



the newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, Virginia

www.rockspringgardenclub.com

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Connie Richards

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

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Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER

Ann Lunson

GARDENZETTE

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ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2017 10:00 AM

LITTLE FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE ALL AROUND US

As we witness the growing "Farm to Table Movement", our speaker, Carrie Vaughn, will discuss the rationale for locally sourced, organic food and meat. Carrie is the vegetable production and distribution manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Claggett Farm, in Prince George's County, Maryland.



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An Arlington native, she graduated in biology from Pomona College in California and continued with studies in sustainable agriculture at UC Davis.

She'll discuss what it means to be a sustainable farmer, strategies for our own herbicide and pesticide-free gardens, and what you can do as a consumer and a gardener. Come equipped with your vegetable gardening questions!

Carol Cochran

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connie Richards

I've heard from several sources that 2017 is going to be the year of beginnings! This aligns with our new club project "Promoting Pollinators". I hope that people kept their notes from Mary Pat Rowen's presentation in September on landscaping with native plants and will be encouraged to plant some in their yards. Of course it's too early to do this now, but this is the time to peruse seed catalogs and think about what will work in your yard. What if you don't have a yard or a good spot to add plants? No problem as the Conservation Committee is counting on all members to help increase the number of things that attract pollinators in Rock Spring Park. We will give much advance notice so you can mark this on your calendar. If you aren't able to participate, please consider purchasing something that we can plant there in your stead. Joella Samp, the chair of Conservation, will be giving us a list of appropriate plants in the next few months so we will be ready by spring.

I want to thank Mary Lunger for hosting the Holiday Tea, the hostess committee for providing delicious refreshments, and the members who created such lovely designs. It was a wonderful way to start the holidays!



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.

I also want to recognize the accomplishments of Anita Brown who has become an accredited flower show judge and Thea McGinnis who has been chosen to be a student judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show!

SHOW

ABSTRACT CREATIVE DESIGN

Anita Brown

"Abstract" is the keyword for this month's creative design. The Show Committee, in coming up with this year's monthly design selections thought it would be fun to test our members' creative talents in putting together such a design.

The abstract creative design is described on Page 196 of our Handbook for Flower shows but also referenced on Pages 185-186 which go into more detail regarding abstraction. This design while requiring a **dominance of abstraction** does not mean that all facets of the design have to be abstracted. According to Julia Clevett, a highly regarded NGC flower show school instructor, dominance of abstraction is present when 51% of the design has non-natural (abstract) features.

Abstraction means non-natural or non-representational and it can refer to plant material, container or base, and/or components in the design.

With reference to plant material, there is abstraction in the design when the plant material is placed in a manner unlike its normal growing pattern, such as a flower that is positioned in an unexpected placement (for example, upside down), or when leaves are clipped, stripped, folded, bent, etc.

Generally, plant materials that do not require water are used in abstract creative designs as vases with one opening used in traditional designs are avoided. However, containers with multiple openings or man-made objects (such as the Styrofoam base pictured on page 25 of

Designing By Types) and other materials not normally used in floral design are used. Plant material and/or non-plant components may be used to create line, form, color, space, or texture - elements essential to this design. Fresh and/or dried plant material may be used in this month's design.

TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 1-31, 2016

Ann Lunson

BEG BAL DEC. 1, 2016	\$20,163.93
Total Receipts	25.00
Total Disbursements	(419.48)
CLOS BAL DEC. 31, 2016	\$19,769.45

MEMBERSHIP

Kate Abrahams

Please contact Membership Chair Kate Abrahams if a club member could be cheered by a flower arrangement created by our talented Invitational Committee. We can support our members facing surgery, illness or bereavement by sending this expression of friendship.

BOARD MEETING NEW LOCATION

We will be meeting on February 2, 2017 at the home of Anita Brown.

WAYS AND MEANS

Sherry Foster

Are you feeling like you are drowning in clutter -- have all the same old stuff PLUS all the new goodies you got during the holidays. Ways and means wants to help -- clutter are us!

Give Diane Pollack or Sherry Foster a call to come collect your treasures.

HORTICULTURE FLORIDA FLORA

Connie Richards

I know many of our members seek out the warmer weather at this time of year and wanted to share some information about gardens that I have visited during the winter. I have a childhood friend who lives in Daytona Beach, and I spend a week there in early December.

This year we took a trip to Bok Tower Gardens. Located in Lake Wales a little over an hour from Tampa or Orlando, this is considered one of the finest works of Frederick Law Olmstead. Its 50 acres have a mix of more than 1,000 native and non-native plants arranged in garden rooms and open spaces. It also has a 205-foot neo-Gothic Singing Tower that houses a 60-bell carillon providing music on the hour. There were many lovely flowers in bloom. Some like the camellias, salvia, and plumbago were familiar to me although not in December. Others seemed more exotic like the Chinese Hat (*Holmskioldia sanguinea*), Brazilian Red Cloak (*Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*), and Yesterday Today & Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia pauciflora*). One of my favorite sections was the Edible Garden and Outdoor Kitchen. I'd love to go back sometime and take one of the culinary classes that are offered.



Another place in the Orlando area that I have visited is Leu Gardens. This 50-acre botanical oasis includes 30 different types of gardens as well as the Leu House Museum. I loved seeing the different varieties of camellias as well as more tropical bromeliads ('Lucky Stripe' Aechmea gamosepala is really unusual), and the Ginger and Heliconia Collections.



Lucky Stripe



The Sugarmill Botanical Gardens are closer to Daytona Beach in Port Orange. Although this is a smaller area, it was still intriguing. The most memorable specimen to me was the 'Cigar Plant' *Cuphea ignea*.



I've also enjoyed visiting the local nurseries in that area. It's tempting to buy something but I restrain myself knowing that we are not in the 8 to 11 climate zone. However, it's fun to look. So I would suggest, if you are going down South in the next few months, checking out local botanical sites.

CONSERVATION

Marisol Aldahondo

Get Ready for the 2017 Spring Seedling Sale!
Sure, it's only January, but it doesn't mean your mind can't wonder forward a few months to the Fairfax County NOVA Soil and Water Conservation District's annual native seedling sale! The species for 2017 were selected to give

your yard a pop of fall color. The tree package will include northern red oak, bald cypress and sassafras. The shrub package will feature common ninebark, gray dogwood, smooth sumac, New Jersey tea, and arrowwood viburnum. Place your order online beginning February 1st. Seedling packages can be picked up on April 21st and 22nd. See: <http://nvswcd-velocitypayment-com.3dcartstores.com/>

New Horizons for Natives

Date & Time: Sunday, Jan. 22 at 1:30pm

Location: Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA

Join landscape architect and author Thomas Rainer as he explores current trends in leading-edge planting design and gives his thoughts about how native plant advocacy must adapt to meet the needs of an urbanizing planet. See the work of leading designers who have adapted a naturalistic style and learn strategies for beautiful and resilient gardens. \$10/person and limited seating. Register through Fairfax County Park Authority at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/>

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Carolyn Barone

We committee members had another fun morning at Tuckahoe Elementary School. The second grade attendees at the December 2016 tree creation project were thrilled to be making their own holiday trees. The clay pot containers were filled with greens of fir, pine, yew, holly, boxwood, euonymus and acuba branches and were transformed by their little hands and made to look like replicas of holiday trees which would rival any design class! They decorated the boughs with stickers and transformed their trees into works of art!



Ann Larson read two delightful books. The Littlest Evergreen by Henry Cole, is a beautifully illustrated story of a tree that has two lives. One tree was as a decorated Christmas tree enjoyed by the family. Since it was not chopped down but dug up and its roots bound, the second life was as a replanted tree in the yard where it enjoyed "a long and beautiful life." The second book, The Christmas Tree Ride by Mary Neville, relates the story of a father and two children who travel to a tree farm and select their tree. After it is decorated, the owner of the tree farm visits the family and is invited to dinner. The family's hospitality is an example to the children of sharing at Christmas.



Ann Larsen also brought in examples of pine cones, the largest of which was the Coulter pine from CA where it can grow up to 11 pounds! The children were fascinated by the littlest ones (hemlock) and the largest one. And, we were also fascinated by the size of the Coulter pine, which because of its sheer size it is known as a "widow maker" by those who work in the pine fields.

Thanks to Lynda, Marilyn, Ann Duffy, Ann Larsen and Helen for making this morning a fun and creative event. Helen McMahon and Ann Kelleran will have the honor for the month of January.

LIAISON

Anne Collins

NCAGC/VFGC EVENTS

March 26-28 - National Garden Clubs/ South Atlantic Region Convention
Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Spring, WV
Registration required
<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/convention/>

PROGRAMS/LECTURES

US BOTANICAL GARDENS

Closed 1/18-21 due to inauguration
Multiple programs throughout the month
<https://www.usbg.gov/programs-and-events>

HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Looking ahead- February 2017
Great Homes and Gardens Series
Multiple lectures throughout the month starting 2/7

<http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/great-homes-and-gardens-series/dawnridge>

MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTERS

Starting January 14

See

<https://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/whats-happening/#events>

GREENSPRINGS GARDENS PARK

Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series

Sundays, 1:30–3pm in January, February and March

Annual, well-subscribed series of presentations by authors, garden designers, scientists, and other garden enthusiasts on the cutting edge of horticulture. After the lecture, meet the speakers and enjoy refreshments. \$10 Limited seating

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greensprings/winter-lecture-series.htm>

MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Multiple programs throughout January –
Registration required

<https://mgnova.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/january-2017-programs.pdf>

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Programs- Horticulture and Gardens across America and the World

<http://www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/travel-study>

GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER

January 15 – 1-3:30 Nature in Winter

Registration required

<http://arlingtonparks.us/snag/#p=2>

PHOTO GALLERY

At the December Tea members made over 30 floral designs. Here is a sampling:



Sharon DeAngelis



Helen McMahon



Anita Brown

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Sherry Foster and Diane Pollack



Janice Haines

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Joan Asboth



Dorinda Burroughs



Kate Abrahams



Renee Bayes and Sharon Siems



Ann Stevens Kelly



Sheila Moore

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Linda Martin



Ann Marie Fay

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