-Criteria Met (read Guidelines)	10
-Detailed Budget Completed	15
-Application Form Completed	5

Attach Detailed Project Budget

Mail to: Grace Morris 917 Glenwood Blvd. Waynesboro, VA 22980-3409 Phone: 540-447-0042
OR Email to: *glyonm@aol.com*
Any questions, please contact Grace Morris.

VFGC SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM
November 2-3, 2026
Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs
3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip_____

Cell Phone #_____ Email_____

Club_____ District_____

Medical Dietary Restrictions _____

Status: Student ( ) Accredited ( ) Life ( ) Master ( )

Circle one: Testing Auditing Neither

Date of Last Certification/Audit _____

FEES

Full course price includes Monday and Tuesday Lectures and Lunches.

( ) Full Course	$185	_____
Single Event		
( ) Horticulture & Lunch (Mon.)	$ 95	_____
( ) Design & Lunch (Tues.)	$ 95	_____
( ) Manual emailed free of charge **OR**		
( ) Printed Manual	$ 10	_____

MUST BE PREORDERED-Available at Registration

If postmarked after October 26, 2026,
add $30 late fee _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to:
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Write Symposium in memo line and mail to:

Dianna Busch, Registrar
14453 Rillhurst Drive
Culpeper VA 22701
540-353-9044
diannabusch@comcast.net

****DEADLINE: OCTOBER 26, 2026** No refunds after this date.**

PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION
Deadline – February 15, 2027

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, 2028)

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

- Location of project.
- The 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 the area.
- Include a list of plant material.
- Include a proposed budget and source of funds, i.e., from club, outside.
- Source of labor, 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, and 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, 2027** TO: LYNN BELL, PIEDMONT DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIRMAN, 2361 CASTLE HILL ROAD, MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23113-1143 OR EMAIL IT TO lhbell1120@aol.com. ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-320-8578. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND CHECKS AWARDED AT THE DISTRICT SPRING MEETING ON
MARCH 15, 2027.