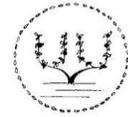


THE GARDENZETTE



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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Pat Getz

CONTENTS

Program	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Awards	2
Flower Show Planning	3
National Garden Week	3
Membership	3
Ways and Means	3
VFGC Convention	4
Mother's Day Activity	4
NCAGC Conference	4
Conservation	5
Garden Therapy	6
Liaison Report	7
Photo Gallery	8

Field Trip to Brookside Gardens

There will be no general meeting in May. The May program is a field trip to Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton, MD on May 17, 2018.



Brookside Gardens is a sprawling 50-acre green space with conservatories, water elements, flowers, and fruit trees. The tour will include time in the "Wings of Fancy" live butterfly exhibit. Lunch will follow at Old Angler Inn, 10801 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD.



All available spaces for the tour have been filled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Abrahams

This Spring's nesting season taught me firsthand about male robins' surprising territoriality and aggression. My backyard includes a handsome robin who fearlessly soaks in the birdbath up to his shoulders letting his feathers float. He noticeably makes all the other birds wait a long time for their quick rinse. I've gotten on his bad side and he reminds me of Tony Soprano. My first mistake was accidentally trapping his mate in the garage for a day or so. She was up in the rafters probably looking for a nesting site. The male kept attacking the windows near the garage, but I thought it was a reflection problem. After I realized the real problem, I invited her out but the husband was still angry and starting sitting on my car's driver's side mirror and leaving droppings daily! He even flew up to the window and glared at me when I was parked in the driveway. Now I'm sure Mr. and Mrs. have a nest in the boxwood bordering the driveway so anywhere I park brings him to a simmer. Reading about robins confirmed that males live year-round in their territories and only lose their aggression when too busy filling the daily quota of worms and insects to feed



the babies. My robin reminds me of the challenges of living in urban neighborhoods where we have to look out for each other in crowded streets, stores and parking lots and control our irritation at having to share our territory with other people. Robins must experience road rage that lasts for weeks. Fortunately, as garden club people we know the importance of remaining kind, civil, and patient as best we can with friend, foe, or fowl. Looking forward to our field trip at Brookside Gardens!

BOARD MEETING

Thursday June 7, 2018

Hosted by Mary Lunger

Co-hosted by Jenny Sullivan

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Ella Samp

Apr 1-Apr 30, 2018

Beginning Balance \$28,896.28

Total Receipts \$1,945.00

Total Disbursements \$2,244.10

Closing Balance \$28,597.18

AWARDS

Carol Cochran

On April 10, the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs awarded Rock Spring Garden Club a blue ribbon for the Gardenzette and another blue ribbon for the Arlington Firehouse 8 landscaping project. The club also won 5 NCAGC state level first place awards for Newsletter, Yearbook, Community Service, Website, and Overall Achievement. The national awards are given in May at the NGC convention.

Flower Show Planning

Thea McGinnis

Rock Spring Garden Club is planning a flower show for May 2019 - exactly a year from now. Here's what we need you to do: write down what's growing in your garden and when it blooms during the month. Why? Because this information will be important as we plan our flower show schedule for Horticulture. It makes no sense to put in classes of plants that have already bloomed in early April, right? So we want to know what's growing in your gardens that would be competitive exhibits in the month of May. So pay attention to what's blooming. Send your horticulture information to me or Anita Brown. Thanks!

National Garden Week

Kate Abrahams

Did you know the first week of June is National Garden Week (June 3-9)? National Garden Clubs has called on all clubs to do something special in their communities during this week to further environmental awareness. The RSGC Board approved the purchase and donation of copies of NGC's children's picture book **The Saved Seed** to all Arlington County libraries. The book illustrates the growth of a pumpkin seed, describing the relationships the plant has with creatures above and below the ground. It teaches an environmental message to young readers and was used recently in a RSGC Garden Therapy Committee program.

MEMBERSHIP

Kate Abrahams

Many thanks for your 2018-2019 membership renewals! Next year promises to be interesting and fun as always with a November pumpkin arrangement sale and May horticulture show along with new monthly programs. Thank you also for continuing to offer your hands and hearts to support our ongoing community

programs. The club is always looking for new members and friends, relatives, and neighbors are often interested in joining. Please invite them to our last general meeting at Bon Air Park where we will have a picnic lunch at a shelter then tour nearby pollinator gardens. There are a few spaces left for the May 10th Dumbarton Oaks tour if you would like to invite a guest. Finally, congratulations to our 10 emeritus members who have been club members for 20 or more years and reached age 75 and up!

WAYS and MEANS

Joan Hession

We have had a very successful year! Many, many thanks to all the club members! You are rock stars in contributing items, sharing your plants, and purchasing unique items from our Ways and Means table. I want to thank the W&M committee, also: Dianne Simmons, Co-Chair; Julie Wadsworth, Tools of the Trade Chair; Joyce Fall; Max Jensen; Parvenah Limbert; Diane Pollack; Connie Richards; George Ruppert; Becky Salzinger; and Christine Wegman.



Please add your thanks to Julie Wadsworth who has done W&M Tools of the Trade for six years! She always had great garden items and many homemade items and goodies. A special thanks goes to Julie for a RSGC stupendous job!

VFGC Convention

Kate Abrahams

I represented RSGC at the recent VFGC convention in Richmond, VA. Tony Todesco, an eminent floral designer who was instrumental in revision of the new handbook, presented new designs featuring structures he constructed to display flowers. I was lucky enough to win one of Tony's designs.



The convention featured a small flower show, tribute designs to VFGC presidents and board members, interesting vendors, an awards ceremony and interesting speakers talking about planting beautiful vegetable gardens, the new use of fungi instead of fertilizer, new plant hybrids, and warnings about new invasive insects and diseases (see the photo gallery for more of Tony's designs). RSGC received several awards and a cash prize of \$40. All garden club members are welcome to attend state and national conventions. The National Garden Club convention will be May 20-24 in Philadelphia.

Mothers' Day Flower Arranging at Tuckahoe School

Lynda Martin

We will meet in the art hall to prep the greens around 12 or 12:30 on Friday May 11 and will go to the classrooms at 1:50 to 2:50. Anyone who wants to come can notify Carolyn Barone or me. If anyone wants to donate greens, they can be dropped off at my house on Thursday. Thank you!

Celebrating NCAGC and Growing Together

Thea McGinnis

National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. sponsored an enjoyable two-day state conference April 13 and 14, 2018 at the Kenwood Country Club in Bethesda. Several members from Rock Spring Garden Club attended this fun and educational event. This Conference included the presentation of state awards, and RSGC was the recipient of a few. Highlights included a State Small Standard Flower Show, and a wonderful array of speakers: the very informative Katherine Biggins discussing climate change, and Chuck Schuster, University of Maryland Extension Educator, telling us all about how climate change affects our local food crops. We also enjoyed two floral design demonstrations. Paige Canfield of Sumner B Designs charmed us with several petite design ideas for the home. Our Saturday luncheon speaker was designer and artist, Cathie Graham, wowing us with designs she created for her new book, *Second Bloom*. Several hands-on workshops were offered as well: Garden Tips and Tools, Creative Writing for Gardeners, iPhone Garden Photography, a monoprints and ceramic workshop and make your own herbal vinegars. We also got a wonderful opportunity to spend at the pop-up Arboretum Gift Shop.

CONSERVATION

Pat Getz

The Conservation Committee, under the direction of Jo Ella Samp, hosted an all-club work party on April 26th at the club's plot in Rock Spring Park. Members weeded, planted, pruned, and cleaned up leaves and other detritus left over from fall and winter. It was a very productive session, and the garden is now looking good!



A new feature was added this year, signs that labelled some of the major plants in our mostly native plant garden.



GARDEN THERAPY

Mary Cottrell

It Is Springtime!...

At least at Glebe School's class with RSGC "garden ladies" on Wednesday, April 25! Wow! Everyone was so excited! Carol Cochran read about the brown earth of winter appearing to sleep...but after the rain and sunshine, suddenly little green blades of grass and small leaves unfurled on plants and trees. It appeared as if everything growing had awakened to spring!

Oh, my! Then the garden ladies led the class in a song about spring.



The students went to their chairs at the work tables (covered with newspapers). There the students each received an empty pot, potting soil, and either a marigold plant with a sunny yellow flower or an impatiens plant with a happy pink blossom. What fun! Stuffing the potting soil into the pot to support each plant...what preschooler wouldn't love to do this!?

The 30-minute session ended with the students eating yummy homemade cookies, juice, and baby carrots...another busy session with the well-organized garden ladies from RSGC. The ladies will be returning next month!



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>.

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

Flower Show School Course III. August 27-30, 2018 in Lynchburg, VA. This course is offered through the VFGC. Visit www.virginiagardenclubs.org for more information. Flower Show Courses should be taken in successive order. Tuition rebate available from RSGC after course completion.

Tuckahoe Elementary Home Garden Tour. Saturday May 12th Noon - 5 p.m. Free to Rock Spring Garden Club members. Visit www.tuckahoetour.org for more info.

Great Falls Garden Club Standard Flower Show. Free and open to the public on Saturday, May 19th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Great Falls

Library, [9830 Georgetown Pike](#) A, Great Falls, VD 22066 (703) 757-8560.

Outdoor Lab Open House, Sunday, May 20th. Noon - 4 p.m. Visit www.outdoorlab.org for more information.

Annapolis Secret Garden Tour. June 2nd and 3rd, Noon - 5 p.m. Tour gardens in Annapolis historic district. Hammond-Harwood House. Tickets \$30 in advance, \$35 on day of event. Visit www.hammondharwoodhouse.org for more info.

2018 Del Ray House and Garden Tour will be held Saturday May 12, 2018, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. There are 12 homes on this year's tour. Tickets are \$30. Proceeds from this year's tour will be donated to the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden and Del Ray Gateway Project.

PHOTO GALLERY

From the April General Meeting – Design of the month was a “featured plant material” design, which requires an emphasis on one plant species.





Speakers Julie Liu and Holly Mannon from Botanologica demonstrated their approach to creating “plant art” for garden and home.



Spring is busting out all over in Arlington, especially the azaleas!





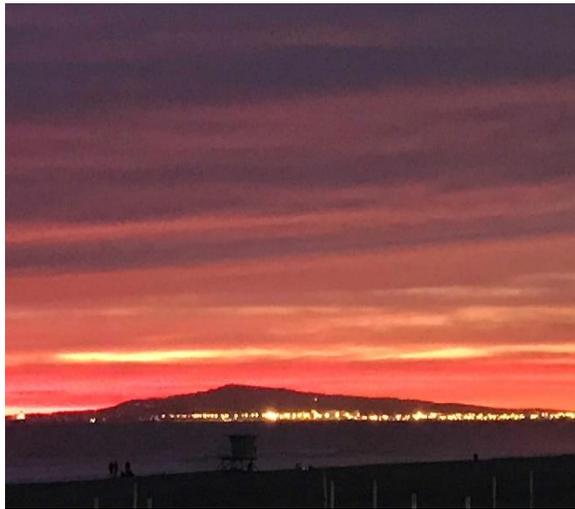
**Tony Todesco designs from the VFGC
Convention, April 8-10 in Richmond, VA**



California Dreamin...

Scenes from Southern California, March 2018

Sunset at Huntington Beach



Joshua Trees in the National Park of the same name



Landscapes in Death Valley National Park





Views from Channel Islands National Park

