

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, February 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Little Falls Presbyterian Church, Friendship Hall Lower Level
6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington 22207

Nancy Murphy

Member of National Cathedral Flower Guild



Our speaker for February 20th is Nancy Murphy, who graciously agreed to step forward after our planned speaker, Rob Soreng, was called by the Smithsonian to undertake a plant field mission to South Africa. Nancy has been a member of the National Cathedral Flower Guild for 24 years and the chairperson of the St. Mary's Episcopal Church Flower Guild for 20 years. Nancy also does flowers for wedding receptions on occasion, and she is an avid gardener.

The National Cathedral is renowned for its spectacular floral arrangements and you will learn techniques that are used to create these masterpieces, which can be applied to making your own special arrangements. Nancy will make two identical flower arrangements which we will raffle off at the end of her presentation.



BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kate Abrahams, Parliamentarian

At President Charlotte Benjamin's request, six RSGC members formed a Bylaws Committee to review, update and revise the Club's current bylaws. After two meetings, the proposed changes were presented in February to the Executive Board for discussion and additional revisions. The recommended proposed changes are now ready for general membership review, discussion and revision. Please review the suggested changes when you receive the e-mail document listing them and referring to bylaws found in the current RSGC yearbook. You will see that the document shows the current bylaw wording in the left column, the proposed amendment in the middle, and the new wording in the right column. Many thanks for giving the Board your input on these amendments.

I give my sincere thanks to Bylaw Committee members Renee Bayes, Charlotte Benjamin, Anita Brown, Julie Wadsworth and Christine Wegman for their thoughtful ideas and revisions to clarify, correct, and improve descriptions of the Club's organization, committees, member and officer duties and to reflect current practices and propose some new ideas. I especially want to thank Julie for quickly and accurately creating a document that presents the changes in an easy to follow format for our upcoming general meetings.

President's Message:

Rock Spring Garden Club's collective wisdom is **priceless** ... at General meetings, Board meetings and Committee meetings. These last two months I am especially thankful for the collective wisdom of the Bylaws Committee - Kate Abrahams, chair, Renee Bayes, Anita Brown, Julie Wadsworth, Christine Wegman, Charlotte Benjamin. They have worked extremely hard to produce an excellent updated Bylaws draft for approval by RSGC active members. Please watch your inbox for your copy of these Bylaws, coming soon!

At the February Board meeting the RSGC Board approved the application of Joelle Hull. She will be introduced and inducted at our next General meeting. Joelle loves flowers and has extensive gardening experiences. She will be a welcomed addition to the Club.

Recently you were emailed the NCAGC Flower Show flyer being held April 4-5 at the US National Arboretum. The Show's theme is Nurturing Earth celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. As the Show information says, "this is a big show and there are opportunities for everyone and every interest". I hope they will have lots of RSGC entries! Please go to the NCAGC website for more information.

Our speaker for February 20th is Nancy Murphy, a member of the National Cathedral Flower Guild. In addition to being an outstanding flower arranger, Nancy is also an avid gardener. Come be wowed by beautiful floral design!

See you on the 20th ... *Charlotte*

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1-31, 2020

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Next Board Meeting Thursday, Mar. 5th 10 a.m.

SHOW: Red for Valentine's Day

Anita Brown

When the Show Committee meets at the beginning of our Club year, we always try to mix up the type of designs so that each member can find designs they feel comfortable with and complete our club's requirement for submittal of two designs in a club year.

As you know, the NGC 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows introduced a number of new designs for our clubs to try. Some of you feel the designs may not be explained sufficiently or that you feel the designs are too complicated. Remember, our monthly club meetings provide a learning experience and allow us to experiment with designs. Sometimes we do everything right and sometimes we make mistakes. That is why we have accredited judges at our meetings to provide helpful comments, and even accredited judges

must attend NGC symposiums to keep abreast of changes the NGC makes from time to time.

Our records indicate that 11 of our members have done

no designs this year. Well, this month's design is one each member can do easily. It is a traditional design with predominately red flowers (or red branches if you prefer). The design can be large or small (under 12 inches).

After this month, we will have only three opportunities to submit designs. (March – Cascade Design; April-Mini Temporary Garden; and May-Underwater Design). If you do not remember how many you have done, please call or email Margy Shultz (703-241-1535 or rmshultz@aol.com).

I look forward to placing numerous "red" arrangements on our design table this month.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Vicky Schoenberger



It was great fun to work with this group of 2nd graders at Tuckahoe. They showed how ready they were to start growing apple seeds. They listened attentively to the book we read, sharing some "cool" apple facts

about how apples were first grown, the different types of apples and how they are used. Several hands went up eagerly to participate after we finished the book.

After we distributed the materials to plant their seeds, they were gung-ho to start. They were proud to take their plantings home, and liked the idea of having a mini photo of an apple tree on a stick to place in their pots.

We adults agreed this group of kids were enthusiastic and polite, thanking several of our members for helping them with their plantings. All in all, it was a worthwhile and fun activity for everyone.





their harvest of vegetables is ready, they make "the best soup ever!", recipe included. Mary Cottrell added interest with her puppets as they "listened" too.

Dianne showed stickers with pictures of the vegetables in the story, and helped the children identify them. Frequently they raise their hands to answer and then are too shy or don't know what to say. After the project was explained, they moved to the tables and had fun spooning potting soil into plastic garden pots and planting a mix of the tiny vegetable seeds. They added vegetable stickers to decorate their pots and serve as a reminder of the seeds planted. Most of the children are 3 yrs old and the attention and dexterity required can be challenging, but the four garden ladies guided and helped when needed.

GARDEN THERAPY

Susan Scotti

January may be early to think about planting a vegetable garden, but it's a perfect month to think about vegetable soup!

On January 9th, Dianne Simmons led the program for the 12 Pre-K students at Glebe based on the book, "Growing Vegetable Soup" by Lois Ehlert. The children were excited to see us and quickly settled in the reading circle. They listened to Pat Getz read the bright, bold picture book. The story is about a father and child who share the joys of planting, watering, even weeding, and watching seeds grow. The tools are pictured and labeled, as are seeds for green beans, peas, corn, zucchini, and carrots. Once

Snack time is looked forward to when the projects are completed, tables cleared and hands washed. We served three of their favorites, apple slices, grapes and string cheese along with lemonade.



The teacher kept the pots on the classroom's window ledge over the holiday weekend, and the wonder of nature happened! She said the children were thrilled when they returned to school Tuesday and saw the seeds had sprouted.





JANUARY PROGRAM

Glenstone Museum's Chief Sustainability Officer, Mr. Paul Tukey, gave an informative and entertaining photo presentation on organic farming and landscape maintenance. It described his personal story growing up on his grandparents' organic dairy farm to currently implementing organic methods to achieve Glenstone's vision for its grounds and museum property.

His photos illustrated the transformation of a suburban landscape into wildflower meadows, forest, and sustainable green spaces throughout the grounds and the interesting color changes and outdoor art installations throughout the various seasons. He welcomed all RSGC members to visit Glenstone especially during peak blooming seasons in the spring and summer.



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> 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. For more information, contact Arlene Stewart at amstewart4@aol.com

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. The theme is "Nurturing Earth" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. For more information including Flower Show Schedule visit <https://ncagardenclubs.org/events>

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

"Nurturing Earth"

*A Celebration of Earth Day's
50th Anniversary*



An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by

**National Capital Area Garden
Clubs, Inc.**

Members of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Central Atlantic Region of State
Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Held in cooperation with
The US National Arboretum**

Saturday, April 4 – Sunday, April 5

**US National Arboretum, Auditorium
3501 New York Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002**

Public Invited

Admission Free

PHOTO GALLERY





