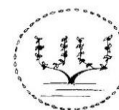


THE GARDENZETTE



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



Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Atlantic Region, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District

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Kate Abrahams

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General Meeting

January 18, 2018 10:00 AM

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207



Every Home, A Habitat

Living With the Birds and Bees: Establishing a Pollinator-Friendly Landscape

Speaker: Kirsten Ann Conrad, M.S.

Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Horticulture

Kirsten will focus on best practices and resources promoted by Virginia Cooperative Extension that residents can use in a variety of landscaping. Whether you have a container or balcony, a shady woodland paradise, or a sunny hillside or hell-strip, there are many ways, large and small, that gardeners can do their part to keep a healthy, welcoming ecosystem going that will support our birds, bees, and butterflies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Abrahams

Happy New Year to everyone! Time for a new resolution to garden messily to provide winter habitats. This month's program educates us about habitat creation with all types of gardening. Deliberately leaving dead brush, flower stalks, leaf cover, dried pods, and thick grasses to help birds, insects, and other species survive winter cold is another way gardeners can help their natural world. Last fall I was startled to find a woodcock resting on the ground among dead leaves under my azaleas (pictured on page 1). Its feathers blended in with the colors of dried up dogwood and oak leaves and it stayed still knowing the camouflage would protect it. I managed to get very close to take a photo to find out what kind of bird it was. It turns out this bird migrates through our area and stops to rest here en route to other places. I'm sure it wouldn't have chosen my yard without the thick cover of leaves matching its feathers. Experiencing this week's bitterly cold temperatures, it's clear how a blanket of leaves or pile of brush blocking the wind could make a difference for wildlife trying

to survive harsh winter conditions. Leaving dead plant material to winter over also gives insect eggs time to hatch in the spring. We can learn new ways to foster native species in our yards by respecting the purpose of fall seasonal debris. Bundle up well and I hope to see you at our next meeting on January 18!

BOARD MEETING

Thursday February 1, 2018 10:00 AM

Hosted by Nancy Snell

Co-hosted by Mary Kudless

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Ella Samp

Dec 1-Dec 31, 2017

Beginning Balance \$27,928.42

Total Receipts \$70.00

Total Disbursements \$179.82

Closing Balance \$27,818.60

SHOW

Design of the Month: Interpretation of Art

Select a painting, sculpture, or other work of art. Let your floral design follow or reflect the mood, color, and structure of the art object. The print or art work should be included in your display. (It may, of course, be a reproduction.) The floral design need not be representational, but it should interpret the art.

Host Committee: Jane Robinson, Head Host.
Charlotte Benjamin, Jody Goulden, Thea McGinnis, Helen McMahon, Ashley Tessmer, Barry Wood

WAYS and Means

Joan Hession

As we snuggle into our homes after Christmas and New Year's, let's look forward to February with optimism. Think hearts and flowers! Please donate this month to Ways and Means, any decorations or items you are releasing. Donate any items before the meeting by contacting Joan Hession. If you just want to drop off our items on my front porch that would also work. We love homemade foods which you can bring to the meeting. Please package your donations in saleable portions. Thank you and Happy New Year!

MEMBERSHIP

Kate Abrahams

Welcome to our newest member, Gayle Palmer. Gayle has been Mary Lunger's dear friend for over 40 years. She loves flower arranging, working with children, and is very skilled at organizing people and events. Many of you know her from work in the Dominion Guild. She wants to learn more about plants and gardens and to help with the Outdoor Lab scholarship program, club hospitality, and civic projects.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Anne Larsen

On December 5th members of the Youth Activities Committee worked with 12 second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary School to create individual Christmas trees using a wide variety of cut greens donated by our members. The children arrived at the table full of holiday spirit and were able, with help, to place the greens in clay pots which had been filled with oasis. After forming the trees, the children then decorated their trees with small ornaments and stickers. It was a joyful experience for all. The volunteers who participated were Anne Larsen, Carolyn Barone, Lynda Martin, Ann Duffey, Helen McMahon, Ann Kelly, and Susan Scotti.



HORTICULTURE

Linda Martin

I recently read about a plant that I think I am going to try this year. It's called Persian Buttercup (*Ranunculus hybrid*). Some of you may have tried these, but unfortunately they only grow as a perennial in zones 8 to 11. With this the case, you have to put tubers in the ground in the early spring, and then take them out when the foliage starts to fade. They are described as cool season flowers and they should be grow as annuals. They come in lots of colors from red, pink, orange, and yellow, to bi-colors. Each plant will have several 2 to 5-inch flowers open at one time. Now, how to find these tubers. Some nurseries may have them in the late winter when you see other seeds and tubers come in, but if not, here are two sources where you can get them: Longfield Gardens, www.longfield-gardens.com, and Van Engelen, Inc, www.vanengelen.com. To start the tubers, they recommend first soaking them for at least an hour and then starting them inside, in 2 inches of potting mix, then water and set the container where it stays 62 degrees. It doesn't need light to sprout. Water when the container dries out and in a couple of weeks you should see leaves. When the outside temperature reaches 50 to 60 degrees during the day they can go outside. If you decide to keep them for next year, when the foliage has died back brush the dirt off and remove the stems and leaves. Let them dry for a week and then place them in peat moss or vermiculite in a cool place and wait until next growing season. Enjoy. (information courtesy of Garden Gate.)

HOLIDAY TEA

Nancy Snell

Our Holiday Tea was held on December 14th at the lovely home of Jenny Sullivan. Over 50 club members celebrated the season in the spirit of friendship and good cheer while enjoying the beautiful flower arrangements and delicious food. The floral designs were spread throughout, both inside and out, which kept us circulating and gave everyone a chance to visit with old friends and to greet new ones. Our Hospitality Committee outdid themselves with tea sandwiches, a fruit plate, Brie, and assorted savories and sweets. My thanks go to Robin Fitch, Marion Hart, Mary Lunger, Linda Martin, Diane Pollack, Becky Salzinger, Connie Richards, Felicia Schwenk, Dianne Simmons, and especially Jenny for hosting. Their time and efforts truly let us all enjoy the party together. The tea was a wonderful way to celebrate our theme of Joy to the World.





NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS JUDGES COUNCIL NEWS

Thea McGinnis

Many of you know that last year member Anita Brown became an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge. Last month, Anita was invited to be a judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show! (The Wonders of Water, March 3-11, 2018 at Pennsylvania Convention Center). That is a big deal! For several years, before Anita was accredited, our club did not have any accredited flower show judges. I recently completed all my requirements and exams and am now an Accredited Flower Show Judge. It took about two years, four courses, student judging, exhibiting, and a final exam – but I did it! Past President Connie Richards is also ready to finish her requirements and take her exam in 2018. That means we will have three members with judge credentials. Training and education for judges doesn't stop after the exam.

Symposiums, design classes, and judging opportunities mean a continuing opportunity to learn about horticulture and design. All three of us are now a part of the NCAGC Judges Council. This Council includes judges from all Districts in NCAGC that serve our state through flower shows and educational offerings. Experienced judges share their knowledge and talents with new judges and in turn we share our gains with our club members. Learning enough to be a judge has been a fascinating experience, and I strongly encourage RSGC members to attend Flower Show School – even if you don't want to be a judge.

The same can be said for taking on or club's monthly design challenges and horticulture exhibitions. It doesn't mean you have to enter flower shows – but it does give you the knowledge and experience if you have an

opportunity to do so. In fact, all four NGC schools (FS Judge, Landscape Design, Environmental, and Garden Studies) courses on their own are worthwhile endeavors. Rock Spring Garden Club through our monthly programs, workshops, and tuition reimbursement, strongly supports all our members in their continuing garden education, expertise, and enjoyment of all aspects of gardening. So thanks to all of you, I've made it to the finish line and I really appreciate it. Remember it's never too late to do something new – and hard.



Mark your calendars now because the **NCAGC Judges Council is hosting an NGC Standard Flower Show entitled "River Views" at the beautiful home of Shirley Nicolai on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.** As most of you may know, Shirley was president of National Garden Clubs from 2011-2013. Shirley and her husband Frank's home is called River View and it's located at 12325 Hatton Point Road in Fort Washington, MD. Their home sits right on the banks of the Potomac River and is easy to get to via I-495. (The exit is right past the MGM resort.) The show will be free and open to the public and will showcase many of NGC's new floral designs that can be found in the new NGC Handbook for Flower Show Judges (a must have for garden club members).

GARDEN THERAPY

Mary Kudless

Evergreens Inspire our Glebe Elementary Students - Our December project, devised by Dorinda Burroughs for our 4 year old students, was a big success. There are few lessons that can offer our special needs students the learning experiences of an evergreen program with its potential to expose them to the magic of the winter season, the range of plants that remain green all year long and the universe of touch and fragrance. Each of these elements were brought home by our approach.



Carol Cochran started things off, gathering the children to hear a terrific story about the life forms that use the winter season to prepare and/or hibernate, from the evergreens to the many animals who embrace the season for a purpose.



Dorinda then provided numerous examples of cut evergreens and circulated them to the students, so that they could feel the delicate pine needles, sharp edged holly leaves, berries of all kinds and take in the marvelous fragrances

of a wide variety of pines and cedars. Margi Melnick, now in very high demand for her autoharp, played "Jingle Bells" and gave every student some beautiful carriage style bells to ring at the right interval in the song. As always, the students flocked to Margi, hoping to touch the strings of the autoharp and find where the music was coming from. All of us shifted to the student's tables and "lightly" coached them in creating beautiful floral designs, composed of a variety of cut greens and pink and red carnations.

Each Garden Club member contributed conditioned and cut greens and Dorinda came prepared with great design containers- red solo cups with oasis and lovely prepared small carnations.



Mary Beth Scaggs made marvelous gluten free holiday cookies which were a huge hit, after the rigors of the design work and in celebration of a magical afternoon. We offered our holiday best wishes to our students, our teachers and each other and hopped on our one horse sleighs for our ride home---if only that last part of our story, was true...



PROPOSED BY LAW CHANGES - The club will vote on the proposed by law wording below at the January 18th meeting.

"The Gardens of the Year Committee plans and conducts a tour of outstanding selected gardens."

"Donations to the Club will be used at the discretion of the executive board to fund Club operations, projects, and/or programs, unless the donor has specified that the donation be dedicated to a particular project or program, in which case those donated funds will be restricted to that project or program."

LIAISON REPORT

NCAGC Landscape Design Course II – Monday-Tuesday March 26-27, 2018 at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks. Visit <http://ncagardenclubs.org> for registration. Courses do not need to be taken in order. Tuition rebate available from RSGC treasurer after course completion.

National Museum of American History special exhibit "Cultivating America's Gardens" on view until August 2018. 1300 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC.

Joint Landscape Design Council/Gardening Consultants School trip June 12-13, 2018 to visit gardens in Southwestern Virginia and West Virginia. Overnight trip will cost \$295 per person. Stay at Hotel Roanoke. Can get school credit. Tour grounds of the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia; visit the Andre Viette Nursery and several arboreti.

NCAGC bus trip June 21-24 to Newport Flower Show in Rhode Island. Two full days at the Flower Show, visit the grounds of Rose Cliff Mansion; take trolley tour of mansions. Only 50 spaces available. Cost is \$550 per person. Register at <https://ncagardenclubs.org>.

The 2018 Philadelphia Flower Show with the theme of "Wonders of Water" will be Saturday March 3- Sunday March 11, 2018. Visit <https://theflowershow.com> for tickets and information.

NCAGC District III Awards Meeting will be on Friday March 16, 2018 at 10 am in Meadowlark Gardens Education Center, Vienna, VA. All members are welcome to attend.

AFAC Spring Garden Kick-Off at St Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington 22207 on Saturday February 10th from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Join other gardeners growing food for AFAC's Plot Against Hunger program and receive free seeds, compost, and other materials. Visit <https://afac.org/spring-garden-kick-off>. The church has the largest AFAC garden plot.

Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) Winter Lecture on Saturday January 20th 10:00 am- 1:00 pm. "Implementing the Design with Nick McCullough", Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Tickets \$30 for APLD member, \$40 for non-member. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/implementing-the-design-with-nick-mccullough-tickets-30207141373

Brookside Gardens "Green Matters Symposium" on Friday February 23rd 8:00am – 4:00 pm. "Habitat Matters: Restoring Ecosystem Functionality and Biodiversity" and "Creating Healthy Soils Through Regenerative Gardening". \$85 per person until January 12th, \$99 per person starting January 13th. To register visit www.ActiveMONTGOMERY.org course 40522 or call Janet Senft at 301.962.1451. Program includes light breakfast, coffee, tea, and box lunch. Venue is Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

PHOTO GALLEY

Atlanta Botanical Garden – December 2017
displays



