

Shenandoah District Awards

2025-2027

Chairman :

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Important Information

1. AWARDS YEAR: January 1 to December 31 annually. A continuing project may include a small amount of history on the project for background, but the majority of the application is to be about work accomplished during the current calendar year. It should be stated clearly anything that is not done during this period.

2. DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting award applications to District Awards Chairman is **DECEMBER 1**, unless otherwise stated. Applications for ALL awards (including VFGC, SAR and NGC) will be judged by the District Awards Committee, unless otherwise stated.

3. ELIGIBILITY: Only VFGC members are eligible to apply for VFGC awards unless otherwise stated in the award description. Members are: member garden clubs, groups of member clubs, and individual members of garden clubs. Junior, Intermediate, and High School Garden Clubs. Individual Youth must be sponsored by a member garden club to be eligible for specific VFGC, SAR and NGC awards.

4. APPLYING FOR AWARDS - CLUB AWARDS CHAIRMEN

- Application forms are available on the VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards) Current Application form is required. No password is required for the awards info.
- There is a 3 page limit plus the **current VFGC/NGC cover sheet**; using only the front of the pages. Exceptions noted.
- When a single project is eligible for more than one award, submitting an exact duplication of the application is not acceptable. A significant change must be evident in the summary regarding the project.
- Binders and vinyl sheet protectors are not allowed. Exceptions noted.
- Applications will not be returned.
- Applications **may be submitted electronically or by hardcopy**. If submitting a hardcopy, include **THREE** complete copies of the award application. Keep a fourth copy for your records.
- Use Times New Roman Font, no smaller than size 10, 12 is preferred.
- Flower Show Achievement Awards, Publicity Press Books, and Member Award of Honor do NOT use the VFGC award application. For more information see VFGC List of Awards or VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards).
- Additional information on applying for awards can be found on the VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on awards). These resources include:

- ✓ How to Create an Award Application
 - ✓ List of VFGC Awards
 - ✓ VFGC/NGC Award Application Coversheet
 - ✓ Point Scoring Rubrics to guide creating and judging awards
 - ✓ Additional information on Flower Show Achievement Awards
 - ✓ Additional information on Publicity Press Books
 - ✓ Additional information on Member Award of Honor
 - ✓ Links to the District, SAR and NGC Award Lists
- All award applications (for District, VFGC, SAR and NGC awards) are to be sent to the District Awards Chairman by December 1. Exceptions noted.

**For information on State, Regional and National Awards
indicated in parenthesis, visit these web sites:**

State: www.viriniagardenclubs.org **click on Awards**
South Atlantic Region: www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org
National: www.gardenclub.org

Note the size categories:

Small Club: 20 members or less

Medium Club: 21-50 members

Large Club: 51 + members

**Two or more clubs – two or more clubs may work together
on an award project**

VFGC SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (PRESIDENT'S AWARDS) 2025-2027

SPD-2. FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE COMMUNITY \$10 maybe awarded to a club (small club, medium club, large club) for an outstanding program bringing the beauty and hope of flowers to those who are facing challenges including hospice, assisted living, meals-on-wheels or other locations in the community. This would be for floral arrangements made FOR a community in need, *not with* them. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026 (**S# SP-2**)

SPD- 4 FIRST FLOWER SHOW \$10 may be awarded to a club (small, medium, large) who has their first flower show ever through Dec. 1. It may be any type of NGC flower show presented by a single club. The date the club was founded will be considered. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026. (**S# SP-4**)

D-3 BIRD, BUTTERFLY, WILDLIFE SURVIVAL

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for pollinator, bird, or wildlife protection and welfare. This may include habitats or gardens specific to the natural population being supported, sanctuaries, migratory routes, public education project or program, legal and legislative activities or other. (**S#15, SAR # 2 or 3, or SAR SP 1, NGC #EC-3 see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg.19 for point score rubric**)

D-4 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

\$10.00 may be awarded to a **district** for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial landscaping projects (Highway Marker, Byway Marker, or Memorial Marker). The marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the department. The project may have been continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. The project may be a replacement of a destroyed or long neglected landscape. *(S #25, SAR # 14, NGC #CE-7, (2) for district)*

D-5 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION/ACHIEVEMENT

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club, two or more clubs) for a distinguished civic or conservation work making permanent improvement for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible. *(S #24, SAR #4, NGC# CE-5)*

D-6 CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENTAL

\$10 may be awarded to a single garden club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for conservation activities, education or legislative activity; conservation field project; natural resource development, such as a watershed, erosion control, reforestation, wildlife refuge; overall excellence and well-balanced year's conservation activities. *(S # 17, SAR # 5, NGC # EC-1 or EC-2)*

D-7 PROGRAMS SUPPORTING NGC OBJECTIVES

A. FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM (new 2021)

\$10 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding single program or single workshop teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. Three single sided page limit (plus cover sheet) applies. *(S#21, SAR # 20 A or B; See VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg. 27 for point score rubric (NGC # FD-2)*

B. DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION (new in 2025)

\$10 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for a presentation recorded and submitted on any type of digital media **supporting the following NGC objectives: History/Archives, private or public Garden tours, Flower shows, Projects, other programs.** *(NGC Awards Handbook pg. 35 for point score rubric NGC #MAE-3)*

D-8. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for a historic Preservation landscaping project; such as the restoration of a park, a building, and/or Garden of importance to local, state, or national heritage. *(S#29,SAR #8, NGC #CE-9 A or B)*

D-9 HORTICULTURE THERAPY

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for an outstanding program working with physically or learning challenged in nursing homes, schools, prisons, etc. *(S # 31)*

D-10 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for establishment of a garden/s to benefit the physically or learning challenged, residents in a nursing home, school, prison, low income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Includes barrier free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at hospital, etc. **(S #32, SAR #6 or 7, NGC #G-3)**

D-11 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project/significant contribution in planning and planting for: commercial property, church or synagogue, hospital, library, civic center, park, waterfront, etc. Copy of landscape plan must be included in application.**(S #26, SAR #4, NGC #CE-8)**

D-12 LITTER/RECYCLING/RECLAMATION

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for the most outstanding activity/project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling, e.g. year-long program, organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site.
(S #19a, SAR #17)

D-13 MEMBERSHIP

\$10.00 may be awarded to the club (small; medium; large) with the highest percentage of new members (percentage increase based on dues paid between Feb. 1 of the previous year to Jan. 31 of the current year. Use S#33 as a reference. No list of new members is required. No application is required. The State Treasurer will furnish the names of the clubs with the highest percentage increases for each size group to the state membership chairman. The name of the winning club in each size group will be sent to the VFGC Awards Chairman by Feb. 15. **(S# 33)**

D-14 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

\$10.00 may be awarded to the club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week. Entry to show community awareness throughout the entire week and may include local and/or state proclamations.
S #34, SAR #10, NGC # MAE-5)

D-15 CIVIC PROJECTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

\$10.00 may be awarded to a garden club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on plant material native to your region.
(S # 22, possibly SAR# SP-2; NGC # CE-6)

D-16 Plant A Tree

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) with the most money donated to the Plant a Tree program in the calendar year. Clubs report total dollars donated to the District Plant a Tree Chairman, who reports to the State Plant a Tree Chairman who then informs the VFGC Awards Chairman.

No application form/cover sheet is needed; just club name, size, and total money donated. (S-#35, SAR # 9)

D-17 PLANT TOGETHER COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

\$10.00 may be awarded to the club (small; medium; large; two or more clubs) having the most outstanding Plant Together project. These projects may involve community clean-up, planting a new area, container gardening, or other projects designed to spark an interest in gardening. All projects must involve partnering with other groups in your community. **(S# 28, NGC # CE 1-A,B,C, or D)**

D-18 ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for outstanding, permanent roadside beautification. The program may be continuous, but must have advanced degree of completion prior to making application. Project may be done in stages. **(S #27, SAR #11, possibly NGC # CE-4A or B or CE-5A or B)**

D-19 STANDARD FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE - SINGLE CLUB

\$10.00. may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type of NGC flower show. **(S# 45, SAR #24A)**

The scale of points for Flower Show Schedules can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or NGC web site. Attach copy of flower show schedule as given to the judges to cover sheet/award application.

D-20 STANDARD FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE - TWO OR MORE CLUBS OR COUNCIL

\$10.00 may be awarded to **two or more clubs** or the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type of NGC flower show. **(S# 46, SAR #24B)**

The scale of points for Flower Show Schedules can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on NGC web site. Attach copy of the flower show schedule as given to the judges to cover sheet/award application.

D-21 ARBOR DAY, TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) with the most outstanding tree planting activity and/or promotion of conservation and preservation of trees and/or Arbor Day. Emphasis on native trees. **(S#14, SAR # 1, possibly NGC #EC-5))**

D-22 WEBSITE

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) for the most outstanding website promoting the sponsoring organization and NGC objectives. Complete cover sheet/application and attach one page with your website address, who maintains site, how often updated, and cost. Ease of navigation will be considered while judging from the current site. **(S #47, SAR #21, NGC # MAE 2)** Point Score Rubric for Websites can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on the *NGC Awards Handbook pg. 34*.

YOUTH RELATED

D-23 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs), for the most outstanding project in the field of environmental education involving youth.
(S #38, SAR # Y-1, NGC # YW-9)

D-24 YOUTH HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

\$10.00 may be awarded to a garden club (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for the best promotion of gardening among youth; based on the belief that youth should be educated to become future horticulturists.
(S # 39, SAR# Y-1, NGC # YW-8)

YOUTH CONTESTS

See www.gardenclub.org under YOUTH or the Fall Issue of The National Gardener for complete Youth Contest rules and details.

*** Note the Youth Contests Y-3 and Y-4 are due November 1 to Rebecca Yates.
Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl posters are due Jan. 10 to Toni Shreve. Y-2

(D) Y-2 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$10.00 may be awarded to the poster winner of each grade level (Grades 1-5). The 5 District winners will be sent on to the State Chairman, where they will be eligible for State, Regional, and National competition. Club presidents are sent the Poster Contest rules and deadlines by the District Youth Activities Chair in September. Send your club's posters to Toni Shreve at 152 Cambridge Way, Warrenton, VA 20186-2868 by Jan. 10, 2026. No application form required. (S #Y -2, SAR # Y-6)

(D) Y-3 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

\$10.00 may be awarded to a student. Open to all high school students. Essay of 250 words on the topics listed below. Winner is then eligible for state and regional competition. (SAR) offers a \$200. Award. See the SAR website for information on the essays. (State Y-3)

Due Nov. 1 2025-2026 Title : *"How Can We Use Native Plants for Climate Adaptation?"*

Due Nov. 1 2026-2027 theme: *TBD*

(D) Y-4 POETRY CONTEST

\$10.00 may be awarded to the winners of all grade levels (K-9th grade) (Special Education (K-9th grade). Students must follow NGC rules. Stress to students that the content of their poetry needs to reflect the topic. Clubs should submit only the winner for each grade level to the District Chairman, Rebecca Yates. (State Y-4, SAR# Y-4)

Due Nov. 1 2025-2026 Theme: *"Plant America for the Next 100 Years"*

Due Nov. 1 2026-2027 Theme : *"Plant America Red, White and Blue to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday"*

CLUB PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION

D-25 Club Membership Brochure

\$10.00 may be awarded to a garden club (small; medium; large) for creating the most unique club promotional brochure for promoting membership. Enclose one copy of brochure and one application form inside envelope. Secure second copy of application form to outside of envelope. **(S # 42-5, NGC # MAE-4 E, F, & G)**

Scale of Points for the Club Brochure Award can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or the NGC Awards Handbook for point score rubric.

D-26 Club Newsletter

- A. \$10.00 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) publishing a one-page (may be both sides) newsletter – at least 3 times per year under one-editorship or management. **(S # 43, SAR #18, NGC MAE 4 A)**
- B. \$10.00 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) publishing a newsletter of 3-12 pages – three times a year or more. **(S # 43, SAR # 18, NGC # MAE 4B)**

(NGC # MAE 4 A – D please see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg. 39 for point score rubric)

New as of summer or 2023 -Submit **ONLY ONE** sample issue via email. **No longer accepting paper copies of newsletters.** Remember to complete cover sheet/application form and at least one additional page addressing the items on the point score rubric.

D-27 Club Yearbook

\$10.00 may be awarded to the club with best yearbook in each of the following categories, determined by number of members for whom VFGC dues are paid. Yearbook must be from current club year. No envelope necessary. Securely clip two copies of the completed application form to the inside cover. **(S # 44, SAR # 22,)**

1. Clubs with under 20 members
2. Clubs with 20 – 29 members
3. Clubs with 30 – 44 members
4. Clubs with 45 – 69 members
5. Clubs with 70 – 99 members
6. Clubs with 100 – 299 members

Scale of Points for the Club Yearbook Award can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage.

New for 2025: for NGC and SAR officers - do not include mailing addresses or phone numbers, names and email addresses.

D-28 Club Scrapbook

A. Traditional

B. Digital

\$10.00 may be awarded to a club (small; medium; large) for the best overall scrapbook citing club activities for each **calendar** year, 2025 and 2026. It may contain photos, receipts, newspaper articles, etc., in support of club activities. Please show how visible your garden club is in your community. There is no page limit, and clubs may use the binder or scrapbook of their choice. Do be creative. You may submit your scrapbook entry to the District Awards Chairman at the following * **March District Board Meeting**.* If you are not able to do so, please contact the District Awards Chairman to make other arrangements. This is a district award only.

- 1. Clubs with under 20 members**
- 2. Clubs with 20 - 29 members**
- 3. Clubs with 30 - 44 members**
- 4. Clubs with 45- 69 members**
- 5. Clubs with 70 - 99 members**
- 6. Clubs with 100 - 299 members**

Scale of Points for Scrapbook award:

Events are in chronological order	5
Wording is neat and legible	10
Photographs are clear	20
Cover relates to Club	5
Layout is attractive	40
Quantity of Material	<u>20</u>
100 total points possible	