

AWARDS – VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2025-2027

CHAIRMAN	Heidi Sage	540.878.8162	hbsage@aol.com
VICE Chairman	Jeanne Bruton	434.422.6897	jeanne.p.bruton@gmail.com
BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT	Sharon O’Connell	954.253.4383	toddie1904@aol.com
PIEDMONT DISTRICT	Susie Rothenburg	804.740.1075	susierothenberg@gmail.com
SHENANDOAH DISTRICT	Becky Yates	540.878.1363	rebeccay@comcast.net
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT	Suzanne VanDeGrift	434.808.3964	abbylei123@gmail.com
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT	Jane Sorensen	276.988.4608	jhsfarm@aol.com
TIDEWATER DISTRICT	Jessica O’Connor	757.333.1799	joc800link@gmail.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. Applications for ALL awards (including VFGC, SAR and NGC) will be judged by the District Awards Committee, unless otherwise stated. District winners will be sent via email or surface mail with tracking to the VFGC Awards Chairman (Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA 22738, hbsage@aol.com) by **DECEMBER 15** to compete for VFGC, SAR and NGC awards.

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.

5. APPLYING FOR AWARDS - DISTRICT AWARDS CHAIRMEN

- First place winners in each category must be sent by mail or e-mail to the VFGC Award Chairman (Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA. 22738, hbsage@aol.com, 540-948-3778) by December 15. Exceptions noted in VFGC List of Awards.
- A complete list of award applications from your district must be included with submissions. List is to include VFGC award number, VFGC award name, and submitting club name for each award application.
- When submitting award applications by mail, send three copies. Retain a fourth copy for your records.

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.**

Small Club	20 members or fewer
Medium Club	21 - 50 members
Large club	51 + members
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.virginiagardenclubs.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.

VFGC SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (PRESIDENT'S AWARDS)

SP – 1 YOUTH AWARD – READING IS FUN BUT SO IS GARDENING \$20 may be awarded to a club (small club, medium club, large club)

Once a class or group of children has selected their favorite book, they should work with VFGC club members to design a garden to illustrate it.

- a. The submission must include the name of the book, a diagram of the proposed garden and plant list. (For example, if the book chosen is "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit", the design would be for Mr. McGregor's Garden and list the vegetables to be planted.) Any group of children is eligible, not limited to public schools. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.
- b. The same as above but includes an actual garden according to the design and list of chosen plants. In addition, the submission should include pictures of the garden. This award may be for two years of the Administration, so not judged until Dec. 1, 2026.

SP – 2 FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE COMMUNITY \$20 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.

SP – 3 NEX TREX FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE - \$50 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 for the calendar year ending Dec. 1. Pease submit by Dec 1 of 2025 and /or 2026.

SP – 4 FIRST FLOWER SHOW \$20 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.

DISTRICT AWARDS

S-5 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

\$20 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. **(SAR #14, NGC # CE-7, (2) for district)**

S-6 CLUB MEMBERSHIP WITHIN DISTRICTS

\$20 may be awarded to the **district** bringing in the greatest percentage of new members into VFGC between February 1 of the preceding year and the end of January of the current year. The VFGC Treasurer will use the number of dues paying members to determine the district with the highest percentage increase and confer with the VFGC Membership Chairman before submitting the name of the winning district to the Awards Chairman by February 15. No application required.

S-7 DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

\$20 may be awarded to a **district** for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for a standard flower show. **(SAR 24 B)**

- A. Districts 900 members and under B. Districts over 900 members

The scale of points for Flower Show Schedules can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on pages 135 – 138 of the on line NGC Flower show handbook. Attach copy of the flower show schedule as provided to judges, to the award cover sheet/application.

S-8 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

\$20 may be awarded to a **district** in each category publishing the best newsletter **(NGC # MAE 4 A through D; see NGC point score rubric, on VFGC website or NGC handbook pg. 38)**

- A. Districts 900 members and under B. Districts over 900 members

New as of summer 2023 – submit only one edition by email. Include cover sheet/application and answer all questions on point score rubric on a separate page.

S-9 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$20 may be awarded to a **district** with the greatest number of posters (percentage based on district membership). Information submitted to VFGC Awards Chairman by VFGC Smokey

Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman, by Feb. first. Pat Merson prwtm@aol.com

804 920 3759 11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy. Chesterfield, Virginia 23838

No award application required.

S-10 WEBSITE for DISTRICTS

\$20 may be awarded to a **district** for the most outstanding website promoting the sponsoring organization and NGC objectives. Give website address, who maintains site, how often updated, etc. **(SAR #21, NGC # MAE -2 A through D)** The NGC point score rubric for Websites can be found on the VFGC Awards web page or in the NGC Awards Handbook pg. 38 on the NGC website.

S-11 PLANT A TREE (replaces Penny Pines)

\$20 may be awarded to a district donating the most money to Plant a Tree program in the calendar year.

Clubs report their total donations to the District Plant A Tree Chairman, who then reports totals for each district to the State Plant A Tree Chairman, who then informs the VFGC Awards Chairman. No application form/cover sheet needed, just club name, size and total money donated.

S-12 VFGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

\$20 may be awarded to a **district** with the most new VFGC Life Memberships (percentage increase based on district membership) between March 1 of the preceding year and the end of February of the award year. VFGC Life Membership Chairman should report to the VFGC Awards Chairman by March 15. No application required.

CLUB AWARDS

S-14 ARBOR DAY, TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

\$20 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; 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. (SAR #1, possibly NGC #EC-5)

S-15 BIRD, BUTTERFLY, WILDLIFE SURVIVAL

\$20 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. **(SAR # 2 or3, or SAR SP 1, NGC #EC-3 see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg 19 for point score rubric)**

S-16 ORGANIC GARDENING PRACTICES

\$20 may be awarded to the **club** (small; medium; large; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project emphasizing and employing the use of organic materials and methods in a gardening project or educational activity. **(NGC # EC-6)**

S-17 CONSERVATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **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.
(SAR # 5, NGC # EC-1 or EC-2)

S-18 WATER

\$20 May be awarded to a club (small; medium; large; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project with an emphasis on water conservation and/or clean water. **(SAR # 15, NGC # EC-4)**

S-19 LITTER/RECYCLING/RECLAMATION

- a. **\$20** may be awarded to a **club** (small; medium; large; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding community project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling, e.g. year-long program, organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site. **(SAR # 17)**
- b. **\$20** may be awarded to a **club** (small; medium; large; two or more clubs) for the most complete promotions of **Chucky Chipmunk** and the "STOP Throwing and START Stowing" anti-

litter theme: i.e. poster contest, newsletter, school program.

S-20 FOOD BANK DONATIONS (new 2021)

\$20 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for donating the largest amount of freshly grown food to a food bank, pantry or other organization providing food to those in need in a community. May involve others; community, government agencies, youth, facility residents. Etc. Provide verification from the recipient of quantity received. See VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg 13 for point score rubric (NGC # CE-3)

S-21 PROGRAMS SUPPORTING NGC OBJECTIVES

a. FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM (new 2021)

\$20 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. **(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)

\$20 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)**

S-22 CIVIC PROJECTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; 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. **(possibly SAR # SP 2; NGC #CE-6)**

S-23 RECLAIMING UN-USABLE SPACES

\$20 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project in reclaiming an un-usable space. It must be an area that has not been used in the past (an empty lot, an area that has become “a dumping spot, etc...). The project photos must reflect a definite change in the use and look of the space. Please include before and after photos and details of work and location.

S-24 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION/CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT

\$20 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 improvements for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible. **(SAR #4; NGC # CE-5)**

S-25 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial landscaping projects (highway marker, byway marker, 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. **(SAR #14, NGC # CE 7)**

S-26 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN

\$20 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. (**SAR #4, NGC # CE-8**)

S-27 ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

\$20 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. (**SAR #11, possibly NGC-# CE-4 A or B or CE-5 A or B**)

S-28 PLANT TOGETHER COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

\$20 may be awarded to the **club** (small club; medium club; large club; 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. (**NGC # CE-1 A,B,C or D**)

S-29 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; 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. (**SAR #8, NGC #CE-9 A or B**)

S-30 DECORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; 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. (**NGC #CE-5**)

S-31 HORTICULTURE THERAPY

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for an outstanding program working with the physically or learning challenged in nursing homes, schools, prisons, etc.

S-32 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT

\$20 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 nursing homes, schools, prisons, low income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Includes barrier-free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at hospital, etc. (**SAR # 6 or7, NGC # G-3**)

S-33 MEMBERSHIP

\$20 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. 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-34 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; 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.

(SAR #10; NGC # MAE 5)

S-35 PLANT A TREE (replaces Penny Pines)

\$20 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. (SAR # 9)

S-36 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR SALES

\$20 may be awarded to the **club** selling the largest number of VISION OF BEAUTY calendars. Clubs need to supply the number of members and the number of calendars sold as evidence.

A. Based on total calendars sold B. Based on calendars per member

S-37 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** with the greatest number of posters submitted to Youth Poster District Chairman . VFGC Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman will report results to VFGC Awards Chairman by Feb. first. No application required.

S-38 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project in the field of environmental education involving youth.

(SAR # Y - 1, NGC # YW 9)

S-39 YOUTH HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the best promotion of gardening among youth; based on belief that youth should be educated to become future horticulturists. **(SAR #Y- 1, NGC # YW 8)**

S-40 GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION AWARD

\$20 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most notable project or projects educating the public on the benefits of gardening for wildlife. Extra points will be given for originality and new ideas. Include the number of members in the club, the percentage of members participating, the approximate number of people educated and how they were notified of the project. Club may partner with youth groups like scouts. (NGC # EC 3 or G-4 for establishing a public wildlife garden with signage) Please see VFGC website or NGC Awards

Handbook pg 19 or 25 for point score rubric.

S-41 POLLINATOR GARDENS WITH YOUTH

\$20 may be awarded to the **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) with the best project of planting pollinator gardens while educating youth. These gardens may be container gardens. Gardens may be in public or private locations. **(SAR # Y -1 , NGC # YW 9)**

CLUB AWARDS - PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION

S-42 PUBLICATIONS

\$20 may be awarded to a **A. club** (small club; medium club, large club)

B. Group of clubs (councils or districts, etc.)

for the entry judged best in each category 1-8. Notices or flyers for one time events are not eligible. Printed publications or those prepared for electronic distribution are acceptable entries.

(NGC # MAE 4 E,F, and G please see VFGC website or NGC Awards Handbook pg 38 for point score rubric) NGC no longer judges cookbooks or calendars.

Categories:

- 1) manuals, handbooks (examples: procedural, duties of officers, awards)
- 2) educational (examples: environmental, landscape, gardening, horticulture therapy)
- 3) horticulture, design (examples: judging, guide to exhibiting, floral design, mechanics)
- 4) history
- 5) membership (examples: brochure, leaflet)
- 6) calendars
- 7) cookbooks
- 8) other

Submit entry in an envelope with one cover sheet/application form secured to outside and one enclosed inside envelope.

S-43 CLUB NEWSLETTER

- A. **\$20** 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. **(SAR # 18, NGC # MAE 4 A)**
- B. **\$20** may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; 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** (small club; medium club; 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)**

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.

S-44 CLUB YEARBOOKS

An orange rosette may be awarded to a **club** for the most outstanding yearbook in each of the following categories, determined by number of members, including Life Members, on whom VFGC dues are paid. Yearbook must be from current club year. **(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 Yearbooks can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage. Complete the cover sheet/award Application. Firmly clip two copies of the form to the inside front cover. No envelope needed. Send only 1 yearbook. Do not email. Do not send 3 ring binder. Substitute with paper cover. NGC no longer judges yearbooks, but SAR does. **New for 2025: for NGC and SAR officers - do not include mailing addresses or phone numbers, names and email addresses.**

S-45 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE – SINGLE CLUB

\$20 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. **(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.

S-46 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE – TWO OR MORE CLUBS

\$20 may be awarded to **two or more clubs** or a **council** for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type of NGC flower show. **(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.

S-47 WEBSITE

\$20 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. **(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*.

S-48 PUBLICITY PRESS BOOKS

A pink rosette may be awarded to winning books of evidence exhibiting quality, quantity and diversity of coverage in the print media promoting garden clubs and NGC goals and objectives. Prepare a Book of Evidence. No limit on number of pages. Complete the coversheet/application and attach to the inside front cover. **Book must be sent to VFGC Awards Chairman (Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA 22738 hbsage@aol.com (540) 878-8162). DEADLINE: JANUARY 15 (SAR #23)**

- A. **club** (small club; medium club; large club)
- B. **Group of clubs, councils, and districts**

Additional information for preparing a Publicity Press Book may be found on the VFGC Awards web

page. Scale of Points for Publicity Press Books can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage.

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

Member Award of Honor Certificates may be awarded to one member in each district whose volunteer efforts during a period of five or more years, has made outstanding contributions to club and community, in one or more of the following areas: civic development, horticulture therapy, *youth activities, conservation, landscape design, horticulture, floral design, or all around excellence*. Any member of a State Garden Club, who has never been a member of NGC Board of Directors, including State Presidents is eligible. Do not use VFGC/NGC cover sheet/application form. Submit a Book of Evidence of no more than **5 pages** (one side only) to District Awards Chairman by December 1st. For more information see the VFGC Awards webpage. Only one nominee allowed per district. Overall winner will be submitted to South Atlantic Region to compete for the Member Award of Honor. **(NGC# SR-4)**

YOUTH AWARDS AND CONTESTS

See the NGC website (www.gardenclub.org) for complete Youth Contest rules and details. Winners at the state level are sent for regional and national competition.

Y-1 "THE SAVED SEED" EDUCATION AWARD

\$20 may be awarded to a club (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) with the best project utilizing *The Saved Seed* book with youth. The project must involve more than reading the book to children and should demonstrate connecting children with nature.

Y-2 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$10 may be awarded to winners in grades 1-5. Clubs send posters to the District Youth Contest Posters Chairman by deadline (set by District Chairmen). District Chairmen will forward winning posters to VFGC Youth Poster Chairman Pat Merson prwtm@aol.com
804- 920- 3759 11231 Woodland Pond Pkwy. Chesterfield, Virginia 23838
Posters must be received by January 9 – allow time for mailing. **(SAR #Y - 6)** Do not use VFGC or NGC award application forms. State Youth Poster Chairman forwards winners to SAR Chairman by Feb. 15.

Y-3 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to a high school student with the best **600 – 700 word** essay on the topics listed below. Check SAR website for more information. Send essays to District Youth Activities Chairman by specified deadline. District Chairmen then send winning essays to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman on or before **December first**. VFGC Youth Activities Chairman LouAnn Dummering

700 Third Avenue Farmville VA 23901 434.547.5885 FannyLd75@gmail.com

The state essay winner is eligible for regional (SAR) competition. SAR offers a \$200 award. See the SAR website for information on the essays. NGC no longer judges essays.

2025 -2026 Theme: “How Can We Use Native Plants for Climate Adaptation?”

2026– 2027 theme:

Y-4 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels (K-9 grades and Special Education K-9 grades). Students must follow NGC rules. Send entries to District Youth Activities Chairman by specified deadline. District Chairmen then send winning poems to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman on or before **December first**. VFGC Youth Activities LouAnn Dumminger

700 Third Avenue Farmville VA 23901 434.547.5885 FannyLd75@gmail.com

State winners are sent on to SAR. **(SAR # Y - 4)** Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. For more information, see NGC website under youth contests/poetry contest.

2025 - 2026 Theme: "Plant America for the Next 100 Years"

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

Y-5 YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels (4th-8th grades). Students must follow NGC rules. Send photos of entries to District Youth Activities Chairman by district deadline. District Chairmen then send winning entry to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman on or before **December first**. VFGC Youth Activities Chairman is LouAnn Dumminger

700 Third Avenue Farmville VA 23901 434.547.5885 FannyLd75@gmail.com

State winners are sent on to SAR. **(SAR #Y - 5)** Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. More information and entry form can be found on NGC website under youth contests/youth sculpture contest.

Y-6 " THE FRIGHTENED FROG" YOUTH PROJECT AWARD

\$10 may be awarded to a student from grades 1, 2, and 3 with the most outstanding project in the conservation of amphibians. Student must be sponsored by a member garden club.

The project must involve more than just reading the book to children.

Y-7 "PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS" YOUTH PROJECT AWARD

\$10 may be awarded to a student from each grade 1-5, with the most outstanding garden or container garden planted for pollinators in a public place. Student must be sponsored by a member garden club.

VFGC AND NGC FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Refer to the NGC Website for complete Rules and Requirements for NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards.

Books of Evidence for Flower Show Achievement Awards are to be sent to VFGC Flower Show Chairman Val Story no later than December 1 (Exception: Christmas shows must be received no later than December 30. 2122 Whithorn Hill Jeffersonson, VA 22724 Do not use a VFGC/NGC over sheet/ application. **Must be sent electronically!**

State and NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards

Single Club Flower Shows

Letters A,B,C,D correspond to club size

A is fewer than 21 members (i)

B is 21 – 49 (ii)

C is 50 -99 (iii)

D is 100 or more (iv)

Multiple Club Shows

Letters A and B correspond to number of clubs

Sponsoring the show

A is one club, B is two or more clubs.

Please consult the VFGC Yearbook or the NGC website (www.gardenclubs.org)

for descriptions of these awards.

Club Standard Flower Show, V-FS-1 (A,B,C,D)	NGC # FS-1A, B,C, or D
Holiday Standard Flower Show, V-FS-2 (A,B)	NGC # FS 2A or FS-2B
Patriotic Standard Flower Show, V-FS-3 (A,B)	NGC # FS-3A or FS-3B
Petite Standard Flower Show, V-FS-4 (A,B)	NGC # FS-4A or FS-4B
Club Small-Standard Flower Show, V-FS-5 (A,B,C)	NGC # FS5A , B or C

The following three shows are for one club with fewer than 100 members.

Holiday Small-Standard Flower Show V-FS-6 **NGC # FS-6**

Patriotic Small-Standard Flower Show, V-FS-7 **NGC # FS-7**

Petite Small-Standard Flower Show, V-FS-8 **NGC # FS-8**

Near-Club, Council, District or Flower Shows

Near-Club Standard Flower Show, V-FS-9 **NGC # FS-9**

Council Standard Flower Show, V-FS-10 (A, B) **NGC # FS-10A or FS-10B**

District Flower Show, V-FS-11 (A,B) **NGC # FS-11A or FS-11B**

State Flower Show, V-FS-12 (A or B) **NGC # FA 12 A or FS 12 B**

Youth Flower Shows

Youth Flower Show or Youth Section of Adult Standard Flower Show

V-FS-13 (A,B,C), **NGC # FS-13A, B , or C ***

*** NGC #FS-13C is for Youth Participation in a Standard Flower Show**

Plant Society Flower Shows

Plant Society Flower Shows, V-FS-14 **NGC # FS-14**

Specialty Flower Shows

NGC #FS-15 C and NGC #FS-16C are only given in Specialty Flower Shows sponsored by Council, District, State or Regional organizations.

Horticulture Specialty Show V-FS-15 (A,B,C) **NGC # FS-15A , B or C**

Design Specialty Show V-FS-16 (A,B,C) **NGC #FS-16A, B or C**

Please consult your Flower Show Handbook

or the NGC website www.gardenclub.org for more information