

# THE GARDENZETTE



The newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, VA [www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com)



Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Atlantic Region, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District

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## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Charlotte Benjamin

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Stevens Kelly

### SECRETARY

Carolyn Barone

### TREASURER

Nancy Snell

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Mary Garnett

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## Zoom General Meeting

Thursday, February 18 at 10 a.m.

Program will follow general meeting

## KEEPING A NATURE JOURNAL

Whether it's documenting your garden, communing with nature or traveling the world, Virginia Master Naturalist Lynn Wilson will show us how sketching and writing in a journal can help us all more deeply experience and enjoy the places we love.



Lynn Wilson is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist. Lynn most often journals in her travels or close to home along the Chickahominy River east of Richmond. This winter she is active with a group focused on observing and sketching feeder birds.

**ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE**



## President's Message

Be on the lookout for early signs of our next season! This is the month that a treasure-hunt begins ... the perennials start their march through our gardens and beyond. While on this treasure-hunt we will find that some perennials have moved

away from where they were planted, some have expired and some have thrived. The other day I saw my trusty snowdrops (*Galanthus*) blooming and thriving - a sure sign that spring is on the way! Crocus, early daffodils and other flowering bulbs, shrubs and trees will soon join the parade. As you enjoy your walks around your gardens and around your neighborhoods, be on the lookout because our early perennials are true treasures. They bring us great pleasure and assure us that spring is coming soon!

At this month's Rock Spring Garden Club Board meeting Kate Abrahams presented the final draft of the Standing Rules for approval. The Board unanimously approved the Standing Rules as presented. They are printed in this *Gardenzette* and will also be printed in next year's Yearbook.

At our February 18th General Meeting we will have two special guests. **Cherie Lejeune**, current NCAGC President and **Arlene Stewart**, incoming NCAGC President, will be joining us. I hope many of you will join this ZOOM meeting ... it would be very nice to have a **robust RSGC attendance!!!** Please contact Joan Hession for ZOOM information. In addition, Maryam Zolecki, will be attending her second meeting as a potential new member.

Also at the February meeting, the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of Officers for 2021-2023. The slate will be printed in the March *Gardenzette* and "the election shall be held... at the March General meeting". (see Bylaws Article IV, Sections 4 and 5, page 26 in the Yearbook). February's Program is unique and fun! Read all about it in this *Gardenzette*.

See you on February 18th ... let's have the largest ZOOM attendance ever!!!

*Charlotte*

**March Zoom Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 4, 10 a.m.**  
**This is also the deadline for contributions to the March Gardenzette.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Jan. 1- 31, 2021

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE MID-MARCH

### Ann Kelly

Spring arrives next month along with the deadline to renew our RSGC memberships. We anticipate our 2021-2022 season will get more back-to-normal, with convivial activities to share our love of gardening with each other.

Each member will receive the Membership Renewal form by email from me in February.

Please print it out, filling in the requested information, and mail it with your dues check to my address on the form. **Deadline: March 15!**

## 2021/2023 SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR VOTE

### Thea McGinnis

The Nominating Committee, with approval from the Board, submits for voting the following Slate of Officers for the 2021/2023 Club Year:

President: Dianne Simmons  
 Vice President: Carolyn Barone  
 Secretary: Jane Robinson  
 Treasurer: Sherry Foster

Our vote will be taken during our business meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee, and to the candidates for their willingness to serve.

## DESIGN OF THE MONTH

Anita Brown

### Tray for One

When searching through my many flower show photos for an example of a tray for one, the only one I could find is the one below with an Oriental theme.



You will note on the tray just the essentials for a meal plus a napkin and a decorative unit.

Our assignment this month is a functional breakfast or

lunch tray also with a decorative unit. Remember that the tray is not to be flashy (so that the eye goes to the tray in lieu of what is on the tray) and the decorative unit is to be in scale with the size of the tray and the dining implements. Make sure your decorative unit is more than say, one rose in a container, or that it is not a container-grown plant.

You have the freedom to specify the number of table appointments but be sure the tray is pleasing and not crowded.

Have fun!

## VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE

Christine Wegman

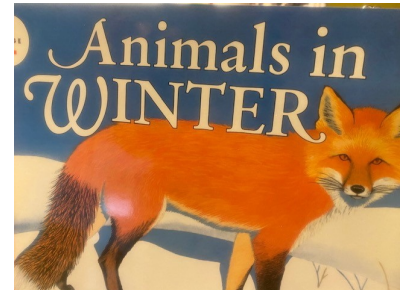
Since we are in the lean months of gardening, there will be no limits placed on the types of plant material requested for this month's virtual horticulture table. If you have an entry to submit, stage it as you would for the regular horticulture table, in a green bottle with wedging as appropriate, and 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.

## JANUARY GARDEN THERAPY

Pat Getz

The Garden Therapy Committee continued its online sessions via Microsoft Teams in January with Jeanne

Terrill's pre-k class at Glebe Elementary School. Margi Melnick and Pat Getz presented a program in January with the theme of animals in winter.



We read two books describing the different "coping strategies" animals have for winter: some store up food for the winter, some migrate to a warmer place, some hibernate, and some must hunt for food all winter, often in the snow.



Next, we showed pictures of different kinds of birds and talked about their different sizes, colors, and names. Pat demonstrated how to make a simple bird feeder from a large pinecone and peanut butter or vegetable shortening, that

can be hung on a tree or even a porch railing. We finished up with Margi playing "Feed, Feed, Feed the Birds", on the auto-harp, sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat".



The children and Jeanne all thanked us for the program and several children offered that they enjoyed the stories and song. Our thanks go committee chair Susan Scotti who though not able to join us this month supplied the books, bird pictures, and song lyrics from her extensive collection of kid-friendly materials.



## HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, ALICE CONRAD!

### Thea McGinnis

Since 1971, Alice has been a member of Rock Spring Garden Club – that's 50 Years!

Alice's friend and neighbor, Helen Kettler, encouraged Alice to join Rock Spring Garden Club after her children began school. Alice was especially interested in floral design as it appealed to her artistic leanings. Master Judge Betty Taylor's design classes were her great influence as she fell in love with floral design.



Alice's design from the RSGC 'That's Life - Sinatra' flower show a few years back

In spite of having a household filled with the activities of her busy children, Alice willingly stepped up to hold several club chairmanships, some multiple times, and was elected Club President for 1991/92 club years. Alice is a NCAGC State Life Member, and a member of Ikebana International. She has offered her time and skills in giving floral design programs to our members. Alice has willingly sponsored many current members who have gone on to become Club Officers. Alice willingly mentored newer members in floral design and horticulture.

About 35 years ago, Alice also began throwing pottery to showcase her creative and traditional designs. Her signature pottery is treasured by the lucky few who own a piece. Alice treasures her lifelong friendships with fellow gardeners. Sharing her artistic talents and her love of gardening and design has been one of the most rewarding parts of her life.

Alice is, simply, an inspiration. Whenever possible, she supported our club activities - we could always find her in the front row.



Alice – you are beloved and admired by your fellow club members, friends, church, neighbors and family. We wish you the best birthday ever!!!

With love and fondness from all your #1 fans and friends in RSGC!!

## THANK YOU FOR BERNIE'S FLOWERS

Hello Julie,  
My name is BJ (Betty Jeanne). I am a friend and neighbor of Bernie Donaldson. She doesn't do email (can't get her PC turned on and doesn't really want to). So I have just started monitoring her email for her.

She loves the flower arrangement that you made and brought from the garden club. She wanted me to reply to you and thank you very, very much. I have been to her house a couple times. She put the arrangement in her front window in the living room where she sees it constantly. It is beautiful and is keeping very nicely. Bernie loved the garden club, it means a lot to her that you folks still think of her.

....

Thanks again for thinking of Bernie,  
BJ

Betty Jeanne  
...for Bernie



## HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

### Pruning Hydrangeas

As I write this, there is snow on the ground and I am not the least tempted to go outside and prune anything. But, a few weeks ago, a friend asked me whether it was too early to prune hydrangeas, and I said, "What kind of hydrangeas are they?" She replied, "They are lace caps." But, what matters when pruning hydrangeas, and indeed most other deciduous shrubs, is not the type of bloom, but where the bloom appears on the stem.



Most spring flowering shrubs bloom on last season's growth (old wood), that is, growth that began just after they bloomed and continued through the fall. They set their flower buds before they go dormant. Shrubs that bloom on old wood should be pruned after they flower. Later summer flowering shrubs, on the other hand, usually bloom on the current season's growth and should be pruned in the late winter or early spring. These shrubs set their flower buds on new growth in early spring after they break dormancy.

To distinguish between old and new wood on shrubs, look at a stem. Deciduous shrubs set vegetative (non-flowering) buds along their stems from which new stems emerge. The new growth will be light green and there will be a ring or scar between the old and new growth. Hydrangea species are diverse and bloom on old or new wood, depending on the species. A few *macrophylla* bloom on both old *and* new wood. Regular pruning encourages blooming, so it is a good idea to prune them every year.

**Old Wood Bloomers.** These include *h. macrophylla* (bigleaf, florist, or French hydrangeas), *h. quercifolia* (oakleaf), *h. aspera*, *h. serrata*, and climbing hydrangeas. Prune old wood bloomers shortly after flowering, so that they have a chance to produce vegetative growth and set flower buds before the frost. On established plants cut back weak, thin shoots and one or two of the oldest stems to the ground. Prune the previous year's growth back to a leaf bud, making a straight cut just above the nodes, or reshape by pruning up 12 inches, always back to a node. Neglected or damaged hydrangeas can be cut back to the base in late winter or spring, but you will not have flowers that year.

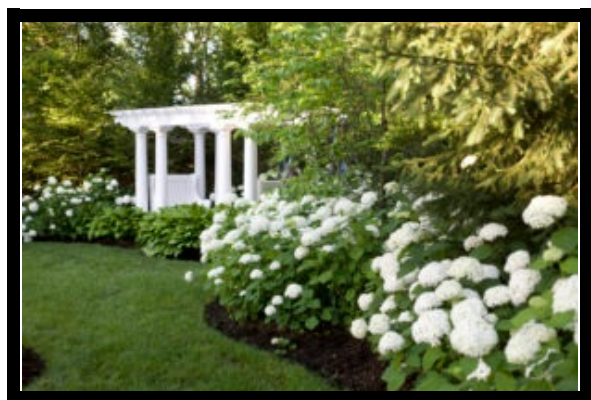


**New Wood Bloomers.** These include *h. aboresens* or smooth leaf hydrangea (Annabelle) and *h. paniculata*, or panicle hydrangea (PeeGee). Prune these hydrangeas in late winter or early spring, preferably before they break dormancy. For young plants, prune lightly to shape. On established plants, cut all stems back to a



height that is about 1 to 1½ feet lower than you would like the plant to be when it blooms. It is relatively easy to manage the size of these hydrangeas.

You can cut new wood bloomers as far back as 10 inches above the ground.



**Rebloomers.** These are mostly cultivars of bigleaf hydrangeas and include *h. macrophylla* 'Everlasting Summer', *h. macrophylla* 'Penny Mac', *h. macrophylla* 'Twist-n-Shout', and a new series of *macrophylla* hydrangeas called FOREVER & EVER. There is one reblooming smooth leaf hydrangea, *h. arborescens* 'Bella Anna', which is pink flowered. For pruning purposes, treat them like the species, that is, prune 'Everlasting Summer' after the last blooms, and 'Bella Anna' in late winter or early spring before it breaks dormancy.

**Climbing Hydrangeas.** These need minimal pruning. Shorten overlong shoots and outward growing laterals by cutting them back to a healthy bud. Climbing plants will bloom more heavily at the top of the plant, so if you need to restrict your climber to a smaller space, you will lose some flowers. If the plant needs drastic pruning, do this in spring by cutting the lateral branches back to the basic framework. This will reduce flowering for a year or two, so if possible spread the pruning over a few years.



The best book that I have found on pruning is *The American Horticulture Society Pruning & Training*, by

Christopher Brickell and David Joyce. It is a joint publication of the American Horticulture Society and the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain, and it is available through Amazon. Very clearly written and profusely illustrated, this is a book I would recommend to any gardener. It has general sections on different types of plants with specific techniques for virtually any plant that we grow. I have the first edition (1996), which is still available, and there is a newer 2011 edition.

## 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.

## LIAISON REPORT

### Kate Abrahams

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and Visitor Center open daily 10 am - 5 pm, free admission until March 1st. Last admission at 4:30 pm. 9750 Meadowlark Garden Court, Vienna, VA tel:(703) 255-3631

Green Spring Gardens offers many in-person and virtual classes. For online newsletter listing courses visit [www.Fairfax county.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.Fairfax county.gov/parks/green-spring) Options such as:

"Starting from Scratch with Seeds" 10:30 am Feb 13.  
"Heart's Desire" Floral Design workshop 1 pm Feb 13 with Betty Ann Galway.

"Storm Water Management" on Feb 20 at 9:30 am.

"Great Shrubs for Home Gardens" Feb 27 at 10 am.

Virtual Tea Party with Japanese wabi sabi theme to embrace imperfection March 28 at 2 pm.

Visit website for info on varying fees for course registration. (703) 642-5173 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria VA 22312

NCAGC District IV's fundraiser Feb.18 at 4- 5:30 pm \$10 fee. A Zoom presentation by Kathy Jentz about new plants titled "Stars for Spring 2021." Info at [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org)

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](http://ncagardenclubs.org) or contact Joyce Skoglund.

In-person Flower Show School Course March 28-30 at the Cambria Hotel in College Park MD. This is FS Course 3 so you must complete Course I before taking it unlike the Gardening and Environmental Studies courses. Information and registration forms can be found at [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org)

## RSGC STANDING RULES

### Kate Abrahams

RSGC's Standing Rules have been revised to conform with the recently amended By-Laws. Please review the rules in preparation for discussing and voting on them at the next general meeting. Many thanks to the By-Laws Committee members for their thoughtful work of the past year.

Preamble: The Standing Rules shall be binding on all members of Rock Spring Garden Club and are designed to describe additional Club policies, requirements and activities not specified in the By-Laws. The Standing Rules may be amended by an affirmative majority vote of the active membership in attendance at any general meeting. The Club abides by local and CDC health safety guidelines to determine whether virtual or in-person meetings, programs or events are appropriate.

1. When Arlington Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, all in-person club meetings scheduled for that day shall be cancelled.
2. Sponsors of prospective new members are responsible for introducing them to the Club's officers and members of the Executive Board before induction.
3. The incoming President shall convene the incoming Executive Board at the June joint Board meeting. Each incoming committee chair shall be given a detailed job description and end of year report by the outgoing chair at this meeting of the new and old Executive Boards.



4. If a member cannot serve as a general meeting host, the member shall find a substitute and notify the head host. If a member cannot find a substitute, the member shall contact the head host and contribute funds for an equal share of expenses. All host committee members shall contribute funds to cover an equal share of expenses.
5. Voting at Executive Board meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per office or committee.
6. Materials to be archived annually in hard copy (paper) format include the minutes of the Executive Board and general meetings, the Treasurer's Reports, a copy of the Yearbook and issues of The Gardenzette. The Secretary shall collect and deliver these materials to the Arlington Historical Room Archives at the Central Branch of the Arlington Public Library by June 30 of each club year.
7. The Treasurer's monthly reports shall state the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements and closing balance. This report appears in the monthly newsletter The Gardenzette.
8. The Membership Chair prepares tables for in-person general meetings with a guest book register to record visitor attendance, temporary name tags for visitors, permanent name tags for members, new member application forms and RSGC information sheets along with miscellaneous brochures and newsletters from NCAGC, VFGC or NGC if available.
9. New RSGC yearbooks are updated and printed in August prior to distribution to members at the September general meeting.
10. General business meetings begin at 10 a.m. Programs usually begin at 11 a.m. following the general meeting. General meetings are the third Thursday of the month except in June when it is the second Thursday. The Holiday Tea is held the second Thursday of December and replaces the usual monthly club meetings. General meetings and programs may be held using virtual technology as needed.
11. Board meetings are hosted by Board members in their homes on the first Thursday September - November and January - June at 10 a.m. Board meetings may be held using virtual technology as needed.



**Alice Conrad:** 100 today - Wow!! Alice looks great.  
Happy Birthday!



Flowers for Alice  
designed by  
**Sharon Siems**



100 hundred roses  
from Alice's family

## DESIGN OF THE MONTH for JANUARY: PETITE DESIGN 1 of 2



**Julie Williams:** Old fashioned rose bowl, done in a more updated way



**Renee Bayes**



**Pat Getz**



**Connie Richards:** Petite Grouped Mass Design



**Joan Hession:** Rose, carnation, chrysanthemum



**Joyce Fall:** Succulents and miniature asters



**Joelle Hull:** Daylilies, tulips, and hyacinths along with their leaves to fill in with greenery



## DESIGN OF THE MONTH for JANUARY: PETITE DESIGN 2 of 2



**Mary Kudless:** Ixora, asparagus fern, bougainvillea



**Sharon Siems**



**Nancy Snell**



**George Ruppert**



**Jo Ella Samp**



**Thea McGinnis**



**Mary Garnett**



**Sheila Moore:** Driftwood, moss and snowdrops



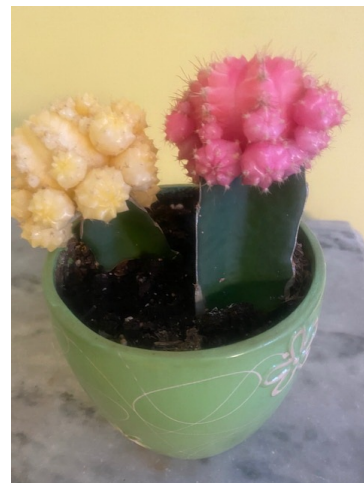
## VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE



**Joyce Fall:**  
Phalaenopsis Orchid



**Pat Getz:** *Schlumbergera bridgesii* (Christmas cactus)



**Pat Getz:** A grafted plant: Top is *Gymnocylcium mihanovichii*, base is *Hylocereus* (Moon top cactus)



**Joan Hession:** *Schefflera*  
(Umbrella tree)



**Louise Rhoads:** *Cyclamen persicum*



**Lynda Martin:** *Hippeastrum*  
'Red Lion'

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Kate Abrahams:** A few photos from my yard: Orange crocus in bloom



**Kate Abrahams:** Ornamental cabbage still looking good!



## PHOTO GALLERY

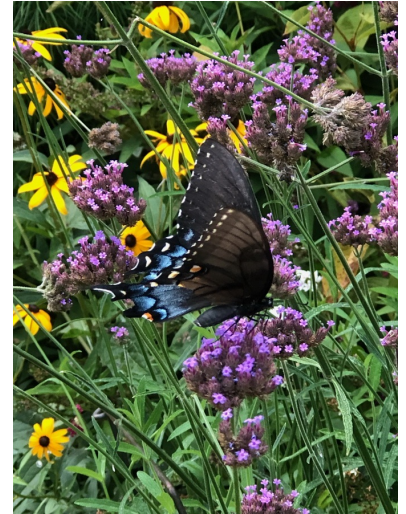


**Lynda Martin:** Red Lion Amaryllis



**Anita Brown:** Here is a Sunday picture of my back yard

**Anita Brown:**  
Wishing for warmer days of summer....



**Kate Abrahams**



**George Ruppert**



**Julie Williams**



**Nancy Snell:** These are the ends of large pine cones from the tree bordering my driveway. I think they look like roses.



**Julie Williams:** Playing with flowers....



**Janis Gunel:** Philodendron