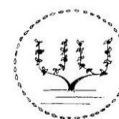


THE GARDENZETTE



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

Volume 57, Number 2

October 2018

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

SECRETARY

Mary Millette

TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

CONTENTS

Program	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Membership	2
Horticulture	3
Pumpkin Sale	5
Cookie Recipe	5
Conservation	6
Garden Therapy	7
Youth Activities	7
Civic Development	8
Morning of Design	9
Liaison Report	10
Photo Gallery	10

October Field Trip

Green Spring Gardens

There will be no general meeting in October. The October program is a field trip to Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312 on October 18, 2018. The tour will be from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Lunch will follow at the Silverado Restaurant, 7052 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003 at 12:00.

Green Spring Gardens was originally part of a tobacco plantation established during the first half of the 18th century. Today it is a 31 acre site owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority that includes a wooded stream valley, a naturalistic native plant garden, more than 20 thematic demonstration gardens, a green house, and a plant shop.

We will break into small groups to be led by master gardeners who can provide specific information about the plantings there. Our tour will include a visit to the historic Georgian house built by John Moss in 1784.

There are a few open spaces remaining for the trip. If you are interested, please get your payment of \$32 to Jenny Sullivan by Wednesday October 10. Make the check payable to Jenny Sullivan, and select an entree of Monterey chicken salad or bacon cheeseburger with fries, and a dessert of apple pie or chocolate waffle.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Abrahams

The club engine started up smoothly as the club happily enjoyed the first meeting in Friendship Hall with delightful autumn wreath demonstrations. This month a field trip promises fresh air, autumn colors, and fall plantings at Green Spring Gardens with socializing at lunch afterwards. Committees are busy with educational programs for seniors and young children, and preparing for the pumpkin arrangement sale in November and Holiday Tea in December. The sale will be the only club fundraiser this year so I hope everyone can make one and earn a non-judged floral design credit. Likewise, making an arrangement for the Holiday Tea is a non-judged, fun challenge that will also give you a floral design credit by helping decorate Robin Fitch's home for the holidays. Experienced members will help everyone who wants instruction and advice.

It was wonderful to see many guests and visitors at our September meeting and I hope to see some new member applications come in before the end of the year. Please invite your guests to the November club meeting so they can learn about what we do and meet more of our friendly members. Later on, there will be more information about the Horticulture Specialty Show planning but you should plant your May flowering bulbs now if you want to enter some blooms. By the way, did you notice the new sound system with wireless microphones? I hope it helped make the presentation more audible to members in the back of the hall. Please let me know if it worked or whether it needs to be louder. Many thanks to Max Jensen for donating a projector and screen to the club so we could view Connie's

lovely slide show of club events and members' friendship. Many thanks also for Anita Brown and Thea McGinnis for filling in as judges for Babs McClendon. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy club year ahead!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jo Ella Samp

Sep 1-Sep 30, 2018

Beginning Balance \$25,563.95

Total Receipts \$407.00

Total Disbursements \$1,590.77

Closing Balance \$24,380.18

BOARD MEETING

Thursday November 1, 2018 10:00 am

Host: Ann Marie Fay

Co-host: Mary Kudless

HORTICULTURE

Why We Use Botanical Nomenclature

Christine Wegman



The reason we use botanical nomenclature to identify a plant is that it eliminates a lot of confusion. I love to tell this story about my mother. She was a wonderful gardener, that enviable person who could make anything grow. She made beautiful gardens in such diverse climates as southeastern and western Australia, and the U.S. mid-Atlantic and Pacific coast. Mother was aware of the existence of botanical nomenclature, but she had no interest in it. The closest she came to applying it to a plant was the word “japonica” which she used rather indiscriminately for three different plants: camelia, pieris, and flowering quince. We weren’t always sure which one she meant. And that, of course, is precisely the reason why botanical nomenclature has become important. If we use it correctly we don’t have to wonder about which “japonica” we are referring to. I still love the traditional common names for plants and I continue to use them along with the Latin names. I remember my Mother holding a snapdragon flower horizontally and pinching it to illustrate its resemblance to a snapping dragon. This charming analogy is utterly lost in its botanical name, *Antirrhinum majus*. But things were simpler in the good old

days because they really were simpler.



The 19th century was a time when legendary European plant explorers discovered many new species of plants in Asia and introduced them into cultivation in Europe and America. Many new Asian discoveries were relatives of plants in the west. Native American azaleas, witch hazels, dogwoods, and hibiscus – to name a few -- all have East Asian counterparts. Specific nomenclature is needed to distinguish these different forms of the same plant. In our own time, the amazing biological research that has led to new life saving pharmaceuticals also led to new and faster ways for breeders to develop and introduce new plants into the market. Hundreds (probably thousands) of new plant varieties, and even crosses between different plant species, have made their appearance. A good case in point is the wonderful Itoh hybrid peony, which produces the beautiful leaves and flowers of a tree peony on a perennial plant that is not subject to the vicissitudes of late spring frosts. The traditional common names are just not specific enough to properly identify the vast numbers of new plants and hybrids that exist. Hence the need for a more organized way to deal with the situation.

The system we use today was invented by Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist who lived in the 18th century. He used Latin names because Latin was the universal language of science and learning in Europe at the time, thus a plant name would be the same in any country. This was a tremendous advantage to the relatively small group of botanists and plant enthusiasts because everybody knew exactly what plant

they were talking about, even though they lived in different countries and spoke different languages. That same advantage applies today. When you use the correct botanical name for plant identification, everybody knows exactly what plant you mean.



Plants are grouped into divisions that describe their characteristics. The system is hierarchical comprising three groups: family, genus, and species. Family is the largest group, species the smallest and most specific. When we identify plants we generally only use the last two: genus and species. Hence, the term, binomial (or two names). So, my mother's "japonicas" become *Camellia japonica*, *Pieris japonica*, and *Chaenomeles japonica* (quince). The names are written in italics, or when handwritten they are underlined. Capitalize the name of the genus (*Camellia*) but not the species (*japonica*). If you don't know the botanical name for a plant, it is easy to find on the internet. Just enter the phrase "botanical name for snapdragon" and it will give you the answer, *Antirrhinum majus*. This binomial name is the first part of a plant's proper identification. When you are entering a plant in a horticultural flower show 5 points are awarded for a "plant completely identified with genus, species, cultivar, as appropriate." It may only be 5 points, but it may well be the difference between a ribbon and not. And, plants that are not correctly identified are not eligible for an NGC Top Exhibitor award.

Next month I will write about hybrids and cultivars, and how they are noted in a plant's proper name.

The Importance of Knowing Your Plant Names

Anita Brown

With our upcoming Spring Horticultural Flower Show in mind, I mentioned at our last general meeting the necessity of using the binomial classification (the internationally recognized scientific plant name) for the horticultural specimens we will be presenting. I suggested that if some of us are not using the binomial name at our monthly meetings it would be a good idea to start doing so in order to become familiar with the appropriate terminology prior to our flower show. Before the NGC Revised 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows, we used the terms genus and species of our specimens for the binomial name. These terms are outlined in our 2018-2019 RSGC yearbook on page 25. Page 24 gives examples of horticultural entry cards used in a flower show with the genus and species listed. Note that the NGC in the Revised 2017 Handbook made a change in this terminology and now has the binomial name listed as the genus and the specific epithet. (In other words, the term specific epithet is now used instead of species. In the new Handbook the genus and specific epithet now make up the Species). See page 53. Also note that there is no change in how a genus and the specific epithet are written on an entry card. In spite of the new terminology, if you look at page 24 of our yearbook, the examples are still written correctly. We would just refer orally to the change in the term "species" to "special epithet." In fact, I mention this change so that if you hear a judge refer to the special epithet, you will be knowledgeable of the term and understand how the term species is now understood. If you have a Revised 2017 Handbook, you will note on page 53, that the Classification of plants is first grouped into a

“family,” but in our flower shows, we do not use the family name but only the genus and specific epithet. **Remember that even if your specimen appears perfect, if the genus and specific epithet are not provided, a Top Exhibitor Award cannot be provided.** The variety, cultivar, series or patented name should also be added if it is known. As you know, the Horticulture Committee is available at all meetings to help you classify your specimens if you have not been able to do so prior to the meeting.

UPCOMING PUMPKIN ARRANGEMENTS SALE Connie Richards



On November 19th, our club will be selling floral arrangements in pumpkins and gourds. They will be sold from Mary Lunger's garage, from 3 to 7 pm. Finished pumpkins should be dropped off there that morning between 8 and 10 am. Contact me if you need an alternate time. **We need at least 50 arrangements to make this event successful.** At this point I have less than 20 promised. The best sellers are the medium-sized and groups of small pumpkins/gourds. While some people prefer the traditional orange pumpkins, the white, green and variegated colors are very popular. Be sure to condition the flowers and greens and use flowers that will last for at least a week as people want these for their Thanksgiving holidays. Mums, alstroemeria (Peruvian lilies), sunflowers, and statice are some good choices. Be sure to use a plastic container for the oasis

so water will not drip into the pumpkin which promotes early rot.

There will be a workshop at Ann Marie Fay's home from 2-4 pm on Sunday, November 18. You need to register in advance as it is limited to 12 people. Bring your cleaned pumpkin, conditioned flowers and greens, and oasis. If there are more people interested in working as a group, I'll host a session at my home. I'm also happy to help anyone with cleaning the pumpkin as I have a good tool for this. Just contact me in advance to arrange a time.

Please send me an email if you are going to do a pumpkin. **Remember this does count as one show design for the year.** We also need people to distribute flyers to advertise the sale. Contact me and I will get them to you. Don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Pumpkin Pecan Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

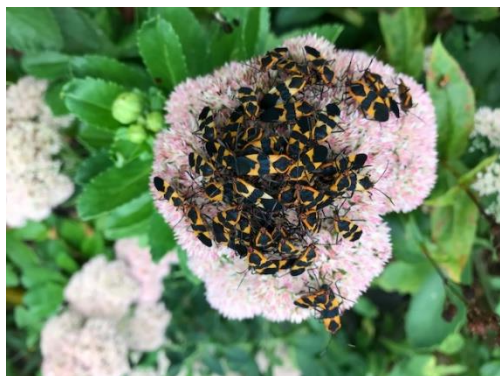
These delicious cookies are dairy and gluten free.

- 1 c pumpkin puree
- ½ c sugar
- ¼ c olive oil
- 1 Tbs molasses
- 1 ½ c gluten free flour blend
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp flaxseed meal
- ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ c chocolate chips
- ½ c chopped pecans

Combine the first four ingredients in a large bowl. Combine the remaining ingredients in a medium bowl. Add the dry mixture to the wet mixture and stir until just combined. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Makes about 18 cookies.

CONSERVATION

Summer photos from the RSGC-maintained plot in Rock Spring Park. Thanks to all the club members who have contributed their time, effort, and plants this year.



GARDEN THERAPY

A New Year of Bringing the Joy of Gardening and Nature to Glebe Elementary School

Mary Kudless

The members of the Garden Therapy Committee convey the gifts and talents of the entire Rock Spring Garden Club membership in our work with the 3 and 4 year old developmentally disabled students at the Glebe Elementary School. Over the years, we have learned a lot from our students about their own family gardens, their knowledge of birds and plants and their excitement about the natural environment and ecosystem that surrounds them. This year, as always, our committee members will take the lead on monthly programs that engage the students in all things floral, plant, wildlife, ecological, bird, bee, and seasonal. We are fortunate to be assisted by many Club members in delivering these programs. The programs involve storytelling, music, hands on projects, and of course, healthy snacks! Generally, the students take their creations home to share with their families or in some instances, watch their projects take root and flourish on the classroom's windowsill. We have wonderful support from our teachers and principal at the school and the parents are very excited about our efforts. The schedule and the names of RSGC members who are sharing their time, love of children and expertise, is as follows:

October 17: Mary Kudless, Susan Scotti, Lynda Martin and Joyce Fall

November 28: Mary Beth Scaggs, Mary Millette and Dianne Simmons

January 23: Mary Cottrell, Renee Bayes, Janice Haines

February 20: Susan Scotti, Joan Asboth and Sherry Foster

April 3: Marion Hart, Ann Marie Fay and Robin Fitch

May 22- Margi Melnick- (plenty of room for additional volunteers to assist)

An ideal staffing complement is 4 persons for each program, so, if you have any interest in joining us, we have plenty of opportunity. Program leaders or Mary will be in touch with each volunteer about their potential contributions. All of the programs will be held at Glebe Road Elementary School at 2 pm. It is helpful, if you can arrive at 1:45 pm, park in front of the building and sign in at the school's office and obtain a nametag. Thank you for your willingness to assist the members of the committee in delivering this wonderful program.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Carolyn Barone

Tuckahoe Elementary School: Peter Rabbit's Garden

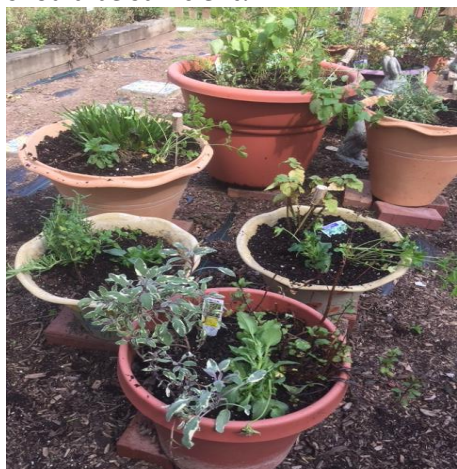
Since Mother Nature was in charge in September for the planned outdoor activity, the rained-out project was rescheduled for October 2 and took place in Peter Rabbit's Garden under the guidance of members Louise Rhoads, Ann Kelly, Ann Duffey, Max Jensen, Susan Scotti and myself.



While the children ate lunch, Carolyn Barone read "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter. This tale is over 100 years old, was written solely by Beatrix Potter and was illustrated by her, as well as initially published

by her. She had many pets and based her stories on them. The children enthusiastically shouted out the names of the four rabbits—Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter Rabbit—and knew about the wandering of Peter as he mischievously scampered through Mr. McGregor's Garden.

A beautiful fall day greeted us as we led the children to the school's Peter Rabbit's Garden where ceramic pots were readied to be planted with rosemary, chives, parsley, lemon balm, lemon thyme, ornamental kale, and pansies. The children prided themselves on planting the herbs and wanted to know when they would be ready for harvesting. They questioned why the root-bound plants needed to be loosened before placing them in the soil. As far as they were concerned, just taking them out of the containers and placing them on top of the soil should be sufficient!



The activities with the Tuckahoe second graders are always received with enthusiasm and excitement. The Youth Activities Committee looks forward to the next project on October 23 when floral arrangements in pumpkins is the planned project.

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

Joan Asboth

A one-hour floral design class and garden club talk was presented at Langston Brown Community Center for the Arlington 55+ program by Rock Springs Garden Club's own Thea McGinnis (emcee), along with Ann Marie

Fay and Renee Bayes (floral designers).

Approximately 25 people attended; most actively participated and asked many thoughtful questions. The audience was interested in both the floral designs and horticulture exhibits.

Thanks to Anita Brown for bringing many unique horticulture specimens, and to Kate Abrahams, Charlotte Benjamin, and Ann Duffey for making the 18 small floral arrangements.

Audience members were thrilled to receive the door prizes of Renee and Ann Marie creations, and almost everyone left with lots of new knowledge and a floral tribute.



NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUB'S
JUDGES COUNCIL PRESENTS:

MORNING OF DESIGN

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

Hosted by District I
Director, Julie Harrison
robertha3@verizon.net 301-627-5375
on

Friday, November 2, 2018

Doors open at 10:30 am for social and snacks

11:00 am -12:30 pm –3 of our own special designers

Cheverly Community Center Auditorium
6401 Forest Road
Cheverly, MD 20785
301-773-8360

Located off the BW Parkway in the town of Cheverly
Parking is available

Free to members of
National Capital Area Garden Clubs

Jane Oliver Smith, Chair
jsmith@crslegal.net
703-937-7580 for questions

LIAISON REPORT

U.S. Botanical Garden. Two exhibits through October 15th: "Wall Flowers: Botanical Murals" and "Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora" in Conservatory Gallery. Also visit the outdoor National Garden and Bartholdi Park across the street from the Conservatory. 100 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20001 www.usbg.gov

NCAGC Landscape Design School Course III. Mon.-Tues. October 29-30 at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks, Fairfax, VA www.ncagardenclubs.org for registration.

Judges Council Morning of Design, Friday Nov. 2nd. Cheverly Community Center (See flyer in this issue).

Piedmont District Fall Meeting and Flower Show. Mon. October 8th. Four Points Sheraton, Midlothian, VA.

Fine Arts and Flowers, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Wed. Oct. 24 (Gala) through Sunday Oct. 28th. Free Admission to exhibit. Tickets required for lectures, luncheons and other special events. www.vmfa.museum/exhibitions

Central Atlantic Regional Conference of State Garden Clubs. October 25-26, Columbus, Ohio. www.car-sgc.org/conference

National Arboretum "Oaktoberfest" Saturday, October 27, Fun Run, Beer garden, vendors, garden tours, kids activities.

NCAGC Bus Trip Sign-up for Philadelphia Flower Show. March 7th trip date. \$50.00. Visit www.ncagardenclubs.org for more information.

PHOTO GALLERY

From the September 2018 General Meeting

Betty Sejas and Jane Winter from Company Flowers demonstrated autumn wreath making.



Floral Designs





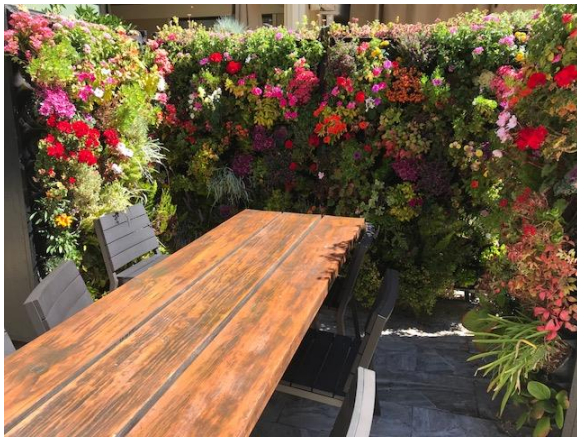
Horticulture Specimens



Living Moveable Walls

Observed by Kate Abrahams on a recent visit to California.

Latest California trend in outdoor dining - pots of different plants are arranged in rows on shelves that tilt them outward in moveable walls. Sectional furniture meets shoe racks meets one-gallon flower pots! Coming soon to Virginia from the land of fire pits, hot tubs and twinkle light wrapped trees.



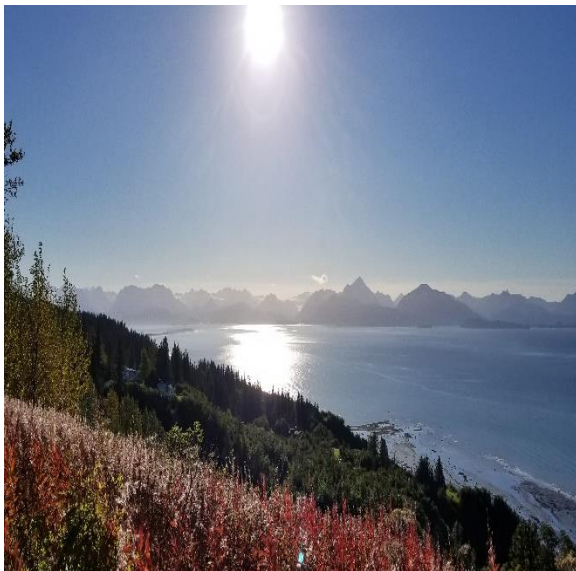
Alaska in Autumn 2018

Shared by Mary Beth Scaggs, from a recent trip

Polychrome Pass at Denali National Park



Fireweed on the Kenai Peninsula



Arctic ptarmigan



Hatcher Pass



Arctic tundra at Hatcher Pass

