



The Gardenzette

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

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Margi Melnick

VICE-PRESIDENT

Anne Collins

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TREASURER

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GARDENZETTE EDITOR

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAM	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
TREASURER'S REPORT	3
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	3
MEMBERSHIP	5
RECIPE	5
CONSERVATION	6
TUCKAHOE H&G TOUR	6
NATIVE PLANTS	7
LIAISON REPORT	7
PHOTOS, FLOWER SHOW	10

MAY PROGRAM

LADEW GARDENS

May 21, 2015

7:30a.m. departure from parking lot

We are looking forward to our field trip to Ladew Gardens on May 21. I've heard so many wonderful things about it, so I recommend that even if you can't make the trip with the club, you should try to visit this lovely estate. We do have two spots left at this point. The membership cost is \$40 and guests may attend for \$65.

Our program committee for next year has begun planning for speakers and will have the information ready for the next yearbook. Several people have indicated interest in landscape/garden planning, and we also would like to find someone for a flower arranging demonstration. If you know of any good speakers with expertise in this area, please forward the information to Dianne Simmons.

Connie Richards

JUNE BOARD MEETING
at the home of Mildred Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Margi Melnick

Happy Spring!

This has been a busy spring for the federated garden clubs with new officers being installed and a Virginia Federated Garden Club Convention to attend. It has also been an important month for us, as Barry Wood and his committee complete plans for the nominated gardens and judges, and the presentation of awardees at our June meeting. It is a very big job for Barry and his committee, but all the pieces are in place and I think we will be pleased with the results. This project inspires our neighbors to make their properties attractive.



Transitions began with the installation of Jo Sellers as the new President of the National Capitol Area Garden Clubs, following David Healy's very active term. Ann Lunson and I represented our club at Jo's installation, held at the Springfield Country Club on April 24. Jo's enthusiasm for the NCAGC's is

contagious, and we wish her well. She has honored us by agreeing to come to our June meeting and install our new officers.

On June 26, I drove to Williamsburg to attend the Virginia Federated Garden Clubs annual convention. Held at the Doubletree, the convention scheduled non-stop meetings, meals, speakers and a lovely garden tour which I enjoyed on Sunday afternoon. Visiting the President of William and Mary's home and garden was especially moving, as I went to school there. Our Vice President, Anne Collins, joined me Sunday evening, and we sat with the Piedmont members and met gardeners from all over the state.



The installation of new officers included the new Piedmont President, Melissa Midamiano. The installation was impressive and was led by the National Garden Club President, Linda Nelson. Melissa had asked our club to provide a chairperson for Garden Therapy,

Piedmont District, and Kate Abrahams has volunteered for that post. Thank you, Kate!

The most exciting part of the convention was the awards ceremony on Tuesday, and our club received four awards in the large club category. Susan Scotti's Youth Activities and Carol Cochran's Gardenzette received blue ribbons. Thea McGinnis's website received a red ribbon (second place) and Barry Wood's Civic Development received honorable mention. This is a great honor to be recognized by the state. Bravo to our winners.

We have a field trip to look forward to this month! Many thanks to Connie Richards who has worked so hard making arrangements. I hope to see you on the 21st for a fun day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sherry Foster

Budget balance as of April 1, 2015	\$22,130.98
Income	+\$1,655.60
Expenses	-\$1,742.13
Budget balance as of April 30, 2015	\$22,044.45

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Susan Scotti

Friday, May 8 was our annual Mother's Day project of making flower arrangements with the 5 classes of second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary School. It was a beautiful sunny morning, perfect for being in the courtyard to sort and trim the generous amount of greens contributed by members from their (or their neighbor's) yards. Also, it was a great opportunity to talk as we enjoyed an hour of working together.

Then at 10:30 there was the flurry of getting to the classrooms with flowers, containers and bags of greens. The oasis had been soaked in the rooms overnight by the teachers. The children were excited and waiting with scissors and newspaper covered desks when we arrived. After instructions and a demo, oasis filled containers and greens were handed out and they quickly began placing the greens. Later, three carnations and a bit of baby's breath were given to complete their unique arrangements. They have definite ideas about how they want their arrangements to look, sometimes taking a suggestion, other times proceeding with their ideas. One boy placed a piece of boxwood exposing more stem than leaves, but when shown how to snap it off, he

placed the bare stem itself in the arrangement. There is at least one child every year that adds the carnation stems along with the cut off flower, and this year was no exception. They are uninhibited and have lots of imagination.

Several comments of "this is fun" were heard, although one child said she wasn't interested in making an arrangement. After making one anyway, she ended up pleased and agreed it was pretty. One volunteer received a classroom cheer when she brought in a



bag of more greens to add to their diminishing supply. Two children found an inch worm and two spiders on the greens they were working with. The volunteer offered to take them outside with her gloved hand, but a girl carefully picked them up with her bare hands and

took them out to place in the school garden.

There was a happy atmosphere throughout the morning as we had fun with a project that entertains as well as teaches. It's also rewarding that the school and the teachers express their appreciation. I would like to express my appreciation to all who volunteered to make this day of working with 123 students a success. Most of them are experienced hands at this project, generously volunteering every year.

First, the committee members able to come; Ann Duffey, Helen McMahon,



Sharon Seims, Lynda Martin, Joan Asboth, and Carolyn Barone.

Other club members were Jody



Goulden, Renee Bayes, Anne Lange, Louise Rhoads, Felicia Schwenk, Kate Abrahams, Connie Richards, and Margie Melnick.

Some who couldn't be with us but sent greens; Margaret Eubank, Mary Cottrell, Rebecca Salzinger, Georga Shaw, Ann Marie Fay, and Ann Collins.

A special thank you to Sheila Moore for another year of ordering the flowers and supplies.

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Collins

As we close this calendar year I am glad to announce another new RSGC member. Jenny Sullivan will be inducted at our June meeting, since we aren't having a meeting in May because of the

field trip. She was sponsored by Joan Asboth and Diane Pollack.

Please recommend RSGC to your friends/ neighbors. We have 4 more sustaining members than we had last year and we need to refill our ranks. Margi and I met club members from small clubs (20 active members) to very large clubs (over 100 active members) at the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs annual convention last month. We may be a relatively large club in Northern Virginia, but outside our bubble, we are just a medium/large sized club.

RECIPE BY REQUEST

provided by Ann Kelleran

Mushroom and Cheese Strata

-unsalted butter for baking dish

-Mushroom mixture:

3 tbs unsalted butter

1 small onion, chopped

10 oz mushrooms, preferably cremini, cleaned, trimmed & coarsely chopped

1/4 c. finely chopped fresh parsley

1/2 tsp dried rosemary

salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Bread pudding:

2 tbs unsalted butter, softened

9 slices egg bread (challah), crusts removed

3/4 lb Gruyere cheese, coarsely shredded

5 large eggs

2 tsp Dijon mustard

1/4 tsp paprika
 1/2 tsp salt, or to taste
 1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper, or to taste
 1/4 tsp hot pepper sauce, such as Tabasco (optional)
 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 1 2/3 c. milk
 2/3 c. light table cream

Butter a 15-inch oval baking dish (21/2 inches deep with about 10-cup capacity or a similar pan

Mushroom mixture:

Melt the 3 tbs in a skillet; stir in chopped onion. Cook over moderate heat for 2 minutes. Stir in the mushrooms, parsley & rosemary; cook for 2 - 3 minutes, stirring frequently until mushrooms are lightly cooked. Put mushroom mixture in a heatproof bowl; season with salt & pepper; cool completely.

Bread pudding

Spread a thin film of butter on one side of each slice of bread. Tear the bread into rough, irregular pieces. Scatter 1/2 the bread on the bottom of the prepared baking dish and top with 1/2 of the cheese. Spoon over the cooled mushroom mixture; top with remaining pieces of bread and the remaining cheese.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, mustard, paprika, salt, pepper,

hot pepper sauce (if using), Worcestershire sauce, milk and cream. Slowly pour the mixture over the bread-mushroom-cheese assembly. Cover the casserole with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 6 - 8 hours.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Remove & discard the plastic wrap. Place the casserole on a sturdy baking sheet. Bake for 50 - 60 minutes, until puffy, completely set and golden on top.

12 servings as a side dish

CONSERVATION

Jane Bartlett

This is the last opportunity to recycle your old cell phones, eye glasses and print ink cartridges.

Please place them in the red basket in the back of the room. We can start again in September. Thank you for your contributions to this effort.

15th ANNUAL TUCKAHOE HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

Helen McMahon

Saturday, May 16, 12noon-5 p.m.

The Rock Spring Garden Club has been invited once again to create floral arrangements for the Tour. There will be about 8 homes and 3 gardens. Tickets in advance are \$25; day of tour \$30. The

Club will receive some complimentary tickets for members to be picked up the day of the tour at Tuckahoe Elementary School. The Club's Invitational Committee, along with other Club members, will be creating the arrangements. This annual tour supports the Tuckahoe Discovery Schoolyard which includes 10 outdoor classrooms used for outdoor education encouraging creative and innovative approaches to learning. For more information, contact Helen McMahon,

NATIVE PLANTS & LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS

excerpted from *My Garden Guide* article by *Heleigh Bostwick* and submitted by *Mary Cottrell*

Many homeowners hire a landscape designer or contractor. You probably know someone who has or you might even be thinking of hiring one yourself. The problem is, many landscape contractors and even landscape designers use the same plant palette over and over again – and it probably isn't one that includes native plant species. Please note, I am not bashing landscape contractors or ornamental species (which also have their place in the garden). Rather, it's important to educate everyone about the importance of using native plant material.

One way to solve this problem is to take charge of your landscape. Instead of letting the contractor or designer decide which plants to use, make sure you have plenty of input--whether it's asking whether a plant is native or exotic and opting for the native plant, or researching and compiling your own list of native plants for the landscape designer or contractor to use (and find!).

If you opt for garden composed entirely of native species, be prepared for a protest or two from the contractor who will tell you that nurseries don't carry blueflag iris or , northern bayberry, or redbud. It may be true that the nursery the contractor obtains plant material from doesn't carry native plants, but there are nurseries that do. And whether you use a landscape contractor or not, in most cases you'll still need to play detective and do much of the legwork yourself.

LIAISON REPORT

Felicia Schwenk

NCAG & NGC Meetings/Events

Saturday, June 13

NCA District III Garden Tour and Faire in collaboration with Town of Vienna. For program description, schedule of events, and online ticket purchasing

(small credit card fee), visit <http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2544>. You can arrange for ticket purchase by check or cash by contacting me at.

Friday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.

District III Meeting, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA.

All club members are invited to attend. Focus will be on the new District III president and other officers. Free.

**Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)
Walking Tours**

Friday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Spring Blooming Plants - ANC's horticulturist Kelly Wilson leads the tour and highlights some of the colorful ornamental plants and shrubs and teaches you about plant material to use in your own landscapes.

Friday, June 5, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Memorial Arboretum. - ANC horticulture division chief and Master Arborist Steve Van Hoven leads the tour of the cemetery's Memorial Arboretum. You'll gain insight into the urban forestry program, turf and ground maintenance, and techniques to create breathtaking landscapes and gardens.

Tours are free, but a reservation is

required. For more details, and to register, visit

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore-the-Cemetery/Memorial-Arboretum-and-Horticulture/Tours>

Events at U.S. National Arboretum (U.S.N.A)

Located at 3501 New York Ave., N.E. Washington, D.C., visit

www.usna.usda.gov to check out U.S.N.A. programs, including the following:

Friday, May 22, - Monday, June 1, Exhibit: Art Blooms: Satsuki Azalea Bonsai, National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

Don't miss these stunning bonsai, miniature in form, but covered with multicolored, full-sized flowers. Free.

Saturday, May 30, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Under the Arbor: Garden Classics- Lavender and Roses, National Herb Garden.

See the collection of 60 types of lavender and dozens of vintage rose varieties, and demonstrations of soap-making with both plants. Pick up information on creating soaps at home. Presented by the Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America. Free.

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Lawn Care Best Practices, Visitor Center, Informal indoor, outdoor, and hands-on learning activities provide you with practical ways to improve your lawn. Free, but registration preferred at www.usna.usda.gov.

Other Events/Tours/Plant Sales

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Spring Garden Day/The Big Plant Sale, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Includes more than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants.

Saturday, May 16, 12:00 p.m.-5:00p.m.

Tuckahoe Elementary School Home & Garden Tour

(See article in this *Gardenzette* by Helen McMahon for details.)

Saturday & Sunday, May 16-17,

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Beyond the Garden Gates Garden Tour, Downtown Frederick, MD.

This very popular tour includes whimsical, elegant, and innovative gardens, both private and public, as well as live plein air artists. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day of the tour. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 301-600-2844, or visit <http://www.celebratefrederick.com/events/garden-tour/>.

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Getaway to Private Gardens of Philadelphia - Join a motor coach trip from Greens Springs Gardens in Alexandria to the Philadelphia area to visit two spectacular private gardens and a final stop to a garden shop. Trip includes motor coach, garden tours, and lunch. Cancellation deadline: May 28. Fee: \$135 for Fairfax County residents, \$150 for non-residents. Code 290 292 7901. For more details of the gardens you will tour and to register, visit, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm>

FLOWER SHOW, NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Kate Abrahams

Here are some photos of arrangements made by embassies displayed in the cathedral during the Flower Mart:

