

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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General Meeting
Thursday April 18th, 2024 – 10:00 am
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Lower Level Friendship Hall
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207

A lot will be happening at the April meeting, don't miss it!

Anita's and Thea's Adventures in Scotland

Thea McGinnis and Anita Brown will give a fun program about their garden adventures in Scotland.



Plus

RSGC Flower Show Prep

Chairs will answer questions about the May Flower Show. We will have examples of *Screening Panels* and *Underlays* for the floral designs. Instructions for filling out the entry cards will be reviewed and entry cards distributed so they can be completed ahead of time. This show is going to be great because of the participation of our talented members! Got any questions about flower shows? All of our club judges will be at this meeting; if you have questions, big or small, that you would like answered, now is the time! Stump the judges and win a prize.

President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

With April here, in addition to the daily routines of family, work, and life in general, it seems that my calendar also includes a number of flower shows in the next few months. When I joined the club, the meetings were held virtually, and so, I was not introduced to the monthly designs in the same way at that time. When things returned to in-person in fall 2021, the monthly designs at our general meetings were rather intriguing, and of course, at that time, I had no knowledge of their connection to flower shows, or even what a flower show was. Then our flower show, May the Road Rise Up to Meet You, was planned and held in March 2022, and I must admit, I became very smitten. That was my first entry for both design and horticulture, and since then I have entered a number of them over the years with varying degrees of success. Regardless of the outcome, they are always not only a fabulous learning experience, but also good exposure to others' talents, vision, and creativity. With that said, I very much encourage you to participate as much as possible in our monthly designs, and of course, please do try your hand at a design in our upcoming flower show. And, I truly believe everyone has at least one specimen that could be entered in the horticulture division. A reminder to ask for and to fill out your horticulture entry card ahead of time, and there will be help along the way the morning of the show (take a look at the Yearbook on how to fill out the card). I do hope all of you consider participating.

March 2024 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$19,241.33

Revenue: \$2,233.00

Expenses: (\$537.56)

Net: \$1,695.44

Ending Balance: \$20,936.77

Next Board Meeting

Thursday May 2, 2024 4:30 pm

Attendance options are via Zoom or in-person at Dianne Simmons's house.

Ways and Means

By Margi Melnick

This month the Ways and Means table will feature *the annual plant sale*, in addition to the usual items. Please bring saleable plants in sturdy containers with a card to identify the plant. You can use common names for the sale. This is a good time to spread the joy by sharing favorite plants that have grown too large and need to be thinned. We look forward to this event every year, so start digging and sharing!

Design of the Month

By Connie Richards

The arrangement for April is a **Reflective Design**. It is a Creative Design (remember minimal plant material) containing reflective materials giving back images of light to the viewer. The reflective materials should be an integral part of the overall design. Think SHINY! Metal wire, metal piping, metal ribbon (hard to find), small pieces of mirror incorporated into the plant material. **DO NOT put the arrangement on or in front of a mirror.**



Thank you, Floral Outreach, for the lovely floral design. It brightened my day and made me feel better. Joan Hession

Senior Outreach Feeding Our Feathered Friends By Renee Bayes

Members of the Senior Outreach committee met on March 12, 2024 at the Mary Marshall Assisted Living facility for an early Spring project. The residents enjoyed making pinecone bird feeders, using pinecones, Crisco, and birdseed. The pinecones were tied with red pipe cleaners for placement on trees outside of the facility. The residents also enjoyed a snack of fresh veggie sticks served with hummus. A big thank you to the Senior Outreach committee for their continued assistance and support of the residents at Mary Marshall.



Merrifield Garden Center Discount

All RSGC members are entitled to a 15% discount at Merrifield. Take your items to the auxiliary building behind the main building. Tell the checkout person that you are a member of Rock Spring Garden Club. You may need to give them the Club's address: P.O.Box 7457, Arlington, VA

Civic Development/ Conservation Committee

By Kate Abrahams

Ball-Sellers House and Gardens – This is a new project for RSGC. Photos show the area after cleanup work parties. The club cleaned up two garden beds, one of which is a rain garden. The work party focused on weeding, trimming shrubs, and removing vinca covering the beds. More plants will go in as the weather warms up.



HORTICULTURE

Christine Wegman

Botanical Nomenclature

As many of you know, I drag out versions of this article now and then; and although many have seen it before, I thought it would not be amiss to give it another airing before our May flower show. For those of you who are new to flower shows, it is important to correctly identify your horticulture with its botanical (Latin) name. Otherwise the judges will deduct 5 points, and your entry will not be eligible for the top awards in the horticulture division, i.e. the Award of Horticultural Excellence, the Arboreal Award, the Award of Merit, or the Growers Choice awards. So, here is a quick refresher on how to correctly identify your horticulture entry.



Background. Our system of scientific names for plants was developed by the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus in the 18th century, during the great age of European exploration, when botanists often traveled on expeditions of exploration and brought back hundreds of exciting, hitherto unknown, plants from newly-discovered places. The system groups plants into divisions according to their physical characteristics. It is a system of Latin names because Latin was, and still is, the scientific language of the western world.

Genus and Species. Linnaeus' system is hierarchical, comprising three groups: family, genus and species. Family is the largest group, species the smallest and most specific. When we identify plants, we only need to use the last two: genus and species. These are written in italics, or when handwritten, they are underlined. Capitalize the name of the genus, but not the species, e.g. *Camellia japonica*.

Cultivars. This is a straight-forward system, and it is not difficult, once you get used to the names. Moving down one step in the hierarchy, there are cultivars, which are plants within a species that exhibit different traits, e.g. flower size, color, variegation, number of petals. Cultivars are given English names and enclosed in single quotation marks, e.g. *Camellia japonica* 'April Blush'. Most plants we grow will be named in this way: genus, species, cultivar. Cultivar names are registered with the appropriate plant society, such as the American Horticultural Society for many plants, the American Rose Society for roses, the American Hosta Society for hostas, etc.



Hybridization. As the science of plant breeding has become more sophisticated, there are new inter-species hybrids, such as the Itoh peonies. These are crosses of *Paeonia suffruticosa*, the tree peony, and *Paeonia lactiflora*, the herbaceous peony. They combine characteristics of both species, but do not belong to either. Instead, they are designated simply, *Paeonia*. So, you know, if there is no species name, that the plant is a cross between two or more species. Sometimes inter-species hybrids are designated by an "x", and sometimes an inter-species hybrid is given a new species designation. The popular,

cold hardy, Meserve holly originated as a cross between *Ilex aquifolium* and *Ilex rugosa*, made my Kathleen Meserve in New York. There are now many cultivars of Meserve hollies and they are

designated, *Ilex x Meservae*, which is a Latinization of the surname Meserve. Breaking down the name, *Ilex* is the name of the holly genus, “x” designates an inter-species hybrid (one not found in nature), and *Meservae* designates the new species. Hellebores are so highly inter-bred among different species that most are now designated, *Helleborus x hybridus*, denoting that the particular plant is a cross among two or more hellebore species.

Patents and Trademarks. A plant patent of 20 years can be granted to a person who has invented (hybridized) or discovered a plant in a cultivated location and has asexually (division, tissue culture, layering, etc.) reproduced the plant. These criteria apply to most modern hybrids, and plant breeders have increasingly taken advantage of the protection provided by a patent. Additionally, plant names can be trademarked for 10 years, which can be renewed indefinitely. Patents protect the plant, trademarks protect the name. When a patent expires, anyone can reproduce the plant without paying royalties; however, if the plant is still trademarked, it cannot be sold under its trademarked name. Thus, most patented plants are also trademarked and sold under the trademarked name.

Now it gets a bit complicated. American patent law prohibits patenting and trademarking a single plant under the same name, so patented plants often have two names: the patented name, which is the official cultivar name, and the trademarked name, which is the name it is sold under. Good examples of this double naming process are Itoh peonies and roses. Here are two examples of Itoh peony names:

Paeonia ‘Smith Opus 1’ MIKASA, and
Paeonia ‘Smith Opus 2’ TAKARA.

The Latin name consists only of the genus because it is a cross of two species. The cultivar names, ‘Smith Opus 1’ and ‘Smith Opus 2’, are enclosed in single quotation marks. The trademark names, MIKASA and TAKARA are printed in all capital letters with no quotation marks. In this case the hybridizer, Donald Robert Smith registered these two cultivars with the American Peony Society, and applied for a patent under the cultivar name. He also applied for and received a trademark under the names, Mikasa and Takara.

Official cultivar names often conform to a system that leaves no room for imagination or romance in plant names. Modern rose nomenclature, in particular, has reached new heights of unattractive cultivar names. Perhaps in order to cope with the sheer volume of new rose introductions (there are something like 3000 roses commercially available worldwide) the American Rose Society has adopted a system where the cultivar name begins with the first three letters of the breeder’s name. A couple of examples of David Austin rose names make it clear that the trademark name, rather than the cultivar name, is the one we know them by.

Rosa ‘Auschimbley’ BATHSHEBA, or
Rosa ‘Ausmas’ GRAHAM THOMAS



So, when a plant has multiple names, which one should we use? The simple answer is either or both. The Handbook for Flower Shows allows you to substitute the trademarked name for the official cultivar name. Just remember that it is written in all capital letters and not enclosed in quotation marks.

Garden Therapy By Mary Garnett

The theme for the March program at Glebe Elementary School was ladybugs, a fun and popular subject. Pat Getz led off by reading short excerpts from children's books about ladybugs and displaying picture cards and 3D models of the four stages in a ladybug lifecycle. Margi Melinck entertained the children with a counting song about ladybugs. Five children were assigned the roles of the numbers one through five and joined Margi sequentially as the song counted up from one to five, and then returned to their seats one by one as the song counted down from five to one. Next the children added stickers of ladybug spots, feet and eyes to complete a model of a ladybug that they could take home. Lastly the students were supplied with coloring sheets of ladybugs and other insects along with washable markers to complete their art work. The children were assisted by the teacher and her aides, and committee members, Kate Abrahams, Mary Garnett, Pat, and Margi.



PHOTO GALLERY

From the March General Meeting

St Patrick's Day themed snack tables



Transparency Designs







Horticulture Specimens







Pruning presentation by Marea Harris



George Rupert's Iris in bloom



Calendar of Events

April 14 - May 11, 2024

[Keep An Eye out for The White House Spring Garden Tours this month.](#)

Hyperlinks in blue will take you to the Event Link

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16 <i>Emancipation Da</i> "Native Plants for Your Landscape," with Guest Speaker Peggy Singlemann (Zoom - free)	17	18 The Hill & Valley Garden Club, Garden Lover's Day , see Page 6 Birdsong Pleasure Gardens, Luray, VA Look & Learn: Repotting Orchids , 10a-12p, drop in, free program. U.S. Botanic Garden	19 NCAGC District I Spring Meeting & Flower/Horticultural Show 8AM-5PM Cheverly, MD Deadline to book room block VFGC Annual Convention Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville - see Page 6	20 Historic Garden Week 1 Ashland - Old Church 2 Gloucester - Mathews 3 Morven in Albemarle County 4 Old Town Alexandria 5 Orange County 6 Staunton 7 Suffolk Flowers and Their Meanings (Online Lecture) Spring Wildflower Walk , 1 to 2:30 pm, fee and must register, Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce Garden Talk: Bee Friendly Gardening , 10:30 am, fee and must register, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria Ball-Sellers House Spring Celebration with Glencarlyn Community Garden , 10A-3P

<p>21 Historic Garden Week 1 Gardens at Goshen, Gloucester 2 Albemarle-Charlottesville 3 Historic Berkeley, Shirley and Westover 4 Leesburg</p> <p>Appomattox Garden Club Spring Tea, 3pm to 5pm, Weston Manor Hopewell, VA Tickets \$15, Contact: Marilyn Brown (804)678-9040</p>	<p>22 <i>Earth Day</i> Historic Garden Week 1 Historic Berkeley, Shirley and Westover 2 Leesburg</p>	<p>23 <i>First day of Passover</i> Historic Garden Week 1 Fairfax County - McLean 2 Fredericksburg 3 Lynchburg 4 Petersburg 5 Richmond: Windsor Farms - Nottingham 6 Williamsburg</p>	<p>24 Historic Garden Week 1 Hampton-Newport News: Poquoson 2 Harrisonburg 3 Martinsville 4 Northern Neck 5 Richmond: River Hill 6 Virginia Beach</p> <p>"Spring Splendor Thomas Jefferson Garden Club se Page 26 NGC Small Standard Flower Show, Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond</p>	<p>25 Historic Garden Week 1 Danville-Chatham 2 Norfolk 3 Oak Spring in Upperville 4 Richmond: Windsor Farms - Coventry</p>	<p>26 <i>Arbor Day</i> Historic Garden Week 1 Middle Peninsula - Essex County 2 Oak Spring in Upperville</p> <p>Arbor Day Walk through the Regional Garden (On-site Tour), DC</p>	<p>27 Historic Garden Week 1 Winchester 2 Chase City 3 Eastern Shore 4 Roanoke</p> <p>George Washington's Forest Guided History Walk Arlington</p>
<p>28 NCAGC District III Flower Show Vienna</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>Last Day of Passover</i> "It's a Small World After All," Lynhaven Heritage Garden Club, See Page 26 NGC Petite Small Standard Flower Show, Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach</p>	<p>May 1 NCAGC club dues deadline</p> <p>VFGC Piedmont Deadline: Summer Issue Footprints and Old Dominion Gardner</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Dirt Diggers, Garden Volunteering, Tudor Place, DC</p>
<p>5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> VFGC Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Gardening School Course 4, Columbia, MD</p> <p>Deadline to register VFGC Annual Convention Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville - see Page 6</p>	<p>9 Gardening School Course 4, Columbia, MD</p> <p>Look & Learn: Repotting Orchids, 10a-12p, drop in, free program. U.S. Botanic Garden</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>

Upcoming Events - Time to Register

Hyperlinks in blue will take you to Registration Form or Link

5/21 - 22/2024 [VFGC Annual Convention](#) • Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville - see Page 6, Hotel reservation deadline: 4/19/2024; Deadline to register: 5/8/2024

5/31/2024 VFGC club dues deadline

6/2 -8/2024 [NGC National Garden Week](#)

6/2 -5/2024 [NGC Annual Convention](#), Denver

6/7/2024 [NCAGC District IV Meeting](#), Strathmore Mansion, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852

6/10/2024 "[How Fair is the Garden](#)" [Richmond Designers' Guild](#), NGC Horticulture Specialty Show, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Education Building, Richmond - see P. 7

6/20/2024 (online) and 6/24 - 25/2024 [Flower Show School IV](#), South Barrington, IL
Flower Show Procedure (online 6/20) & Horticulture : Jan Griffin, Horticulture Topics: Conifers, Collections, and Displays
Design : Claudia Bates, Design Topics: Abstract and Armature Designs

6/27/2024 [NCAGC District III Meeting](#), Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna

7/20/2024 (online) and 7/27 - 28/2024 [Flower Show School IV](#), Albuquerque, NM
Flower Show Procedure (online 7/20): Lynn Fronk
Horticulture : Jan Griffin, Horticulture Topics: Vegetables, Fruits, Cucurbits, Displays, and Collections
Design : Claudia Bates, Design Topics: Advanced Design Types

8/1/2024 NCAGC Fiscal Year Begins

11/11 -12/2024 [VFGC NGC Symposium](#) - Design and Horticulture, Roanoke