

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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CONTENTS

Program	1
President's Message	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Design of the Month	2
Feb. Horticulture Table	3
May Field Trip Change	3
Senior Outreach	4
Zoom Instructions	5
Garden Therapy	6
Horticulture	7
Liaison Report	8
Design of the Month	9
Horticulture Table	10
Holiday Wreath/Planter	11
Photo Gallery	11

Zoom General Meeting

Thursday, January 21 at 10 a.m.

THE GARDEN OF DUMBARTON OAKS

Join us for an in depth video tour of the gardens of Dumbarton Oaks!



This video program for January is brought to us by
The Centennial Garden Club of Manassas
and the
Prince William Area Council of Garden Clubs.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE



President's Message

After closing a very difficult year and as we begin to move into 2021 with a similarly difficult start, we are reminded that faith, family and friends are our most treasured possessions! Throughout these troublesome months we have been able to bring joy into our lives, to make some wonderful memories and to reach out to others in unique and meaningful ways. Thank you for all you have done to help Rock Spring Garden Club members stay connected to each other ... let's keep our momentum going and continue to look forward, with great anticipation, to the time we can once again gather in person!

Since the last RSGC Board meeting was in November, this month we heard from almost all the Standing Committee Chairs. Please read your *Gardenzette* carefully to see what lies ahead. Of note, Thea McGinnis wrote to Pastor Aaron of Little Falls Presbyterian Church asking for our Thursday time slot once the church reopens and restrictions are lifted. The Church is eagerly looking forward to our return!

In addition, Ann Kelly will be emailing the RSGC Membership Renewal Forms to you soon. Please complete the Form and return it **promptly**. Also, your Nominating Committee for 2021-2023 has been busy. According to our Bylaws, the Committee "shall report nominations to the Executive Board and to the membership in February. The slate of candidates shall be published in the March newsletter. The election shall be held at the March general meeting." I look forward to seeing you at our January 21st general meeting via Zoom ... stay warm, well and safe.

Charlotte

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nov. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

DESIGN OF THE MONTH: Petite Design

Anita Brown

Our design for January is a Petite Design. As noted in the NGC Handbook on Page 73, this design can range from 3" to 12" in size. For judging in a Flower Show, the Schedule would specify exactly what size the design should be. However, since this month's design will not be judged, you can use your creativity to do either a traditional or creative design anywhere within these parameters. Please submit photos of your creation to Mary for inclusion in the February *Gardenzette*.



January Zoom Board Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 10 a.m.

This is also the deadline for contributions to the February *Gardenzette*.

VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE

Christine Wegman

Since we are entering the lean months of gardening, there will be no limits placed on the types of plant material requested for this month's virtual horticulture table. If you have an entry to submit, 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.

CHANGE FOR MAY FIELD TRIP

Connie Richards

Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, we will be visiting Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA on May 20th instead of Oatlands. Tentatively, there will be a program presented outdoors and guided tours of the gardens. A picnic lunch will follow. At this point, the buildings at the site are closed but that may change. I know many in the club have visited this lovely park previously, but speaking as a member (FROG) I never tire of the beauty and interest that is found there. More information to follow.



Floral Outreach arrangement for Bernie Donaldson, designed by Julie Williams



Member Alice Conrad will celebrate her 100th birthday.

Want to learn how new plants evolve and which ones will be at garden centers this Spring?

Save The Date

NCAGC, DISTRICT IV
PRESENTS

Flowers for the New Season

with
Kathy Jentz

February 18, 2021 at 4:00
\$10 to register
Payment details and zoom information will be sent in a few weeks.

Join District IV and Kathy Jentz, Editor of *Washington Gardener* magazine, as she covers hybridization, cultivar selection and environmental suitability for new plants. She also will share many new flowers which you **MUST** have for your garden!

SENIOR OUTREACH

AnnMarie Fay and Mary Kudless

The Stockings Were Hung by the Chimney with Care

The Rock Spring Garden Club members took the Sock Drive for the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence



to heart with their overwhelming generosity and creativity. Three weeks of donations yielded 300 pairs of socks! They were just what the residents needed in terms of style, warmth and sizing.

We have been told that the 30 men and 22 women who reside there were thrilled with their festive gift bags full of socks. Every resident received four pair and the remainder were set aside for residents over the course of the year, leaving the staff to determine needs ,as they arise; e.g. new residents moving in, someone with a special need, such as a person who walks great distances, etc.

The Senior Outreach Committee works closely with Katrina Holmes, Life Enrichment Director. Greeting us also on December 23 on the front porch was Daz Williams, Receptionist. Katrina shared that the residents were very pleased with their socks. In addition, they received individual “throws” which Katrina had embroidered with their monograms and



also \$25.00 gift cards from the Arlington Community Services Board. It was a good Christmas for many who have no living family or family in the area and for those who do, there have been no in person visits due to Covid for many months now.



The gift bearer is Executive Director, Divina Alston

In addition to the Socks, Julie Williams and the Floral Outreach Committee provided a beautiful floral design that was prominently displayed in the Lobby for the residents to enjoy. We thank them for this lovely gesture.



(Cont. on next page)

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The committee received the following letter of thanks from the Volunteers of America:



December 30, 2020

Dear Members of the Rock Spring Garden Club of Arlington, Virginia,

I apologize for my delay in getting this letter to you. Thank you so much for your generous donations of all the new pairs of socks provided to Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence. Your kindness is very much appreciated. We were able to provide socks to each resident living at Mary Marshall as part of their Christmas gifts. Every resident expressed joy and gratitude in receiving these gifts on Christmas Day.

Volunteers of America's Mary Marshall Residence is a nonprofit 501 c(3) organization and your gift is tax deductible. For IRS purposes, there were no goods or services received in exchange for this gift. This letter will serve as your receipt at tax time if needed.

Thank you again for thinking of us; we are able to achieve so much more with the support the Rock Spring Garden Club has provided to us. May each of you be blessed in the upcoming year!

Sincerely,

Divina Alston, ALFA, LCSW
Executive Director

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Click on the link sent to you via email. If you do not currently have Zoom, it will prompt you to download the app. You do not need to create a Zoom account to download the app.

Click yes on joining with Zoom, then if asked click yes for "Using computer audio" and "Using Computer video." The meeting app will log you into the waiting room and host will let you in when it's time to join the meeting. There will be no entry to the meeting until the date and time of the meeting.

Upon entry to the meeting you will be muted. We ask that everyone mute their microphone unless they are speaking. The way Zoom works is that the active speaker will be the primary image and if you have background noise you will become the active speaker.

To see the toolbar, hover your mouse pointer over the screen image near the bottom. You will see icons at the bottom, from left to right :

- Microphone. Click the carat (^) arrow to the right of the icon to be able to unmute
- Video. Click the carat arrow and if you click "stop video" your thumbnail image will disappear.
- Participants: click the carat to see who's in the meeting with you
- Chat. This is the primary way you will ask questions. If you click Chat, a column will open to the right of your meeting video and you can type in questions at the bottom. You can choose to share with everyone or pick someone to query.

Some tips: Make sure the microphone on your device is optimized, or use headphones if you have them. If the image freezes up or you get a blank screen, it could be on the host's end or yours. Leave the meeting. Check your wifi connection and reenter the meeting link to get a new connection.

GARDEN THERAPY - November

Susan Scotti

Harvest was the main theme for our November 19th virtual program with the Glebe school pre-k class. The farmers have been busy all fall gathering the vegetables, fruits and grains they worked so hard to grow. Some farms are big and grow them for grocery stores or markets. Other people have gardens to use for their families. We identified several vegetables and how some grow underground and some on top.



The 4th Thursday of this month is Thanksgiving, when we give thanks for the bounty of the harvest and many other blessings of the past year. Margi led the children in a Thank You song that let each child say something they were thankful for. Most popular thing was family.

Something else begins to happen this time of year as the weather gets colder, the animals of the woods prepare for their long winter nap.

Dianne Simmons read the story, *Time to Sleep* by Denise Fleming. Bear tells Snail it's time for a winter nap and Snail tells Skunk who tells Turtle who tells



Woodchuck who tells Ladybug who tells Bear, but he is already snoring.

It is fun working with these children each month, becoming a little more familiar with them and they to us.

GARDEN THERAPY - December

Pat Getz

The Garden Therapy Committee continued its virtual sessions in December with Jeanne Terrill's preschoolers from Glebe Elementary School. Susan Scotti, Margi Melnick, and Pat Getz joined forces for a December program focused on the beginning of winter and its holidays.

Susan discussed the changing of the seasons and did a 'show and tell' for the



children featuring winter plant life such as holly, evergreens, and pinecones. Susan also discussed snow, using homemade paper snowflakes to illustrate, and encouraged the students to try making their own paper snowflakes.

Next, Pat read a story called *One Snowy Day* which featured rhyming and counting as it detailed how to have fun in the snow by sledding, and making snowballs, snowmen, and snow angels. Finally, Margi played a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells on her autoharp and the children sang along while Pat, Susan, and Margi all shook strings of different kinds of bells; Margi even had a string of old-fashioned sleigh bells.



Jeanne told us the students had been practicing the song in preparation for our program. Although the pandemic has certainly presented challenges for the Garden Therapy program, we are pleased to be able to continue the sessions virtually. Jeanne has been very supportive and asks that we continue through the rest of the school year.

HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

Embattled Trees: A Story of Four American Natives

The Chestnut Tree (*Castanea dentata*)

Our native eastern chestnut tree once dominated our forests from southern Ontario to Georgia, with a population of around 4 billion trees. Growing 80 to 100 feet high and 4 to 5 feet wide, its heartwood was virtually impervious to moisture, making it the preferred wood for log cabins. Its nuts provided a plentiful supply of food for farm animals. Around the turn of the 20th century a blight was accidentally introduced from Asia that nearly wiped out the trees from the ground up. Many trees still survive as “shrubs”, growing new shoots from the roots, but they eventually succumb to the disease.



Perhaps as many as 2000 trees survive in Canada, and the University of Guelph in Ontario is collecting seedlings from blight resistant survivors.

A program at the Penn State University is developing chestnut hybrids that have the characteristics of the American chestnut along with the blight resistance of the Asian variety. The goal of this program is to introduce new chestnut hybrids into commerce by 2025.

The American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

This beautiful native tree can be seen on the National Mall and across from the Tidal Basin. A supremely graceful and stately tree, with branches spreading like a fountain, it was a favorite street and park tree, widely planted throughout the U.S. This classic, fast growing tree can reach 70 feet high and up to 50 feet wide.



During the 1950s Dutch Elm Disease (probably originating in Asia) nearly wiped out the species. Although there is no cure for the disease, researchers have identified a number of trees that are highly resistant. The cultivar, ‘Princeton’ (pictured above) is probably the most widely available in our area, but there are a number of other cultivars, including ‘Prairie Expedition’, ‘New Harmony’, and ‘St. Croix’.

Several research programs have had success cross breeding American elms with Asian elms, especially the Chinese elm, that are highly resistant to the disease. Among these Asian-American hybrids are ‘Accolade’, ‘Cathedral’, ‘Discovery’, ‘Triumph’, and ‘Commendation’.

With the number of offerings continuing to increase, we may hope to see the return of the elm to American cities and towns.

The Butternut Tree (*Juglans cinerea*)

The butternut tree, also known as white walnut, is a species of walnut tree that is native to the eastern and midwestern North America, from New Brunswick to Arkansas and Georgia. It is similar in appearance to the black walnut, a bit smaller, but still growing to 80 feet.



Although short-lived, it is valued for its beauty as a landscape specimen. Unfortunately, the tree has become a victim of butternut canker. First documented in 1967, the disease has killed nearly 80% of the tree population in some areas, and there is no cure.

The Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

This lovely native is a particular favorite of gardeners for its graceful structure, its exquisite pink or white blossoms that flower on bare wood in the spring, its red fall color, its diminutive size, and its unparalleled ability to look good in every season. Native throughout eastern North America, it is the state tree of North Carolina, Missouri and Virginia.



A fungus, dogwood anthracnose, that attacks and eventually kills flowering dogwood was first identified in 1978, but its origin is unknown and there is no cure. Once it is in the soil, it is impossible to grow new dogwoods nearby. Many Asian dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) species are resistant to the disease, although not all. The beautiful variegated Asian dogwood, 'Wolf Eyes', is particularly susceptible. Fortunately, there are a few resistant cultivars. Among the best are "Appalachian Spring", a white cultivar that is highly resistant, as is 'Cherokee Chief', a dark pink cultivar. Rutgers University has introduced a number of Asian and American hybrids that have good anthracnose resistance, but tend to be more like the Asian dogwood in form. Rutgers hybrids can be recognized by their celestial names: 'Constellation', 'Star Dust', 'Stellar Pink', and 'Celestial'.

LIAISON REPORT

Kate Abrahams

NGC Gardening Studies Course 4 Feb.23-24. This virtual course will focus on pruning, woody ornamentals, outdoor plant ID, styles of gardening and rock crevice gardens. \$75 Open to all RSGC members with tuition rebate available upon course completion. Gardening Studies courses can be taken out of order. For more info/registration visit ncagardenclubs.org or contact Joyce Skoglund at jeskog12@gmail.com

Green Spring Gardens Courses:

Moon gates Jan.17 1:30 pm
Easy House Plants Jan 23. 10 am
Succulents Jan 24 1:30 pm
Watercolor Workshop Jan 30 9 am
Deer Resistant Gardening Jan 31 1:30 pm
Storm Water Management Feb 20.

For more info visit [Fairfax county.gov/parks](http://Fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or call 703 642-5173. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd Alexandria VA 22312

DESIGN OF THE MONTH for NOVEMBER: MULTI-RHYTHMIC

Here are two very simple multi-rhythmic designs using the same structural base. The first is a vertical and circular design and the other is horizontal and vertical. This should show the members how easy this design is to make.

Anita Brown



Thea McGinnis: Roses, mums, bamboo



AnnMarie Fay



Joelle Hull: White pine branches, *Nandina domestica*, dwarf *Nandina domestica* 'Fire Power'



Joan Hession: Bamboo, Green Nephthytis, Hypericum, cedar, juniper



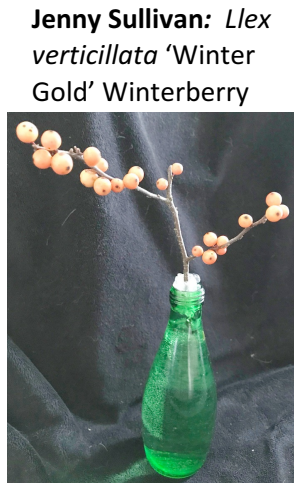
Lyndia Martin: Miniature carnations, boxwood, nandina

VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE

The horticulture for this month is (1) camellia or any flower that's in bloom in your garden, (2) any branches with berries, (3) any conifer or broad-leaf evergreen bough, or (4) any houseplant.



Joan Hession: *Schlumbergera*
Christmas cactus



Jenny Sullivan: *Llex verticillata* 'Winter Gold' Winterberry

Jenny Sullivan: *Camellia japonica* 'Governor Mouton'



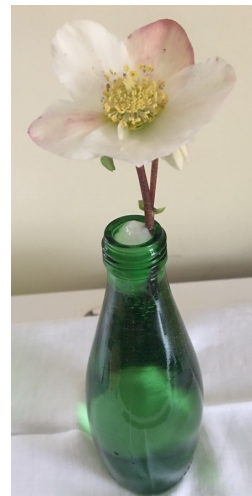
George Ruppert:
Amaryllis belladonna



Jenny Sullivan:
Calluna vulgaris
Common Heather



Nancy Snell:
Iris Germanica
'Beverly Sills'



Louise Rhoads:
Hellebores x glandorffensis 'Ice n' Roses White'

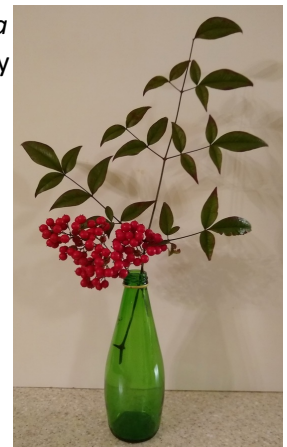


Nancy Snell: 'Rosa Radtkopink'
Knockout double pink



Nancy Snell:
Rhododendron
'Robles' (Encore Autumn Carnation)

Joelle Hull: *Nandina domestica* (Heavenly Bamboo)



Jane Robinson: Cyclamen

HOLIDAY OUTDOOR PLANTERS AND WREATHS



Thea McGinnis:
Basic pine wreath
embellished with
nandina, herb bun-
dles, and dried
okra, dried apple
wired to create
a Star



**Sheila
Moore**



Renee Bayes:
Front porch
pot



Sheila Moore



Carolyn Barone: Planter



Carolyn Barone:
Holiday wreath

PHOTO GALLERY



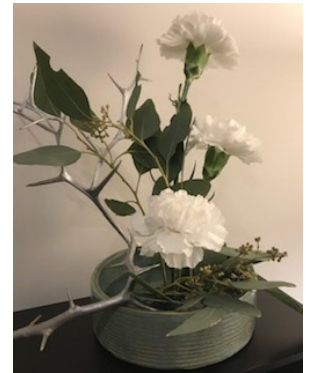
Julie Williams: Happy
New Year to All, from
Floral Outreach



Thea McGinnis



Renee Bayes: Designed
for George Ruppert ,
from his fellow RSGC
members.



Thea McGinnis:
Holiday design I created
for my home



Thea McGinnis: Holiday
design I created for my
home



Jenny Sullivan: Orange
winterberries



Jenny Sullivan: Knock Out
rose



Sheila Moore

PHOTO GALLERY



Joan Asboth



Thea McGinnis: Holiday design I created for my home

Nancy Snell



Nancy Snell: Thanksgiving arrangement for my Mom



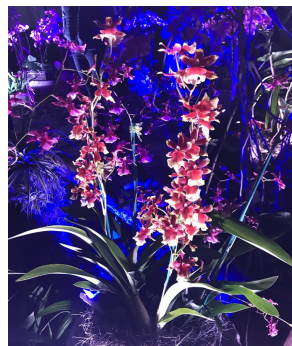
AnnMarie Fay:: Annual Holiday Light Show at Naples Botanical Gardens, Florida



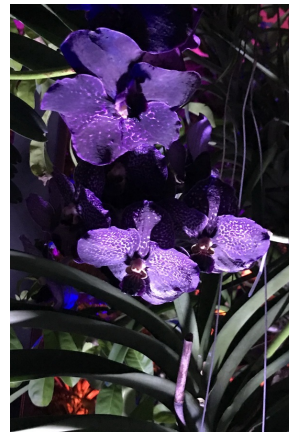
Renee Bayes



Sandi Hodges: Mary Lunger taught me how to make this Boxwood Tree. I have never made one before. I am hooked!



Light Show at Naples Botanical Gardens



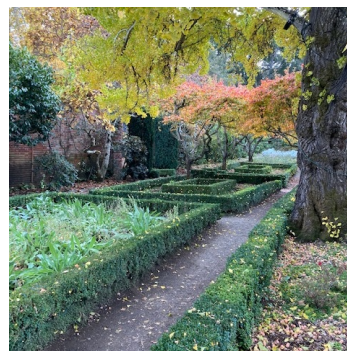
Light Show at Naples Botanical Gardens



The new 2020 poinsettias are out...

From Julie Williams

Kate Abrahams: Filoli mansion formal gardens in CA Bay Area



Filoli Gardens



Filoli mansion

Kate Abrahams: Filoli mansion's holiday decorations. I think the rooms have been restored beautifully.

