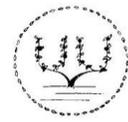


# THE GARDENZETTE



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

Volume 56, Number 7

March 2018

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

### VICE PRESIDENT

Dianne Simmons

### SECRETARY

Jenny Sullivan

### TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

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## General Meeting

March 15, 2018 10:00 AM

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207



## The Wonder of Orchids

Speaker: Arthur Chadwick

Owner, Chadwick and Son Orchids



Working with his father, a longtime orchid hobbyist, Arthur founded the company in 1989. They started with a greenhouse in Powhatan, Virginia and have expanded this venture to eleven greenhouses and a retail store in Richmond. Arthur will show how to bring a bit of the tropics into your home with these exotic flowering plants.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Kate Abrahams*

The squishy soil underfoot is sopping with melted snow, rain, bits of leaves, twigs and other debris. It's hard to leave it alone to let everything decompose as it should and let the earthworms wiggle around to create air pockets for roots. Especially when garden catalogs arrive with great deals on spring plants and photos of gorgeous blooms along walkways, in planters, and attractively grouped with companion plants. This year I resolve to shop for native plants at local venues like Greenspring Gardens and fend off the impulse buying in favor of careful choices and larger patches that pollinators can find. Patience and restraint instead of mad digging all over the place.

Our March program on orchids promises to be an enjoyable education on epiphyte tropical plants. In the wild, these plants get nutrients from the air, rain, and decomposing debris and usually grow on trees in a cooperative relationship. I've never had any luck with orchids probably because I aggravate them by moving them around, staring at them waiting

## Dues are due!

Your 2018-2019 renewal forms and annual membership payment of \$65.00 are due to the RSGC treasurer by **March 15, 2018**. A copy of the renewal form and a supplemental form on affiliations are at the end of this issue. Make your check out to Rock Spring Garden Club and mail to: Jo Ella Samp.

for more blooms, and wondering whether they are dormant or dead. I've heard lots of advice: ice cubes for water, fans for air circulation, clear containers for happy roots, throw away the potting material when you get them home, mist or humidity tray, put them outdoors in the summer, trim this or that way. So, I expect this will be a lesson in patience and restraint; less jostling and more serenity around the orchid. I can hardly wait to try again!

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday April 5, 2018 10:00 AM

Hosted by Jane Bartlett

Co-hosted by Jenny Sullivan

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Jo Ella Samp*

Feb 1-Feb 28, 2018

Beginning Balance \$27,369.61

Total Receipts \$15.00

Total Disbursements \$1,682.70

Closing Balance \$25, 701.91

## SHOW

Design of the Month: Reflective

A creative design which uses reflective materials which give back images of light. This may not be staged in front of a mirror but must use reflective material IN the design. The reflective elements are an integral part of the design. See page 75 in the Handbook and look up images on Pinterest.

*Note: AnnMarie Fay has resumed her duties as chair of the Invitational Committee.*

## Happy Retirement Ros!

At the February general meeting, Rock Spring Garden Club president Kate Abrahams presented long time Little Falls Presbyterian custodian Ros with a retirement card, cash gift, and a beautiful floral design from the club. Kate thanked him for all his years of dedicated and cheerful service to our club. The membership gave Ros a standing ovation and wished him well in retirement. Ros plans to return to his native Cambodia to enjoy his golden years. We will miss him!



## Officers for 2018-2019

In accordance with the RSGC By Laws the 2018 Nominating Committee, consisting of members Thea McGinnis (chair), Joan Asboth, Carol Cochran, Ann Collins, and Jenny Sullivan have secured the following slate for nomination of officers for the upcoming club year 2018-2019.

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| President      | Kate Abrahams    |
| Vice President | Sharon DeAngelis |
| Secretary      | Mary Millette    |
| Treasurer      | Jo Ella Samp     |

We will vote on the officers at the March general meeting. Additional nominations made be made from the floor if prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

## CONSERVATION

The Plant NOVA Natives Regional Initiative, partnered with the Virginia Native Plant Society, created an excellent guide titled “Native Plants for Northern Virginia”. It can be downloaded as a pdf for your computer for free or purchased as a print copy for \$8.50. The price goes down the more copies are ordered. Visit [www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org).

The club received a Monarch Way Station certification and a sign to post in Rock Spring Park. Many thanks to all who contributed to this effort! Lynda Martin’s husband, Lee, volunteered to install it. Thank you Lee!



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

*Helen McMahon*

Tuckahoe students learned about terrariums this month. They learned the name stems from two Latin words: terra=earth and arium=home and together means “little world.” We showed them two demo terrariums that had been prepared about a week ago and how they were thriving. Each student was given an empty plastic tennis ball container; packets of beautiful bright blue stones, charcoal, and dirt. They first filled the container with the stones; using an 8x11” piece of paper as a “funnel” layered the charcoal, and then the dirt on top of the stones. They added small clusters of Selaginella and Fittonia, placing them carefully in the container, lightly tapping the dirt around the plants, spritzing the inside of the container with water, and put on the lid.



They were told where to place the terrarium so it received just the right amount of sun; to watch the plants grow, and to monitor the amount of moisture—if too much to wipe it down, if drying out to spritz a small amount of water. Always curious minds, there were many questions as this seemed like something they had done for the first time. Some of the students were giving names to their creation. They were given a sheet with how to care for the terrarium as they journeyed back to class and eventually on to home showing off something new they had created. Susan Scotti and Helen McMahon led the project along with their Youth Activities Committee helpers.



## WAYS and MEANS

*Joan Hession*

Our sale for March will be the last time that we are taking donations for this club year. If you are spring house cleaning, please think of us and donate any extras that you have. Contact Joan Hession to donate.

The April sale will be plants donated by club members. As the weather warms up, think of dividing some plants to share with other club members. It is recommended that you pot several weeks before the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. This gives the new plants time to settle and makes for a more successful transition to a new environment.

## HORTICULTURE

*Ann Duffey*

**PROPAGATING PLANTS:** Division of Perennials Right now is the time to divide perennials to donate in April to the Ways & Means Committee for their April plant sale. Start digging now to have your transplants in good shape to sell by April 19th. Enjoy sharing your perennials with garden club members and at the same time, buy perennials new to you. In our Zone 7 where winters can be severe, it is advisable to divide many plants in very early spring before they begin to produce new growth. Division is one of the simplest methods of propagating plants.

A good general transplanting rule to follow is: flowers that bloom in the fall are transplanted in the spring, and flowers that bloom in the spring are transplanted in the fall. Flowers that bloom in mid-summer may be transplanted in spring or fall. Unlike cuttings, division involves complete sections of plants, with roots, leaves and stems. The only equipment needed is a spade or a couple of digging forks, or for delicate plants, a sharp knife. Taking pieces from a single plant is referred to as vegetative propagation: plants produced from pieces taken from a single parent plant. This insures that the offspring will inherit all the traits of the parent plant.

**Dividing fibrous clumps:** This method is used for hardy perennials such as phlox, sunflowers, asters, astilbe with a dense root system of small, tangled roots. The clump is dug up as a whole with garden forks or a spade. To minimize damage, dig deeply and lift as much of the root system as you can. To divide with garden forks drive a fork into the clump, then drive a second fork in so that the two are back-to-back. Ease the forks up and down before pulling them apart gently and slowly. Repeat this method to divide the plant into a number of pieces. If tangled roots are difficult to loosen, first soak the root ball in a bucket of water for several hours. Then you can use your thumbs to split the plants. If using a spade, cut through the center of the mass of roots to

divide them into sections. Some roots and buds will be damaged but this is unavoidable. Use a sharp knife to neaten the cut surfaces before replanting. If you find a hard, woody center when you lift the plant, discard it and use the younger sections, usually found on the outside edges. Each new clump should have three or more shoots. However, one shoot is enough. Plant it in fresh potting soil and water generously. Keep plants in a cool spot out of direct sunlight until ready to put into the ground. Be sure to keep them moist until time for the April plant sale.

Most perennials will stay healthier if they are dug up, divided and replanted periodically. One exception is peonies which are slow spreading and slow to reestablish themselves after division. Leave them undisturbed as long as they thrive.

Sources:

Pippa Greenwood, "Gardening Hints & Tips", DK Publishing, Inc., 1996  
 "Larousse Gardening and Gardens", The Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited, 1990  
 George Abraham, "The Green Thumb Garden Handbook", Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1961

**Butternut Squash Soup Recipe** This excellent soup was served at the February general meeting. Thanks to Parvaneh Limbert for submitting the recipe.

4 cups chopped onion  
 1 Tbs olive oil  
 3 boxes chicken broth  
 6 cups butternut squash, cubed  
 1 sq in fresh ginger, peeled and sliced thin  
 1 1/2 tsp nutmeg  
 1 tsp white pepper  
 Salt to taste

Saute onions in oil until they are translucent. Add chicken broth, squash and seasonings. Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes. Pulverize the soup with an immersion blender and adjusted the seasoning as desired.

## LIAISON REPORT

**NCAGC Judges Council is hosting an NGC Standard Flower Show entitled "River Views" at the home of Shirley Nicolai on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.** 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.

**Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm, Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-4 pm, 14712 Deepwood Lane, Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, Nokesville, VA**

**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.

**Greenspring Garden Sunday Lectures in March** 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$10 Fairfax Co. resident, \$12 non-resident [www.friendsofgreenspring.org](http://www.friendsofgreenspring.org) 3/4 Evergreen Azaleas, 3/11 Foodscape Revolution, 3/18 Amazing Plants for Shade 703 642-5173 Alexandria

**Piedmont District Awards Meeting, Monday, March 12, Four Points by Sheraton, Richmond** \$30.00 Meeting followed by lunch and program 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

**Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, April 8-10 (Sun-Tues), Westin Hotel, Richmond** \$210 for registration, all programs and 4 meals.

**NCAGC Awards Meeting and Conference, Friday - Saturday, April 13-14 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Location TBD

**Long Branch Nature Center's Native Plant Sale.** April 25th 1-4 p.m. 625 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington

**Green Spring Garden "Spring Garden Day" May 19th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Native Plant Sale 703 642-5173, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria

**PHOTO GALLEY**

**Photos from the February 2018 general meeting**

Design of the month was a petite design.





Horticulture specimens





**Spring is coming!!** – Early spring bloomers appeared around Arlington during a February warm spell.





**Hillwood Gardens Orchid Collection**





## ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**MARCH 15, 2018 DEADLINE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_ Emeritus? (Age 75+, 20 yr. member) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Active (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Changes in membership status require a written request and approval by Executive Bd.

I wish to make an additional contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the RSGC above the dues amount are tax deductible.

Current RSGC Committee and/or Board position? \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests/Experience: (Please circle)**

Business/Financial skills  Children/Youth Groups  Club Rep  Computer skills/Layout

Conservation  Data Base Management  Digital Design/Fine Art  Event/Program Planning

Floral Design  Fundraising/Sales  Garden Therapy  Garden Tours  Horticulture  Hospitality

Liaison  Newsletter/Writing  Publicity  Public Garden Maintenance  Web Sites

**Committee Choices:** Committee assignments are filled as renewal forms are received. Members will be matched to their interests as much as possible given the need to support all the committees. Members may serve on more than one committee. The 2018-2019 active Committees are: Awards, Budget, Civic Development, Conservation, Garden Therapy, Gardens of the Year, Holiday Design Event (HDE), Horticulture, Hospitality, Information Management, Invitational, Liaison, Membership, Program, Publications (Yearbook or Gardenzette), Publicity, Show, Ways and Means and Youth Activities

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to serve as Committee Chair or Co-Chair? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to serve on more than one committee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**General Meeting Hospitality:** (Choose from Sept., Oct., Dec. (Holiday Tea), Jan., Feb., Mar., April, or June)  
(Note: all active members provide hospitality at one general meeting guided by Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs. Program changes may alter general meeting dates in 2018-2019.)

1st Choice Month \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice Month \_\_\_\_\_

**Program/Field Trip/Speaker Suggestions/Contact Info.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions about membership renewal?** Please call/email Membership Chair Dianne Simmons at 703 304-8503/simmonsdianne714@gmail.com. **Please mail completed application and dues payment (check payable to Rock Spring Garden Club) to Jo Ella Samp 3815 Ridgeview Road N., Arlington, VA 22207. Deadline is March 15, 2018**

**Comments/Suggestions/Ideas about RSGC general meetings, programs, policies, committees, publications are welcome. All comments are held in strictest confidence. Any feedback is appreciated. Please use a separate sheet if necessary.**

**NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

Citation for Outstanding Garden Club Achievement

NCAGC State Award #18

January 1 through December 31

**Garden Club Member Survey Sheet**

This survey may be copied and distributed to members to help complete the NCAGC State Award #18 Application

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

The (Q.#) relate back to the Award #18 Application

(Q.6) I subscribe to:

National Gardener – NGC Newsletter (NOT The Capital Gardener)

(Q. 10) I was a volunteer at the following during the past year:

Arbor House Gift Shop

Fern Valley

(Q.11) I supported these NCAGC fundraisers:

President's Fundraiser (rain garden at the Arboretum)

Bought Pinless Posie

(Q.12) I am a Board Member or Officer of the

following organizations:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Central Atlantic Region

National Capital Area Garden Clubs

District Council of Accredited Flower Show Judges

Environmental Consultants Council

Gardening Consultants Council

Landscape Design Council

(Q. 13) I attended the following meetings and courses

(check all that apply):

NGC Convention

CAR Conference

NCAGC General Meeting: Awards

NCAGC Conference

NCAGC General Meeting: Fall

Flower Show School

Judges Council Symposium

Gardening Studies Schools

Landscape Design School

Other Symposia (describe)

---

Other Seminars (describe)

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(Q. 14) I am a:

NCAGC (National Capital Area) Life Member

NGC (National Garden Clubs) Life Member

CAR (Central Atlantic Region) Life Member

I became a NCAGC life member during the past year

I became a NGC life member during the past year

I became a CAR life member during the past year

(Q.15) I am a member of:

Environmental Consultants Council

\_\_ Gardening Consultants Council

\_\_ Council of Accredited Flower Show Judges

\_\_ Landscape Design Consultants Council

\_\_ US National Arboretum Guide Service

\_\_ Friends of the National Arboretum

\_\_ Flower Arranging Organizations (American Guild of Flower Arrangers, Ikebana, International, Floralia, Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas etc.)

\_\_ Plant Clinic/Master Gardeners

\_\_ American Horticultural Society

\_\_ Botanical Gardens (e.g. Meadowlark, Brookside, Green Spring)

Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ Plant Societies (individual memberships)

Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_