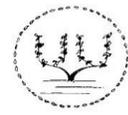


THE GARDENZETTE



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

Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 56, Number 1

September 2017

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

VICE PRESIDENT

Dianne Simmons

SECRETARY

Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 10:00 AM

LITTLE FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gathering and Sharing – From Our Gardens to Your Designs

Sheila Moore, designer and RSGC member, welcomes us all back with a hands-on design workshop with *what's in your garden now*, florals, and greens. Get ideas on a design to enhance your home, no matter the season. Bring enough from your garden to share with another club member. Elements of design, conditioning of plant material, mechanics, and design ideas will be demonstrated. What you create will coordinate with the September Design of the Month.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Abrahams

Welcome to a new year at Rock Spring Garden Club! Our September program features an extremely talented floral designer, our own Sheila Moore. She will explain and demonstrate the concepts by making some designs herself. Then, everyone will work on a design using live or dried plant material collected from our backyards. Doing this as a group should help demystify the way people create designs and show how everyone has a unique creative vision. Our business meeting has a full agenda with a club budget to vote on, a new member to induct, a new project to propose, and proposed by-law changes. Any approved by-law changes would be effective next club year (2018-19). Proposed by-law changes are in this Gardenzette (p. 11) so please look them over. Our membership drive continues, so please invite friends and family to come to meetings, and greet our guests. The delightful 2017-18 yearbook can be picked up at the September meeting. Tickets to the Holiday Design Floral Event are now on sale for \$30 each. Many

thanks to all who worked hard to set the stage this summer for another active, interesting year ahead with new and old friends in the gardening world!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Ella Samp

Jun 30-Aug 31, 2017

Beginning Balance \$18,984.12

Total Receipts \$0

Total Disbursements \$28.00

Closing Balance \$18,956.12

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2017 10:00 AM

Hosted by Dianne Simmons

co-hosted by AnnMarie Fay

SHOW

Design of the Month: Designer's Choice

Grab your clippers and gather flowers and greens from your garden (or anywhere else with permission). We will provide a container with Oasis. If you prefer you can supply your own

container. We will talk about mechanics and design concepts. Our challenge will be to do a design with just the elements at hand. This will be old hat to some and new to others but we hope just to have fun and reconnect after the summer. Of course, this design will count as one of your two required for the year.

Eagle Scout Project in Rock Spring Park

Barry Wood

On Saturday September 16, with help from Rock Spring Garden Club, Andrew Simmons' Eagle Scout Project will transform Rock Spring Park. Andrew, a star baseball player for Yorktown High School, has asked for assistance from the club in removing invasive species and other weeds from the flower beds at the park, and in planting native plants such as *Monarda dydima* (bee balm), *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan), and *Conoclinium coelestinum* (=Eupatorium coelestinum) in their stead. In particular, Andrew (pictured below) needs members of the club to help direct his helpers so that only undesirable plants are removed, and to show people how and where to plant the desirable plants. This will mainly be in the beds on the northern part of the park (near Rock Spring Road), where Jo Ella Samp and others have already made great progress. In addition to the contribution that Andrew, the club, and Andrew's other crew members will make to the flower beds there, the project also includes rehabilitation of the trail leading down to the stream and along the stream to the bridge. They will install landscape timbers to border the trail and will spread wood chips over the trail to make it more walkable.



Work will begin by 9 am on September 16 and will continue until sometime between 11 am and 2 pm (depending on how many people show up to pitch in). Please come and help us embellish our namesake park!

Questions? Contact Barry Wood.

HORTICULTURE

Linda Martin

September is upon us and that means it's time to decide on what horticulture specimens you want to bring in this year for judging. Several individuals have been kind enough to add detailed information on what is needed to our 2017-18 yearbook. Just in case you have forgotten, or you are new to the club, here are just a few guidelines for you:

- Display specimens in a clear or green bottle with no markings.
- Use material that is at its peak.
- The stem should be underwater with no leaves under water.
- Wedge material in the bottle to hold it upright, such as a cotton ball or plastic wrap.
- Identify the specimen using a 3" x 5" card. Use its botanical along with common name for each item. And most important, be sure to add your name to the back of the card.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of your beautiful specimens at the September 21st meeting.

WAYS and MEANS*Joan Hession*

We will have our fabled Ways and Means table starting at the September meeting. Clean your garages, your closets, your basements, and your attics! Donated items include: vases, containers, baskets, garden and patio items, garden tools, gardening magazines, baked items, hand-made craft items, and special interest items (surprise us!). If you have a

donation, contact Joan Hession to arrange pick up or delivery prior to the meeting.

Thin your fall plants! If you have plants to share, please place them in small pots or sealed plastic bags, labeled with plant name, and sun/part shade/shade. Drop off by 9:15 am the day of the meeting. Tools of the Trade will have garden gloves, floral foam, floral tape, O'dapters, Oasis, mosses, and garden tools among its items for sale. Looking forward to seeing you on September 21st.

**Judges' Council****NCAGC District III's****"Seasonal Delights"****Morning of Design****Thursday, October 12, 2017****9:30 –10:15 am—Light Refreshments****10:30 am—Morning of Design demonstrations****Refreshments provided by District III****\$6.00 donations enthusiastically accepted****Little Falls Presbyterian Church****6025 Little Falls Road****Arlington, Virginia 22207**

ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB

7th Annual Holiday Floral Design Event



Featuring Exquisite Designs by

SUSIE PONEMAN

of

Heavenly Hydrangeas of McLean, Virginia

DATE: Thursday, November 16, 2017

PLACE: National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc. Bldg.
4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (Ballston)

TIME: Doors open 6:30pm – Program begins at 7:00pm

Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased by NOVEMBER 10, 2017

TICKET AND ORDERING INFORMATION: \$30.00 – cash or check payable to RSGC

ORDER BY:

- Call Kate Abrahams – 703-532-1959
- Rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com
- EventBrite [Click here](#)

NO REFUNDS

FREE PARKING * REFRESHMENTS * TOOLS OF THE TRADE * DOOR PRIZES *

SUSIE'S FLORAL DESIGNS SILENT AUCTION * FABULOUS PUMPKIN DESIGN ARRANGEMENTS

Rock Spring Garden Club is a 501(C)(3) organization. Event proceeds benefit our community outreach programs.

For more information visit our website www.rockspringgardenclub.com

Invitational Design Committee – Recap of 2016-17

AnnMarie Fay

The committee has been quite busy this past year. Before we start off the new year, I would like to share some of the photos and activities of 2016-17:

Holiday Tea – Mary Lunger hosted “Winter Wonderland” in her lovely home. Renee Bayes, Dorinda Burroughs, Joan Asboth, Janice Haines, Ann Stevens Kelly, Sharon Siems, and I made floral arrangements along with talented volunteers from our membership. The Host Committee lead by Sharon Siems did a wonderful job of providing delicious and beautiful refreshments. The January Gardenzette displayed many photos from this special event.

Tuckahoe Home and Garden Tour – We were asked by the PTA at Tuckahoe to provide floral designs for 8 houses and 2 gardens this year. Renee, Dorinda, Joan, Janice, Robin Fitch, Dianne Simmons, Kate Abrahams, and I designed with flowers provided by the school. Several of the designs are pictured here. The remainder are shown in this month’s Photo Gallery.



Special Arrangements - In addition to these large events, our committee has provided – with love - a number of floral arrangements to our club members as special needs have arisen over the year. Illness, loss of a loved one, and special occasions have provided opportunities for our garden club to show support and caring expressed in flowers. Thank you to all who have volunteered for this. Requests may be made to the President if you know of someone in our club who is in need of some cheer.



Arrangement pictured here was made for Julie Wadsworth. We are looking forward to this year's events.

We start with the Holiday Tea – December 14. Jenny Sullivan will host. Theme is “Joy to the World”. Please sign up at the September or October meeting to do a design or bring food. Thank You! To the talented and generous members of this committee.

Garden Therapy – June at Glebe School

Mary Kudless

Kari Rush led a very special program for our final visit of the school year with our 12 special students. In recognition of June 14, Flag Day, Kari designed a patriotic program which offered numerous valuable lessons in US history and horticulture. The students heard the story of Betsy Ross, (author Becky White) with which Kari explained the meaning of Flag Day and historical facts about the flag, its colors, its

meaning, and its importance. Margi Melnick took an original song that Kari prepared and led the students in singing about the flag. Each student received their own small flag and with support from their teachers and garden club members, waved the flag while they sang with

all the RSGC members.



Pat Getz prepared delicious star shaped cookies, frosted in red, white, and blue, which they enjoyed with some fruit cups of strawberries, blueberries, American flag decorative umbrellas, and individual apple juices. In the midst of the program, the school had a fire drill and we all headed out to the fields behind the school. No one lost a beat as we sang Kari's song during this distraction. We headed back into the classroom and the students enthusiastically focused on decorating a red painted plastic flower pot with patriotic stickers. They planted a lovely white impatiens into the soil and added a small American flag as the crowning touch. Kari taught the principle of good drainage by providing each student with broken shells to place in the bottom of each pot and sealed the pot with blue painter's tape. Each child received a small shopping bag to transport their creations home, with a message from Kari about the goal of the exercise and the care of the plant going forward.



In summary, the students and their teachers experienced a very comprehensive horticultural and cultural experience which will offer lots of positive memories about the school year, and all the love, learning, and effort that took place. Our wonderful teacher, Jeanne Terrill advised that we may have as many as 8-9 of our students back next year. I want to thank every member of the committee for their creativity and exceptional program this past year and I look forward to coordinating this amazing committee again.



Outdoor Lab

Dorinda Burroughs

Three eager students from Randolph Elementary had a wonderful week at the Outdoor Lab camp this summer thanks to full scholarships provided by Rock Spring Garden Club. Eighteen scholarships have been funded by the club since the inception of its fundraising program, the Holiday Design Event. The Phoebe Hall-Knipling Outdoor Laboratory summer camp near Warrenton, VA, is a blend of traditional camp activities and unique nature based offerings. It is an extension of the day and overnight visits that students in Grades 3 and 5, take at the Outdoor Lab during the school year and provides a higher level of nature exploration, with activity options such as orienteering.



Campers have opportunities to explore the natural world through focused activities of their own choosing and self-directed free time activities. All of our campers have already attended Outdoor Lab for the day, which heightens their interest and desire for the longer adventure. Brother and sister James, and Lauren (pictured with completed projects), who are rising 6th and 5th graders, and rising 6th grader Colby (with his Mom and RSGC president Kate Abrahams), excitedly expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to attend the

camp. James, who says history and science are his favorite subjects, wants to delve more into nature studies. He's particularly interested in how "saving nature" can decrease pollution and atmospheric changes. Lauren, an avid reader and aspiring scientist, looks forward to learning about the interaction of plants and animals in the environment and how scientists study the natural world. She is interested in water resources and marine biology. She, too, is concerned about changes in the atmosphere, and pollution. Colby, an excellent math student who wants to study business and marketing when he is older, looks forward to the tranquility of getting out into nature and observing and learning about plants and animals he ordinarily doesn't see in Arlington. It is clear that all three students relish the outdoors and new experiences. As they, along with their parents, and Chris Reid, Science Coordinator for APS, reflect on their stay in the woods, they report that it is life changing. They are deeply grateful to RSGC for the gift of these scholarships that provide enriching summer experiences for young children.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Thea McGinnis

Garden Clubs and Social Media: Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Piedmont District, National Capital Area Garden Clubs and District III and many individual clubs such as ours are utilizing social media to share news and extoll the benefits of garden club membership. Join us on Facebook. Visit or share our websites. Our website includes up to date information on programs, committee activities and all sorts of good information. NCAGC's website is the place you can find information about NGC School(s) schedules in our region. Piedmont and VFGC websites also offer a tremendous amount of information so there's little need to scramble to find the information you need. And National Capital Garden Clubs (NGC) website is a wonderful overview of our organization and has their online store. Click links below or copy and paste into your browsers.

RSGC's FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/148155358579274/>

District III FB page:

<http://www.facebook.com/DistrictIIINCAGC/?ref=ts>

National Capital Area GC FB page:

https://www.facebook.com/National-Capital-Area-Garden-Clubs-Inc-184614411614341/?fref=ts&ref=br_tf&qsefr=1

And last but not least, visit the NCAGC blogspot – RSGC member Thea McGinnis is its blog mistress! And RSGC members Christine Wegman and Jenny Sullivan are guest bloggers.

Be sure to visit our Website:

www.rockspringgardenclub.com Rock Spring Garden Club's website is continually updated with the latest information. Please feel free to recommend this site to your friends who are considering joining our wonderful club. *Highlighted information* – Under "Programs" button we have the year at a glance listing of topics for our garden club regular monthly

RSGC website: www.rockspringgardenclub.com

National Capital Area Garden Club's website: www.ncagardenclubs.org

National Garden Club website:

<http://www.gardenclub.org>

Piedmont District of VFGC:

<http://www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org>

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs VFGC website: <http://www.viriniagardenclubs.org>

We've got a lot of good going on! Stop by at: <http://ncagardenclubs.blogspot.com>

New article by Jenny Sullivan is now posted on the blog!

meetings. Under "Show" is a mini floral design lesson right from flower show school. Under "Resources" is a listing compiled by Kate Abrahams listing local and regional gardens we members love that you might want to visit. And all social media contact information for VFGC and NCAGC. Plus all back issues of our club's newsletters, The Gardenzette.

PROPOSED RSGC BY-LAW CHANGES

Changes to Article III - Members, Section 2 (2016-2017 Blue Yearbook page 24)

Change to read " Membership shall be comprised of three classes: active, sustaining and emeritus."

Add c. "An emeritus member has been an active or sustaining member for 20 or more years and is 75 years of age or more. An emeritus member is excused from responsibilities as a sustaining member would be but does not pay annual dues. An emeritus member forfeits privileges of holding elective office, voting and sponsoring prospective members."

Changes to Article III - Members, Section 3 (Blue Yearbook page 24)

Revise last sentence to read "An applicant who is inducted after January 31 shall pay one-half of yearly dues" so that "but before March 31" is deleted.

Changes to Article III -Members, Section 6 (Blue Yearbook page 25)

Change annual dues amount from \$50.00 to \$65.00.

Changes to Article IV- Officers, Section 6 Duties of Officers (Blue Yearbook page 27)

Move Duty # 3 from b. The Vice President, to d. The Treasurer creating a Duty #7 substituting "Treasurer" for "Vice President." so that it reads:

d. The Treasurer sends a membership list and dues check to National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (NCAGC) by April 30th and to Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (VFGC) and the Piedmont District by May 31st of each club year. Upon induction of a new member, the Treasurer forwards the member's name and dues to the NCAGC and to the VFGC and the Piedmont District."

Changes to Article VI - Executive Board

Article VI - Executive Board , Section 3 (Blue Yearbook page 28)

Remove current sentence and replace with "All donations given to the club in memory or in honor of a member will be deposited in the operating account and used to benefit the club."

Article VI - Executive Board, Section 6 (Blue Yearbook page 28)

Add additional sentence "Voting electronically by email is permitted if needed to expedite approval of a new member application or handle urgent club business."

Changes to Article VII - Standing Committees (Yrbook p. 29) Change 6. to read: The Gardens of the Year Committee plans and conducts a tour of outstanding selected gardens.

LIAISON REPORT

National Capital Area (NCAGC) District III Fall Meeting Friday, September 15, 10 am-noon, Meadowlark Gardens Court, Meadowlark Gardens, Atrium Building, Vienna, VA 22182

NCACG General Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 10 am-1 pm, Woodend Sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, www.ncagardenclubs.org. Coffee at 10 am, Program and tour at 10:30 am, NCA Flower Show at noon.

www.merrifieldgardencenter.com/events
September seminars and events

www.hillwoodmuseum.org/gardens/whats-bloom

www.gardens.si.edu/our-gardens/index
Smithsonian weekly garden tours

www.usbg.gov/bartholdi-park U.S. Botanic Garden, Conservatory and Bartholdi Park

NCAGC Environmental School Course 3, Series VI, November 9-10, Derwood, MD. Register by October 9 for best rate. Courses can be taken in any order.

<http://ncagardenclubs.org/schools-and-councils>. RSGC offers tuition rebate for this class after completion.

Coming up in October

NCAGC District III's Morning of Design "Seasonal Delights", Thursday, October 12, 9:45 am-noon, at Little Falls Presbyterian Church. \$6 donation suggested.

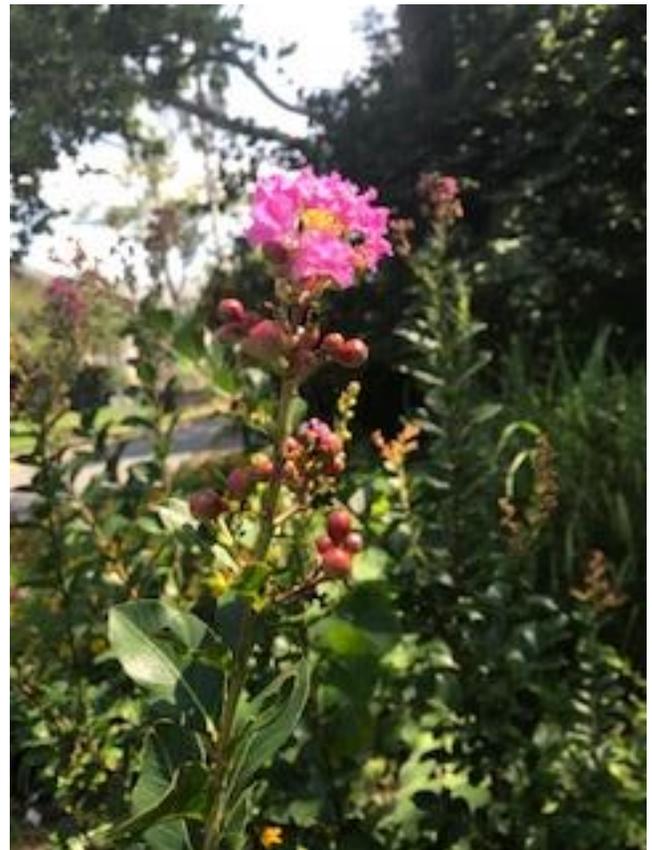
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) Fall Piedmont District Meeting, Monday, October 16, 10:30 am-2:45 pm. Four Points Sheraton, Midlothian VA. See

www.vfgcpiedmontdistrict.org for information. Jane Godshalk from Longwood Gardens, featured designer, business meeting, luncheon, and speaker. Registration required with non-refundable \$30 fee. See Kate Abrahams if interested in attending.

PHOTO GALLERY

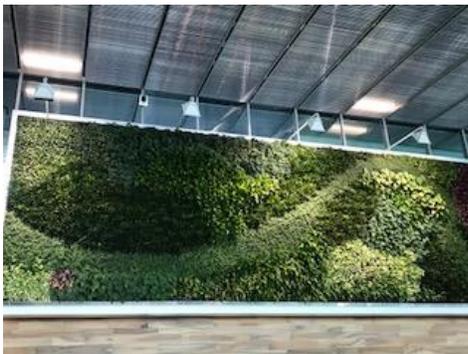
Rock Spring Park

Pollinator plants in bloom. Thanks to Conservation and Civic Development Committees and chairs Jo Ella Samp and Barry Wood for great garden restoration and maintenance!





Miscellaneous contributed photos:



Living Wall at the Paris Airport



Crab spider at work in an Arlington Forest garden.

Additional Photos from the Tuckahoe Home and Garden Tour

