

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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Field Trip to Grateful Gardeners Farm

17240 Edwards Ferry Road

Poolesville MD 20837

Thursday October 19, 2023



We had a very interesting program last year via Zoom with the owners of Grateful Gardeners, an enterprise that is using innovative processes to grow herbs and flowers. Now we will get to see how aquaponics actually works! There will also be the opportunity to buy some of their products. The last we heard they had grown over 1500 dahlias.

Our tour begins at 10:30 and should last about an hour. We have arranged for a room to be reserved for us at Locals, a farm to table restaurant in Poolesville. Some members have eaten there in the past and found it both charming and delicious! We can buy our meals individually and eat together. Twenty people have signed up for the trip, but you are welcome to join us if you haven't. You may also bring a guest, especially if you have a friend who might be interested in joining our garden club.

It is an easy drive; plan on driving an hour or less. Let Connie Richards know via email if you need a ride as several people have indicated they have room in their cars.

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President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

As I sit to write this, I am looking out the window of my office which inevitably always puts a smile on my face. There are a number of mature trees in my sightline, and one of those trees appears to be perpetually waving to me with its hundreds of leaves as they move with the breeze. It's an amusing sight and a good reminder to be present and grateful for the good things in life. Our club is a good thing as it educates through our monthly programs and flower show opportunities, provides outreach to varied groups in our community, and creates lifelong bonds for members. This month, a few

of our members will participate in a couple of community outreach projects, and the pumpkin floral design committee has been busy planning a successful fundraiser. Our field trip to Grateful Gardeners farm is all set, and I do hope most of us can take advantage of this great field trip and bring a friend along if you wish. The committees have been busy with planning to launch all their great programs, and a special note of gratitude to the Ways & Means Committee for its spectacular success last month thanks to all of you and the hard work of the committee members.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday November 2, 2023 4:30 pm

Attendance options are via Zoom or in-person at Dianne Simmons' home

September 2023 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$22,843.98

Revenue: \$378.00

Expenses: (\$1,377.05)

Net: (\$999.05)

Ending Balance: \$21,844.93

Services for Paul Hession

Please join the Hession Family to celebrate the life of Paul Hession on October 20, 2023. There will be a Memorial Service at St John the Beloved in McLean at 11:00 am and a Celebration of Life at Hilton Garden Inn in Falls Church at 12:30 pm. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Joan Hession.

Youth Activities

By Lynda Martin

The Youth Activities program at Tuckahoe School had planned on planting pansies and mums in the school garden, but due to inclement weather, we regrouped and had the children plant the flowers in pots to take home. We discussed how to plant and care for the flowers and encouraged questions from the children. We also discussed how earthworms and some insects are beneficial to the soil. Each child was given a plant to repot from the cell pack. The children were taught how to replant the flowers and to water them when they took them home to their own gardens. Everyone seemed to be happy to have a rainy-day project. Volunteers present from the garden club were Joyce Fall, Pat Getz, Lynda Martin, and Susan Scotti.



Ways and Means

By Margi Melnick

Thanks to you, Garden Club members, the Ways and Means table grossed over \$300 for our club treasury. Thank you for donating items that were very saleable, and to Julie Wadsworth, who handled Tools of the Trade. In November, we will be featuring items suitable for the holidays, as well as the regular gardening materials. Please let me know if there is anything special that you would like Ways and Means to offer.

Membership and Publicity

By Tina Foutz

We always want to add to our amazing club and spread the news of our great activities. We are planning to list the meetings on ARLNow and Patch. Farmers market non-profit tables and festival participation in the spring are also being explored. We also look forward to submitting stories to VFGC and NCAGC publications. Of course you can always bring guests to our monthly meetings and post items as a member of our Facebook page, but we are also exploring where we can post signs or add to publications of other organizations in which you are involved. Please contact me to advise of locations or contact information for regular or one time publications.

Floral Pumpkin Sale on November 21

By Dianne Simmons

We will hold a floral pumpkin sale November 21st at the corner of N. Glebe Rd. and N. 26th Street (in the St. Mary's parking lot) from 2:00-5:00 PM. Imelda Rowe and I, co-chairs, hope for a hearty club participation in what will be our single fundraiser this year – to help build up our waning budget. I will hold a workshop, Sunday, November 19th 1:00-4:00 PM for any and all who would like to “party” while we create. In order to assure that we have enough arrangements to raise a significant amount of money (\$3000+), I ask you to send Imelda and me an email BEFORE November 1st to let us know how many arrangements you will make, whether you will come to the workshop party, and also if you can provide a folding table and help us on sale day. A member has offered tents in case it rains. In order to maximize our sales, we ask you to notify friends and family of our fundraiser. And, after November 1st, we will provide a means to order arrangements ahead of time.

A few tips for making the floral arrangements:

Buy your pumpkins (small and medium size only) before Halloween. Store them in a cool dry place.

Cut the top off wide enough for your arrangement and clean out pumpkin of all seeds and pulp. (Note: please do this before you come to the workshop, too.)

After soaking oasis, fit it into a plastic cup and insert into the pumpkin.

Condition your flowers a day ahead and use plenty of greens.

Transport your pumpkin(s) in a box, which we can give to the buyers to put into their cars.

November 19th workshop: Please bring some flowers and greens. I will have more of both as well.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Below is a grouped mass pumpkin floral design made by Betty Ann Galway at our September general meeting.



HORTICULTURE

By Christine Wegman

Small Native Trees with Good Fall Color

We are fortunate in Eastern North America to have many beautiful native trees and shrubs, many of which have outstanding fall color. Although fall foliage is usually an after-thought when designing a garden, it is worth giving more consideration, not only because it extends the garden season, but also because it makes a beautiful display that no other season can match.



Admittedly, the fall foliage display is fleeting, but so are some of the treasured moments of early spring: the cherry blossoms, the miniature iris, or the gorgeous display of tree peonies. So, it is worth thinking about fall display when choosing just the right tree for a particular spot. Ideally, a combination of rich reds, burnt oranges and golden yellows will make the most felicitous picture, but all these colors go well together. Add in some chrysanthemums, and this can be the best season for the garden.

Dogwoods. I admit that these are just about my very favorite trees (along with crape myrtles). But there is a reason that our native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), pictured at left, is beloved by so many. Quite simply, it always looks good. It has no down time. It is

beautiful in flower, it is lovely in leaf, it is stunning in fall foliage, and its graceful winter silhouette can be the focal point of any garden. Fall foliage starts out a bit greenish-red and a bit muddy looking, but with a bit of cold weather, it matures to a beautiful rich, dark red.

Eastern Redbud. Another particular favorite of most gardeners in our area is the Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), pictured at right. Although not usually as long-lived as the dogwood, and more disease prone, it is worth planting in any small to medium sized garden. Redbuds turn a brilliant yellow in autumn. New



varieties sport purple leaves, fading to yellowish green, then finally turning yellow at the end of the season.



Serviceberry. A much under-appreciated small (to 20 feet) native, the serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*) has pretty little white flowers on bare stems in spring, bright red fruits in summer, and bright reddish-orange leaves in fall. This adaptable tree can be grown as a multi-branched large shrub, or single-stemmed small tree and its graceful form looks lovely in a small garden. Its adaptability to most soil and site conditions makes it a good choice for almost any garden. 'Autumn Brilliance', pictured at left, as its name suggests, is noted for its beautiful red fall color.

Witch hazel. Witch hazels are popular for their late winter blossoms

in shades of yellow and burnt orange. There are both Asian and native Eastern North American (*Hamamelis virginiana*) varieties that produce welcome February flowers. Witch hazels, pictured at right, are another plant that is well-suited to small gardens. It grows as a small multi-stemmed tree, and is easily espaliered along a fence or wall. Although usually grown only for its winter bloom, it gives the gardener a second, brief, display of brilliant red at the end of the year.



Although not strictly the subject of this article, a few small conifers placed near trees with beautiful fall foliage will go a long way to enhance the look of any garden in autumn. As most deciduous plants are beginning to look a bit spent, conifers really come into their own, looking bright and un-weathered, as shown in the illustration at left.

Fall foliage in Virginia will never be quite as brilliant as the displays achieved in New England, and this is because our autumn temperatures do not have the cold crispness of zones farther north. And temperature is not the only variable upon which good

autumn color depends. Water is also important. If trees experience a late summer drought, they will simply turn brown in fall and not reward the viewer with a final show. In years of late summer drought, it is always a good idea to water the garden, and especially necessary if you are hoping for an extended show of color in October.

Liaison Report: Upcoming Events

By Tina Foutz

10/13-14/2023 NGC Environmental School Course 3 via Zoom

10/16/2023 VFGC Piedmont District Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton, Richmond

**10/19/2023 RSGC, No monthly meeting - Field Trip to Grateful Gardeners Flower Farm,
Poolesville, MD**

10/23-25/2023 CAR-SGC Conference, Corning, NY

10/25-27/2023 NGC Landscape Design School Course 1 via Zoom

10/28-29/2023 Chrysanthemum Society Flower Show, Falls Church

10/30-31/2023 NGC Environmental School Course 1 via Zoom

11/2/2023 NCAGC Morning of Design

11/2/2023 RSGC Board Meeting

11/2-3/2022 NGC Gardening School Course 1 via Zoom

11/6-8/2023 VFGC Symposium, DoubleTree by Hilton, Richmond

11/8/2023 Yacht Haven Garden Club fashion show, Alexandria

11/12-14/2023 NCAGC Bus Trip to Asheville and the Biltmore House, Asheville, NC

11/16/2023 NGC Environmental School Course 3 via Zoom

Photo Gallery

From the September meeting: Betty Ann Galway demonstrated a variety of floral designs



Reflective



Botanical Arts



Creative Line



Parallel



Transparency

September Design of the Month

Entries: Grouped Mass Design





September Horticulture Specimens



Member Entries in National Capital Dahlia Society's 88th Annual Dahlia Show in Maryland from Tina Foutz



Arlington Forest wildlife

courtesy of neighbor Christos Liacouris

