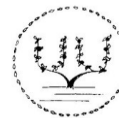


# THE GARDENZETTE



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

Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Atlantic Region, National Capital Area Garden Club, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District



Volume 64, Number 1

September 2025

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Cheryl Atkinson

### VICE PRESIDENT

Maryam Zolecki

### SECRETARY

Chris Day

### TREASURER

Joan Hession

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

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## General Meeting

September 18, 2025 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

## Exploring Botanical Arts

Botanical Arts is the newest division of National Garden Clubs, Inc. flower shows, and includes Artistic Crafts, which involves creating objects with a function that includes fresh and/or dried plant material. Club member Tina Foutz will be demonstrating techniques used to make these objects, which can also be used in Creative floral designs.



## President's Message

### By Cheryl Atkinson

Welcome back! September always feels like a fresh start to me even though it is the “beginning of the end” of the gardening season. But there is so much to do in the Fall—dividing perennials, planting bulbs, figuring out what worked this year and what needs to change in the coming year. The lack of rain in August has been a real challenge for my garden and for gardens throughout our area. I am so excited to kick off another year together. This month's meeting will be a wonderful chance to reconnect, swap stories from the summer, and start working together on the projects and programs ahead. Our committees have been busy over the summer: terrific programs are scheduled including a field trip to Oatlands; planning for the flower show in May is well underway; and work on planning our annual fundraiser has begun. I encourage each of you to bring your ideas and talents, and to jump into club activities wherever your interests lead you. Our club is about more than just plants—it's about friendship, learning from one another, and sharing the joys that gardening and floral design bring to our lives. Whether you have been with the club for years or are just joining us, you are an important part of what makes this group so special.

#### Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$20,941.46

Revenue: \$65.00

Expenses: (\$2,426.65)

Net: (\$2,361.65)

Ending Balance: \$18,579.81

#### Next Board Meeting

Thursday October 2, 2025

at 4:30 pm

Hosted by Maryam Zolecki

## Membership

### By Maryam Zolecki

We begin our 2025-2026 club year with 64 talented and dedicated members, and joining the ranks this past summer is our newest member, Debbie Czarniecki. Debbie is originally from Indiana, and she and her family moved to the DC area in 2017 due to her husband's job. Her husband has recently retired and they are not returning to Indiana because their oldest son, his wife and their only grandchildren live in McLean. Debbie was an elementary teacher when living in Indiana, and she herself retired last year after working with the US Census Bureau. Debbie loves to read and listen to audio books when gardening. She joined Rock Spring Garden Club to meet people with similar interests. Her sponsors are Jo Ella Samp and Janis Gunel. Be sure to introduce yourself to Debbie, and give her a warm welcome!

The Membership Committee of Maryam Zolecki, Janis Gunel, and Connie Richards is generating ideas and working hard in reaching out to the community for new members. In addition to posting flyers at local public libraries, we will be setting up a tent at the Westover Farmers Market a few times this fall. We also plan to give all of you business cards so that you too can reach out to those you come across who you think would be interested in joining our club. We welcome any additional ideas, and feel free to pass them along.

## Show: Design of the Month

By Kate Abrahams

### Creative Grouped Mass Design

Welcome to another year of hands-on learning about floral designs! This month the assignment is a creative grouped mass design using groups of both fresh and dried plant materials. As you can see from the photos, groups of plant material are placed closely together to give a “mass” or solid effect to the design. But, because the materials are clearly grouped, it is a creative design since a traditional design would integrate the different materials throughout it and only use fresh plant material. So in this case, one type of dried plant material would be in one group and one kind of fresh plant material would be in another group. It’s recommended to have 3 – 5 different groups in your design and usually an odd number looks more natural. But you can have as many groups as you like and it’s good to think of color, texture, and height differences to add interest and create harmony among the groups. Remember to use a container that is in proportion to your overall plant material’s dimensions and be aware of the visual balance in the design. When looking at your design, does one side seem visually “heavier” with plant material than the other side or does it seem equally balanced? Does it seem like it is upright or leaning too much in one direction and might tip over? In the *Handbook’s* descriptive language “Like material is grouped and placed next to other different grouped material. Additional plant material may be included, but the proportion of groupings dominate the design. Plant material emanates from one (1) point of emergence.” *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 edition page 78. The “frame of reference” for your design will be a space that is 20 inches wide, 25 inches deep with unlimited height. Designs will be placed on a table 30 inches tall, 30 inches deep and 180 inches long covered with a white tablecloth. A 22-inch tall foamboard staging panel covered with a white tablecloth will be placed behind all the designs, running along the length of the table.

Thank you for creating designs for the enjoyment and learning of all our club members. Please remember that active members are expected to create a minimum of two designs during the club year. You may receive credit through the monthly design assignments, the pumpkin design fundraiser, Holiday Tea designs and Flower Show entries. Everyone is welcome to create designs each month and we all benefit if you participate. If you have any questions, please contact me.



**HOLIDAY TEA**  
**Thursday, December 11 at 2:00 PM**  
**Hostess: Sharon Siems**  
**Theme: Birds and Berries**  
**HO! HO! HO!**

It will soon be that time of the year again. This is an opportunity for members to show their creativity and design a holiday arrangement for the RSGC Holiday Tea. As always, you will receive one (1) credit toward your annual responsibility as a member. A sign-up sheet and photos will be available at the general meeting in September.

Renee Bayes and Sharon Siems

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**From the June end of year meeting and lunch:**

**George Ruppert received the Perennial Bloom Award**





### New officers were installed



**Treasurer Joan Hession**



**Vice President Maryam Zolecki**



**Secretary Chris Day**



**President Cheryl Atkinson**

## Liaison Report

By Maryam Zolecki

Every month, the liaison section of the newsletter will keep you informed about dates and events happening related to garden club activities, as well as some other events related to gardening, floral design, and horticulture. Please email me to share events for publication. Here is what's happening in mid-September into November.

- September 16-17, 2025 - NGC Symposium hosted by NCAGC Judges Council - These courses are primarily intended for Flower Show Judges to maintain their credentials, but all garden club members interested in learning more about flower shows, floral design and horticulture are encouraged to attend.
- Thursday, September 25, 2025 - D3 Fall Meeting at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens at 9:30 am-12:00 pm with a program on vultures.
- September 26-28, 2025 - National Capital Dahlia Society (NCDS) Annual Show at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD.
- Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) Fall Meeting at US National Arboretum.
- September 30-October 1, 2025 - Virginia State Fair: To volunteer, contact VFGC Coordinator Judy Durant ([igdurant@verizon.net](mailto:igdurant@verizon.net)).
- October 13-14, 2025 - Landscape Design School, Course 1, in Richmond, VA.
- October 10-19, 2025 - Ikebana Exhibition in the Asian Collection Pavilion Buildings, US National Arboretum.
- October 19-22, 2025 - Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs (CAR- SGC) Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel Chesapeake Bay, Cambridge, MD ([www.car-sgc.org](http://www.car-sgc.org)).
- October 25-26, 2025 - Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society (ODCS) Annual Show at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, VA.
- October 27-28, 2025 - Landscape Design School, Course 3, in Fairfax, VA (hybrid). Brochure and registration coming soon, and email the chair, Sylvia Sloan, at [lds@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:lds@ncagardenclubs.org).
- November 1, 2025 - Washington Daffodil Society (WDS) Fall Meeting - Bulb Exchange, Bulb Auction, & Bulb Order Pickup at 10:00 am-12:30 pm at Trinity Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA 22101. Come and join if not a member to participate in the bulb auction, bulb sale, bulb exchange, and to pick up your bulbs from the bulb order.
- November 17-18, 2025 - Gardening School, Course 1, in Fairfax, VA (hybrid). Brochure and registration coming soon, and email the chair, Connie Richards, at [gs@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:gs@ncagardenclubs.org).
- Ayr Hill Garden Club 2025 Bulb Sale - Order online now through October 24, 2025 (<https://ahgcbulbsale.square.site/>). Pick up will be at the Freeman Store and Museum from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays, October 11, 18, and 25.
- Floret Flower Workshops - Floret Flower Farm has a number of workshops, including a free three-part video series (at top of page when you click on the link) available through end of October where they show you some important garden techniques, including how to double the number of blooms your plants produce (pinching), how to get the longest vase life from your cut flowers, and how to create a beautiful hand-tied bouquet (<https://www.floretflowers.com/workshops/online-workshop/>).
- NGC Schools - Visit the link (<https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>) and click on "learn more" and then "find a course" for each of the respective schools: Flower Show, Gardening, Landscape

Design, and Environmental. There are a number of virtual options that are convenient and cost effective.

- Fern Valley Workdays at US Arboretum - Chair Dawn Reynolds-Olson is working on establishing workdays at the US Arboretum starting in September. Here are the dates on the books so far: Tuesday, September 16, 10am-12:30pm, Tuesday, October 14, 10am-12:30pm, Friday, October 17, 10am-12:30pm, and Friday, November 7, 10am-12:30pm. Please let her know if you are interested in helping ([fernvalley@ncagardenclubs.org](mailto:fernvalley@ncagardenclubs.org))! Tools supplied and the task will range from pulling ivy, weeding and planting.
- There are a number of fall festivals happening in and around our region if you want to check them out: <https://mommypoppins.com/fall-festivals-near-washington-dc-families>.
- Morning of Design Event. November 6, 10:00-12:00. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church 3810 Meredith Drive Fairfax VA. \$10 donation. Featuring Master Judge Betty Ann Galway and other experts.

# **Rock Spring Garden Club**

## Budget Proposal

June 1, 2025- May 31, 2026

Funds June 1, 2025		<b>\$20,941.46</b>				<b>Proposed</b>
			Budget	Actual		<b>Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			2024-25	2024-25		<b>2025-26</b>
Donations			\$ 700.00	\$ 891.00	\$	<b>700.00</b>
Fundraisers			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,409.00	\$	<b>3,000.00</b>
Interest					\$	<b>350.00</b>
Membership dues			\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,315.00	\$	<b>3,315.00</b>
Other			\$ 200.00	\$ 377.00	\$	<b>200.00</b>
Ways & Means			\$ 950.00	\$ 1,277.00	\$	<b>1,000.00</b>
	Total		\$ 7,600.00	\$ 9,269.00	\$	<b>8,565.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Officers expenses						
	Pres		\$ 250.00	\$ 45.00	\$	<b>150.00</b>
	V Pres		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$	<b>50.00</b>
	Sec		\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$	<b>50.00</b>
	Trea		\$ 100.00	\$ 79.00	\$	<b>300.00</b>
Committees						
	Awards		\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$	<b>50.00</b>
	Community Outreach		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$	<b>100.00</b>
	Floral Outreach		\$ 350.00	\$ 378.71	\$	<b>400.00</b>
			\$ -	\$ -	\$	<b>-</b>
	Fundraiser		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$	<b>100.00</b>
	Garden therapy		\$ 500.00	\$ 311.49	\$	<b>400.00</b>
	Horticulture		\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$	<b>50.00</b>
	Hospitality		\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$	<b>100.00</b>
	Information management		\$ 50.00		\$	<b>-</b>
Program						
	Speakers		\$ 1,300.00	\$ 880.00	\$	<b>1,300.00</b>



Publications				
	Gardenzette	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
	Yearbook	\$ 400.00	\$ 337.25	\$ 400.00
Publicity		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Show		\$ 50.00	\$ 59.32	\$ 50.00
Senior Outreach		\$ 600.00	\$ 301.17	\$ 400.00
Ways and Means		\$ 400.00	\$ 206.32	\$ 400.00
Youth activities		\$ 500.00	\$ 383.32	\$ 400.00
Meeting expense				
	Rent	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
	Custodian	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00
Dues	NCAGC	\$ 520.00	\$ 472.00	\$ 520.00
	VFGC	\$ 325.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 325.00
	Piedmont	\$ 65.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 65.00
SUBTOTAL		\$ 8,435.00	\$ 6,300.58	\$ 8,035.00
Other				
Charitable contributions		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 500.00
Flower show		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
4-H campers		\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,500.00
		\$ -	\$ -	
	Total	\$ 10,955.00	\$ 8,270.58	\$ 11,285.00
	Net	\$ (3,355.00)	\$ 998.42	\$ (2,720.00)
Ending balance	5/31/2026		\$20,941.46	\$18,221.46

The budget was developed by the Budget Committee for the 2025-26 club year. Committee chairs reviewed their allocations and had the opportunity to recommend adjustments. The Executive Board approved the budget and it will be voted on at the September meeting by the active members of the Rock Spring Garden Club. Please send any questions or comments to Treasurer Joan Hession.

**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**From Renee Bayes**



**Greenwich Park, England**



**Queen's University, Belfast**



**Canterbury Cathedral, England**



**Poppies at Belfast Castle, Ireland**