

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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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Charlotte Benjamin

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Stevens Kelly

SECRETARY

Carolyn Barone

TREASURER

Nancy Snell

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Mary Garnett

MAY FIELD TRIP

Thursday, May 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Our program this month will be a tour of Green Spring Gardens. This 31-acre historic property includes a brick farmhouse built in the late 1700's, a tropical greenhouse, a wooded stream valley with ponds and twenty demonstration gardens. The gardens were redesigned in the Colonial Revival style in 1942 by noted landscape architects Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber. We will tour the area in small groups led by master gardeners who can offer more detail on the history and plantings.



We will meet in front of the main administrative building at 4601 Green Spring Road at 10:30. The main entrance off of Little River Turnpike is closed but the property can also be accessed from Witch Hazel Drive off of Braddock Road. The gardens are not far from Arlington so members should make their own transportation arrangements. Due to Covid concerns we will not have a group luncheon. You can picnic on the property and there are several restaurants located nearby. I will include more information about them in an email to follow.

The RESTROOMS WILL BE OPEN to our group. As this is the program for May, the club will cover the tour fee. If you are interested in joining the tour and haven't contacted Connie Richards already, please email her ASAP so enough guides are booked to divide us into small groups. Also please contact Connie by phone or email if you have any questions.



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President's Message

"Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open." This a John Barrymore quote that speaks volumes. Words like *hope, surprise, mystery, companionship, peace, enjoyment* are embedded in "happiness" ... and the list goes on! This month our General Meeting will be a tour of Green Spring Gardens. It will be a morning filled with great "happiness" as we meet together for the first time in many, many months!!!

Your Rock Spring Garden Club 2020 - 2021 Board had its wrap-up meeting May 6th. Our meeting next month will be a joint one with the incoming Board. Officers and Standing Committee chairs gave final reports and discussed some tentative plans for next year. As we continue to see some of our larger community still struggling with issues related to the pandemic, the Board voted to contribute \$2,000 to AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center). RSGC membership remains strong at 76 members with two Subscribers. Two members, Jane Bartlett and Paul Gibert moved from Active to Sustaining membership.

Reminder: always be ready for those unexpected, open doors that bring "happiness"...

Charlotte

June Joint Zoom Board Meeting
Thursday, June 3, 10 a.m.

JUNE GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 10 (SECOND THURSDAY)

The June Gardenzette will be sent AFTER we meet

TREASURER'S REPORT

Apr. 1- 30, 2021

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Nancy Snell, Treasurer

NCAGC President's Installation Luncheon

April 27, 2021

New NCAGC President
Arlene Stewart



Congratulations to **Connie Richards** who was elected president of the NCAGC Gardening & Environmental Council for 2021-2023!



Congratulations to **Thea McGinnis**, 2020 NGC CAR Award of Honor recipient!

GARDEN THERAPY - April

Susan Scotti

The April 8th program for the 7 pre-K students at Glebe Elementary was about planting vegetable seeds. Five students worked virtually from the classroom and 2 from home.

Pat Getz used the book "From Seed to Plant" by Gail Gibbons to show pictures and explain the changes that happen to a bean when it is planted, watered and receives sun. She then read the story "Growing Vegetable Soup" by Lois Ehlert, about a father and child sharing the joys of planting, watering and watching seeds grow into vegetables, then using them to make vegetable soup. Pat also had a variety of real vegetables at hand for the children to identify.



Margi Melnick led us in a song about a farmer sowing seeds, the rain coming down and the sun shining, making them grow. The children were then ready to plant some seeds of their own. Supplies had been previously dropped off at school. After donning gardening gloves, they each spooned dirt into 4 small peat pots; planting 2 with beans and 2 with tiny radish seeds. They watered them and took the pots home to put in a sunny spot to wait and watch for sprouting seeds.

The last garden therapy program of the school year was on May 6th. See page 10 for a report on May's activity.

MORE AWARDS!!!

Renee Bayes

The Virginia Federated Garden Clubs' Piedmont District, of which RSGC is a member club, announced its awards and once again, RSGC has been recognized for excellence in a number of categories. All award applications submitted last Fall received blue ribbons.

1st Place- Club Newsletter 3-12 pages--congratulations to Mary Garnett, **Gardenzette** Editor

1st Place- Garden Therapy--congratulations to Susan Scotti, Garden Therapy Chair

1st Place- Website, plus a \$60.00 monetary award--congratulations to Thea McGinnis, Club Webmaster

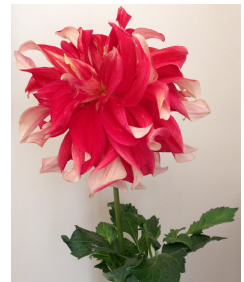
In addition, a 1st place Blue Ribbon was awarded by the Southern Atlantic Region (SAR) for Outstanding Website, along with a \$25.00 monetary award.

The Southern Atlantic Region is made up of garden clubs from five (5) states that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC): Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. NCG is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

Dahlia Tuber Sale

Connie Richards

The National Capital Dahlia Society is having tuber sales to support our hosting of the 2022 National Dahlia Society Convention. I have hundreds of tubers available in a variety of sizes, shapes and colors. The cost is \$8 each, 6 for \$40, 7 or more \$6 each. You can come and see them at my house. If you want to buy 6 or more, I'd be happy to come to your house. Feel free to buy as a group with friends.



Please call or email me if you have any questions or to arrange a time to meet. I will be happy to give you instructions on how to plant them plus we have a website with more information.

HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

FASTIGIATE TREES



A couple of weeks ago I passed a house in Charlottesville, VA with two fastigate dogwoods on either side of the entrance. I stopped the car to take a better look. They were in full bloom and really eye-catching. Alas, a bit of research showed them to be a bit of a chimera: they begin life as columnar specimens and as they mature, spread out like other dogwoods. In a few years they will be meeting across the walkway at about chest height. But, it gave me the idea for this month's column.

I love fastigate, or columnar, trees. They are perfect for any size garden there is almost an infinite variety, from conifers and other evergreens to deciduous trees, flowering and otherwise.



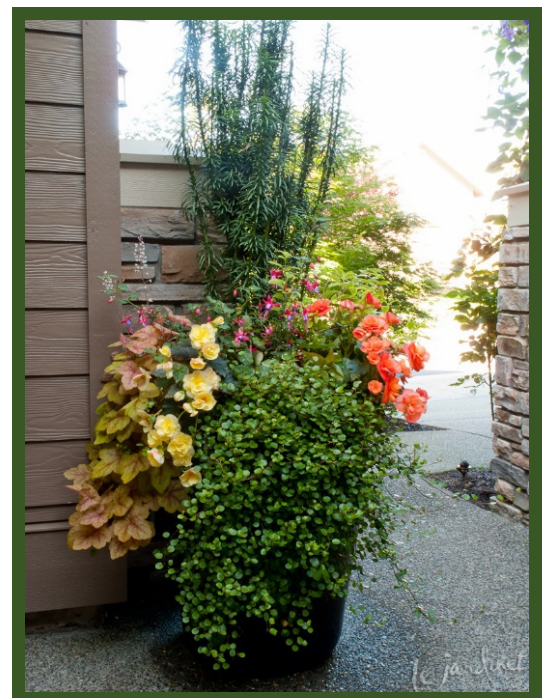
Everyone is probably familiar with the large number of columnar conifers, especially junipers and the newer small arborvitaes, that are particularly attractive at entrances. Breeders have been busy and, if you haven't looked around a large nursery recently, you may be surprised at the variety available.

Below is a picture of a false cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Wissel's Saguaro') shown in the narrow



space between two houses, where it is often difficult to have interesting plantings. It is a dwarf only growing to about 6 ft. high and 2 ½ ft wide in 10 years.

And here is a columnar Japanese plum yew



(*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Fastigiata') growing in a pot. This is a plant that would make a perfect focal point for a container garden on a small balcony. I have three planted along my side fence and interspersed with flowering deciduous shrubs. They give winter interest to an otherwise bare area after the leaves fall.

There are several fastigate maples available in nurseries. Perhaps the most striking one I have come across is a sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* 'Monumentale') that ultimately grows about 35 ft. tall and only 5 ft. wide. It has all the wonderful red fall color of the species



and would make a beautiful addition to the back or side of a small suburban garden.

If you have a little more space, you might enjoy growing 'Princeton Sentry', a beautiful ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry') with lovely yellow fall color. This can grow 40 ft. high and 15 ft. wide, but if you love ginkgos this could be a good one for a back corner of a garden.

'Princeton Sentry' would look beautiful in a row along a back fence or a driveway.



And finally, here is a columnar Japanese cherry (*Prunus serrulate* 'Amanogawa') reaching 25 ft. high and 12 ft. wide in 10 years. This beautiful specimen could well be the centerpiece of a front garden.



LIAISON REPORT

Kate Abrahams

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

Philadelphia Flower Show 2021 "Habitat: Nature's Masterpiece" June 5 - 13 Outdoors in FDR Park, 1500 Pattinson Ave and South Broad Street. Visit www.phsonline.org for tickets and information

Green Spring Gardens May/June Classes. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria VA 703 642-5173 www.Fairfax county.gov for complete listings and more info.

Floral Design:Late Spring Arrangement Sat. June 12 1:00-2:30 pm with Betty Ann Galway \$39 plus \$30 supplies fee. Virtual or in-person.

Plants and Design: Hummingbird Garden Sat. May 22 1:00 - 2:30 pm \$22 virtual or in-person

Plants and Design: Herb Garden Sat. June 5 1:00 - 2:30 pm \$22. Virtual or in-person

Garden Tools and Perennial Maintenance Sat. June 5 10:00 - 11:30 am \$18 In-person outdoors

DESIGN OF THE MONTH: REFLECTIVE DESIGN

Sharon Siems:

Camellia, eucalyptus, asparagus fern



Anita Brown:

Aquilegia and Vinca 'Variegata'



Kate Abrahams: Solomon's Seal, Virginia bluebells, clematis vine, anemone, daffodils, Lenten rose, wood hyacinth

Joelle Hull: Lilac, Solomon's seal, and viburnum



VIRTUAL HORTICULTURE TABLE



George Ruppert:
Clematis



Susan Scotti:
Rhododendron
(Azalea)



Ann Duffey:
Narcissus 'Tahiti'



Mary Garnett:
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
'Hawaiian Sunset'



Ann Kelly:
Rhododendron
'Elsie Lee'



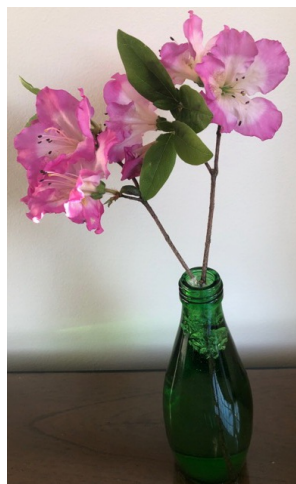
Joelle Hull:
Brassica oleracea
(broccoli in flower)



George Ruppert:
Begonia rex-cultorum



Susan Scotti:
Rhododendron
ferrugineum



Ann Kelly:
Rhododendron
'Martha Hitchcock'



Mary Garnett:
Paeonia lactiflora
'Buckeye Belle'



Janis Gunel:
Juncus effusus
(corkscrew rush)



Susan Scotti: *Salvia*
officinalis (sage)

PHOTO GALLERY



Youth Activities — circa 2004 ? Left to right: **Sherry Foster, Ann Duffey, Alice Conrad, Renee Bayes, Nancy Snell**
Contributed by Renee



Renee Bayes: *Clematis montana* var. *rubens*



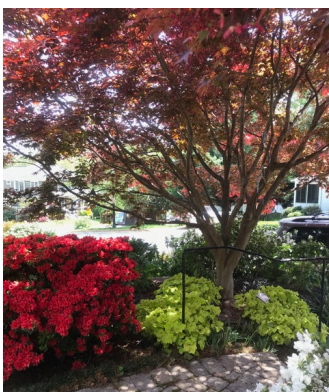
George Ruppert *Clematis*



Thea McGinnis



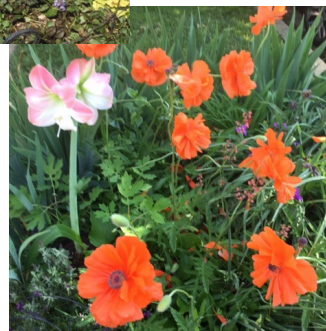
George Ruppert *Clematis* 'Jackmanii'



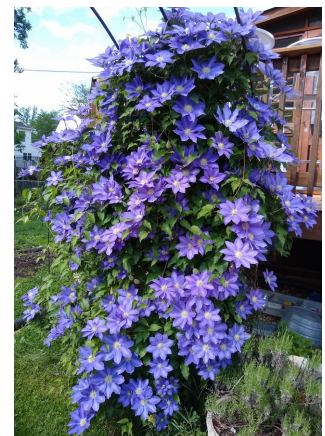
Catherine Jamieson"
Azalea, maple and
Heuchera 'Citronelle'



George Ruppert



George Ruppert: Poppies



Joelle Hull
Clematis 'The President'



Thea McGinnis



Sherry Foster

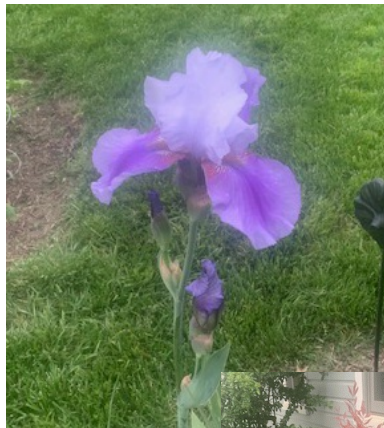


Thea McGinnis

Sherry Foster



Thea McGinnis



Sherry Foster



Sherry Foster



Thea McGinnis



Louise Rhoads: Autumn Fern - *Dryopteris erythrosora* - fronds opening up

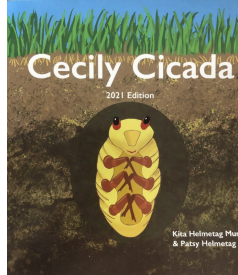


Thea McGinnis

GARDEN THERAPY - May

Dianne Simmons

AnnMarie Fay and Dianne Simmons led the Garden Therapy class on Thursday, May 6th with 8



children from Glebe Elementary School via video. Our program began with the reading of the book, "Cicely Cicada" procured by Susan Scotti and then a short YouTube video on the same subject.

We then spent 15 minutes with the kids as they made mini flower arrangements for Mother's Day. AnnMarie had prepared 8 plastic cup containers with oasis which we dropped off the day before along with cut flowers. The children were very enthusiastic flower arrangers and quite attentive to the segment on cicadas.

This was our last program of the year for the Garden Therapy committee.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond

Here are photos I took earlier this month. The tulips were the best!

Kate Abrahams

