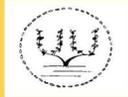


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 58, Number 3**

**November 2019**

## OFFICERS

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Charlotte Benjamin

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon DeAngelis

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Kate Abrahams (Sept-Jan)

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## RSGC General Meeting

**Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Bldg.**

**Lobby Level, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA 22205**

**Parking Garage Entrance on Stuart Street**

## Holiday Floral Design Event

**With Ami Wilber**

**Doors open to public at 6:30, Program begins at 7:00 p.m.**



## President's Message...

*Charlotte Benjamin*

November ... this month we are so thankful for the cooler temperatures, the bright, crisp days and the time to prepare our gardens for the winter months ahead. It is also the month that leads us into the beauty and specialness of this season of the year!

As we approach the weeks ahead, there are many exciting activities for us to enjoy. On November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., join friends at the NCAGC's Judges' Council "Morning of Design". This event is being held at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church in Alexandria. It's a great opportunity to gather ideas for floral designs for the holidays.

With much anticipation, we are looking forward to our own special activity... the RSGC HOLIDAY DESIGN EVENT on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to purchase your ticket from Margie Melnick and invite your friends. Thanks to our hard-working HDE Committee, this promises to be an outstanding event!

On November 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Sharon Siems will be having a pumpkin arrangement workshop at her house. Contact Sharon if you are planning to attend. On the last Thursday of the month, we celebrate Thanksgiving. Best wishes to each of you for a wonderful holiday!

**Charlotte**

## Hospitality Committee Recipe

**From Margy Shultz**

### Maple- Cider Vinaigrette

- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 2 TB pure maple syrup
- 1TB Dijon mustard
- ¼ Tsp Salt
- ¼ Tsp Pepper
- 2/3 cup olive oil

Whisk together cider vinegar and next four ingredients. Gradually whisk in the oil until well blended.

## Invitational Committee



Committee Member Renee Bayes created a beautiful floral arrangement for the October 19<sup>th</sup> Breast Cancer Symposium at Virginia Hospital Center. The Invitational Committee creates an arrangement every year for this event as part of RSGC's outreach into the Arlington Community.

### Treasurer's Report for Oct. 1 – 31, 2019

Beginning Balance: \$

Revenue: \$

Expenses: \$

Ending Balance: \$

**Next Board Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 2  
at 10 a.m. No Board meeting in December**

Hosted by



## REMINDER!

### PUMPKIN WORKSHOP FOR HDE

**Date/Time:** WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>  
(the day before the Holiday Design Event) 9:30 a.m. –  
11:30 a.m. There's room for more people to attend!

**Location:** Home of Sharon Siems .

Recommended for people who have never made a pumpkin floral design before.

Please bring your carved- out pumpkin with oasis and container, floral scissors, flowers, greens, and any accessories that you wish to use. Please also bring a cardboard box for easy transport.

**Directions:** Heading north on Old Dominion, turn right at light onto 26<sup>th</sup> Street before you pass Marymount University and reach intersection with Glebe Road. Follow 26<sup>th</sup> Street then turn right on Vermont Street. Continue straight on Vermont and stay to the right to go up the hill when the road forks

### HOLIDAY FLORAL DESIGN EVENT TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Ticket Sales Chair Margi Melnick is happily selling tickets for the upcoming HDE on Thursday evening, November 21<sup>st</sup> in Ballston. Call her or use EventBrite to buy your tickets!



## Rock Spring Garden Club

# 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

## GARDEN THERAPY

### Susan Scotti, Chair

Our Garden Therapy year at Glebe Elementary began Thursday, October 10. Mary Cottrell's timely "Harvest" theme focused on the signs of fall.

The 11 Pre-K students ages 3-4 years greeted us with excitement as they came in from recess and took their places. They were fascinated watching Margie Melnick tuning her autoharp, so we started with the song. Margie led us in one about leaves changing colors and falling down. We guided the children with hand motions as they sang, and after we raked the leaves we jumped in the pile!

Susan read "Possum's Harvest Moon" by Anne Hunter. Possum thought the big harvest moon made it a perfect night for a party in the moonlight, but his friends were too busy preparing for winter. As the beautiful moon rose higher, the mice, frogs, crickets and raccoon changed their minds and joined Possum for the festivities. Mary made her very animated raccoon puppet "listen" on Susan's shoulder while she read.

The harvest of squash, gourds, and pumpkins is a familiar sign of fall, and several with odd shapes and



surfaces and a variety of colors were passed around. This led up to the project and they moved to the tables where each child had a Pump Ke Mon tiger pumpkin with a hole cut in the top. Chrysanthemums in gold and bronze were pre-cut and sorted in small bunches to place in the pumpkins. They worked very intently and were happy to know they could take them home.

Pat Getz provided a health snack of carrots, apple slices, and a delicious homemade low sugar cookie.

Our next program date is December 5, the first Thursday, because the Holiday Tea is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. Mary Kudless will be the leader.

The Garden Therapy dates in 2020 are: January 9, February 13, March 12, and May 14. We meet shortly before 2 p.m., when the program begins. Usually we are through in 45 mins. The class has 11 students, 4 of whom have disabilities and 7 are peer models. The teacher is very appreciative and stays in the classroom with us along with 1 or 2 aides.

Please feel free to visit with us for one of the programs.



**HORTICULTURE**  
**Christine Wegman**

**The Bones of a Garden: Dwarf Conifers**

You have to love this time of the year when the leaves have mostly fallen, and the perennials begin to go dormant, and great patches of your garden start looking like dead spaces, and you think you will just clean it up and ignore it until things come back in spring. But wait, there is another way of looking at this. Now is a good time to take a critical look at your garden and plan for what is called the “bones” of a garden. The bones are those features that look good all year. They may be statuary, pretty pots, or plants. If plants, they will be evergreen or, if deciduous, provide some winter interest, such as good form and attractive bark. For a garden to look good this time of year, it has to have good bones.

One of the best ways to make a perennial border look good in winter is to interplant it with a few conifers that will provide some structure and interest during the winter. Most conifers need sun, so they thrive with sun loving perennials and provide good contrast all year long. Spikey conifers, especially look good with spreading perennials.



These pictures can give you some idea of how conifers can be planted in a perennial garden. Although the picture above is too crowded with conifers, it shows the kind of proportion you can achieve with dwarf conifers. It is relatively

easy to find conifers that are small enough to compliment perennials. The picture below shows Butchart Gardens (Vancouver Island, Canada) in the winter. Although Butchart Gardens is a showcase for bulbs and annuals, during the winter one can see that the beds are structured with a few well-chosen conifers.



Colorful spreading conifers can also keep a garden looking good in all seasons. Imagine the yellow conifer below filled in with a few colorful perennials and spring bulbs. Spreading conifers can be lightly pruned to keep them in bounds.



Another good way to provide some winter interest is to plant conifers in containers. These may be mixed with summer annuals or evergreen sedum. I have a tall pot in my garden planted with a dwarf upright juniper and some evergreen yellow sedum. I fill in with annuals in the summer.

The picture below shows a dwarf conifer interplanted with annuals. I line my ceramic

containers with plastic pots so that they will not freeze in winter.



Dwarf conifers are, by their nature, slow growing, so try to purchase ones that are already big enough to make an impression in your garden. Be sure you look carefully at the labels to check whether you are purchasing a real dwarf, or just a regular size plant in a small container. One way to tell that your plant is really a dwarf is to look at the distance between nodes. If they are closely-spaced, you have a dwarf. If there is a lot of space between nodes, you will be looking at a larger variety. Compare mugo pines in a nursery to see what I mean. The smallest growers will look very dense compared to larger growing plants.

Merrifield Gardens is a good source for dwarf conifers in just about any size you could imagine. They buy many of their conifers from Iseli Nursery in Oregon, which is a very reliable supplier. If you have a little time, Susanna Farm Nursery in northern Montgomery County, Maryland is well worth the visit. They have a beautiful selection of well-grown conifers in many sizes.

### **Message from Margaret Eubank**

My personal thanks to all the garden club members who dug up perennials, grasses and shrubs from my garden and transplanted them in Rock Spring Park, a garden bed at Yorktown High School and at various homes and gardens in Arlington. I hope all the transplanted plants do well in their new homes and will be enjoyed for many years.

Shortly after I arrived at Miller's Grant Retirement Community, a local garden club staged a "Standard Placement Flower Show" in the public areas. Residents were invited to enter container grown plants. Three of us did, including me. I entered a succulent plant that I bought about two years ago at the RSGC Ways and Means Table. I was pleasantly surprised it won a blue ribbon.

It's always a great pleasure to receive the monthly **Gardenzette**. It is now my link with the club and all its great members and activities.

Best to all,

**Margaret**

**MEMBERSHIP Sharon DeAngelis, Chair**

Returning club member **Marisol Aldahondo** and new member **Nicola Farris** will attend the Holiday Design Event so be sure to welcome them! Marisol just retired and returned to the club as she had promised to do. She looks forward to joining the Garden Therapy Committee. Nicola is sponsored by Julie Wadsworth and Thea McGinnis and happily joins the Ways and Means Committee.

Nicola was born and raised in Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Both her parents were avid gardeners but it wasn't until she lived in Pretoria, South Africa that she was "finally bitten by the gardening bug....Prior to moving overseas, I was a TV writer and producer for twenty years. Since moving back to the US last year, I've been working as a freelance writer and recently accepted a position working part time for Arlington Public Schools. I'm also a (very) amateur photographer and watercolorist. Gardening has become my new creative outlet—I love painting a picture with plants, garden art and hardscaping."

Nicola moved to Arlington with her family a year ago and was lucky enough to move to a street "with not one, but two Rock Spring Garden Members, Julie and Thea. Their guidance and advice—and generosity giving me so many plants—has been invaluable in transforming my garden."

**Please update your yearbooks with the following information:**

**Nicola Farris**

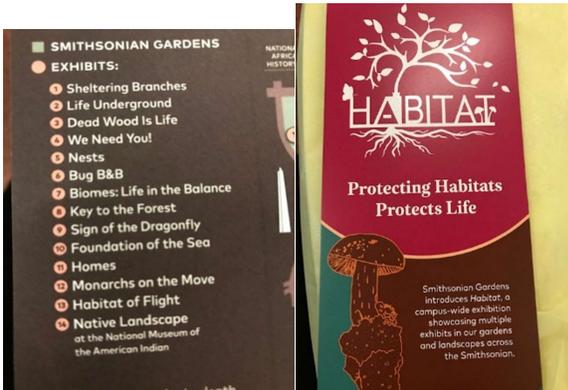
**OCTOBER PROGRAM REPORT**

**Smithsonian Gardens Campus-Wide "HABITAT" Exhibit Arrives in Spring, 2020**



**Jody Goulden introducing guest speaker Barbara Faust**





Barbara Faust, Director of Smithsonian Gardens, spoke about an exciting new ecological exhibit linking all the Smithsonian gardens with a unifying theme. The exhibit will include engaging sculptures such as oversized nests and explains different habitats world wide. The upcoming unique collaborative exhibit will open in May 2020 and provide stimulating experiences for visitors to mall gardens surrounding the museums. Great coordination and cooperation among all the museums' staff was needed to make this a successful and extraordinary experience for Washington, D.C. visitors

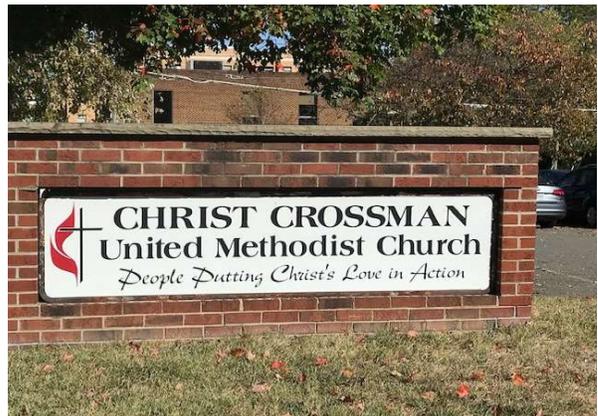
**CHRIST CROSSMAN METHODIST CHURCH  
POLLINATOR GARDEN**



The pollinator garden planned by Mary Cottrell for use by Falls Church neighbors is showing



progress. RSGC contributed funds for one of the benches that will be installed. More trees, plants and walkways will be added later on. The garden is in front of the church facing Washington Street. Charming animal sculptures, bird baths, bird feeders and a balloon whirligig will interest small children visiting the site.





**Master Judge Babs McClendon and Judge Thea McGinnis**

### **NGCs' Central Atlantic Regional Conference held Oct. 24-25 at Hilton Arlington Hotel**

Enthusiastic NGC garden club members from 6 Mid-Atlantic states met for planning, awards, workshops, a US Botanic Garden tour, a documentary film about Native American heritage diets, and to learn about the farm to table movement. CAR organizers requested help from RSGC members as a local garden club. Many thanks to Charlotte Benjamin, Sheila Moore, Jo Ella Samp, Mary Garnett, Marisol Aldahondo, Mary Cottrell, Thea McGinnis and Kate Abrahams for volunteering to help register, set-up, assist with fundraising and vending, answer questions and help the attendees in many ways. Next year's CAR Conference will be in Delaware at Dover Downs.

### **Flower Show Judge Business/NGC Flower Show Symposium**

#### **Thea McGinnis**

The past two weeks, I, as well as Anita Brown, Connie Richards, Charlotte Benjamin and Kate Abrahams attended the CAR (Central Atlantic Region) Conference that our National Capitol Area state hosted here in Arlington. To be honest, it was much more fun than I expected. There was a painting workshop taught by Patsy

Uchielo and, while my painting will never again see the light of day, I really enjoyed the class and I'm pretty sure my BP dropped a soothing ten points. It was quite relaxing.

Immediately following the conference was the NGC Flower Show Symposium sponsored by the NCAGC Judges Council. That was also very interesting and informative and I met judges from all over the region and Virginia. Our instructors were Dot Yard and Julia Clevett – extraordinarily talented horticulture and design experts, and we learned quite a bit about new designs, creative designs, mechanics, flower show procedure, and the spotlight was on Orchids. And yes, we had to take tests! We point scored both designs and horticulture.

#### **LIAISON Kate Abrahams**

**Judges' Council Morning of Design Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>** Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Rd. (adjacent to Fort Hunt Rd) Alexandria, VA 22308. Brunch 9:30 – 10 a.m. Presentation 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. \$5.00 Donation requested.

**National Garden Club Gardening School Course III, Nov. 14-15** Merrifield Gardening Center, Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA Visit [www.ncagardenclubs.org](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org) for more info about registration or call Joyce Skoglund at 703 591-4017. RSGC tuition rebate upon completion of 1 or 2 days of coursework.

**Meadowlark Botanical Gardens "Winter Walk of Lights"** Vienna, VA Timed tickets required. Friday Nov. 8 – Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights) Visit [winterwalkoflights.eventbrite.com](http://winterwalkoflights.eventbrite.com)

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



I just jumped into it and had so much fun. In fact, everyone had a blast and we left for home laughing and smiling. Check out the photos below – yes – all plant material plus embellishments and wire. Hint, nail polish really works great and dried hydrangea is a go-to plant for painting petals (gently).

## What's New in Floral Design?

### Thea McGinnis

This past week, I attended the Piedmont District Judges Council and met lots of interesting and talented judges from our Piedmont District Clubs. Their program focused on Botanical Arts. Cathy Elliott presented all sorts of techniques using alcohol/ink paint to embellish backboards and containers for designs, decoupage, creating mechanics for designs –and so much more. I'm seeing the Botanical Arts inclusion in the New Handbook for Flower Shows as acknowledgement of our desire to express our more creative side.

I really experienced Botanical Arts creativity this past Tuesday when I attended the Virginia State Flower Show Judges Council workshop presentation with former District III Director, Jane Smith. The workshop was making jewelry using all fresh and dried plant material right from the garden! Yes, having attended the Philadelphia Flower Show as a student judging botanical arts jewelry, I knew it was possible, but I never knew where to start. We braided, cut, trimmed, glued, painted petals and leaves, manipulating plant material in wearable jewelry. Okay my first foray was a bit lame, but



# PHOTO GALLERY

## October Massed Group Designs





October Horticulture







