

The Gardenzette

the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia

www.rockspringgardenclub.com

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February 2016

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Connie Richards

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Anne Collins

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Kate Abrahams

TREASURER

Ann Lunson

GARDENZETTE

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House Plants

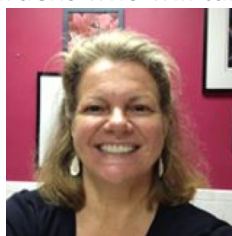
General Meeting

February 18, 2016

10:00 AM

Speaker Regina Lancotot

Our speaker this month is Regina Lancotot who is a Plant Specialist at Merrifield Gardens who will talk about House plants, a great topic for this



time of year.

I found out about her from a friend who took the Master Gardener course in Loudoun County. She said that Regina's presentation was one of the best! Going to see Regina at the Fair Oaks location was a wonderful experience as she shared some very interesting information in the short time I was there. Regina will be showing some unusual plants and will instruct us on placement, care and methods of propagation. She will sell the plants that she brings.

Connie Richards

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Richards

I want to point out that in Article III of our bylaws, one of the responsibilities of each club member is to participate in a club flower show. It lists submitting an entry for horticulture or design. However, there is another way our members can participate. Our show will include four Special Exhibits to add interest and educational value to the show. Thea McGinnis has been very creative with themes for these: **Oceans 11** – about water flow, soil absorption and erosion/erosion prevention techniques. **Witchcraft** – describing the medicinal use of plants and herbs throughout history. **Dirty Dingus McGee** – describing soil's structure, composition, texture and techniques for enhancing soil. **The Rat Pack** – extolling the benefits of garden club membership. I think creating one of these exhibits would be fun as well as a great learning experience for the exhibitor and those attending the show. You use a trifold board such as those found in science fairs. The exhibit should include printed information, illustrations/photos as well as 3 dimensional objects and fresh plant material if possible.

The soil exhibit reminds me of one of the first meetings I attended when the speaker talked about "Dirt". It was so informative, and I remember that members asked so many questions it was hard to stop for lunch.

I know that the "Witchcraft" exhibit will be very popular as there is so much interest these days about more natural ways of healing. People are going back to the old remedies of the past.

An exhibit highlighting the various activities of our club will be great as we expect many visitors to the show and hope that some of them will consider joining our club.

Too many homeowners in Arlington, including me, have had practical experience with water issues,

learned much the hard way, and still could use more information.

So I am strongly urging you all to consider doing one of these special exhibits. There are members of the club who can offer information and help with all phases of the process. Just get in touch with me, and I can point you in the right direction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 1–31, 2015

Ann Lunson, Treasurer

BEGIN BAL JANUARY 1, 2015	\$23,320.27
Total Receipt	20.00
Total Disbursements	<u>(407.47)</u>
CLOS BAL JANUARY 31, 2015	\$22,932.80

MARCH BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 3
at the home of Jenny Sullivan

Call Jennie if you are not attending.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Cottrell

The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of officers for the next year:

President Connie Richards
Vice-President Kate Abrahams
Secretary Jenny Sullivan
Treasurer Ann Lunson

Members will have an opportunity to nominate for each office at the general meeting.

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for all their work: Margie Melnick, Anne Collins, Becky Salzinger, Lynda Martin, and Mary Cottrell, Chair.

MINIATURE DESIGN

Charlotte Benjamin and Anita Brown

Our design for this month is a Miniature Design that can be traditional or creative and any design type. The whole design, container and flowers/foliage, cannot exceed 5 inches in height, width or depth. Scale is very important in this design as a judge will look at the size of components as they relate to each other. Small flowers or florets or tight buds (fresh or dried) as well as small leafed foliage can be used in these designs. Also, floral material may be manipulated (petals removed so only the center is used, foliage trimmed or clipped or shortened or any other manipulation) that will help to reduce Scale and still be a harmonious, lovely arrangement.

Since we will have a class of miniature designs in our upcoming flower show, we encourage everyone to submit a design this month. The judge's comments may help you to win a blue ribbon should you decide to enter the miniature design class in our flower show.

Please remember that you are doing an arrangement/design, not just a small flower with a small leaf in a vase.

Suggestion: Google 'Miniature Flower Arrangements Pictures' to get inspiration.

HOLIDAY DESIGN EVENT

Sharon DeAngelis and Anne Collins

After another very successful year, we are starting to plan our 7th annual HDE. We are thrilled to announce that the venue has been secured for November 17, 2016 and more importantly, that we have a new designer lined up thanks to the efforts of Dorinda Burroughs. Now all we need are two members to volunteer to chair the event. Since we are going into our 7th year, most of the details are pretty established although new ideas

are always welcomed. Sharon and Anne will be glad to assist the new co-chairs in whatever way they can. Please think about volunteering for this event. It is such a worthy cause and it is our biggest fund raiser of the year. We hope to send even more Arlington County students to camp this year than ever before.

WANTED: HDE CO-CHAIRS!!!

Connie Richards

This should be a relatively easy job this year. We already have the place reserved, a designer lined up, and Anne Collins and Sharon DeAngelis will get sponsors. We learn ways to improve this event every year. I have heard people question whether this event should be held every year, but obviously there is continuing interest as I believe we sold more tickets than ever last year. So please get in touch with me if you can take the lead on organizing this event

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Collins

Please get your renewal forms in by March 15, 2016. I am keeping them in order by date of receipt, so that those who get their forms in first will get first choice for committees, hostess dates, etc. You can download the renewal form from the website if you haven't already. RSGC has had many active members either resign or got to sustaining/subscriber. We are encouraging ALL members, regardless of their activity status, to please encourage friends, neighbors, relatives or even people you meet at Safeway to think about joining the club or at least attend a meeting so they can see what great things we do.

HORTICULTURE

Louise Rhoads



It won't be long....

Earlier this week after the blizzard, my husband, Richard, promised to get my car out of the garage but he first had to shovel the driveway. As I watched him shovel from the kitchen window, I noticed that all the snow was being thrown and piling up over the flower bed that was housing my tulip and daffodil bulbs that I lovingly planted last November in preparation for horticulture specimens for the flower show in April. When will all that snow melt I said to myself? Will those little babies make it? Well, by the end of the day with the surprise of warm sunny temperatures, I finally saw ground. I think they will be okay. Oh, and I got the car up the drive to the street. Yeh!

Yes, we are thinking flower show, and I would like to review the completion of your 3 x 5 cards that accompany your HORT specimens when you bring to our meetings in February and March.

Remember, along with the common name of your specimen, you should include the scientific name of the plant which includes the genus, species and cultivar, if known. You can type the common name into Google and search images. Once in, go to the website which will correctly identify the scientific name. To be sure of the correct name, search one of the databases below:

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

Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Better Homes and Gardens Plant Dictionary -
<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary>

Genus is capitalized, italicized or underlined.
 Species is in lower case, italicized or underlined.
 Cultivar is in upper case in single quotes.

Your name and date should be on the back of your card. Remember, all specimens need to be clean, free of debris, in peak form, etc. *The judge sees everything!*

I am encouraging you to bring in house plants to the February meeting as our program will feature a speaker from Merrifield who will discuss care, etc. of house plants.

Botanical Art Stamps - On January 29, 2016, in Atlanta, the US Postal Service held a First Day Ceremony at the American Philatelic Society's annual winter stamp show, Ameristamp Expo. Century-old paintings of flowers are prominently featured on 10 new US Botanical Art stamps that were issued in booklet format. The stamp designer used illustrations that were published in American nursery catalogs between 1891 and 1912, courtesy of The New York Botanical Garden. The next time you are in the Post Office, take a look and perhaps buy a booklet. They are lovely.



Linn's Stamp News, January 25, 2016.
 Courtesy of Christine Wegman

EPA RISK ASSESSMENTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a preliminary pollinator risk assessment for the neonicotinoid insecticide, imidacloprid, which shows a threat to some pollinators. EPA's assessment, prepared in collaboration with California's Department of Pesticide Regulation, indicates that imidacloprid potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators.

The preliminary risk assessment identified a residue level for imidacloprid of 25 ppb, which sets a threshold above which effects on pollinator hives are likely to be seen, and at that level and below which effects are unlikely. These effects include decreases in pollinators as well as less honey produced. .

The imidacloprid assessment is the first of four preliminary pollinator risk assessments for the neonicotinoid insecticides. Preliminary pollinator risk assessments for three other neonicotinoids, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran, are scheduled to be released for public comment in December 2016.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL

WHAT: Course IV, Series IX
WHEN : June 1st-2nd, 2016
WHERE: Merrifield Garden Center, (Fair Oaks Location)
 Fairfax, Virginia

Please mark your calendar now for the upcoming Gardening Study School. This will be the last course, (Course IV), in Series IX from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Gardening Study Schools Courses. Series X, with **REVISED CURRICULUM**, will begin possibly in the fall of 2018. Please check your refresher date and make sure not to miss this course if you need to refresh before 2019.

Our curriculum for this course will cover Outdoor Identification of Plants (tested subject), Specialized Styles of Gardening (tested subject), Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals (tested subject) Techniques for Growing Fruit and Home Irrigation Techniques. Remember, if you are refreshing, you do not have to take the exam.

Hope to see you later in June. More information will be disseminated as instructors are confirmed and registration nears.

Have questions? Please do not hesitate to contact Joyce Skoglund, Chairman, Gardening Study School, at jeskog612@gmail.com or 703-591-4017 (H), or 703-371-5343 (C).

LIAISON REPORT

Felicia Schwenk

Flower Shows

Saturday, March 5 – Sunday, March 13

2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, nation's largest and longest-running flower show, Pennsylvania Construction Center, Philadelphia PA.

The 2016 Flower Show theme, *Explore America*, will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service with acres of gardens, floral displays and adventure experiences. Explore the natural, historic, cultural, and monumental beauty of the national parks through the eyes of the world's greatest floral and garden designers. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to <http://theflowershow.com/show-info>.

Wednesday, March 16, open to the public 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

NCAGC Judges Council Flower Show, Plymouth Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Rd., Alexandria, VA. Free. Entries are open only members of the Judges Council. For more information, contact Arlene Stewart at amstewart4@aol.com.

NCA and VFGC Meetings and School Courses

Monday-Thursday, February 29-March 3

Flower Show School, Course III, Richmond, VA,

For more information or to register, contact Glynis Hopkins at 540-586-9655.

Friday, March 18, 10:00 a.m. (starting with breakfast treats)

District III Meeting, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA. The general business meeting will include District III Awards presentation. Guest speaker is Thomas Rainer, Landscape Architect, who will bring copies of his new book, *Planting in a Post Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* (co-authored with Claudia West) for sale and autographing.

Monday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.

NCA General Meeting, U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. District 1 will host. State Awards will be presented. More details to come.

Monday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. (Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.)

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) Piedmont District Meeting, *A Celebration of Spring*, Doubletree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd, Richmond, VA. Cost \$30. Registration deadline: Monday, March 21. For registration and other details, see page 10 of the newsletter FOOTPRINTS, which can be retrieved by visiting <http://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org> and clicking on *newsletter*.

Tuesday-Thursday, April 26-28

Landscape Design School, Course 3, Annapolis, MD. For details, visit <http://fgcofmd.org/Councils/Landscape%20Design%20Flyer%20010816.pdf>.

Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2

Gardening Study School, Course IV, Series IX, Merrifield Garden Center, (Fair Oaks location, Fairfax, Virginia. The curriculum covers outdoor identification of plants, specialized styles of gardening, techniques for growing fruit and home irrigation techniques. For questions, contact Joyce Skoglund at jeskog612@gmail.com or 703-591-4017.

Wednesday & Thursday, November 2 & 3

Environmental Studies School, Course 1, Series 7, Agriculture History Farm Park, Derwood, MD. Save the date - more details to come.

Other Events

Saturday, February 13, 10:00 a.m.

Great Plant Combinations, Merrifield Garden Center, Merrifield location
Karen Rexrode, Merrifield Plant Specialist will show how to select plants that bring out the best in each other with complementary colors, textures, shapes, and sizes. Free. The complete Merrifield winter/spring schedule of free seminars is available at <https://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/whats-happening/#ui-id-7>.

Saturday, February 20, all day

Montgomery County Master Gardeners Annual Spring Gardening Conference, Derwood, MD. *Exploding the Myths: Fascinating Facts to Help you Avoid Common Gardening Mythstakes*. For details, visit <https://www.extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/spring-miniconference>.

For carpooling, contact Connie at hcrichards@verizon.net.

Sunday, February 21, 1:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m.

Mt. Cuba Plant Trials, Part of the Harry Allen Lecture Series (through March), Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Hear Mt. Cuba Center director, Eilene Boyle, will discuss the center's partnership with Dr. Doug Tallamy to test the ecological value of native plants and their related cultivars. Meet the speaker and have refreshments following the lecture. Cost: \$10.00 for Fairfax County residents, \$12.00 non-residents. To register and to check out the other lectures, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm and click on Winter Lecture Series on the left menu.

Saturday, February 27, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Shining a New Light on Shady Characters:

Worldwide Woodland Plants for Rock Gardens,
U.S. National Arboretum Visitor Center. Dr. Tony
Reznick, professor of ecology and evolutionary
biology at the University of Michigan, will provide
new ideas on shade-tolerant plants and finding
the right plant for the right place. Free, but must
register by calling 202-245-2708. For more
information or to check out other programs of the
U.S. National Arboretum, visit

[http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.htm](http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html)
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March is Orchid Month at Hillwood

Throughout the month of March, greenhouse
tours lectures, and hands-on workshops will offer
opportunities to explore Marjorie Merriweather
Post's original orchid collection, to learn more
about today's collection, and to hear from outside
experts about the history and care of orchids. Visit
www.hillwoodmuseum.org for schedule and cost.

PHOTO GALLERY

January's meeting was cancelled due to icy conditions. Since our designers had already prepared their floral displays, a new way to judge and view these floral displays was suggested by Ann Marie Fay. We could all send pictures of our floral displays to the Show Committee for judging. Charlotte Benjamin and Anita Brown met to determine awards for Tubular Design: A Creative Design having a dominance of cylindrical components throughout. "Cylindrical" means "tubular" and both mean circular. Charlotte and Anita thanked all who entered their designs: Kate Abrahams, Marilyn Dougherty, Anne Marie Fay, Joan Hession, Sheila Moore, Vicky Schoenberger, Sharon Siems, and Jenny Sullivan.



BLUE RIBBON

Sheila Moore

**RED RIBBON**

Kate Abrahams

**YELLOW RIBBON**

Jenny Sullivan

WHITE RIBBON

Anne Marie Fay

**WHITE RIBBON**

Joan Hession