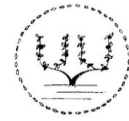


THE GARDENZETTE



The newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, VA [www.rockspringgardenclub](http://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 9

May 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
Farewell Note	2
Garden Therapy	3
Tale of Two Gardens	4
June Preview	5
Thank You Note	5
Youth Activities	6
Awards	7
Horticulture	8
VFGC Silent Auction	10
Photo Gallery	11
Calendar of Events	15

Rock Spring Garden Club presents
An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

HERE COMES THE SUN
The
Beatles
in the Garden
Inspired by the Fab Four

Thursday May 16, 2024
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207



Free and Open to the Public
1:00pm -3:00pm
Invite Your Friends!

President's Message
By Maryam Zolecki

I may have shared with some of you my battle to eradicate a patch of English ivy and vinca on the front side corner of our property. The growth is fairly contained, but a source of annoyance and unnecessary maintenance, and not to mention that both are considered invasive plants in our area. Both plants have created a dense carpet on the ground that is choking out the other plants, and they require vigilance to ensure they are not climbing up the yews, junipers, and the one maple tree. And to make matters worse, I think I spotted a patch of lesser celandine in there as well that really needs to be eradicated apparently. As I have spoken with a few of you who took on this challenge, I have hope that I can succeed in this endeavor like you did, but it is rather time consuming and painful work. I am embarrassed to admit that my knowledge of native plants and sustainable planting was rather limited before joining the garden club, and I have spent some time since then pulling out some plants, and letting others go more freely, but I have left this patch alone for far too long and it's time. I was also very inspired by the plant sale our club held in April (thanks again to the Ways & Means Committee) and looking forward to talking to all of you and checking out the horticulture specimens at the Flower Show in May and the garden tour in June for inspiration for my soon to be cleared patch. Do consider adding a specimen or two (or eight) to the flower show, and if unsure, just bring your specimens the morning of the show (come earlier rather than later) with your green bottles, and you will have help in getting it situated. Also, plan to be there to help with any tasks that may require assistance as it is fun to be in the hustle and bustle of it all.

April 2024 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$20,936.77

Revenue: \$1,560.00

Expenses: (\$370.00)

Ending Balance: \$22,126.77

Next Board Meeting

Thursday June 6, 2024 4:30 pm

Attendance options are via Zoom or in-person at Maryam Zolecki's house.

Farewell to Rock Spring Garden Club

AnnMarie Fay

Just a quick note to say "farewell" to the Club – but not to the members, many of whom have become dear friends. With our Family Tree growing and the little "sprouts" quickly blooming, the demands on my time have shifted. We are spending more of the year in Florida now and have recently committed to purchase an additional condo in the building to accommodate all of the family. We hope to spend more time together there while my husband and I are still healthy, and the babies and their parents are still available to come visit! Best wishes to the Club for continued success in completing its objectives of stimulating and promoting the art of gardening and floral design, conservation, and service to the community.

Garden Therapy

Susan Scotti

The April program for the preschoolers at Glebe Elementary was an introduction to flower seeds. Pat Getz began by reading "Lola Plants a Garden" about a child whose mother helps her plan, plant, and care for a garden. Susan passed around flower seed packets with the seeds exposed in baggies to show how they were different for each flower. After talking about how the seeds need water and light to grow after they are planted, we sang: "I plant a little seed in the dark, dark ground, out comes the yellow sun big and round. Down comes the rain soft and slow. Up comes the little seed, grow, grow, grow!" Using hand motions to emphasize the words, we sang it twice for fun.

The children moved to their tables to find two containers for each child. One had been filled by Pat with a thin layer of gravel topped with dirt and a lid. The other was a small terra cotta pot. First the children decorated them with stickers of butterflies, ladybugs, and bees. With guidance from Mary Garnett, Pat, and Susan, they removed the lids, and planted a variety of flower seeds, using a toothpick to poke them into the dirt. After watering with a spray bottle, they replaced the lids for a clean transport home. Instructions were sent home on how to care for the planted seeds. Hopefully they will get some sprouts!

The second project required gardening gloves to pot some marigolds. The children spooned dirt into the pot, then placed the plant, and added dirt all around to fill it up. After spraying with water, the pots were placed on the windowsill.

On May 9 Margi Melnick will lead a program with the students making Mother's Day

arrangements and learning about butterflies. This will be our last project for this school year.



A Tale of Two Gardens

Mary Kudless

I count myself lucky to get a respite from winter by spending it in Palm Beach Gardens in the northern portion of Palm Beach County. This is our fourth year of the duality experience – “Are those navy blue slacks in Florida or Virginia?” “Is there mustard in the fridge?” “How is each garden faring?” “Did I prune, mulch, and fertilize in each location?” “Did I remember to turn off the water before I left and set the thermostat properly?” Nurturing healthy indoor house plants becomes an impossible challenge for an absentee homeowner. It is horrifying to think about a plant-free life! I know my fellow RSGC members can relate. What is the solution? Orchids thrive in Florida, both indoors and out. The indoor experience, bolstered by the friendly growers at the local Farmers’ Markets, is all about the orchids – just your basic everyday phalaenopsis. Guests bring them as hostess gifts, you see a variety/color you do not have – you cannot resist. Soon the house has an orchid in every corner. In Florida, when the orchid blooms are spent, they can move on to their next life and marry up happily with your palm trees. Last year I tied a few onto my Pigmy date palms at our front entrance. These palms are smaller than most in stature and the bark resembles an uncut pineapple. Its spikes provide an ideal location for the dormant orchid. The propagation method is simple: tie the roots of the spent orchid onto the tree’s spikes, fanning the green roots around the bark, using conventional twine. The roots wrap themselves around the bark very quickly and the twine can be snipped off. It is ideal if the palm trees are in a dappled light situation, but it is not essential. I spray the roots with diluted orchid spray every other week. I have not read that this is necessary, but I have come to conclude that it results in a happy and continuously re-blooming plant. This week, on a walk through the neighborhood, a

young woman began taking pictures of the orchids and I thought, perhaps, my Club friends would enjoy seeing them too. The plants, pictured here, were tied at different intervals onto the palms within the last 6-12 months, while dormant. They have a few indoor friends that will be tied on before we head home that we hope will follow in their verdant path. It will be painful to leave these lush bloomers, but I do look forward to getting back to our Garden Club and to our Arlington garden in May, where the cleaning out, fertilizing, mulching and planting awaits: a tale of two gardens and gratitude.





Looking Forward to the June Program

Thea McGinnis

Plans are set for a fun garden tour in June – rain or shine on June 13, 2024. Please note this is the SECOND Thursday in June. (Folks ask why the second week – we have noted that members have weddings, graduations, summer trips, etc. We wrap up a bit early to accommodate our members.) Our tour will START at Ball Sellers House, where we have been assisting them with their gardens. Our tour guide for the house and property will be Annette. From there we will visit Rock Spring Park and enjoy the gardens our members keep up all year long. Then we will visit the home of JoElla Samp to tour her garden, visit together, and enjoy refreshments. We hope you enjoy some special gardens together before we all venture off for the summer.

Thank You!

Kate Abrahams

I sincerely thank all the members of the Rock Spring Garden Club who made the District Flower Show successful and a great community event. Thank you to Pat Getz, Maryam Zolecki, and JoElla Samp for managing horticulture entries, classification, and recording of entries and awards. Thank you to Thea McGinnis for chairing the Clerks Committee and Charlotte Benjamin for clerking for the judges. Thank you to Connie Richards, Maryam, Dianne Simmons, Jo Ella, Janis Gunel, Pat, and Thea for exhibiting horticulture and/or designs. Many thanks to Tina Foutz for greeting the public during the show and breaking down and cleaning up the exhibit space at the end. I am in your debt and could not have done the show without you all! Love you!

Youth Activities

Susan Scotti

Our committee met with 13 second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary on April 16 for a program about seeds. Susan used the book "The Reason for a Flower" to show pictures of a variety of familiar flowers and the seeds they produce. In comparison, the guide "Native Plants for Northern Virginia" showed many plants and flowers that provide pollen, nectar, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds and other animals. Because they are adapted to local climate and soil conditions, they require less fertilizer, less water and fewer pesticides.

The project was making "seed balls" using native wildflower seeds for our area and planting them in the schoolyard. The children were given a foil pan and a pair of gloves. They measured and mixed the ingredients together with their hands, using just enough water to form into balls. We used hair dryers to dry them enough to toss/plant. The outdoor teacher coordinator, Andrea Kaplowitz, had prepared a place all around the schoolyard shed. It was a beautiful day and the children's efforts making the seed balls and tossing them onto planting area were successful and fun. We are hopeful they will have some beautiful flowers to enjoy before the summer holidays.

Lynda Martin, Carol Froelich, Joyce Fall, Pat Getz and Jane Robinson were essential helpers passing ingredients, guiding the process, handling the hair dryers and helping to "curb the enthusiasm"! The recipe provided by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The University of Texas at Austin: 3 Tbs soil, (we added some clay to make it easier to shape), 1 Tbs compost, 1 Tbs sand, 1/2 tsp seeds, and enough water

to make the mixture dough-like and shape into 8-10 small balls. Dry overnight and plant on bare ground, letting rain and weather break them down.

The next and last program for the school year is Friday, May 10, for all 78 second grade students to make Mother's Day arrangements.



Awards

Janis Gunel

We Won Again This Year!

Awards from District III of the National
Capital Area Garden Clubs

Second Place, Red Ribbon: Yearbook
Congratulations Joan Hession



Awards from the Piedmont District of the
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

First Place: Membership

Thank you, Carolyn Barone



Second Place: Newsletter

Congratulations Maryam Zolecki

First Place: Yearbook

Our thanks to Joan Hession

Additionally, from National Garden Clubs
Inc, Rock Spring Garden Club received a
Certificate of Merit in recognition of our
70th anniversary.

This year our club nominated Sheila Moore
for the CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom Award. A
contribution to the National Garden Club
Penny Pines Program was made in her
honor. Sheila, along with other Region III
club nominees, will be invited to the June
27, 2024 Presidents' Coffee morning
meeting at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.
Thank you to all club members for your
many contributions!



Horticulture
Christine Wegman
Some Guidance for Exhibiting Horticulture in
Our Flower Show

General Guidance

If exhibiting cut specimen in a bottle, the bottle should be in proportion to the specimen, and there should be no foliage below the water, except for gladiolas. Exhibits should be one stem only, and no longer than 30 inches from cut to uppermost tip. Water in the bottle should come up to the top. If the water in your bottle is low, you can always 'top it up' at the church.

Specific Guidance for Individual Plants

Section A. Broadleaf Evergreens. Large branches may be displayed flat on the table or in a large bottle. One stem, with several nodes (places where leaves or stems branch off) and an apical tip (the natural, uncut tip of the stem).

Section B. Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes.

- Class 6. *Allium*: flowering -- cut, without foliage.
- Class 7. *Daffodil*: cut stem without foliage or, if container-grown, with foliage. [Cut when ½ open, or in loose bud stage and allow three to four days to open in warm water; clean corona with small brush or Q-tip; do not tear or remove papery spathe.]
- Class 8. *Hyacinthus*: cut specimen, bulb forced in a hyacinth glass, or container-grown. [Cut just before showing, as they may begin to elongate and bend.]
- Class 9. *Iris*: one scape with at least one open flower; number of flowers varies with type. [Remove any dead flowers, but the top stem should be present.
- Class 11. *Tulipa*: cut with two leaves, though dwarf types may be exhibited with single leaf, or container-grown. [Cut above the white part of the stem while flowers are still tight. Flowers will

open quickly in a warm room, so keep cool. Use ice water to keep flowers from opening too fast.]

Section C. Container-Grown Plants. Double potting is allowed, size is limited to a maximum 9" pot.

In general, the container should be clean and in good proportion to the plant. It should not visually overwhelm the plant. Plants should be in the center of the container.

Section D. Flowering Shrubs. Large branches may be displayed flat on the table or in a large bottle. One stem, with several nodes (places where leaves or stems branch off) and an apical tip (the natural, uncut tip of the stem). Flowering branch should exhibit sufficient (more than a few) blooms.

- Class 17. *Rhododendron*:
 - Rhododendron – one truss on a stem with attached foliage [truss should be completely open with no more than three unopened buds, remove older leaves and loose bud scales from truss interior];
 - Azaleas – spray or truss with attached foliage on evergreen types [remove older leaves and loose bud scales from truss interior];
 - All types – several nodes are not required, contrary to most arboreal specimens.

Section E. Herbaceous Perennials.

- Class 23. *Clematis*: include two sets of opposite leaves.
- Class 24. *Paeonia*: single stem should be disbudded, that is remove all but one bud/flower.

Section F. Herbaceous Perennials Grown for Foliage. No specific guidance.

VFGC Silent Auction

Tina Foutz

As chair of the Silent Auction Committee of our state conference that will occur May 21-22, 2024, I am happy to announce two opportunities for you to support the Virginia Federated Garden Clubs (VFGC). As a nonprofit volunteer gardening organization with over 200 clubs and more than 5200 members across the state of Virginia, VFGC provides the proceeds to The Betsy H. Edwards Scholarships awarded to qualified undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in an accredited college or university majoring in Horticulture, Landscape Design, Botany, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Science, Ecology, and/or other allied subjects. The proceeds of the auction will also aid VFGC's participation in the National Garden Club's Penny Pines and Blue Star Memorials programs.

I am requesting such in-kind donations as design containers, gently used or new gardening tools, and garden theme home decor, but I am open to what you have available.

Also, Maryam has set up this sign-up to donate items to a honey and bees theme basket that will be from the RSGC members
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44A9A622A3FE3-49494406-donations#/>

Thanks to those of you who have already reached out to me! The donations can be brought to the RSGC Flower Show next week or I can pick them up before 5/20/2024.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this request further, please contact me.



Susan Scotti's giant rhododendron in full bloom

PHOTO GALLERY

From April General Meeting

**VP Tina Foutz welcomed new member
Chris Day**



Transparency Designs





Horticulture specimens





**Riverbend Park along the Potomac, near
Great Falls
From Kate Abrahams**



Calendar of Events

Tina Foutz

May 8 - June 13, 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
5	6	7	8 Gardening School Course 4 , Columbia, MD Deadline to register VFGC Annual Convention Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville - see Page 6 Tomato Love , 7:00 pm, free, no registration required. Arlington Central Library, outside next to garden	9 Gardening School Course 4 , Columbia, MD Look & Learn: Repotting Orchids , 10a-12p, drop in, free program. U.S. Botanic Garden Bethesda Community Garden Club annual plant sale, 9:00 am to noon, at the Farm Women's Market in Bethesda How to Plant Your Rain Garden with Melinda Myers , 7:30 pm, free but must register	10 Native Plant Species and Cultivars , 10:00 to 11:30 am, free webinar, register for link, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia Bonsai Festival , free admission, Sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association, at the U.S. National Arboretum in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum	11 Great Falls Plant Sale . Send James Oliver a note with questions at Jimmyo6655@gmail.com Ayr Hill Plant Sale 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Next to Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Bonsai Festival , free admission, Sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association, at the U.S. National Arboretum in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum Del Ray House and Garden Tour (Virginia), 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, tickets required Georgetown Garden Club Garden Tour , 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, tickets required Mother's Day House and Garden tour , tickets required. Capital Hill Historic District. Capitol Hill Restoration Society A Spot of Lavender-infused Tea with Mom , 10:00 am to 4:00, fee for the tea and cruller, no registration required. Blooming Hill Lavender Farm

						<p>free gardening clinic hosted by Fairfax County Master Gardeners and Fairfax County Park Authority, 9:00 to 11:30 am, at 8 locations in Fairfax County (see website), free</p> <p>11 Continued Silver Spring Garden Club Garden Mart (plant sale), 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at Brookside Gardens, cash or check only</p> <p>Tea in Mrs. Mellon's Garden, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, fee and must register, Oak Spring Garden Foundation</p> <p>Tour of Native Plants at Green Spring Gardens, 10:30 am, fee and must register, Green Spring Gardens</p> <p>Azalea Sale and Plant Clinic, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, sponsored by the Northern Virginia chapter of the Azalea Society of America at Meadowlark Botanical Garden. Rain date is Sunday May 12</p> <p>Spring State Arboretum Garden Fair (plant sale), 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, admission fee, Blandy Experimental Farm</p>
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> Bonsai Festival , free admission, at the U.S. National Arboretum in the National Bonsai and	13	14	15	16 Miniature Perennial Container demonstration, 10:30 to noon, fee and must register, Brookside Gardens	17 Guided Forest Bathing Walks , 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee and must register. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens	18 Virtual Floral Design: Peony Perfection , online via Zoom, 1:00 to 2:00 pm, fee, must register, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens

Penjing Museum Mother's Day House and Garden tour , tickets required. Capital Hill Historic District. Spring State Arboretum Garden Fair (plant sale), 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, admission fee, Blandy Experimental Farm					Virtual Floral Design: Peony Perfection , online via Zoom, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, free for members, fee for nonmembers, must register, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens	Under the Arbor at the National Herb Garden , 1 to 4:00 pm, free admission, U.S. National Arboretum, Spring Garden Day – The Big Plant Sale , 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, free admission, Green Spring Gardens
19	20	21 VFGC Annual Convention Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville	22 VFGC Annual Convention Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville Herbs - Planning and Planting 7:00 pm, free, no registration required. Arlington Central Library, outside next to garden Spring Garden Party , 6 to 9:00 pm, Tudor Place Designing for Nature with Edwina von Gal and Toshi Yano , virtual, 7 to 8:00 pm, fee and must register.	23 Look & Learn: Repotting Orchids , 10a-12p, drop in, free program. U.S. Botanic Garden	24 Tomato Disease and Other Things That Ooze in the Garden , 10:00 to 11:30 am, free webinar, register for link, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia	25 Guided Forest Bathing Walks , 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee and must register. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1 Country Hills Garden

					<p>VFGC club dues deadline</p> <p>Guided Forest Bathing Walks, 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee and must register. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens</p> <p>Cutting Gardens: Bouquets, Small Spaces, and Lots of Blooms, noon to 1:00 pm, online lecture, free but must register, U.S. Botanic Garden</p> <p>Ichiyo Demonstration by Valerie Eccleston, Executive Master, luncheon and demonstration, tickets required, Ikebana International DC, Chapter No. 1, Lakewood Country Club, Rockville, MD</p>	<p>Club Plant Sale, 9am – 1:00pm at 3415 Country Hill Dr., Fairfax</p>
<p>2</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p> <p>NGC Annual Convention, Denver</p>	<p>3</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p> <p>NGC Annual Convention,</p>	<p>5</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p> <p>NGC Annual Convention, Denver</p>	<p>5</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p>	<p>6</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NGC National Garden Week</p> <p>NCAGC District IV Meeting, Strathmore Mansion, 10701</p>	<p>8</p> <p>NGC National Garden</p>

	Denver	Preventing Vegetable Crop Disease 7:00 pm, free, no registration required. Arlington Central Library, outside next to garden			Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852 Guided Forest Bathing Walks , 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee and must register. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	"How Fair is the Garden" Richmond Designers' Guild , NGC Horticulture Specialty Show, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Education Building, Richmond - see P. 7					Guided Forest Bathing Walks , 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee and must register. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens

Upcoming Events - Time to Register

Hyperlinks in blue will take you to Registration Form or Link

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