

# 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

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Charlotte Benjamin

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Sharon DeAngelis

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Nancy Snell

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Mary Garnett (Feb-Jun)

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## THE DELIGHTFUL DAFFODIL

Connie Richards

"I thought daffodils were just yellow flowers", a friend said amazed at the myriad of colors and shapes as we looked at a bulb catalogue in the fall. I'm hoping to be a daffodil judge in the future and one of the requirements is to grow at least a hundred different varieties. That may sound overwhelming but sharing an order of several types with others will get me closer to that goal. Daffodils are amongst the first flowers to bloom in the spring and then make room for other things to grow so one can have many even in a small yard like mine.

Since we are not meeting this month, I'm going to include some of the information that was to be included in our program. I'm sorry that you will miss seeing the gorgeous daffodils that our speaker, Eugenie Applegate, was going to bring from her garden of hundreds of flowers. Hopefully by reading this, you will be able to spot some of these types in your yard or on a neighborhood walk. You might want to order some for your yard as the catalogues are coming out now. Jo Ella and I had the experience of many of the ones we wanted being sold out by last November. If this is too much information, just skip to the pictures and remember the most important thing is to enjoy the beauty of these flowers whatever the name and type.



Daffodils are in the genus *Narcissus*. They grow from bulbs best planted in the mid to late fall when the ground has cooled to about 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The most obvious parts are the perianth (petals) and the cup or trumpet (corona) emerging from the center.

(cont. on page 3)



## President's Message

A dear friend recently sent me a YouTube video called "Whispers". It is a WOW video ... beautiful photography and thought provoking text! Springtime is our whispering season ... amazing treasures abound. Let's take advantage of the extra time we have during these stay at home weeks and enjoy the 'whispers' all around us. Your fellow garden club members would love to see photos of garden treasures you have discovered. Please feel free to share photos via email ... it will be a lovely way for us to keep in touch and add cheer to our stay at home time!

A few pieces of business:

- ~ the votes on the Bylaws revisions and the Slate of Officers passed with flying colors. Thank you!
- ~ the Board voted electronically to send a check to Little Falls Presbyterian Church for the months we canceled our meetings. Also we would like to pay Saeed Noor as soon as we find out from the Church how to do that.
- ~ unfortunately it looks like we will be canceling more meetings, potentially for the rest of the year.

I received a call today from Dorothy McDonald's daughter Maureen. Dorothy had a terrible fall down the basement stairs recently, was in the hospital ICU and now has been transferred to a rehab facility in Leesburg. Because of COVID-19 her family is unable to visit with her. She is in good spirits but unable to do anything for herself. She loves staying connected to RSGC.... She will celebrate her 94th birthday on April 16 so let us flood her mailbox with cards from her RSGC friends!

Dorothy McDonald, % Heritage Hall, 122 Morven Park Road N.W., Leesburg, VA 20176

I sure miss being with you so please keep in touch with emails and phone calls and always be on the lookout for 'whispers'!

*Charlotte*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

## DESIGN OF THE MONTH

### Mini Temporary Garden

**Anita Brown**

While many of us are looking for things to do during our "social distancing," I thought you might enjoy reviewing our "design" for this month. It is designing a mini temporary garden, and it should give you a lot of pleasure doing something different and fun.



Some of us may already have a container garden, most likely using catci and/or succulents, but your garden may be too large since the mini garden must not exceed 12 inches. The container can be either square or round and all plant material must be fresh. You could use the daffodils or any other flowers currently blooming in your outside garden. Not being able to purchase from plant shops but using the plant material we already have should get your creative juices going!

You can use any type of accessories in your garden remembering the principles of proportion and scale.

Be sure to take a picture of your masterpiece and send it to Mary Garnett for inclusion in the May Gardenzette.



(cont. from front page)

There are thirteen divisions of daffodils.

**Division 1 – TRUMPET**

**DAFFODIL** - Has a cup that is as least as long as the perianth segments.



'Chicken Hill'

**Division 2 – LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODIL**

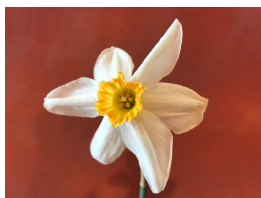
Has a cup that is more than one-third but less than equal to the length of the petals.



'Charbonneau'

**Division 3 – SMALL-CUPPED DAFFODIL**

Has a corona not more than one-third of the perianth. All of these divisions just have one flower to a stem.



'Random Event'

Among the showiest of daffodils is

**Division 4 – DOUBLE**

**DAFFODIL**– With one or more flowers to a stem with doubling of the perianth segments or the corona or both.



'Tahiti'

Now we get to the more unusual but intriguing specimens.

**Division 5 – TRIANDRUS DAFFODIL** – Usually has two or more pendent flowers to a stem; the petals are reflexed which gives them a windblown look.



'Thalia'

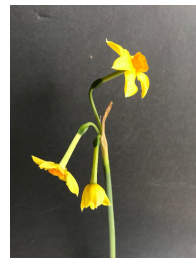
'Rapture'



**Division 6 – CYCLAMINEUS DAFFODIL** – have one flower to a stem; perianth segments are significantly reflexed (the windblown effect again); and the flower is at an acute angle to the stem with a very short neck.

**Division 7 – JONQUILLA AND APODANTHUS DAFFODIL**

– Has one to five flowers to a stem with perianth spreading or reflexed and the flowers are usually fragrant. Sound similar to Triandrus? I will explore that more when I get to Daffodil Judging Course 2 next year. I was supposed to be there right now.



'Stratosphere'



'Avalanche'

**Division 8 – TAZETTA DAFFODIL**

– Usually has three to twenty flowers to a stout stem; leaves broad, perianth segments spreading NOT reflexed; flowers fragrant. I was in a park in Japan at the beginning of March that had a large bed of

this type of daffodil and the aroma was bewitching!

**Division 9 – POETICUS DAFFODIL**

– Characteristics are clearly evident; perianth segments pure white; corona very short or disc shaped, not more than one-fifth the length of the perianth segments; corona usually with a green or yellow center and a red rim, but sometimes of a single color; flowers fragrant.



'Mizzen Head'



(Cont.)

(cont. from page 3)

You would probably never guess that the flowers in the next group are daffodils but they are and I love them for their strangeness.

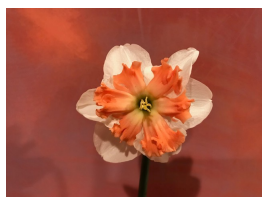
**Division 10 – BULBOCODIUM DAFFODIL**  
– Usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments insignificant compared with corona. The picture will give you a better idea than any more words.



'White Petticoat'

The next division is the “party dress” of daffodils.

**Division 11- SPLIT CORONA DAFFODIL.** There are two sections of this a) **Collar Daffodil**– Corona segments opposite the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in two whorls of three. The picture will give you a better idea of this. b)



'Chernobyl'

**Papillon Daffodil** – Corona segments alternate the perianth segments; corona segments usually in a single whorl of six.

I'm not even mentioning the next two divisions. That will be in our next program.

Reference: HANDBOOK FOR GROWING, EXHIBITING, AND JUDGING DAFFODILS. Sixth Edition, 2020. American Daffodil Society, Inc.



## GARDEN THERAPY

### Susan Scotti

The March 12th Pre-K program for Glebe Elementary school was canceled due to growing concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The next day the county announced school closures beginning the following week.

Margie Melnick had prepared a beautiful program about spring flowers, even writing a song for the children to sing. The flowers had been purchased and greens clipped, so after consulting with the teacher, Jeannie Terrill, we took the supplies to the school office and she, along with the two classroom aides, guided the children in making floral arrangements.



We know how the children enjoy the programs, so we were happy for them to do the project even though we didn't get to share in the fun and include the whole plan.

They are lucky to have such an excellent and inspired teacher. She sent pictures of them making their arrangements and included this note. "Thank you so much for sending in all the materials and the snack! The kids really enjoyed the activity, but missed all of you!" Jeannie

Hopefully Garden Therapy will be able to continue in the next school year.





## LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL – COURSE I

### Cathy Jamieson

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland is offering the first course of the four- course Landscape Design Series. This is the series that is closest to us for the next four years. Course I will be offered at the Clyburn Arboretum in Baltimore from October 13-15, 2020. The topics for this session are: Learning About Your Ecosystem (Ann English), Principles of Landscape Design (David Scheid), Design for the Environment (Clare Jones), Landscape Design Ancient Times to 1840 (David Scheid) Xeriscaping (Claire Jones), Color in the Landscape (Carrie Engel) Developing Your Garden Plan (Cheryl Corson, Space, Design and People (Scott Aker) Basics of a Site Plan (Cheryl Corson). Cheryl is the landscape architect who designed the under-construction Arlington Lubber Run Center.

Any garden club member may take the course. If credit towards Consultant Status is desired, there's a test but all tested material is carefully reviewed in advance.

Please contact Linda Harris at [lindaharris355@aol.com](mailto:lindaharris355@aol.com) for information and registration forms. If there's any interest in car-pooling with a group, please contact Cathy Jamieson at [cathyjam@mac.com](mailto:cathyjam@mac.com). RSGC is always underrepresented at the Landscape and Gardening Schools!

## AWARDS!!! AWARDS!!!

### Renee Bayes

Congratulations to RSGC for the many awards presented to the Club from the Piedmont District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. RSGC is one of 57 member clubs in the Piedmont District.

#### Piedmont District:

1. Club Yearbook 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Orange Rosette
2. Club Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Red Ribbon
3. Youth Horticulture (Tuckahoe ES) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Red Ribbon
4. Flower Show Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Red Ribbon

#### Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs:

1. Club Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Blue Ribbon/  
\$20.00 monetary award
2. Club Yearbook 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Red Ribbon

#### South Atlantic Region:

1. SAR Garden Club: Most Plantations of Penny Pines Award for 2020/\$25.00 monetary award

Congratulations!!!!



### Joan Hession

My amaryllis has bloomed and delivered a wonderful display.



# PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Kate Abrahams

Every Spring I look forward to visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show, a world-famous display of floral design, ikebana, horticulture, landscape design and international talent organized by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society since 1829. The show lasts one week and raises funds to support Philadelphia’s historic gardens, horticulture, and



nity agriculture projects. This year’s theme was “Riviera Holiday” so plants, trees and recreated landscapes from the Mediterranean were displayed.

Everything takes place in the downtown’s gigantic convention center where you can wander for hours to see the design and horticultural displays, stages,



sale. Usually, there is a butterfly enclosure room, afternoon teas, and craft workshops in addition to the main exhibit hall experience.



I loved the many olive trees throughout the exhibits and inviting patio landscapes representing the Mediterranean outdoor lifestyle. It was a wonderful escape from the dreary, grey rainy weather outside the building and reminded everyone that Spring was just around the

corner. Here are some photos to give you an idea of what it’s like. I hope everyone has a chance to experience the Flower Show at least once.



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## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

### Julie Williams

I've been trying to figure out the best way to get new plants during this time of social distancing. For the first time in my life, I've ordered a few shade garden perennials from a well known garden center that has a good mail order presence. I wish Merrifield could rev up their email lists and have drive up service after we bought online. Stores have to reinvent themselves. Home Depot will still be open because it is an essential business offering hardware. Local nurseries may fall on hard times with excess inventories and no customers, I've read.

One thing I purchased is an hydrangea phantom paniculata which is a decorative, small tree that will grace our front garden. I think the tree will carry on and thrive through all our turmoil.



I look forward to next year's blooms and beauty as the creamy white bracts turn pinkish in the fall.

**What if they close  
grocery stores and  
we have to hunt for  
our food?**

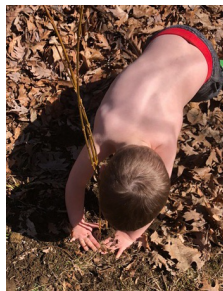
**I don't even know  
where Little Debbie  
lives 🤔**

### Catherine Jamieson

My happiest moments in the garden are when I transmit the joy of gardening to another person, and even more so if that person is a child. Recently, a friend was looking for a gardening project for her very active and capable three year old boy. They live on a large property in Connecticut. I told her

about cutting whips from forsythia and planting them to create a blooming hedgerow. She and Owen set out to accomplish it and worked for hours. Last

week Owen face-timed me to show me how the forsythia he had planted were in bloom. When I exclaimed "Look at all the buds!", he chastened me by patiently explaining, "No Cathy, those are flowers." I laugh over that butt-crack photo all the time. And that's how a lifelong gardener is born!

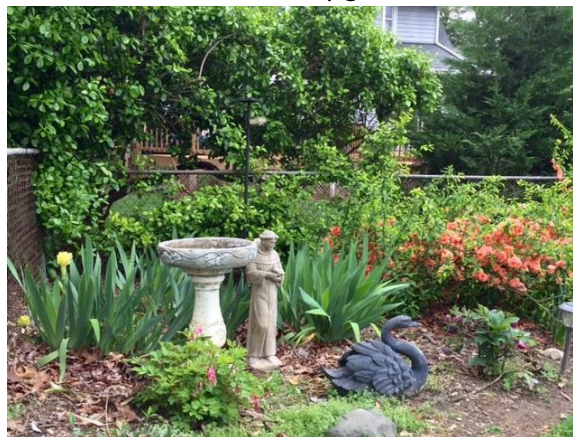


### Joyce Fall

I've always loved the following quote:

**"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow" --  
Audrey Hepburn**

A corner of my garden





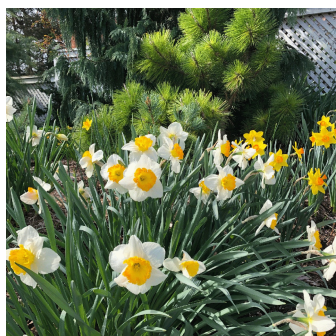
## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

### Ann Kelly

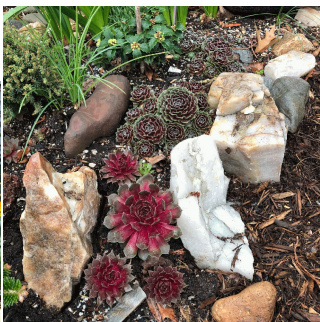
These three phalaenopsis orchids of mine are re-blooming this spring, all at the same time in the east windows at my home. This is the first time that's happened and with so many flowers on each stem. They received no special attention except a good watering once a week. It's been nice to have these orchids in bloom now while waiting for the azaleas to flower.



### John Auditore



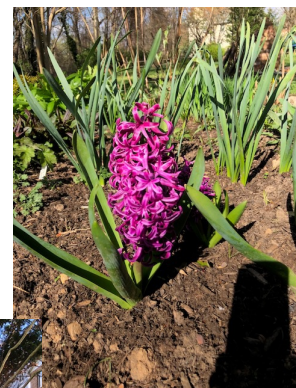
A few pictures from my garden



### Jo Ella Samp



Virginia Bluebells from her yard.



Rock Spring garden Purple Passion



Daffodils from her yard

Rock Spring garden New Winter Berry Shrubs donated by Catherine Jamieson



Celandine in her garden



Maria Selby Botanical Garden, Sarasota



## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

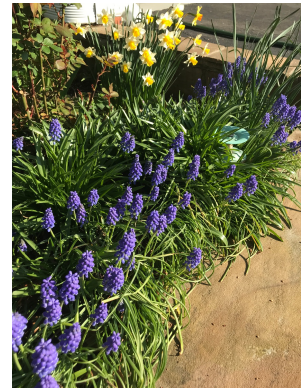
### Nancy Snell

Photos of arrangements that I made for my Mother's 98th birthday party on February 4th of this year.



### Jenny Sullivan

Below are my grape hyacinths and my 20-year old cat, my grape hyacinths and daffodils, and my thistle embroidery which has been helping me to maintain sanity.



Inspired by this website that daughter Bramley sent me, see my attempt below and my other daughter Norah's far better work: <https://www.sadanduseless.com/recreated-art>





## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Barry Wood

### QUIZ

Identify this plant - first one (or two or three) to name it correctly will get a free Muso banjoo ("hardy banana") from Barry Wood.



This photo shows a low-growing plant whose name I don't know.

I call her "Topsy" because I didn't plant her — she "just grew." Started popping up on my hillside about four years ago.

This plant comes up in random places, but not so aggressively that control is a problem. It's very good on a slope to keep dirt from washing away where erosion in a heavy rain would otherwise be an issue. The flowers are very cheerful and the foliage is glossy and attractive, so I usually leave it alone. Because it goes dormant when warmer weather comes, it doesn't interfere with summer plantings like lilies, petunias, geraniums, rudbeckia, etc. in the same bed.



### Muso banjoo

One of my hardy bananas emerging from its wintertime slumber under a blanket of mulch. You are looking at just a few days' growth. Within about six weeks it will be over ten feet tall. They have been happily transplanted by a neighbor

on Rock Spring Road. That leaves me with "only" about 17, which is about 8 more than I really have room for. All from a single plant that I bought at Home Depot in 2004.

### Cymbidium Orchid

This is one of the orchids I rescued from a trash can at 2228 N Vermont about 42 years ago. I was never a fan of green flowers but these have "grown on me" over the decades. They enjoy spending the winter in a very cool (but not freezing) bright room. The blooms start out green with just a hint of crimson on the lip; then turn chartreuse, lasting about six weeks, but at the end of the bloom period they turn a decadent reddish salmon pink.



### Larger Cymbidium Orchid

This is my favorite of the garbage can orchids. Very large blooms. One year I left it outside too late in November and killed most of it, but one pseudobulb survived, and has since expanded to fill most of the pot again.



### Pink Hippeastrum



### Camellia Japonensis

One day about 25 years ago a group of about 30 Japanese ladies who were touring gardens in the neighborhood walked by my place on 35th Street, heading over toward the country club. They noticed my camellia. The leader asked if they could come up my walk and admire it close up. Naturally, I agreed, and noted that as mine has its origins in Japan,

probably they had many more nicer camellias at home. The leader said, "No, not as beautiful as this one."



## Barry Wood (cont.)



This is what I would have brought for the horticulture table if we had met on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Left foreground: **Staghorn fern** ( *Platynerium bifurcation* - native of Java and New Guinea. I found

it growing, as a tiny baby, on a random tree in Highland County Florida about six years ago. I brought it back to Arlington in my suitcase, potted it up, and have treated it with near-total neglect ever since (except to protect it from freezing).

To the right is the **Priscilla Presley orchid**.

In the background, some **Hippeastra** that I have had for many years. They respond well to my simulation of their native habitat (foothills of the Andes; cool dry season followed by very hot weather followed by monsoon). I let them sit outside in the summer but bring them inside around Labor Day (plus or minus a month). Most of them I stash in an unheated room. I stop all watering until about 4-8 weeks ahead of the desired bloom time. Then, I put them on top of a heating vent for a week or two. Final step is to drench with water.

Also in the background the **Clivia miniata** that John Auditore gave me about four years ago. It was in bud, which was very exciting as it refused to bloom for me in 2018 and 2019. You might not even be able to see the yellow bud stalks in this photo



### Clivia Miniata

This is the same plant pictured in the photo to the left. What was then a mere bud opened fully for my birthday. I love the intensity of the color.

### Laeliocattleya Orchid "Priscilla Presley"

This is the first time I have ever gotten a cattleya orchid to re-bloom. Fabulous fragrance. I bought this from Art Chadwick's orchid store near Monument Avenue in Richmond over a year ago. I was very excited to see it bloom again for me since I had not taken especially good care of it over that period other than putting it outside around May 1 on a shady side of the house, and bringing it inside around Michaelmas. I applied fertilizer only twice.



