

# 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

Volume 59, Number 7

April 2021

## 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, April 15 at 10 a.m.

Program will follow general meeting

## SPRING FLING!

### A Floral Design Program for Spring with Betty Ann Galway

Our (virtual) program will celebrate Spring with a floral design demonstration in which Betty Ann Galway will instruct us in National Garden Club design types with her own creations.

The first time Betty Ann presented to our club, she was the Adult Education Director for Norfolk Botanical Garden. As fate would have it, Betty Ann relocated to Northern Virginia and joined Five Hills Garden Club. She is a very active member in our National Capital Area Garden Club organization and the Judges Council. Betty is a certified floral designer and member of AIFD (American Institute of Floral Design). She is an accredited Life Judge for National Garden Club (NGC). Betty has taught many floral design classes throughout Virginia, exhibits her award winning designs, and her floral interpretations have been displayed in Richmond at the VMFA's Fine Arts and Flowers exhibition, the Virginia Arts Festival and Virginia Stage Company's performances.

We are thrilled to have Betty Ann join us for a fun, informative and inspiring floral design program.

For more NGC floral design information, please refer to your NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2017, Chapter 7, p.63-83 and Chapter 10 p.93-94.





## President's Message

This season's beauty moves us out into our gardens or out to places where we can admire the gardens of others ... it is a soft, lovely time of the year! It compels us to plant, weed, spruce up our outdoor spaces, work hard and finally, sit back and enjoy the fruit of our labors. Every season has a special beauty of its own, that can be found in our own 'patches' or wherever we wander.

We are so thankful for the life and friendship of former Rock Spring Garden Club member, Georga Shaw and grieve her passing. She certainly treasured her association with the Club. The outpouring of love and remembrances from the many RSGC members who knew Georga has been heartwarming ... thank you.

You will find your upcoming **Gardenzette** full of announcements, information, awards received, plans and programs for the months ahead. And, as always, lovely photos for our enjoyment and education!

With this long season of rebirth ahead, let's celebrate our friendship and the beauty around us! I hope to see many of you at our General Meeting, on April 15, via Zoom.

*Charlotte*

## 2021/2023 OFFICERS

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mar. 1- 31, 2021

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

## AWARDS!!! AWARDS!!!!

**Renee Bayes**

### Congratulations to RSGC for excellence in District III Awards for 2020.

Even during a pandemic, RSGC worked tirelessly on committees to keep the Club informed and to continue to reach out to the Arlington community.

Our newest committee, Senior Outreach, led by co-chairs, AnnMarie Fay and Mary Kudless, won the District III 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award for Outstanding Community Service. Since September, this committee has been working with the residents of the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Facility in Arlington. In addition to receiving an award certificate, RSGC will receive \$100.00. Thank you, AnnMarie, Mary, and your committee members.

Congratulations to Mary Garnett, our **Gardenzette** Editor, who once again published an outstanding monthly newsletter. RSGC received a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Publication Certificate of Merit for a newsletter of 3-12 pages in a large club of 60-99 members.

Our WEBSITE also won a Certificate of Merit for Electronic Media Award. In addition, RSGC FACEBOOK was recognized with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Electronic Media Award. Congratulations to our WEBMASTER, Thea McGinnis.

## May Zoom Board Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m.

This is also the deadline for contributions to the May Gardenzette.

## APRIL DESIGN OF THE MONTH

Anita Brown

**A Reflective Design** must contain a material that reflects light to the viewer. The material is integral to this creative design. Examples of a reflective material are aluminum, copper, chrome, or even CDs. Almost anything that has a reflective shine could be used.



Note that a mirror(s) around or under the design is **not** acceptable.



## APRIL VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE

Christine Wegman

For April, all entries members wish to contribute to the virtual horticulture table are welcome. Stage cut specimens as you would for the regular horticulture table, in a green or clear 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 the **Garden-zette** editor and they will appear in next month's issue. They will not be judged.

## SIGN UP FOR MAY FIELD TRIP

Connie Richards

We will be going to Green Spring Gardens on May 20 for a tour of the gardens and possibly the house. The location is 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA. We will be in groups of five to six people led by master gardeners.

Due to the COVID situation, I will not be organizing the carpools. I think it's best for people to travel with those they feel comfortable with or drive themselves. It is less than 10 miles from any place in Arlington.

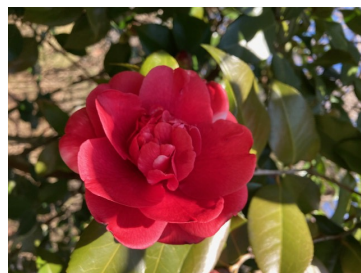
For the same reason, there will not be a group luncheon. However, I will give a list of restaurants in the area, and we can picnic on the lawns at Green Spring.

At this point, Fairfax County Park Authority has not opened their buildings so the restrooms are closed. They do have Port-A-Potties.

Those are the negatives, but please consider coming as this is a lovely historic property with gardens designed by Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber.

**I NEED TO KNOW THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP SO ENOUGH GUIDES CAN BE SCHEDULED. PLEASE EMAIL ME BY MAY 1 TO LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING.** The club will cover the cost of this trip.

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions. I grew up near there and am a member (FROG) so I'm very excited about our visit.





## GARDEN THERAPY

### With Glebe Elementary Students

Mary Kudless

The Glebe Elementary School pre-k class is now a combination of virtual and in classroom. All 7 children work virtually on Thursdays and Fridays. The other days are a mix of some at school and some from home.

The program on March 11 was about the many flowers that bloom from bulbs, which is one of the exciting signs that spring is on the way.

We began with Janis Gunel reading **That's Not a Daffodil!**; a charming story about a boy, Tom, who was given a daffodil bulb by his old neighbor, Mr. Yilmaz. Tom said it looked like an onion instead of a daffodil,

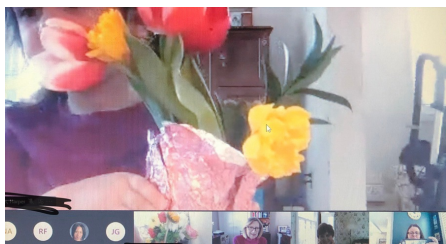


but the old gardener showed him how to plant and care for it to make it grow. They watched it slowly change from first a small green shoot to finally, after many weeks, a beautiful daffodil.

After the story, Margi Melnick with her autoharp, led us in a song with finger play about 5 little daffodils. The children enjoyed repeating it a few times as they picked up the words and actions.

Susan showed pictures and named other flowers that grow from bulbs, and they learned that the bulbs have to be planted in late fall before the ground freezes. One that had been forced in water was shown so they could see the roots.

We have missed letting the children make arrangements this year, so we decided to give it a try. Individual packets were dropped off at school the day before for the 5 children present to take home. They con-



tained precut daffodils, tulips, greens and pussy willow, along with a container and a square of florist foil. The parents of the other 2 had the option of picking up their kits from the office.

Susan demonstrated how to begin by placing the greens. They quickly worked to then position the flowers and hold up their arrangement for all to see. It was exciting to watch them having fun with it. Some even got the foil around the container themselves. We were all smiles and left feeling it was a success.



There are two more programs this year, April 8th and May 6th, which is a week early so we can do Mother's Day arrangements.

## LIAISON REPORT

Kate Abrahams

Virginia Historic Garden Week Sat. April 17- Sat. April 24. 30 unique tours hosted by 48 garden clubs throughout the state. For tickets and info visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

NCAGC Biennial Installation of New Officers April 27 11 am - 2 pm Old Hickory Golf Club, 11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge VA [ncagardenclubs.org](http://ncagardenclubs.org)

District III President's Coffee June 18th 9:30 am -12:00 pm. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Garden Court, Vienna, VA 22182

Flower Show School Course I Sept. 13 - 16. Richmond VA. Floral design and judging holly and hosta. For more info call Darlene Nelson at 804 472-9710 Course I must be taken before the other flower show courses unlike the other NGC schools

Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival. Free but need ticket to enter. Saturday and Sunday April 17- 18. Three entry times daily. Ida Lee Park recreation Center, 60 Ida Lee Drive NW, Leesburg VA. For more info visit [leesburgva.gov](http://leesburgva.gov) or [www.flowerandgarden.org](http://www.flowerandgarden.org) or call 703 777-1368



# HORTICULTURE

## Christine Wegman

### Magnolias

Magnolia is a genus of trees that are native to eastern North America from southern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, and Brazil. In East Asia magnolias grow from China west to the Himalayas and south to Indonesia.

Named for a 17<sup>th</sup> century French botanist, Pierre Magnol, they were first introduced into Europe from Asia about 50 years later.

There are a whopping 224 known species of Magnolia, and there are hundreds of cultivars and hybrids. This is an ancient genus that grew throughout the northern hemisphere tens of thousands of years ago. Fossil remains have been found as far north as Alaska. As the ice age receded, they settled into their present native regions.

Magnolias are long lived and can be evergreen, semi-evergreen, or deciduous. Most prefer acidic, humus-rich soil. None are very wind or drought tolerant, although established trees can endure dry spells. Happily, they are generally disease and pest free.

The most popular of the evergreen species is our native *Magnolia grandiflora*. This striking tree can reach

80 ft. high and 50 ft. wide. The creamy-white flowers, appearing in June, can be as large as a foot across, and have a heavenly lemony scent. Its large oval leaves are a favorite southern Christmas decoration. It is the state flower of Louisiana and Mississippi.



One must have a lot of space and a protected location to grow a southern magnolia to best advantage, but there are two compact varieties, 'Little Gem' and 'Southern Charm' (or Teddy Bear®). Either can be espaliered along a wall or trellis.





Another favorite native variety is *Magnolia virginiana* (below), a semi-evergreen small tree with leaves and flowers similar to *Magnolia grandiflora*, but smaller.



In recent years yellow flowered deciduous magnolias (see M. 'Yellow Bird' below) have become popular. These are cultivars and hybrids of our native *Magnolia acuminata* or cucumbertree magnolia.



This time of year, the beautiful, splashy pink, purple and white flowering deciduous magnolias let us know in no uncertain terms that spring has finally arrived. These are all of Asian origin, and have been cultivated in China since the seventh century. The beautiful "saucer" magnolias that are ubiquitous in this area are varieties and hybrids of *M. denudate* (Yulan magnolia)

and *M. liliiflora* (lily magnolia), or the hybrid *Magnolia x soulangeana* (saucer magnolia). One of the prettiest of these hybrids is M. 'Galexy' below.



Because of their big blossoms, these trees are often subject to flower damage from late freezes. To avoid this, plant varieties of "strap petal" magnolias, such as *M. stellata* (star magnolia) or *M. x loebneri*. The strap petal magnolias usually bloom a little earlier than the saucer magnolias and their smaller petals are more resistant to damage, although this year they are all out at the same time. The classically beautiful *M. stellata* has pristine white flowers and is a popular tree here in the Washington area. Less common, but nonetheless available in local nurseries, is *M. x loebneri*, of which the cultivar 'Leonard Messel' (below), with its beautiful pink blossoms, is a good example.





## DESIGN OF THE MONTH for MARCH: CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY



**Ann Kelly:** All greens line arrangement. The greens are fern, euonymus, golden cypress and boxwood.



**Susan Scotti:** The flowers are Bells of Ireland, Mums, Hydrangeas, Fresh Dianthus Green Trick



**Renee Bayes:** Those carnations are green tinged!



**Jane Robinson:** Japanese Anemone, Juniper, Nandina, Rose



**Janis Gunel:** Chrysanthemums and asparagus fern.



**Joan Asboth:** Artichokes with Bells of Ireland, ferns, palms and greens.



**Carolyn Barone:** Chrysanthemum, carnations, rose, hypericum, hydrangea, laurel, golden rod, bupleurum



# VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE

## The Horticulture for March is Hellebores



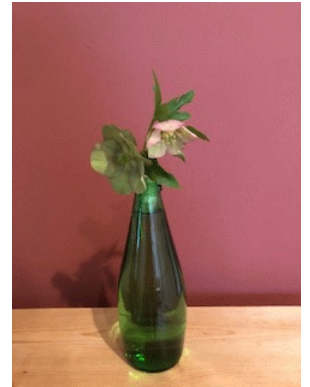
**Kate Abrahams:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*  
(Lenten Rose) 'Rio Carnival'



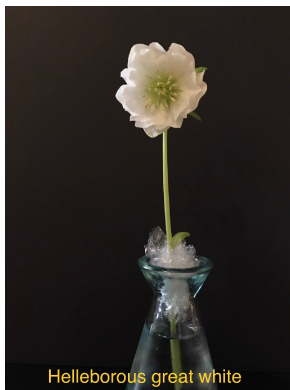
**Joan Asboth:**  
Ranunculaceae  
*Helleborus* 'Rome in Red'



**Joan Hession:**  
*Helleborus*



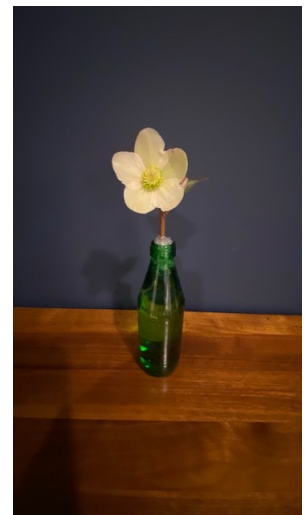
**Jane Robinson:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*



**Thea McGinnis:**  
*Helleborus* 'Great White'



**Louise Rhoads:**  
*Helleborus niger*  
'Christmas Rose'



**Carolyn Barone:**  
*Helleborus x ballardiae*



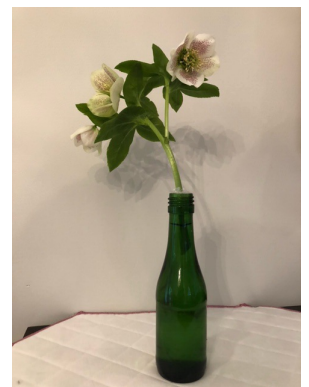
**Joan Asboth:**  
Ranunculaceae  
*Helleborus* 'Paris on Pink'



**Jane Robinson:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*



**Dianne Simmons:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*



**Jo Ella Samp:**  
*Helleborus niger*

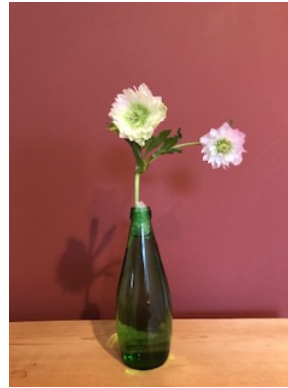
## VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE (continued)



**Kate Abrahams:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*  
'Dark and Handsome'



**Joan Asboth:**  
*Helleborus viridis*  
(Green Hellebore)



**Jane Robinson:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*



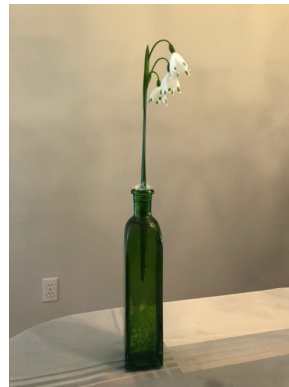
**Joan Asboth:**  
Ranunculaceae  
*Helleborus* 'Sandy Shores'



**Jane Robinson:**  
*Helleborus orientalis*



**Dianne Simmons:**  
*Helleborus x hybridus*



**Jo Ella Samp:** *Leucojum aestivum* (Snowflake)



**Joan Hession:** *Narcissus*



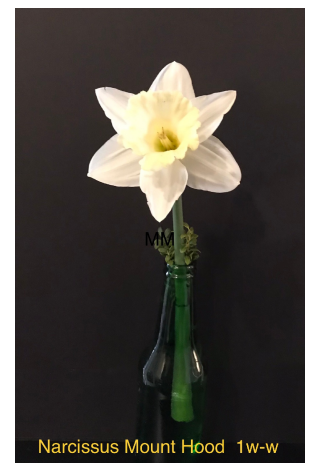
**Joan Hession:** *Narcissus*



**Jo Ella Samp:** *Narcissus*  
'Brackenhurst'



**Joan Hession:** *Narcissus*



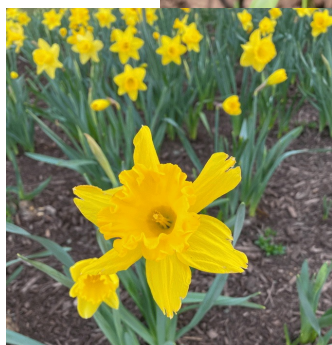
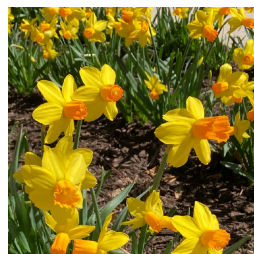
**Thea McGinnis:**  
*Narcissus* 'Mount Hood'



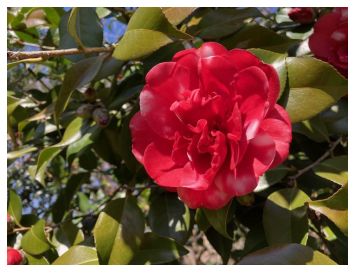
## PHOTO GALLERY

**Culpepper Garden Senior Retirement Community** celebrated the first phase of its tribute garden honoring Dr. Charles Culpepper. 28,000 daffodils were planted on the grounds along with new trees. Improved walkways through the garden make viewing accessible to residents and the community. A botanist and avid daffodil hybridizer, Dr. Culpepper developed 14 daffodil cultivars and planted them on his five acre property in Arlington in the 1920's. When he sold his property for a low income housing development for seniors, his neighbors objected and took him to court. Fortunately Dr Culpepper prevailed and Arlington's first affordable housing development opened in 1975. The new Daffodil Society of Culpepper Garden is leading the next phases of restoration and a fundraising campaign. Plans include a koi pond, pavilions, community garden beds, additional walkways and plantings in the woodland areas of the property. Naming opportunities are available in honor or to memorialize loved ones. For more information, contact Jasmin Witcher at 703 528-0162 ext 120 or email [jwitcher@culpeppergarden.org](mailto:jwitcher@culpeppergarden.org)

**Kate Abrahams**







**AnnMarie Fay:** These beautiful orchids grow right on the trees, with no care, in front of our building here in Juno Beach. Such a beautiful greeting.

**Kate Abrahams:** Red Camellias in bloom



**Kate Abrahams:** Photos from Flower Show School Course 3. Creative floral designs and staging panels created by instructor Jackie Davies for study and practice judging. These are creative line, creative line-mass and creative mass designs. Mass refers to the amount of plant material used in the design. The line designs use the least and mass designs the most. It was a challenging class to take lasting several days but great fun!

