

THE GARDENZETTE



Rock Spring Garden Club
Arlington, Virginia
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, South Atlantic Region, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District

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GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 10:00 am
Little Falls Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA

While our meetings are normally open to the public, our October general meeting is restricted to members who are vaccinated and one guest and/or potential new member who is also vaccinated. All attendees are required to wear masks and to physically distance during our meeting and program. No refreshments will be served. All guests and potential new members must RSVP to rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com in order to attend.



Our program will feature Elizabeth Byers, Senior Scientist with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Conservation, who will be presenting on the "Wildflowers of the Melting Glaciers." Elizabeth has been documenting the alpine flora of Nepal for more than forty-

years, and her presentation will explore the extraordinary adaptations of wildflowers to the extreme environment of the high Himalayas. To learn more, download Wildflowers of Mount Everest, a free plant identification app of the wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that grow on the slopes and trails of Mount Everest.



Meconopsis horridula

President's Message



The advent of autumn for me signals the beginning of a new year. I'm sure this goes back to my childhood when I loved the start of the school year in Illinois in September. In addition, every day seems like a new start as we must be ever adaptable to the dangerous whims of the pandemic. It's kind of like living a medical version of the movie *50 First Dates*.

In the world of plants, autumn signals endings. Most flowers have bloomed and gone to seed. The trees begin to shut down, preparing for the cold months ahead by slowly retracting moisture out of the leaves to store inside the trees' core to protect their branches and for use during the dormant winter period. As the moisture is stripped from the leaves of deciduous trees, the leaves change color. In our area, we can delight in the autumn hues of red, yellow and orange of the maples, birches, oaks, hickories, sumacs, and other trees. The life cycle for the year has ended, but in those beautiful leaf colors we are reminded that it is only that year's cycle of life that is closing. We can anticipate another life cycle beginning in the early spring.

But, there are symbols of beginnings in autumn, too. Those beautiful flowering plants and trees of spring and summer have now produced multitudes of seeds to feed the birds. What the birds don't eat – or what is scattered in their sometimes messy table habits – finds their way to the ground where they will find sustenance in the nutrients of the soil to form new plants and trees. All those acorns from our beautiful oaks are buried and gobbled up by squirrels and chipmunks, and what they forget to find during winter will also start new growth. The thistles have voraciously been eaten by the bees who then go back to their hive for use in making honey that will come later. Yes, the cicadas are gone, but they too left eggs that are now feeding on tree roots to enable their very slow growth over the next sixteen plus years. It's all very remarkable to me, the plant and flower world, for I am a relative newbie to the wonders of the cycles of our natural resources. Many of you have been "studying" and building from these resources for years in your gardens and flower arrangements. And, for that I am grateful because I have learned a lot from you all.

As we enjoy the fall and her harvests, look to your dying plants and trees to inspire elements for arrangements. And, if you need any such material, come to my yard. Rod has taught me that leaving the "dead" stuff is important for continued feeding of the fauna.

We have a lovely program this month on wildflowers in the melting glaciers. And, the design of the month is a Creative Vertical Line Design which the show committee has reminded us involves a restrained use of plant material. I see some tall dried seed pods in our fall creations!

Dianne

Design of the Month

By Anita Brown

For October, the design of the month will be a Creative Vertical Line Design. In general, Creative Line Designs can be vertical, horizontal, curved or a combination of these lines, however, this month's design must have a dominant vertical line, and this is one of the easiest designs to create.



Note the word "creative" as this means using fewer flowers than those in a Traditional Design. There may be one or more points of emergence and multiple focal areas instead of a single focal area. The dominant vertical line could be non-plant material unlike the Traditional Design line which must consist of plant material.

As seen in the pictures from the book *Designing by Types*, Creative Line Designs use non-traditional containers, some of which may contain multiple openings, and each design contains either a strong upward or downward vertical movement.



We had ten lovely designs at our September meeting. Let's aim to increase the number each month!

Next Board Meeting-November 4, 2021 at 10 am

Next General Meeting-November 18, 2021 at 10 am



Budget Report

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

Committee Reports

Horticulture

What's in a Name? Varieties, Cultivars, Hybrids, Patents and Trademarks

By Christine Wegman



Last month I wrote about identifying a plant's genus and species, which is always in Latin and italicized, or underlined if handwritten. This month's article is about the rest of the name, or that part that identifies it more specifically. In botanical nomenclature, we always go from the largest to the smallest, or most specific. Think of the Latin binomial (two-part) name as the family name and the rest as the given name. Varieties and cultivars are all more specific epithets (names) than genus and species.

Varieties are naturally occurring types of plants that will usually come true from seed. Varieties are denoted by listing the genus and species followed by the abbreviation "var." and then the Latin varietal name. For example, the large leaved white false indigo is denoted: *Baptisia alba* var. *macrophylla* (note var. is not italicized).

Cultivars, that is cultivated varieties, are plants produced by selective breeding. They will usually not come true from seed. Most of the ornamental plants in our gardens are cultivars because, over time, plants have been bred for improved hardiness, disease resistance, beauty, etc. New cultivars are officially registered by the breeder through a number of different horticultural organizations. The American Rose Society, for example, is the official registrar for all new rose cultivars. As a general rule, the name of a cultivar is

placed after the genus and species, is enclosed in single quotation marks, and is not italicized or underlined: *Camellia japonica* 'April Blush'.

Hybrids are plants produced by crossing two or more plants, sometimes within the same species, sometimes between two or more different species. There are a few different ways to designate hybrids.

- 1) Hybrids occurring within a single species are usually denoted with the genus and species followed by the plant's specific (cultivar) name, such as *Camellia japonica* 'April Blush'.
- 2) Complex hybrids between two or more species are designated by simply dropping the species name. *Camellia* 'Winter Star', for example, is a hybrid of *Camellia oleifera* and *Camellia hiemalis*.
- 3) In some cases, a hybrid becomes its own species. A good example is the hybrid holly, *Ilex x aquipernyi*. It is a cross between *I. aquifolium* (English holly) and *I. peryi* (Perny holly). The "x" before the species name denotes that it is a hybrid species. The popular Dragon Lady holly is a cultivar of *Ilex x aquipernyi*.



A **plant patent** is government license conferring an exclusive marketing right for twenty years to an inventor who has discovered and asexually reproduced a distinct and new variety of plant, other than a tuber. (There are other types of patents that apply to seed reproduction, and those are used for such things as edible crops and turfgrass.) The first plant patent was granted in 1931 for a rose, and since then, more than 27,000 plant patents have been granted. Generally, plant patents are granted using the official registered name of the cultivar.

A plant **trademark** is a legal monopoly on a name for a particular cultivar, but it is **not** the official name of the cultivar. Trademarks are designated with the symbol TM (™) or a circled R (®). While plant patents are limited to twenty years, trademarks do not have an expiration date. Patents protect the plant; trademarks protect the name. Thus, in theory, even when the patent protection expires, the breeder will still own the marketing name of the plant.

Increasingly, as breeders seek the additional trademark protection for their patented introductions, official cultivar names have become nonsensical. New holly and rose introductions usually have names that begin with the first three letters of the breeders last name. The Dragon Lady holly's official name is 'Meschick', incorporating breeder Kathleen Meserve's last name into the official cultivar name. Dragon Lady is the marketing name. 'Meschick' is not really a name that will catch a potential customer's fancy, so although the patent on this plant expired in 2003, Ms. Meserve still owns the name Dragon Lady. That means, if you want a Dragon Lady holly, you will get the plant that is licensed by Ms. Meserve, however, if you want the actual plant 'Meschick', under any name you might be able to get it a little less expensively.

Let's take as another example, the beautiful rose, Scepter'd Isle, introduced by David Austin in 1996. It is registered with the American Rose Society, under the name, *Rosa* 'Ausland', and this is its official name. Austin applied for and in 1999 was granted a patent for *Rosa* 'Ausland'. He also applied for and was granted a trademark for the name Scepter'd Isle, by which the rose is generally known. Like the Dragon Lady holly, you will probably look for a Scepter'd Isle rose and not an 'Ausland' rose, so David Austin has, in fact, continued to protect his plant even though the patent has expired.

The Missouri Botanical Garden lists this rose as: *Rosa* 'Ausland' SCEPTER'D ISLE. *Rosa*, the genus name is italicized; 'Ausland' the official cultivar name is enclosed in single quotation marks, and SCEPTER'D ISLE, the trademark name is capitalized. There is no official rule about how to designate a trademark name, although they are most often designated in all capital letters. But, since they are not the official cultivar name, they are never enclosed in single quotation marks.

There is no escaping that the world of plant nomenclature is a confusing business. Talk to most nurserymen and they are likely to respond with rolled eyes and complaints. Plant taxonomists, those who group and organize plants into categories, often add to the confusion by retroactively renaming genus and species. A few years ago, most chrysanthemums were renamed *Dendranthema*. Loud cries of anguish went up and the name eventually was changed back to *Chrysanthemum*. In the end, the best way to find the correct botanical name of a plant is to look it up on the internet. Simply enter the search term "botanical name for ..." and you will usually find the answer.



When submitting a horticulture specimen, use this article and its associated article in the September issue of the newsletter for reference on how to complete the entry tag. For more information about horticulture exhibiting, refer to pages 20-23 of the Yearbook.

Senior Outreach

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Field Trip

By Renee Bayes

At the end of September 2021, fellow Rock Spring Garden Club member Dianne Simmons and I joined three Mary Marshall Assisted Living residents, Charles, Martin, and Jorge, plus their director, Katrina, on an outing to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. It was a wonderful day full of lovely and interesting conversations with Charles, Martin and Jorge, and Dianne's fluency in Spanish came in handy so that everyone was included in the rich discussions that were had. The gentlemen all loved being outside, as did we, and they showed great interest in the flowers throughout the gardens. We had a delightful rest period



at the gazebo where we were all intrigued and entertained by the very large and colorful koi fish and the many turtles. We presented Katrina with a gift for her and her baby, and she was truly thrilled, overwhelmed and definitely surprised! It was a beautiful day!

and AnnMarie Fay

Thank you to Renee Bayes and Dianne Simmons for helping to make this a special day, and for stepping in for myself and Mary Kudless as we were both unable to go on the outing due to illness. And a special thanks to all our committee members who generously donated items to present as a gift to Katrina and her soon-to-come baby. What a great group!!!!



Senior Outreach Committee's Schedule of Events

By AnnMarie Fay and Mary Kudless

The Senior Outreach Committee's schedule of events at Mary Marshall Assisted Living (where all the residents are vaccinated) has been drafted, and everyone is welcomed to participate in as many projects as desired. Please note that there is no limit on the number of committee or club members who can sign up, and we can definitely use more hands for the upcoming October 2021 event. The best way to declare your interest is to send an email or reach out by phone to the leader(s) of the project for that month. Below is what has been planned, and advanced thank you to all club members for their generous support of the Senior Outreach Committee's work.

- ⌘ October 27, 2021 – Plant and transplant at Mary Marshall Assisted Living with leaders Julie Wadsworth and Sheila Moore.
- ⌘ November 2021 – Teach hands-on pumpkin floral designs to the interested residents with leader AnnMarie Fay. Date to be announced at a later time.
- ⌘ December 2021 – Holiday Sock and Shampoo Drive to happen in the first two weeks of the month with leader Terry Holmes.
- ⌘ February 2022 – Teach the residents to create winter bird feeders with leader Renee Bayes.
- ⌘ March 2022 – Teach the residents to decorate frames using seasonal materials with leader Janice Haines.
- ⌘ April 2022 – Seed and herb event with the leader(s) to be announced at a later time.
- ⌘ June 2022 – Participate in the final planting in preparation for summer and teach the residents lessons in summer maintenance with the leader(s) to be announced at a later time.

Ways and Means

By Sheila Moore

We will have a Ways and Means sale table at the October 2021 general meeting. Please do not bring any items for this month's sale as we have all that we need for the time being, however, do bring your check book as there will be some dandy items for sale. Just a reminder that any items that do not sell will be donated to the Hospice Thrift Store.

Civic Development/Conservation

By Jo Ella Samp

The Civic Development/Conservation Committee is holding an event at the garden at Rock Spring Park on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Please stop by as anyone who is available is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a general clean up of the garden, as well as the task of labeling the plants with new signs. Please bring your own gloves and tools. Thank you and see you in the garden!

Liaison

Green Spring Gardens is hosting a fall flowers and foliage floral design workshop on October 16, 2021. Enjoy autumn's rich colors and textures by bringing them into your home. Learn how to create a unique, take-home floral design that celebrates the season with the help of professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn tips and tricks of the trade to practice on your own designs at home. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 1:00 pm to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person, plus a \$30 supply fee.

Ayr Hill Garden Club's spring bulb sale continues, and orders can be placed online for pick up on a designated weekend date in October 2021 at the Vienna Farmers Market (see brochure below for details). Other garden related items are also available.



**AYR HILL GARDEN CLUB 2021
ONLINE
SPRING BULB SALE**



(Click on the link below or scan the QR code)
<https://ahgcbulbsale.square.site/>

ORDER YOUR BULBS IN ADVANCE FOR THE BEST SELECTION!!

Bulbs may be picked up at our booth at the
 Vienna Farmers Market
 on Saturday October 16th, 23rd, or 30th from 8am-12pm

Please choose your pick-up day when ordering.

Other garden related items will also be available for purchase at our booth.

Vienna Farmers Market
 120 Cherry Street SE
 Vienna, VA 22180





Garden To Do This Month

By Maryam Zolecki

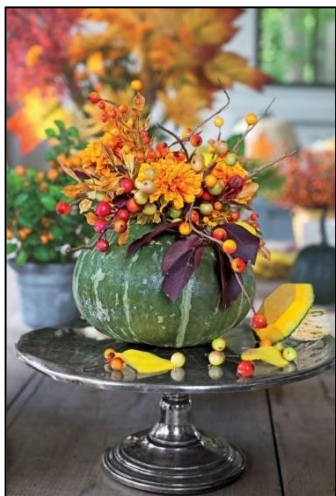
In our transitional climate of zone 7 (not too cold and not too hot), October is a great month to organize and clean our outdoor spaces and to divide and plant perennial.

- * With the first frost date fast approaching, prepare the shed for the storage of all the tools and gear that do not get much use over the winter months and the greenhouse (if you are lucky enough to have one) for the arrival of its winter storage of plants. Start by emptying out the structures of all their material, and then clean and arrange.
- * Toward the end of the month, detach those hoses, turn off the water supply, and drain the rain barrel and leave its valve open to avoid ice damage.
- * This is a good month to divide and transplant spring blooming perennials. Dividing perennials helps tame overgrown plants and helps the garden fill out by reducing overcrowding. It is also a great way to pass along plants to friends and neighbors!
- * Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials early in the month for next year.
- * Build a fire, set up a chair, and enjoy watching the trick-or-treaters from a safe distance with a self-serve candy station in your front yard.



Floral Pumpkin Sale Is Back

By Julie Williams



It is again that wonderful time of the year for our annual floral pumpkin sale! Please mark your calendars for November 22, 2021, and reach out to the co-chairs, Julie Williams and Sheila Moore, to join in on the fun!

As the date indicates, the sale will be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving at the home of club member Mary Lunger. The hours of the sale will be from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm to accommodate working and non-working friends and neighbors. Due to COVID-19 precautions, this year we will make our own pumpkins at home and then deliver them to Mary Lunger's home for the sale.

We hope to have around sixty (60) floral pumpkin arrangements of either a small or medium size, and no large floral pumpkins as we have found in past years that they do not sell well. A few people may make an arrangement in an alternative container, and please let the co-chairs know if you would like to take on this option. We would ask participating members to make two pumpkins, or perhaps three minis for a different centerpiece option. We also need to round up

about a dozen folding tables from members in order to show off our wares (if you do provide tables, please write your name and address taped to the bottom of the table).

Please help us with this fun, creative fundraiser!!! It will help us offset the costs we incurred during the pandemic when our usual fundraising activities were not possible. And as always, your contributions will count as one credit toward the floral design requirement for the year. Many thanks, in advance!



PUMPKIN CARE AND PREPARATION

Purchase your pumpkins prior to Halloween. After Halloween, pumpkins are scarce especially the heirloom varieties which are more artisan in style.

Purchase small to medium sized pumpkins in various colors beyond just orange. There are many varieties that make interesting floral designs. Avoid large pumpkins as they tend to be too heavy.

Keep your pumpkins in a dry, cool, and dark area, such as a basement, screened porch or garage. Some pumpkins also do well in a refrigerator. Keep your pumpkins atop a piece of cardboard to preserve them.

Cut and clean your pumpkins the day before you plan to design. This timeframe will give your pumpkins time to dry out, which will cut down on bacterial growth.

Soak your cut Oasis no longer than 10-15 minutes. Prolonged soaking will cause the Oasis to disintegrate when flower stems are inserted.

DO NOT PLACE SOAKED OASIS INSIDE THE PUMPKIN WITHOUT A CONTAINER!!!!!!

Choose a plastic container that will fit inside your pumpkins. Place soaked Oasis inside the container. Placing the Oasis into a container will prevent a water source inside the pumpkins which causes bacterial growth leading to early pumpkin rot.

CONDITIONING FLOWERS AND GREENS

When purchasing flowers, stay away from drooping floral heads and yellowing leaves.

After purchase, strip all leaves from bottom of stems so there is no foliage that will be below the water line. Foliage below the water line may cause bacteria to form, which will lead to a shortening of life for your flowers.

Recut stems with a clean angle cut (sharp knife or floral scissors) without leaving jagged edges (that could lead to decay). An angled cut will allow a larger surface area for water absorption and prevents the ends of your stems from sitting flat in the container blocking water absorption.

Place flowers and greens into a clean bucket of approximately 4-8 inches of fresh tepid water. Mix 1 package of floral food into the bucket of water to prevent bacterial growth and to give added nutrients to the flowers (floral food can be found at stores where flowers are purchased). Place bucket in a cool, dry area. Give flowers at least 4 hours to hydrate, or ideally overnight. This allows the flowers and greens to "drink".

Do not keep flowers in the refrigerator. A household refrigerator is kept much colder than a florist cooler. Also, in a household refrigerator, most flowers are sensitive to ethylene gas, a gas that fruits and vegetables emit.

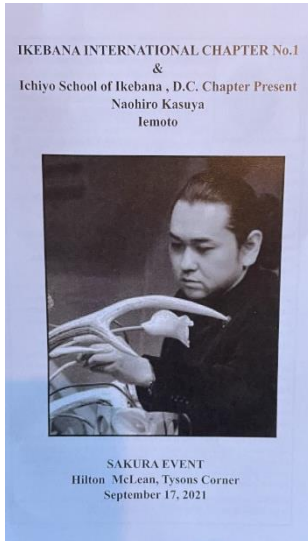
After you have finished your design, lightly mist your arrangement with Crowning Glory. This product can also assist with longevity of your flowers. Crowning Glory can be purchased online or at any whole flower company. RSGC's Ways and Means table usually has this item for purchase.

Flowers to consider for longevity include carnations, chrysanthemums, alstroemeria, cockscomb, succulents, dried pods, zinnias, Asiatic lilies, solidago, orchids, thistles, lisianthus, Queen Anne's lace, sedums, billy balls, dusty miller, proteas and other tropicals-just to name a few. Hydrangeas tend to wilt and roses do not last long.

Flowers may be purchased at florists, farmers markets, and grocery stores, or your own backyard.

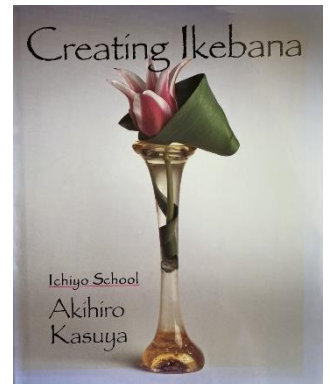
The Art of Ikebana

By AnnMarie Fay



On September 17, 2021, Ikebana International Washington, D.C., Chapter No.1 and the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Ichijo School of Ikebana presented a demonstration by Naohiro Kasuya, Iemoto. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging, and the title Iemoto designates Naohiro Kasuya as a current Grand Master of this time-honored art. Mary Kudless and I attended this beautiful and inspiring event, and we were pleasantly surprised to see some of our Rock Spring Garden Club members in attendance as well, including Robin Fitch and a guest, Julie Williams, and Anita Brown!

The book *Creating Ikebana* by Akihiro Kasuya was written by Naohiro Kasuya's father, and it was gifted to me by fellow club member Charlotte Benjamin who thought I would appreciate having it (I do!). I was very honored to have this unbelievably talented Iemoto sign his father's book.



I was incredibly awestruck by the talent and passion of Naohiro Kasuya, and Mary and I had a very delightful day meeting new and old friends. This fabulous event sparked interest for us in this beautiful art form which is considered "an art of human connection."



For more information about Ikebana, visit the Ikebana International (I.I.) website. I.I. is a worldwide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of Ikebana.

September Meeting Recap

The September 2021 program with May Bernhardt, floral designer and owner of Mayflowers Floral Studio, was an absolute treat! May created three fantastic designs that three lucky club members took home. May provided many tips and information on flower and plant materials and conditioning, tools, and the principles, attributes, and elements of design. May's talent, love for flowers and design, vast knowledge, and expertise were apparent throughout the program.

For the general meeting, club members provided a range of horticulture specimen offerings from their gardens, and the exhibition of the floral designs featuring a Traditional Design with the use of an ornate vase was impressive (see next page). As overheard by one club member, it was a great turnout.



May demonstrating use of curly willow branches (above) and aralia leaves (below).



The three spectacular floral designs by May.





Floral designs from club members at the September general meeting.



Photo Gallery



Fall blooms in the garden include blue balloon flower, mums, aster, Montauk daisies, and hostas.
~Kate Abrahams



This is my dahlia plant from the tubers that were donated by Mayflowers Floral Studio. What a lovely addition to my garden.
~Joyce Fall



Can you find the insect? As I was weeding my overgrown flower garden, I found this amazingly camouflaged insect. A usual inhabitant of the south, its migration to the north may have been due to the storms and hurricanes in Louisiana. It is usually a nocturnal feeder and sure enough, it was gone the next morning. Nature always gives us lots of surprises, if we just are patient with observing.
~Carolyn Barone



A serene path
and tall roses in
the garden.
~Margi Melnick



Statice also known as "everlasting flower", cleome, blue salvia
and inch plant blooming in the front of my home.
~George Ruppert



The garden I planted and maintain at the corner of Military Road and Old Glebe Road in front of the Old Glebe Neighborhood sign. Plants include the purple flowered, tall tatarian asters, the shorter obedient plant or false dragon head, and golden asters.

~Jo Ella Samp



Awhile back, club member Julie Williams shared an article with the editors of the newsletter titled "The Enduring Allure of Passalong Plants" by Steven Bender that was published online in June 2021 on the Southern Living website (<https://bit.ly/3CaG6sr>). In his book, Steven Bender defines passalong plants as those unique and wonderful plants that are not readily found at garden centers or in catalogues, but rather these plants have survived in gardens for decades by being shared with friends, neighbors, and strangers alike from generation to generation. Do you have a passalong plant story?