

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VFGC AWARDS

2023-2025

Applications due December 1 (unless otherwise noted)

Send applications electronically to:

Jane Sorensen, SW District Awards Chairman

jhsfarm@aol.com

or paper applications (3 copies) to

Jane Sorensen

2950 Witten Valley Road

Tazewell, VA 24651

Questions to:

276-988-4608

jhsfarm@aol.com

GENERAL 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. This means that the applications must be received by December 1. Applications for ALL awards (including VFGC, SAR and NGC) are to be sent to the District Awards Chairman, unless otherwise stated. District winners and applications for awards not judged for an award at the District level will be sent to the VFGC Awards Chairman (Heidi Sage)

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
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6. CATEGORIES BY CLUB SIZE: Some awards specify awards according to club size. **Club size is determined by the number of members as of December 1st for whom VFGC dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.**

i	Small Club	20 members or fewer
ii	Medium Club	21 - 50 members
iii	Large club	51 + members
iv	Two or more clubs	(two or more clubs may work together on an award project)

7. BOOK OF EVIDENCE: A Book of Evidence is required when applying for the following awards:

- a) Flower Show Achievement Awards – see NGC web site for requirements
- b) Publicity Press Book - no limit on number of pages
- c) Member Award of Honor - not to exceed 5 pages, one sided

For additional information on Member of Honor award, see the NGC website Awards Handbook pg. 43 (www.gardenclub.org) and/or VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards).

8. SCALE OF POINTS: All awards are judged by a "Point Scoring Rubric". Judging with a Scale of Points allows all clubs to know how their application will be judged before submitting it. It also assures that all applications are judged on the same criteria in a fair and impartial manner. The Point Scoring Rubrics for all VFGC awards can be found on the VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards) and are also found on the NGC website. Where there are specific point score rubrics, they are indicated in red for those award categories

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CLUB AWARDS

SWD-1 FLOWER SHOWS (three awards will be offered for shows staged through Dec. 1 of 2024): **\$20** may be awarded to a club in each size group (small, medium and large) in the following three categories. It may be any type of NGC flower show presented by a single club. Complete the VFGC cover sheet/application form and simply attach a page with the requested information.

- a. For the clubs who are having their first ever flower show. The date the club was founded will be considered. (small, medium, large).
- b. For the clubs who have gone the longest since having a flower show (small, medium, large)
- c. For the clubs who have the most new participants exhibiting in their club's flower show. (small, medium, large)

(VFGC #SP-1, a, b, c)

SWD-2 "PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA " **\$20** may be awarded to a club in e Each size group (small, medium and large) For members who grow their own vegetables, fruit or other produce and donate to a local food bank or any other organization that helps fight food insecurity. Complete the VFGC cover sheet/application form and attach a page showing the total weight of produce donated for the period ending Dec. 1, 2024. **(VFGC #SP-2)**

SWD-3 TREX FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE - \$20 will be offered each year to

The overall winner, regardless of club size, who collects the most pounds of recyclable plastic film. Complete the VFGC cover sheet/ application form and attach a page with the total weight you have collected each calendar year ending Dec. 1st. Submit this by Dec. 1st to the district award chairman, who will forward it to the state awards chairman. (VFGC #SP-3)

- SWD-4** **Arbor Day/Tree Planting Activities:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for the most outstanding tree planting activity and/or promotion of conservation and preservation of trees and/or Arbor Day activities. Emphasis on native trees. (VFGC #S-14, SAR #1, possibly NGC #EC-5)
- SWD-5** **Bird, Butterfly, Wildlife Survival:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv 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. (VFGC # S-15, SAR # 2 or3, or possibly SAR SP 1, NGC #EC-3 see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg 20 for point score rubric)
- SWD-6** **Floral Design:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for the most outstanding program or workshop teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. Three single sided page limit (plus cover sheet) applies. (VFGC # S-21, SAR # 20 A or B; See VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg. 23 for point score rubric (NGC # FD-2)
- SWD-7** **Civic Projects with Native Plants:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on native plant material to our region. (VFGC # S-22, possibly SAR # SP 2; NGC #CE-6)
- SWD-8** **Civic Beautification/Civic Achievement:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for a distinguished civic or conservation work making permanent improvements for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible. (VFGC # S-24, SAR #4; NGC # CE-5)
- SWD-9** **Plant Together Community Garden Project:** \$20 may be awarded to the club (i small; ii medium club; iii large club; iv 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. (VFGC # S-

28, NGC # CE-1 A,B,C or D)

- SWD-10** **Decoration of Historic Building:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for decorating a historic building/house/mansion. Decorations are not required to be of the period of the building, but should be creative, distinctive, and harmonize with the building's style. Designer's choice of all materials within purview of curator, official, or owner of the building. (VFGC # S-30)
- SWD-11** **Membership:** \$20 may be awarded to the club (i small; ii medium; iii 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. 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. (VFGC #S-33)
- SWD-12** **National Garden Week:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv 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. (VFGC #S-34. SAR #10; NGC # MAE 5)
- SWD-13** **Penny Pines:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) with the most donations in the amount of \$ 68.00 to the National Garden Clubs, Inc, Penny Pines program. VFGC Penny Pines Chairman should report to the VFGC Awards Chairman by March 15. No award application required. (VFGC #S-35, SAR # 9)
- SWD-14** **Youth Horticulture Education:** \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club; iv two or more clubs) for the best promotion of gardening among youth; based on belief that youth should be educated to become future horticulturists. (VFGC #S-39, SAR #Y- 1, NGC # YW 8)
- SWD-15** **Club Newsletter:**
- A. \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) publishing a one-page (may be both sides) newsletter – at least 3 times per year under one-editorship or management. (SAR # 18, NGC # MAE 4 A)
 - B. \$20 may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) publishing a newsletter of 3-12 pages – at least three times per year. (SAR # 18, NGC # MAE 4 B)

C. **\$20** may be awarded to a club (i small club; ii medium club; iii large club) publishing a newsletter of 13-or more pages – at least three times per year. State number of issues per year on award application (*NGC # MAE 4 C or D*)

(VFGC # S-43, NGC # MAE 4 A – D please see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg 39 for point score rubric)

Please submit one issue of the newsletter, along with the awards cover sheet, and an additional sheet addressing the information contained in the scoring rubric. This submission (newsletter, cover sheet and additional information) must be made electronically.