

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VFGC AWARDS
2025-2027**

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

865-719-0745 (cell)

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
- 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. 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)

6. 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. 42 (www.gardenclub.org) and/or VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards).

7. 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.

The following awards will be judged/awarded at the Southwest District-level, with winners sent to State. All awards applications are to be sent to the District Awards Chairman, whether judged at the District-level or not.

VFGC SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (PRESIDENT'S AWARDS)

SWD-1 (VFGC 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.

SWD-2 (VFGC SP – 2) FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE COMMUNITY \$20 may be 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.

SWD-3 (VFGC 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. Please submit by Dec 1 of 2025 and /or 2026.

CLUB AWARDS

SWD-4 (VFGC 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)

SWD-5 (VFGC 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. 24 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. 38 for point score rubric NGC # MAE-3**)

SWD-6 (VFGC 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*)

SWD-7 (VFGC 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**)

SWD-8 (VFGC 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**)

SWD-9 (VFGC 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**)

SWD-10 (VFGC 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.

SWD-11 (VFGC 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 or 7, NGC # G-3)*

SWD-12 (VFGC 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.

SWD-13 (VFGC 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)*

SWD-14 (VFGC 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 **and the District Awards Chairman**.

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

SWD-15 (VFGC 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. **The District Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman will notify the District Awards Chairman of the clubs submitting posters, and their numbers.**

SWD-16 (VFGC 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)*

SWD-17 (VFGC 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.**

SWD-18 (VFGC 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**)

SWD-19 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**)