



the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia [www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com)

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## MAY FIELD TRIP

TO THE FRANCISCAN MONESTERY  
AND GARDEN

MAY 19, 2016 10:00 AM  
1400 Quincy Street, NE, Washington, DC

We will have a field trip to the Franciscan Monastery and Gardens located at 1400 Quincy Street, NE, Washington, DC on May 19. Our tour will begin at 10am and we meet at the St. Anthony statue at the tour entrance to the church. We will be setting up carpools or people can drive separately. There is on-site parking at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Quincy Street. I have talked to someone who drives there frequently, and she said that it is not hard.

The gardens at the Franciscan Monastery were developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and include over 1,000 roses which should be in bloom when we visit. There are also many perennials and annuals on the 42 acre site. The tour includes the gardens and a trip to the areas behind the Monastery which have a 100 year old greenhouse, a cemetery, bee hives, a barn from the original property and a working farm run by the Garden Guild.

Blooming times by month in the gardens shows: **May** – Pansies azaleas, lilies-of-the valley, later blooming tulips, early blooming roses, irises, rhododendron, variety of summer annuals planted by contract landscaper. Those who are interested can also visit the Monastery itself.

I have reserved a room for lunch at the San Antonio Grill which is a few blocks away at 3908 12<sup>th</sup> St, NE. They have parking. I looked at the menu and there is a wide variety of foods including some nice salads. I'm waiting for the manager to send me information on a fixed price lunch that would include a salad choice as well as 3 other entrees. I will send out a separate email when I get that information. Please email me letting me know if you are able to come, if you would be willing to drive and how many people you could take.

*Connie Richards*

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Showcase	3
Invitational	3
Horticulture	3
Garden Therapy	4
Pollinators	5
Ways & Means	5
Girl Scouts	5
Liaison Report	6
Photo Gallery	8

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Connie Richards*

I'm still overwhelmed by the success of our flower show. Once again it is evident what an outstanding group we are. Even with the crazy weather, there was an abundance of horticultural specimens. The variety and quality prove that we are a club of gardeners as well as floral arrangers. Not to say that the floral arrangements weren't fabulous. It's a tribute to our members that many of us stepped up and went out of our comfort zone to create the classes of designs listed in the schedule. I had been kind of panicky myself about it but afterwards was proud that I had done it. However, what I am most impressed by was the way the majority of our members supported this show. There were several members who put in an inordinate amount of work in the planning and execution of this show. I was still very anxious about whether the whole thing would work out. I can't tell you how gratified and relieved I was when I saw the huge number of people who came and helped with the set-up on Wednesday afternoon. I knew then that it was going to be ok and it turned out to be much better than that! The judges rated the show as 95+. I'm sure that we will be getting an award but more important to be is the memory of how beautiful it was and all of the wonderful comments from the people who came to see the show.

## FLOWER SHOW

*Charlotte Benjamin*

**Congratulations RSGC Members!** You did it...each of you were part of making our Standard Flower Show, "**Celebrating Sinatra, His Songbook and Movies**" a most successful Show. "Outstanding" was the word I heard most often, from judges, from exhibitors and especially from the many guests who were a big part of our attendees.

The Flower Show Committee was outstanding; the exhibits were outstanding; the judges were

outstanding; Ross was outstanding (so glad he could be with us); the weather was outstanding...I could go on and on.

But mostly, I want to thank you and tell you how much I truly appreciate the support and cooperation I personally received from so many people. There is no way this Show could have come to fruition without you...you are the **BEST!!!**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 1–30, 2016

*Ann Lunson*

BEG BAL APRIL 1, 2016	\$25,071.85
Total Receipt	595.00
Total Disbursements	<u>(2,417.17 )</u>
CLOS BAL APRIL 30, 2016	\$23,249.68

## BOARD MEETING

June 2

10:00 am

at the home of Barry Wood

Please call Barry if you will not attend.

## SHOWCASE OF MEMBER GARDENS

*Jenny Sullivan and Paul Gibert*

Our Showcase of Member Gardens is coming up on **June 9, after the regular meeting**. We will tour the gardens of RSGC members Carolyn Barone, Anita Brown, Mary Shepherd Cottrell, Ann Marie Fay, Catherine Jamieson, and Mary Lunger. Club members will also be invited to tour the Rock Spring Park Garden maintained by our club. Member and their guests are invited.

## INVITATIONAL COMMITTEE

*Joan Asboth*



The RSGC Invitational Committee will meet on Friday, May 13, to create floral designs to be placed in homes and gardens for the annual Tuckahoe Elementary School Home and Garden Tour.

The tour is a primary annual fundraiser to support the Tuckahoe Elementary Discovery School yard, the award-winning outdoor learning program at Tuckahoe. It will be held Saturday, May 14 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Featured in Arlington Magazine's Best Of and WaPo's Spring Tour line-up, this Tour is ideal for people thinking of renovating or remodeling, this is the perfect opportunity to meet builders and architects and see their projects. The Tour is a self-guided and begins at Tuckahoe Elementary School and continues through the Arlington

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.

community, showcasing up to 8 newly-renovated homes and as many as 3 beautiful gardens. For information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.tuckahoetour.org](http://www.tuckahoetour.org). This is another way to support Tuckahoe Elementary School.

## HORTICULTURE

*Louise Rhoads*



"Hey, Mommy, look at that funny plant! What is it?"

I bet you or someone in your family has asked the above. I am sure I did when a little girl. The answer is, "Well that is an *Arisaema triphyllum* or more commonly known as a Jack in the Pulpit plant...also known as bog onion, brown dragon, Indian turnip, American wake robin or wild turnip." It is an herbaceous perennial wildflower plant that grows from a corm to 12 to 26 inches in height with three-parted leaves and flowers contained in a spadix that is covered by a hood. It is native to eastern North America growing in moist woodlands, swamps and thickets from Nova Scotia to Minnesota and south to southern Florida and Texas.

Plants are sometimes confused with Poison-ivy especially before the flowers appear or non-flowering plants. The inflorescences are shaped irregularly and grown to a length of up to 8 cm. long. They are greenish yellow or sometimes fully green with purple or brownish stripes. The spathe, known in this plant as the "the pulpit" wraps around and covers over and contains a spadix ("Jack") covered with tiny flowers of both sexes. The common name of Jack in the Pulpit comes from the spadix enclosed in the spathe, which resembles a person standing in a pulpit. The flowers are unisexual, in small plants most if not all the flowers are male, as plants age and



grow larger, the spadix produces more female flowers. It flowers from April to June...pollinated by flies which are attracted by smell. The fruits ripen in late summer and fall turning a bright red color before the plant goes dormant. Seedlings need three or more years of growth before they become large enough to flower.

Consumption of the raw plant will cause mouth and digestive system irritation. If it is properly dried or cooked, it can be eaten as a root vegetable. Native Americans used it as a treatment for sore eyes, rheumatism, bronchitis, snakebites and to induce sterility.

According to folklore, Meskwaki Indians would chop the corm, mix with meat and leave out for enemies to find. Consuming the meat could cause pain and death. They used it to determine the fate of the sick by dropping a seed in a cup of stirred water. If the seed went around four times clockwise, the patient would recover, if it went around less than four times, the patient would die. This is real folklore!

Culture - Sow fresh seed or plant root divisions in early spring in light to moderate shade in moist, rich soil with a pH of 4.0 - 5.5. This plant perennializes - just keep moist. Let's see who can bring in a Jack in the Pulpit hort specimen. I will be working on it, how about you?

## GARDEN THERAPY

*Mary Kudless*

Our April Visit to Glebe Elementary really illustrated the growth and dexterity of the children since we began working with them in September. They call us "the Garden Ladies" and show increasing comfort and familiarity with us.

Their growth could be seen in their enthusiastic embrace of our April project which had some complexity to it. Our goal was to illustrate the journey of a seed to a plant and then to an edible outcome. To that end, we had a story, read by

Ann Kelleran, called "From Seed to Plant". We thank Susan Scotti for lending us this book.

Next, we moved onto planting 72 peat pots in their own little greenhouse. Each student planted 9 pots with peas, zucchini, sunflowers and cucumbers. All of the seeds are expected to germinate and produce evidence of a plant within 50 days. This ingenious little product came from Ayer's in Westover (see photo). The greenhouse will be placed in the window and hopefully, we will see evidence of the plants on our next and final visit on May 18.



The students then moved onto re-potting small pepper plants into individual pots on which they wrote their names. They watered the pots and placed them on the windowsill and will be able to watch them grow.



We cut up peppers, cucumbers and zucchinis to show off the seeds inside them. We were thrilled

to see the children pick them up and start eating them.



However, more fun food was yet to come.....Janice Ribbentrop made “mud and worms” for our snack. These were ingenious cups of pudding with crushed chocolate cookies on top and gummy worms. They were a very big hit!

## POLLINATORS

*Linda Martin*

Butterflies and bees are in decline including more than a quarter of the native bumble bees. These pollinators are facing major threats, including habitat loss, disease, climate change and pesticides.

What can we do to help the pollinators? One answer is to plant more native plants such as bluestem, purple coneflower and, of course, milkweed. You can provide herbs such as thyme, oregano and borage flowers that attract pollinators. Bees and butterflies drink water as well as nectar, so provide them with a source of water. Lastly, providing shelter for them such as bushes and old wood where they can build their homes and protect them from the elements. The National Wildlife Federation has encouraged homeowners, schools and communities to create habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators through its Garden for Wildlife program. To learn more, visit [www.nwf.org/nwfgarden](http://www.nwf.org/nwfgarden).

## WAYS AND MEANS

*Julie Wadsworth*

**SHARE YOUR GARDEN - SHARE YOUR GARDEN**

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After our wonderful flower show we all know the plants you have in your gardens.

Divide those plants and donate them to Ways and Means. We all love seeing plants in our garden that we received from a friend and/or fellow garden club member. This has been a tremendous Ways and Means fund-raiser for the past two years, perhaps a tradition in the making.

Take a few minutes to **SHARE YOUR GARDEN**. Plants should be placed in small pots or sealed plastic bags, labeled with plant name, and sun/part shade/shade. Drop-off by 9:15am the day of our meeting is fine. The **JUNE MEETING is our only opportunity** for this event since we have a May field trip.

If you have a special request for any **TOOLS OF THE TRADE** items please send an email ([jwadsworth22@aol.com](mailto:jwadsworth22@aol.com)) with as much detail of the product as possible by June 3. Our inventory is low on many items so if there is something you have been looking for and couldn't find it let me know and I will reorder.

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 703-241-1231.

## GIRL SCOUTS SILVER AWARD PROJECT

Two Arlington Girl Scouts from Troop 5613 are creating a patio garden and sitting/rock garden for

their Silver Award project. The gardens will be at the Borromeo House in Arlington. The Borromeo House is a not-for-profit house in Arlington where four young adult girls can live with their infant/toddler child while pursuing a high school or college education. RSGC received an appeal for garden related donations and cash support for this project. The Board approved a \$100 cash donation to the troop for their garden project. Below is a list of other items which the scouts could use if club members wish to donate them.

- soil (open bags are okay)
- lawn decorations
- solar lights to light a pathway

They have received enough plants, pots and cages.

## LIAISON REPORT

*Felicia Schwenk*

### NCAGC Meetings/Courses

#### **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, growing fruit, and home irrigation techniques. Registration forms and more information are available at <http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/schoolsandcouncils.html>. For questions, contact Joyce Skoglund at [jeskog612@gmail.com](mailto:jeskog612@gmail.com), 703-591-4017, or 703-371-5343.

#### **Friday, June 17, 9:30 a.m. (starting with social/food)**

District III Meeting, Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA. Business meeting, then a round robin speed dating your club idea workshop. More details to come. All club members are invited to attend.

#### **Thursday & Friday, November 3 & 4**

Environmental Studies School, Course 1, Series 7, *The Living Earth*, Agriculture History Farm Park, Derwood, MD. A registration form with more

information is available at

<http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/schoolsandcouncils.html>. The registration form will be updated as more details become finalized

### **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](http://www.usna.usda.gov) to check out U.S.N.A. programs, including the following:

#### **Saturday, May 21, 1:00–4:00 pm**

National Herb Garden, Under the Arbor: Sweet and Spicy.

This event, presented by the Units of the Herb Society of America, explores and demonstrates the beauty and herbal uses of roses and chili peppers. Free, walk-in, no registration required.

#### **Friday, May 27 – Sunday, June 5, 10:00 am–4:00 pm**

Exhibit: Art Blooms: Satsuki Azalea Bonsai, National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Don't miss these stunning miniature bonsai, covered with multicolored, full-sized flowers. Some trees may be on display in the outdoor pavilions before and after the indoor exhibit. Free, no registration required.

### **Other Events/Tours/Plant Sales**

#### **Saturday, May 14, 12:00 noon -5:00 p.m.**

Tuckahoe Elementary School Home & Garden Tour, begins at Tuckahoe Elementary School and continues throughout the Arlington Community. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the show. For more details, see the article by Joan Asboth in this issue or visit [www.tuckahoetour.org](http://www.tuckahoetour.org).

#### **Saturday, May 14, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Spring Garden Day/The Big Plant Sale, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA.

This sale will include more than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants. Growers and Master Gardeners are on hand to help with plant selections and gardening advice. Free admission. For more information, please call 703-642-5173.

**Saturday, May 14, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Public Plant Sale, Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. Part of the Spring Garden Day Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens (above). Please call Jim Dunne at 703-560-8776 for questions/details.

**Saturday, May 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Beneficial Insects - How to go pesticide free by introducing natural options. Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA. Free with paid admission to the Garden. Reservations are required. Admission to the Gardens is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 for children and those 55 and older. For more information and to register, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity Search>.

**Saturday, May 21, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Garden Container Potting Workshop, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA. Bring a 16-inch (or smaller) container. Horticulturalist Judy Zatsick will give a short talk on container gardens, and a team of experts will help you select plant combinations. Soil, fertilizer, and advice are included in fee. Fee: \$12.00 for Fairfax County residents/\$10.00 for non-residents. For more information or to register, and to check out other programs offered by Green Spring Gardens, visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ed-adult.htm>.

**Saturday & Sunday May 21 & 22, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

Beyond the Garden Gates Garden Tour, Downtown Frederick & Baker Park, MD. This popular tour includes whimsical, elegant, and innovative gardens, both private and public, as well as live plein air artists. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the tour. Special ticket packages are also available. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.celebratefrederick.com/events/garden-tour/>.

**Saturday, May 21 & 28**

Spring Sale, Potomac Chrysanthemum Society. For more information, visit <http://www.mums.org/maryland/> or contact [Potomac@mums.org](mailto:Potomac@mums.org).

**Tuesday June 7, 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

Standard Flower Show, *A Walk in the Garden*, Five Hills Garden Club, Meadowlark Gardens Atrium, Vienna, VA. Admission is free.



## PHOTO GALLERY

Our Flower Show on April 21<sup>st</sup> had 36 floral displays, 16 photographs, 3 special exhibits, and 142 horticulture entries. The following pictures are of the winning entries.

### HORTICULTURE:



Jody Goulden  
*Viburnum plicatum*  
var. *tomentosum*

Award of Horticulture Excellence  
and  
Arboreal Award





Anita Brown  
 Pinus parariflora  
 'Lemplehof'  
 Arboreal Award



Thea McGinnis  
 Schefflera dwarf variegated  
 Growers Choice Award



John Auditore

Tulipa  
'Forete'

Award of Merit



Jane Bartlett

Paeonia Suffrutcosa

Award of Merit





Johanna 'Bernie' Donaldson  
 Saintpaulia ionantha  
 'Alabama'

Growers Choice Award

## DESIGN AWARDS



Charlotte Benjamin  
Class 9. From Here to Eternity  
Spatial Thrust Design

Award of Design Excellence  
and  
Designers Choice Award





Becky Salzinger  
Class 1. High Society  
Traditional Mass Design

Tri-Color Award



Janice Haines  
Class 3. Strangers in the Night  
Creative Line Mass Design

NCAGC Novice Award



Betty Ann Galoway  
Class 4. I've Got You Under My Skin  
Transparency Design

Designers Choice Award



Charlotte Benjamin  
Class 6. Fly Me to the Moon  
Rhythmic Design

Harlin G. Turner Award



## SPECIAL EXHIBIT AWARDS



Mary Cottrell

Class 3. My Kind of Town

Photograph of public or private town gardens – Color

RSGC Special Exhibits Section Award