

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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Maryam Zolecki

VICE PRESIDENT

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General Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2023 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207



Welcome Back! We kick off the new garden club year with NGC Master Judge and award winning floral designer, Betty Ann Galway. Betty will take us on a journey to explore NGC designs for our future flower show.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maryam Zolecki

September brings back the rhythm and routines of family life in my household after a summer of laissez-faire schedules and plans. These past few years, Rock Spring Garden Club has joined the happenings that I welcome back into my life in September, and with that, I welcome you all to another club year! There are lots of great programs and activities planned for this upcoming year, and they are all guaranteed to educate, inspire, and appeal in their own way.

A new project for our club will be the TREX recycling program, and I encourage all club members to save plastic bags from the store, your pantry, and/or deliveries and bring them to the September meeting for collection and recycling. Our goal for this club year is to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic bags, and not only will we be helping in keeping thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills and our waterways, but also earning a bench in the process. So, bring your plastic bags to the upcoming general meeting and I will have more information for you then to get this project started and make it successful.

This month's general meeting will start out a bit differently in that we will jump right into the program, which will feature the wonderful and talented Betty Ann Galway who will talk flower

shows and floral design planning and she will demonstrate several designs that will be showcased in our May 2024 flower show. Our remaining general meetings will then return to our typical format of business first before the program, but **a bit of a change will be the move from sit-down luncheons to pre and during meeting snacks and coffee**, so do come a little earlier than our start time to mingle and catch up with your garden club buddies. Additionally, if you are planning to display a design and/or a horticulture specimen or two, the committees ask that you **arrive no later than 9:45 am** to make sure someone can assist you in the process.

As with any return, it will always feel like a bit of an information overload at the onset before settling in. Throughout the summer and at our September board meeting, the chairs and officers worked through lots of information in order to get us back into the rhythm and routines of the club year, and I want to thank each and every one of them for their dedication, adaptability, and thoughtfulness. I am definitely ready to settle in, and very much looking forward to another great garden club year.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday October 5, 2023

Budget Report

Summary for previous club year

Funds: June 1, 2022: \$27,475

Revenue: \$8,487

Expenses: (\$12,708)

Net: (\$4,221)

Funds: May 31, 2023: \$23,254

DESIGN OF THE MONTH:

By Connie Richards

PLEASE DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S MEETING!!!

Our program presenter will be Betty Ann Galway, a fabulous floral arranger and teacher. She will be demonstrating the arrangements that will be included in the **Design of the Month** and our **Flower Show** in May. This month's design will be a Grouped Mass Design. The Flower Show Handbook has the following description.

- Grouped Mass Design - A mass design of only plant material with radial placement.
- Like material is grouped and placed next to other different grouped like material.
- Additional plant material may be included, but the proportion of groupings dominate the design.
- Plant material emanates from one (1) point of emergence.

Keep in mind the Principles, Attributes and Elements of Design, which can be found in the Flower Show Handbook and the 2023-2024 Yearbook on page 27.

Notice that in the pictured design there is a problem with Balance. As they say, "Do as I say, not as I do."

Great News! You can now download the Flower Show Handbook. Go to <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>.

Always feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the monthly design.



HORTICULTURE

By Christine Wegman

September Flowers

September is one of the best times for the gardener. The winter is still some months away, but the weather is getting a bit cooler, and that change encourages the flowers that don't like the heat of our summers to bloom for the first time or even to rebloom.

While some crape myrtles have faded, others are reaching their peak bloom. Right now the panicle hydrangeas (*Hydrangea*

paniculata) are still making a show. These are the latest blooming of the hydrangeas, and include 'PeeGee', 'Limelight', 'Quick Fire', and many other cultivars, including a new compact form called 'Bobo', pictured above. They all have white, mop head type blooms and some varieties fade to pink, others to lime green as they edge. Hydrangeas vary in their sun/shade requirements, but all require consistent moisture. If the plants start to droop, give them some water. Panicle hydrangeas bloom on new growth and should be pruned in late winter or early spring. They can be pruned back to about 8 inches, which makes them manageable for smaller gardens. After the blooms fade, you can cut them off or leave them through the winter, but it is better not to do any serious pruning until spring because it will encourage your plants to put out new growth that will be damaged by frost.



There are a lot of September perennials and a few bulbs and tubers. Alstromeria, or Peruvian Lily, will rebloom as the weather gets cooler. We are all familiar with these beautiful flowers, but they are not usually grown in our area. Plant Delights Nursery offers a few types of Alstromeria that will grow here. They suggest you get the shorter varieties for the best garden show. Lycoris make their appearance this time of year. The most common of these are the pink resurrection lilies (*Lycoris squamigera*), but there are many more, with red (pictured),

yellow, white, and even purple, and they make quite a show in large clumps. Dahlias are still looking beautiful and will bloom until the first frost. Although the tubers are not hardy in Northern Virginia, they can be lifted and stored in a cool, dry place until spring.



Among perennials, asters and chrysanthemums are the mainstay of the late summer and fall garden, while rudbeckia and goldenrod add depth of color to any garden. Asters and chrysanthemums are short-day plants, which means that they must get less than 12 hours of sun a day in order to form flowers. I had some chrysanthemums in what I thought was a prime location in front of the house, but they didn't bloom. It turned out they were too close to the street light and it never got dark enough for them to set buds. There are dozens of cultivars of each of these perennials, and many asters are North American natives. Most of our native asters -- the New England asters -- have been reclassified as *Symphyotricum*, but despite their unfamiliar name, they are still the same

plants. (If you are bringing asters in for the horticulture table, you will need to look up the correct botanical name.) Asters come in virtually any shade of pink and purple, as well as white, and these are welcome colors to provide a contrast to turning leaves. They can be as tall as 3 feet or as short as 6 inches, so there is usually a place for them in a sunny garden. Asters multiply freely when they are happy and are easy to divide in the spring.

Chrysanthemums bloom a little later than asters and their form and color range is greater than asters. Chrysanthemums come in vivid shades of lime green, red, yellow and orange, as well as pink, purple and white. There are a plethora of flower forms -- spider, anemone, pompon and quill are just a few. Chrysanthemums have a special place in Japanese culture, where they are featured on the Imperial crest, and where the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum is the highest honor that an individual can achieve.

The ubiquitous mums that we see in every garden center and grocery store this time of the year are truly the poor cousins of the glorious florist chrysanthemums, but for all their lack of sophistication, they are so pretty in any garden as the autumn approaches, it's hard to resist buying a few.

Senior Outreach Committee
by Ann Marie Fay and Mary Kudless

Senior Outreach Committee Creates Summer Beauty

In June, the Senior Outreach Committee wrapped up a busy and productive year working with the residents of the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Facility with a planting with the potential to endure and thrive in the hot summer months.

The railing planters got a patriotic treatment with red geraniums, blue salvia and white petunias and small American flags. These planters are on the deck which borders the busy day room that many of the residents frequent. Several of the residents helped us rapidly plant under a stormy sky. The flowers have brought color and fragrance and have been enjoyed all summer.

In the courtyard below, members planted cherry tomatoes and herbs with several residents. The facility's chef has made great use of this produce throughout the summer. It is a sunny location, so we left behind instructions regarding proper watering and provided an inexpensive moisture meter to assist their efforts.

Subsequent to the planting, the co-chairs met with the Executive Director and the Therapeutic Recreational Director to seek evaluative feedback regarding our programs for the 2022-2023



year and to do some basic planning for the 2023-2024 year. This information was shared with the incoming committee at our first organizational meeting on September 6 and is forming the basis for our future projects and activities.

We want to thank all of the 2022/23 members who brought their creativity, talents and time to the deserving seniors at Mary Marshall last year and welcome those who are joining us in the new club year.



Ways and Means By Margi Melnick

The committee is looking forward to raising money through our sales to help the club. We have a few changes concerning its operation. Items will be available for sale for two meetings, so you do not need to take your donation home after one meeting, should it not sell. The committee will price the items. So please bring in flower magazines and books, plus floral vases as well. Tools of the Trade – clippers, weeders, garden gloves, wire, and of course, oasis, will be for sale at our table. So bring and buy! We are here to serve you!



A visitor to Carolyn Barone's garden

Conservation/Civic Development By Kate Abrahams

The committee has worked hard weeding, planting, and mulching in the Rock Spring Park flower beds in the past few months. The coleus and marigolds are really beautiful!





Wollerton Old Hall Garden

By Sandy Wade

Deep in the north Shropshire countryside of England, near the small town of Market Drayton, is a truly magnificent private garden called Wollerton. It covers four acres of formerly fallow fields and was designed by the current owners of a 16th century manor house that sits at the entry of the garden. While the house is not open to visitors, the award-winning garden is open throughout the gardening season. The garden reveals itself in a series of several dozen interconnecting rooms full of roses, delphiniums, phlox, and other perennials. Various sections of the garden focus on statuary, water features, container plantings, and clipped hedges. One of the gardeners working in the garden on the day of our visit noted that instead of potting soil, only compost is used in the planters. The results are spectacular! Near the entrance of the garden are a tearoom and a small nursery with plants for sale. Wollerton Old Hall Garden is a feast for the senses and well worth a visit if traveling in England.





Attention All Dahlia Lovers

By Connie Richards



The National Capital Dahlia Society Annual Flower Show is Saturday, September 23, 2pm -5 pm and Sunday September 24, 9am – 3 pm at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallen Ave, Silver Spring, MD. The show is open to all to enter blooms or designs. You need to register in advance to enter a design.

The show will feature

- 1000+ dahlia blooms including design and photography sections
- Information on growing dahlias
- A bloom sale at 3pm on Sunday. Prices range from \$1 - \$5 depending on size and number of blooms.

Visit the website:

<https://www.nationalcapitaldahlia.org>

or the Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/Nationalcapitaldahlia
[iasociety](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Nationalcapitaldahlia).

Plus you get to enjoy Brookside Gardens one of the premier sites for garden lovers in the DC area.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want the Design Schedule forwarded to you.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

From Joan Hession

A warm hug for all the cards, food, and flowers to each of you. It has been a tremendous help in handling the death of my husband, Paul. Our sons split the first two weeks staying with me and they have gotten me back together. We are planning a Memorial Service for Paul in October. This club is made up of kind, caring members. Thank you!

PHOTO GALLERY

From the June meeting and member garden tour featuring the gardens of AnnMarie Fay and Sandy Wade and the Rock Spring Park plot maintained by the Club







From Renee Bayes:



Dove nesting in a porch chandelier



**Sunflower Fields at Burnside Farm,
Nokesville VA**

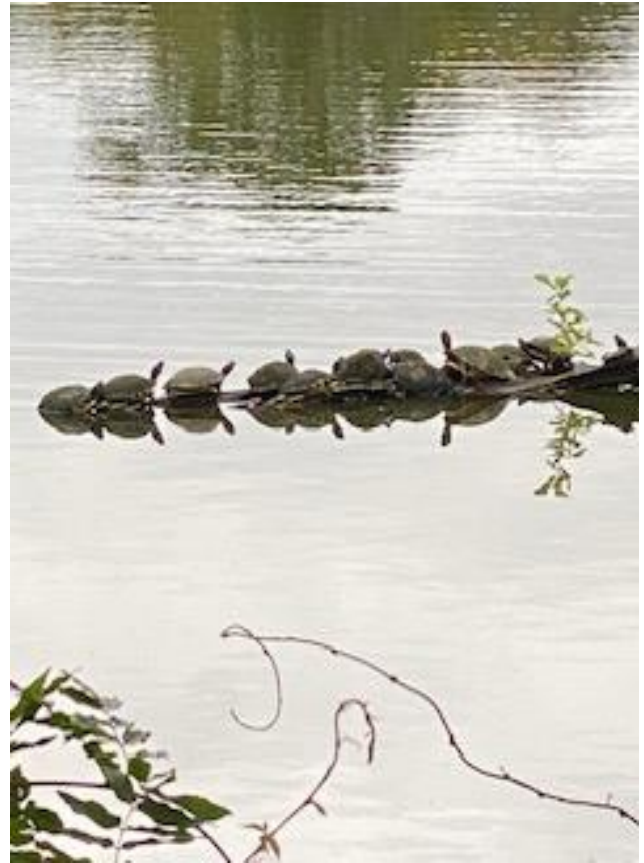


Orchid that lived outside all summer

From Pat Getz:

Airlie Garden

Wilmington, NC



From Kate Abrahams

Exhibits at the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair



