

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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Zoom General Meeting

Thursday, September 17 at 10 a.m.

Kathy Jentz

New Plant Development & Evaluation



Do you wonder where all those new plants come from and want to know what is hitting the garden center next? We'll cover hybridization, cultivar selection, (including native plants & nativars), commercial operation, plant specialist, environmental suitability and test gardens. Plus, plenty of exciting new introductions to share that are coming soon to your garden.

Our September speaker at our first virtual Zoom meeting is a good friend of Rock Spring Garden Club. Kathy Jentz is Editor, Publisher and Founder of **Washington Gardener Magazine**. Kathy is a life-long gardener from a family of farmers

and dedicated gardeners. Currently, she is President of the Silver Spring Garden Club and on the boards of several other clubs and organizations. You can read Kathy's work in the **Washington Examiner** and **Washington Woman** in addition to regular guest spots on Channel 9, Channel 4 and WAMU radio.



Trial Gardens at Mt. Cuba Center
Hockessin, Delaware

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE



TREASURER'S REPORT

June 1 - August 31

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

President's Message:

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful: they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul." ~Luther Burbank

Good thoughts ... and so descriptive of Rock Spring Garden Club members! Throughout this pandemic I have heard many stories of how you have put this quote into action. Thank you ...

The RSGC Board met last week via ZOOM and finalized the 2020-2021 schedule. There are interesting activities and programs planned so please check the **Yearbook, Gardenzette** and your emails for details. (The **Yearbook** should arrive by mail toward the end of the month ... it's on a pandemic time-line!) Also, since 2020-2021 will be significantly different from other years, the **Yearbook** will be in an abbreviated format. You should keep last year's **Yearbook** handy for occasional reference. In addition, please watch for emails passed forward from the greater NGC organization and its affiliates. As long as there are pandemic restrictions, RSGC will remain "flexible"!

And lastly ... I'm so excited ... for the remainder of 2020 we will be having our General Meetings via ZOOM! It will be wonderful to see your faces ... I have missed our times together. Joan Hession will be getting in touch to help us get set up. Please watch for her emails.

See you on September 17th ... *Charlotte*

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS **September Virtual Meeting**

Joan Hession

2020 is a challenging year! We will be meeting virtually this Fall using Zoom. I will be sending each member an email with a link to the September meeting. For those who have used Zoom, you just have to connect to the meeting using that link. If you have not used Zoom, I recommend that you try it before you use the link to connect to the meeting on September 17th at 10:00 a.m. Contact me and we can test your computer, laptop or telephone to make sure that you can connect before the meeting -

On September 17th we will start the meeting at 10:00 a.m. All connections will be muted as you join. We will have a speaker after the business meeting and if you have questions at any time, we request that you use the chat function on Zoom.

Hope to "see" you all! Stay safe!



Renee Bayes:
Blue Ridge Splendor

SENIOR OUTREACH

Mary Kudless

This September, the Club is adding a Senior Outreach project to its menu of committees and activities. We are delighted that the membership has chosen to support this wonderful residence and its community. The persons who reside at Mary Marshall are adults, 55 years of age and over. Most of the residents have a history of mental illness or are living with an intellectual disability. All are stable in that aspect of their lives, but also experience ongoing medical conditions that respond well to the support of an assisted living level of care and services.

Mary Marshall is funded by Arlington County and the residence is managed by the highly experienced Volunteers of America.

In this Covid restricted time, it is the hope of the committee that we will be able to do some limited Garden Club activities this Fall to get our relationship underway. We will meet with our committee and the Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina Holmes via phone to gather ideas and explore the possibilities.

There is one initiative that our Club can take on now and that is that we have been advised that the residents are in need of personal containers of shampoo, conditioner and body washes. Full size containers are preferred and they will be distributed to the male and female residents.

Ann Marie Fay and Mary Kudless are pleased to receive your donations to their front porches for ***the remainder of the month of September***. There will be a box set up for drop-off.

Ann Marie's address is:

Mary's address is:

Thank you for supporting our initial effort at Mary Marshall with your generous donations.

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

Barry Wood

Need for work in Rock Spring Park: This summer's rains have produced luxuriant growth in the Park - of weeds as well as desirable plants. Connie, Jo Ella and others have kept the section near our Club's sign under control, but other parts of the Park need work. In particular, the invasive Japanese stilt grass is going to seed in the beds above the entrance to the culvert, and near the Pump House. It is not hard to pull up at this point, but it needs to be done. In order to avoid any worries about Covid19, we won't have a "work party" as such just yet. Come when you can find a moment and tackle a section of the weeds. If you need help identifying the weeds, I am happy to zip over to the Park, with mask, and point them out, pretty much any time. Call

Oh, Deer!



Toward the end of August, in prior years, "Autumn Joy" sedum was standing there, in front of the boulder, tall and starting to bloom. But the pictured deer devoured it. When I stopped by the Park late last month at noon, she was munching away on the last stems. As I tried to get closer, she moved over next to our club sign as if to tell us "thank you" for a tasty lunch.



HORTICULTURE

Virtual Horticulture Table

Christine Wegman

Announcing the virtual horticulture table. This month we will set up a virtual horticulture exhibit through the Gardenzette. Entries must be limited due to space limitations of the Gardenzette, so I will call for pictures of one or two types of flowers or foliage. If you have an example of the type of plant called for, stage it as you would for the regular horticulture table, in a green bottle with wedging, and take a picture of it. All photos must be accompanied by the correct botanical name of the plant and your name. Send the photos to Mary Garnett and they will appear in next month's issue. They will not be judged.

The plant for this month is the Dahlia.



Dahlias are tuberous plants belonging to the Asteraceae family, a large plant family that includes aster, sun flower, daisy, chrysanthemum, and zinnia. Dahlias are native to Mexico and Central America and were introduced into Europe in 1791. There are 42 species of Dahlia, and dozens

of hybrids. In our area they are tender perennials, that is they are perennial, but usually unable to survive the cold winter temperatures here. The tubers can be lifted, stored indoors, and replanted in the spring.

If you have any questions about the virtual horticulture table, please let me know.



FLORAL OUTREACH

Autumn Outdoor Planters

Julie Williams

Autumn Outdoor Planters celebrate the Season! We wanted to let people know that for October, we are planning a Fun Autumn Outdoor Planter event for our club. Since Floral Outreach is not able to meet this year, we thought we'd introduce an opportunity for any member desiring to make an outdoor planter for their home. This could be done solo or perhaps with a friend. It just has to have an Autumn theme and photos would be submitted for publication in the Gardenzette. We're thinking of offering a certain time period when members can come by a few of the houses, to see designs in person, if desired. **Please RSVP by September 15** to Julie Williams, 703-405-1020/text or call or email if you'd like to participate.

I'm excited to do it and hope you are too....there would be no judges on this program and if it goes well, we would offer the same thing with either outdoor Christmas planters or wreaths. Your choice!!!

Autumn Outdoor Planter Design Day, October 15th

- An event for RSGC by Floral Outreach Committee as a way to bring members of the RSGC closer to the club
- This is completely voluntary for our overall membership
- Planter creation date is October 15, 2020 (our normal meeting day)
- Photos taken of your work and submitted on same date, October 15th, to Mary Garnett who is collecting these for Gardenzette
- Photos of our planters may be collected and featured online for us to share and view
- This can be for Design credit, but similar to the Holiday Tea, no judging
- There can be offered a viewing day, when so-inclined members can stop by to see, in person...
- Having them online is a plus for those who don't want to see them in person
- Lastly, to some who desire, the completed fall planter could be presented to a nursing home or assisted living place, to cheer their residents, in a common area

HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

The Oldest Trees: Maidenhair and Dawn Redwood

These two trees, many specimens of which are growing happily in our North Arlington neighborhood are known as “living fossils”, a term Charles Darwin coined for long-enduring forms that have survived to the present day.

The **Maidenhair (*Ginkgo biloba*)** is a particularly beautiful tree with unusual fan-shaped leaves, that comes in many different forms and sizes. The classic form grows over 60 ft. high, tolerates urban pollution, is not attractive to deer, and can live for millennia: up



to 3000 years. Its foliage is a lovely shade of green that turns bright yellow as the weather cools. Hybridizers have developed dwarf forms for the smallest gardens, columnar varieties that make excellent street trees, even variegated leaf forms.



The European discovery of the ginkgo was made by Engelbert Kaempfer, a physician with the Dutch East India Company, in 1690 in Japan. It grew around temple grounds, and has never been found growing in



the wild. Paleobotanists have found fossil remains of the ginkgo dating back 225 million years. For some reason, by about 65 million years ago, the number of forms had diminished to the single form we know today. Although discovered in Japan, it is believed to come originally from China.

Soon after Kaempfer brought seeds back to Holland, they were distributed to England, France, and the English colonies in North America. The Ginkgo was the first Asian tree to become popular in the West.

A Ginkgo is a fairly easy plant to grow. It tolerates most kinds of soil, but doesn't like really dry conditions. It starts slowly, but after a few years it

picks up and will grow over a foot a year. If you want to try growing this tree, be sure to get a male tree. The female trees have nasty smelling fruit that can be very unpleasant as it falls.



The story of the **Dawn Redwood** (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) begins in Japan. In 1941 a Japanese paleobotanist established a new genus based entirely on fossil records dating back at least 150 million years, and named it *Metasequoia*. *Meta* means akin to and *sequoia* is the name of the California redwood, which is in turn named after a Cherokee Indian. At the same time, although unknown to each other, a Chinese forester discovered a strange and majestic conifer growing near the Yangtze River in central China, near the border of Sichuan and Hubei provinces. The tree was 115 ft. tall and approximately 400 years old. At the time, China was at war with



Japan, but after the war, in 1946, a botanical expedition to the region was mounted and seeds were collected and sent to Peking and to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. After further scientific study, it turned out that the tree was more closely related to the Swamp Cypress, found in China and along the US southeastern coastal region. The Chinese scientists named their discovery *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*,

which means “akin to Sequoia and like Swamp Cypress”. Although the Dawn Redwood is not a US native, its name tells us that it is very like two of our native trees.

This beautiful tree is fairly easy to grow in our area and has no special cultural requirements. Like the Swamp Cypress, it is one of the few deciduous conifers and will drop its leaves in the fall. There are several hybridized varieties in commerce, including a weeping form and one with golden foliage.

When the Arnold Arboretum received its seed packets from China, staff sent seeds to several arboreta in the U.S. and England, including the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Beltsville Research Station. The oldest



Dawn Redwoods in our area are seedlings of the original trees found in China. There are at least six Dawn Redwoods in our neighborhood, including one near the Little Falls St. entrance of Rock Spring Park, and two of them are from the original Chinese shipment.

The owner of our house was a research botanist at the Beltsville Research Station in 1946. Around 1952 he brought two Dawn Redwood saplings home and planted one in his own yard and one next door. I learned this from our then next-door neighbor, who remembered the special trees being planted. When Glebe Rd. was widened, our tree was hemmed in by a stone wall, but no wall was built around the tree next door, and it is by far the better specimen.

If you or a friend would like to grow one of these wonderful trees and has the room (100 ft. high x 25 ft. wide in time), let me know. Our tree produces seedlings, which I would be happy to share.

FLORAL OUTREACH

Julie Williams

We've had a couple of occasions to deliver arrangements in order to bring cheer, and these have each been well appreciated. **Renee's recent arrangement For Connie** is an example...



From Connie:

I want to express my appreciation to the club for the lovely flower arrangement that Renee made and delivered to me during my recovery from Covid. Flowers always pick up my spirits.

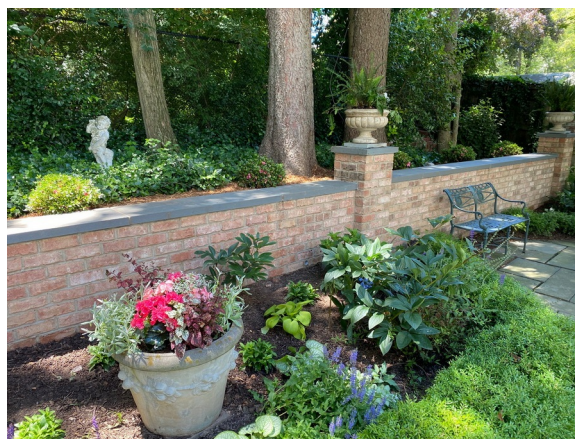
I hope that nobody else in the club has or will have this disease. I can tell you that it is NOT a hoax. However, if anyone does get it or knows someone who is ill, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. A guy in my bike group had it in March and it was very helpful for me to talk to him.

I look forward to the time when we can get together as a club!

Connie

It's not easy, when we're all separated like this, but we do look forward to some healthy times ahead, when we can once again join together in RSGC community fashion. In the meantime, we are trying to keep busy and engaged and I know that many of us have turned to the garden to provide inspiration and balance. At our house, we've planned and re-built a retaining wall that had failed and then planted some urns on

top of the piers. Photo is below.



We are now working on plans for a new stoop and walkway which need renovation for both safety and esthetics. I'll follow up with photos of the stone work in late fall, with images of some new plantings, to complement it.



In the above arrangement, I wanted to share with membership that the flower bucket came from Helen Olivia Florists in Del Ray, which offers online instruction on Instagram TV. I've done 4 of their sessions and have found them very helpful in keeping skills sharp. I also enjoy fabulous classes at Hillwood through the year, thanks to Ann and Joan who have helped me become involved.

Each and every class, I learn something new. They are offering a Kid's Floral session at Helen Olivia very soon.... I'm interested in seeing how they teach it. I can highly recommend to people living in our area.... If anyone has questions or would like to join the fun, please give me a call.... Maybe we could get a reduced group rate or book one all for ourselves!

LINKS & RECOMMENDATIONS

From Dianne Simmons:

For more information about the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence, which has been selected by the Senior Outreach committee for its senior outreach project:

<http://www.voaseniiorliving.org/communities/mary-marshall-assisted-living/>

From Barry Wood:

About the health benefits of our favorite hobby:

https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/29/people-who-live-100-longer-share-this-hobby-longevity-experts-say-it-can-add-years-to-life.html?utm_source=pocket-newtab&fbclid=IwAR3kOCxy12zGPDiqEBnAuoylRhX36cnjG6Em5dfibn3biXNEgsam4KT65sk

Notwithstanding my recent health issues, I still feel fortunate that without ever having taken any blood pressure meds, my blood pressure still falls nicely within a very normal range. Perhaps there is a cause other than the garden, but in my opinion the time spent among the black-eyed Susans, tulips, azaleas etc. is the cause.

From Julie Williams:

I'll bet everyone can learn something about geraniums! From *Southern Living*, *10 Facts About Geraniums That Gardeners Should Know*:

https://www.southernliving.com/garden/flowers/geranium-flower?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email-share-article&utm_content=20200901

Barry Wood's wife, Virginia, recommend an excellent online movie about a spectacular Canadian garden:

For those with Amazon Prime, a Free Prime Movie called "The Gardener" is worth watching. Type "the Gardener" in the search box and it should pop up. This is the story of Francis H. Cabot, a prize winning gardener who created "Les Quatre Vents" ("the Four Winds") on 20 acres near Charlevoix, Quebec.

The movie includes an interview with Mr. Cabot, shows extensive footage of the Garden, and recounts how the garden was planned and developed. It is a

stunningly beautiful and creative garden.

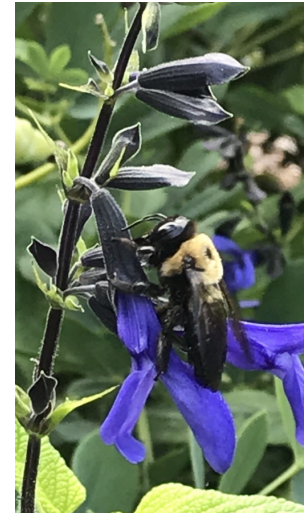
Mr. Cabot says, "A garden is a visual and sensual experience.... Go with a friend -- hopefully one who doesn't talk too much."

Keep a pen and paper by your side to note details on the beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees with their Latin names that scroll by with the credits at the end of the movie.

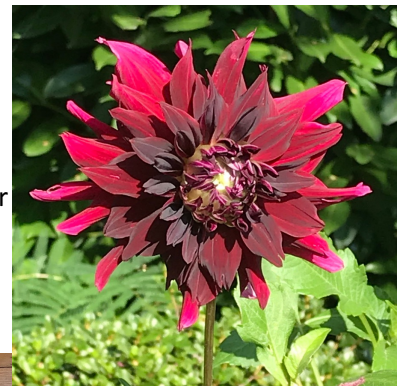
From Jenny Sullivan:



Beautiful Old Town Alexandria window box seen as I was on my way for lunch with friends



Bee on an unknown blue flower in the sunny garden at Bluemont



My first dahlia ever



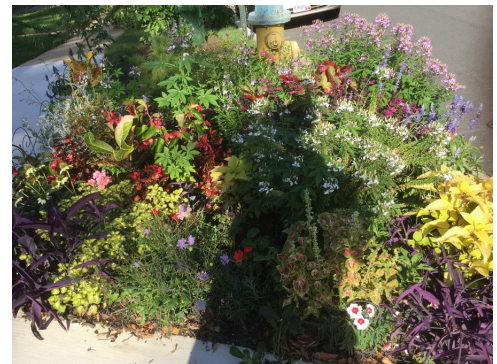
Stitching flowers when I'm not cultivating them

PHOTO GALLERY

Kate Abrahams: Deer family in my backyard looking to drink from the house birdbath and Tahoka Daisy



George Ruppert's Covid inspired corner garden area: I wanted to plant a large variety of flowers for people to enjoy when walking or driving by. So many people are home these days and I wanted to add something of beauty for all to enjoy. Some of the flowers I planted have faded for the season but many remain.

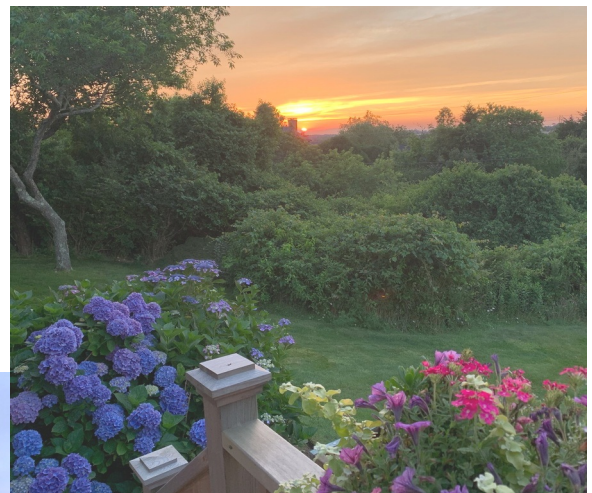


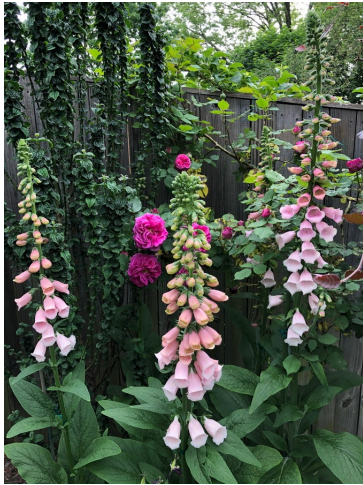


Flowers by **Julie Williams** for **Janice Haines**



Nancy Snell, Nantucket Island, MA: My dad grew up here so we always came in the summer. Here are a few pictures of the spectacular hydrangea bushes in front of my house up here - it was a wonderful summer for these beautiful plants all over the island due to a lot of rain in the spring and we didn't get high temperatures in the 80's until August.... My sister's house is next door and we've planted a lot of hydrangeas of all different varieties!

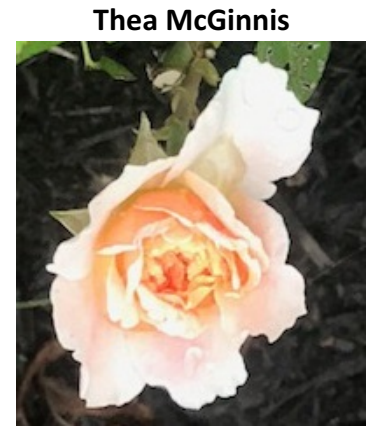




John Auditore: Foxgloves
from April



Barry Wood: Autumn Clematis



Thea McGinnis



Thea McGinnis



Lynda Martin



Thea McGinnis



Thea McGinnis



Thea McGinnis



Lynda Martin



Thea McGinnis



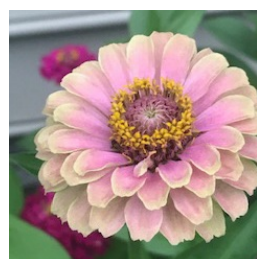
Lynda Martin

Barry Wood: My biggest Muso banjoo. It is definitely loving all the rain.



John Auditore:
Front conifer garden

Renee Bayes: Side Garden



Thea McGinnis



Helen McMahon: my very small front "garden" — at least something colorful to see when opening the front door — ornamental peppers that flourished from the one remaining pepper that survived the winter inside

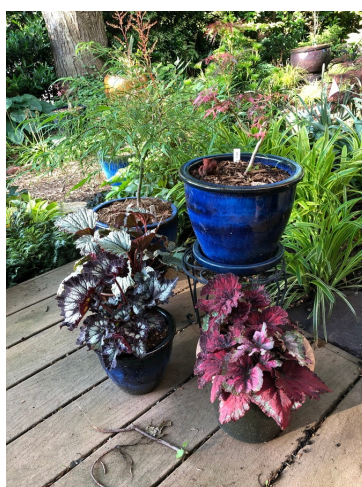
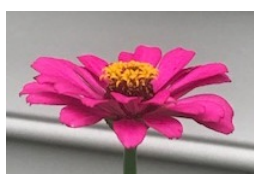


Helen McMahon: Pink mix portulaca that overflowed from the pot into the ground.



John Auditore

Thea McGinnis



John Auditore



John Auditore: Angels Trumpet Charles Grimaldi