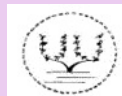


THE GARDENZETTE



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

Volume 58, Number 10

June 2020

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Sharon DeAngelis

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Nancy Snell

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Mary Garnett (Feb-Jun)

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DOGWOOD TREES

Christine Wegman

Dogwoods are among my favorite trees. I love them because they look beautiful 12 months a year. There is never a season that dogwoods do not offer the viewer something special.

In winter, the bare branches of the dogwood are so graceful that they can tempt an artist to capture their stark elegance. In spring they sport large white blossoms (bracts, actually) that are both highly visible and long-lasting.



In summer, when the blossoms fade, dogwoods offer a well-shaped, medium-size canopy that can host any number of shade plants for the rest of the growing season. Then, in autumn, dogwoods offer bright red berries and rich red leaves. If you have a very small garden and can only have one tree, a dogwood is a very good choice.

(cont. on p. 3)



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

President's Message:

Appreciation and thanks are the words that best express my feelings as we come to the end of our 2019-2020 year ... and what an unusual year it has been! Rock Spring Garden Club members, you have stepped up when needed, thank you. Officers and Chairmen, I am so appreciative of the many creative ways you have kept RSGC moving forward. Also, a very special thanks to Mary Garnett for the amazing *Gardenzettes* she has edited which have kept us connected during these long months of quarantine. Kudos to all!

On June 4 we had our last scheduled Board meeting via Zoom. Your RSGC Board is making plans to move into 2020-2021 with a fairly normal schedule. However, our motto continues to be, 'stay FLUID and FLEXIBLE'. We sent a check for \$2000 to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in June.

Please note that several RSGC committees will be active during the summer and may need your input:

Budget ... contact Nancy Snell with budget requests.

Yearbook ... send changes, etc. to Sherry Foster.

Senior Outreach ... check *Gardenzette* for more information.

Hospitality ... will be organizing the luncheon committees.

Program ... is busy planning wonderful monthly meetings.

Thea McGinnis, you are our shining star and very deserving of this award ... congratulations on being awarded the Central Region's Award of Honor!!!

CONGRATULATIONS, THEA!!!!

Rock Spring Garden Club congratulates member, Thea McGinnis, on winning the Central Atlantic Region (CAR) of State Garden Clubs, *Award of Honor*. Thea was nominated by RSGC and won the Award of Honor in District 3 of the National Capital Area, of which RSGC is a member. The Central Atlantic Region includes garden clubs in Delaware, Maryland, National Capital Area, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Please join in congratulating Thea on this very prestigious honor.

Renee Bayes, Awards Chairman, 2019-2021

Summertime cheers ... *Charlotte*

(cont. from front page)

There are many species of dogwood native to Europe, Asia and North America. I am going to write about two species: *Cornus florida*, our native dogwood and the state tree of Virginia; and *Cornus kousa*, the Asian dogwood. The most common dogwood in our area, and arguably the most beautiful, is our native *Cornus florida*, pictured above. It grows to about 20-25 ft. high and wide, and blooms in late April to early May on bare wood. Bloom colors range from white through pink to red. A few varieties have variegated foliage.

Eastern native dogwoods are, unfortunately, susceptible to powdery mildew, dogwood borer, and a disease called anthracnose, which usually kills the tree. If you have lost a dogwood to anthracnose, the disease will remain in the soil, and it is unlikely that you will be able to grow any dogwood in or near that spot. Some years ago we lost all our dogwoods to anthracnose, and we have not been able to grow them at all in our garden since.

If you are contemplating planting a native dogwood, it



is best to plant a disease resistant variety. There are two that stand out as good choices. 'Appalachian Spring', pictured above, has white blooms and is a selection that was discovered at Camp David in Maryland, and has strong resistance to anthracnose.

If you are looking for a pink dogwood, 'Cherokee Chief', pictured at top left, is a good disease-resistant variety. *Cornus florida* requires acidic soil, and the leaves will turn yellow if the soil is too alkaline. It will grow in full sun to part shade, and is best planted in

an open situation, where it gets lots of air, so is less likely to develop powdery mildew.



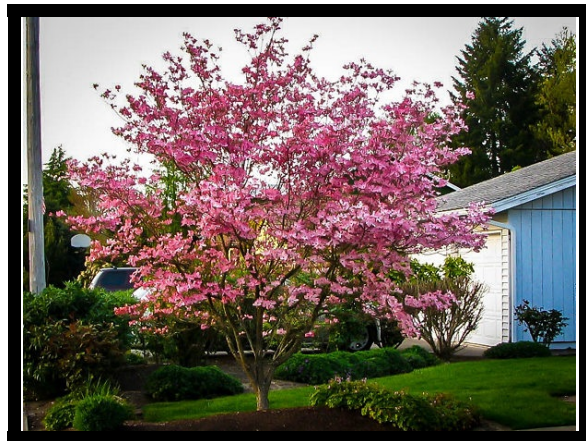
The second species of dogwood I will discuss is *Cornus kousa*, the Asian dogwood. Asian dogwood blooms as the tree is leafing out and is not quite as showy in bloom as our eastern US dogwood, but it has a beautiful form and the same showy berries and red fall foliage. The big advantage of the Asian dogwood is that most varieties, though not all, are anthracnose resistant. It is not as fussy about soil as *Cornus*



florida, but prefers acidic soil. Asian dogwoods have pink blooming forms, as well as some with variegated foliage.



My favorite Asian dogwood is a slow-growing, compact (10-12 ft.) variegated little tree, called 'Wolf Eyes', pictured above. Because it is compact, it is denser than a standard form, and can be stunning in a small space. It is quite susceptible to anthracnose, so it should be planted in a spot that gets plenty of air and some afternoon shade.



During the 1970s Rutgers University began a research program to develop hybrids of *C. florida* and *C. kousa* that were disease resistant. The program has been highly successful, and you can find many of these trees available at nurseries. One of the most popular of the Rutgers introductions is *C. x 'Stellar Pink'*, pictured left. This is a beautiful tree with light pink blossoms that appear with the leaves, like Asian dogwoods. It does not produce berries, but has good fall color (see picture below).



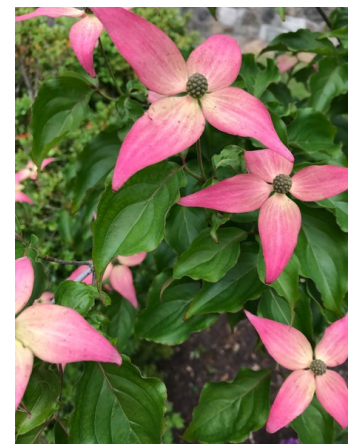
If you have an open, airy spot for a dogwood, these trees will give you pleasure throughout the year. Whatever is the passing phase of their flowers, berries or leaves, their graceful structure will always enhance your garden.

PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT

Kate Abrahams

In January, I chaired a Bylaws Revision Committee that thoroughly examined current RSGC bylaws for errors, inconsistencies and improvements. This review of the bylaws was overdue and continued the previous year's work to update bylaws. The proposed revisions were distributed to the membership for comments and then voted on as amended. The revisions will update the bylaws to reflect current practices and responsibilities of the committees, Executive Board members and individual members. Some committees are designated Non-Executive Board Committees to streamline the size of the Executive Board.

The Parliamentarian of VFGC reviewed the proposed revisions for compliance with VFGC and 501c3 requirements and gave some guidance. A new committee was formed to work on senior outreach projects. Especially helpful for new club members, the revised bylaws found in the yearbook will accurately describe club practices and provide better explanation of committees, jobs and individual membership duties.



MY SPRING GARDEN STORY

Ann Kelly

The big happening in my garden this spring was the loss in early April of our mighty 80-year old pin oak that was destroyed by a wind shear that came through our AU Park neighborhood in DC. (I'm the only member that lives in DC. I grew up in Arlington.) The huge limbs that came down from that tree destroyed much of our corner garden.



Our pin oak hours after the early morning wind shear

Large limbs fell into the street at the corner end of our property hitting power lines. We lost 24 feet of our stockade fence, three very tall emerald green arborvitae trees which are part of our privacy screen, an old white dogwood, several azaleas, a large Aucuba, and most of a mountain laurel which has lovely red flowers. Several other limbs fell onto the length of our yard, just missing the garden bed along our side porch. Miraculously there was no damage to our home. It took Pepco 12 hours to restore power for us and other nearby damaged areas.



My prized mountain laurel fortunately survived although diminished in size.



Three new arborvitae trees where the others had been.

After all the tree debris was removed, I pruned and shaped the remaining shrubs, and my gardener dug out the stumps of the lost trees and in early June planted three new arborvitae trees



The stump. Three tree company saws were ruined trying to cut it down to three inches above the ground, hitting some unknown solid object.

showing on the surviving shrubs. Hope springs eternal!

where the others had been. The huge oak tree stump is a problem and has not been removed yet. An Endless Summer hydrangea and a low growing butterfly bush are new additions in that garden, which is renewing itself with new growth

INVITATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REPORT

Julie Williams

In wrap up of our various events for the year, we have nothing new to add since our April report. Our last event of the year had to be cancelled. The Tuckahoe Home and Garden Tour chose to discontinue the floral part of the annual event due to lack of funding.

We had a really excellent year with strong feedback on the flowers sent to members who received Get Well or sympathy flowers; Renee's always beautiful arrangements for Virginia Hospital Center's fund-raising event; and the Holiday Tea and floral shopping trip....

It is always a pleasure to delight when and where we can. If anyone has had a surgery; has been feeling poorly; or in need of some cheer, please don't hesitate to let us know!

We can use social distance techniques in floral arranging and delivery to stay safe and yet close in spirit! With warm regards for you all and for your safety!

George Ruppert

Poppies



LIAISON REPORT

Kate Abrahams

NCAGC District 3 Presidents' Coffee on Friday June 19th 9:30 am - Noon In Meadowlark Gardens Atrium Building, 9750 Meadowlark Court, Vienna VA

National Garden Club's "Perfect Vision Virtual Flower Show 2020" Visit [www. GardenClub.org](http://www.GardenClub.org) for schedule and entry forms with June 15th deadline (design, horticulture and botanical arts entries) Also on website enjoy viewing the photography winning entries and judges' comments for "Perfect Vision" Photography section that concluded in May.

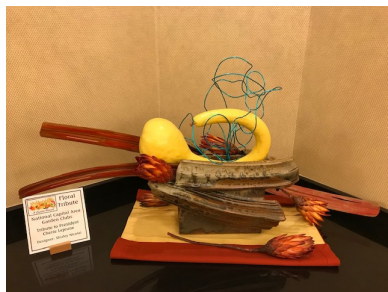
LIAISON END OF YEAR REPORT

Kate Abrahams



Floral tribute arrangement made to honor CAR and NCAGC officers attending CAR Conference in October

The Liaison Chair's job is to pass along news about local NGC classes, meetings, conferences, fundraisers, seminars, flower shows and other opportunities for learning. The hope is that RSGC members will participate in events at the district and state levels and eventually take on a leadership role as a judge,



Floral Tribute

board or committee member. Since RSGC belongs to both VFGC and NCAGC, the club has many opportunities to participate.

This fall was busy with the celebration at Fern Valley at the National Arboretum, and Central Atlantic Region conference in Arlington followed by a Judges' Symposium. Later on, the Judges' Council offered workshops in floral design in Feb. – March.



Floral Tribute

Information about NGC events was gathered from the VFGC and NCAGC websites or forwarded to me by the President and Social Media Chair by email. I used

a monthly column in the *Gardenzette* to post necessary details and added info about other garden related events such as native plant sales, classes or tours with master gardeners, parks and recreation departments, botanical gardens and Merrifield nurseries. Checking various websites provided the additional entries. I would also make

announcements at the general meetings about upcoming events.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions made cancellation of spring events such as the NCAGC Flower Show, District meetings, NGC courses and VFGC convention necessary. Going forward, it's unclear when group events will be possible. NGC has tentatively rescheduled some courses for the fall and spring of 2020-21.



From Kate's Garden

GARDEN THERAPY REPORT

Susan Scotti



The Garden Therapy committee planned and presented programs for the Pre-K class at Glebe Elementary School. This year there were 11 children

3-4 yrs old, including 7 peer models and 4 with disabilities. During the year 2 others were added. The committee consisted of 8 members, each choosing a month to lead or co-lead and a month to assist with one. We had anywhere from 4 to 6 members present for each program. We planned for 6 programs but the one for May was cancelled because of school closure due to the corona virus.

We met at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month, except in December, the first Thursday. November was skipped because of a busy club season, and April because of spring break. The programs had seasonal themes and incorporated facts about plants, flowers, nature, animals, birds and weather in the stories and discussions as they related. We began the afternoon with a very elementary story book related to the subject. Mary Cottrell's animal hand puppets frequently followed and responded to the story. A song laced with hand motions or movements followed, most often accompanied and led by Margie Melnick with her auto harp. After a short discussion of the theme and directions for the project, the children move to the tables and began without hesitation. For that reason, the activities are simply designed and well organized.



October was a harvest theme, using mini pumpkins to hold arrangements of Chrysanthemums.

December, about Evergreens with a variety used along with red and white carnations to make a seasonal arrangement. In



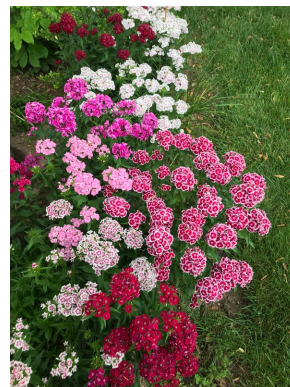
January, a program around the book **Growing Vegetable Soup**, planting vegetable seeds to watch as they sprouted in the classroom window. February's program was on the 13th, so perfect timing for a bouquet of mixed flowers with a pipe cleaner heart. March's spring flowering bulbs, tulips and daffodils, were beautiful with boxwood and greens in small terra-cotta containers.

We offer a snack at the end and try to keep it healthy with fruit, yogurt tubes, string cheese and occasionally a cookie.



Committee members were Marisol Aldahondo, Mary Cottrell, AnnMarie Fay, Pat Getz, Mary Kudless, Margi Melnick and Dianne Simmons. Kate Abrahams assisted with the February program. Other generous volunteers that signed up to help if needed were Sherry Foster, Max Jensen, Lynda Martin, Jenny Sullivan, and Julie Williams.

It was a satisfying endeavor enhanced by the enthusiasm of the children and support of the teacher, Jeanne Terrell.



Jenny Sullivan

Sweet Williams
in the cutting
garden from
which nothing
ever gets cut!



George Ruppert

Poppies

NEWSLETTER CHAIR REPORT

September 2019 - January 2020

Kate Abrahams

I edited the *Gardenzette* monthly newsletter for the first five months of the club year and learned how to use Microsoft Word pretty well as a result. Monthly content (articles with photos) came from the President, Program, and Show Chairs and usually from the Horticulture Chair, and Garden Therapy and Youth Activities Chairs. The Liaison Chair provided information on VFGC and NCAGC events, classes, and seminars.

I photographed the monthly horticulture and floral designs for the Photo Gallery section. Additionally, I took photos and sometimes wrote articles about the program, other meetings or events I attended. Mary Garnett handled printing and mailing paper copies of the newsletter to members unable to access email. I emailed copies of the newsletter to the membership and subscribers and saved digital and paper versions for the newsletter files. I also prepared a RSGC website version without personal information such as phone numbers, addresses and financial information and sent it to the Social Media Chair for posting

Overall, editing was enjoyable but time-consuming to put together. It helps if everyone respects the deadline for submissions though flexibility is needed if members need more time. Members love to read the newsletter especially when there are plenty of photos and they are welcome to submit articles about their gardens, travels, etc. The Awards Chair submits several *Gardenzettes* in the NGC's newsletter competition each fall. Paper versions of all the year's *Gardenzette* newsletters are archived in Arlington County's Historical Room in June.

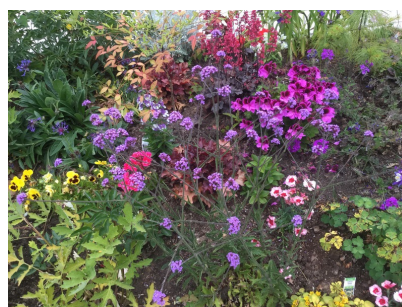
SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT

Anita Brown

The coronavirus problem this year has curtailed our general meetings of the Rock Spring Garden Club (RSGC).

While our rules require that active members submit two designs during the year, the limited number of meetings meant some members did not meet this requirement. However, I am glad to report that 21 of our members had already met the requirement before our March meeting had to be canceled. Of this number, 10 members did 3 designs; 2 members, 4 designs; and 2 members, 5 designs. The 21 total included the designs for our Christmas tea as well as our pumpkin sale.

President Charlotte Benjamin has asked that Committees retain their current membership for 2020-2021. Accordingly, the Show Committee will shortly submit a list of monthly designs for the next year beginning in September.



George Ruppert

This is what I planted in front of my house where an old maple tree was removed last fall.

PUBLICITY REPORT

Joan Hession

Information on RSGC programs and activities is sent to newspaper both print and online. Several calendars and online websites are also updated each month:

ANNE Newsletter, Arlington Connection, Arlington Magazine, ARL Now, Arlington Patch Bulletin Board, Falls Church News Press, NextDoor, Sun Gazette, Spingo inside NOVA

I did get the Holiday Design Event in the spring edition of VFGC Old Dominion Gardener Quarterly, but the deadlines for each edition come very early.

HORTICULTURAL SPECIMENS



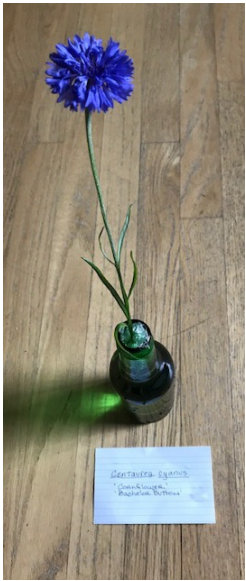
Ann Kelly
Easy Does It floribunda rose



Nancy Snell
Peony



Nancy Snell
Iris



Kate Abrahams
Centaurea cyanus
'Cornflower'/'Bachelor's Button'



Nancy Snell
Peonies



Ann Kelly
Peony



Kate Abrahams
Gaillardia x grandiflora
'Sunset Cutie'
Common name:
'Blanket Flower'



Ashley Tessmer
Cattleya orchid Blc
Fuchs Orange Nugget
'Lea'



Nancy Snell
Peonies



Ashley Tessmer
Nectaroscordum
'siculum'



Ashley Tessmer
Phalaenopsis Orchid



Mary Garnett
Phalaenopsis Orchid

DESIGN OF THE MONTH



Joan Asboth

Hydrangeas, Astilbe, Yarrow Milerama, Salvia midnight, Perstemon, Hostas, Fig leaves, and Kurum Azalea in background

PHOTO GALLERY



Max Jensen

Joan Asboth
Back patio



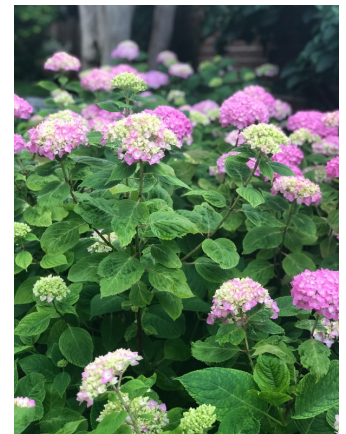
Rebecca Salzinger



Max Jensen

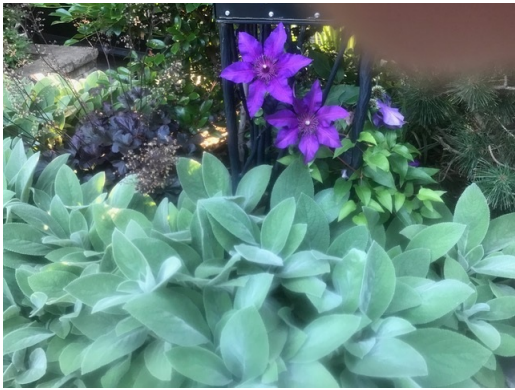


Barry Wood
"President Lincoln," part of that shipment (as a baby) from Van Veen.



Renee Bayes
Endless Summer Hydrangeas

PHOTO GALLERY



Catherine Jamieson
Clematis 'Boulevard Fleuri' (only 18" tall),
lamb's ears, heuchera 'Obsidian



Catherine Jamieson
Contorted filbert (Harry Lauder's
Walking Stick) illuminated.



Catherine Jamieson
The only resident of our owl box....



Rebecca Salzinger
Photo from front yard



Rebecca Salzinger



Rebecca Salzinger



Nancy Snell



Nancy Snell



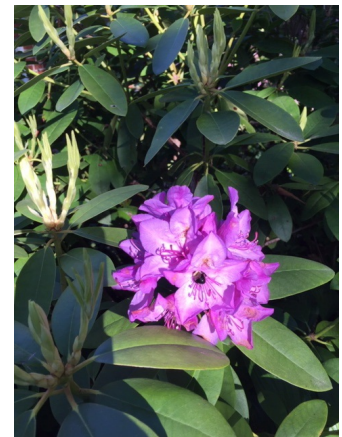
Nancy Snell



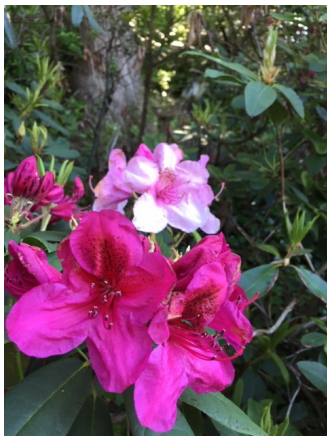
Jenny Sullivan
Red headed woodpecker



Barry Wood
Clump of Phlox divaricata



Barry Wood
Catawba rhododendron that I pulled from the trash at Tuck Inn three or four years ago; just the stump was in the trash bag. But it came back. Here a bumblebee is enjoying a visit.



Barry Wood
The attached is a photo of (in the foreground) a truss of crimson rhododendron that I got from the Van Veen nursery in Portland, Oregon 33 years ago, in front of the remaining flowers of a truss of Pink Pearl (same provenance).



Barry Wood
Dwarf azalea. I have had this one for 31 years; have never had to prune it.



Barry Wood
Matteuccia struthiopteris, a gift from Ann Marie Fay. The most assertive of ferns.



Jenny Sullivan
Unknown yellow flower from a pack of wildflower seeds



Max Jensen



Max Jensen

Margi Melnick: My roses take my breath away and so do the peonies. All the rain has done it's work!



Max Jensen

Max Jensen

Max Jensen



Joan Asboth
Home with Rhododendron and azaleas



Joan Asboth
Front plantings!



George Ruppert
This is the traffic circle by my home. I have taken care of it for close to 20 years.



Joan Asboth
Dolley Madison with orange begonias and blue ageratum flowers!



Max Jensen



Max Jensen