

## Tidewater District – VFGC

### Awards 2025-2027

**Chairman** – Jessica O'Connor –

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### General Information

1. **Awards Year** – January 1 to December 31 annually. A continuing project may include some history, but the majority of the application should be about work done in the current year.
2. **Deadline** – The deadline for submitting applications to District Awards Chairman is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Applications for all awards must be submitted to the District Awards Committee first unless noted.
3. **Eligibility** – VFGC Member Garden Clubs, Groups of Member Clubs and Individual Members are eligible to submit awards.
4. **Applying for Awards** – Club Awards Chairmen
  - Application forms are available on the VFGC website ([www.viriniagardenclubs.org](http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org)) click on awards. The most current application form is required.
  - There is a 3-page limit plus the new **VFGC/NGC cover sheet**. Use only the fronts of the pages.
  - When a single project is eligible for more than one award, do not submit an exact duplicate. A major change must be evident in the summary of the project.
  - Because all awards will be sent to VFGC, SAR and NGC digitally please do not include binders and sheet protectors.

- 5. Categories by club size** – Club size is determined by the number of members as of December 1<sup>st</sup> for whom dues have been paid to VFGC, including Active, Associate, Inactive and Honorary.  
Small club = 20 members or fewer  
Medium club = 21 – 50 members  
Large club = 51+ members  
Two or more clubs working together
- 6. Book of Evidence** – A Book of evidence is required for the following awards
- a) Flower Show Achievement Awards – see NGC website for requirements
  - b) Publicity Press Book – no limit on pages
  - c) Member Award of Honor – not to exceed 5 pages NGC Handbook page 43.

### **Tidewater District President's Project**

D1 – To be judged at the Spring 2026 Tidewater District Meeting.  
Contact Loy Holt for more information.

### **District Awards**

S5 – **Blue Star Memorial Landscaping** - \$20 may be awarded to a **District** for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial landscaping projects.

S7 – **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. SAR24B

S9 – **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 February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**S11 – Plant a Tree** (replaces Penny Pines) - \$20 May be awarded to a **District** donating the most money to Plant A Tree program in a calendar year. Clubs report their total donations to the district plant a tree chairman.

### **Club Awards**

**D2 – Bird, Butterfly and Wildlife Protection** - \$20 may be awarded to a club conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for bird, butterfly and wildlife protection and welfare for example: sanctuaries, providing food, houses and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare. S15, SAR#2 or #3 NGC Ec3

**D3 – Conservation** - \$20 may be awarded to a club 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. S17, SAR#5 NGC Ec3

**D4 - Water** - \$20 to a club for the most outstanding project with an emphasis on water conservation and/or clean water. S18, SAR #15, NGC Ec4

**D5a – Litter/Recycling/Reclamation** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the most outstanding community project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling: for example, a year-long program, organizing a recycling program, establishing a community composting site. S19a, SAR #17

**D5b – Promote Chucky Chipmunk** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the most comprehensive promotions of **Chucky Chipmunk** and the

“Stop throwing and Start stowing” anti-litter theme – i.e., a poster contest, newsletter, school program. S19b

**D6 – Food Bank Donations** - \$20 may be awarded to a club 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.

This project may include others; community, government agencies, youth, facility residents etc. Provide verification from the recipient of quantity received. NGC Awards Handbook page 13. S20, NGC #CE3

**D7 – Floral Design Program** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the most outstanding single program or workshop teaching floral design to club members and /or the public. Three single sided page limit plus cover sheet applies. NGC Awards Handbook page 27. S21, NGC #FD2

**D8 – Civic Projects with Native Plants** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on plant material native to our region. S22 NGC #CE6.

**D9 – Civic Beautification/Civic Achievement** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for 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 projects are eligible. S24, SAR#4, NGC #CE5

**D10 – Plant Together Community Garden Project** - \$20 may be awarded to a club 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. S28, NGC #CE1 a,b,c, or d.

**D11 – Decoration of Historic Building** - \$20 may be awarded to a club 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. S30, NGC #CE 9m A or B

**D12 – Horticulture Therapy** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for an outstanding program working with the physically or learning challenged in nursing homes, schools, prisons, etc. S31

**D13 – Horticulture Therapy Garden Project** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for establishing a garden to benefit the physically or learning challenged residents in a nursing home, school, prison, low-income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. This should include barrier free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at a hospital, etc. S32, SAR #6 or #7, NGC #G3

**D14 – District Attendance** - \$20 may be awarded to a club with the highest percentage of members attending the two district meetings and the VFGC convention, held during the awards year. A typed list of names must include active members and which meetings and conventions they attended. No application is required. Send to District chairman by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**D15 – Membership** - \$20 may be awarded to a club with the highest percentage of new members (percentage increase based on dues paid between February 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year and January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 February 15<sup>th</sup>. S33

**D16 – National Garden Week** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week. Emphasis on showing community involvement throughout the entire week and may include local and/or state proclamations. S34, SAR#10, NGC #MAE5

**D17 – Plant a Tree** - \$20 may be awarded to a 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. No award application is required just club name, size, and total money donated. S35, SAR #9

**D18 – Vision of Beauty Calendars** - \$20 may be awarded to a club selling the largest number of *Vision of Beauty* calendars. Club needs to supply the number of members and number of calendars sold as evidence. (a) Based on total calendars sold. (b) Based on calendars per member. S36

### **Publications and Promotions**

**D19 – Club Membership Brochure** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for creating the most unique club brochure for promoting membership. Enclose one copy of the brochure and one VFGC/NGC application in a manila envelope. Glue another copy of the VFGC/NGC application to the outside of the envelope. S42, NGC #MAE 4E, F, G.

**D20 – Club Newsletter –**

- A. \$20 may be awarded to a club publishing a one-page (may be both sides) newsletter at least 3 times per year under one editor. S43, SAR #18, NGC #MAE4A
  - B. \$20 may be awarded to a club publishing a newsletter of 3-12 pages at least 3 times per year. S43, SAR#18, NGC #MAE 4B
  - C. \$20 may be awarded to a club publishing a newsletter of 13 or more pages at least 3 times per year. S43, NGC #MAE 4CorD
- New for 2023:** Submit only 1 sample issue via email. Complete cover sheet/application form and 1 page addressing the items on the point score rubric. NGC Awards Handbook Page 39

**D21 – Club Yearbook** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the most outstanding yearbook (determined by number of members). *Scale of points for yearbooks can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage.*

Complete the cover sheet/award application. Clip 2 copies of the form to the inside front cover. Send only 1 yearbook with paper cover. Do not email. New for 2025 – Please do not include names, addresses email or phone numbers for NGC or SAR officers. S44, SAR#22

**D22 – Flower Show Schedule** – Single Club - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type NGC flower show. The scale of points for Flower Show Schedules can be found on VFGC Awards webpage or NGC website. Attach a copy of the flower show schedule as given to the judges to the cover sheet/award application. S45, SAR 24A

**D23 – Website** - \$20 may be awarded to a club for the most outstanding website promoting the club and NGC objectives. Ease of navigation will be considered in judging. Complete cover sheet/application and attach 1 page with your website address, who maintains site, how often it is updated and the cost. S47, SAR 21, NGC MAE-2

**D24 – 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 5 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. Do not use VFGC/NGC cover sheet/application form. Submit a *Book of Evidence* of 5 pages or less (one side only) to District Awards Chairman by December 1<sup>st</sup>. More information on VFGC Awards webpage. NGC #SR4

### **Youth Awards and Contests**

**D25 – Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters** - \$10 may be awarded to winners in grade 1-5. Posters should be submitted to District Poster Chairman by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Winning posters will be forwarded to VFGC

Youth poster chairman, Pat Merson and must arrive by January 9th. Do not use VFGC Award application forms. S-Y2, SAR #Y-6

D26 – **Poetry** - \$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels. Students must follow NGC rules. Entries must be sent in by November 15<sup>th</sup> and forwarded to VFGC by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. For more information see NGC website under youth contests/poetry contest. S Y-4, SAR Y-4

**2025 -2026 Theme:** “Plant America Red, White and Blue to celebrate America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday”.

**2025 – 2027 Theme:** “Plant America for the next 100 years”.

D27 – **Essay** – Open to all High School Students. Essay of 600 - 700 words on the themes listed below. Submit entries by November 15<sup>th</sup>. S-Y-3, See the SAR website for more information.

**2025-2026 Theme:** “How can we use native plants for climate adaptation?”

D28 – **“The Saved Seed”** Education Award - \$20 may be awarded to a club with the best project using “The Saved Seed” book with youth. The project must include more than reading the book to children and should demonstrate connecting children with nature. S-Y1

D29 – **“The Frightened Frog”** Youth Project Award - \$10 may be awarded to a student from grades 1, 2 or 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. S-Y6

D30 – **“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. S-Y7

