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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CELEBRATE MAY: DAHLIAS AND DESIGN

Connie Richards

I love dahlias! I started with the tubers you get at Cosco or the garden center, and they were lovely. Some even came back the next year. Then one fall I stopped in at the National Capital Dahlia Society's show and was totally amazed. There were dahlias the size of dinner plates, some that were tiny and every size in between. There were flowers that didn't look a thing like a dahlia to me but they were all incredibly beautiful. So I started going to some of their meetings, joined the society and volunteered at the Demonstration Garden in Derwood,

Md. I've been doing this for three years and still feel like a beginner. There is so much to learn about dahlias. However, you can still enjoy them without any technical knowledge.

Dahlias are classified by size and form. There are 20 different forms listed by the American Dahlia Society. The sizes range from AA, the largest (Dinner Plate. 10+ inches) to Poms and Mignon Singles which are under two inches in diameter. The colors and patterns are limitless. How to explain such wide variation in the single genus *Dahlia*? It could be that they have eight sets of Chromosomes while most plants have only two.



'Bristol Fleck'

I saw some really pretty potted dahlias at Ayers a few days ago and have to get some for immediate gratification. I know some people who have started growing dahlias in pots from seeds. As I mentioned, you can buy the tubers and the rule of thumb is to plant them around Mother's Day. (cont. on page 3)



President's Message ...

UNPRECEDENTED ... a word we have been hearing over and over again these past two months! It certainly describes our 'new normal' quite well. We have had an unprecedentedly beautiful spring but also an unprecedentedly bizarre existence. However, I am very impressed by the many creative ways people have coped ... we are resilient and caring!

The Rock Spring Garden Club Board stepped into the virtual arena last week and held its FIRST Zoom Board meeting ... successfully! It was so exciting to see each other on our computer screens. Many thanks to Joan Hession for hosting the meeting. We plan to meet again on June 4th. Please let me know if you have something you would like the Board to discuss.

Over the past few weeks quite a few RSGC members have wondered what our Club could do to help the less fortunate in our community during this unprecedented emergency. Since we have a vey healthy bank balance, the Board voted to contribute \$1000 to AFAC and \$1000 to the Columbia Pike Farmers Market. Both of these groups are focusing on feeding families and children during the pandemic.

Because no one is able to predict what the rest of this year or next year will be like, most of your Standing Committee Chairmen have volunteered to continue as chairs for the 2020-2021 year. They have also requested that committee membership remains basically the same. Continuity is the one thing we can control in these unprecedented times! Until we are able to gather together again, stay healthy, happy and resilient

Charlotte

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

LAST CHANCE TO COMPLETE YOUR TWO FLORAL DESIGNS AND HORTICULTURE SPECIMENS FOR THE CLUB YEAR

After a short May program presentation on dahlias by Connie Richards, the Program Committee had planned to have club members spend the rest of the meeting making their own floral arrangements as a way to relax, socialize and fulfill the requirement for two designs during the club year if needed. As an alternative, we encourage you all to do a design at home and submit a picture to be published in the June Gardenzette.



Barry Wood

Kate Abrahams



. . .

(cont. from front page)



INFORMAL DECORATIVE 'Bodacious'

Dahlias like warm soil and sun although some afternoon shade in the extreme heat helps keep the colors bright. Giving them small amounts of water frequently is

good. Be careful at the beginning that you

don't overwater as the tubers may rot. Generally, you can expect them to start blooming in July with the most prolific flowering in September. Some blossoms may last until the first frost.



MINIATURE BALL 'Miss White'



ORCHID 'Amy's Star'

Then what? A frequent question is "Do I have to dig them up?" I think most purists say yes. I say you don't really have to do that. If you plant them a little more deeply than recommended and mulch heavily before the winter, they may come back.

Now that I'm getting more unusual dahlias, I am

digging them up. It is a better guarantee that you will have the tuber for the next season and many of the tubers will have multiplied over the season. Two "Irish Glow" plants produced 8 viable tubers. I divide the tubers and store them in plastic bags with vermiculite in cardboard boxes in a cool place where they will not freeze.



POM 'Irish Glow'



It's kind of exciting to bring them out in the spring to see how many have developed "eyes". Think of potatoes sprouting! Some people plant these tubers directly in the ground, but many others

including myself, like to plant them in pots in a mixture of vermiculite and potting soil. I like them to be at a height of at least six inches before I plant them

outdoors. A big problem that I have had is the tubers rotting so I want them to be strong enough to resist that. As cool and wet as this spring is, I might wait until the last week of May to get them in the ground. Before you plant the tubers, be sure to get some



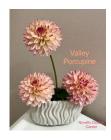
FORMAL DECORATIVE 'Formby Art'



INCURVED CACTUS 'Sunrise Surprise'

strong
stakes and put them in the
ground. You don't want to
plant the tuber first and then
stab it with your stake. Last
year I finally broke down and
bought "rebar". The plants
can get to be six feet or taller
and can have thick stems so
they need a really good
support.

It would be nice to say that you just wait to enjoy the future blooms but there is some maintenance as far as fertilizing and "disbudding" to get plants with the most blooms. If anyone is really



NOVELTY DOUBLE CENTER 'Valley Porcupine'



SEMI-CACTUS
'AC Ben'

interested in more detail, please feel free to contact me. If things go well, I'll send out an invitation to visit my garden and could

arrange a tour of several others in the area. I would definitely recommend a visit to Montgomery County's Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, Maryland to see the Demonstration Garden. This includes a trial garden that has new cultivars that are being developed by growers across the country.

I'm including photos of some of the dahlias I grew last season. I highly recommend that you go to the American Dahlia Society website: www.dahlia.org. for more information and amazing photos of each form.



COLLARETTE 'Pooh'

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Jane Fuller Taylor



Betty joined the Rock Spring Garden Club over 55 years ago, in 1964. She was born in Roanoke and took great pride in her Virginia roots and Southern upbringing and cherished her home city of Roanoke, the nearby Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains, and especially the

Blue Ridge Parkway, which her beloved engineer husband Hale helped create. She also had a special fondness for her "home away from home," Highlands, North Carolina, and its surrounding misty mountains and charming waterfalls. She was a lover of nature, and nature best showed its beauty to Betty with native flowers and flitting butterflies.

Betty's principal passion, however, was flower arranging, particularly Japanese flower arranging as expressed through the highly disciplined Japanese art of ikebana. This passion culminated in her being the first American awarded Grand Master status in the Ohara School of Ikebana, Kobe, Japan, in May 2011. In addition to five ikebana study tour trips to Japan—where she was often honored—Betty devoted 50 years to sharing her love of Japanese flower arranging by teaching, lecturing, and hosting seminars for countless groups from New York to Florida and as far west as Montana. From 1992 to 2016, Betty was a Resident Artist and Teaching Master at the Stone Lantern in Highlands, NC. Betty served four terms as President of the Ohara School, Washington, DC Chapter. She also served as President of Ikebana International, Washington, DC Chapter 1.

A memorial service for Betty will be held at an undetermined later date at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington. Inurnment along with her husband Hale Taylor will be held in Sherwood Cemetery, Salem, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the "Friends of the National Arboretum," care of the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC, for the purpose of increasing the collection of plants in the Peony Garden.

For more information, see the following website: https://www.fhwebhosting.com/xlb/notices/Betty-Taylor



John Auditore

Jenny Sullivan:
I tend the rectory
garden at St Agnes
and today was
greeted by this
gorgeous iris
(5/2/20)





Paul Gibert

John Auditore



HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

Dogwood Alternatives

A few weeks ago, one of our Garden Club members asked me to recommend a substitute for a dogwood that she had lost over the winter. When I had compiled the list, I thought that I might offer it to the rest of the club membership.

As most of us know, many of our native dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) have succumbed to dogwood anthracnose. For those who have lost dogwoods to this disease, we cannot plant a dogwood anywhere nearby because the soil remains contaminated. I found this out the hard way, when I lost a beautiful Korean dogwood (*Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eyes,) to the disease, even though it was planted some distance from where we had lost our native dogwoods a few years earlier. So for those who either cannot plant a dogwood or are looking for something a little different, I hope the following alternatives will be useful.

Although there is no perfect substitute for our superbly graceful native dogwood with its four-season interest, there are lots of spring-flowering trees that are beautiful and roughly the same size as dogwoods. All the dimensions listed below are from the Missouri Botanical Garden website so they will be easily comparable and pretty accurate. The highest and widest dimensions will be for plants in ideal conditions, which most of us cannot provide. Most of these plants can be grown as a single or multi stem tree. When grown as a multi (say, three) stem plant, the lower height estimate will be more accurate. The width of a multi stem plant can be controlled by limiting the number of stems; so you can effectively limit the height of a plant by growing multiple stems and the width by limiting the number stems.

For purposes of comparison, the Missouri Botanical Garden lists our native dogwood as growing 15' -30' high and wide.

Styrax japonica – **Japanese snowbell**. 20-30' high and wide (the same size as a dogwood). This tree has an attractive habit and beautiful somewhat fragrant, white bell-shaped flowers that hang from the undersides of the branches in May-June, about a

month after the dogwoods. No fall color to speak of. Can be grown as a single or multi-stemmed tree. These are lovely trees and have variegated and weeping cultivars.



Halesia Carolina – Carolina silverbell. 30-40' high x 20-35' wide. This eastern US native is larger than a dogwood and has a moderate growth rate, but it can be grown as a multi-stemmed tree, which will reduce the height somewhat. It has beautiful white flowers in April, which bloom as the leaves emerge. Some yellow fall color, but leaves drop early.

(cont. on next page)

HORTICULTURE ANNUAL REPORT

Christine Wegman

The Horticulture Committee encourages members to exhibit horticulture from their gardens at meetings. Our members routinely bring in impressive examples of flowers, evergreen foliage and houseplants. Many grow and exhibit unusual plants that most of us have only seen in pictures. The horticulture table always draws lots of interest at our meetings. This year was no exception, although we have not been able to meet since February. This year we will attempt to set up a virtual horticulture exhibit on our website for June. The Horticulture Committee also contributes regular articles to the Gardenzette on subjects that we hope will be of interest to the members.

Chionanthus retusis – Chinese fringe tree. 15-20' high x 20-25' wide. Very showy fragrant white flowers bloom in May on this rather slow-growing tree. It can be grown as a single or multi-stemmed tree. It is a bit more graceful than our native fringe tree (below) and has lovely exfoliating bark that looks good after the leaves fall. This is a dioecious (separate male and female) tree. Male trees have showier flowers; female trees have not-particularly-showy fruit



Chionanthus virginicus – Fringe tree. 12-20' high and wide. This is the native version. It is usually grown as a multi-stemmed shrub, but can be grown as a tree. Form and bark are not as good as the Chinese fringe tree. There are several of these, grown as shrubs, in front of the Marymount parking lot on Glebe Rd. The same observation about dioecious plants above applies.



Amelanchier arborea – serviceberry. 15-20' high and wide. Showy white flowers appear before the leaves in March-April on this Eastern US native. Red turning-to-purple edible berries are produced in fall and the

leaves turn good red color. This is an attractive tree, somewhat like a Bradford pear, but with much better mature form and not invasive.

Cercis canadensis – redbud. 20-30' high x 25-35' wide. I love our native redbuds. There are a number of new introductions worth considering. "Forest Pansy' has red foliage that fades to green as the weather warms up. 'Rising Sun' (8-12' high and wide) has emerging deep yellow-orange foliage that matures to lime green, then eventually turns green in the hot weather. It needs a sunny position to get the best leaf color. Redbuds are a bit disease prone, so it is best to give them an open airy site.

Deciduous magnolias -- I love all magnolias, and they are relatively fast growers. None of the early flowering magnolias are native to the U.S. Here are a few selections.

Magnolia stellate – star magnolia. 15-20' high x 10-15' wide. This small tree has showy white blooms on bare wood in March. It is a real harbinger of spring.

Magnolia x lobneri 'Leonard Messel' – Leonard Messel magnolia. 10-20' high x 10-18' wide. A pink blossomed, slightly larger version of the star magnolia. I have one in in our back garden and I love it.

Magnolia 'Betty'. 8-12' high and wide. One of a National Arboretum series of slightly later flowering magnolias introduced many years ago. The later flowering increases the chances that the blossoms will not be damaged by late frosts. 'Betty' has reddish purple blossoms on bare wood in April.

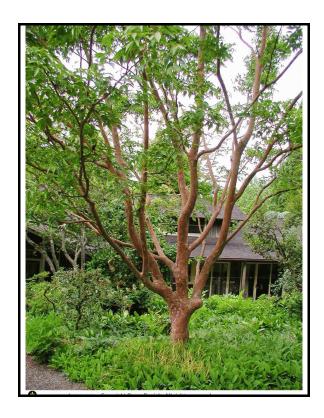
Magnolia 'Jane'. 10-18' high x 10-12' wide. This is another National Arboretum introduction. It is similar to 'Betty' but taller.

Magnolia 'Butterflies'. 15-20' high x 10-15' wide. Beautiful creamy yellow flowers on bare wood in April make this a strikingly beautiful tree when in flower.



Magnolia virginia – sweetbay or swamp magnolia 10-35' high and wide. This is a lovely deciduous Virginia native. It can be grown as a single or multistem tree. Creamy white, somewhat fragrant flowers appear in May and sporadically into summer. Though not a showy bloomer, because of the sporadic nature of its blooming habit, it has a lovely form and beautiful leaves. The flowers are a smaller version of the evergreen southern magnolia and bloom pattern is similar. In a protected location will probably keep its leaves into early winter. This is widely planted in public spaces for its beauty and reliability.

Stewartia. 12-40' high x 8-25' wide. Stewartias are slow growers and take many years to reach their mature height. We have one on the side of the house that is about 20 years old and about 13' high x 8' wide. These are subtle trees, with a quirky and appealing form. They have beautiful orangish bark in the winter, although this takes some years to look its best. White camelia-like flowers with yellow centers appear in May. There are a number of varieties, of which Stewartia pseudocamelia is probably the best and easiest to find.



Prunus x yedoensis – Japanese cherry blossom. 30-40' high and wide. Beautiful form and ephemeral flowers. Very disease prone and the fruit can be messy to pick up. There are some new introduc-tions that are disease resistant: 'Berry' (Cascade Snow™), has white blossoms on a 25' tree.

Prunus subhirtella var. autumnalis - Higan cherry blossom. 15-30' high and wide, depending on variety. Higan cherries have good disease resistance and come in a range of styles (some weeping) and colors (pink/white) and heights. Longer lived than most cherries.

Renee Bayes: From my garden Reubens Montana clematis A little bit of Spring







Euphorbia



Photo from

SENIOR OUTREACH

Ann Marie Fay and Mary Kudless

Background

Following six months of research into the Senior needs and services of Arlington County, the Senior Outreach Committee proposes to begin working with residents aged 55 and older who reside at the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence in Arlington, Virginia. The program is County and resident funded and is operated by the highly regarded Volunteers of America.

Ann Marie and Mary took the lead on the research and presented this proposal to the Board on January 2, 2020. The Board enthusiastically endorsed the proposed project and a plan was made to present it to the full membership for a vote at the April meeting. We are now familiarizing the full membership with this effort via the Gardenzette and our President will soon call for an electronic vote from the full membership.

Mary Marshall residents experience mental health and intellectual disabilities and compounding medical issues, such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease. All are in need of medical support and a residential environment that fosters their highest level of personal independence. The majority of the residents do not have a family support system and life enrichment activities are especially meaningful to them. The Life Enrichment program is currently led by a highly enthusiastic Director who has worked diligently to customize the activities to the strengths and preferences of each resident.

Proposal

The Rock Spring Garden Club members will bring their time and club resources to align with the life enrichment model which is already in place. The program will be monthly and seasonal in approach and the activities will unfold over time. Some initial examples might include:

Floral designs for dining tables; the preparation and planting of raised garden beds with herbs, flowers and vegetables and possible use of produce in the culinary program.

The Board endorsed an initial budget of \$250

Request for Membership Vote

Given the challenges of Covid-19, the start date for the project is uncertain, but a vote will be sought from membership to endorse the concept presented here and an agreement that an ongoing Senior Outreach Committee be formed by Co-Chairs, Ann Marie Fay and Mary Kudless. A description will be found in the 2020/2021 Yearbook. Our President will call for an electronic vote, so please watch your email for the details on that.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Lynda Martin and Joyce Fall



During our RSGC 2019-2020 year the Youth Activities Committee met with Tuckahoe's second graders five times. Our projects included:

Planting Chrysanthemums in school's Friendship Garden, floral arrangements in pumpkins, Holiday tree arrangements, apple seed planting and creating terrariums. We met with twelve second graders (different attendees each time). The students were always interested, enthusiastic, and creative with the projects presented. Even though it was short, we feel we had another successful year.

We had a wonderfully active committee, consisting of Mary Cottrell, Ann Duffey, Joyce Fall, Max Jensen, Ann Stevens

Kelly, Helen McMahon, Lynda Martin, Judy Neher, Vicky Schoenberger and Susan Scotti.



Perennial Bloom Award Nomination for Jody Goulden

Renee Bayes

Congratulations to RSGC member, Jody Goulden, who was nominated by the Executive Board, for the Perennial Bloom Award for 2020. This award is given, in grateful appreciation, to a club member for many years of continual support to our club's goals and objectives.



When Jody retired in 1999, her neighbor and Rock Spring Garden Club president, Irene Otto, told her about the garden club and invited Jody to meetings and to a flower show. Jody's father had taught agronomy courses at Pan American University and he maintained a lovely garden at the family home in Texas. Jody learned to garden as a girl, working with her father. With President Otto's enthusiastic encouragement, Jody was hooked. The garden club seemed a perfect way to learn more about gardening and to meet club members with similar interests.

Jody joined RSGC in 2000 and immediately immersed herself in the club's activities. Her first position was Chair of the Publicity Committee. She also assisted with the club's newsletter, The Gardenzette, when the newsletter was printed and "snail mailed" to every member. Jody was elected club Secretary in 2002-2004 and the following year was elected club Vice President and served as Membership Chair. She was a member of the Ways and Means Committee (the club's main source of fundraising at the time) in 2006-2009, when all the items for sale were hauled to the meeting space, unpacked, re-packed, and hauled back to her garage for storage until the next monthly meeting. Jody also served as co-chair of Civic Development during this period. From 2009-2012, Jody was **Program Committee Chairman.** Special program guests included retired White House garden foreman Michael Lawn, beekeeper Mary Ellen Kirkpatrick, and Raptor Conservancy of Virginia spokesperson Kent Knowles. Jody also was instrumental in procuring Janet Draper, gardener of the Smithsonian's Ripley Garden, and Barbara Faust, Director of all the Smithsonian Gardens. In 2018-2019, Jody served as Hospitality Chairman.

In addition to her many chairmanships, Jody has been a member of the following committees: Membership, RSGC 60th Anniversary Celebration, Holiday Design Event, Program, Budget, Civic Development, Awards, and Invitational (now known as Floral Outreach).

Jody has been involved "hands on" in many of RSGC's community projects. For example, she gardened at an Arlington home for abused women. Jody was also instrumental in the care and upkeep of the historic garden restoration at the Ball-Sellers House, the oldest home in Arlington. She participated regularly in our annual cleanup of Rock Spring Park, a project that RSGC has been involved with for many years. Jody also has been active in RSGC's flower shows as a committee member and as an exhibitor, and has organized RSGC's fall Floral Pumpkin fundraiser sale. And then, there were cookies: surely in her 20 years of RSGC membership, Jody has made many hundreds of cookies for the Holiday December Tea, Holiday Design Event, hostess duties, and District 3 duties.

Jody Goulden has been a very valued and active member of Rock Spring Garden Club. For her unwavering support and dedication, the club has nominated Jody for RSGC's 2020 Perennial Bloom Award.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REPORT

Joan Hession (projector):

The projector was used for 2 speakers this year. Our programs came to a halt in March so that ended any other requirements.

Max Jensen (database):

Max maintained the database and provided any membership information needed by the Board members. Each March he builds the new worksheet for the members for the next year.

Thea McGinnis (social media):

Thea updates the website with the Gardenzette newsletter each month. The RSGC Facebook page is updated with gardening articles. The email address is used by any of the Board members.

AWARDS!!!!!

Renee Bayes

Once again, RSGC has won District3 awards from the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. The awards were announced "virtually" in April. Many thanks to all Chairman who sent application information and pictures to me to last Fall. And thank you to all members who work tirelessly and with enthusiasm with RSGC's various committees.

RSGC was awarded the following:

Community Service Award-----Certificate

Flower Show Schedule Citation-----Horticulture Specialty Show, Certificate

Yearbook Certificate of Merit---- First Place/70-99 Members

Publication Certificate of Merit----First Place/70-99 Members (Outstanding Club Newsletter)

Award of Honor Nominee----Thea McGinnis-----**See additional document sent with Gardenzette**

SURPRISE PLANT!

Anita Brown



Periodically a plant will arise from our gardens that we have no idea where it came from or exactly what it is, as Barry Wood mentioned last month happened in his garden.

This spring in a place where I had planted daffodils, I saw a new shoot that looked a little different. It was growing higher and higher each day until it reached 4 feet! Then it suddenly began to produce beautiful hanging bell-shaped flowers that are white on the outside with burgundy on the inside of the cup. Now some flowers are shooting up from the top.

GARDENS ON THE WEB

Recommended by Members

Charlotte Benjamin:

Enjoy this very special tour!

https://www.albertdros.com/post/the-most-beautiful-flower-garden-in-the-world-without-people

Barry Wood:

2018 Orchid Extravaganza at Longwood Gardens https://longwoodgardens.org/blog/2018-02-15/ extra-extra-it%E2%80%99s-orchid-extravaganza

Joan Hession:

Some of the most beautiful gardens in the world are here: Kew, Monet's Giverny, Keukenhof at tulip time....:

https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/garden/g319130 08/best-virtual-tours-garden/

Carolyn Barone:

Hillwood

https://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/explore-hillwoodhome



Needless to say, I had to scour all my garden books and catalogues in an attempt to identify this unusual plant. During my research, it occurred to me that it was probably an errant bulb that Brent and Becky's staff had inadvertently included in my daffodil order.

Sure enough, in the catalogue I found my plant – Nectaroscordum siculum.

You may or may not be familiar with this plant, so I am attaching a picture. The catalogue says it grows 2-3 feet in height, but I am sure this plant's growth was aided by our last two months of periodic rain.

While not the most outstanding plant in my garden, this plant will certainly cause heads to turn because of the way it grows. I think you will find it unusual but very interesting.

HORTICULTURAL SPECIMENS

DESIGN OF THE MONTH: Mini Temporary Garden

Mary Garnett



Clockwise, starting at a few minutes past twelve:

- 1. Echeveria runyonii
- 2. Aeonium leucoblepharum 'Stripe'
- 3. Kalanchoe tomentosa 'Nigrum'
- 4. Sedum mexicanum 'lemon ball'
- 5. Schlumbergera gaertneri
- 6. Gasteria morombe
- 7. Curio repens
- 8. Echeveria 'Mensa'
- 9. Kalanchoe blossfeldiana

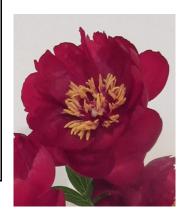
Center: Sedum makinoi 'Limelight'

Lynda Martin: Paeonia moutan



Mary Garnett:

Paeonia lactiflora 'Buckeye Belle'



Paul Gibert: Iris germanica







Joyce Fall

Left: Lamprocapros Spectabilis "Bleeding Heart"

Right: Iris Germanica "Bearded Iris"

PHOTO GALLERY

Jenny Sullivan

Since I showed you last month the imitations of paintings my one daughter did, I thought you'd enjoy what my other daughter finally came up with, Inspired by the website: https://www.sadanduseless.com/recreated-art



Thea McGinnis









Paul Gibert



Kate Abrahams





John Auditore



Kate Abrahams

Pictures of Rock Spring Park



Ferns donated by Margaret Eubank



Blooming Roses



Two winterberry shrubs with yellow ribbons donated by **Cathy Jamieson**

From Kate's Garden













Barry Wood

Answer to April's QUIZ

Ashley Tessmer identified this mystery plant as "goldenstar" or "golden knee," aka Chrysogonum virginianum.
Considering how easy it is to grow,



it's not surprising that it's a native. Apparently in cooler climates it doesn't go dormant in the heat of the summer the way it does here.

If anyone in the Club would like to experiment with it, I have an ample supply to share. It's out of bloom now, but one could plant it now and look forward to next spring's display.

Ashley will receive a *Muso Banjoo*, a hardy banana, but I have six more to give away to anyone who would like one!



Allium giganticum in front of rosebud azalea.

Phlox divaricata, a native species, very showy and incredibly easy to grow, yet I don't see it anywhere else.





Grandaughter's Bouquet

My granddaughter Katlyn, age 8, is here for the month from Washington state. She has been doing "virtual school" with her teacher there via zoom. One of her homework assignments today was to pick some flowers and make a bouquet. Attached is a

photo of her creation. She picked all the flowers, and arranged them. She knows the names of all of them (including multi-syllabic Latin botanical names) from helping me in the garden over the last 3 weeks.

Tulip "City of Vancouver"
Tulips planted in February!





second May 4 boy. I moved it here from 18th Street on 1987. Note the mutation whereby a branch, now about a sixth of the plant, decided to start blooming in a different color after the move.

Bought in 1981, just after Virginia gave birth to our

