

**Power Point Narrative
For May 3, 2022**

Welcome to the 2023 VFGC Awards Ceremony. We are recognizing the achievements of 2022.

Before we begin, there are people I wish to thank: first the six hard working District Awards Chairmen, who fielded your questions and helped with the application process. They also held district level judging and are responsible for district ribbons and certificates. I'd like to recognize the District Awards Chairmen. (please stand as I call your name)

Patty Smith for the Blue Ridge District

Joanne Wallace for Piedmont

Denise Gorsky for Shenandoah

Barbara Speece for South Central

Andrea Meador for Southwest

Loy Holt for Tidewater

And my new vice-chairman, Jeanne Bruton, Jeanne created the Power Point presentation we are about to enjoy. Please give them your applause.

I also wish to thank the dedicated judges who evaluated the state awards. And thank the generous donors, members, clubs, and districts who funded these awards. Their names are listed on the last page of the program.

Now, about the award applications themselves: They were most impressive, many scoring well into the blue ribbon range, but as we offer only one blue, please consider a red ribbon a fine achievement.

The monetary awards earned by the blue ribbon winners are in these envelopes. The District Presidents will accept the awards and either give them to clubs who are present, or mail them to Club Presidents. Please note the fiscal year is the end of May, so deposit your check immediately upon receipt. Checks held too long may not be honored. Lost checks will not be re-placed.

Before I begin with the presentation of certificates, I want to mention that in 2021 NGC totally revised their listing of awards, the point score rubrics, the award application and the sizes of the clubs. This remains a challenge.

The new sizes are Small, Medium and Large, eliminating extra-large, but adding a new category for two or more clubs working together on joint projects, something that had been requested. The VFGC website awards page is the best source for awards information. I find it easier than the National web site and the cover sheet for Virginia is on the VFGC website. It has my contact information already completed for you.

The power Point is recognition of many, but not all of the wonderful and generous programs benefiting our communities and especially the young people. This power point does not show every award earned, rather it includes highlights of the 2022 award winners. Perhaps you will see something that inspires or enlightens you.

2 First are the **district level** awards which refer to the efforts of the district as a whole. Would the District Presidents please come forward and accept their award bundles.

#3 The Piedmont District Newsletter, Footprints earned the Blue for a newsletter from a district of over 900 members. The cover page features a message from District President Sally Harrison. You see the presenter at their spring district meeting top right. The last page of the newsletter includes registration and credential forms for the convention. I also found the article on birds pecking on windows most interesting.

#4 The Shenandoah District Newsletter, Shenandoah Sharings earned first place for a newsletter from a district of 900 or fewer members. The newsletter has two formats – one edition pertains to national, regional, state and district news and the other covers Shenandoah Club news submitted by their members. This article on Birds and Butterflies by Betsy walker highlights her two favorite feeder birds The black capped Chickadee and the tufted Titmouse and their preferences

#5 The Shenandoah District Website earned first place satisfying all the requirements of the award description. Judges described it as colorful, easy to read, with a variety of photos of members, activities, designs, landscapes and projects. The judges particularly enjoyed the excellent coverage of the Blue Star marker dedication at Luray. And...This web site earned the SAR award.

6 and 7 The Tidewater District staged their District Standard Flower Show, Goblins in the Garden at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Virginia Beach in September of last year. They earned a green rosette for their outstanding show. We received these colorful photos of their top winners and I just had to share two slides to include a few more photos. Tidewater has a tradition of staging excellent flower shows.

8 The District receiving the most Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters, as a percentage of district members –is again Tidewater with 897 posters – a legacy from Barbara Ohmsen no doubt. The next closest district was Shenandoah with 373 posters. The entire state received 1,315 posters to give you a feeling of Tidewater’s role.

#9 The District to support the most Penny Pines Plantations – is also Tidewater. This is an NGC project with the US Forest Service. Members pass around decorated mason jars collecting coins and small bills at club and district meetings, Tidewater collected \$3332 to purchase 49 plantations. Last year Tidewater sponsored 33 plantations, so this is an impressive increase. The entire state collected \$8,636 for 127 plantations. Each plantation costs \$68 and at one time a penny purchased a seedling pine.

10 Next are the Club Awards. You won’t see every award given, rather highlights of the clubs and projects. The complete listing is in the program which will be in the club envelopes and will be on the VFGC web site as well as ODG.

In consideration of time, rather than each club coming forward, District Presidents already have the awards for their clubs and will distribute them today or mail them to club presidents.

11 Now, I will begin with clubs in the [Blue Ridge District](#).

#12 The Westchester Club Newsletter titled “Windows on Westchester” earned the blue ribbon for a medium size club in the 3 – 12 page category of newsletters. They publish their four page newsletter all twelve months of the year. Regular articles highlight a monthly horticulture calendar, news from the district, VFGC, SAR and NGC. Prospective members receive the newsletter to convey the club’s activities, projects and programs. The award

application included detailed information on the yearly cost to print and mail copies to members, a critical bit of information as the financial report is a full 5 points of the 100 possible on the new rubric for newsletters. And... Westchester earned the SAR award with their newsletter

13 Next is the Piedmont District

14 This is the cover of the new tri fold Fluvanna membership brochure. The small Fluvanna club earned a red with this publication offering basic information about the club mission, objectives and activities. One section is a pre-addressed form to submit for membership also referring prospective members to the club facebook page and including a phone number for additional information.

15 Medium Ginter Park club earned a red with their membership brochure. One can see when and where they meet, their history, several lovely designs, and contact information. They distribute brochures at their April spring market as well as to friends and neighbors. I learned Ginter Park is the oldest garden club in the city of Richmond.

Both this brochure and the previous one from Fluvanna were blue ribbon worthy, but lost points by not addressing all the items required on the point scoring rubric.

#16 Large Midlothian Garden Club earned first place with their impressive on-going monthly **Horticulture Therapy program** for the residents of Ginter Hall South in Midlothian. Here you see the Valentines' Day cards which club members made for each of the residents. The volunteers bring flowers, greens, and catfood cans with oasis encouraging the residents to create their own floral arrangements. The activities director often posts messages on the Ginter Hall Facebook page thanking the garden club members for their help.

#17 – 18 In August the Richmond Designers Guild hosted a Club **Standard Flower Show titled “It’s Summertime and the Living is Easy”** earning the purple rosette. The design with the sunflowers is a large Petite design, the one on the right with the massed blossoms is a tapestry. This second slide shows a monobotanical design on the left with the hoop and on the right is a multi-rhythmic design displayed on the pedestal.

#19 River Road Garden Club earned a blue with their flower show schedule, earning first place for a medium size club. Their show was titled “Mother Earth Awakening” and was presented in April. They included a Botanical Arts division as well as the usual design, horticulture and educational divisions. One of their design classes was for novice designers who had not previously won a blue ribbon in any NGC flower show.

20 And now for the flower show itself - The River Road Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show “Mother Earth Awakening” which earning the yellow rosette.

The Design division is titled “Tributes to Aphrodite”. That is a cascade design titled “Swan Dive” top left and an American Traditional Mass Design titled “Abundant Beauty” top right. The Penny Pines display earned the Educational Top exhibitor award. Bottom right is the Growers Choice winner for flowering houseplants.

#21 The Rock Spring Garden Club submitted the schedule for their Small Standard Flower show titled “May the Road Rise Up to Meet you”. They earned the blue ribbon for a large size club. It was presented in March with fun titles like “If you Live to be a Hundred Years” for their needled Evergreens, and “Pot of Gold” for flowering Bulbs. Design titles were equally creative: Irish Stew, the Wee Folk (for petite designs), Irish Coffee (breakfast trays), and Wearing of the Green, using only fresh green plant materials.

#22 The large Salisbury Garden club earned first place for its Horticulture Education for Youth application. The award application described projects at different schools involving 76 members reaching out to 227 students plus tutors. Youth planted containers for their mothers for Mothers’ Day, forced paper white bulbs, and created fresh flower arrangements. They also transplanted shrubs from members’ gardens into a preschool landscape. And there is more – starting seeds for pollinators in water jugs and also creating Woodsy Owl posters while learning about caring for the land. Yes, they earned the SAR award.

23 The medium Sleepy Hollow Garden Club earned first place with their Civic Projects with Native Plants award application. They included a clear landscape plan and detailed budget, showing how funds provided by Piedmont District grants had been used. The before and after photos are

most helpful to the judges. In the lower photo you can see the TREX bench they had earned with their recycling efforts.

24 The medium Stonehenge club newsletter earned the blue for their newsletter of a single two sided page. It is emailed once a month from September through May to 49 members with zero cost. The editor manages to cover club news, calendar items, upcoming meetings and volunteer activities with clear photos of designs and plants in this limited space. The information about the next meeting is detailed and includes biographical information on the presenter.

25 the medium Thomas Jefferson Garden club earned first place with their award application on Community Landscape Design. This unique on-going project is for a roof top garden at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA hospital Poly-trauma unit. Eagle Scouts installed the irrigation system and the hospital manages it. Members are responsible for garden maintenance and plantings. Not only members, but also patients weed, cut and water plants as physical and occupational therapy (which we consider horticulture therapy). The application has an excellent landscape plan and clear financials indicating support from various grants as well as dues.

26 The small Violet Bank Garden Club earned a perfect score of 100 with their Floral Design Program application. Experienced club members presented a program on how to create a triangle design in preparation for the club furnishing table centerpieces for an upcoming Design show and Luncheon. The application has a full page describing their activities and addressing the categories of the point score rubric for this particular award. Two pages of clearly labeled photographs followed.

#27 the large Westham garden Club earned second place with their Reclaiming Unusable Spaces award application. Club members reclaimed a portion of the Tuckahoe Elementary School Garden after 8 years of neglect. They created a comfortable landscaped space where students are dropped off or wait for their rides home, The dark red structure is a small book library, an Eagle scout project which was relocated to the right hand side of the garden, no longer blocking benches.

28 Next is the Shenandoah District

29 The small Culpeper Garden Club earned first place with their application for Floral Design Program. The application carefully chronicles the events from discussing the idea of working with high school students in horticulture and design, to acquiring the necessary materials, and then instructing over a two day period. Linda Taylor, National Garden Club Master flower Show Judge and certified Ikebana Instructor volunteered to conduct the classes. Forty-five Students created designs like you see here. A subsequent visit by club members to the school green house plant sale yielded the zinnias used in their May flower show.

30 The small Glasgow Garden Club created a flower show schedule which received a perfect score . Their show was titled Cider House Blooms and was presented to the public in September at the Halcyon Days Cider Company in Natural Bridge. The design division, “Visual Delights of the Season” includes six classes, three of which are petite designs, and one an invitational, open to invited guests. And...Glasgow earned the SAR award!

31 The small Green Hills garden club earned a blue with this outstanding Horticulture Education for Youth project involving more than 100 students from four schools. Students potted up over 200 native tree seedlings , measuring and recording their height, then labeling, watering and giving each one a creative nickname so the students can track their own tree. Middle School students at Boxerwood gardens will then care for these trees for 1 ½ years. Then the original students will be reunited with their trees, measure them and plant them.

32 The large Lake of the Woods club earned a blue for their Permanent Roadside Beautification project. The Lake of the Woods Community Memorial garden was renovated and maintained along a walking path. Work done in 2021 by Rapidan Service Authority (water and sewer) necessitated a major restoration project. Transplanting, new plantings, and even work with a pick ax to remove a stump were required. The application includes many well labeled photos. And...Lake of the Woods earned the SAR award!

33 The medium Madison garden club scored 99 points and second place with their newsletter “MGC Scoop”. This newsletter has been published monthly since October of 2010 to provide information and education for club members, which is especially important to members who are unable to attend a meeting or event. It is emailed to 37 members and 4

issues are sent via the Post office. It is also offered as a subscription to past members and other interested people, while shared at no cost with those who are prospective members. Because of its thorough coverage of all activities, it serves as a history of the club.

34 We are going to pause in the middle of the club awards to recognize awards honoring multiple clubs beginning with the Trex recycling challenge This is one of our President's special projects. As of February of this year, 34 benches were awarded for a total of 21,426 pounds of plastic film! Five Districts and 27 clubs participated, Would you like me to read the names of all 27?

35 the New Member Award. We recognize the clubs with the highest percentage of new members. No list of members is required or application needed. The state treasurer determines the numbers based on dues paid.

36 Now the Penny Pines winners among the small clubs – Keysville of South Central District with 6 plantations. They won at the SAR level.

37 Culpeper of Shenandoah District won at the medium size club level with donations for 8 plantations. They won at the SAR level

38 And for the large clubs – Ye Accamacke of Tidewater District won with 31 plantations. This remarkable achievement completes donations to plantations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico given over the years. Yes, they too won at the SAR level

39 [Back to recognizing the clubs by Districts - Now for the South Central District](#)

40 **The small Appomattox Garden Club earned first place with their Decoration of Historic Building application.** Their tradition of decorating the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park began over 20 years ago. Club members use natural materials to create a variety of wreaths as you can see in these pictures. They hope to educate the public in the types of local plant material available for creative purposes. The club has received letters of appreciation from the United States Department of the Interior and community sponsors.

41 The medium Buckingham/Dillwyn Garden Club earned a blue with their application for Horticulture Therapy with a Garden. This is the one category of hort therapy that is recognized at regional and national levels for advanced awards. Members of this club have been working with Habitat for Humanity for years and for this new home they planned and installed the foundation shrubs and mulched the beds. All the members raised funds for the project and 14% of the members planted the easy care evergreens.

42 The small Keysville Garden Club earned first place and an Orange Rosette with their yearbook. Their category is for clubs with fewer than 20 members as of December 1st, which is when the size categories are determined. The judges examined the yearbook still using the traditional scale of points and could only find three points to deduct from a perfect score. Well done! National Garden Clubs no longer accept or evaluate the yearbooks, so regional is as high as they may advance.

43 Members of the medium South Boston Garden Club made plans prior to covid for a conservation project on the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation property. (That would be the former NASCAR driver, Ward Burton who happens to be the son of the club president.) The plan was to partner with the organization in planting pollinators and cover crops to develop the natural resources. In April of 2022 they planted Purple Cornflower, Black-eyed Susan, Oxeye Sunflower and Goldenrod among other seeds to provide color spring through fall and attract a variety of pollinators and song birds. The foundation donated the seeds and soil preparation, the members plus one grandchild spread the seeds. And...they won the SAR award

44 [Next is the Southwest District](#)

45 Here you see members of the small Dogwood Garden Club of Wise with their TREX bench, at the Union Primary School in Big Stone Gap. They earned the blue plus \$50 Dollars by applying for the State Presidents Special Project the “Trex film Recycling Challenge”. 100% of the club members participated in providing collection boxes at the visitor center, the Methodist church, and also a bag for each class at Union Primary school. The class that collected the most plastic film earned a pizza party at the end

of the year, and the numbers were so impressive, 4 classes were awarded pizzas. A second bench was earned and donated to the town for a walking trail called the Green Belt. Members are now working on a third bench.

46 The medium Seasons IV Garden Club submitted an excellent application for the Youth Horticulture Education award, scoring 99 points and first place. Club members partnered with master gardeners and the Tazewell County Public library staff to provide hands on gardening experience for children using raised beds at the library. They not only weeded, planted, created compost, harvested vegetables and flowers, they and even made calendula petals into soap. They pressed flowers, made pictures, used sunflower seeds for pine cone bird feeders and collected seeds for next spring. These events continue early spring through late fall.

#47 The medium Town & Country Garden Club applied for the Litter, Recycling and Reclamation award with their Trex recycling efforts. Since September of 2021 they have earned two benches from Trex. One placed at the Blue Star Memorial Garden at Wise Town Hall, and a second in front of the county Courthouse on Main Street. The third one is underway and will also go on Main Street.

48 **Last is the Tidewater District**

49 The large Colonial Heritage Garden Club publishes their newsletter of four to five pages ten times per year electronically. Only one member receives a hand delivered printed copy. They scored a perfect 100 points for a colorful and informative newsletter. They include birthdays, acknowledge new members and have timely notifications of meetings and committee activities,. All typical of newsletters, but very well presented and including the important state, regional and national news. Judges read many fine newsletters, as it is a very popular category. The application must include the information required by the point score rubric, as the newsletter does not stand on it's own merits, as do yearbooks.

50 Lynnhaven Heritage Garden Club with 22 members scored 99 points with their yearbook, but received a red as the competition among yearbooks is fierce. They included color photos of their officers and for each monthly meeting as well as a photo gallery showing members and their projects. Members' birthdays are shown on the page for the appropriate monthly meeting, along with design and horticulture classes.

51 May Farm Garden Club of Kingston submitted a fine yearbook, also scoring over 90 points and receiving a red. I love this cover! Their calendar of events includes state, regional and national items as well as club activities. It is a two part book, with the second half containing documents like by-laws, that are not reprinted every year unless revised. And reflecting the cover, there is a “Bee Joke” or fun insect fact each month – “what music band do bees love best? The Bee-tles”; and , a bee’s favorite flower? Bee=gonias”

52 And now for the Youth Awards

53 This year we are delighted to once again have poetry entries. The theme is: Seed, Trees, and Bees, Oh My – celebrating the Diversity of Nature. Here are the two winners. Third Grade winner Mason Wheeler, sponsored by Cedar Run Garden Club and Fifth Grade Winner Candice Edmonds, sponsored by Rapid Ann Garden Club

Mason Wheeler, wrote a brief poem Titled Desert Ninja which I will share with you–

In the desert during the dark of night something lurks.,
In the shadows it zooms!
Swish, swish, swish, BOOM!
It is a scorpion!
It will pitter patter in the sand.
Watch out for the stinging tail and claws.
It is fast!

54 Here you see the young artists who created Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters and placed first at the state level.

55 I couldn’t resist showing the posters – first grade winner

56 – second grade winner chose Woodsy Owl

57 Third grade – Woodsy is popular this year

58 Fourth grade

59 We had a tie at the fifth grade level, and even submitted both to the South Atlantic Region to compete

60 And this fifth grade poster won at the regional level – congratulations to Pearl Kinney sponsored by Southside Garden Club of Blue Ridge District

61 Congratulations to all of the winners of the VFGC Awards and to the clubs who participated by submitting award applications . On the final pages of the award ceremony handout, and soon on the web site, you will find the South Atlantic Winners listed and also the names of the individuals, clubs and districts who donated funds to support the awards program. Your generosity is appreciated. Remember if you receive a check, to cash it immediately. Lost checks will not be replaced.

This concludes the Presentation of awards earned in 2022. I hope you have new ideas for club projects and that even more clubs will participate in the awards process this year. Thank you all for the many activities that benefit our communities.

Congratulations and thank you all.