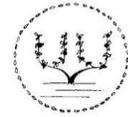


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 5

January 2019

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

### SECRETARY

Mary Millette

### TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

## General Meeting

Thursday January 17, 2019 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

## Rain Gardens in Arlington County's Storm Water Management Program

Speaker: Aileen Winquist, Watershed Program Outreach Manager



This presentation by the Arlington County Environmental Services Office will discuss developments in the county's storm water management program with particular attention to the county's use of rain gardens.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kate Abrahams

2019 has begun with a wet, gloomy, and cold start, just the thing plants look forward to before settling into a long deep winter's nap under blankets of decomposing leaves.

Likewise, I look forward to hot cups of tea, extra blankets, a good detective thriller, some indoor projects, and looking for bird and animal tracks in the snow.

We are blessed with an abundance of rainfall in Virginia that supports many beautiful rivers throughout the state. The Chesapeake Bay's watershed is born from the northern Susquehanna River and over 150 tributaries of this and other rivers flow into North America's largest estuary. Protecting Virginia's heritage rivers from pollution, erosion, and fertilizers to preserve the health of the Chesapeake Bay is an ongoing environmental concern requiring local, state, and federal action and planning. Arlington County, with its proximity to the Potomac River, is building storm water management rain gardens in medians to control and clean runoff from county roadways. Additionally, projects to rebuild streams to slow down water flow, restore habitat along stream banks, and replace plants have received county support.

I look forward to hearing about the county's environmental action plans at our next meeting and hope everyone had a joyful holiday season (with many thanks to all who contributed to the splendid Holiday Tea).

## Design of the Month:

### Traditional Petite Design

A traditional design not to exceed 9" in height, width, and depth. See page 73 in the 2017 NGC Handbook. Two petite design examples from the recent Piedmont District Flower Show are shown below.



Also at the January meeting, a brief demonstration and explanation will be given of the new, low profile design type for February.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Jo Ella Samp

Dec 1-Dec 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$26,531.68

Total Receipts \$70.00

Total Disbursements \$906.51

Closing Balance \$25,695.17

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday February 7, 2019 10:00 am

Host: Lynda Martin Co-host: Carolyn Barone

## MEMBERSHIP

RSGC welcomes our newest member, Judy Neher. Judy is an experienced gardener and garden club member who has lived in Vancouver, BC, Oregon, England, and now Arlington for the past four years. Her father and grandfather owned garden nurseries so she grew up surrounded by plants and gardens. Her particular interests are working with children, from her years working as a teacher, conservation, and civic development/landscaping.



Judy's contact information is:

*Transition:* Ann Lunson is changing status from an active to a sustaining member. The club thanks Ann for her many years of service and looks forward to her continued participation in this new role.

## WAYS and MEANS

### Joyce Fall

Hard to believe we are beginning another new year. Where does the time go? With February coming, time to think hearts and flowers! This month, Ways and Means would love to receive any Valentine decorations or items you may be thinking of releasing from your collection. Donate your items before the meeting by contacting Joan Hession. If you just want to drop off your items on Joan's front porch that would also work. We also love homemade foods which you can bring to the meeting. Please package your donations in saleable portions. Thank you and Happy New Year!

### Proposed By Law Change:

#### Article 7 Item 12

The proposal is to delete the following sentence:

*"The committee coordinates volunteers for Arbor House at the US National Arboretum."*

The Arbor House gift shop, where our volunteers worked, is now closed; therefore this sentence should be deleted to keep the Liaison Committee description accurate. The RSGC Board approved this change at its January meeting. The full club will vote on the change at the January general meeting.

### Final Pumpkin Sale Summary

Participants: 35

Arrangements: over 75

Gross Income \$2,605

Expenses \$297

Net Income \$2,308

Thanks to everyone who participated in this highly successful fundraiser!

## December Holiday Tea

### Pat Getz

The annual RSGC Holiday Tea was held on December 13 at the lovely home of Robin Fitch. Club members contributed over 30 beautiful floral designs to decorate Robin's home both inside and out. The host committee prepared a wonderful assortment of tasty treats for the Tea which were gratefully consumed by members. It was a great way to kick off the holiday season with both old friends and new friends.





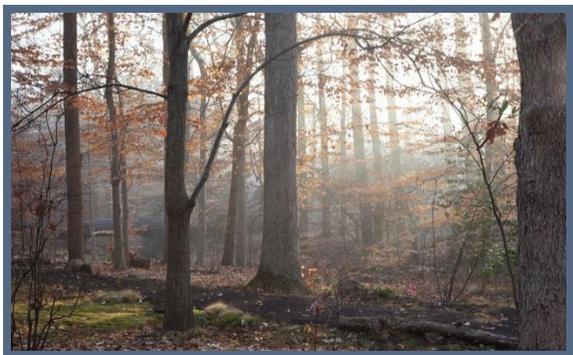


**HORTICULTURE**  
**Winter Gardens**  
**Christine Wegman**

I have written a number of articles about how to choose plants to make your garden beautiful in winter, but it seems appropriate also to give a little thought to how we *see* our gardens in winter. If we only think of gardens as places to showcase flowers, then the winter garden is all about loss. But if we look at the more structural elements of our gardens, then winter is the season that brings these elements to the fore.

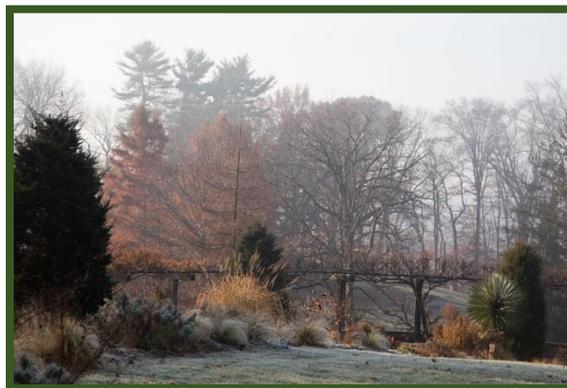


My favorite garden is Chanticleer, near Philadelphia. Chanticleer is all about foliage and structure. There are plenty of flowers, but they are not the main attraction. The Butchart Gardens in British Columbia presents the perfect contrast to Chanticleer, in that floral displays are the real attraction.



For this article, I went to the Chanticleer website and found pictures of the gardens in

winter that illustrate my point. (All photos are the work of Lisa Roper). The colors of winter are different, more subtle than other seasons, but they are still there. It requires seeing with an eye for structure and form, and not pining



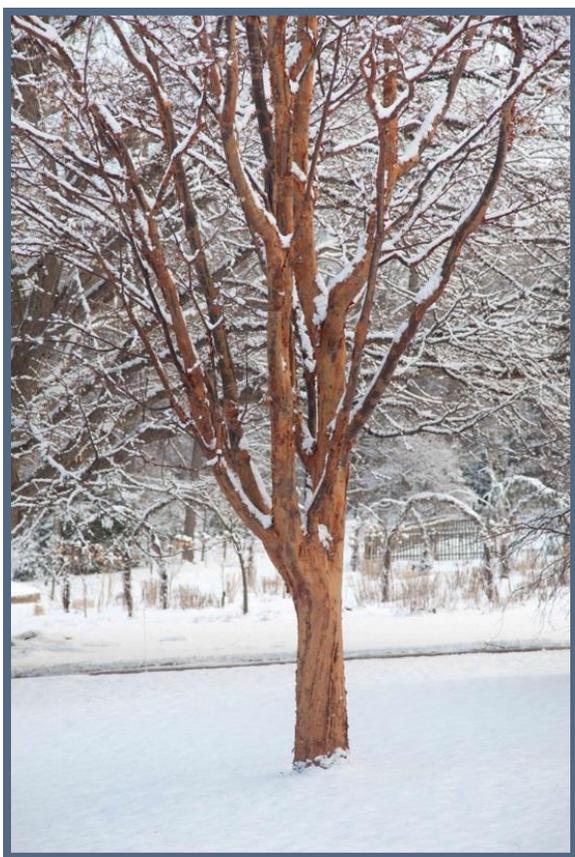
for what is missing.

In winter, we can appreciate the beautiful forms of trees that are hidden by leaves in summer. The smoky blues, browns, dark greens, and occasional reds and oranges of winter stand out against the season's gray skies.

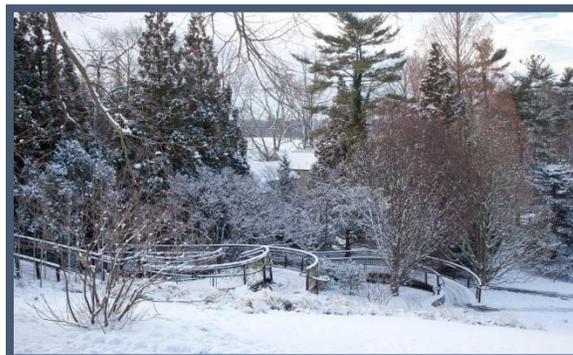




This picture of the cut flower garden in winter highlights its vine covered arches.



This paper bark maple (*Acer griseum*) always looks beautiful.



So, I hope with a little practice, we can all learn to enjoy our gardens in winter as much as in other seasons. They are different, for sure, but not less beautiful.

## GARDEN THERAPY

Mary Kudless

### The Harvest with Pre-K students at Glebe School

Mary Beth Scaggs designed a beautiful program for our Pre-K students at Glebe Elementary. Her emphasis was the Harvest and she told the story through a beautiful book, a wonderful song, hands on gourd experiences, and the decoration of pumpkins with animal features to capture the creatures of Fall. The student's creations resulted in very cute foxes, raccoons, possum, etc. to bring home to their families.



Dianne Simmons read the book, "Possum's Harvest Moon" by Anne Hunter, aided by Mary Cottrell with a very animated raccoon puppet at Dianne's shoulder. They captured the student's attention! We will add this book to the Garden Therapy library, as the story is engaging and the pictures are



mesmerizing.

Under Mary Beth's leadership, we circulated gourds, squash and pumpkins for the students to touch. Susan Scotti led all present in the chosen song, "Autumn Leaves are Falling Down" and the children loved the animation and acting involved in conveying falling leaves.



This was followed by great excitement about decorating the different colored pumpkins as animals of the forest with foam ears, noses and mouths that Mary Beth had prepared ahead. Afterwards, we celebrated all creatures and creations with Vegan Monster Cookies and juice. There is no doubt that this is another comprehensive educational and fun program that we will want to repeat in the future. Thank you Mary Beth, Marion, Dianne, Mary C., Mary M, Susan, and Margi for your leadership and participation.



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Pat Getz

The Youth Activities Committee completed a holiday project with a dozen enthusiastic second-graders at Tuckahoe Elementary School in December. Before the hands-on portion of the program began, Pat Getz read a story to the children while they ate their lunch. The book was titled "The Littlest Evergreen" and told of a tiny tree living peacefully on a remote hillside, until one December, it was chosen to become a Christmas tree. Fortunately, the littlest evergreen became a living Christmas tree (with its roots preserved) and after the holiday was planted and prospered at the home of its owners. Following the story, Susan Scotti showed the children a wide variety of different sized pine cones and explained the different types. They were most impressed with the huge ones and happy to pass them around and examine more closely.



Next, each of the students was given a small pot filled with oasis, and they set about building their holiday tress. YA committee members supplied a large variety of greens to be used for the trees including: boxwood, yew, holly, and pine. After the trees were constructed the children decorated them with multi-colored ribbons, holiday themed stickers, and tiny ornaments.



Max Jensen impressed several of the children with his ribbon curling skills, making their trees look even more festive. The students were proud of their creations and couldn't wait to take them home and show them off to their families. Several remarked they were going to keep the tree in their bedroom so they could have their very own Christmas tree. Others commented on how happy they were to have been picked for "garden club".



## RSGC Horticulture Show

### Kate Abrahams

Many thanks to the club members who will lead during May's Horticulture Specialty Show. The list of committee chairs is shown below. The title of the show is now "Poetry in the Garden", formerly "My Heart Leaps Up". Wonderful poetic verses will highlight the plant entry categories and let us savor creative descriptions of nature while enjoying the horticulture. The schedule, which lists entry categories, shows entry rules, and other relevant information, is in its final editing stages and will be distributed to all members as soon as it is approved. Categories will generally include plants that typically bloom in May, evergreens, mixed plantings, photography, and "temporary gardens", as well as "other categories".

### Poetry in the Garden Committee Chairs

General Flower Show Chairs.....	Kate Abrahams, Anita Brown
Schedule Chair.....	Connie Richards
Staging Chair.....	Julie Wadsworth
Schedule Reviewer.....	Arlene Stewart
Horticulture Entries Chair.....	Joan Hession
Horticulture Classification Chair.....	Christine Wegman
Horticulture Placement Chair.....	Charlotte Benjamin, Jo Ella Samp
Botanical Arts Chair.....	Sheila Moore
Judges Chair.....	Thea MGinnis
Hospitality Chairs.....	Mary Lunger, Jody Goulden
Clerks Chair.....	Dorinda Burroughs
Awards Chair.....	Carolyn Barone
Artwork/Signage.....	Ann Stevens Kelly
Publicity Chair.....	Joyce Fall
Show Photographer.....	Pat Getz
Finance Chair.....	Kate Abrahams
Hostess Chair/Welcoming.....	Renee Bayes

*"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."* Shakespeare



## 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.

**American Horticultural Society: Essential Oils Workshop** with Holly Shimizu, Sunday January 27, 2:00-3:30 pm at River Farm. Registration \$60 for AHS members; \$75 for non-members. Limited to 20 people. Learn about the curative and restorative properties of plants. Holly Shimizu, nationally recognized former executive director of the US Botanic Garden, former host of The Victory Garden on PBS, and first curator of the National Herb Garden, will lead a workshop on botanical essential oils. Attendees learn how to layer scents, creating their own custom oil blend. Participants will create a personalized fragrance, facial spray, or anti-moth spray to take home.

### **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE I—OFFERED BY NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS THIS WINTER!**

National Capital Area Garden Clubs will be holding Flower Show School, Course I—at the US National Arboretum on February 1 - 3, 2019. We have not held this extremely important class in over four years! Course I is a wonderful class for all to enjoy—for those who want to understand and appreciate why we have flower shows and to those who want to continue on to become NGC Judges! Come and learn why Flower Shows help us share our knowledge and experience.

Our NCA Judges' Council is full of fantastic folks who will be there to help you and help our Instructors. Remember—everyone must now take Flower Show School Course I first, before taking the rest of the Flower Show School Courses. This is a great opportunity to begin the Series before the busy garden club and flower show season begins. We have two top-notch, terrific Instructors, Jackie Davies—Design, from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Sue Kirkman—Horticulture and Procedure, from the bluegrass 'State', the Commonwealth of Kentucky. You will be thoroughly educated and thoroughly entertained! The US National Arboretum is located in one of DC's most exciting neighborhoods—come and take advantage of 446 acres of grounds at the Arboretum in the middle of DC and the fabulous Union Market, right nearby!

Learn how to think like an NGC Judge! Bring a friend! ALL ARE WELCOME! Our FSS Course I Brochure is available online. If you are interested—please let our Registrar, Poss Tarpley, [posst@aol.com](mailto:posst@aol.com), know ASAP and we will save a seat for YOU! The Course is open to all. (For NGC/NCA members--there is an optional but *highly recommended* exam on February 3). Light breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included in Course fee. Coffee, tea, & cocoa all day! A January question & answer get together is being planned and we do have some books available for your use! The Handbook For Flower shows is available online and you may order it now!

Any questions, please contact Robin Hammer—[RJLHammer@gmail.com](mailto:RJLHammer@gmail.com)

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***The National Garden Clubs, Inc. Flower Show Committee Invites you to  
participate in an International Photography Competition  
Featuring the Natural Environment of the Americas  
Entries accepted January 1 – April 1, 2019***

**“In Wildness Is the Preservation of the World” HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

**Class 1. Plant America** – An image featuring native plants

**Class 2. Scenic America** – An image of a landscape and/or seascape

**Class 3. Small World** - A close-up or macro featuring native animals, insects and/or plants

**Class 4. Web of Life** – A monochrome featuring patterns in nature

**Class 5. Weather Forecast** – An image featuring weather

**Class 6. Climate Change** –Altered reality using creative camera techniques In-camera and/or by post/processing.

**Submit entries on-line - Login at <http://cgburke.com/ngc/>**

**Guidelines:**

Contest is open exclusively to the members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and its affiliated organizations. Image must be the work of the exhibitor. There is no charge to enter the contest. You may enter no more than 2 images into the contest. Please title your image. Where feasible, please identify plant material and describe your subject. In class 6, if feasible, describe your creative process. All the submissions will be juried. Scale of Points for judging photography is on page 131 of the NGC Handbook. The 24 highest scoring images will be displayed at the NGC National Convention in Biloxi, MS.

**Image Preparation Guidelines:**

Minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch

Minimum file size 1.5 MB

Maximum file size 5MB (megabytes)

**Definitions:**

**Altered Reality:** the manipulation of photos to create a fictional or conceptual image expressing ideas or feelings in a non-traditional manner or style

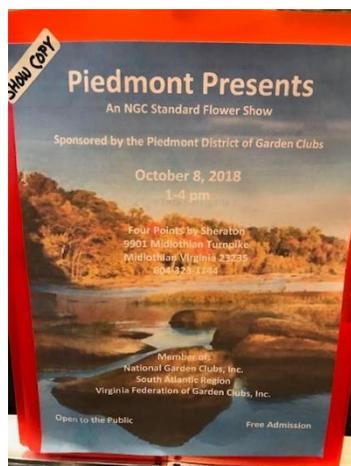
**Creative Techniques:** image enhanced by using any techniques, adjustments or processes either in-camera or in post processing

**Monochrome:** an image in black & white and shades of gray, or sepia, or an image having a single hue with its related shades, tints and tones

**For more information contact: [arabellasd@aol.com](mailto:arabellasd@aol.com)**

# PHOTO GALLERY

## From the October 2018 Piedmont District Flower Show





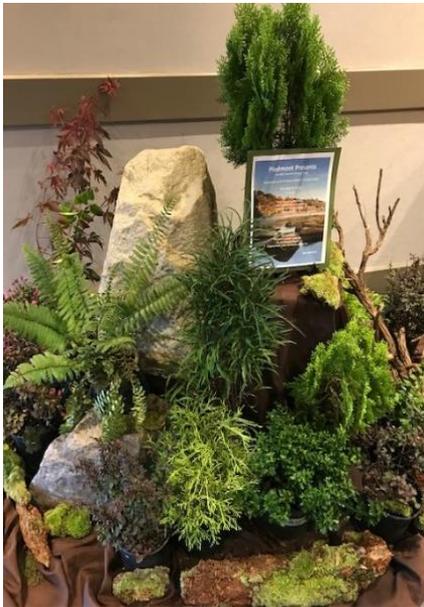


**From the Bronx Botanical Garden: New York City Landmarks built in plant materials**

**Botanical Gardens Greenhouse**



**Penn Station, pre-1964**



**Yankee Stadium**



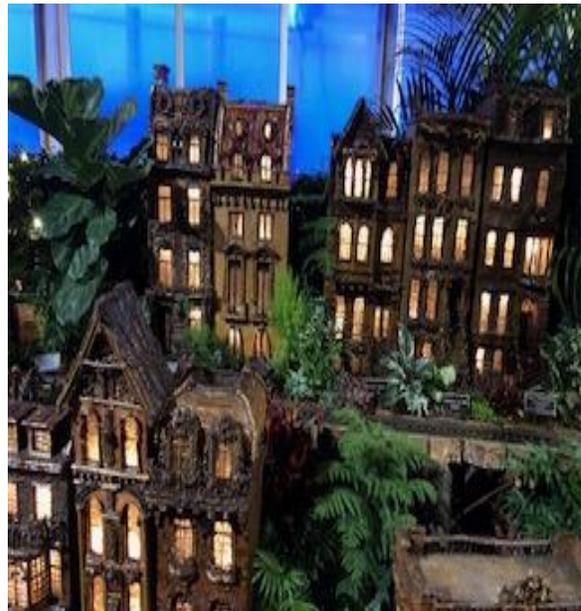
**St Patrick's Cathedral**



**Statue of Liberty, World Trade Center, Ellis Island**



**Manhattan townhouses**



Scenes from San Francisco:

Rooftop Gardens at the Fairmont Hotel



Street Scenes:



**Coit Tower surrounded by live oaks, eucalyptus, and Monterey pine trees**

