

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

Field Trip Information – 1
President's Message – 2
Budget Report – 2
Committee Reports – 3-5
 Horticulture – 3
 Senior Outreach – 4
 Garden Therapy – 4
 Liaison – 5
Garden To Do in May – 5
April Meeting Recap – 6
Photo Gallery – 7-9



On May 19, 2022, Rock Spring Garden Club members will be visiting Glen Burnie House and Gardens in Winchester, Virginia, which are part of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. The seven-acre gardens that surround the [Glen Burnie House](#) are both impressive and intimate. RSGC members will meet at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church at 9:45 am and form carpools to depart at 10:00 am. Estimated time of arrival will be 11:15 am, and the field trip includes a guided tour of the house and gardens. An optional box lunch will be offered for \$15.00 (chicken or tuna sandwich). Email Jody Goulden for additional information and to sign up.

Glen Burnie House and Gardens
at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
901 Amherst Street, Winchester, Va.

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Meet at 9:45 am at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church to form carpools
Departure at 10 am
11:15 am arrival at the house and gardens
11:30 am guided tour
12:15 pm optional box lunch for \$15.00 or bring your own

Members may remain to continue their visit of the museum and grounds and leave as their carpool determines.

President's Message



About the only good thing of our last two days of lousy weather is that our plants and tree are now well-watered. It also seems greener outside; foliage is bursting out.

Happy Mother's Day to all of you. Even those of you who did not rear children have no doubt provided motherly and mentoring care to friends, nieces and nephews and your parents in their later years.

We are nearing the end of our garden club year with two great "programs" in May and June – our field trip on May 19th and our members' garden tour June 9th. I hope to see all of you at one and/or the other.

As I review all the renewals for next year, I believe we are still in good shape. Some have gone sustaining, another is now an emeritus member and two have decided not to renew. We also welcomed about 5 new members, and two women have gotten in touch about joining both of which may be with us for our field trip. All this being said, we have about 39 active members. Thus, I will welcome your participation in inviting friends to come join us as we celebrate our 70th anniversary as a club next year. I'd also appreciate your suggestions on ways to publicize our club and encourage prospective members.

To spur a membership drive, I plan to hold a New Members Welcome tea in mid-September to which all of you will be invited as well as friends who you think would enjoy being part of our club – men and women who like to garden, arrange flowers, study horticulture, etc. We have a lot to offer as a club but also will benefit from the knowledge and enthusiasm of others. By the end of summer, I will have a refurbished kitchen, and the deck will have received a much-needed facelift for me to feel comfortable welcoming you all. Eleven years

ago, when Margaret Eubanks invited me to a meeting, I hesitated, knowing how little I knew about gardening. But, at that first meeting, I felt so welcomed and energized being with you all that I just had to come back. I know first-hand what it's like to be newly retired with my son now on his own – the perplexing feeling of "what do I want to do now" with my life. I have learned so much, made some good new friends and even merrily make flower arrangements and bring in horticulture samples. I know there are many women and men who are now looking to expand their horizons.

Finally, if I haven't conveyed this well enough this year, I want to thank you all for making my first-year tenure as president a delightful one. I am grateful for all the work and participation you all contribute and especially for the fellowship you provide to each other, our club and our community. It is a real joy to be part of Rock Spring Garden Club.

Dianne

Budget Report

Beginning Balance:
Receipts:
Expenses:
Ending Balance:

Next Board Meeting – June 2, 2022 at 10 am

No General Meeting Next Month

In lieu of the June 2022 general meeting, club members will participate in a member garden tour on June 9, 2022.

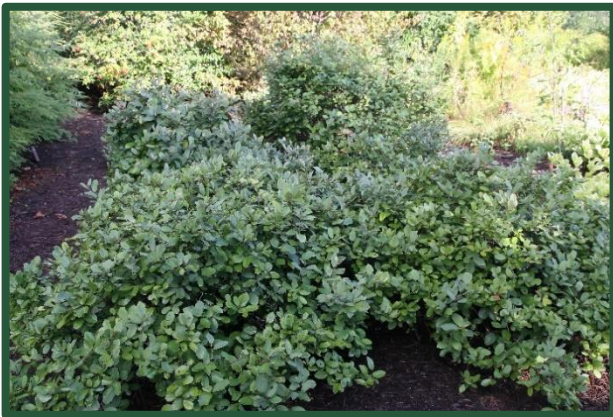
Committee Reports

Horticulture

Fothergilla, A Trouble-Free Native Shrub

By Christine Wegman

Fothergilla, sometimes called Witch Alder, is a beautiful ornamental shrub that is worth growing in any size garden. Extolled in horticulture articles for its spring blossoms and its eye-catching fall color, I would grow it for its compact form and lovely blue-green foliage only. It thrives in sun and makes a perfect foil to just about any flower grown nearby.



There are two species of *Fothergilla*, one native to the Southeast Appalachian mountains and one native to the Southeastern coastal plain. ***Fothergilla gardenii***, dwarf fothergilla, is the coastal plain native and as one would expect, it is a suckering shrub that likes sandy, well-drained soil. It grows 3 to 4 feet high with an indefinite spread, but can be easily controlled by cutting back any suckering branches in spring. The leaves turn a beautiful shade of dark blue-green in full sun, and in fall, turn shades of yellow and bronze. It has pretty, slightly fragrant, white bottle-brush flowers in late April.

Fothergilla major, large fothergilla, the mountain native, grows 6 to 9 feet tall and almost as wide. It is found naturally in part shade environments near streams. It has fragrant, white bottle-brush flowers in spring. Its foliage does not have the strong blue cast of dwarf fothergilla, but in fall, its leaves turn brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow.

Fothergilla is an easy plant to grow. It is adaptable to full sun or part shade. It needs good sun to achieve its best foliage color, both its blue summer hues and its brilliant fall colors. It is not bothered by disease or pests, and requires little maintenance other than an occasional shaping. It has two requirements, however, that must be met: it needs acidic soil, which is easy to provide in our area, and it is not drought tolerant.

If you have the room, *Fothergilla* makes a beautiful mass planting. I have seen a group of about a dozen *Fothergilla* x *intermedia* 'Mt. Airy' in front of a short wall that was really eye-catching because of its striking blue-green foliage.



There are three cultivars of fothergilla readily available on the market.

Fothergilla gardenia 'Blue Mist' (pictured above left) is a strongly suckering shrub with rich glaucous blue foliage. It is not a strong grower in our area because it is not especially tolerant of hot summers.

Fothergilla x intermedia 'Mt. Airy' (pictured in its fall foliage) is a naturally occurring cross between *F. gardinii* and *F. major* that was discovered in the Mt. Airy Arboretum in Cincinnati, Ohio and introduced into commerce by renowned plantsman Michael Dirr. It has the best characteristics of both parents, that is, smaller size, beautiful blue-green summer foliage and brilliant autumn color. It has been readily available for many years and has stood the test of time. It grows about 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

Fothergilla x intermedia 'Blue Shadow' (pictured right) is sport of *F.* 'Mt. Airy' introduced by the Handy Nursery in Boring, Oregon. It is similar to *F.* 'Mt. Airy' with slighter bluer foliage. I have both 'Mt. Airy' and 'Blue Shadow' in my garden and can't really tell the difference. Both are entirely reliable, disease and pest free, beautiful plants.



Senior Outreach

Celebrating Spring at Mary Marshall

By Renee Bayes



The Senior Outreach Committee met on May 13, 2022 with the residents of Mary Marshall Assisted Living. The Committee arrived with flowers, greens, vases, and floral scissors. Committee members were met by twelve very enthusiastic residents ready to design their spring bouquets. The residents made beautiful arrangements for their rooms and extra designs to decorate the common areas of the facility for their Easter celebration. Committee members taking part included

April Activity Chairperson Janice Haines, Renee Bayes, Ann Kelly, Sharon Siems, Dianne Simmons, Helen McMahan, Julie Wadsworth, and Senior Outreach Co-Chair Mary Kudless.

The Committee is planning to return to Mary Marshall on May 25, 2022 at 1:00 pm to assist with installing planter boxes filled with summer annuals on the railings of the facility's outdoor deck. Cherry tomatoes, basil, and other herbs will be planted in the "chef's kitchen garden." Last year's plantings supplied fresh ingredients that the chef used for the residents' meals throughout the summer months. As the photographs show, the residents and the committee members enjoyed their afternoon together with beautiful designs, and lots of smiles.



Garden Therapy

By Susan Scotti

The Garden Therapy committee cancelled the program of making Mother's Day arrangements with the Glebe Elementary School preschool class. Unfortunately, the teacher learned the day before that one of her students had COVID-19 and some in the class were close contacts. Hoping next year will be different.

Liaison

The Great Falls Garden Club is hosting a garden tour on June 4, 2022 from 10 am to 3 pm. It will include 8 gardens all located in Great Falls, Virginia ranging from a large cutting garden to a fabulously landscaped five-acre property with hundreds of perennials, a small orchard, and a “secret garden” backyard with a waterfall and koi pond. You will also get to tour Chef Jacques' vegetable gardens and see where the tomatoes are grown for L'Auberge Chez Francois' favorite tomato salad. And this is just three of the 8 locations! Proceeds from the tour will go toward caring for and beautifying the Great Falls Library gardens and meadow, and to fund horticulture related local scholarships. Please use this link for tickets (\$30) and to learn for more details about the day's events:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-falls-garden-tour-tickets-295387220127>

Green Spring's annual Spring Garden Day—The Big Plant Sale, will take place from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Local garden vendors descend on Green Spring Gardens with beautiful and unusual plants to fill your spring gardening needs. Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with plant selection and offer gardening advice and the always popular FROGS Bake Sale will tempt you with treats. Proceeds help to support Green Spring Gardens.



Garden To Do This Month

By Maryam Zolecki

May is a busy time in the garden since the temperature is predictable enough to put in those plants that would otherwise be susceptible to frost damage. May is also a time when most of the perennial plants are beginning to bloom, so also remember to sit back and enjoy those early colors.

- * Most spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, have finished flowering. Clip away the dead flower stalks, but leave the foliage in place until it dries naturally. This allows the plant to build up strength for next year's blooms.
- * Meanwhile, it's a great time to plant summer-flowering bulbs such as dahlia, gladiolus, canna, tuberous begonia, calla, and caladium. The taller plants, such as dahlias, require a stake or support to keep them from toppling. Install supports when you plant the bulbs (careful not to damage them) so you can train the plants as they grow.
- * It's also a good time to get certain vegetables into the garden. Now that nighttime temperatures consistently stay above 55 degrees Fahrenheit, plant tomatoes, beans, and other warm season vegetables.
- * Brighten porches, patios, and pergolas with a generous helping of flowering hanging baskets and planter boxes.
- * Enjoy those just right warm afternoons in the garden with a glass of something cool and refreshing.

April Meeting Recap

For the April 2022 program, RSGC club members were treated to all things honeybees with speaker Brad Garmon who is the owner and chief apiarist of Commonwealth Bee Company in Arlington, Virginia. Lots of good and informative facts and practices were passed along to help us with being good friends to honeybees (and other pollinators). The best things we can do as gardeners are to plant native perennials, avoid planting sterile flowers, and stop buying seeds, plants, and products with neonicotinoids.

For the April meeting, club members were able to meet in person again, and we enjoyed each other's company over lunch for the first time in a long time. And, new club members Sandy Wade and Carol Froehlich were officially welcomed in person.

This month, the horticulture specimens were impressive as usual. For design of the month, club members tried their hands at creating an Angular Design. From the looks of the designs, it seems everyone got it just right.



Thank you to AnnMarie Fay and the host committee for a charming lunch. →



What kind of bee can't make up its mind? A maybe.

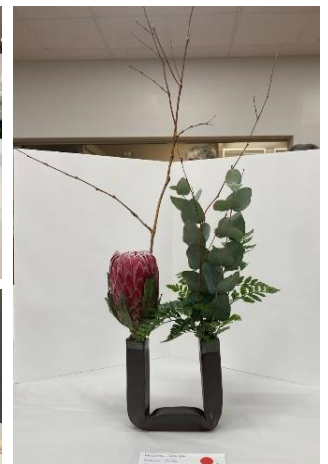


Photo Gallery



Maryam Zolecki visited the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea Collections where every spring thousands of azaleas cover the flanks of Mount Hamilton in a blaze of color.



Tulips, orchids, and a red maple enjoyed on a recent visit by Renee Bayes to Hillwood Gardens in Washington, D.C.



George Ruppert's poppy flowers.



Renee Bayes' clematis vine.



Carolyn Barone's serene backyard patio which most recently was the scene of a "Monday morning escape" and respite.



The American Daffodil Society held their 2022 National Daffodil Convention in Gettysburg, PA. Anita Brown, Connie Richards and Thea McGinnis served as clerks for the Spring Daffodil Show - and earned some ribbons.





NCAGC held its flower show in April 2022 at the US National Arboretum. Pictured are award winning horticulture, youth botanical art shoe decorations, and Betty Ann Galway's tornado design. Many RSGC members were part of the show committee and provided horticulture and design entries.