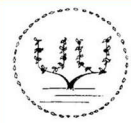
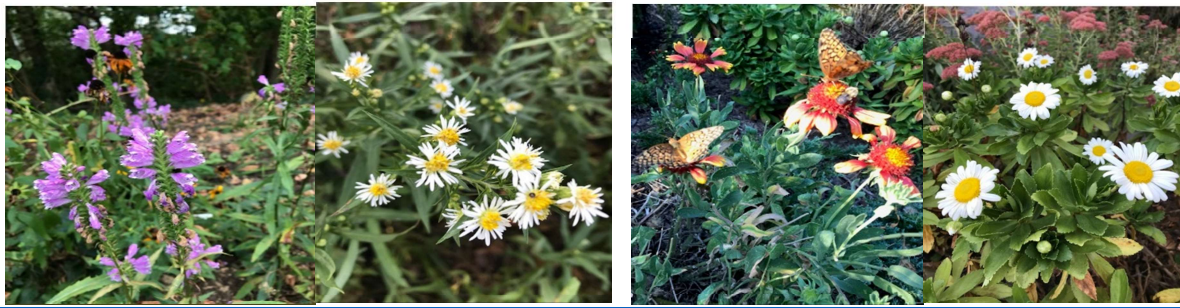


THE GARDENZETTE



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 58, Number 2

October 2019

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RSGC General Meeting

Thursday October 17, 2019 10 a.m.

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level, Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

"The Smithsonian Gardens: Habitat Exhibit"

Program begins at 11 a.m.

Barbara Faust, Director of the Smithsonian Gardens, will introduce the gardens' first ever campus-wide exhibition, "Habitat." This inaugural exhibition uses a single theme to tie together fourteen exhibits in the Smithsonian's exterior and interior garden spaces to tell diverse stories about habitats and the plants, animals and humans that call them home.



President's Message...

Charlotte Benjamin

Dry, parched and in some cases, dead... these words describe our gardens and lawns. If you are like me, you've been running sprinklers or dragging hoses constantly! Hopefully that has helped a bit but I am really looking forward to cooler weather and much needed rain. Our *floras* need respite and healing!

October garden club activities offer us some exciting diversions. In addition to the October 8 NCAGC General Meeting at the U.S. National Arboretum, we have our own general meeting with the Director of the Smithsonian Gardens, Barbara Faust, as our speaker. The month ends with the CAR-SGC Conference, "A Capital Harvest"... followed by the NCAGC Symposium, both events are being held at the Ballston Hilton. Since we are fortunate that there is very little travel involved with these events, I encourage you to attend! All of these activities are open to garden club members. See the Liaison page for more information.

Kudos to the many RSGC members who brought artistic designs and horticulture to September's meeting...it was wonderful to see the exhibit tables full. Thank you and please keep those designs and horticulture coming! I have a small gift from District III for each of you at the October General Meeting. Please see me to claim it! Until the 17th.....

Treasurer's Report for Sept. 1-30th, 2019 **Nancy Snell, Treasurer**

Beginning Balance:	\$
Revenue:	\$
Expenses:	\$
Ending Balance:	\$

Next Board Meeting

10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7th at Kate Abrahams'

HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman, Chair

Choose Your Next Hosta Now

If you love hosta and think you might be able to squeeze in a few more in your garden, now is the time to choose which you will plant, even if you don't purchase or plant any until the spring.



Looking with a critical eye at your and your neighbors' hosta will demonstrate that by October many hosta have seen better days, or to put it more directly, they are in tatters. You will however, find a few hosta that still look pretty good. A trip to Merrifield Garden Center or another local garden center will give you a good idea of what is still looking good. Look at the bigger pots because these will be older and more true-to-form than the younger hosta in smaller pots.

In my garden the predominantly yellow hosta seem to be fading faster than those with predominantly green leaves. But, in general, hosta with thicker leaf substance are longer lasting and more slug resistant than those with thin leaf substance. A very good example of how leaf substance makes a difference is *Hosta* 'Great Expectations' (picture 1) and *Hosta* 'June' (picture 2). These two hosta have a very similar look in the garden. 'Great Expectations' is an older variety, which has unfortunately taken after its name. As in the book of that title, the great expectations were very disappointing. And so with the hosta. 'Great Expectations' is very prone to slug attacks and folds up

shop rather early in late summer. 'June', a more recently developed hybrid, has much better substance and outperforms 'Great Expectations' on all fronts.



My personal favorite is *Hosta Sagae* (pictured at left). *Sagae* makes a two to three feet clump of gray-green leaves with light yellow margins. I have three 'Sagae' hosta and they are all looking good just now. I first discovered 'Sagae' at Chanticleer gardens in Philadelphia and I love it for its beautiful form and coloring, its heavy leaf substance, and its ability to both stand out and fit into a shady border. (I also love it because it won an award ribbon in our flower show last May.)

Even if you are only thinking about planting hosta next year, now is the best time to look and perhaps choose varieties that are the longest lasting. In our small suburban gardens, this can make a big difference.

Don't Forget to Water the Trees

We are in the middle of a severe drought in Arlington. Many of the trees in the neighborhood, even established ones, are turning brown. Our trees will need to be watered to remain healthy through the winter. A good method is to set a soaker hose around the root zone at the edge of the leaf line, and let it soak for an hour or two.



There is a group of green and white hosta, bred by Gert van Eijk-Bos, with American Colonial names like 'Patriot', 'Revolution' and 'Loyalist' that have very good leaf substance and are still looking good in the garden.

HOLIDAY DESIGN COMMITTEE

Dianne Simmons, HDE Chairperson

I hope all of you have marked your calendar to attend the Club's 8th Holiday Floral Design Event, Thursday night, November 21st. We are fortunate to have as our guest presenter, Ami Wilber from Hillwood Estates and Museum, and you can view one of her designs on our program flyer (on page 4) We hope every one of you will buy a ticket and attend, of course and also that you will get the word out to family and friends to come.

Margi Melnick has tickets to sell. I can also provide tickets, and one can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite. So many of us have worked on HDE and attended, and it really is a delightful evening offering creativity, delicious food, wine spritzers, and plenty of time to buy pumpkin floral arrangements, bid on Silent Auction items, and purchase items at the Tools of the Trade table. Please feel free to call me with any questions, and I would welcome extra hands for our set-up period – including spouses and partners who would like to get their daily strength training in. Thank you for your support.

Dianne

Rock Spring Garden Club

8th Annual Holiday Floral Design Event



Featuring Exquisite Designs by

AMI WILBER

Floral and Event Decor Designer -- Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens

DATE:	Thursday, November 21, 2019
PLACE:	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (Ballston)
TIME:	Doors open 6:30 pm – Program begins 7:00 pm

Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased by November 16, 2019

Tickets: \$30.00, cash or check payable to RSGC

To order:

- Call Marjory Melnick, 703-536-8119
- Email Rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com
- Event Brite [View Event](#)

****NO REFUNDS****

Free parking from Taylor St. – Refreshments - Tools of the Trade – Door prizes
Silent Auction will include Ami's designs – Floral pumpkin arrangements

SHOW

OCTOBER FLORAL DESIGN

Grouped Mass Design

The design for October is a **traditional mass design** which was demonstrated by our guest speaker at our September general meeting. This design has **plant material grouped** according to the color or type of material you are using in the design. For example, if you are using red roses, red/pink sedum, and green magnolia leaves, each individual color would be grouped together. The magnolia leaves could be on the bottom of the arrangement, with the red/pink sedum in the middle of the design and the red roses to the upper side or on top. If you decide to use one color – say green – you could group your plant material according to texture, or if you use say three different types of plants, such as grasses, magnolia leaves and dogwood leaves, then each type of plant would be grouped together.

At the Board meeting this month, the members decided to continue to use the staging panels that we have used each month for a number of years. These panels are 20 inches high and 15 inches wide. Remember that each design must fit into the space (20 x 15) that the staging panels provide. Your design height (container and plant material), for these panels should, in general, not exceed 18-19 inches and its width no more than 14 inches wide. For our monthly designs, we do not specify the exact dimensions for our designs (unless they are petite designs as we had last month when our staging panels were smaller). In a flower show, however, the Schedule of the flower show will provide specific information on the exact height, width and depth of the design.

Attached are a few pictures that I downloaded from Google searching for group mass designs. Google and Pinterest are great ways to review various designs.

If you still have any questions about this design, please feel free to call or email me, and I will be glad to respond as promptly as possible, as I want all members to enjoy experimenting with our designs this year. Your design will be critiqued by our judges in the future. The comments are provided as instruction to help you as you go forward in designing outstanding arrangements in the future!

Anita Brown, Show Committee Chair

Grouped Mass Floral Designs





YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Joyce Fall

School is in session and gardening projects have begun at Tuckahoe Elementary School. The weather was on our side at our first gathering with our students on September 24. Our twelve enthusiastic second graders did a great job planting chrysanthemums in the Friendship Garden in front of the school. After the plants were watered and the gardening tools put away, each of the students were given a potted pansy to take with them to plant in their garden at home.

We received a note from one of the teachers telling us that her students had returned to class excited and pleased with their garden activity.

Our committee members who assisted with this month's program were Mary Cottrell, Max Jensen, Ann Kelly, Lynda Martin, Helen McMahon, Judy Neher and myself.

We are looking forward to our next project on October 22 when we will be working on floral arrangements in pumpkins.



MEMBERSHIP

Sharon DeAngelis, Chair

New club members Terry Holmes and Mary Garnett were inducted into RSGC by VP and Membership Chair Sharon DeAngelis. Sponsors Sheila Moore and Ann Lunson joined them during the ceremony.



Sharon DeAngelis, Sheila Moore, Terry Holmes, Mary Garnett, and Ann Lunson (pictured above)

Hostess and greeter volunteers needed for upcoming CAR Conference in Ballston. Contact Kate Abrahams if interested

Email Update:

Mary Cottrell's new email address is:

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Sheila Moore, Chair

As you know, we have no formal meeting in either November or December due to the Holiday Floral Design Event and the Holiday Tea. Since this is the case, we would love to have your wonderful goodies to sell at the upcoming October meeting. Do you have gifts that should be re-gifted? We can help you out and the original giver will never know! We would also love to have any plants that you are dividing because you KNOW this should be done in the fall. Please leave anything on my front porch or bring to the general meeting on Oct. 17th. Many thanks!

Sheila

September Program

Transparency, Grouped Mass and Cascade Designs Demonstration

Life Judge Arlene Stewart demonstrated three different types of floral design that will challenge designers with a new approach to working with the plant material. Arlene showed how the transparency design can use different types of see-through materials to show plant materials. The cascade design creates the illusion of a waterfall using plant material. Arlene used a tall vase and wired downward facing calla lilies arranged on tall canes to create this effect in her design.



The grouped mass design uses groups of plant material. Each group has at least three stems of the same plant material. This design will be October's design assignment. Arlene's design used groups of pink snapdragons, red coxcomb, and green dianthus to create three masses of contrasting color, shape, height and texture.





Arlene recommended calla lilies for their longevity out of water. For the transparency design she explained possibilities with woven sticks or a picture frame effect using cardboard and colored plastic film or wax paper so flowers

can be seen in front and through the transparency mechanic in the design.



ROCK SPRING PARK UPDATE

Barry Wood and Jo Ella Samp, Chairs of the Civic Development and Conservation Committees, removed invasive honey suckle, wisteria, poison ivy, bishopweed and, creeping charley with the help of committee members Sandi Hodges, Connie Richards, Julie Wadsworth, Joan Hession, Kate Abrahams and LDS Elders Weible and Kropf . Shade loving plants donated by Margaret Eubank such as hellebores, azaleas, astilbe, solomons seal, mahonia and ferns were added to the park and to the Yorktown High School site. County supplied leaf mulch has been spread over much of the area to inhibit weeds and protect plants from winter weather. Newly cleared area by stream reveals azaleas.



Elder Weible, Jo Ella Samp and Elder Kropf shown above.





Shown below, Barry Wood prunes the invasives.



Thank you note received on RSGC's website

Hello,

I feel very lucky to have met Mr. Wood and some other gardeners working to clean the park today. I was at the park with my beginning level English learners from Yorktown High School. Mr. Wood was very kind to teach us about some of the trees and plants and to provide us with some clippings. It was a great outing on a gorgeous day. Thank you,

Justine Springberg, Lead Teacher

English Learner Dept. YHS

LIAISON REPORT Kate Abrahams

"Fashion in Bloom" Oct. 10th Yacht Haven Garden Club annual Fashion Show and Luncheon fundraiser at Mt. Vernon Country Club. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 5111 Old Mill Rd, Alexandria, VA \$40 ticket. Contact Rhee Killinger at rgkmsbell@hotmail.com

VFGC Piedmont District Meeting, Monday, Oct. 14th 8:30 a.m. registration and shopping. Meeting begins at 10 a.m. includes lunch and program "Travels with Auntie Mame" until 2:45 p.m. Five Points Sheraton, Midlothian Tpke, Midlothian, VA. \$30 Visit online at www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org

NGC Central Atlantic Region (CAR) Conference "A Capital Harvest" theme. Arlington Hilton Hotel, 950 N. Stafford St. in Ballston (above Metro stop) Thursday-Fri. Oct. 24-25th For info and registration visit online www.car-sgc.org/conference-2019 7 states will attend.

NCAGC Flower Show Judges Symposium, Arlington Hilton Hotel, Stafford Street in Ballston (above the metro station). Open to all garden club members and public. Saturday- Sunday Oct. 26-27th <https://ncagardenclubs.org/2019/05/09/symposium-2019/>

National Garden Club Gardening School Course III, November 14-15 Merrifield Gardening Center, Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA Visit www.ncagardenclubs.org for more info about registration or call Joyce Skoglund at 703 591-4017. Tuition rebate available from RSGC upon completion of one or two days of coursework.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens "Winter Walk of Lights" Vienna, VA Timed tickets required. Friday Nov. 8 – Jan. 5th. 5:30 p.m. – 9:15 pm (last admission). \$8 - \$14.50 (best price with online Eventbrite purchase). www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights Visit winterwalkoflights.eventbrite.com

Brookside Gardens "Garden of Lights" Wheat, MD. \$25-30 per car/van. Nov. 22-24, Nov. 29-Dec. 31 (except 25th) Call 301 962-1453 for more info.

PHOTO GALLERY

September Petite Traditional and Creative Designs

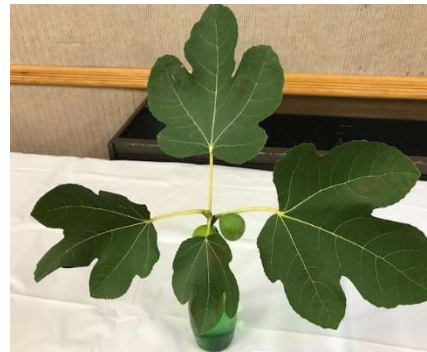




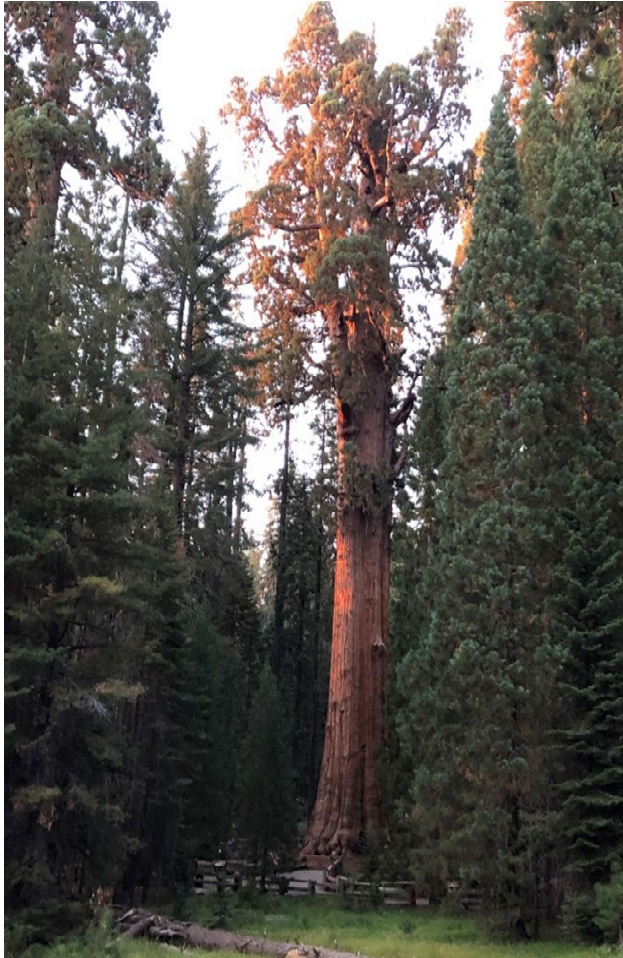


September Horticulture





Vacation Photos from Jo Ella Samp



The General Sherman Sequoia, the world's largest tree located in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park, Tulare Co. California.



Views of Getty Villa and Getty Center gardens, Los Angeles, California