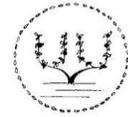


THE GARDENZETTE



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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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

VICE PRESIDENT

Dianne Simmons

SECRETARY

Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

General Meeting

April 19, 2018 10:00 AM

**Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Lower Level Friendship Hall
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207**

Thoughtful Design for Home and Garden

Speakers: Julie Liu and Holly Manon

Owners of Botanologica, Falls Church, VA

Drawing inspiration from nature, love of gardening, and a passion for sustainable plants, Julie Liu and Holly Manon will demonstrate their unique approach to creating “plant art” for garden and home.

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Design of the Month: Featured Plant Material Design

This month’s design can be either traditional or creative. The design must have an emphasis on one plant species. You may use any part or parts of the plant. You may also use other components in the design but they must be subordinate to the featured plant material. Please look up examples on Pinterest and see page 74 in the Handbook. Examples are shown below.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Abrahams

When Arlington's Japanese magnolia trees bloom in early spring, it is a magical time in the neighborhoods to admire them. I'm lucky to have inherited a large one from the previous homeowner; it looks like a huge pink hot air balloon waiting to take off. This year's blooming seems heroic given how many buds were torn off the tree and thrown on the ground during fierce windstorms. The trees are resilient and ready for whatever nature throws at them each year so they can display their pink splendor.



Rock Spring Park is also looking delightful with crowds of daffodils waving to visitors enjoying a springtime stroll through the green grass to visit the creek and see how the native plants are coming along. Some native ferns will join the daffodils later in the spring and members are welcome to help plant them. It's time to find our gardening gloves, clean tools, and energy to develop new projects and continue others in our community.

New spring projects in the planning stage are landscaping the area around Yorktown High

School's 40-year old sign on Yorktown Boulevard and educating seniors about floral design at the Langston-Brown community center. Continuing projects are making floral arrangements for Tuckahoe's House and Garden Tour and the Mother's Day 2nd grader activity at Tuckahoe Elementary. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

Thank you for sending in your renewal forms promptly and for your suggestions for field trips, speakers, workshops and projects. The planning starts soon for next year and your ideas are very valuable to keep the club dynamic and growing. For example, this month's program on using live plants to create artistic decorations for home and outdoors promises to be a very interesting class in a new, fresh type of gardening skill.

BOARD MEETING

Thursday May 3, 2018 10:00 AM

Hosted by Barry Wood

Co-hosted by Joan Hession

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Ella Samp

Mar 1-Mar 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$25,701.91

Total Receipts \$4,026.00

Total Disbursements \$831.63

Closing Balance \$28,896.28

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Susan Scotti

The first day of spring was cold and wet and held the promise of snow; a perfect day to pot pansies and talk about spring with 2nd graders! The 12 Tuckahoe students that came for their turn with the "garden ladies", identified pictures passed around of the most common spring flowers.

They learned they are grown from bulbs instead of seeds and need to be planted before the ground freezes. Tulip bulbs and anemone bulbs were shown to demonstrate all are not alike. We talked about the signs of spring we could already observe, such as buds, softer ground, crocus, forsythia, robins, and longer days.

The table was ready with terra-cotta pots (purchased from Ways and Means last year!) and the children were anxious to begin. They each received 3 pansies to place in their pot, and were given spoons and potting soil to fill in around them. Next, they decorated their containers with stickers and colored markers, making each one unique. The children were told to plant them outside later so they would continue grow and bloom.



Pansies are grown from seeds but are one of the earliest blooming plants available in nurseries. It was hard to choose between all the beautiful colors until we saw ones with ruffled petals with a mix of shades or colors in each pack.

Ann Kelly and I were the leaders for this program, and were assisted by Ann Duffey, Joyce Fall, Anne Larsen, Louise Rhoads, and co-chairs Carolyn and Lynda.

One of the children asked, "do we get to keep these?" a question we hear almost every time. In a world of computerized entertainment, it is very rewarding to see their excitement in working on the projects. We hope it encourages interest, awareness, and appreciation in both nature and gardening.



WAYS and MEANS – Spring Plant Sale

Joan Hession

The Spring Plant Sale will be of plants donated by club members. Please pot your plants early in non-returnable pots. Each plant should be labeled with: PLANT NAME, SUN OR SHADE, and HEIGHT (if known). We all enjoy getting new plants and this is a perfect time to share your abundant plants or to gather new specimens for your garden. John Auditore has agreed to be our Plant Specialist and will be on hand for any plant questions. Join us on April 19th!

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Collins will have a new address as of April 30, 2018.

New Custodian at Little Falls Presbyterian Church

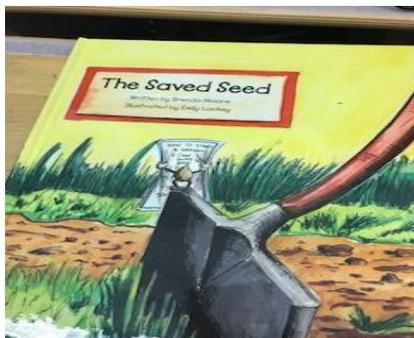
Saeed Noor has replaced longtime custodian Ros. He will be helping us at our general meetings at the church.

GARDEN THERAPY

Mary Kudless

How Does the Grass Grow?

Mary Beth Scaggs put together a sweet program on seeds and the power that lies within them. Our story was a beautiful book, purchased by the club for ongoing use on the evolution of the pumpkin seed and the types of conditions that enable a seed to flourish.



Further hands-on seed experiences were provided with the circulation of multiple seed types from beans to pumpkins to radishes. Susan Scotti shared a perfect radish, roots and all, which furthered the children's understanding and tactile experience.



The hands-on experience continued with the planting of wheat grass seeds which remain on the classroom window sill with lovely sprouting results.



We thank Marion, Connie, Susan, Mary K. and especially, Mary Beth who designed such a lovely program, in spite of not being well the last several weeks. She assured that all the supplies were in the classroom one day before the program. Thank you, Mary Beth!

AWARDS

Carol Cochran

Our garden club belongs to two regions, Virginia and National Capital Area. In November, our club submitted applications for awards to both of these regions.

The Piedmont District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs announced their awards on Monday, March 12, and RSGC earned quite a few ribbons! The Gardenzette won a blue ribbon for best newsletter; our Arlington fire house #8 project won a blue ribbon under the category, "Plant Together", and RSGC won a blue ribbon for its increase in membership. Red ribbons went to the RSGC website and the yearbook. All in all, a very good result for our club.

The awards from the National Capital Area Garden Clubs District III aren't ribbons; they are certificates. We received the Director's certificate of recognition, a citation for Outstanding Garden Club Achievement, a publication certificate of merit for Outstanding Club Newsletter and Outstanding Club Yearbook. From here, RSGC moves up to the "state" level, which includes all National Capital Area districts. These awards will be announced later in April. Any awards at that level will move on to the national level. District III includes Arlington, Fairfax, Manassas, McLean, Great Falls, and Centreville.

Both of these districts are part of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and we are hoping to get top prizes there.

NCAGC Judges Council Flower Show

Pictured below are low profile designs from the show. The first was created by Connie Richards.



Thea McGinnis won a blue ribbon for her petite design class using antherium, dancing ladies orchids, and bamboo at the NCAGC Judges Council Flower Show. She was very happy.



Piedmont District Spring Meeting

Four club members, Kate Abrahams, Joan Asboth, Carol Cochran, and Connie Richards, attended the Spring Piedmont District business meeting, luncheon, and program featuring Judy

Binns making new NGC Handbook designs for an attentive audience.



Orchid expert Arthur Hardwick who spoke last month was one of the vendors at the meeting since his business is located in the Richmond suburbs. Photos of Judy's designs are in the photo gallery. The large VFGC Convention with all districts represented will take place April 8-10th at the Westin Hotel in Richmond.

HORTICULTURE

Linda Martin

Lavender is one of my favorite plants or, should I say, herbs. It is a member of the mint family, and native to the Mediterranean, Middle East and India. Many of you may have once thought it can only be used in a potpourri. After joining the Herb Society of America, I found out much more about this herb. Besides using it in a potpourri, the flowers may be used in perfumes, soaps, teas, jellies, desserts and aromatherapy. There are more than 100 varieties. Some are best for culinary use where others are better for crafts. I have made an array of different consumables such as lemonade, pound cake, cookies and ice cream. For crafts it is good in soap, sachets, and fragrant mists. It is known for its soothing and calming effect. Lavender grows well in our area and comes in shades of purple, white and pink. Experiment with using it and you'll be happy you did.

LIAISON REPORT

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

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>.

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

Arlington Home Show and Garden Expo. Sat, April 14, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington 22204. A family-friendly community event featuring an "Ask a Master Gardener" table. Topics include composting, soil fertility, and turf alternatives. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703.228.6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

National Capital Area Garden Clubs State Meeting and Flower Show. Friday-Saturday April 13-14, Kenwood Country Club, Bethesda, MD Register at <https://ncagardenclubs.org>.

River Farm Spring Garden Market, Fri-Sat. April 13-14 10am - 4 p.m. 7931 East Boulevard Drive,

Alexandria, VA Plants, seeds, garden merchandise. Call 703 768-5700 for more info.

Ikebana International Show April 12-23 National Arboretum, Washington D.C.

Washington Daffodil Society Flower Show April 14-15 Saturday (2-7 p.m.) Sunday (9 am- 1:30 pm) Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple, 1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria

Virginia Historic Garden Week, April 21-28. Visit www.vagardenweek.org. To volunteer, contact club member Mary Lunger. Tour ticket prices vary from \$25- \$55. "America's Largest Open House". See floral designs by Garden Club of Virginia members in more than 250 houses throughout Virginia.

Friends of National Arboretum (FONA) Garden Fair and Plant Sale. Saturday-Sunday April 28-29th. www.fona.org/gardenfair

Washington Cathedral Flower Mart. Friday May 4th 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 3101 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington D.C. info@cathedral.org

Environmental School Course 4, May 17-18, Derwood, MD. Maryland ecology, aquatic animals, wetlands. Register at <https://ncagardenclubs.org/schools-and-councils>.

PHOTO GALLERY

From the March General Meeting

Design of the month was a reflective design







Arthur Chadwick, pictured below, gave a fascinating presentation on orchids





Spring Blossoms in Rock Spring Park



Horticulture Exhibits from the River Views Standard Flower Show hosted by NCAAGC Judges Council



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Piedmont District Spring Meeting

Judy Binns Designs



