



The Gardenzette

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

Volume 53, Number 5

January 2015

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BOARD MEETING

February 5, 2015

The meeting will be held at the home of ad, at 10:00 am.

Directions: From Lee Highway and N. Glebe Road, go north on N. Glebe Road. Turn right on N. Dittmar Road. House is on the left. Email Kate if you will NOT be attending the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2015

10:00AM

PROGRAM

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

Sheila Gallagher

Registered Horticultural Therapist
Certified Professional Horticulturist
Master Gardener

Sheila Gallagher has presented programs at conferences worldwide. She practices at Melwood, which serves individuals of differing abilities through unique opportunities to work and play in the community.

She will talk about the her training as horticultural therapist, the people she serves, and volunteer activities available to us in the local area. Her slide presentation will be followed by a delightful hands-on activity. Based on our conversations, I know Sheila will provide an interesting and informative program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow.
---Mother Goose

Stay warm! Enjoy the beauty of the snow and be careful of the ice! I think this is a good to quiet down and feed the birds, read about flowers and gardens, and know that within a couple of months we will be out in the gardens once again. In the meantime, our Club has many good things planned for the coming months.

Ann Collins and Sharon DeAngelis have quite a few ideas about how to make our Holiday Design Event even better—and they are looking forward to chairing this outstanding project again. I love it! The event is fun, the food and drink is delicious, lots of gorgeous arrangements and raffle items are there to enjoy. Most of all, we learn from our outstanding speakers about making beautiful arrangements. I know people look forward to coming.

A new committee is forming to plan for our standard flower show. No date has been set but we're excited about possibilities. More about that at our meeting. Are you interested? Come to a meeting of this committee and find out what you'd like to do.

Barry Wood has done so much in the Rock Spring Park, with your help and the missionaries' assistance. But there are many who don't really know much about this long-standing project. When the weather turns warm and pleasant, Barry has agreed to walk us through the Park—explaining the plan and what is being done. We should be proud of the park and enjoy it. More on that later.

All the Committees are functioning well even through the winter months. (Did I hear it right? One of the members of the Garden Therapy committee, which works with developmentally delayed children, will come to the Garden Therapy meeting dressed as a Bear!—Yes!—to exemplify hibernation! Chair Mary Cottrell is so full of exciting ideas!).

In other words, with our excellent programs and projects, we have a lot to look forward to in the RSGC. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

JANUARY DESIGN-OF-THE-MONTH

Traditional Triangular Design

Our flower design this month is one of the most basic of floral traditional designs and provides an effective learning experience about American Mass Design.

As stated in our yearbook, this is to be an ALL GREEN design emphasizing texture of material. For added interest, you may incorporate pods, bark, berries, etc.

“Mass Design is primarily symmetrical, in the form of the sphere, oval or pyramid (*triangle*), and is frequently referred to as a Traditional Geometric Mass Design.”

A triangle design has “Large quantities of plant material in a closed silhouette, with fully developed focal area, yet defined linear pattern.” See pages 182-183 in the *NGC Handbook*. A symmetrical design presents equal or similar visual weight on both sides of an imaginary line in the center of the triangle.

The internet provides abundant information on triangular arrangements if

you wish to view some designs before starting one of your own.

HOLIDAY DESIGN EVENT

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the HDE a success and a success it was! Our net profit was \$5,167.38 which means we can again send 4 students to the outdoor lab camp this summer. We are truly grateful to all. We are going to chair the event again this year and hope to improve our profits as we learn what worked and what didn't.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RSGC balance as of December 1, 2014
\$22,012.26

December expenses - \$1,882.36

December income +\$ 190.00

RSGC balance as of December 31, 2014
\$20,319.90

WAYS AND MEANS

The New Year brings anticipation of what lies ahead for the RSGC. You are in control of what lies ahead for Ways and Means. We ended 2014 with pretty much a "clean-out" of donated inventory. That is both good and bad news. Good news is obvious, your donations were interesting and re-useable. The bad news is also obvious - without your continued support the tables will be barren. Please consider donating items to help support our club.

Tools of the Trade

If you have particular items that you would like to see at Tools of the Trade please email

me with your requests. I am happy to try to find the product and have it available for you.

Member Donations

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.

If you have any questions, please call me



GARDEN THERAPY

On a very cold morning, the eleven preschoolers at Glebe Elementary learned about feeding birds in the winter and then made their own bird feeders. Using several different picture books, the children were shown winter scenes with a variety of birds with specific focus on the Virginia state bird, the cardinal.

Each child was given a pinecone, tubs of Crisco and plastic utensils. Using their developing fine motor skills, the children dabbed the Crisco into nooks and crannies

of the pinecone and were then allowed to "shake, shake, shake" it in a box loaded with bird seeds. A biodegradable twine tie was fastened on the top of the pine cone for easy hanging once they got it home. The children were told if they did not have a tree or bush for hanging the treat, they could even hang it on a railing or light pole. The hungry birds will find the seeds!

The children were very impressed with a huge pinecone measuring approximately 14 inches! This one was made into a bird feeder for the outdoor area at the school where the children normally play on nice days. They will be able to see how the seeds diminish over time indicating the birds have found their tasty treats.

Mary Nell Bryant, Mary Cottrell, and I certainly enjoyed our time with these wonderful children, teachers, and assistants. Their fresh faces, attitudes, and enthusiasm helped prepare us for a blessed holiday season. And thanks to Renee Bayes for providing all the wonderful North Carolina pinecones!

UPCOMING PROGRAM SWITCH

Our speaker for the February program will not be able to present at that time, but fortunately, David Roos, who is scheduled for April, was able to switch dates with her. So you can find out some "Tips and Tricks for Garden Maintenance" in February and then learn about "Container Gardening" in April.

HORTICULTURE

Magnolias – Native and Asian

Among everybody's favorite trees are the magnolias. Southern magnolias can be magnificent specimens in the landscape,

and the smaller, spring flowering deciduous magnolias add a pinkish purple to the spring garden that beautifully sets off the preponderance of yellow and white flowers. The magnolia is yet one more example of a species native to both East Asia and North America. Fossilized remains of magnolias have shown them to be one of the oldest surviving flowering plants. Because they evolved before bees and wasps existed, they rely on beetles as their pollinators. An easy way to tell the native from the Asian species is to remember that most evergreen magnolias in commerce are native, while most deciduous magnolias are Asian.

Asian magnolias are spring bloomers. Flowers appear on bare stems before the leaves and range in color from white to various shades of pink and purple, with a few yellows. The earliest and most frost resistant are the star magnolias, named for their narrow petals that look a bit like a star. The flowers are mostly white, but there are a few beautiful pinks available, such as the 'Leonard Messel' magnolia, pictured.



The other popular type of magnolia is called the saucer magnolia, also named for its leaves. The National Arboretum introduced the "Little Girl" series of saucer magnolias in the mid-50's. These hybrids bloom three to four weeks later than most, avoiding ruin from late spring frosts. They range in size from 8 to 15 feet, depending on the cultivar. "Jane" (pictured) is one of

the best all round saucer magnolias ever introduced and is readily available at most nurseries.



Southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) are stunning trees that create a focal point wherever they are planted. Porcelain white, lemon-scented flowers bloom sporadically throughout the summer. They can vary from pyramidal to almost columnar and grow from 20 feet to over 50 feet, so it is a good idea to do a little research before you purchase one. The most compact varieties are “Little Gem” (pictured) and “Teddy Bear”; both are a good size for a small garden and are beautiful espaliered against a wall.



The Sweet Bay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is a beautiful native that has become deservedly popular in recent years. Like the southern magnolia, it flowers in summer with creamy flowers that are slightly lemon scented. Its silvery backed leaves will catch the sun in a breeze, sparkling like diamonds. Reaching about 20 feet high, the Sweet Bay magnolia

(pictured) can be grown as a single or multi-stem tree. Unlike the southern magnolia, it is deciduous north of the Gulf Coast, so it will not suffer the same winter damage that can mar the beauty of exposed southern magnolias.



LIAISON REPORT

NCAGC Courses

Monday, March 16 and Tuesday March 17 Gardening Study School, Course II, Series IX

Merrifield Garden Center (Fair Oaks)
This course will cover plant diseases and garden pests, container gardening, techniques for growing vegetables, how new plants are developed and evaluated, and techniques for growing lawns and/or lawn alternatives. The registration form will soon be available on the NCA website at www.ncagardenclubs.org and is also being sent as a separate attachment. For questions, contact Joyce Skoglund at 703-591-4017 or at jeskog612@gmail.com.

Monday, March 24 and Tuesday March 24

Environmental Studies School, Course 4

Topic: The Water

Details and registration will soon be available at www.ncagardenclubs.org. If you need to refresh or you need Course 4, this will be your last opportunity for another year or two in our state. For questions, contact Lydia Barbour at lydiabarbour@hotmail.com.

Other Upcoming 2015 Activities

Sundays, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in January, February, and March

Green Springs Gardens is hosting its annual Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series. This is a series of presentations by authors, garden designers, scientists, and other garden enthusiasts on the cutting edge of horticulture. After the lectures, meet the speakers and enjoy refreshments. Cost: \$10.00 for Fairfax County residents, \$12.00 non-residents.

For more information and to register, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm and click on Winter Lecture Series or call 703-642-5173.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Winter Tree ID, Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington

Families, ages 10 to adult. Learning to identify trees during winter is one of the more challenging aspects of the great outdoors. Come discover some tricks of the trade! For more information: [703-228-6535](tel:703-228-6535). \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622955-X.

Monday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) Piedmont District Meeting

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond
—Details to come.

Friday, March 20, 10:00 a.m. NCA District III Awards/Election/Installation Meeting, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna—Save the date, details coming regarding speaker.

Wednesday, March 25, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Potomac Herb Society Chef Maro Nalabandian in the Multi-purpose Room, Agricultural History Farm Park 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood MD.

Friday and Saturday, April 24 -25 Potomac Herb Society's Annual Plant Sale

National Arboretum, Washington DC
- Held in conjunction with Friends of the National Arboretum Garden Fair. This plant sale is a good source for finding unusual herbs. For more information, go to <http://www.fona.org>.

Saturday, June 13 District III Garden Tour and Faire fundraiser to help restore the gazebo at Green Spring Gardens. This will include a tour of 5 gardens, a flower show at the Freeman Store on the Vienna Town Green, and garden related educational and vendor booths co-sponsored by the Town of Vienna. District III garden clubs are invited to have a booth free of charge to exhibit educational information and/or sell club merchandise. For more information, contact Nancy Moats at smoats5555@aol.com.



HOLIDAYTEA PHOTOGRAPHS





