



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

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Connie Richards

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Anne Collins

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Kate Abrahams

TREASURER

Ann Lunson

GARDENZETTE

EDITOR

Joan Hession



General Meeting Floral Design

Leigh Kitcher

Thursday January 21, 2016 10:00 AM

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Leigh is a member of the Ayr Hill Garden Club and a former District III Director. She will demonstrate floral arranging with strategies focusing on skills required for the upcoming designs for the April flower show.



Leigh Kitcher with Jo Sellers,
NCAGC President, at District III
meeting June, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Richards

School is cool! Our budget committee had allocated funds for member education this summer but the board hadn't worked out the criteria for giving them out. A committee was formed and presented their plan at the January board meeting. It may need to be tweaked next year but the majority voted to accept it so we can move forward with its implementation. The reimbursements are for NGC schools: Gardening Study School, Flower Show School, Landscape Design School, and Environmental Study School. This will apply for any courses finished in 2015-2016.

I have attended two courses each of the Garden Study School and Flower Show School and thoroughly enjoyed all of them as well as feeling like I learned a great deal. The latest Flower Show School included much information that will help with the preparation for our flower show in April. Many topics were covered in the Garden Study classes but I think the one that will be of immediate help to me is "Pruning". I have some good handouts and will be happy to share with any other members as well as how it turns out when I actually do the pruning in the next month.

Course III of Flower Show School will be offered in the Richmond area from Feb. 29- Mar. 3. Course III of Landscape Design School will be offered in Hampton Roads from April 6-7. I know that these are inconvenient for us and will check to see when the next courses in our area will be held. However, anytime I have attended Flower Show School, there have been people from out of our area in attendance.

Our entire club can benefit when our members are more knowledgeable so think about taking advantage of this in the future.



TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 1-31, 2015

Ann Lunson

BEG BAL DECEMBER 1, 2015	\$23,114.52
Total Receipts	890.00
Total Disbursements	<u>(684.11)</u>
CLOSING BAL DEC. 31, 2015	\$23,320.41

BOARD MEETING

February 4

at the home of Susan Scotti

Please call Susan if you will not attend.

FLORAL DESIGN OF THE MONTH

Tubular Design

A Creative Design having a dominance of cylindrical components throughout. “Cylindrical” means “tubular” and both mean circular.

- 1- Design may consist of more than one unit.
- 2- Tube/s may be metal, cardboard, plastic, mesh, fabric, round plant stems.
- 3- Plant material and other (optional) components, imaginatively used, complete the design.

INVITATIONAL—HOLIDAY TEA

Kari Rush

Wasn't this year's Tea grand?! This year's 28 designs were so well done, interesting, and very creative. Our members truly considered the space and its décor in their design. As a long-time member I've seen how our membership has really improved as a whole when it comes to floral design.



Hopefully each of you learned something from looking at all of the designs. I certainly did. I'll “steal” Renée Bayes & Dorinda Burroughs' idea of using earrings as orchid clips. Also, greens that are very well conditioned don't need water for a design. This ensured hostess Pam Gibert's lovely jewelry box interior would not get wet—which would have been a disaster.



Host and homeowner Paul Gibert made RSGC history by being the first male member to create a design for our annual Tea! His large design in the master bath wowed all who saw it. It just goes to show that with a minimum of different elements, but each in pristine condition, combined with an eye for scale, proportion, rhythm, and daring to be bold, what a great results can be achieved!



The orange palette colors used in the living room designs were a brilliant idea, and totally unexpected. Orange is in the room but not a dominant color. And did you notice how Charlotte Benjamin's more contemporary design on the coffee table was so aptly integrated with

the more contemporary wrought iron candle holder, yet the surrounding furnishings are more of a traditional style. The design was stunning.



The front door of white painted wrought iron creates such a presence. But, how do you create a design that looks as though it “was meant to be” and a wreath was not just tacked up? Sheila Moore’s usage of white ice skates within her wreath created flow and unity while adding such interest. Such cleverness!



And, a “Thank you!” to those for making this year’s Holiday Tea such a success: Kate Abrahams, Carolyn Barone, Renée Bayes, Charlotte Benjamin, Dorinda Burroughs, Ann Collins, Sharon De Angelis, Ann Duffey, Sherry Foster, Paul Gibert, Janice Haines, Joan Hession, Ann Kelly, Ann Kelleran, Anne Lange, Parveneh Limbert, Linda Martin, Thea McGinnis, Margi Melnick, Moi, Sheila Moore, Diane Pollock, Louise Rhoads, Connie Richards, Jane Robinson, Georga Shaw, Susan Scotti, Dianne Simmons, Nancy Snell, Jenny Sullivan.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Tuition Reimbursement Committee

We are pleased to announce that the RSGC Board has approved tuition reimbursement for active members if they attend an NGC school this club year! Consider this one more benefit of membership for all of us - and we can do this because of the tremendously successful teamwork of our club on the Sixth Annual Holiday Floral Design Event this past November.

Rock Spring Garden Club has budgeted \$500 in funds in 2015-16 club budget to reimburse ACTIVE members a portion of their tuition costs who attend the NGC Schools Courses - Environmental, Garden Studies, Flower Show, and Landscape Design. The purpose of this reimbursement is to encourage and create incentive for members to attend NGC Schools. The criteria for reimbursement is as follows:

- 1) must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of Rock Spring Garden Club.
- 2) may attend one or both sessions of the Course. One day \$25; Two days \$50.
- 3) we strongly recommend taking course tests for credit but it is not a requirement for reimbursement
- 4) reimbursement will also cover REFRESHER Courses - both days - full reimbursement allotment; or one day refresher where no test required - half the reimbursement allotment
- 5) reimbursement will not exceed \$50 per

course

6) one or more NGC Courses may be reimbursed within a club year

This proposal will retroactively reimburse members for classes attended beginning September 2015. (2015-16 Club year).

HOLIDAY FLORAL DESIGN EVENT

Sharon DeAngelis and Anne Collins, Co-Chairs

Our 6th Annual Holiday Floral Design Event was a huge success! Our net profits were significantly more than we did last year and our profits were the highest since the Club started this event.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this fund raiser such a success.

Since we are not chairing the event next year, we need two club members to volunteer to co-chair it this year. We will be glad to help the new co-chairs in any way we can. If anyone is interested, please give either of us a call to discuss what co-chairing this event involves.

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Collins

The RSGC membership renewal forms will be available shortly. Look for an email with the renewal form attached and please send it in with your membership fee as soon as possible. Last year many members missed the deadline. This year the deadline is 3/15/16. We have to file our membership list and pay our dues to NCAGC and VFGC by a deadline and when membership renewals are late it means that our treasurer has to amend her filing. Last year this happened repeatedly and it is unfair to our treasurer to have to redo our membership list and cut additional checks because our members are late in submitting their renewal forms.

So please get your renewals and check in on time.

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HORTICULTURE

Louise Rhoads



"And there is a flower that strangely loves the bitterness of winter and blooms through the crystal of ice....the Christmas Rose."

I am sure many of you have noticed some of your spring bulbs are beginning to say "hello" as they are respond to the out of season warm temperatures over the past few weeks. Not only are the bulbs showing green, but a few spring ornamentals are in full bloom. A wonderful plant that I met several years ago is the Hellebores and some of mine are full of plump buds saying, "What is going on?" Hellebores bloom in the late winter/early spring, but, hey, this is too early. My favorite Post garden writer, Adrian Higgins, encourages us to leave the buds and growth alone - don't excessively cover up because as soon has temperatures begin to fall, Mother Nature will take over.

There are well over a dozen species and several hybrids, but only a few are commonly available, and they all fall into one of two main types. a) the stemless, or acaulescent, hellebores which send up their flowering stems separately and directly from the ground. This group includes the Lenten roses (*Helleborus x hybridus* also known as *Orientalis Hybrids*), with single, semi double or double flowers in white or many shades of pink, red, deep purple and yellow as well as bicolor. They range in hardiness and in height from 12 to 18 inches. b) Stemmed, or caulescent, hellebores produce upright stems that carry both leaves and flowers. Individual stems die after flowering.

Examples include Stinking hellebore (*H. foetidus*), Corsican hellebore (*H. argutifolius* or *H. corsicus*) Corsican hellebore and Stinking hellebore can grow 2 to 3 feet.

Hellebores are happy in my garden with its trees and shady beds. I like that they stay green, grow lots of leaves and sprout lovely early colorful blooms in the late winter and early spring. Some of the blooms hang around until late spring and early summer depending upon weather conditions. I wish I had more room to expand on these lovely plants, but the Gardenzette can only handle just so much. If you have not tried Hellebores, I am sure you will find a new friend in the garden, one that is easy to maintain and one that you will look forward to its blooming in late winter - what a treat!

The Perennial Care Manual, Nancy J. Ondra, 2009.
The Christmas Rose, Arthur and Mildred Luedy, 1948

LIAISON REPORT

Felicia Schwenk

Upcoming 2016 Activities

Saturday, January 16, 10:00 a.m. **The first day of this season's Merrifield Free Seminars**

Merrifield location – Basics of Gardening with David Yost

Fair Oaks location- Growing and Maintaining Orchids

Gainesville location – Evergreens for Every Garden

The complete Merrifield schedule of free seminars should be available by mid-January at <https://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/what-s-happening/#ui-id-7>.

Sunday, January 17, 1:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m.
Acts of Garden Wildness The first of the Harry Allen Lecture Series (through March), Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA.
Alan Ford and Laura Beaty of Virginia Native Plant Society will show how to use native plants

to invite birds and beneficial insects to your garden, focusing on the relationship among plants, bugs, and birds. Learn how to recognize who has been visiting your garden. Meet the speakers 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 6, 12:30-4:00 p.m.
Washington Gardener Magazine Seed Exchange, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. This event will include lectures by planting experts, face-to-face seed swap and more. Bring your extra seeds to swap. Fees: \$15 for verified Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) members and WG subscribers, \$20 for guests. For registration, visit, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm> and click on *Special Events* on the menu at the far left.

Saturday, February 13, 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Remove Invasive Plants, Gulf Branch Nature Center. Work parties meet monthly and are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers. No registration required. For more information, call 703-228-3403.

Saturday, March 5 – Sunday, March 13
2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, nation's largest and longest-running flower show, Pennsylvania Convention 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

Judges Council Flower Show – Save the date, details to come.

Friday, March 18, begins 9:30-9:45 a.m.

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*, (co-authored with Claudia West) for sale and autographing.

Monday, March 21, begins 10:00 or 10:30 a.m.

NCA General Meeting –U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. District 1 hosts. State Awards

will be presented. Information on the specific time and guest speaker is not yet available.

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, Richmond, 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*.

PHOTO GALLERY



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