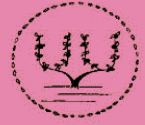


THE GARDENZETTE



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

OFFICERS

President
Dianne Simmons

Vice President
Carolyn Barone

Secretary
Jane Robinson

Treasurer
Sherry Foster

Newsletter Editor
Maryam Zolecki



IN THIS ISSUE

General Meeting Information – 1
President's Message – 1
Design of the Month – 2
Botanical Arts – 2
Committee Reports – 3-4
 Horticulture – 3
 Liaison – 4
Gardening Podcasts – 5
Budget Report – 5
Garden To Do in February – 5
January Meeting Recap – 6
Photo Gallery – 10

ZOOM GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 10:00 am

Our meeting is free and open to the public. Our February 2022 meeting will be held via Zoom, and to join us, please email rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com for the link. Guests and potential new members with an interest in gardening, floral design, horticulture and community service activities are always welcome.

President's Message



We are in the dead of winter, meaning either in the middle of winter or in the throes of winter. Or both. Walking outside today, I was reminded that many plants and trees are actually quite alive: the evergreens, the holly, and hellebores, for example. And then, other trees and plants are sprouting, such as the saucer magnolia, and I'm told, the crocus – if they are facing the south. I love winter, as I've mentioned here before, for various reasons.

And, in the past several years since I've retired and had time to wander and hike, I have loved seeing the landscape of forests. Without the foliage to obstruct one's view, you can see the contours of the earth: the hills, the creeks, the rocks. And, one can see more clearly those species of birds that fly and

Next Board Meeting
March 3, 2022 at 10 am

Next General Meeting
March 17, 2022 at 10 am

perch during the winter. Our neighborhood pileated woodpecker comes around quite often, and the seeds in our feeders are eaten quickly. All this reminds me that the dead of winter is a very alive season.

I am sure that I am not alone in feeling weary with the continuing coursing of COVID-19 in our lives. And the shorter days and frigid weather aren't helpful in getting me going some mornings. However, having a routine does help, and I find that having our monthly meetings of the club – even via Zoom – cheers me up because I get to see friends and talk about our activities. We have to just keep going as best we can, right? In that vein, I am happy we will have our small flower show on March 17, 2022 even if we do not have an in person meeting that day. In the next several days, you will receive an email outlining the rules and logistics of the show, and I encourage everyone to participate. Whether you sign up to make an arrangement for one of the classes or provide horticultural specimens from your garden, please be a part of this. I guarantee it will perk you up, and all of us will learn from what others bring to the show. And if you would like to help set up or take down the show, please let Thea McGinnis or Anita Brown know.

Finally, since we are still physically distancing in the form of conducting this month's meeting via Zoom, we are going to devote our February 17, 2022 meeting to business and then discussion of the flower show. Our presenter slated for this month really cannot demonstrate botanical arts arrangements on Zoom (and we were going to have a concomitant workshop to make our own). So, we will invite her to do a program next year.

Surely, COVID-19 will have been truly and finally contained by then.

Dianne

Design of the Month

By Anita Brown

Arts and crafts are the theme this month, and February's design, Botanical Arts, is intended to showcase one's artistic flair and expertise in design through decorating a hat, a shoe, or a lampshade, or even by creating a small piece of jewelry – all using fresh flowers and/or other fresh plant materials.

NOTE: Given that our February 2022 general meeting will be held via Zoom, I encourage you to try your hand at this month's design, take a picture of it, and submit it to The Gardenzette for inclusion in next month's edition.

What's New in Floral Design?

By Thea McGinnis (originally published November 2019)

This past week, I attended the Piedmont District Judges' Council and met lots of interesting and talented judges from our Piedmont District clubs. Their program focused on Botanical Arts. Cathy Elliott presented all sorts of techniques using alcohol/ink paint to embellish backboards and containers for designs, decoupage, creating mechanics for designs – and so much more. I'm seeing the Botanical Arts inclusion in the New Handbook for Flower Shows as acknowledgement of our desire to express our more creative side.

I really experienced Botanical Arts creativity this past Tuesday when I attended the Virginia State Flower Show Judges' Council workshop presentation with former District III Director, Jane Smith. The workshop was making jewelry using all fresh and dried plant material right from the garden! Yes, having attended the Philadelphia Flower Show as a student judging botanical arts jewelry, I knew it was possible, but I never knew where to start. We braided, cut, trimmed, glued, [and] painted petals and leaves, manipulating plant material in wearable jewelry. Okay, my first foray was a bit lame, but I just jumped into it and had so much fun. In fact, everyone had a blast and we left for home laughing and smiling. Check out the photos below – yes – all plant material plus embellishments and wire. Hint, nail polish really works great and dried hydrangea is a go-to plant for painting petals (gently).



Committee Reports

Horticulture

Staging Horticulture

By Christine Wegman

As many of you know, the Club will host a small standard flower show in March. We hope it will provide all our members with a welcome lift in anticipation of spring, and we hope that as many as possible will bring in horticultural specimens. Below are some general guidelines to help you show your horticulture to best advantage. Many of us will, by early March, be cleaning and prepping our garden beds. We will be spotting early spring blooms, too. A week before our show on March 17, 2022, observe what's blooming and compare with our schedule's classes. Most exhibitors will cut their best specimens the day before the show to condition, and some may cut them early in the morning.

Conditioning and grooming. First, cut all specimens from your garden with a clean, sharp knife or pair of scissors. To condition cuttings, recut the stems and immediately immerse in cold water. Store in a cool, dark place for 12-14 hours. After the cuttings are conditioned, they should be groomed, that is the removal of any dirt, pests or dead material by rinsing or cleaning with a small brush or Q-tip, and pruning with pruners or scissors. Floral preservative is permitted, but do not treat with leaf shine, oil, wax, polish, or dye.

Staging. Cuttings should be staged in clear or transparent green bottles that are appropriate for the size of the cutting and allow the stem to be visible. Stems should be visibly immersed in water and water should reach the top of the bottle. Remove any foliage that is beneath the water line. Only one stem per bottle is allowed. Flowers should be just approaching the peak of bloom and never beyond that point. Wedging of saran wrap, bubble wrap or cotton wool, placed in the top of the bottle, is recommended to hold your plant upright and in the best position for viewing. Boxwood wedging may be used only for daffodils. (The Horticulture Committee has a supply of bubble wrap, if needed. If you need bubble wrap, please come early.)

Here are a few guidelines for some specific types of plants and flowers.

Broadleaf evergreens. Specimens should be symmetrical or balanced in form and have a strong central leader with an apical bud (the bud located at the top of the plant) present. Maximum of 30".

Needled evergreens. Specimens should include several nodes and an apical tip. Maximum of 30".

Narcissus (Daffodils). Place in warm water to open flowers. Corona should be clean. Do not tear or remove the spathe (brown husk at base of flower). Remove any foliage, and foliage can be exhibited only for container grown plants.

Crocus and Muscari. Exhibit without leaves.

Helleborus. Stems respond well to being sealed with a flame or immersing the cut end in boiling water for a few seconds. After treatment, immerse in cool water and let stand for several hours or overnight. Blooms should be peak, with stamens present and pollen fresh and not scattered over the sepals (petals).

Houseplants. Containers must be clean, in proportion to the plant, and should be plain so as not detract from the plants. Double potting is permitted, as long as the inner pot is not visible. (Stone and moss that cover pot soil are helpful in disguising inner pots.) Any stakes should be unobtrusive and not go above the foliage. Minor leaf damage may be trimmed following the leaf's form. Foliage should be healthy and vigorous, and evenly placed along the stem.

Flowering shrubs. Cut branches when flowers are just opening. Maximum of 30". Floral preservative may improve the length of time specimens remain fresh. Excess foliage may be removed to limit conditioning stress. Branches should have symmetrical or balanced form with central leader. Specimens should have more open blooms than buds (two-thirds fully open blooms sufficient for specimens with clusters or sprays of flowers).

Liaison

NGC Flower Show School Course I is scheduled for April 3-5, 2022 at Kenwood Country Club in Bethesda, MD (<https://ncagardenclubs.org/event/flower-show-school-course-1-2/>).

The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) Annual Convention is scheduled for May 1-3, 2022 in Richmond, Virginia.

NCAGC Flower Show is scheduled for April 21-24, 2022 at the US National Arboretum.

Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the biggest and oldest state garden tour, is April 23-30, 2022. Over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful homes and gardens welcome visitors from all over. Famous local gardens include Monticello, Mount Vernon, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Bacon's Castle, and the State Arboretum in Winchester.

NCAGC Judges' Council and District III Present Two Special Workshops

Day of Design Workshops

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Speaker: Betty Ann Galway

Morning Workshop at 9:30 am – 11:30 am on "Traditional Line & Traditional Mass"

Afternoon Workshop at 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm on "Creative Line & Creative Design"

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

3810 Meredith Drive, Fairfax Virginia 22030

\$50.00 fee for each workshop pays for flowers, one container, instruction plus design time with instructor and 2 additional judges

Please contact Anne Stuntz or Chris Getek for registration information.

Gardening Podcasts

Gardening podcasts are free programs that one can subscribe to through applications on their handheld devices (i.e., mobile phones), and in turn listen to advice, insider knowledge, and fun tips on all things gardening. Whether you want to learn more in depth information as an experienced gardener, discover more about the art of gardening as a beginner or just enjoy some lively conversation while you're at work in the garden, on a walk, or driving in your car, there are plenty of podcasts for you. The following podcasts are just a smidgen of the hundreds of broadcasts available out there. Give one of these a try, or find ones that speak to you and your interests.

- **You Bet Your Garden** – Touted as an hour of “chemical-free horticulture hijinks,” this weekly, nationally syndicated broadcast hosted by Mike McGrath is a call-in program that answers listener questions and offers organic advice to gardeners far and wide. Produced in the studios of PBS39 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, it is a humorous and informative program.
- **A Way to Garden** – Hosted by Margaret Roach, this is a weekly public-radio show, from Robin Hood Radio in Sharon, Connecticut, which advertises itself as the smallest NPR station in the nation. At about thirty-minutes long, this program not only gives information, but at times, introduces some unique topics.
- **Two Minutes in the Garden** – Bite-sized (all weekly programs are less than ten-minutes long) and informative, this program provides updates on gardening basics, solutions, myths, news and other subjects of interest to gardeners both new and experienced. This podcast is from the popular Empress of Dirt website, home of creative and frugal ideas for your backyard garden.
- **GardenDC** – Hosted by Kathy Jentz, editor of Washington Gardener Magazine, this podcast is a great choice to learn all about gardening in the greater Washington, DC, and Mid-Atlantic area.



Garden To Do This Month

By Maryam Zolecki

February is a tough month for gardener in our region. After months of being cooped up inside, the desire to go outdoors and play in the dirt is growing, yet it is still a bit too cold to do much productive work in our gardens. For all of the frustration experienced in February, there is some comfort in the knowledge that the first signs of spring are on their way, whether it be daffodils poking through or buds beginning to form on those early flowering shrubs and trees.

- * Replace mulch around any plant crowns that have been exposed by frost heaves. Frost heaves refers to the uplift of water-saturated soil due to expansion on freezing. This can leave plant crowns exposed and vulnerable, and mulching adds the needed layer of protection.
- * Take advantage of warmer, sunnier days to continue pruning trees while they are still dormant.
- * Continue checking your stored bulbs, corms, or tubers to make sure that they are neither rotting nor totally drying out.
- * Try your hand at forcing branches to bloom indoors. Gather branches (forsythia and pussy willow are good candidates), and split the bottoms a few inches for better water uptake. Place prepared branches in a bucket of water in a cooler area of house and out of light, and drape with a plastic bag. Once the buds push off their coverings, remove plastic bag and move the branches to a warmer area of the house and arrange.

Budget Report

Beginning Balance:

Receipts:

Expenses:

Ending Balance:

January Meeting Recap

For the January 2022 general meeting, RSGC returned to Zoom with thirty-five participants. The originally planned program featuring Ikebana designer Yoshie Kurose was not possible via a virtual format, and in lieu of, the participants were treated to the WETA television program, *Flower Empowered*, featuring Sarah Von Pollaro. The video showcased numerous fantastic techniques, and Sarah's accessible design tricks, tips, and techniques are sure to be seen in upcoming club member creations.

Carol Froelich joined RSGC as its fifty-third active member (see Carol's information on the right).

For design and horticulture submissions, club members sent along pictures for inclusion in the newsletter since we were not able to meet in person.



For the January 2022 program, club members watched the WETA television program, *Flower Empowered*, featuring Sarah Von Pollaro. Sarah is the founder of Urban Petals. According to her website, she has been passionate about flowers since she began arranging them with her grandmother as a young girl. Sarah loves giving flowers and inspiring others to do the same and strongly believes that when people create their own floral designs, they tend to smile more, which makes the world a better place. If you missed

the program, check out her February 14, 2014 appearance on local station WJLA where Sarah shared tips on homemade floral arrangements for Valentine's Day (<https://bit.ly/3gimRVb>).

NEW YEAR, NEW MEMBER

Our newest member, Carol Froehlich, joins us with an enthusiastic interest in gardening, whether it be flowers or vegetables. She lives in a condominium high rise in Arlington and has adapted her gardening skills to accommodate this smaller space. She is a former school mental health counselor and continues to volunteer her time in support of the mental health issues of children and young adults. Leisure time finds her practicing guitar and piano. Spending time with her two grandsons is a true joy and she tries to instill in them a love of gardening! She is thrilled to become a member of RSGC and was impressed with the friendliness and welcoming atmosphere, our programs, and the myriad committees available for member participation. She looks forward to meeting members, sharing interests and rolling up her sleeves to join in.

Horticulture "Table"



yellow phalaenopsis orchid
~ Lynda Martin



Viburnum rhytidophyllum 'Cree'
(leatherleaf viburnum with winter buds)
~ Janice Gunel



January's design of the month was a Creative Design that incorporates Asian influence.

This design is simple and uses a minimum number of flowers, and the design is light and airy.

The following were designed and submitted by club members with that in mind.

Norway spruce, red oxide dogwood stems and tree peony pods
~ Kate Abrahams



basic Sogetsu design using edgeworthia plant in winter
~ Anita Brown



Pinus in a Taiwanese vase
~ Anita Brown



Corylus avallena 'Contorta' (Harry Lauder walking stick) and *Zantedeschia rehmannii* (pink calla lily)
~ Dianne Simmons



Lilium and *Spathiphyllum* (peace lily) leaves
~ Joan Hession



king protea, spath, Harry Lauder walking stick & billy balls
~ Sharon Siems



kangaroo paw and mini calla lily
~ Maryam Zolecki



curly willow, calla lily and moss
~ Renee Bayes



three designs with tulips
and *Magnolia grandiflora*
~Thea McGinnis



dried Protea plant and basil
~ Janice Haines



ti plant, curtain
fig, eucalyptus,
palm, and
carnations
~ AnnMarie Fay



astromeria flower, plum
tree branch and dried
money tree branch
~ Carolyn Barone

Photo Gallery



George Ruppert's Indoor Plants



Berries on Evergreens