

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

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR Rock Spring Garden Club's

End-of-Year Celebration
with Installation of Officers and
Perennial Bloom Award Presentation

Thursday, June 12, 2025
12pm (please arrive a few minutes prior) to 2pm
Metro 29 Diner, 4711 Langston Boulevard, Arlington
RSVP via Evite (or email maryamzolecki@gmail.com)
by June 9, 2025

Lunch will be served after installation of officers and award presentation, and orders will be placed and paid on separate checks by attendees. Hope to see you there!

Thursday
6/12/2025

12pm-2pm
Metro 29

President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

It has been a tremendous honor to have served as Rock Spring Garden Club's president these past two years. I am delighted that Cheryl Atkinson is stepping into this role and know she will be wonderful! I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your interest in the club, your support, your enthusiasm, and for just being you. I am so appreciative of the members of the board for their commitment to the club, the donated time, and for all their hard work to ensure we had a successful couple of years, our committees and committee chairs for doing the actual work of the club, and our club members for rising to the occasion when called upon. I am very grateful to have stumbled upon this community and looking forward to what the next years have to bring!

Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$19,943.04

Revenue: \$9,204.00

Expenses: (\$8,270.58)

Net: \$933.42

Ending Balance: \$20,876.46

Next Board Meeting

September 2025

Details TBD

Show/Design of the Month

By Kate Abrahams

Many thanks to our club members for diving in to create the monthly floral design assignments, pumpkin arrangements, Holiday Tea and luncheon arrangements! The floral creations were delightful, interesting, unique and beautiful. I hope you found working with the plant material enjoyable and the assignments challenging and educational. Next May, the Club will present a patriotic flower show and I hope you will participate by entering a design, horticulture, and joining one of the committees. I'll be working on the show schedule this summer, the blueprint of the show, and hope to present it to the club in September. In the meantime, enjoy your summer gardens and adventures and decorating your home with flowers to bring the season inside. Many thanks to the flower show judges in our club for providing feedback on the monthly design and horticulture specimens. Many thanks to the Show Committee members for their help with set up, choosing design assignments, and clarifying the descriptions of the monthly assignments for novice designers. Next year's assignments will reflect design types in the upcoming flower show. Let me know if you have a favorite design to include in the schedule!

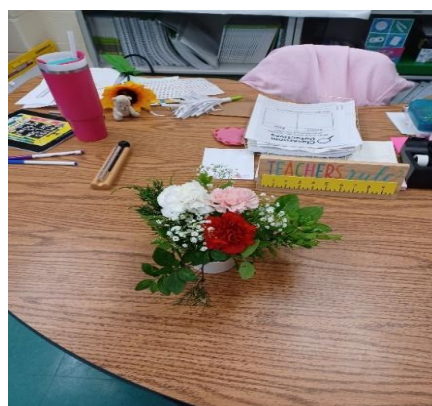
Funeral Service for Sherry Foster's husband Mike will be at Fort Myer, VA on August 25 at 3 pm. Arrival time is 2:15. A reception is planned after; location and time to be determined.

Youth Activities

By Pat Getz

The Youth Activities committee concluded the club year with our traditional grand finale – a program that had all the 70 second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary making a Mother's Day floral arrangement to bring home to their Moms. Generally we have 12 students at a time for the other months' programs so the May program requires considerably more preparation and supplies! Each child received a cup filled with oasis, carnations in three different colors, baby's breath, and plenty of other greens to create their masterpieces. The children had a wonderful time making their arrangements and were so proud to have a Mother's Day gift they made themselves to bring home. We had enough supplies to also make an arrangement for each of the second grade teachers and staff in the main office. Many thanks to the club members who supplied and prepped greens for the project, and the members beyond the YA committee who came to help at the school on the day of the program. A special shout out to Lee Martin (Lynda's husband) for driving us out to Chantilly to pick up the flowers and help us haul them back, and into their house. All in all it was another fun and successful year working with the

Tuckahoe students and teachers. We are always amazed by the children's creativity and enthusiasm and hopefully we are helping nurture a love of nature, plants, and flowers in the students that will blossom as they grow up. We look forward to continuing the YA program next year with a new crop of second graders.



Garden Therapy

By Susan Scotti

Mother's Day and butterflies were the topics of our May program for the pre-K class at Glebe Elementary School. The teacher, Ms Donna Bejerano, and the children surprised us when we entered the classroom with "thank you" greetings and presented us with gifts! The children had worked together to make a flower picture for us that included their names. There was a photo magnet of a child for each of us from one of the parents. Another parent made intricate hand-crafted bookmarks with a tag "Thank you for helping me grow" along with a complimentary note. It is gratifying to know the programs are appreciated and have made a positive impact. After Ms Donna took our picture and the children settled, Pat began by reading "I am a Butterfly". A simple informative book about butterflies with big pictures of the stages they go through to become beautiful winged insects. She passed around plastic forms of each stage, reinforcing the information. After learning about how they evolve, Margi Melnick had the children gather around her to choose a butterfly to hold as she led them in singing "Butterfly, butterfly where do you roam, whose lovely garden do you call your home".

Susan talked about Mother's Day and the tradition of honoring mothers with cards and flowers. She explained they would be making a flower arrangement and a card to take home for a Mother's Day surprise. They moved to the tables and after writing their names on the cards, decorated them with stickers of flowers and butterflies. Then we passed out pink cups prepped with oasis along with pink, red and white carnations, greens and baby's breath. They enjoyed placing the flowers in the oasis, letting us guide them and clipping as needed.

After adding butterfly and flower stickers around the container, the finishing touch was perching their butterfly on the arrangement. The flowers and cards were placed in pink bags with handles that made a pretty gift to take home. Mary Garnet worked along with us on this busy program. Other committee members, Mary Sliwa and Kate Abrahams were unable to be with us this month, but we have all had a good year working together with the children. The teacher and aides provide a pleasant atmosphere in the classroom and have been very helpful and supportive, especially with assisting the children needing individual attention. Looking forward to another year of "It's the Garden Ladies!"



New Members were inducted into the club at the May General Meeting by Vice President Tina Foutz. They are shown below with their sponsors.



Left to right: Joyce Fall, Lee Alice Parker, Ann Lunson, Karen Smith, Tina Foutz, Sharon Davis

Special Award to Alice Buch

By Maryam Zolecki

Congratulations to Alice Buch for receiving the Nels and Ginny Johnson Award for Outstanding Service to the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society (ODCS). The annual award, established by Nelson Johnson to recognize his parents for their dedication to the ODCS, is presented to a member in good standing with 10 or more years of membership in ODCS, who has shown considerable service, leadership, and dedication to ODCS and its goals. Alice's award was for 2022, but its presentation was delayed until May 2025. The award cited Alice's ODCS membership for 19 years, her steady work at the society's spring plant potting activities, her assistance as tabulator at their annual show and her transportation of show supplies to and from the show venue, her services as transporter and cashier at the Green Spring Garden sales, and her work over several years in auditing the annual financial data to verify the accuracy of income and expenses. The presentation was made by ODCS President Andy Sherman and Past President Camilla Ng.

Senior Outreach

By Carol Froehlich

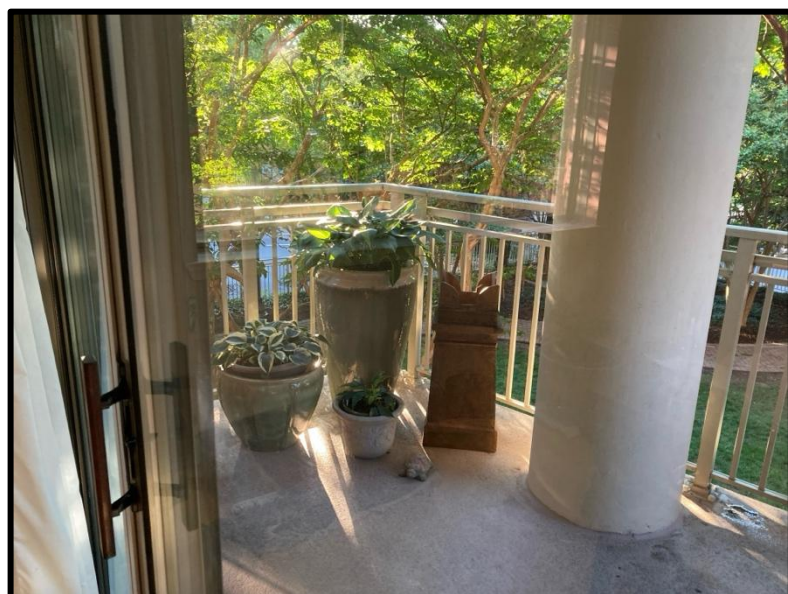
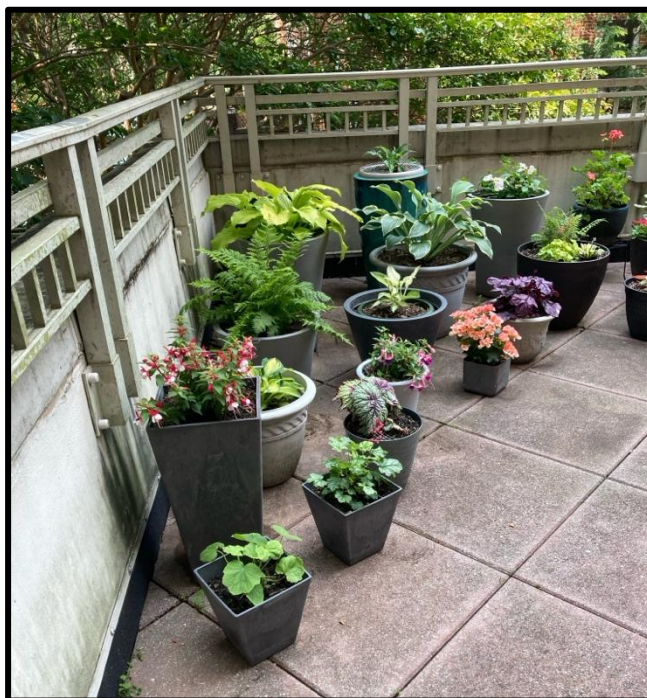
During a break in the rain, three gardeners gathered at Mary Marshall Assisted Living to do some planting, weeding, and socializing. Thank you to Anne Marie, Helen, and myself for the planting, and Mary for the shopping and planning of our landscaping project. Beneath cloudy skies, we quickly sorted the annuals for the front area and created a colorful contrast to the shrubs and plants that are thriving so well from the care of the Mary Marshall staff. We then moved to the deck area where many residents joined us and helped plant the new raised bed with cherry tomatoes and annuals. Additional planting on railing boxes were filled with herbs and annuals promoting colorful blooms and delicious herbs to be used for cooking by the chef. The Director, Divinia and the Recreation Director, TJ, participated with enthusiasm and wanted to know all about the variety of plants and the care needed for each of them. Ann Marie ventured down to the area on the ground floor where she and a resident planted a tomato plant, and did a bit of pruning to the magnificent Japanese Maple tree. What a positive and inspiring afternoon for all of us.



HORTICULTURE

By Christine Wegman
Condominium Gardening

Two years ago, Charlie and I downsized to a condo in Ballston. One of the attractions of the second-floor apartment was the shaded balcony and a nice sized roof-top terrace above the garage. We wanted to plant a combination of perennials with beautiful foliage and a few annuals for color. Even though we are experienced gardeners, we didn't fully appreciate the challenge of a very different environment from what we were used to. The lovely, shaded balcony has proved too shaded for most plants and too exposed. We lost a tassel fern, three hellebores, and a beautiful camellia this winter -- everything on the balcony in fact, except two hostas. In retrospect, we should have anticipated the amount of wind generated by a nine-story building, even on the second floor. The combination of lack of light, followed by winter cold and wind was just too much for most of the plants.



We fared better on the terrace. It gets more sun and is surrounded by a three-foot wall that provides some shelter from the wind. We lost a pretty little *Pieris Japonica* 'Cavatine', but not I think, because of the weather. Its roots never got properly established. We also lost a couple of exotic plants that were only hardy to zone 7. We did manage to over-winter three hydrangea, a dwarf Japanese maple, and dwarf ginkgo, as well as four hostas.

One of the lessons we learned is that we needed to be more careful about soil drainage than we had been used to. A few of the tall pots didn't have drainage holes and the plant roots got waterlogged. We are growing our plants in plastic pots, so this was easily remedied by drilling holes in the bottoms. We have four ceramic pots, but the plants are in plastic inserts, so their drainage is good.

The big lesson for me has been trying to gauge whether the plant has enough light. In our garden on Glebe Road, even those areas in deepest shade were more amenable to growing plants than our balcony. I think that is perhaps because on our balcony the light comes from only from two directions. There is absolutely no light coming from the other two. This spring I have only put a few plants on the balcony, and they are all set right against the railing to get the maximum light. Even so, I had to move a rex begonia to the terrace for more light. At first, I didn't recognize the signs. The leaves turned black and fell off the plant. We thought it might be lack of water, but it was lack of light.



Container gardening is a lot less forgiving than planting in the ground. When things go wrong, they can happen quite quickly. One day things look fine, then a couple of days later they are seriously wrong. On the other hand, gardening in containers can yield instant gratification. You can buy a plant at the nursery, pop it into a container, and it looks beautiful from Day 1.



All three hydrangeas that we planted are doing well. I have two *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Bobo', which is a dwarf plant, and one *Hydrangea* 'Fairytrail Bride'. This is advertised as good for containers. It died back to the ground this winter but has come back nicely. To make the branches trail, I bought fish line weights from Amazon and attached one with a twist tie to the largest branch. This seems to be working.

In general, it's probably a good idea to add a couple of plant zones to your calculation of what is winter hardy in pots. I haven't planted anything that I want to overwinter that is less hardy than zone 5. I'm favoring hosta, coral bells and ferns over more exotic plants. And we intend to move most of the plants from the balcony to the terrace this fall.

Fredricksburg Area Iris Society Show

By Thea McGinnis

The show was held on May 3, 2025. RSGC members entered top award designs. Tina Foutz won the Best in Show award plus \$50 and a certificate. Special thanks also to Tina, Maryam Zolecki, Thea McGinnis, and Imelda Rowe for competing.

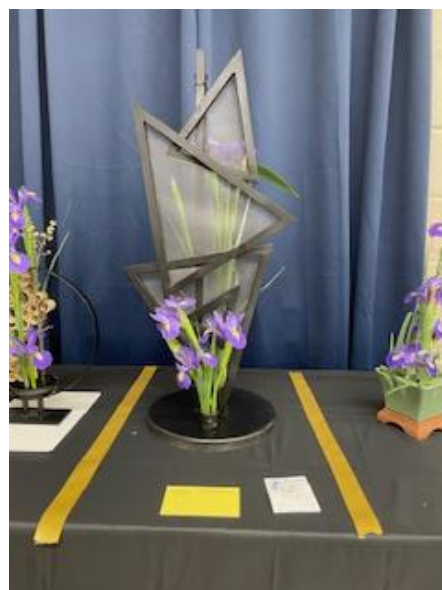




Photo Gallery

From the May General Meeting
Creative Designs using a found object

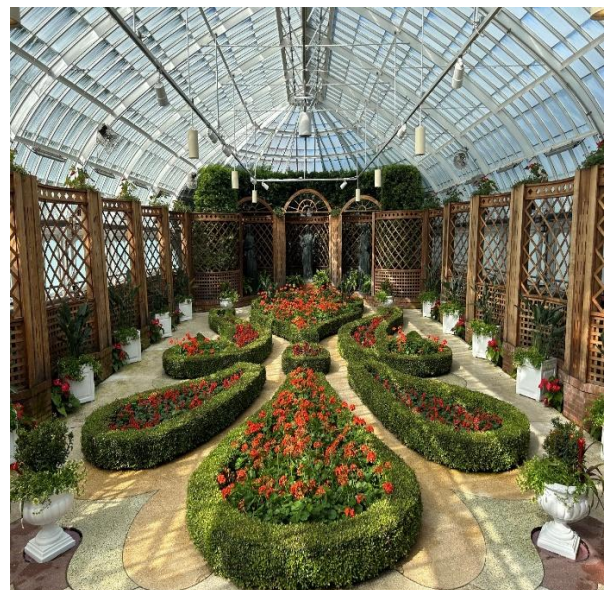




From Cheryl Atkinson's trip to Hidcote Gardens in the Cotswolds, England



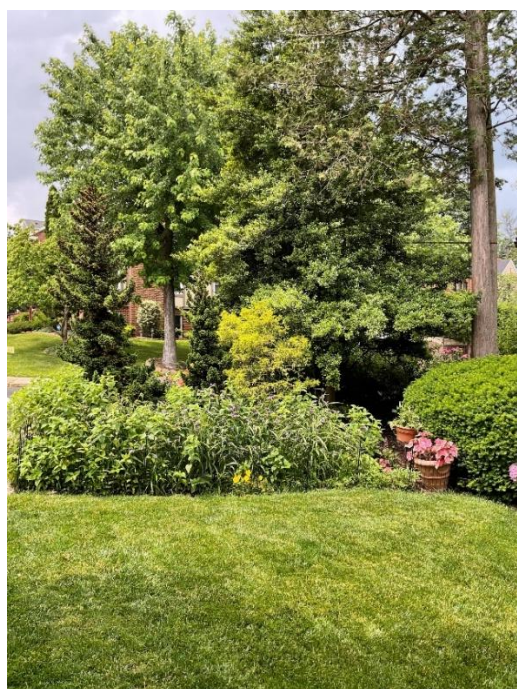
From Maryam Zolecki's trip to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh PA





From George Ruppert: Urban gardening at its best!





From Thea McGinnis's Garden
David Austin Roses

