

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

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General Meeting

Thursday, January 16th at 10 a.m

Little Falls Presbyterian Church, Friendship Hall Lower Level

6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington 22207

“Organic Landscape Management”

Paul Tukey Glenstone Museum



Our speaker for January is Mr. Paul Tukey, currently Chief Sustainability Officer for the Glenstone Museum in Potomac, Maryland. This site features all organically developed and maintained grounds. He will describe the techniques used there that can be applied to all outdoor settings. A former HGTV host, Mr. Tukey has spoken to groups across the United States and Canada and has written a best-selling book, *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*.

(Glenstone Photos provided by Ilene Decker)



Treasurer's Report Dec. 1 – 31, 2019

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$

Revenue: \$

Expenses: \$

Ending Balance: \$

President's Message

As we enjoy the garden's quiet season, consider these words from my favorite British horticulturist, Gertrude Jekyll ... ***"The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives."***

These words speak volumes! Gardeners love to 'pass it on' ... plants, books, knowledge, skills, memories ...you name it ... the list is endless. It doesn't matter if we are beginning gardeners, former gardeners or experienced gardeners. Passing it on is very important to us! Our gardens have similar as well as different characteristics. Some are mature, some are new, some are teenagers and some are just beautiful memories. Wherever we are on the gardening time-line, we can relate to that "enduring happiness."

This month's speaker, Paul Tukey, Chief Sustainability Officer for Glenstone Museum will be 'passing on' his knowledge with us, hopefully we will be able to incorporate some of it into our own gardens and landscapes.

I'm really looking forward to our time together on January 16th as we share the warmth of friendship and as RSGC members chase away the grey days and chills of January by filling the Horticulture and Artistic tables with beauty!!!

See you then ... **Charlotte**

**Next Board Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6th
at 10 a.m**

Floral Design Workshop Series for Beginners: Last Chance to Register!

NCAGC Judges' Council is offering its popular floral design 3- workshop series for a second time in February and March led by Betty Ann Galway. All 3 workshops will be at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna, VA on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The series is limited to 20 participants and the registration deadline is Jan. 29th. The cost is \$175.00 and registrants must commit to taking all three workshops (Feb 19, March 4 and 11). The previous workshops sold out and received rave reviews. For more information, contact Arlene Stewart.



Arlene's completed transparency design

SHOW – January Design Assignment

Connie Richards

This month we will be doing a Transparency Design. It's a creative design that has a see-through element (translucent, diaphanous, grid-like, etc.) that is integral to the design. Some plant material is to be viewed in front of as well as behind the see-through component used. Our speaker in September, Arlene Stewart, demonstrated this technique in the photo above. You can refer to more photos in the October *Gardenzette*. You can also use "Google" for other examples. However, be aware that not all designs on the internet follow the National Garden Club standards but you can still get some good ideas. In addition to meeting the basic requirements for a specific design type, arrangements are judged for their adherence to the Attributes, Elements and Principles of design listed in the Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 on pages 63-68 and on page 52 of the current RSGC 2019-2020 Yearbook.



Examples of transparency elements

MEMBERSHIP

Sharon DeAngelis

Please contact Sharon for new member applications and information about joining the club. Remember that potential new members must attend two general meetings and find two active member sponsors before applying for membership.

LIAISON REPORT

Kate Abrahams

NGC Flower Show School Course 2 February 24-27,
Henrico, VA www.vfgcgardenclubs.org

PHS Philadelphia Flower Show Feb. 29- March
8th. "Riviera Holiday" theme. Penn. Convention Center,
1101 Arch St. Philadelphia For info visit [https:
theflowershow.com](https://theflowershow.com) 215-988-8800

Floral Design Workshops for Beginners with Betty Ann
Galway Wednesdays Feb 19. and March 4 and 11 9:30
a.m. – 2:30 pm Emmanuel Lutheran Church Chain
Bridge Rd., Vienna, VA \$175 Must take all 3 workshops.
See last page for registration form.

South Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs Annual
Convention March 19-20th, Greenville, SC

NGC Flower Show School Course 3, March 23-25th,
Cambria Hotel, Baltimore, MD www.ncagardenclubs.org

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) Convention
March 29-31 at the Hotel Roanoke. See
www.virginiagardenclubs.org for more info.

NCAGC Flower Show, U.S. National Arboretum, April 3-
5th. Washington D.C.

NGC Landscape Design Course 3 April 6-7 Lewis Ginter
Botanical Garden Ed Center, Richmond, VA
www.virginiagardenclubs.org See *Old Dominion
Gardener* Winter 2019 issue for registration form or
contact LDS Registrar Marty Bowers at
martbw@gmail.com or 540 297-0965

NCAGC District III Spring Meeting, March 20th 9:30 a.m.
Meadowlark Gardens Atrium Bldg. Vienna, VA

VFGC Piedmont District Spring Meeting March 16th,
9:30 a.m. Five Points Sheraton, Midlothian, VA \$30

Tree I.D. Hikes at Long Branch Nature Center. Sat. Jan.
11 and Sat. Feb. 8th 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. 625 South
Carlin Spring Road, Arlington. \$5 Fee. Visit
registration@arlingtonva.us or call 703 228-4747.



HORTICULTURE
Christine Wegman

The Bones of a Garden: Statuary and Ornaments

Statuary, large pottery, and other garden ornaments can provide year round structure in any garden, no matter the size.

There is almost an infinite variety of garden ornamentation. The pictures below represent a few of my favorites.

For many of us a statue of St. Francis is a traditional garden ornament. I have one at the base of a multi-stemmed crape myrtle. It is slightly raised on a small cement paver and is surrounded by evergreen groundcover. It is not completely weather proof and must be removed to the back porch in winter, but the one pictured is made of cement and can stay outdoors year round.



There are any number of statues on the market that are suitable for gardens. Garden cranes, like the ones pictured

below are beautiful, although they can be expensive.



Some years ago I visited the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and purchased a fish on a stick, a bit like the one below. It makes a fine, whimsical, inexpensive garden ornament. I bring mine in in the winter. Although it might be able to withstand low temperatures and snow, it would probably loose its nice finish.



Along with statuary, one of my favorite ways to add structure and interest in a garden is through large pots. There are a great many pots available that can

stay outdoors throughout the year. I have a few large, tall pots that I leave out all year. They rest on a plinth of concrete pavers to keep them out of the damp soil and I line them with smaller plastic pots, so that freezing and thawing soil does harm them during the winter. These make excellent planters for hosta, evergreen perennials, such as hellebores or heuchera, or dwarf conifers. They can be grouped or used as singles.



And, finally, my favorite garden ornament is an antique chimney pot that I found in North Carolina many years ago. I set mine on a plinth to keep it above the damp soil



Bird baths are very useful to give structure to a garden, and they have the added benefit of providing essential water to local birds, especially in the winter when it is harder to find. A friend tells me that one can get heaters for bird baths to keep the water from freezing. If you place your bird bath near the house you will be rewarded by the charming sight of birds drinking and washing.



DECEMBER'S HOLIDAY TEA



RSGC's Annual Holiday Tea was a joyful reunion of garden club friends. The floral arrangements, refreshments and hospitality were delightful and everyone admired the beautiful art and decorative glass from faraway places in tranquil spaces throughout the home. Many thanks to Toby and Rob for graciously sharing their extraordinary collection from many travels in Asia and South America. The Invitational Committee chaired by Julie Williams with additional talented floral designers were inspired by these beautiful objects and created stunning designs. December Tea Hospitality Chairs Sharon Siems and Nancy Snell organized the delicious food and beverages with their committee. Many thanks to all who helped create a lovely afternoon experience for all who attended. See the photo gallery pages to see more arrangements and friends enjoying the Tea. (Photos from Renee Bayes)



PHOTO GALLERY





















