



the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia www.rockspringgardenclub.com

Volume 55, Number 8

April 2017

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Connie Richards

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

SECRETARY

Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER

Ann Lunson

GARDENZETTE

EDITOR

Joan Hession

ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB HILLWOOD MUSEUM AND GARDEN FIELD TRIP THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017



Over 30 members are signed up for the RSGC April field trip to Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood estate in NW Washington. It promises to be an interesting excursion with docent-led tours of the gardens and mansion, lunch together plus time to view the new and unique exhibit, "Friends and Fashion—An American Diplomat in 1820's Russia." The gardens promise to be in their spring splendor. There is a new Conservatory and lovely floral arrangements are on view throughout the Mansion and Visitors Center. The orchid and tropical greenhouses contain some unique specimens and the museum shop always has a plethora of new items.

Sincere appreciation to Vicky Schoenberger and other Hillwood members for generously donating passes for our group. We will car pool, so the only charge will be \$20 for lunch.

Members interested should contact Joan Asboth, email: jrasboth@aol.com, (703-527-6522) prior to 12 April. Joan will be in touch with carpool drivers/passengers with details and directions.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Richards

This has been a busy month! I attended the District III meeting at Meadowlark Gardens, the National Capital Area Garden Club meeting at the Arboretum, the Piedmont meeting in Richmond, and the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs state convention in Roanoke. It required some effort and a lot of driving, but I honestly enjoyed all of these gatherings. There was a wonderful slide show presentation compiled of District III members' photos and information about their favorite plants. I'm hoping that this will be put on a CD that we can use for our club. Speakers' topics included cooking with herbs, growing orchids, floral arranging using materials primarily from your own yard, native trees, and Constance Spry who did the flowers for Queen Elizabeth's wedding. The highlight for me of the VFGC convention was "The Designing Duo". David Pippin and Al Brockwell are floral designers from Richmond who are entertaining, creative and informative. The theme of the convention, "Connections", was carried throughout the flower show, and the designs were spectacular. A significant benefit of my attending all of these events is the connections that I was able to make with members of other garden clubs. It was fun to share information about club and personal activities. I was proud of the accomplishments of our club. I hope that next year more of our members will attend these events.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARCH 1-31, 2017

Ann Lunson

BEG BAL MAR. 1, 2017	\$20,418.55
Total Receipt	3,285.00
Total Disbursements	<u>(828.31)</u>
CLOS BAL MAR. 31, 2017	\$22,875.24

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

My family and I are so grateful for the many expressions of sympathy we received from you at Charles' passing. Thank you for your cards, prayers, support and beautiful flower arrangements! Your special friendship and kindnesses helped us through a very difficult and sad time.

With love and appreciation ...
Charlotte Benjamin

SHOW

Anita Brown

Getting Credit for your Designs

Thank you for your many exciting and creative designs you have submitted this year. As you know, our current National Garden Club Handbook promotes a number of creative designs, and the Show Committee has specified a number of them over the current year. Thank you again for your interest and participation. Last month, when I went to collect the name cards of those submitting designs, I noticed that two cards were missing. Unfortunately, because I was judging I had not looked at who was placing their arrangements on the table nor did I look at the names, and this means that one or possibly two members did not receive credit for their designs.

This notice is to ask you to please remember to leave your name cards on the design table so they can be collected by a member of the Show Committee (after all judging has taken place) and you can receive credit. The cards are usually collected after the business meetings and programs are over.

I usually walk with the judge and place her comments on a separate card. It is fine for you to take this card, but even if she writes

comments on your name card, please review and leave the card on the table.

On another note, our new NGC Handbook is available, but I understand there is a problem with the binder. I have not received my copy as yet, but learned this tidbit of news from other judges. I also learned that no changes would be made to the Handbook (except for typos) for two years.

BOARD MEETING

Barry Wood is hosting the Board Meeting on **May 4, 2017**.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Margi Melnick

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2017-18:

Kate Abrahams, President

Dianne Simmons, Vice President and
Membership Chair

Jenny Sullivan, Secretary

Jo Ella Samp, Treasurer

They will be sworn into their offices at the May general meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Kate Abrahams

Congratulations to new grandmother Connie Richards! Her adorable granddaughter Elliott Taite Audrain was born January 19th.

Our newest member, Marion Hart, is a friend and neighbor to many in the club. Margy Shultz especially has encouraged Marion to join. Originally from Troy, New York, Marion eventually settled in Virginia about 20 years ago. Although she does not have a home garden, she enjoys the club programs immensely and the learning she acquires by attending them. She hopes to improve her floral design and gardening knowledge.

Joyce Fall, friend of Lynda Martin, will be inducted as a new member in May. Look for more details about Joyce in the May Gardenzette."

New member applications are always welcome. The May general meeting is another opportunity to introduce friends and family to RSGC, dazzling them with the Ways and Means plant sale, great program, horticulture and floral designs.

GARDEN THERAPY

Mary Kudless

The three and four year olds at Glebe Elementary welcomed us back for our April 5 program devoted to the topic of Spring and the power of seeds, bulbs and flowers.



Margi Melnick, taking the lead on the full program, opened our visit with her wonderful autoharp and a song about spring gardens, the rows of seeds and plants and the importance of the rain. The children joined in the song readily.



Susan Scotti read a lovely book about a baby bear leaving Winter's hibernation and

discovering the magical colors and smells of Spring. She also brought beautiful plants to demonstrate the outcome of bulbs with hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils. The children took in the fragrance of the flowers and Susan left the lovely blooms and plants behind for the children and teacher to enjoy in the days ahead.

The children went on to plant white and purple pansy plants in their own pots, manipulating the plants and handling the dirt. They further decorated their plants with stickers and were very excited about their results. We went on to celebrate Spring, snacking on "pansy cookies" that Mary Kudless made.

We were thrilled to have our new member, Mary Beth Scaggs, assisting in the whole program. She is a high school substitute teacher in Loudoun County and she jumped right in and really engaged the children. This year's class is very young and it really takes 4 members to keep it all on track! The teacher, Jeanne Terrill loves our work and says that it has really benefitted her special need students.

We will be back to wrap up our year on June 14.

WAYS AND MEANS

Sherry Foster

The next opportunity to buy some treasures at the Ways & Means table will be at the May 8 RSGC meeting. At the May meeting we'd like to see members bring in plants from their own gardens. It would be great if everyone could bring just one plant to donate to the Way & Means table. It's also a great way to share our beautiful gardens with our fellow RSGCers!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Vicky Schoenberger

Our committee met with the 2nd graders at Tuckahoe School on Tuesday, April 4. All the children were excited about our upcoming project, asking questions, making comments

etc. They were attentive as I read Dr. Seuss' book, "Oh Say Can you Seed," and enjoyed seeing the seed samples we passed around.



Our project was to make seed heads. We started by filling mini stocking bags with soil, and adding grass seeds, which were then tied and placed in small cups with a small amount of water. Also Ann Duffey passed around a seed head she had started the week before and the grass seeds had sprouted! "Cool" said several children, but one of the little boys had a plan: "I am going to give my seed head a Mohawk cut."

AWARDS

Thea McGinnis

Rock Spring Garden Club received several awards over the past month! Awards are a tangible recognition of the work and efforts of all our club members throughout the year. In addition to certificates, we have received \$90 in monetary awards. I am so proud of this club! Thank you all.

VFGC's Piedmont District:

Blue Ribbon Club Newsletter, Joan Hession, Editor plus \$20

Blue Ribbon Club Yearbook PLUS top award - Orange Rosette, Julie Wadsworth, Editor plus \$20

Blue Ribbon That's Life Flower Show Schedule - Charlotte Benjamin, Chair, Thea McGinnis, Schedule

Our Club Yearbook competed at the VFGC state level and I will keep you posted of any further recognition.



NCAGC District III:

Citation for Outstanding Garden Club Achievement (60 or more members)
 Yearbook Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Club Yearbook (70-99 members) Julie Wadsworth, editor
 Publication Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Club Newsletter (70-99 members) Joan Hession, editor

NCAGC (State Awards):

Citations - For our financial contributions to:
 The Rae Kimmel Scholarship
 Fern Valley
 Nature Conservancy
 Community Garden
 Rain Gardens at US National Arboretum

Competitive Awards:

Rita Butterworth Award (For Educational Exhibits in flower show) Charlotte Benjamin, Chair, plus \$50
 Standard Flower Show Citation for That's Life - Charlotte Benjamin, Chair
 Citation for Outstanding Garden Club Achievement (60 or more members)
 Yearbook Certificate of Merit, Julie Wadsworth, Editor
 Outstanding Electronic District Newsletter, Joan Hession, Editor

Presidential Citation for Outstanding Garden Related Activities - NCAGC Blog Chair - Thea McGinnis
 Arbor House Service Certificate
 Education Service Certificate
 Standard Flower Show and Rosette - That's Life, Charlotte Benjamin, Chair
 Electronic Media Award - Website and Facebook - Thea McGinnis, Chair

If any of our awards compete at the Region of National level, I will keep you posted.

Thank you and congratulations to our Club!!!

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS NEWS

Thea McGinnis

RSGC member Mary Cottrell, was elected District III Director, for the next two years, succeeding the current director, Jane Smith of Manassas Garden Club. Mary served as District III Director previously, and brings her experience and wisdom to this position. Thea McGinnis will step down as District III Assistant Director, having served four years. Ann Carter from Five Hills Garden Club was elected to fill her spot.

Robin Hammer has been elected NCAGC President for the next two years. Robin succeeds President Jo Sellers. Robin belongs to Kenwood Garden Club in Chevy Chase, MD and is excited about coming to visit Rock Spring Garden Club. 1st Vice President elect is Cherie Tripp, a member of Ayr Hill Garden Club.

Be sure to check the NCAGC Blogspot. RSGC member Thea McGinnis will continue to serve as the blog administrator and several members of RSGC are also contributors to our blog. This past year, the blog has reached over 5000 views per month. Thea was recently recognized by President Jo Sellers for her service to the blog. Please stop by for a good read. <http://ncagardenclubs.blogspot.com>

HORTICULTURE

Arlene Kigin



WHY YOU SHOULDN'T PLANT A BRADFORD PEAR

Mary Jo DiLonardo

March 10, 2017 mother nature network

One of the most lovely heralds of spring are the cottony white blooms of the Bradford pear trees. In full splendor on a mature tree, they've been likened to white clouds. They certainly make a showy impression.

But there's a much bigger story behind Callery pear trees or *Pyrus calleryana*. Native to Korea and China, Callery pears were imported to the U.S. several times. Originally, it was to help with issues facing the common pear, but then the tree was embraced as a popular ornamental, especially the Bradford cultivar. When the tree was introduced in 1960, people loved it. "Few trees possess every desired attribute, but the Bradford ornamental pear comes unusually close to the ideal," a New York Times reporter gushed. Callery pears now are found throughout the Eastern U.S. from New Jersey to Illinois and south to Texas.

Although the flowers are pretty, they are relatively short-lived ... as are the trees. They tend to have a weak branching structure, which means they split and break easily, especially in strong winds and storms. When they come crashing down, they can do a lot of damage. The trees are also incredibly invasive, forming dense thickets that crowd out other plants, including any native species that can't compete

for soil, water and space or tolerate the shade. The tree's seeds can be spread by birds and possibly even small mammals, causing Bradfords to pop up in places they were never intended to be.

According to the University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Science: If lawn mowers or weed eaters damage the grafted crown, the fertile rootstock can produce suckers that can grow, dominate and produce fertile fruit. Trees that are cut and removed due to storm damage can sometimes regrow from the stump. The resulting tree from the rootstock can also produce fertile fruit. These and other factors may have contributed to the trees seeding out into natural areas and becoming an invasive problem.

A smellier issue

But the invasive, fragile plants have even one more unpleasant quality: They stink. The smell of the trees in full flowering mode has often been compared to rotting fish.

If you already have a Bradford pear, careful pruning won't help the smell, but it should help your tree grow stronger and live longer. If you've only been eyeing the pretty blooms and have yet to plant a Bradford, the National Park Service (NPS) has some strong advice: "Do not plant Callery pear or any cultivars including the well-known Bradford pear."

NPS suggests hardier, non-invasive substitutes such as common serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), cockspur hawthorne (*Crataegus crus-galli*), green hawthorne (*C. viridis*) and the native sweet crabapple (*Malus coronaria*). Or ask for suggestions at your local extension service or garden center.

LIAISON

Anne Collins

NCAGC/VFGC

Looking ahead

NCAGC

NCAGC Annual Conference

6/9—10 – Kenwood Country, River Road,
Bethesda, MDS

See
<http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/NCAGCConference2017.pdf> for more information
 Also Programs coming up: see:
<http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/> for more information

VFGC

5/16-21 NGC Annual Convention, Richmond, VA

See:
http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org/VFGC/NGC_Convention.html for more information

PROGRAMS/LECTURES/EVENTS

US BOTANICAL GARDENS

Multiple programs throughout the month
 See: <https://www.usbg.gov/programs-and-events> for more information

MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

Multiple programs at all 3 stores. See:
<https://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/events/>
 For more information

HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Multiple programs throughout the month.
 See for more information
<http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/calendar>

GREEN SPRINGS GARDEN PARK

Looking ahead- Adult Programs- See for more information-
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ed-adult.htm> for more information

LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDENS

April 25-9-12 Seeing the Garden like a honey bee
<http://www.lewisginter.org/event/themedwalkhoneybeeapril/>
 April 27-9-12 Spring Container Gardening
<http://www.lewisginter.org/event/container-garden-workshop/>

April 25- 6:30pm and May 9-8:30pm Basic Floral Design Part 2
<http://www.lewisginter.org/event/basic-floral-design-part-2/>
 April 26-9am and May 10-12pm Advanced Perennials
<http://www.lewisginter.org/event/advancedperennials/>
 Long term calendar
<http://www.lewisginter.org/visit/events/calendar/>
 See: <http://www.lewisginter.org/learn/adult-classes/current-class-schedule/> for more information

STATE ARBORETUM OF VIRGINIA- BLANDY FARM

April 20-7-8:30pm. Planting in a Post-Wild World Blandy Library Thomas Rainer, Author & Landscape Designer Learn how to invite nature back into your landscape so it becomes robust and diverse and functions more like nature. A practical guide for creating plantings that reflect the natural environment yet thrive in our built world.
<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/m3fBd5HR09VYSz68>

MEADOWLARK BOTANICAL GARDENS

April 22- 10:30-11:30
 Free tour of the gardens focusing on spring bulbs

BULL RUN REGIONAL PARK

April 9 and 16 -10:00-11:30
 Power of flowers nature hike-explore the fascinating secrets of spring flowers
 See:
https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/the-power-of-flowers-nature-hike/877 for more information

LUBBER RUN COMMUNITY CENTER

April 28- 8:30-4PM Trillium Trek
 Travel to Linden, VA to see the largest Great White Trillium display in the world and many Other rare wildflowers and trees. Call 703 228 6535 for more info

See for registration-

<https://web1.vermontsystems.com/wbwsc/va/arlintonwt.wsc/search.html?module=ar&search=yes&primarycode=632947>

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - ARLINGTON

This site has many great resources.

<http://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden.html>Beverly

MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Multiple programs at various locations throughout the month

See: <https://mgmv.org/2017/03/14/april-public-education-events-2/>

[https://mgmv.org/2017/03/21/spring-is-here-for more information](https://mgmv.org/2017/03/21/spring-is-here-for-more-information)

LONG BRANCH NATURE CENTER

April 29 -1-4 Native Plant sale

Order ahead

<https://parks.arlingtonva.us/2017/03/2017-spring-native-plant-sale/>

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

April 14 -8:30am-10. Free - Early Bloomers:

Spring Flowering Plants Tour

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-bloomers-spring-flowering-plants-at-arlington-national-cemetery-tickets-33123513320>

April 28 -9am-11- Arbor Day Memorial walking tour

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arbor-day-memorial-arboretum-walking-tour-at-arlington-national-cemetery-tickets-33123762064>

WASHINGTON DAFFODIL SOCIETY

April 16-9am-5 Daffodil Show

American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

FLOWER SHOW

April 22 -Tanta Cove GC 'A Buzz In The Garden'

A Standard Flower Show

St Johns Episcopal Church, 9801 Livingston Rd.

Fort Washington MD 20744. Free and open to public. 1-4 pm

NCAGC BEVERLY HILLS GARDEN CLUB

April 20 Beverly Hills Garden Club, 5000

Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Small standard flower show. Open 1:30-3:00 pm

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

June 4&5-Hammond -Harwood House,

Annapolis. 12-5 each day

See:

<http://hammondharwoodhouse.org/secret-garden-tour/> for more information

Spring is Coming, So... Why Not Plan A Little "Fun with Friends"??

Save the Date: June 8, 2017 for a Joyful Day Trip

Some of you may have heard about how much fun your fellow members had at the District III December 7th Tour of Maymont and Ginter Gardens. The fellowship among other District III and others was wonderful and the food was beyond imagination!

Let's plan now. Ask a few of your friends if they'd like to go on this day bus trip to two of the most beautiful gardens in PA: The **Chanticleer** and the **Barnes**!!

Car pool to the pickup point together, enjoys the ride, the scenery along the way, and the actual tours of these beautiful gardens. A brunch greets you soon after boarding the luxurious bus, a picnic lunch will be provided at the Barnes, and appetizers and other goodies will make the ride back to Virginia, one you'll remember for months to come?

Check out a little of the **history** and various types of gardens that you'll see in the pages that follow!

Date: **June 8th, 2017**

Depart: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge RD, Vienna, VA 22181 at: 6:30 a.m.

Bring: Your camera & dress for the weather; wear **sturdy walking shoes** & perhaps -- a **light jacket** (for rain or weather)

- **10 AM tour of Barnes Arboretum in Merion, Pennsylvania**
- Lunch will be enjoyed on the **Barnes** picnic grounds (a fun time to visit)
- **1:30 PM** tour of the **Chanticleer Home and Gardens** in Wayne, Pennsylvania

Questions: Nancy Moats, 703.434.1147, smoats5555@aol.com,

Cost per person: \$125.00

Send your check to: Jane Razeghi, Treasurer, District III
15174 Stillfield Place
Centreville, VA 20120
jrazeghi@gmu.edu

Make check out to: **District III**

In case of changes, please include: **Your email:** _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Last Day to sign up is May 8

PHOTO GALLERY

Our March speaker, Babs McClendon, demonstrated techniques for creative dining room arrangement. She shared her technique to display roses: remove outer petals and open the remaining petals.



BEFORE



AFTER

HORTICULTURE March meeting



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.



FLORAL DESIGNS March meeting – Creative Tubular Design

Blue Ribbon: Sheila Moore

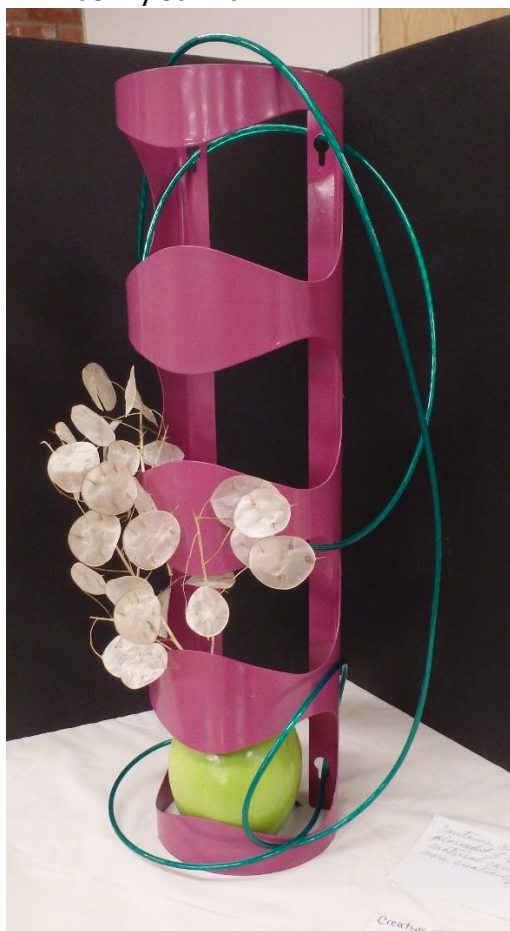
Red Ribbon: Sheila Moore





Yellow Ribbon:
Susan Scotti

White Ribbon:
Jenny Sullivan



Lynda Martin



Joan Hession



Mary Beth Scaggs

