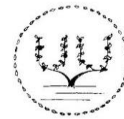


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 7

February 2019

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

### SECRETARY

Mary Millette

### TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

## General Meeting

**Thursday February 21, 2019 10:00 am**

**Little Falls Presbyterian Church**

**Lower Level Friendship Hall**

**6025 Little Falls Road**

**Arlington, VA 22207**

## Cutting Gardens

**Speaker: Drew Asbury, Horticulturist and Manager, Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens**



A graduate of Longwood Gardens professional gardener training program in 2006, Drew joined Hillwood in 2012. He is responsible for the greenhouses, the cutting garden, and the horticulture volunteer program.

This lecture will focus on the most productive cut flowers grown in the cutting garden at Hillwood Estate and provide advice for incorporating cut flowers into your home garden.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Kate Abrahams**

With Valentine's Day approaching, I thought I'd share a scientific discovery that to me seems completely romantic. A recent study found that desert evening primroses respond to the buzzing of a bee by trembling very slightly and increasing the sweetness of their nectar by 20 percent within 3 minutes. The bowl of flower petals reacts to low buzzing vibrations and appears to "hear" the bee's approach. If there is silence or the vibration is too high or the flower petals are missing, the plant doesn't react. Doesn't that sound like true love between bees and primroses? Scientists have developed amazing theories about communication and cooperation among plants through root systems, fungi, and pheromones and with their pollinators. No doubt our innately joyful reaction to flowers and plants creates another kind of vibration that brings reciprocal contentment to the root-bound world. The upcoming program featuring the eminent horticulturist Mr. Drew Asbury will focus on growing cut flowers at home and specifically, successes in the cut flower garden at the Hillwood Estate. I look forward to seeing you all soon bundled up with warm coats and boots.

The design is to be viewed and judged from above. There is one more stipulation--it is a three-dimensional design incorporating three or more design techniques. You need to list the techniques used on a three by five card displayed with the design. These floral design techniques are listed in the Flower Show Handbook on pp 81-83. (Note that "floating flowers" is not one of the specified techniques. In my presentation at the January general meeting I used this technique to illustrate a use for a particular container.) Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Pictured below are three examples of low profile designs. More are shown in the Photo Gallery.



## **DESIGN OF THE MONTH: Low Profile**

### **Connie Richards**

This is listed as one of the Advanced Design types in the Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2017, p.78. However, don't let that put you off from trying this design. I think it is one of the easiest and most practical designs to do. It is the perfect proportion for a dining room or cocktail table. The completed design must be at least four times as long or wide as it is high.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Jo Ella Samp**

Jan 1-Jan 31, 2018

Beginning Balance \$25,695.17

Total Receipts \$367.35

Total Disbursements \$382.45

Closing Balance \$25,680.07

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday March 7, 2019 10:00 am

Host: Sharon DeAngelis

Co-host: Thea McGinnis

## MEMBERSHIP

Judy Neher was inducted into the club at the January general meeting. Judy is pictured (right) with her sponsor, Jenny Sullivan.



**Remember to get your membership renewal forms and checks in by March 15th! The**

membership form is attached at the end of the newsletter and will also be available at the February general meeting.

## 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 February general meeting.

## WAYS and MEANS

### Joyce Fall

Ways and Means sales did quite well at our January General Meeting. We are appreciative of the many donations that we received during November and December and we are overflowing with items for our sale for our upcoming February meeting. This month, we are not asking for donations, but would love receiving homemade foods, which you can bring to the meeting. Please package your homemade goodies in saleable portions. Make sure you look over our Tools of the Trade items too. Remember Punxsutawney Phil did not see shadow, so predicts early Spring. Won't be long before we are our regularly tending to our gardens.

## **Upcoming RSGC HORTICULTURE SHOW**

*"Poetry in the Garden" May 16, 2019*

**Kate Abrahams**

This past weekend, I took the NGC Flower Show School Course I offered through the National Capital Area Garden Clubs at a hotel in the "NoMa" neighborhood of D.C. The 2-day course followed by a written exam on the third day immersed me in the world of designs, judging, art appreciation and creation through hands-on experience. I learned about the pine family and sansevieria family of plants, principles and elements of art, and the standard point scoring systems used by NGC judges for horticulture specimens and floral designs. I understand the garden club flower show procedures much better having taken the course and would recommend it highly to others.

Great attention was paid to the "schedule" of a flower show since it is considered the Law of the Flower Show. Everyone will receive a copy of the schedule for our upcoming Horticulture Specialty Flower Show at the next general meeting as well as an emailed pdf version for your computer. There are rules about exhibiting your plant specimen that you should read carefully. If you look through the schedule you will see there are two Divisions:

Horticulture and Botanical Arts. In the Horticulture Division you will see Sections and Classes listing the types of plants you may exhibit with rules about presentation, etc. The Botanical Arts Division includes Photography and Temporary Gardens. Please read over the schedule for any April registration deadlines with Committee Chairs for certain categories of entries. Gardenzette articles and meeting discussions will get you familiarized with the show procedures and requirements. Many rules you already know from monthly meetings. Once you read the schedule you will see many rules are common sense to allow the judges to do their job efficiently within time limits. The main thing for the horticulture is to learn is how to prepare your specimen and identify it properly before it is judged. Schedule rules in the Botanical Arts Division describe how exhibitors will present photographs in a uniform way and the parameters of the Temporary Garden creations. The Flower Show Committee Chairs will explain how to do this and help you so that you can confidently enter the show in May. Now is an excellent time to purchase "The Handbook for Flower Shows" (2017) from the National Garden Club if you haven't already.

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## **HORTICULTURE**

**Hollies and Hellebores**

**Christine Wegman**

As I write this at the beginning of February, my garden is looking a bit worse for the wear. Some of the conifers are looking a bit brown at the edges, my Osmanthus has turned brown as it does when the temperature gets below about 10°, but the hollies are looking pretty good.

Holly (*Ilex*) is a genus containing over 400 hundred species. Hollies are evergreen and deciduous, vary in height from shrubs to trees; some are even subtropical. But, for this article I will focus on evergreen trees that look beautiful this time of the year. Even narrowing the focus to trees, there is a tremendous variety available at nurseries and garden centers.



*Ilex* 'Nellie Stevens' is, according to Michael Dirr, "the grand dame of landscape hollies in the Southeast."

This beautiful classic tree forms a dense pyramid of shiny dark, disease resistant leaves. If you have the room, a row of



Nellie Stevens hollies will form a dense privacy barrier. Although they can be pruned to control their size, a mature Nellie Stevens holly tree will reach about 20-30' high by 12' wide. They are heat and drought tolerant, but need good drainage.

A little smaller than Nellie Stevens is *Ilex* 'Mary Nell', maturing at around 20' high and 6-8' wide. Mary Nell is another heat tolerant, disease resistant holly for southeastern climates. Dark, glossy leaves look beautiful all year round. Its slim profile and good height make it a popular tree for privacy hedges.

Perhaps my favorite holly is *Ilex* 'Miss Patricia', a dwarf form of *Ilex* 'Mary Nell', growing to about 10' high by 5' wide, just about perfect for a small garden. I have a row of Miss Patricia at the back of my garden. Just in front of the hollies are three



Acoma crape myrtles. This grouping looks attractive all year long, but is an especially welcome sight in the winter, with the bright holly foliage showing off the beautiful crape myrtle branches.

Another rugged holly tree that has become a new favorite of mine is the Dragon Lady (*Ilex* x



aquipernyi DRAGON LADY). It is tall, thin and really tough, taking cold, wind and drought in its stride. Dragon Lady is one of a series of hollies bred on Long Island by the late Kathleen

Meserve for cold hardiness. It makes a strong focal point in a limited space. We (my husband Charlie, of course) planted one at our cottage in Albemarle County. The land slopes backward from the front of the house, and the holly is a foundation plant at the lowest corner of the house. The picture above was taken a couple of years ago and the holly has since grown about 4 feet and is beginning to be a real visual anchor for the whole planting. It has thrived in a spot that is exposed to heat and drought in the summer and cold winds in the winter.

A word about hellebores. . . . A lot has been written for the *Gardenzette* about hellebores. These wonderful plants bloom at the end of the winter just when you are beginning to wonder if spring will ever come. If you are lucky enough to have some in your garden, **now is the time to prune them**. Their leaves are indeed evergreen, but by February many are looking a bit frayed and could do with some rejuvenation. The way to prune most hellebores is to cut off their leaves – yes, all the leaves – just as the buds are emerging. This will not harm the plant and the



Before pruning

buds will be followed quickly by new leaves. The advantages of this are that the flowers are easily visible and not hidden by ugly old foliage, and the new foliage will look lovely and fresh.

In recent years dozens of new hellebore introductions have come to market.



After pruning

Traditional colors are more intense and a palette of new colors has been added, especially purples, yellows, vibrant reds, and even greens. Flower forms now include doubles, as well as cut and picotee edges.

I was skeptical about yellow hellebores, but I have changed my mind because they are the most visible ones in the garden, and are a good choice for planting at a distance from



flowers are finished.

the house or path. I particularly like those with mottled green foliage, since it is very decorative for the rest of the year, after the





## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

### **Tuckahoe Elementary School**

#### **Helen McMahon**

The January 2019 program with the Tuckahoe Elementary School second graders focused on the Virginia State bird and on the challenges that birds face in winter. Helen McMahon read about the cardinal and Max Jensen followed up by reading *A Sparrows Tale* by Lisa J. Mitchell. The children knew the cardinal was Virginia's State bird, and were very knowledgeable about other birds as well. The project was to make bird feeders they could hang outside during the winter months. Each child was given a pine cone to slather with a Crisco/corn meal mix, and then roll it in black sunflower seeds, the cardinal's favorite. They did this enthusiastically. Along with the bird feeders they created, they were given a feathered cardinal to take home. Some of the girls wore theirs in their hair. Along with Helen and Max, Carolyn Barone, Susan Scotti, Louise Rhoads, Linda Martin, Pat Getz, Ann Kelly, Ann Duffey, Vicky Schoenberger, Joyce Fall participated.



**Sunset over Lake Ontario, Oswego, NY**

## LIAISON REPORT

**Beautiful Blooms: Flowering Plants on Stamps**, through July 14. An exhibition that highlights the variety of flowering plants commemorated on US postage stamps during the past 50 years. It includes 30 pieces of artwork used to produce flora stamps. 2 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC. [postalmuseum.si.edu/education](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/education)

**NCAGC District II Flower Show at River Farm** (American Horticultural Society Building) March 4-5, 7931 East Boulevard Dr. Alexandria, VA 22308 703 768-5700

**VFGC Piedmont District Spring Meeting** Monday, March 18th, Midlothian, Virginia  
Visit [www.vfgcpiedmontdistrict.org](http://www.vfgcpiedmontdistrict.org) to register.

**National Garden Club Convention** April 29-May 2nd, Biloxi, Mississippi  
Visit [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) to register

**Landscape Design School Course** Mon-Tues. March 25-26 Merrifield Garden Center 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA Visit [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org) to register.

**Green Springs Garden Floral Design Workshop** featuring Betty Ann Galway. Saturday February 23rd at 1 p.m. \$69 For more information call 703 642-5173  
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring)

**Green Springs Garden Sunday Lectures** 1:30- 2:30

2/17 Selecting and Planting Trees

2/24 Uncommon Cut Flowers

3/3 Rose Care 101

3/10 Vegetables Love Flowers

**Philadelphia Flower Show** Sat. March 2 - Sun. March 10th Convention Center  
visit <https://theflowershow.com> "Flower Power"

**National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) District III Spring Meeting**, Friday, March 15th 10 a.m. Meadowlark Gardens Atrium, Vienna, VA

**NCAGC General Meeting**, Tuesday, March 19th at National Arboretum, D.C.  
10 a.m. Election of Officers [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org)

**Tree ID Hike** Long Branch Nature Center Sunday Feb. 24 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 703 228-6535 \$5.00



***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

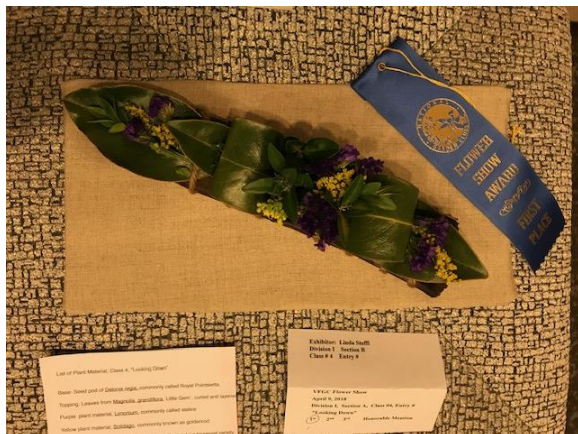
**Creative Techniques:** image enhanced by using any techniques, adjustments or processes either in-camera or in post processing

**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

### Examples of Low Profile Designs



### From the January General Meeting



Connie Richards discussing low profile designing



Master Judge Justine Harris giving feedback on that month's submittals.



### Horticulture specimens



### Traditional Petite Designs









# ROCK SPRING GARDEN CLUB 2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**MARCH 15, 2019 DEADLINE**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Tel#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emeritus?** (Age 75+, 20 yr. member) \_\_\_\_\_ (No Dues)

**Membership Dues:** Active (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Changes in membership status require a written request and approval by Executive Bd.

**I wish to make an additional contribution \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the RSGC above the dues amount are tax deductible.

**Current RSGC Committee and/or Board position?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests/Experience: (Please circle)**

Business/Financial skills    Children/Youth Groups    Club Rep    Computer skills/Layout

Conservation    Data Base Management    Digital Design/Fine Art    Event/Program Planning

Floral Design    Fundraising/Sales    Garden Therapy    Garden Tours    Horticulture    Hospitality

Liaison    Newsletter/Writing    Publicity    Public Garden Maintenance    Web Sites

**Committee Choices:** Committee assignments are filled as renewal forms are received. Members will be matched to their interests as much as possible given the need to support all the committees. Members may serve on more than one committee. The 2019-2020 active Committees are: Awards, Budget, Civic Development, Conservation, Garden Therapy, Gardens of the Year, Holiday Design Event (HDE), Horticulture, Hospitality, Information Management, Invitational, Liaison, Membership, Program, Publications (Yearbook or Gardenzette), Publicity, Show, Ways and Means and Youth Activities

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to serve as Committee Chair or Co-Chair? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to serve on more than one committee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**General Meeting Hospitality:** (Choose from Sept., Oct., Dec. (Holiday Tea), Jan., Feb., Mar., April, or June)  
(Note: all active members provide hospitality at one general meeting guided by Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs. Program changes may alter general meeting dates in 2019-2020.)

1st Choice Month \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice Month \_\_\_\_\_



**Program/Field Trip/Speaker Suggestions/Contact Info.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Questions about membership renewal?** Please call/email Membership Chair Sharon DeAngelis at 703 862-7405/sharond2285@gmail.com. **Please mail completed application and dues payment (check payable to Rock Spring Garden Club) to Sharon DeAngelis, 2756 N. Quebec St. , Arlington, VA 22207. Deadline is March 15, 2019.**

**Comments/Suggestions/Ideas about RSGC general meetings, programs, policies, committees, publications are welcome. All comments are held in strictest confidence. Any feedback is appreciated. Please use a separate sheet if necessary.**