

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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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Maryam Zolecki

VICE PRESIDENT

Tina Foutz

SECRETARY

Cheryl Atkinson

TREASURER

Jo Ella Samp

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

General Meeting
Thursday February 20, 2025 – 10:00 am
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Lower Level Friendship Hall
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207

Native Plants for Spring and Getting Your Tools Ready for Spring

Our program begins at 10:00 am followed by our business meeting and lunch. We are very pleased to have Merrifield Garden Center expert Louis Ratchford join us to talk about incorporating native plants into your landscape and getting your tools ready for spring.

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President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

In celebration of the winter solstice, I was given *The Comfort of Crows*, a book by Margaret Renkl that is organized into fifty-two chapters that chronicle the creatures and plants in her backyard over the course of a year beginning with the winter season. I have decided to read a chapter a week to follow along with the seasons, and as I write this, we have just finished the seventh week of winter. So far, the book has renewed in me the idea of "stopping" to notice what nature is doing all around me, and as each new chapter brings a connection to my own backyard, I am trying my best to pass these along to my two teenagers with mixed results. The chapter on the fox brought the most excitement when I retold it to my kids as we peered out the window of our house one winter night to observe the howling fox sitting in our driveway. The most serendipitous was the week where dozens of robins descended on my yard to eat the berries on an evergreen tree just as I had finished reading the chapter in the book devoted to the same phenomenon. While the author was not surprised to witness such an event, I most certainly was (it was a lot of robins), and I ran inside to gather my two kids to share it with them. While I excitedly recounted the chapter I had just read and pointed to the robins, the response of my two kids was a bit more subdued as my daughter genially patted me on the back while my son looked at the scene and casually stated, "Cool." As I noted to them (again with mixed results), I am looking forward to continued observations that I can appreciate and share as the seasons move along. Our program this month on native plants will be a good one to give some ideas on perhaps one or two things to add to the garden for more opportunities to stop and appreciate nature, and to keep bringing the creatures and the birds. In the next couple of months, our district and state organizations will be hosting meetings and conventions, and I do hope you can attend some or all of them as they also provide great programs. The first one is the Piedmont District Meeting in Glen Allen, Virginia to be held on Monday, March 17th, followed by the DIII meeting at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on March 27th and the NCAGC meeting at the US Arboretum on April 8th. The big one will be the VFGC convention at the end of April in Richmond.

Ways and Means

By Margi Melnick

February Ways and Means theme is Red, White, and Blue, honoring President's Day. Bring in items for the table in patriotic colors (other colors are acceptable, of course) and we'll celebrate. Valentine's Day also featured red—so our table will be colorful. It will be filled with tools of the trade, vases, magazines, books, and plants. Enjoy!

January 2025 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$20, 695.41

Revenue: \$180.00

Expenses: (\$522.63)

Net: (\$342.63)

Ending Balance: \$20,352,78

Next Board Meeting

Thursday March 6, 2025 at 4:30 pm

Attendance options are in-person at
Kate Abrahams's home

Or via Zoom

Design of the Month

By Kate Abrahams

Creative Tubular Design

Bravo to all who made a traditional petite design last month! February's floral design challenge is very different, a creative tubular design. This creative design type uses minimal fresh and/or dried plant material since the dominant feature must be cylindrical/ tubular shaped component(s). It's up to you to figure out what tubular items you use, which can be plant or man-made material. The tubular component(s) must be integrated into the design. Some photos below will show you the idea. Remember with creative designs "Less is More" with the amount of plant material. Empty space is valued in creative designs. Since this is a creative design type, you may have more than one point of emergence for plant material. The NGC Flower Show Handbook (2017 page 77) says, "A tubular design is a creative design having dominant cylindrical forms throughout, composed of any material. Plant material and other optional components complete the design." Creative designs create depth by the positioning of the components, with contrasts in texture, dimensional space. You can use unconventional objects with multiple openings and arrange them to create new spaces within the design. However, remember that the cylindrical forms must dominate the design. The Frame of Reference or total allotted area for the design will be 25 inches wide by 20 inches deep with unlimited height. The back staging panel will again be 20 inches tall covered with a white tablecloth. If you have any questions, please contact me and also take a look at the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, Design Section pages. Have fun playing with this new design type!



Senior Outreach

By Carol Froehlich

With cold temperatures and snow all around, Jody and I gathered at Mary Marshall to make bird feeders to help feed the birds that congregate around the facility. Only two residents chose to participate, but many others came to chat and visit with us and each other as the bird feeders were made. Great care was taken by the two ladies that made the feeders. They gently spread Crisco on each section of the pinecones. Thanks to Renee for providing us with gorgeous pinecones that thrilled the ladies participating. The residents shared their interest in birds and all areas of nature. Jody shared some of her bird book collection and interest was generated with everyone at the table.



Youth Activities

By Jane Robinson

On Tuesday January 28 committee members Lynda Martin, Joyce Fall, Mary Garnett and Jane Robinson met with 12 second grade students at Tuckahoe Elementary School for a program on birds. Jane read a book: "About Birds." We learned a lot about the birds featured in this book: their nest building habits, how they travel, whether they live alone or in a flock, how they use their bills, what they eat, and what they look like. Several students shared their excitement to see photos of a Great Blue Heron, a Great Horned Owl, and a Greater Roadrunner, birds they saw while on a trip.

The students got busy with their project, making pinecone bird feeders. They tied a string on their pinecone, spread it with vegetable shortening, and rolled it in a wild bird seed mix. Committee members were available to help as needed. The students were

enthusiastic about this fun, but messy, activity. They looked forward to hanging their bird feeders at home. Hopefully they will welcome many visiting birds.



Garden Therapy

By Mary Garnett

Our January program for Garden Therapy at Glebe Elementary School was about birds in winter and included creating pinecone bird feeders to take home. Susan Scotti led off by showing the children birds' nests she had collected. Mary Garnett showed pictures of some of the birds who live locally year-round, both familiar and unfamiliar, and some that migrate and only spend winters or summers here. Pat Getz read about selected local birds from the book "Snow Birds" by Kirsten Hall, and Mary played their songs and calls using a phone app from Cornell University. Susan talked about how birds keep warm in winter and led the children in a song about feeding the birds in wintertime, when the days are dark and cold and food is hard to find. For their activities the children, assisted by the teacher and her aides, Mary Sliwa and the others, pasted bird stickers onto blank paper and used washable markers to fill in the background. Lastly, they rolled pinecones, already filled with Crisco, in bird seed to take home.



PHOTO GALLERY

From the January General Meeting

Traditional Petite Designs





Horticulture



BYLAWS

Article I – Name and Colors

The name of this organization is Rock Spring Garden Club. The Club colors are green and white, the green for invitation and the white for honor. The logo is an espaliered tree within a circle of leaves.

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of this Club are to:

1. Stimulate the study of the art of gardening.
2. Promote an interest in horticulture and artistic use of plant materials.
3. Conserve and protect our natural resources and support good conservation practices.
4. Serve our community through programs and other forms of community outreach. The Club provides scholarships and other contributions as directed by the Executive Board.

Article III – Members

1. Any person who is interested in the objectives of this Club and agrees to fulfill membership responsibilities is qualified for membership.
2. A prospective member shall attend two general meetings before applying for membership and be assigned an active or emeritus member sponsor. The application is considered by the Executive Board and dues are paid upon approval.
3. Membership shall be composed of three classes: Active, Sustaining, and Emeritus.
 - a. An active member participates in Club programs, objectives, and services. An active member may sponsor three prospective members per Club year.
 - b. A sustaining member has been an active member for at least ten (10) years who is excused from responsibilities but can participate in Club activities and general meetings. A sustaining member continues to pay current dues but forfeits privileges of holding elective office, voting, and sponsoring prospective members.
 - c. An emeritus member has been an active member for twenty (20) or more years and is at least seventy-five (75) years of age. An emeritus member is excused from active member responsibilities, does not pay annual dues, and retains all other Club privileges.
4. Responsibilities of each active Club member shall be to:
 - a. Attend Club meetings.
 - b. Serve on a Standing Committee.
 - c. Serve as host/hostess at a general meeting.
 - d. Submit two or more horticulture specimens.
 - e. Submit two or more floral designs annually.
 - f. Pay annual dues.
 - g. Vote.

Article IV – Officers

1. The Club officers are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. All officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) Club years. A Club year of office shall be from the close of the June meeting to the close of the following June meeting. No member shall hold more than one office simultaneously. The officers shall not serve consecutive terms.
3. A vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by the Executive Board as soon as the vacancy occurs. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President immediately assumes the office of the President.
4. Duties of Officers:
 - a. **The President**
 - i. Presides at all meetings of the Club and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the club.
 - ii. Appoints a member or members to review the Treasurer's accounts at the end of each fiscal year.
 - iii. Appoints committee chairs for next Club year.
 - iv. Serves as an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
 - v. Appoints members of the Nominating Committee in January as needed.
 - vi. Attends district, regional meetings and conferences to represent the Club or may appoint a representative for this purpose.
 - vii. Serves on and appoints members of the Budget Committee.
 - b. **The Vice President**
 - i. Presides at all meetings in the absence or the direction of the President to preside.
 - ii. Serves as Membership Chair and maintains possession of membership application forms (electronic).
 - iii. Responsible for distributing and collecting membership renewal forms and dues payments before deadline and contacts any delinquent member in writing.
 - iv. Updates roster of Club membership and forwards to appropriate entities.
 - v. Applies for State Life Membership as a Club appreciation gift for the outgoing President.
 - c. **The Secretary**
 - i. Records, presents, and preserves the minutes of the Executive Board and general meetings.
 - ii. Presides at all meetings in the absence of the President and the Vice President at the direction of the President.
 - iii. The Secretary archives each year's data.
 - d. **The Treasurer**
 - i. Keeps a balanced account of receipts and expenditures during the fiscal year, which runs from June 1 to May 31.
 - ii. Pays bills and keeps receipts for all disbursements.
 - iii. Presents a monthly report at the Executive Board meeting and at the general meeting.
 - iv. Receives dues from Vice President to deposit.
 - v. Submits financial records for review by June 30 of each club year.
 - vi. Transfers all books and records to the new Treasurer following the review but no later than July 31.

- vii. Sends a membership list and dues check as required. Currently: National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (NCAGC) by April 31 and to Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (VFGC) and Piedmont District by May 31 of each club year.
 - viii. Writes official acknowledgement letters for donations to the Club for donors' IRS tax purposes.
 - ix. Keeps seven (7) years of Club financial records on hand for Club use.
 - x. Submits IRS filings in accordance with Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. requirements.
5. The election shall be held by ballot at the March general meeting. If there is only one candidate for each office, the ballot may be by voice vote. An affirmative vote of the majority present shall be required to carry the nomination. Newly elected officers shall be installed at the last regular Club meeting of the year, or at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 6. Officers shall perform the duties assigned by these bylaws and any other duties delegated to them by the Executive Board and applicable to their office as prescribed by the adopted parliamentary authority.

Article V – Meetings

1. The General Meetings of the Club shall be held on the third Thursday of the month, September to June, unless otherwise ordered at the discretion of the President.
2. The March general meeting shall be the Club's annual meeting for the election of officers and other Club business.
3. Special meetings of the membership may be held at the discretion of the President.
4. One-third (1/3) of active members and emeritus members of the Club shall constitute a quorum. Voting may occur electronically.
5. Members may bring guests to general meetings. Only Club members and their houseguests may attend the Holiday Tea. Members must notify the head host/hostess in advance of any guests.

Article VI – Executive Board

1. The Executive Board includes Officers and representatives of the Standing Committees who are identified in the Standing Rules. They will represent the interests of each objective identified in Article II. Any member of the club may request to attend an Executive Board monthly meeting during the Club year except December to make a request or presentation.
2. The Executive Board:
 - a. Supervises the affairs of the Club.
 - b. Considers the plans of the various committees.
 - c. Approves Club expenditures not included in the budget.
 - d. Approves applications for prospective members.
 - e. Meets monthly during the Club year except December.
3. Donations to the Club will be used at the discretion of the Executive Board unless the donor has specified that the donation be dedicated to a particular project or program.
4. Special meetings may be held at the discretion of the President or three members of the Executive Board.
5. Over one-half (1/2) of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
6. Voting at Executive Board meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per office or committee. Voting electronically is permitted.

Article VII – Standing Committees

1. The **Awards** Committee maintains awareness of available awards. The committee prepares and submits applications and Books of Evidence and maintains a record of awards received. The Committee will announce Club awards at the last meeting of the Club year. The Awards Committee will be guided by the Executive Board in selecting award applications to submit.
2. The **Community Outreach** Committee supervises community projects and maintains a garden in Rock Spring Park and some other community parks the committee undertakes and keeps the Club informed of local and national issues.
3. The **Floral Outreach** Committee coordinates and provides floral designs requested by outside organizations and approved by the Executive Board. The Committee creates arrangements for members in case of illness or bereavement as requested by the President or members.
4. The **Garden Therapy** Committee conducts a monthly gardening program for special needs children at a local elementary school.
5. The **Horticulture** Committee promotes the interest and knowledge of horticulture and encourages the membership to exhibit specimens at general meetings and flower shows.
6. The **Hospitality** Committee organizes host/hostess committees for each general meeting, appoints hosts/hostesses for each Executive Board meeting, and recruits hosts/hostesses for special Club events and requests for hospitality assistance at NGC district, state and regional meetings as directed by the President. Officers and Standing Committee Chairs are exempt from Head Host/Hostess assignments.
7. The **Publicity** Committee maintains internet presence and promotes upcoming Club activities with outside media.
8. The **Publications** Committee comprises a Yearbook editor, newsletter editor, librarian, and a database manager. It is responsible for publishing and distributing the Yearbook and Club newsletters, maintaining the electronic database, and archiving and maintaining the Club library.
9. The **Membership** Committee seeks prospective members, submits applications to the Executive Board for acceptance and coordinates induction and social interaction in the Club. The Vice President chairs the Membership Committee.
10. The **Program** Committee provides programs for general meetings.
11. The **Senior Outreach** Committee promotes interest and appreciation for gardening for residents in a residential community.
12. The **Show** Committee encourages the exhibition of floral designs at general meetings and in flower shows, may plan design classes for members, and chooses the “Design of the Month” for each general meeting. The Committee maintains files, props, supplies, materials and reference materials for show requirements. The Committee arranges NGC judges for Monthly meetings.
13. The **Ways & Means** Committee plans, promotes, and conducts activities to produce revenue for the Club at the General monthly meetings.
14. The **Youth Activities** Committee promotes interest and appreciation of gardening among children at a local elementary school.

Article VIII – Operating Committees (Operating Committees include but are not limited to)

1. **Budget** Committee consists of the outgoing and incoming Presidents and Treasurers and others appointed at the discretion of the President. The committee prepares and submits a budget for adoption at the first Executive Board meeting and at the first general meeting.
2. The **Nominating** Committee consists of five members of the Club and shall be appointed by the President at the general meeting in January. The committee shall consist of one Past President who

serves as Chair, two members from the Executive Board and two members from the Club. A member shall not serve more than one year in succession. This committee shall secure a candidate for each office and shall report nominations to the Executive Board and the membership in February. The slate of candidates shall be published in the March newsletter. Additional nominations may be made from the floor if prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

3. **Holiday Tea** Committee selects the site and coordinates the floral designs and hospitality for the December Holiday Tea.
4. **Liaison** Committee provides timely information to the Club on horticultural and gardening activities in the Washington Metro area and Virginia. The Committee, through its VFCG and NCAGC representatives, also provides information on NCAGC and VFCG courses, seminars, meetings, conferences, and conventions via *The Gardenzette*, announcements, and handouts at monthly meetings as well as through the President.

Article IX – Parliamentary

1. The Parliamentary shall be the immediate Past President.
2. The Parliamentary shall advise the President on any procedural questions.
3. The Parliamentary shall chair a Bylaws Committee, when needed, and appoint committee members in consultation with the President.

Article X – IRS Group Coverage

Articles of Association, adopted June 12, 2014, are attached to and are part of these bylaws in order to comply with section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern Rock Spring Garden Club where the rules are applicable and where the rules are not in conflict with these bylaws, standing rules or any special rules of order that may be adopted.

Article XII – Amendments to the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any general meeting of Rock Spring Garden Club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment or amendments have been presented at the previous general meeting and by written notice.

STANDING RULES

Preamble: The Standing Rules shall be binding on all members of Rock Spring Garden Club and are designed to describe additional Club policies, requirements and activities not specified in the Bylaws. The Standing Rules may be amended by an affirmative majority vote of the active membership in attendance at any general meeting. The Club abides by local and CDC health safety guidelines to determine whether virtual or in person meetings, programs or events are appropriate.

di. MEMBERS

1. Sponsors of prospective new members are responsible for introducing them to the Club's officers and members of the Executive Board before induction.
2. If a member cannot serve as a general meeting host, the member shall find a substitute and notify the head host. If a member cannot find a substitute, the member shall contact the head host and contribute funds for an equal share of expenses. All host committee members shall contribute funds to cover an equal share of expenses.
3. An active member may request a one-year leave of absence from Club responsibilities by contacting the Executive Board in writing.
4. A subscriber is a former member who pays an annual subscription fee to receive the Club's newsletter. A subscriber does not receive a copy of the yearbook or other Club materials and is not considered a Club member.
5. A Leave-of-Absence Member is considered an active member who applies in writing to the President and the Membership Chair, for a leave of absence in cases of illness, family emergencies, or like situations. The Executive Board may grant such Leave-of-Absence for one (1) year, renewable for additional years if requested in writing by the Member and approved by the Executive Board. A member on Leave-of-Absence Membership status shall be required to pay dues, but may not vote, hold office, propose or second new Members.
6. A member who wishes to change status must notify the President and Membership Chair in writing for action by the Executive Board.
 - a. Member may resign in good standing with the option of reapplying for membership at a later date by notifying the President and the Membership Chair in writing.
 - b. A sustaining or resigned member may request active membership without a sponsor.
7. A member must obtain prior approval from the Executive Board before accepting a responsibility in the name of the Club.
8. There will be annual dues of \$65 for active and sustaining members. Membership shall include the Yearbook and the monthly newsletter (The Gardenzette). Dues are recommended by the Executive

Board and approved by vote of the general membership. Dues and membership forms are due by March 31. The Vice President shall contact each delinquent member. Members who have not paid by April 30 will be dropped from Club membership. The Vice President shall notify in writing those members who have been dropped from membership.

9. Club membership is limited to eighty (80) active members. The number of sustaining members is not limited.
10. Vacancies in the active membership category are filled at the discretion of the Executive Board in the following order: (1) sustaining member, (2) resigned member, (3) new applicants.

dii. **OFFICERS**

1. The President shall convene the incoming Executive Board at the June joint Board meeting. Each incoming committee chair shall be given a detailed job description and end-of-year report by the outgoing chair at this meeting of the new and old Executive Boards.
2. The Secretary is responsible for compiling and delivering annually copies of the minutes of the Executive Board and general meetings, the Treasurer's reports, a copy of the Yearbook and issues of The Gardenzette. These materials shall be submitted to the Central Branch of the Arlington Public Library by June 30 of each Club year.
3. The Treasurer's monthly reports shall state the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements and closing balance. This report appears in the monthly newsletter The Gardenzette.

diii. **MEETINGS**

1. When Arlington Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, all in-person Club meetings scheduled for that day shall be cancelled.
2. General meetings are the third Thursday of the month except in June when it is the second Thursday. The Holiday Tea is held the second Thursday of December and replaces the usual monthly Club meeting. Virtual attendance at general meetings will be provided as technology allows.

div. **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. The Executive Board consists of all Club officers, and the following Standing Committee Chairs: Program, Show, and Horticulture.
2. All Standing Committee Chairs are welcome to attend Executive Board meetings.
3. All Standing Committee Chairs should submit monthly activity reports to the President and The Gardenzette and will receive monthly Board meeting minutes.

dv. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. The Membership Chair prepares tables for in-person general meetings with a guest book register to record visitor attendance, temporary name tags for visitors, permanent name tags for members, new member application forms and RSGC information sheets along with miscellaneous brochures and newsletters from NCAGC, VFGC or NGC, if available.
2. New RSGC yearbooks are updated and distributed to members at the September general meeting.