

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



Volume 62, Number 5

January 2024

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Maryam Zolecki

VICE PRESIDENT

Tina Foutz

SECRETARY

Cheryl Atkinson

TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

CONTENTS

President's Message	2
Board Meeting	2
Budget Report	2
Ways and Means	2
Design of the Month	3
Flower Show	3
Garden Therapy	4
Recycled & Reimagined	5
Youth Activities	6
Senior Outreach	7
Photo Gallery	8
Liaison Report	13

General Meeting

Thursday January 18, 2024 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

"The Chelsea Flower Show"

With Kaki Powers



(Photos courtesy of House Beautiful)

Do you have plans to travel to the Chelsea Flower Show someday? NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge and world traveler, Katherine 'Kaki' Power joins us to give a lovely overview of her trip to the Chelsea Flower Show and offer tips for planning your own adventure to one of the most famous flower shows in the world.

President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

Just the other day, my family and I witnessed a rather amazing and unexpected event. There is an eight-foot volunteer cedar tree in the front corner of our lot and not only is it fragrant and attractive, it also has beautiful blue berries throughout the year and particularly in the winter months. As I sat in the living room looking out the window, making plans for the spring in that corner space, dozens upon dozens of birds descended on the tree in unison, picked the berries, and then flew off in unison. It really was an astounding sight and the whole household ran to the front window to take a look. What's even more amazing is that there is a suet bird feeder right next to the tree and the birds barely touched that in their frenzy. So, as I continued to think upon that little corner, I am inspired to continue getting rid of the less useful plants and shrubs (the English ivy is really testing my motivation and stamina) and start getting those natives and more helpful

plants for the sake of the birds, insects, pollinators, and any other creatures large and small that may benefit. I hope you all are finding inspiration and interest to get you through these colder months. With that I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Just a couple of reminders to please continue bringing your plastic bags to the meetings for collection as part of our club's **Trex recycling program**. And, I also encourage you to try your hand at the design for January as **Botanical Arts** are most likely a little outside of our comfort zone, but a great opportunity to get creative and use materials in a different way. A last note that this season has been tough for a lot of folks dealing with various viruses (Covid, flu, RSV) and if you are not feeling well and needing to stay home, you can still access the January program via Zoom and be a part of it all in the comfort of your own home. And with that I wish everyone a Healthy New Year!

Next Board Meeting

Thursday February 1, 2024 4:30 pm

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

December 2023 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$20,449.08

Revenue: \$65.00

Expenses: (\$156.22)

Net: (\$91.22)

Ending Balance: \$20,357.86

Ways and Means

By Margi Melnick

Get ready to prepare your garden for Spring with Tools of the Trade at the W&M table. Also – Valentine's Day is coming! Bring items that might add to the festivities for Valentine's Day – vases, magazines, and plants. Answers to your gardening needs await you at the Ways and Means table.

Design of the Month

By Connie Richards

This one's for fun! Botanical Arts is the newest division in the Flower Show Handbook and allows art-like exhibits in an NGC show. Plant material must be used, and it can be fresh and/or dried. Only dried material can be treated. All material may be cut or shaped. This month we are going to explore the Artistic Crafts. See pages 94 and 95 in the Flower Show Handbook. Choose between Wearable Apparel (corsages, boutonnieres, hats, gloves, shoes, etc.) and Decorations (packages, napkins rings, ornaments, bird houses, etc.) The space allotted is approximately 20 x 20 inches. Items will be laid flat on the table. A couple of great examples of this design are shown here. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Here Comes The Flower Show

By Connie Richards

We will be having a small standard flower show on May 16 with the Beatles music as the theme. There will be four design classes with four arrangements in each so be sure to sign up early to get the type that you prefer to enter. All designs were demonstrated by Betty Ann Galway at our September meeting and are featured as monthly designs so everyone should feel comfortable with doing these arrangements. Plus feel free to contact anyone on the Show Committee if you have any questions. We will have the sign-up available when our flower show schedule is published. As planned now, there will be thirty classes of Horticulture. So, we are hoping that all in the club will be able to participate in showing and preparing for the show. Expect the

chairpersons for the different committees to be contacting you to help as it will be an all-member club effort to make this a successful experience. More information will be provided in the Gardenzette and at meetings in the upcoming months.



Garden Therapy

By Kate Abrahams

Evergreen trees were the topic of December's Garden Therapy program for Glebe Elementary's preschoolers. Committee members Mary Sliwa, Mary Kudless, Kate Abrahams, Pat Getz, and Susan Scotti worked together to keep the 45-minute program running smoothly. Kate did an initial show-and-tell to explain that evergreens keep their leaves all year and the leaves come in different sizes, shapes, and colors. Some, like pines, have needle-shaped leaves, and cones instead of flowers. The children learned that evergreens provide shelter and food for wildlife during the winter months. They enjoyed touching branches of boxwood, aucuba, holly, pines, spruce, myrtle, and camellia, and a giant California pinecone.



Mary Sliwa read a picture book titled "Little Pine" about a worried pine seedling that grows into a confident, stately pine with the encouragement of forest friends. To add realism to the storytelling, a spruce seedling in a pot was placed at Mary's feet.

The children's listening skills, attention, and focus have noticeably improved since we started in October. It's very satisfying to see everyone participating happily with the help of the teacher, aides, and volunteers to handle the



After story time Mary Kudless led the children happily in the "Teeny Tiny Pine Tree" song which used the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider". Movement went with the song to show how the branches bend down with heavy snow but rise up again when the sun comes out and the pine tree grows a little more.

The last part of the program was creating a forest scene with stickers of pine trees, forest animals, birds, stars, and pinecones, placed on a sheet of iridescent card stock. The kids love stickers, and the activity is good practice for their fine motor skills as well as great fun! When complete, the forest scenes were slid into protective mailing envelopes to go home.



range of ages and abilities. Next month's program will teach the preschoolers about the lives of birds with Susan Scotti leading the garden therapy volunteers.

Recycled and Reimagined

By Sharon DeAngelis

Would you like an alternative to putting your Christmas tree on the curb?

Thirty-five years ago, I read an article in the Washington Post about a creative way to reimagine a new life for your Christmas tree. Rather than throwing it away or turning it into mulch, save it for next year and create a glittering white winter wonderland!



Here are 7 easy steps.

- Remove the tree from its stand.
- Stand the tree up in a corner of your yard, this will help the tree keep its shape.
- Leave it to dry until November.
- In November began to prepare your tree.
- Trim the tree to the shape you would like, hopefully you chose a tree with a fairly straight trunk.

- Wear garden gloves and with a plastic knife, scrape ALL the dried needles off the branches. The tree will be dry, so the small branches will be fragile.
- Next spray ALL the branches and the trunk with white paint, inexpensive paint will require 6 cans better paint 4 to 5 cans for two coats on a 5 to 6 ft tree.

As soon as Christmas decorations come out in early fall, shop for small white lights with *white cords*, not green. It will take 1.5 to 2 times the number of strands than your green tree because without the needles you can see through the tree. I decorated it with clear glass ornaments of all different shapes and sizes.



If you prefer, you could make them all the same. Finish with a white tree skirt underneath. Plug in the lights and see the magic. Besides being beautiful and unique you do not need to water it, so I leave it up past New Year's Day!

Youth Activities

By Pat Getz

The committee's December program at Tuckahoe Elementary was focused on students building and decorating their own holiday trees. Carol Froehlich, Lynda Martin, Jane Robinson, and Pat Getz led the second graders through the project. While the students ate their lunch Pat explained the project, talked about evergreen species, and showed them examples of the greens they would use to make their trees: boxwood, yew, arborvitae, and holly. Committee members had harvested the greenery from their own yards, then conditioned and trimmed them to a size that could be used to construct the miniature holiday trees. Students started with small clay pots filled with soaked oasis; they then picked out the greens they wanted to use; most of them packed as many branches as possible into the pots. Next the children selected the materials they wanted to decorate the trees. Decorative materials included stickers, bells, sparkly pipe cleaners to bend into shapes, and foam snowflakes, candy canes and mittens. The children had great fun

with the project and were happy to have their own holiday creations to take home.



Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree
From Kate Abrahams



**Senior Outreach:
Holiday Sock Drive and Holiday Music for Mary
Marshall Residents**

By Mary Kudless

We thank the Club members for their generous donations of socks, hats, gloves, and personal products for the residents of Mary Marshall House. Many members took advantage of the opportunity to drop their gifts off at the wonderful Holiday Tea. Others dropped them off to Sheila Moore, who working with Terry Holmes, assured final deliveries on December 18. Our gifts were provided to the residents on Christmas Eve and are very appreciated. Delivery day became a very festive event, as residents joined in a lively holiday music program designed by Carol Froehlich. Liddy Schwartz joined Carol, offering her fine singing voice and the rest of us joined in with their guidance. Carol plays a great guitar and provided not only printed lyrics, but also noisemakers, maracas, and bells of

many types. The participation level was amazing, and a great start to the holiday season for both Senior Outreach members and the residents. Our thanks to Carol and Liddy for establishing what is likely to become an annual holiday tradition.



Hiding in plain sight - A fox sunning himself in Pat Getz's front yard, blends in with the brown grass and leaves. After the fox departed, the deer moved in.



PHOTO GALLERY

From the December Holiday Tea held at the home of Sandy Wade. It was a lovely afternoon filled with friendship, holiday food, and gorgeous floral designs.











Liaison Events Summary - January-February 2024

By Tina Foutz

1/13/2024 Garden Talks: Growing Roses, 10:30 am to 11:30 am, fee and must register, Green Spring Gardens
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring>

1/18-19/2024 Landscape Design School Course 2 – Louisville, OH (Zoom Course)
<https://gardenclub.org/school/environmental-school-courses>

1/18-20/2024 Nourish and Flourish: From the Ground up, fee and must register, at the Hotel at UMD College Park, MD. Future Harvest: Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture
[2024 Conference – Future Harvest](#)

1/19/2024 Tips, Tricks, and Tools, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Zoom, free and must register, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
<https://mgnv.org/>

1/20/2024 Miniature Zen Garden (making one), 10 to 11:30 am, fee and must register, Brookside Gardens
<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>

1/21/2024 Virtual Winter Lecture: Pushed Up the Mountain, 1:30 pm, fee and must register, Green Spring Gardens
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring>

1/22/2024 Gardening for Birds, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, virtual, fee and must register, Phipps Conservatory
<https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/>

1/24/2024 Deer Resistant Native Plants with Gregg Tepper, virtual, 6 to 7:30 pm, fee and must register, Mt. Cuba Center
<https://mtcubacenter.org/>

1/24/2024 Webinar: Cultivating Change with Lorraine Johnson, 7:00 pm, free and must register, Wild Ones
<https://wildones.org/webinar-cultivating-change-with-lorraine-johnson-on-january-24th-at-6-pm-cst/#register>

1/24/2024 Take A Garden Break: How Plants and Nature Nurture Your Well-Being with Perla Sofia Curbelo, noon to 1:00 pm, virtual, fee and must register, American Horticultural Society
<https://ahsgardening.org/>

1/24/2024 8:00 am - 5:00 pm EST National Capital Area Garden Clubs G & ECC Meeting
<https://ncagardenclubs.org/event/g-ecc-meeting-2/>

1/25/2024 Crop Wild Relatives: One More Reason to Conserve Plant Diversity, 7 to 8:00 pm, virtual, registration required, Blandy Experimental Farm
<https://blandy.virginia.edu/content/programs-workshops-walks>

1/25-26/2024 Multiple Refresher- Wellington, FL
<https://gardenclub.org/school/multiple-refreshers-courses>

1/26/2024 Winter Tour, 1 to 2:30 pm, fee and must register, also offered on January 27, 10:00 to 11:30. Brookside Gardens
<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>

1/26/2024 Art of the Garden Journal, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Zoom, free and must register, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
<https://mgnv.org/>

1/27/2024 Seed Exchange, 10:00 to 2:00 at Blandy Experimental Farm, sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, free
<https://nsvmgga.org/events/seed-exchange/>

1/27/2024 Seed Exchange, 12:30 to 4:00 pm, tickets required. Hosted by Washington Gardener magazine, at Brookside Gardens.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seed-exchange-brookside-gardens-wheaton-md-tickets-780501058677?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

1/27/2024 Winter Tour, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, fee and must register, also offered on January 26, Friday, 1 to 2:30 pm, Brookside Gardens
<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>

1/28/2024 Seeds: Swap, Prepare and Stratify, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, free but limited space, pre-registration encouraged. Irvine Nature Center Irvine Nature Center
<https://explorenature.org>

1/28/2024 Gardening for Climate Change, 1:30 pm, fee and must register, Green Spring Gardens
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring>

1/28/2024 Growing Herbs: From Seed to Tea with Lacey Walker, 1 to 4:00 pm, fee and must register, Fox Haven Organic Farm and Learning Center
<https://foxhavenfarm.org>

1/30/2024 Virtual Lecture: Spices 101: Turmeric, Smithsonian Associates, noon to 1:15, fee and must register
<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/>

2/2-3/2024 Environmental School Course 3- Westerville, OH (Zoom Virtual Classroom)
<https://gardenclub.org/school/environmental-school-courses>

2/3/2024 Seed Exchange, 12:30 to 4:00 pm, tickets required. Hosted by Washington Gardener magazine, at Green Spring Gardens
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seed-exchange-brookside-gardens-wheaton-md-tickets-780501058677?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

2/7-9/2024 Landscape Design School Course 4- New Smyrna Beach, FL (Zoom Virtual Classroom)
<https://gardenclub.org/school/landscape-design-school-courses>

2/14/2024 8:00 am - 5:00 pm EST National Capital Area Garden Clubs Landscape Design Council Meeting

<https://ncagardenclubs.org/event/landscape-design-council-meeting-12/>

Upcoming Events - Time to Register

2/16/2024 Greenscapes symposium
Brookside Gardens. Don't miss out on the Early Bird fee of \$50 that ends on Friday, January 12.
www.brooksidegreen.org

2/25-28/2024 Flower Show School Course 4 - Marietta, GA; FSP & Horticulture: Sue Kirkman
Topics: Conifers, Collections and Displays
Design: Lynn Fronk Topics: Creative, Abstract
<https://calendar.gardenclub.org/event/flower-show-school-course-4-marietta-ga/>

2/22-24/2024 CFAA The Power of Possibilities!, Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside, 7499 Augusta National Drive, Orlando, FL 32822. Francine Thomas, Betty Ann Galway, Gina Jogan, the Virginia Flower Lovers and the Members' Design Challenge.
<https://www.creativefloral.org/event-5446441>

2/29/2024 & 3/6-7/2024 NGC Flower Show School, Course 3 - Zoom and Arlington, VA; Day 1 Flower Show Procedure Via Zoom 2/29th 2PM - 5:30 PM; Days 2-3 Horticulture with Catherine Felton and Design with Frances Thrash 3/6-7 8AM-7PM

Registration Deadline: 2/18/2024

<https://ncagardenclubs.org/event/ngc-flower-show-school-course-3-day-1/>

3/11-12/2024 NGC Environmental School-Course 2 Series Z-001

Time 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST

Registration Deadline: 2/26/2024

<https://gardenclub.org/school/environmental-school-courses>

3/17-18/2024 2024 SAR Convention, Embassy Suites Greenville, 670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, South Carolina, 29607 (Registration Coming Soon)

<https://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/events-2/convention/>

3/25-28/2024 Flower Show School Course 2 – Norfolk, VA

Horticulture: Sue Kirkman Topics: Orchids, African Violets and Holly Design & FSP: Lynn Fronk Topics: Tables and Petites

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Brochure-FSS-II-2024.pdf>

4/7-9/2024 Multiple Refresher- Lancaster, PA

Multiple Refresher in Environmental, Gardening, & Landscape Design Schools.

<https://calendar.gardenclub.org/event/multiple-refresher-lancaster-pa/>