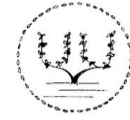


# THE GARDENZETTE



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 9

May 2026

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Cheryl Atkinson

### VICE PRESIDENT

Maryam Zolecki

### SECRETARY

Chris Day

### TREASURER

Joan Hession

### GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

## CONTENTS

President's Message	2
Budget Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Flower Show	2
Youth Activities	3
Senior Outreach	4
Garden Therapy	5
Daffodil Convention	6
NCAGC Award	7
Dahlia Sale	7
District 3 Show	8
Photo Gallery	10

**“CHORUS FOR THE COUNTRY”**  
Celebrating Early Patriotic Songs

**An NGC Patriotic Standard Flower Show**

Presented by  
**Rock Spring Garden Club**

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Central Atlantic Region,  
National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
District III, and  
South Atlantic Region,  
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Piedmont District

**Friendship Hall (Lower Level)  
Little Falls Presbyterian Church  
6025 Little Falls Road  
Arlington, VA 22207**

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

**Free and Open to the Public  
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

## President's Message

By Cheryl Atkinson

May has arrived in all its glory, filling gardens all around us with color, fragrance, and renewed growth. Everywhere we look, nature is putting on a spectacular show — and soon, our club will do the same! Excitement is building as we prepare for our Flower Show on May 21. This special event is a highlight of our club year, showcasing the creativity, talent, and dedication of our members. Whether you are entering designs or horticulture specimens, volunteering behind the scenes, or simply attending to enjoy the displays, your participation helps make the show a success. Flower shows celebrate much more than beautiful designs and horticulture. They reflect the camaraderie, learning, and shared love of gardening that bring our club together. I encourage everyone to join in and support this wonderful event in whatever way you can. Thank you to all who have been working diligently to plan and organize the show. Your hard work and enthusiasm are deeply appreciated. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 21 for what promises to be a beautiful and inspiring day. Happy Gardening!

### Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$22,645.67

Revenue: \$1,383.08

Expenses: (\$1,547.05)

Net: (\$163.97)

Ending Balance: \$22,481.70

### Next Board Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2026

at 4:30 pm

Hosted by Cheryl Atkinson

## Flower Show

By Maryam Zolecki

We are in the home stretch and I hope you are as excited as I am for our upcoming flower show. The flower show is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026 with staging and exhibition drop-off on Wednesday evening and then again bright and early on Thursday morning. The show is open for viewing from 2:30-5 pm, and we are excited to have a few dozen third-graders from Nottingham Elementary School to open up the flower show with music. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to exhibit or who plans to bring in their horticulture specimens the day of the show (no need to sign up ahead for horticulture specimens, just bring them in the day of). And, thank you to all the hardworking chairs and volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents so far. The schedule ([click here](#)) is the rulebook for how to display in each area, so do take a look at it. If you still have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone listed in the schedule. Flower shows are such great learning experiences, and the best way to grow in this area is to take the plunge and enter an exhibit. Regardless of the outcome, it is a wonderful way to grow as a garden club member!

## Youth Activities

### By Pat Getz

The Youth Activities Committee ended the 2025-26 program year on Friday May 8th with our traditional grande finale – making floral designs with the children for them to bring home to celebrate Mother’s Day. Unlike the other months’ programs, when we work with 12 second grade students, the Mother’s Day project included all of the 67 second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary School. We purchased carnations in four colors: red, white, yellow, and pink, as well as ferns and baby’s breath. Committee members brought greens from their yards to supplement the store-bought materials. Each student was give a plastic cup filled with oasis, their four carnations and lots of greens and then they set to work creating their masterpieces. The children all worked enthusiastically and were excited to be making a special gift for their mothers. Many told us how much their Moms loved flowers, and a few asked if they should hide them until Sunday. When they finished the designs each student was given a label to write their name, which they affixed to a handled plastic bag and then we helped them carefully insert their floral design into the bag for transport home. Committee members participating were: Debbie Czarniecki, Joyce Fall, Mary Garnett, Pat Getz, Lynda Martin, and Lea Alice Parker. This year, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs we were able to purchase more flowers and other plant materials than usually is the case. Additional thanks to Maryam Zolecki for facilitating the grant, and to Lee Martin (Lynda’s husband) for driving us to the Metro Flower Mart and helping us pick up and transport the materials.

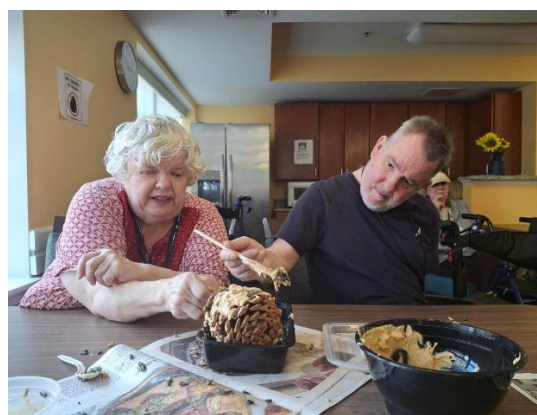


## Senior Outreach By Laurie Grant

Celebrating Earth Day Using Seeds was the theme of the April 22 Senior Outreach program at Mary Marshall. Joan Hession discussed the importance of seeds, describing them as nutritional powerhouses that create new plants and are a major source of food for people and animals. The residents enjoyed examining and identifying different types of seeds including pecans, sunflower seeds, pistachios, cashews, and pumpkin seeds. Helen McMahon, Sharon Siems, Mary Kudless and Laurie Grant assisted our 10 participants in filling individual peat pots with soil. The residents delighted in the extremely fine lobelia seeds and Joan Hession's ingenious method of transferring the seeds to the peat pots. Joan sprayed each index finger with water before the residents dipped their damp finger into the seeds. Joan lightly misted their seed coated fingers as the participants watched the seeds settle into the soil. The seeds will be nurtured and the lobelia seedlings will be planted in the Mary Marshall garden in May.



Laurie Grant led a discussion on the value of seeds for songbirds and the residents named some of their favorite birds as Helen, Mary, Sharon and Joan assisted in making pinecone bird feeders. The pinecones were coated with peanut butter and lard, then rolled in a mixture of wild bird seed. Once the pinecones were loaded with seeds, we hung them in the courtyard. The residents were excited to guess which species of local birds would visit the feeders or whether the squirrels would get there first!



## Garden Therapy

By Pat Getz

Our April program with the Glebe Elementary School pre-schoolers focused on butterflies and flowers. Garden ladies participating were: Margi Melnik, Joyce McKenzie, Mary Garnett, Pat Getz, Susan Scotti and Mary Sliwa. Pat read the children's classic "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" which the children really enjoyed, even applauding when it was finished. Next Margi lead the children in singing a song about butterflies; as usual they loved the musical segment of the program. Then it was back to their tables for two hands-on projects. First was making their own spring floral design with fresh flowers and greens in pale blue solo cups filled with oasis and decorated with stickers of flowers and bugs of their choosing. They also each got a butterfly-on-a-stick to add and complete the design. Finally the children were given construction paper and a butterfly sticker kit they could use to design their own butterfly. Both the students and the garden ladies had a great time with the program! Many thanks to Kate Abrahams who helped plan and procure supplies for the program although she was unable to attend.



### American Daffodil Society Convention

This year's convention was held at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Connie Richards, shown here with Steve Hampson, president of the ADS, won the John Van Beck medal for best Intermediate three stems in the Historic Division. Connie's flower was Dreamlight3w-gwr.



**NCAGC State Awards Meeting** – Rock Spring Garden Club received several awards, including a cash award for the Senior Outreach Program at the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Facility.



RSGC president Cheryl Atkinson

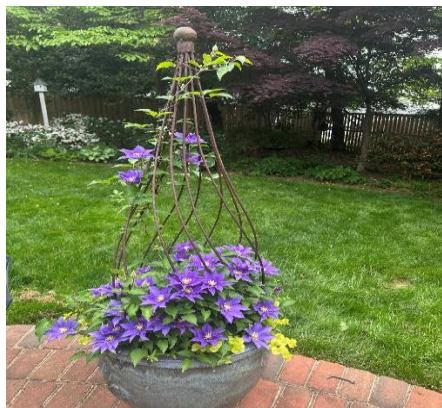
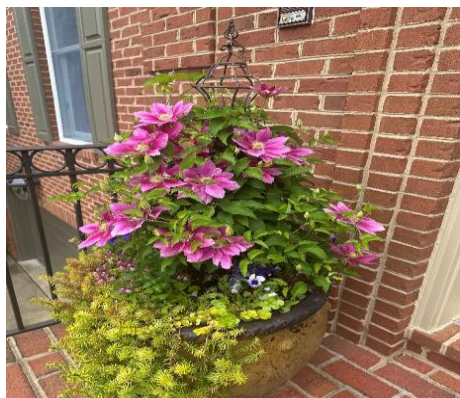
---

**Dahlia Tuber Sale** - The National Capital Dahlia Society will be having a tuber sale at their meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at St Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA . This is a great opportunity to get very special flowers at a great price. All tubers are \$7 which is a bargain compared with other vendors and you save shipping cost. These are flowers that have been grown in this local area. Many come from prize winning specimens.




---

**From Renee Bayes garden**



### District 3 Flower Show

Floral designs were entered by RSGC members Thea McGinnis, Tina Foutz, Cheryl Atkinson, and Maryam Zolecki. Maryam's design (pictured directly below) won Best in Show and the Harlin and Miriam Turner Award.





**Horticulture Specimens – RSGC member Tina Foutz won several top awards.**



**PHOTO GALLERY**

**George Ruppert with his gorgeous Iris**



From the April Oatlands Field Trip

