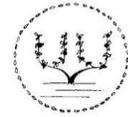


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 57, Number 4

December 2018

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

### SECRETARY

Mary Millette

### TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

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## *RSGC Holiday Tea*

*Theme: Home for the Holidays*

*Thursday, December 13, 2018*

*At Robin Fitch's Home*

*Time: 2:00- 4:00*

*Come and celebrate the holidays by joining club members for a fun afternoon of food, floral designs, and fellowship*

*Host Committee: Louise Rhoads, Head Host. Joan Asboth, Anita Brown, Robin Fitch, Marion Hart, Joan Hession, Parvaneh Limbert, Margie Melnick, Diane Pollack, Becky Salzinger, Nancy Snell*

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If you need help getting to the tea, please contact Kate Abrahams.  
Please note that the tea is on the **second** Thursday of December.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kate Abrahams

My sincere thanks to the club members whose great efforts made the pumpkin arrangements sale a huge success! So many gorgeous pumpkin creations will decorate homes in a fresh, beautiful, and affordable way. The sale will help the club in many ways; financially, in community outreach, as advertising to attract new members and as a fun project for pulling together and sharing the experience. Next comes the club's annual tradition, celebrating at the Holiday Tea when we admire beautiful arrangements, great food, holiday sweaters, and joyful smiles of new and old friends. Many thanks to all who contribute to make this event happy and memorable. Best wishes to everyone to share time with loved ones near and far during this holiday season. In January, the club's active planning for the Horticulture Specialty Flower Show in May, 2019 will get rolling and newsletter articles will inform you about it in detail. The month of May seems distant but it will be good to discuss plans early with experienced people contributing their thoughts and advice. Many thanks again for the support, good ideas, feedback, and hard work you have all demonstrated to make the club a place we all want to be and want to share with new members. Happy Holidays!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Jo Ella Samp

Nov 1-Nov, 2018

Beginning Balance \$24,205.95

Total Receipts \$3,222.59

Total Disbursements \$896.83

Closing Balance \$26,531.71

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday January 3, 2019 10:00 am

Host: Mary Lunger

Co-host: Charlotte Benjamin

## MEMBERSHIP

The club welcomed our newest member, Catherine McNair (l) at the November general meeting. Catherine was sponsored by friends Gayle Palmer (c) and Mary Lunger (r).



## November General Meeting:

### Chic Floral Designs

#### Kate Abrahams

Ellen Seagraves, owner of Chic Floral Designs, spoke at the November meeting despite slushy, snowy travel from Bethesda. She is an eminent designer who is President of the Independent Floral Designer Association and a recently inducted member of the American Institute of Floral Design. She will complete her European Master's certificate in Belgium next year. Her invaluable assistant, Oscar, came along to help transport and set up beautiful demonstration arrangements for enhancing holiday tablescape.



European designers are fond of creating interesting structures to hold flowers so Ellen showed the club a square wreath with tied canes she had made. She also showed us a long, low "train" of clear, small containers to hold flowers.



For autumn holidays, Ellen loves to use her personal collection of antique ceramic pieces of brown transferware for their fall colors. She buys fall color roses in tan, taupe, cocoa browns at Potomac Floral and new hybrid chrysanthemums and fresh evergreens from an Oregon supplier. The designs she created in the cream and brown bowls, pitchers and vases looked lovely. She focused on describing the plant material she used and talked about life in the floral design business. Her particular niche now is private school events after starting many years ago as a volunteer at Holton-Arms School. She has done many weddings and finds that brides really obsess about their bouquets and can sometimes change their minds about the color scheme and flowers at the last minute! She always brings extra flowers to handle last minute emergencies.



For tablescapes, she recommends starting with a large centerpiece and building from there. She likes to use plenty of votive candles and smaller arrangements to spread down the length of the table and around the centerpiece. For her demonstration, she used ceramic pieces that were not the same pattern but shared the same color scheme. She likes to use a color wheel if she is stuck figuring out what colors will go together well. She also likes to make the table fun for children by including interesting things that can be handled and examined such as pomegranates, feathers, fossils, nuts, or stones. She likes to use inexpensive copper lanterns on either side of the centerpiece to make the table even more elegant and stately. She happily reuses her beloved ceramic containers so she can focus on the plant material knowing the colors in the ceramics are right for fall designs. It was a pleasure and a privilege to hear Ellen speak and inspire club members to try something new for the holidays.



### INVITATIONAL DESIGNS

The lovely arrangement shown below was made by Renee Bayes for the Breast Cancer Symposium at Virginia Hospital Center in October. RSGC has supported this event for the last 10 years.



Ann Marie Fay was invited to create the beautiful design shown below for the food table at a recent Dominion Guild meeting



## Pumpkin Sale Connie Richards

I want to give my sincere thanks to all who participated in this year's sale of Fall Pumpkin Flower Arrangements. We grossed over \$2500! Special thanks to Ann Marie Fay who hosted a workshop in her home and to members who participated in the two workshops to make multiple arrangements for the sale. Many thanks to Mary Lunger for graciously allowing us to use her garage for the sale.



The energy she spent clearing it out and cleaning up after us was much appreciated. I want to recognize Mary Millette, Sandra Hodges, and Julie Williams, new active members serving on the sale committee, who spent many hours and much energy creating a beautiful flyer, printing and emailing it, planning, creating, selling, and in all ways ensuring the success of the sale.



Many thanks to the members who made one or more pumpkins, and/or contributed pumpkins or flowers, circulated the flyer and sale details and told friends about the sale. Thanks to Renee Bayes and Sheila Moore who helped the committee present the arrangements on sale day. We had several members who bought multiple arrangements as we were nearing the end of the sale and still had a significant number left which greatly contributed to the high amount we earned. In addition to the money that we made, we have made a great impression on the people who attended the sale.



I could see that people were awestruck as they walked into the space and saw the spectacular arrangements. We have several people who are now interested in joining the club.



If I've left anyone out, I'm very sorry. We have so many members who are always willing to contribute to our club activities which is why we are known as being very special. As I go to different meetings in the NCAGC, I'm constantly hearing this from people. I am definitely proud to be a member of Rock Spring Garden Club.



## RSGC Horticulture Show

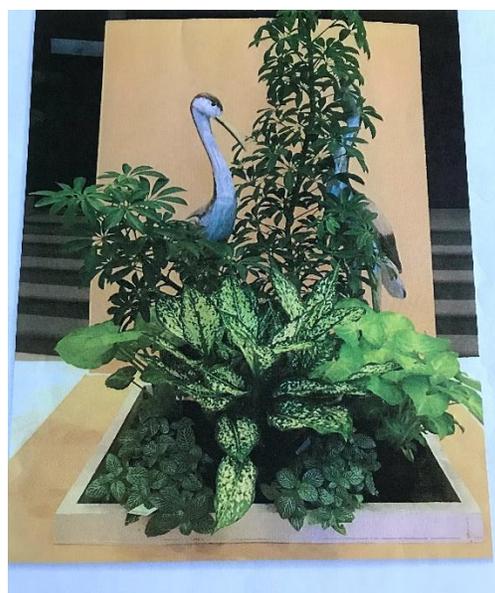
### Kate Abrahams

This May's Horticulture Specialty Flower Show promises to educate club members about plants growing in our gardens and homes in an atmosphere of friendly competition. Entry categories will feature May blooming plants as well as evergreens, herbaceous perennials, container plants, and combination plantings. Additionally, a new "Botanical Arts" section will provide creative opportunities in making a small

"temporary garden" with potted plants or submitting 8x10 photographic prints in color or black and white. Competing in and observing the show should be a good exercise in presenting and naming horticulture according to National Garden Club (NGC) new handbook standards. We follow the rules closely already in our monthly meeting horticulture displays. One change will be using NGC entry cards rather than index cards to name the specimen correctly, get credit for the entry, and to qualify for judging in the particular group.

The show lasts one day; entries arrive in the morning by 10 a.m., judging occurs 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., then the show opens to the public at 2 p.m. for a few hours of viewing before being dismantled. So there is lots of activity to get entries ready, set up the staging, take care of the judges, and train the clerks who assist them, enter, organize and place the entries correctly, and manage the visitors and dismantling after the show closes to the public. It's a whirlwind but I hope it will be fun, educational, and thrilling for entrants! Please let me know if you would like to help Anita and me organize this May event.

Below is an example of a temporary garden.



## HORTICULTURE

### Choosing Evergreens for Outdoors and Indoors

Christine Wegman

This article is about choosing evergreen trees and shrubs for your garden that will have the



added benefit of making beautiful winter arrangements for the holidays and beyond.

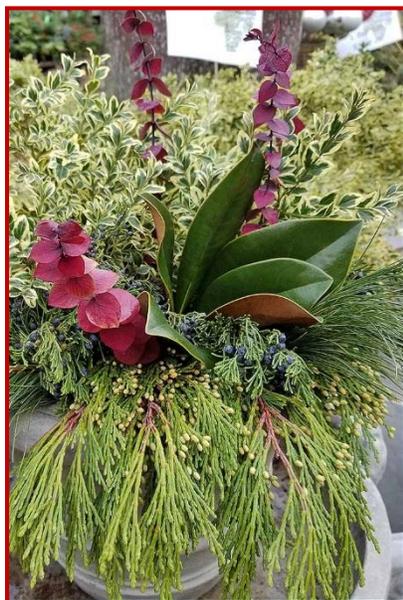
By this time of the year we all have a pretty good idea of what landscape designers refer to as the “bones” of our gardens: those plants that act as structural elements by their shape, size, and color. Structural plants look much the same throughout the garden year. Often focal points that draw the eye to perennial and annual color, they remain handsome during the winter. Mostly evergreen shrubs, some are deciduous trees and shrubs that remain an attractive presence through the winter because of their beautiful form or the color of their bark. They are the elements that give a garden winter beauty.

Now is a good time to take a look at your



garden with an idea to improving its structure. Annuals have gone to seed and perennials have died back. It is easy to see where planting a small tree or evergreen shrub would improve the overall look of the garden, both in summer and winter. This could be a tall, narrow conifer for the back of a border, a small crape myrtle with attractive winter bark, or even some low-growing juniper for the front of a border. Making room amongst the flowers for a few conifers or small broadleaf evergreens can make a garden beautiful all year. Visiting a few conifer nursery websites – Iseli is a good example – will give you lots ideas for how this can be done. There is a conifer or small evergreen for just about any place in a garden, even heavy shade. This winter, make a note of where some evergreen plants are really needed and then search the web to find what might work in your situation. As you plan for more winter structure, keep in mind those plants that are good for winter arrangements. If you plant strategically, you can have a bit of fresh greenery in the house through much of the winter. And, of course, you can bring a branch in to one of our meetings for horticulture credit.

**Conifers** are the quintessential greens for holiday decoration, and almost any conifer you plant in the garden will look beautiful indoors.

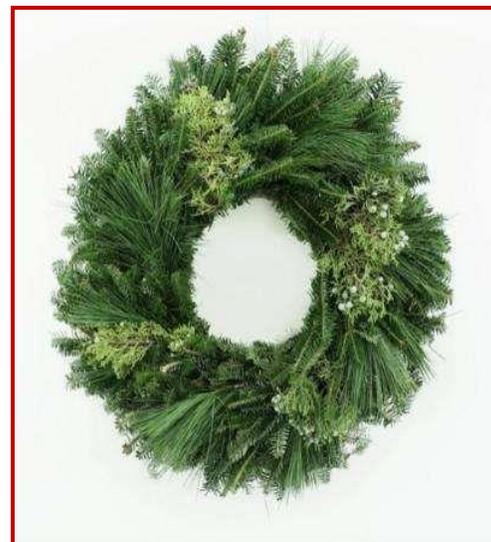


Some conifers last better indoors than others. Juniper, arborvitae, cryptomeria (false cypress), cedar and cypress are all long-lasting for holiday

arrangements and will grow in our area. Pine is another one that is beautiful in holiday arrangements, but I have had better luck with short needle pines than long needle types indoors. Color, as well as texture, is an important factor, and there are many new small conifer introductions with colorful yellow or blue foliage that will make any arrangement pop.

**Broadleaf evergreens** are another staple of holiday decoration. Magnolia is a southern favorite because it looks beautiful and is lasts well. The leaves of the ubiquitous skip laurel are perfect for indoor greenery. Boxwood is unparalleled for arrangements and will last throughout the holidays. There are a number of variegated varieties that are easy to grow and make a beautiful eye-catching addition for any indoor arrangement. Aucuba is a plant that many of us grow; it too lasts well indoors, and if kept in water, will often take root. Nandina gives a light airy effect to arrangements, and ivy – variegated or not – does well in wreaths or arrangements. Holly is not as long-lasting as some of the other broadleaf evergreens, but the berries (on female plants) are the best source of red, and are pretty on their own with the leaves clipped off.

**Bare twigs and branches** give any arrangement added structure and interest. If you plant red or yellow twig dogwoods, now is a good time to begin pruning them. They will need to be pruned back in the spring, and if you have a mature plant, you won't miss a few stems. Harry Walker's Walking Stick is another plant that works well in



arrangements. I have never had any success with willows, curly or otherwise, as we can't offer them their preferred moist, sunny environment.

**Harvesting evergreens** for holiday arrangements is not difficult. Think of it as pruning the plants, rather than just cutting what you need for indoors. This will give you a lot of leftover foliage, but will retain the plant's good looks for the rest of the season. The foliage will grow back in spring and the plant will be healthier for a good pruning.

I make two wreaths for the holidays and this strategy has worked pretty well for me over the years. I still need to get yellow cedar foliage from Merrifield's Garden Center, but for the rest, I can bring it in from the garden.

## LIAISON REPORT

**NCAGC Bus Trip Sign-up for Philadelphia Flower Show.** March 7th trip date. \$50.00. Visit [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org) for more information.

**Garden of Lights Holiday** display at Brookside Garden, Wheaton, MD, Nov 16-Jan 1. [www.montgomeryparks.org](http://www.montgomeryparks.org). Cost varies by vehicle size and day of week.

**Meadowlark Gardens "Walk of Lights"** Friday, November 9th - Sunday, January 6th 5:30 - 10 p.m. [www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights](http://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights). Best price and availability of tickets by purchasing online. Vienna, Virginia

**Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens "Dominion GardenFest of Lights"** [www.lewisginter.org/event/dominion-gardenfest-of-lights](http://www.lewisginter.org/event/dominion-gardenfest-of-lights) November 23-January 7th 5 - 10 p.m. Seniors 55+ tickets \$11.00 each. 804 262-9887. Buy tickets online through website. 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228

**U.S. Botanic Gardens Conservatory "Seasons Greenings: All Aboard!"** November 22- January 1st. Recreations of train stations in plant materials. 100 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20001 202 225-8333.

### Hillwood Holiday Events:

Faberge Rediscovered Christmas Trees Display through January 13, 2019

Russian Winter Festival Dec 8-11, 10 am-5 pm.

Holiday Décor Tours Dec 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

More information at [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org)

**RSGC is featured in this**

**blog:** <http://ncagardenclubs.blogspot.com/2018/12/theres-kid-in-my-garden-post-by-thea.html>, authored by Thea McGinnis



## Haymarket Town & Country Garden Club

Invites your Club and Friends

to Join us at our

### “Christmas Shoppe”

On Tuesday **December 11<sup>th</sup>** please plan to do your **holiday shopping** with us! We will have something for everyone—**holiday gifts** for all ages, **floral arrangements** for your table, **wreaths** for your doors, lots of wonderful **baked goods**—cookies, candy, breads and more. There will also be a **gently used and vintage** items selection.

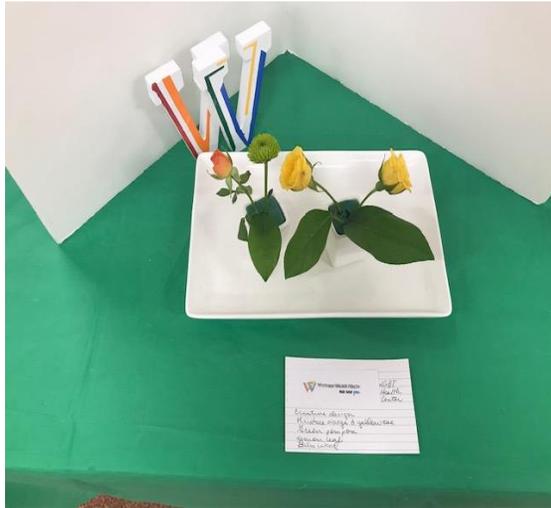
The “**Christmas Shoppe**” will be open from **1pm-5pm**, so tell your family and friends to come and join us for lots of **good shopping** and a **cup of warm cider**. Evergreen Fire Station on Route 15 in Haymarket. 3510 James Madison Highway, Haymarket, VA 20169.

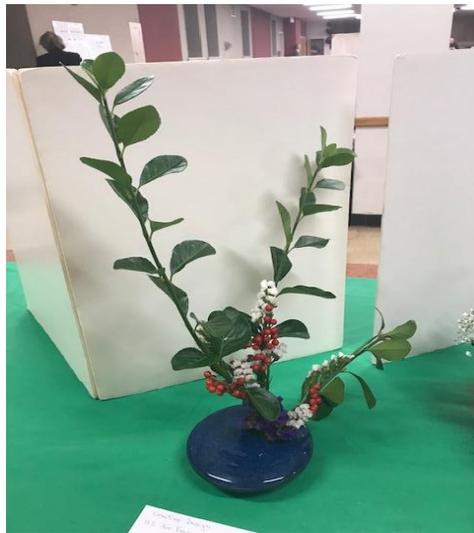


**PHOTO GALLERY**

**From the November General Meeting**

**Design of the month was "A Floral Interpretation of Washington"**





### Horticulture Specimens



End of season blossoms and colors at Rock Spring Park

