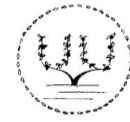


THE GARDENZETTE



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 Club, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District



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PRESIDENT

Cheryl Atkinson

VICE PRESIDENT

Maryam Zolecki

SECRETARY

Chris Day

TREASURER

Joan Hession

GARDENZETTE EDITOR

Pat Getz

End of Year Event

Visit to Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens

4155 Linnean Ave, NW

Washington, DC

Please plan to arrive about 10:00 am when the estate opens. Several RSGC members, who are also Hillwood members, have enough guest passes to ensure free entry for us. The drive from North Arlington to Hillwood usually takes about 30 minutes. Visitors are directed to parking at the entrance gate. Complimentary parking near the visitor center is generally available, but carpooling is a good idea. Look for a RSGC member near the visitor center entrance who will have passes available. No group lunch is planned but the Merriweather Café is handy for those who wish to have lunch after visiting the estate. Full service, counter service, and to-go options are available, and you may picnic on the grounds. More information about menus, exhibits, and directions is available on the Hillwood website.

We would like to have an idea about the number of members who will be going. Please let Dianne Simmons know by phone or email that you plan to go.

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President's Message

By Cheryl Atkinson

As our 2025-2026 club year comes to a close, we have a lot to celebrate. The "Chorus for the Country" Flower Show on May 21 was an amazing success. Many thanks go to Maryam Zolecki and the Committee Chairs who organized and directed the many elements and activities that go into making such a show possible. Thanks also go to so many of you who volunteered for tasks needed during the show and to all who exhibited designs and/or horticultural specimens. The judges were so impressed with the quality of the horticulture that they awarded 90+ scores to over 55% of the exhibits!

This is also the time of year when the District and State level garden club organizations present awards to individual garden clubs. The RSGC is a member of both the National Capital Area Garden Club (NCAGC), which is the "state" level for garden clubs in the D.C. metro area, and the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC). At the NCAGC state level the RSGC received the Beatrice M. Coiner Award for the Senior Outreach project at Mary Marshall and the Club Program Citation for the program "Exploring the Botanical Arts" presented by Tina Foutz. The VFGC awarded Blue Ribbons to RSGC for Garden Therapy and our *Gardenzette* newsletter. In addition to thanking those who worked on all the projects that received awards, a heartfelt thanks goes to Sharon Davis who prepared and submitted all the award applications.

I hope to see you all on Thursday, June 11, to tour Hillwood Estate and Museum and celebrate a successful year for the RSGC.

Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$22,481.70

Revenue: \$198.15

Expenses: (\$2,137.33)

Net: (\$1,939.18)

Ending Balance: \$20,542.52

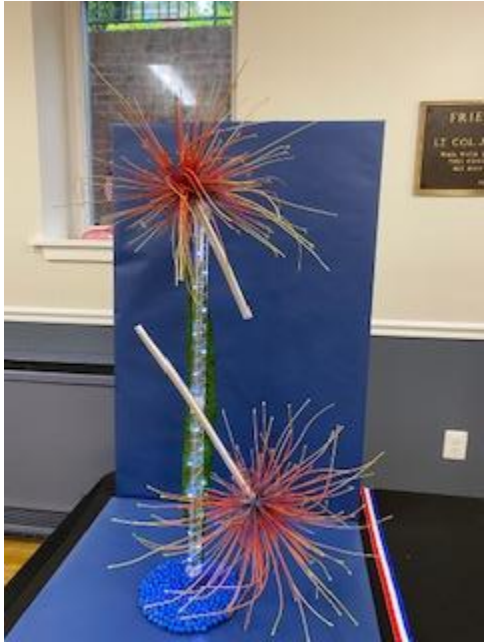
Next Board Meeting

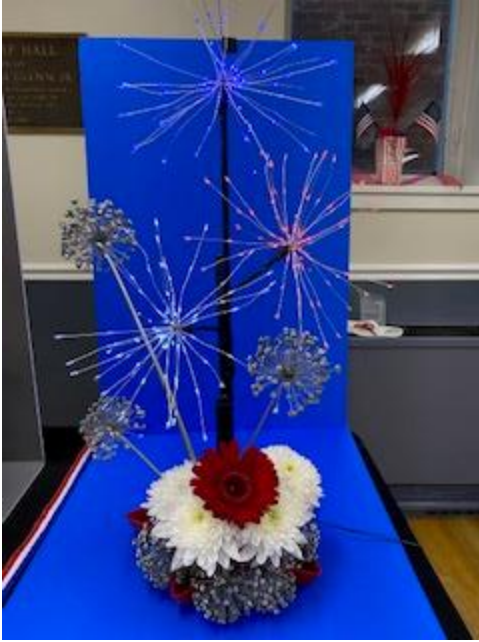
Will be in September

Time and place TBD

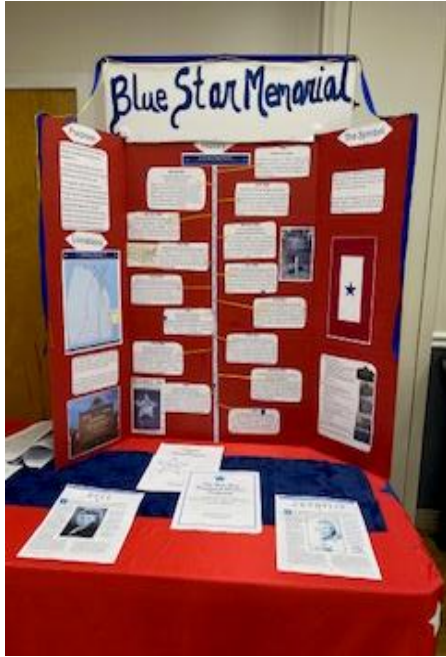
Photos from “Chorus for the Country” - RSGC Flower Show











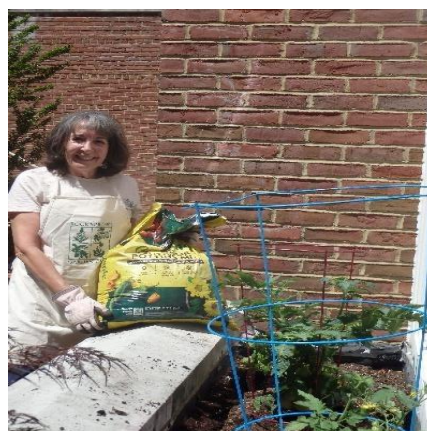
Senior Outreach

By Sheila Moore

Senior Outreach had a beautiful day to plant the Memorial Garden, window boxes, raised planters and vegetable-herb garden for the Mary Marshall Senior Center. We started by having the clients plant lobelia plants that they had begun from seed the previous month. Joan Hession explained how this was done. The RSGC members, Jody Goulden, Laurie Grant, Debra Hollander, Sheila Moore and Joan Hession then planted the remaining window boxes with a combination of red, white and blue flowers.



The lower court planters outside of the kitchen area were planted with cherry tomatoes and herbs. The cherry tomatoes can just be picked from the vine providing the clients a snack!



We ended the day by helping Imeda Rowe in the front area of the building. She had done a wonderful job of clearing out liriopse so that flowers would have a chance to be seen.



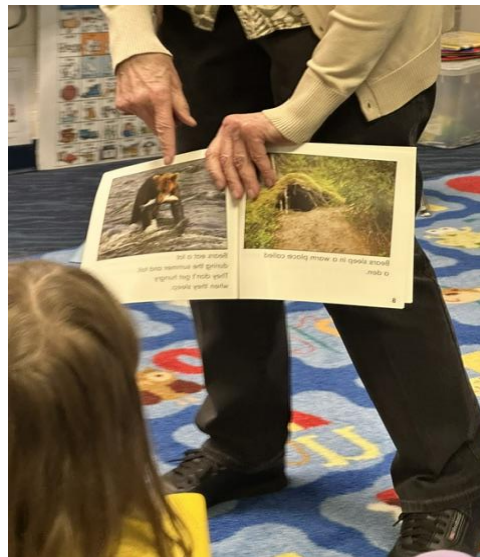
We took our shovels and gloves and headed home hoping that our seedlings would be loved by the residents.

Garden Therapy

By Kate Abrahams

Our final garden therapy program focused on “Hibernation”. Kate Abrahams led the program with Pat Getz, Susan Scotti, Mary Garnett, and Joyce McKenzie assisting. After talking to the preschoolers about animals that survive the winter by “sleeping” in caves, logs, lake bottoms, and underground burrows or dens, Mary Garnett read a book showing photographs of the animals and their winter habitats. Then, Joyce McKenzie led a song about hibernation to the tune of Alouette. The rousing chorus of “Hibernation, Time for Hibernation, Hibernation, Time to Go to Sleep!” was popular and easy for a kids’ singalong. The final activity was a large construction paper forest scene with empty spaces to put bear, bat, frog, bird, mice, foxes and squirrel stickers into caves, dens, hollows in trees, and underground burrows. The bat caves were filled with lots of bats first thing!

In appreciation for our visits to Ms Donna’s classroom this year, the Garden Ladies were presented with a wonderful album of self-portrait drawings, many thank you notes from the children and their parents and a bag of treats to share. In addition to members listed above, our committee included Mary Sliwa and Margi Melnick. Many thanks for the contributions of all our members this year. We had a great time teaching the children and look forward to next year’s visits to teach more about plants, seasons, and wildlife in the natural world and the joys of gardening and arranging flowers.



Scenes from Margi Melnick's Garden – including her beautiful David Austin roses.



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 Maryam Zolecki to share events for publication. Here is what's happening soon.

- In honor of America's 250th Birthday, the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) History Office and the National Park Service (NPS) will co-lead a walking tour on **Friday, June 12**, from **9:30 to approximately 11:30 a.m.** The tour will explore how the American Revolution has been commemorated at the Arlington property since the early 19th century. This tour is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Recommended for people ages 10 and up. The tour will be held **rain or shine**, and it will cover hilly, uneven terrain. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Bring plenty of water. Attendees should meet at Arlington House **no later than 9:25 a.m.** as the tour will depart promptly at 9:30.
- NCAGC has an opportunity to receive 20% of ticket sales for movie The Gardener using this link: <https://watch.eventive.org/thegardenermovie/play/6a21f9ff6f3993610bfbc35>. What is the movie The Gardener about? Please read Teri Speight's review from our May 20th viewing. [Teri Speight wrote a review which you can read by clicking here.](#)
- The Potomac Lily Society's flower show is scheduled for **Saturday, June 27, 2026** at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax, VA. For more information and a copy of the schedule, contact Kathleen Hoxie (KathleenHoxie@aol.com).
- The VFGC Flower Show in Richmond is on **August 24, 2026** and it offers opportunities for club members to exhibit/participate. You can get a copy of the schedule by emailing Thea McGinnis (theamcginnis@gmail.com).
- The NCAGC Flower Show Schedule for **September 25-27, 2026** is being finalized. Maybe you have lots of experience with Flower Shows or maybe you would like to learn. Everyone is encouraged to participate as a Flower Show at the Arboretum is one of the best educational opportunities with the public. NCAGC is looking for people to be involved as Clerks, help with Horticulture placement on Friday (9/25) morning, help on a Hospitality shift of a few hours on Saturday (9/26) and Sunday (9/27) and of course to enter a Design, Horticulture, Botanical Arts, and Photography! Please contact Show Chairs Anita Brown (arbarl2014@gmail.com) and Estelle Noone (enoone05@gmail.com).
- NCAGC will host the CAR-SGC Conference in 2027. CAR-SGC stands for Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs. NCAGC hopes you would consider helping create a wonderful experience for **October 2027** that also involves members from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. NCAGC is looking for connections to fabulous speakers or secret gardens that would be a special treat for this conference. Please reach out to volunteer with our committee (CAR2027chair@ncagardenclubs.org). There will also be many opportunities to volunteer closer to October 2027.
- **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.