

BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT AWARDS 2025-2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **AWARDS YEAR:** January 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. **DECEMBER 1 is the DEADLINE for submitting entries to the Blue Ridge District Awards Chairman Sharon Jones O'Connell, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta VA 24121. Toddie1904@aol.com, 954-253-4383 . Applications for ALL awards (including VFGC, SAR and NGC) will be**

judged by the District Awards Committee, unless otherwise stated. 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, 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) and then choose Blue Ridge District. Current Application form is required. No password is required for the awards info.

There; plus the **new VFGC/NGC cover sheet**; u
is sing only the front of the
age. Exceptions noted.

- When a single project is eligible for more th
an one award, submitting an exact
duplication of the application is not accepta
ble. A significant change must be evident in

the summary regarding the project.

- Binders and vinyl sheet protectors are no lo
nger allowed. Exceptions noted.
- **Applications will not be returned.**
- Applications **may be submitted electronical
ly or by hardcopy**. If submitting a hardcopy,

include **THREE** complete copies of the awar
d application. Keep a fourth copy for you
records.

- Use Times New Roman Font, no smaller tha
n size 10, 12 is preferred.
- Flower Show Achievement Awards, Publicit
y Press Books, and Member Award of Honor

do NOT use the VFGC awards application. F
or more information see VFGC List of Award
s

or VFGC website (www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awards).

- Additional information on applying for awar
ds can be found on the VFGC website
(www.viriniagardenclubs.org, click on Awa
rds.. These resources include:
 - How to create an Awards Application
 - List of VFGC Awards
 - VFGC Award Application Coversheet
 - Point Scoring Rubrics to judge awards
 - Additional information on Flower Show Ach
ievement Awards

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- Additional information on Publicity Press Books
- Additional information on Member Award of Honor
- Links to the District, SAR and NGC Award List
- **All award applications (for District, VFGC, SAR and NGC awards) are to be sent to the District Awards Chairman (Chairman Sharon Jones O'Connell, 85 Surber Drive, Moneta VA 24121. Toddie1904@aol.com, 954-253-4383) 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 Awards

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 application by mail, send three copies. Retain a fourth copy for your records.

b)
c)

6. **CATEGORIES BY CLUB SIZE:** Some awards specific 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 less

Medium 21 – 50 members

Large 51+ members

Large club (two or more clubs may work together on an awards 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

Publicity Press Book - no limit on number of pages

Member Award of Honor - not to exceed 5 pages, one sided

Additional information on these individual awards, see the NGC website Awards Handbook

SCALE of POINTS: All awards are judged by a Scale of Points. For more information on the Scale of Points, click on

their application will be judged before submitting it. It also assures that all applications are judged 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). Also found on NGC website. Where there

are specific point score rubrics, they are indicated in red for those award categories.

BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT AWARDS 2025-2027

B-1 ARBOR DAY, TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

\$10 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.

(S #14, SAR #1, possibly NGC #EC-5)

B-2 BIRD, BUTTERFLY, WILDLIFE SURVIVAL

\$10 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. e.g. sanctuaries, providing food, houses and promoting

law enforcement relative to bird welfare. **(S #15, SAR #2 or 3. NGC #EC-3, see NGC Awards**

Handbook page 20 for point score rubric)

B-3 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

\$10 may be awarded to a club (small, medium and large clubs)

for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial landscaping

projects (Highway Marker, Byway Marker, and 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. **(S #25, SAR #14, NGC #CE-7)**

B-4 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION/CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT

\$10 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, i.e. establishing sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping

public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible. **(S #24, SAR #4; NGC #CE-5)**

B-5 CIVIC PROJECTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

\$10 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. **(S #22, NGC #CE-6)**

B-6 CONSERVATION

\$10 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. **(S #17, SAR #5, NGC #EC-2)**

EC-2)

B-7 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small, medium, large, two or more clubs) for outstanding project/ significant contribution in planning and planting for a commercial property, church or synagogue, hospital, library, school, civic center, park, waterfront, etc. Copy of landscape plan must

be included in book of evidence. **(S #26, SAR #4, NGC # CE-8)**

B-8 DECORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club ; medium club; large club; two or

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more clubs) for decorating a historic building/house/mansion. Decorations are not required to 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. **(S #30)**

FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM (new 2021)

\$10 may be award to a club (small club, medium club, large club, two or more clubs) for the most outstanding program or workshop teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. Three single sided limit page limit (plus cover sheet) applies. See NGC Awards Handbook pg. 23 for for point score rubric. **(S #21, NGC # FD-2)**

B-10 FOOD BANK DONATIONS (new 2021)

\$10 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 NGC Awards Handbook pg. 14 for point score rubric

(S # 20, NGC #CE-3)

B-11 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

\$10 may be awarded to a **club**: (small club, medium club, large club or 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. **(S #29, SA R #8, NGC #CE-9 A or B)**

B-12 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT

\$10 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 home, school, prisons, low-income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Includes

barrier-free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at hospital,
etc. **(S #32, SAR #6 or #7, NGC #G-3)**

B-13 LITTER / RECYCLING / RECLAMATION

a. **\$10** may be awarded to a **club**: (small, medium, large; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding community activity/project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling. ex. year-long program, organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site. **(S #19, SAR #17)**

b. **\$10** 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”** antilitter theme: i.e. poster contest, newsletter, school program.

B-14 MEMBERSHIP

\$10 will be awarded to the **club** (small; medium; large) with the highest percentage of members (percentage increased based on dues paid between February 1 of the preceding year and the end of January 31 of the current year. No list of new members is required. No application is required. The BRD Treasure will furnish the names of the clubs with the highest percentage increase for each size group to the district membership chairman. **(S #33)**

B-15 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

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\$10 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.. (

S #34, SAR #10, NGC # MAE 5)

B-16 ORGANIC GARDENING PRACTICE

\$10 maybe 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. (**S #16, NGC # EC-6**)

B-17 PLANT A TREE

PLANT A TREE (replaces Penny Pines)

\$10 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)

B-18 PLANT TOGETHER COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

\$10 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. (**S #28. NGC # CE-1. A. B. C or D**)

B-19 POLLINATOR GARDENS WITH YOUTH

\$10 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. (**S #41, S**

AR # Y-1, NGC # YW 9)

B-20 PUBLIC RELATIONS

\$10 may be given to a club, group of clubs or council for the most involvement of other civic organizations, businesses and agencies, etc., in garden club projects, activities, and programming for the year. **(SAR #19)**

B-21 RECLAIMING UN-USABLE SPACES

\$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club; two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project in reclaiming an unusable 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.

B-22 ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

\$10 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**. The award may be given only one for the same program. **(S #27, SAR #11, possibly NGC #CE-4 A or B)**

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B-23 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$10 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 Jan. 9th. No application required. **(S #37)**

B-24 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR SALES

\$10 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 members

(S #36)

B-25 WATER

\$10 may be awarded to **club** (small; medium; large, two or more clubs) for the most outstanding project with an emphasis on water conservation and/or clean water.

(S #18, SAR #15, NGC #EC-4)

B-26 GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION AWARD (new 2021)

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

(S # 40, NGC #EC 3 or G-4 for establishing a public wildlife garden with signage)

Please see NGC Awards Handbook pg. 20 or 30 for point score rubric

B-27 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

\$10 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. **(S #38, SAR #Y-1, NGC # YW 9)**

B-28 YOUTH HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

\$10 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.
(S #39, SAR #Y-1, NGC # YW 8)

CLUB AWARDS – PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION

Read NGC Publications & Communications Rules and Scale of Points.

B-29 PUBLICATIONS:

\$10 maybe awarded to A. **Club** (club small club; medium club, large club)

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

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- for the entry judged best in each category 1-8.
Notices or flyers for onetime events are not eligible. Printed publications or those prepared for electronic distribution are acceptable entries. **(S#42, NGC # MAE 4 E, F and G please see NGC Awards Handbook pg. 39 for point score rubric) NGC no longer judges cookbooks or calendars.**
- 1) Categories:
2) manuals, handbooks (examples: procedural, duties of officers, awards)
3) educational (examples: environmental, landscape, gardening, horticulture therapy)
4) horticulture, design (examples: judging, guide to exhibiting, floral design, mechanics)
5) history
6) membership (examples: brochure, leaflet)
7) calendars
cookbooks
8) other

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

B-30 CLUB NEWSLETTER

A. \$10 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 year under one- editorship or management. **(S #43, SAR #18, NGC # MAE 4 A – please see NGC Awards Handbook pg. 39 for point score rubric)**

B. \$10 may be awarded to a **club** (small club; medium club; large club) publishing a newsletter of 3-12 pages – at least three issues. **(S #43, SAR #18, NGC #MAE 4- B)**

C. \$10 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 issues. **(S #43 NGC # MAE 4 C or D)**

Please see the NGC Awards Handbook pg. 30 for point score rubric.

Note as of summer of 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.

B-31 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. **(S #44, 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 completed application form to

the inside front cover. No envelope needed. Send only 1 yearbook. **Do not email. Do not send 3 ring binders. Substitute with paper cover. NGC no longer judges yearbooks, but VFGC and SAR still do.**

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B-32 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE – SINGLE CLUB

\$10 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. **(S #45, 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**

B-33 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE – TWO OR MORE

\$10 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.

(S #46, SAR #24B) 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.

B-34 WEBSITE

\$10 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. **(S #47, SAR #21, NGC # MAE 2)** Scale of Points for Websites can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on the NGC Awards Handbook pg. 35.

B-35 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 cover sheet/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) 948-3778). DEADLINE: JANUARY 15 (S #48, SA R #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 award application form. Submit a Book of Evidence of no more than 5 pages (on 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)**

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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.

B-Y-1 "THE SAVED SEED" EDUCATION AWARD

\$10 may be awarded to the **club** (small; medium; large; 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. **(S #Y-1)**

B-Y-2 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$10 may be awarded to winners in grades 1-5. Send posters to the District Youth Contest Posters Chairman by deadline (set by District Chairmen). They will forward winning posters to BRD Youth Poster Chairman (**Necia Evans 205 Woodbine Drive Blacksburg, VA 24060-1439**

nevens@vt.edu. **540-818-2354**) Posters must be received by December 1) – allow time for mailing. **(S #Y-2, SAR #Y-6)** Do not use VFGC.NGC award application.

B-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. Send essays to District Youth Activities Chairman by specified deadline. District Chairmen then send winning essays to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1.

VFGC Youth Activities Chairman: LouAnn Dummering, 700 Third Avenue, Farmville, VA 23901-2108. FannyLd75@gmail.com, 434-347-5885

(S #Y-3)

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

B-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 by December 1. **VFGC Youth Activities Chairman** LouAnn Dumminger, 700 Third Avenue, Farmville, VA 23901-2108. FannyLd75@gmail.com, 434-347-5885

State winners are sent on to SAR (S #Y-4, 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 American for the 100 Years"

2026-2027 Theme" Plant America Red White and Blue to Celebrate America 250"

B-Y-5 YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels (4th-8th grades). Students must follow NGC rules. Send entries to District Youth Activities Chairman by specified deadline. District

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Chairmen then send winning entry to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. State

LouAnn Dumminger, 700 Third Avenue,
Farmville, VA 23901-2108.

FannyLd75@gmail.com, -434-347-5885

State winners are sent on to SAR (S #Y-5, SAR #Y-5)

Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. More information and entry form can be

B-Y-6 found on NGC website under youth contests/youth sculpture contest.

"THE FRIGHTENED FROG" YOUTH PROJECT AWARD

B-Y-7 \$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.

(S #Y-6)

"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 #Y-7)**

