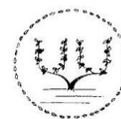


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 8

March 2019

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kate Abrahams

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

### SECRETARY

Mary Millette

### TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

## General Meeting

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

**Little Falls Presbyterian Church**

**Lower Level Friendship Hall**

**6025 Little Falls Road**

**Arlington, VA 22207**

## Made in the Shade

Speaker: Kathy Jentz

Editor and Publisher, Washington Gardener

Kathy will give suggestions for dealing with dry shade which is a common challenge of many local gardeners. Large trees are wonderful, but they can quickly suck up all your garden's resources, leaving little for the understory plantings. She will talk about design choices, soil amendments, and proven plant choices, as well as some inventive dry shade space substitutions.



## CONTENTS

Program	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Mt Vernon Field Trip	2
RSGC Officer Nominees	3
Show Design	3
Ways and Means	3
Garden Therapy	4
Youth Activities	5
Horticulture	6
Liaison Report	7
Photo Gallery	9
RSGC Renewal Form	13

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kate Abrahams

Emerging green tips of daffodils, purple crocus, snowdrops and tiny yellow aconite are gentle reminders that a new season is nearly here. Springtime brings renewal, stirring emotions as the landscape tints green a little more each day. I'm grateful that the club carried on with excellent meetings, programs and lunches despite the snowstorms this winter. Many thanks to everyone for facing the challenging weather cheerfully and getting everything done beautifully! My special thanks goes to the Nominating Committee for presenting a stellar slate of RSGC Officers for 2019-2020! It's also transition time for RSGC as our new officers are elected and essential information arrives on returned renewal forms. Feedback from members is very important to keep the club vital, growing, and delivering a positive experience. Please take some time to share your thoughts and ideas on your renewal form. Before you know it, the gooey mud outdoors will dry up nicely and create the dry shade

## Field Trip to Mount Vernon

### Jenny Sullivan

On June 13, we will enjoy a lovely field trip to Mount Vernon for a Horticulture Tour with Dean Norton, the Director of Horticulture for Mount Vernon, and lunch in the Betsy Ross Room of the Mount Vernon Inn. We have reserved 40 spaces. We will begin signing up members for the trip at this March meeting. The price of lunch is \$30, and checks should be made to **Rock Spring Garden Club**. Guests must pay the additional \$15 fee for the tour. The June lunch menu has not yet been prepared, but it will be a selection of sandwiches or a salad, a dessert, and iced tea or a fountain drink. When they have the menu ready, I will ask you to make your selections. Because the club must pay in advance by April 1 and because Mount Vernon will not make refunds, neither can we. If it happens that you cannot make the trip after you have paid, then perhaps you can "sell" your

conditions that challenge many local gardeners. Our next speaker, expert gardener and magazine editor Kathy Jentz, will advise what you can do when faced with this situation. I'm sure she will be very lively and entertaining!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Jo Ella Samp

Feb 1-Feb 28, 2018

Beginning Balance \$25,680.07

Total Receipts \$743.50

Total Disbursements \$2,053.56

Closing Balance \$24,370.01

## BOARD MEETING

Thursday April 4, 2019 10:00 am

Host: Jenny Sullivan

Co-host: Joan Hession

reservation to another member or give it to a friend. Thank you.



## RSGC Officers for 2019-2020

### Kate Abrahams

Our nominating committee consisting of: Anita Brown (chair), Ann Duffey, Lynda Martin, Dianne Simmons, and Nancy Snell has provided a great slate of officers for next club year.

President	Charlotte Benjamin
Vice President	Sharon DeAngelis
Secretary	Carolyn Barone
Treasurer	Nancy Snell

The slate will be voted on at the March general meeting. Sharon De Angelis will lead the meeting in Kate's absence.

## DESIGN OF THE MONTH:

### Framed Spatial Design

#### Carolyn Barone

We'll be stepping out of our comfort zone for the March arrangement and will be doing a "framed spatial design." The mechanics of this new design was presented to the membership by Carolyn Barone, a member of the Show Committee. What's unique about this design is that it is a creative design which will be suspended inside a frame of your choosing. The best way to suspend it is by using a transparent filament thread or fiber (a fishing line for example). It should be made to look like a single unit which is then staged within the space of the frame. A few guidelines are that the arrangement should not touch the frame but can extend beyond the frame's depth. Also, no movement is allowed but is implied. Any style of frame can be used and can be scaled from small to large, rectangular or even circular. And thus, your arrangement will be proportional and fit the frame as appropriate. Another point is that the frame is to be braced on the exhibition table for viewing. The brackets for bracing should not be visible. My frame was taken to a frame shop and an "L shaped" bracket was attached to either side at the bottom of the frame. And, this was perfect. It secured the frame and allowed adjustment to the

arrangement without it tipping over! You can glean various creative ideas by searching the web sites of the garden clubs, ([gcvirginia.org](http://gcvirginia.org) under "framed spatial" has photos), Pinterest, or even the garden club calendars. Good luck, everyone! Remember, the design is to be creative and is to be suspended within a frame. This is a creative design organized as a single space unit suspended in a frame or frame-like structure. See P 74 in the 2017 NGC Handbook

**The Show committee reminds members that they are responsible for two arrangements during the club year. Please try to meet this requirement. We only have two meetings left for this! Nearly 1/3 of active members still lack one or two credits, so please take action. Alternative assignments may be given to you by Show Chairs Sheila Moore and Jane Bartlett to fulfill the requirements.**

## WAYS and MEANS

### Joyce Fall

February was another great month for Ways and Means. Our club members have been very generous in their donations throughout this year and we are very grateful. As we mentioned at our February meeting, we have stopped asking for our regular donations (our table runneth over), but would love receiving homemade foods, which you can bring to the meeting. Please package your homemade goodies in saleable portions. It's time to start thinking and preparing for our Spring Plant Sale for our April meeting, where plants are donated by club members. Please pot your plants early in non-returnable pots. Each plant should be labeled with: PLANT NAME, SUN OR SHADE, and HEIGHT (if known). I know this is something that we all look forward to, where we all can pick up some wonderful plants and new specimen for our gardens.

## GARDEN THERAPY

**Susan Scotti**

February 20th was the scheduled day for our pre-k program at Glebe Elementary, but schools were closed because of snow. Fortunately, the forecast had made it seem likely, so the program was changed to the 19th. The plan was to use forced daffodils that were already budding and blooming, so we couldn't postpone the project. Sherry Foster began the afternoon by reading a story to the children about a little boy whose neighbor gave him a paper bag, telling him it contained a daffodil. When the boy looked inside, he said it was an onion! The story continued with the neighbor helping him plant and care for the bulb while watching it grow and flower.



After the story, a few bulbs and onions (shallots) were passed around for comparison. The children enjoyed the tactile exploring and, hopefully, it helped them remember the story. Then we led them in a rhyming finger play, raising 1 finger at a time until 5 little "daffodils" had popped up. Next, the children were directed for a turn at one of two tables. The project was for each child to plant a bulb in a small container with potting soil and watch its progress at home.

Several bulbs were also planted to leave in the classroom.



While one table potted bulbs, the other was set up to make a daffodil container for their snack. They glued yellow cupcake papers to construction paper flower petals and then to a green craft stick stem. We filled them with goldfish crackers and used other cupcake papers for strawberries. Mary Beth Scaggs passed out her delicious homemade oatmeal raisin cookies. Most committee members had previous commitments they couldn't change. Joan Asboth and Sherry Foster are not committee members but had to help with the February program. Joan was unable to change days, but purchased, prepared, and delivered the snacks. Max Jenson generously accepted a last minute request to assist that was much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and apologies to those who had to miss it. As always, the children seemed to enjoy all the activities and our time with them.



**The Garden Therapy Committee could use some additional volunteers to help with the May 22 program which will be led by Margi Melnick. Please contact Margi or Mary Kudless if you are able to help out. Thank you!**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Joyce Fall

Twelve Tuckahoe second graders gathered and learned about terrariums this past month. They learned the name stems from two Latin words: terra=earth and arium=home and together means "little world." A demo terrarium was prepared in front of the students, reusing Talenti gelato jars that were emptied and collected over several months from our committee.



Each student was given a container, packets of beautiful bright blue stones, charcoal, and dirt and two small plants (one false aralia and one fittonia). They were informed on how to take care of their terrarium and also given a sheet with "how to care" instructions on their new projects. It was a delight to watch them as they built their terrariums. After one student finished, he was so elated when he realized he got to take it home and keep it. Lynda Martin and Joyce Fall led this month's activity along with their Youth Activities Committee helpers.

Sure signs of Spring in Arlington, early March

Snowdrops



Crocuses



## HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman



Here are some tips for successfully exhibiting horticulture in our upcoming flower show.

- First, read and follow the rules of the flower show schedule. For the May show there are two sets of rules which apply: the General Rules on page 3, and the Horticulture Rules for Exhibitors on page 5.

### Selecting Plant Material

- Cut plants in the evening or early morning and place them directly in cool water. Use a sharp knife or floral scissors so as not to damage the stem tissues that carry water to the plant, and cut stems on the diagonal to ensure maximum exposure to water.
- Horticulture should be at the peak of maturity, meaning that the main bloom is  $\frac{3}{4}$  open. If there is more than one bloom on a stem, such as in container grown plants, judges like to see flowers in different stages of maturity.



### Conditioning

- Condition plant material *before* grooming, since the plants will be sturdier if they are properly taking in water.
- Make sure water, containers, knives, scissors, etc. are clean.
- Recut stems under water to ensure the stems can absorb the maximum amount of water. Stems exposed to air will seal themselves to conserve what water they have. Remove any excess foliage and don't submerge foliage in water.
- Place plant material in a container of tepid water and store in a cool, dark location for at least 2 hours, but preferably for 12-24 hours.



### Grooming

- Carefully remove any part of the plant or flower that is dead or damaged: needles, flower petals, diseased tissues, seedpods, dust, dirt, spray, pollen, or any other debris. Use Q-tips, tweezers, make-up or artist brushes, or manicure scissors. You want the result to be invisible.
- Remove insects. You may need to use a magnifying glass.
- Trim damaged leaf tips and margins carefully with a manicure scissors, maintaining the natural shape of the leaf.

- For container grown plants, clean and wash the containers. Remove any calcified soil. Top dress with new soil or natural material, i.e. chicken scratch, sand or pea gravel.
- For container grown plants, double potting is permitted, as long as the inner pot does not show.
- No leaf shine, oil, wax, polish or dye is allowed.

### Exhibiting Requirements

- Flowering specimens are generally exhibited as single cut stems. Check schedule requirements on page 7. No foliage is permitted under the water, except for gladioli.
- Prune arboreal stems to the length specified on page 8 of the schedule.
- Specimens must be exhibited in a green clear bottle. The size of the container should be in proportion to the specimen. Unobtrusive glass marbles may be used for ballast, as long as the stem is still visible.

- Wedge the stem to improve the plant's pose, but only with clear plastic or bubble wrap. Cotton balls or boxwood are **not** permitted in the schedule. The exhibitor provides both bottle and wedging.
- Broadleaf or needle evergreens may be exhibited without water, either in a container, or lying on the table. Needled evergreens will be mounted on lattice panels provided by the club. Be sure to properly condition these specimens before the show.



### 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](http://postalmuseum.si.edu)

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

**Landscape Design School Course 4**, Mon-Tues. March 25-26, Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax VA \$95 for two days, \$45

for one day. RSGC Tuition rebate upon course completion. [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org) to register.

**Floral Design Workshops offered by the NCAGC Judges' Council** on March 11, April 8, and May 13 (all Mondays) 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Vienna Community Center, Vienna, VA \$150 for all three workshops [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org)

**Environmental School Course 3** Wed-Thurs. April 3-4. Topics include rain forests, wildlife, ecology, environmental science, a field trip to Columbia's lakes. Columbia, MD  
visit [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org) for more information.

***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

Line, Line Mass, and Mass designs made by  
Flower School Instructor Jackie Davis



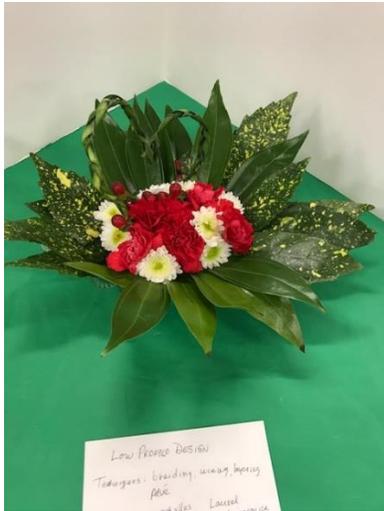


**Jenny Sullivan's hellebores in the snow.**



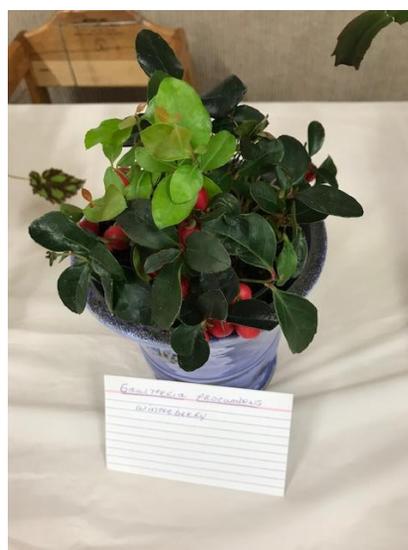
### From the February General Meeting

#### Low Profile Designs



#### Horticulture Specimens





## 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.** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**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.**