



# The Gardenzette

the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia  
[www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com)

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## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

GARDENZETTE

EDITOR

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## SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM

### Show Your Creativity



We are ringing in the new RSGC year with a hands-on program: making your own floral arrangement. Whether you are a new member or an old one, experience tells us that most of us get a little nervous about making a floral arrangement, especially for those monthly meetings where we are judged! However, the Show Committee members will show us that there is nothing to give us the jitters. They will help us all make an arrangement of our choosing AND it will count as one of the two required arrangements we must make during the year.

**Please bring flowers, greens, shears and a pot of your choosing.** If you don't have a vase at hand, there will be plenty available (as well as oasis) at the Ways and Means table at bargain prices. You can purchase flowers at local grocery stores and bring greens from your own garden (or "borrow" a few from a nice neighbor). We look forward to having a sell-out crowd.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm really looking forward to participating in the garden club this year! We have some exciting things coming up. I enjoyed reading about the floral designer, Jo Oliver, in the Washington Post and can't wait to see her at the Holiday Design Event. I plan to buy tickets for my friends and myself early this year as I anticipate a sell-out event. I think the flower show in April is going to be great fun, and it will be my first time to have an entry in one. We have some very interesting programs planned, and there will be a field trip to the Franciscan Monastery in May.

I know it has been incredibly dry lately so am really interested to see this month's Horticulture entries so I know what has survived in member gardens. PLEASE write your cards at home and come at 9:30 to set up so we can start our meeting at 10.

Lastly, I'm counting on all of you to work together to make this a successful year and welcome suggestions and feedback by email.

### BOARD MEETING

The October Executive Board Meeting will be on Oct. 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM.



### TREASURER'S REPORT

JUNE 1, 2015–AUGUST 31, 2015

BALANCE JUNE 1, 2015	\$18,939.94
Total Receipts	1,046.93
Total Disbursements	<u>(2,090.65)</u>
BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2015	\$17,896.22

## CONSERVATION

It's September and time to again think of recycling for the club. As is our usual practice please bring your unused cell phones, eye glasses, cases and printer cartridges to the meeting and place them in the bin at the back of the room. If you have any ideas on conservation you would like brought up please let me know. Thanks.

## INVITATIONAL COMMITTEE

The 2015 Holiday Tea will be held on Thursday, December 10th, at the residence of a RSGC member. Members will have the opportunity to work their magic in creating floral designs for many designated display areas throughout the home.



The assignment of floral designs with a display board, photographs, descriptions, and sign-up sheets will be at the September and October meetings. It is a great way to fulfill one of RSGC's annual membership responsibilities of submitting two or more floral designs. This annual social meeting always jump-starts the holiday season in beautiful surroundings with our unique floral arrangements and much good cheer!

Over the summer several RSGC members underwent surgery. Floral arrangements and "get well" cards were personally delivered to their homes along with best wishes for speedy recoveries. Please notify us of any member who is ill, had surgery, is hospitalized, has passed away or

experienced a death in their immediate family, so a committee member can deliver flowers on behalf of RSGC to express our concern and support.

## DISTRICT III NEWS

Please join us on Friday, September 18, 2015 at Meadowlark Gardens for our Fall District III meeting. We will offer coffee and a delicious breakfast table beginning at 9:45AM and the meeting starts at 10:15 AM. We are thrilled to have Mike Lockatell as our guest speaker. Mike hails from the Richmond area and is the owner of Roots & Blooms. He sells heirloom perennials for today's garden. I met Mike at the American Horticultural Society Plant sale a few years ago, and recently at VFGC Piedmont District meeting. He is also an Iris expert and I was lucky enough to buy some of his reblooming iris for my white garden. Mike will talk about breeding iris and will offer a selection of perennials and iris for sale at special prices for our group. Bring a friend!

I have been invited to be the National Capital Area Garden Club's Blogger so do please visit the blog on our new NCAGC website. I am also looking for guest bloggers - please contact me if you are interested in posting garden related articles. The blog address is <http://ncagardenclubs.blogspot.com> - Just click this link. Read and leave a comment. Your traffic means a lot to me! Coming up is a guest blog from RSGC member and one of my favorite HORT ladies, Christine Legman.

BACK TO SCHOOL! No, not just the kids. Gardening Studies Course III is this month and Flower Show School Course II is scheduled for November. Both are held here in Northern Virginia. Our Schools are just one of the great benefits of membership in your garden club. I'm going and I look forward to hanging out in the lunch room with you! (And yes, the lunches are delicious). Sign up!

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### JUDGES COUNCIL ROPING WORKSHOP

September 16, 2016

Potomac Community Center

11315 Falls Road, Potomac 20854

10:30 a.m.

The Judges Council has a limited number of reservations left for our upcoming Roping Workshop on September 16. Please note that the deadline for Registering is Sept. 11th because materials for the workshop will need to be purchased in advance. Registration Fee is \$15.

### WAYS AND MEANS

WELCOME BACK!

The RSCG Ways and Means committee will be in full swing at our September 17 meeting. We look forward to giving members another year of fun shopping; finding and buying that something special that supports our many wonderful programs.

Tools of the Trade will be stocked for your outdoor gardening and floral design needs.

If you have plants to share, please place them in small pots or sealed plastic bags, labeled with plant name, and sun/part shade/shade. Drop-off by 9:15am the day of our meeting is fine.

Ways and Means is again counting on continued member donations of household, garden, and miscellaneous items. Clean out those closets, drawers and garages. There will be new items and old favorites for sale this year. Is costume jewelry cluttering up your drawers? Donate it to your Ways and Means table. Our goal is to keep you curious and interested in what will be for sale at the Ways and Means table.

If you have items to donate that are in good condition you can drop them off at my house prior to our meeting day or bring them to the meeting by 9:15am so they can be priced and ready to sell.

### HORTICULTURE SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Under our Bylaws, each active member is responsible for submitting two or more horticulture specimens each year for display at general meetings. Horticulture specimens may be composed of: cut flower or foliage; arboreal branches; fruits, nuts or vegetables; and container-grown (house) plants.

Listed below are the requirements for submitting your horticultural specimens for judging.

## Display

Use a green bottle (e.g. Perrier bottle) that is in proportion to your horticultural specimen;

Use plant material that is fresh (flowers should be at their peak), grown by you, and in your possession for at least 90 days;

Place the stem of the specimen under water, making sure there are no leaves attached under water;

Use a cotton ball in the neck of the bottle to secure and stage your specimen;\*

Make sure all dirt, insect damage, faded and torn petals and leaves are removed.

## Identification

Bring a 3" x 5" card with the identity of your specimen.

On one side of the card list the scientific name (genus and species), cultivar if known, and common name of the specimen. You can find this information on the Internet.

On the reverse side of the card write your name and the date in order to get credit for displaying your specimen (cards are collected after the meeting).

\*Sometimes other material, such as boxwood or bubble wrap, may be used to hold your stem in place. The custom at our meetings, however, has been to use a cotton ball.

\*\*In addition to reference books, members of the Horticulture Committee are available before the meeting to help you identify properly your specimen. Some useful websites are listed below.

Please bring all horticulture specimens to the Horticulture Table before 9:45 a.m. to

allow sufficient time for committee members to place them in the appropriate category before judging.

If you have any extra bottles you are willing to donate, please bring them to the meeting.

Sample Index Card :

*Lillium longifolium* 'Casa Rosa'

Easter lily 'Casa Rosa'

Explanation:

Lillium = genus (capitalize, italicize or underline)

longifolium = species (lower case, italicize or underline)

'Casa Rosa' = cultivar (upper case, in single quotes)

Easter lily = common name

Some useful websites to help identify plants and their scientific names are:

Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder --

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

Royal Horticulture Society Database -

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/>

Dave's Garden – [www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com)

Better Homes and Gardens Plant

Dictionary -

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary>

One way of identifying your plant is to type what you think is the common name of the

plant into Google and search images. Usually this will bring up a picture of your plant, which you can click on and go to a website which will probably correctly identify the scientific name of the plant. To be sure of the correct name, search one of the three databases above.

## LIAISON REPORT

### NCA/VFGC MEETINGS

**Friday, September 18, 9:45 a.m.**

**NCA District III Fall Meeting**, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA. Grant distribution will be discussed during business meeting. Guest speaker will be Mike Luckatell, expert and breeder of double blooming irises. He will also sell irises and other plants to those attending. Refreshments will be served. All members are invited.

**Monday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.**

**NCA General Meeting**, U.S. National Arboretum. All members are invited. Details to come.

**Monday, October 12**

**Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Piedmont District Meeting**, Doubletree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian, VA. Details to come, including meeting time and carpooling information.

**Sunday-Tuesday, October 25-27**

**Central Atlantic Region (CAR) Annual Conference, A Floral Explosion**, Wyndham – Gettysburg Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA. For information and to register, visit [www.ngacar.org](http://www.ngacar.org) or [www.pagardenclubs.org](http://www.pagardenclubs.org).

### NCA SCHOOL COURSES

**Thursday- Saturday, September 24-26**

**NCA Gardening Studies School, Course 3, of Series IX**, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Topics include pruning techniques, growing outdoor flowers, teaching tour of a botanical garden, classifying plants, and factors that influence plant growth. To register, please contact Joyce Skoglund at [jeskog612@gmail.com](mailto:jeskog612@gmail.com) or 703-591-4017 to make sure it's not too late.

**Tuesday-Thursday, September 29-30, October 1,**

**Landscape Design School, Series XIV Course II "Choices Matter,"** Sheraton Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, MD. For more information, visit <http://www.ncagardenclubs.org>. For registration questions, contact Rosemary Dawley at [rosemarydawley@comcast.net](mailto:rosemarydawley@comcast.net).

**Friday-Sunday, November 20-22**

**Flower Show School Course II**, Westwood Baptist Church, Springfield, VA. Topics include flower show procedure and horticulture, covering chrysanthemums and conifers, focusing on native conifers. For details and to register, visit [http://ncagardenclubs.org/fss\\_school.html](http://ncagardenclubs.org/fss_school.html) or contact Sandi Smith Piccirillo at [sswombat@verizon.net](mailto:sswombat@verizon.net).

### FLOWER SHOWS

**Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

**National Capital Dahlia Society's Annual Show, Derwood Agricultural History Park, 18400 Muncaster Rd., Deerwood, MD.** For more information, visit [www.nationalcapitaldahlia.org](http://www.nationalcapitaldahlia.org).

**Saturday, October 10, 12:00 noon–4:00 p.m.**  
**Small Flower Show, Fall Festival, will be held by the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club** at the Fairfax City Regional Library, North Street and Old Lee Highway in Fairfax City.

**Saturday, Monday, October 10-12 National Capital Orchid Society's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchid Show and Plant Sale,** Behnke Nursery, Beltsville, MD. Titled *Present Orchids*, this show includes lectures and experts to answer questions. Free admission. For more information, including show schedule, visit [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us).

#### PLANT SALES

**Saturday, September 19, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
**Garden Day and Plant Sale**, Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Numerous local vendors plus music, bake-sale, and silent auction. Free admission. For more details or to check out other Green Spring programs and events, contact 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks).

**Sunday, September 20, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
**Annual AutumnFest & Plant Sale** (annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees)  
Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 300 S. Kensington St., Arlington, sponsored by

VCE Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Alexandria/Arlington). Program includes free Master Gardener-led mini workshops. For questions, call Judy Funderburk at 703-671-5310.

**Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale,** Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria (corner of Quaker & Oakcrest). At least 12 vendors from the Mid-Atlantic region will sell plants native to this area and give tips on growing them. For more information, contact Scott Knudsen at 571-232-0375 (cell) or [sknudsen@earthlink.net](mailto:sknudsen@earthlink.net).

**Saturday, September 26, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**  
**The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America's Annual Public Sale and Auction,** Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA. For more information, contact Lars Larson at 703-277-3441 or [lars.larson@cox.net](mailto:lars.larson@cox.net).

#### TOURS

**Saturday, September 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**Tour of "Ten Champions for the Autumn Garden,"** Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA. Horticulturist Carol Miranda will lead a tour of 10 great plants that last until winter's frost. Plant list provided. Meet in the visitor center. Free with paid admission. Reservations suggested. 703-255-3631 or [jmaloney@nvrpa.org](mailto:jmaloney@nvrpa.org).

**Saturday, September 26, 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

***Hot! New! Plants!*** U.S. National Arboretum (USNA), Washington, D.C. Tour the Arboretum's North Court with horticulturist/designer Bradley Evans to learn how he combines annuals, perennials, tropicals, and more to create visually striking and heat tolerant beds and containers. This is a walking tour over flat surfaces. Free, registration recommended. Call 202-245-2708 to register. Meet at Visitor's Center. For more details and to check out other USNA events, visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).

FREE TREE

**Saturday, October 24, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
**Free tree for Arlington Residents**—Arlington County's Parks and Natural Resources Division is providing a variety of native tree species to Arlington residents—one per family. Must register by October 23, but supplies of some species are already sold out. For more information and to register, visit <http://environment.arlingtonva.us/trees/plant-trees/tree-distribution-program/>.

PICTURE GALLERY

June Underwater Floral Designs



SHUBRAH ALLIUM  
ORANGE SMITH BELL



SHUBRAH ALLIUM  
ORANGE SMITH BELL



June District III Garden Tour

