



Mum's the Word

February 2022 – Volume 54, Issue 6

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

A Message from SGC President, Janice Beatty . . .

Hello Garden Club Friends,

I am so happy to be meeting in person again this February. It will be good to see your smiling eyes over your mask at the church. We anticipate continuing to do so for the rest of this Garden club season. WooHooo!!!

Yes, it is true several of our events for January and February were cancelled and/or postponed, but many of our members continued to be active. It's what we do! The Christmas decorations have been removed, which is not as much fun as putting them up. Our members had the opportunity to do designs and display horticulture; they can be viewed on our web page. On February 9th volunteers created many small arrangements for the dining room tables at Bickford. There will be many more volunteer opportunities in the next couple of months; please check *Mum's the Word* for updated dates, times and places.

This year we are planning on doing awards at the May Installation and Awards Luncheon. So, get out your Yearbooks and update the Extra Involvement Points Record in the Appendix on pages A47 and A48. Instructions and explanations are on pages A45 and A46. These will be collected at the April Meeting. The horticulture and design chairs will provide the exhibit and horticulture points to the awards committee.

Anniversary pins that were earned in previous years, but not yet received, will be given out at the March general meeting.

Today's Program:

"Insights to Winter Gardening"

by

Leslie Harris
LH Gardens



This year's anniversary pins will be given out at the luncheon in May.

Welcome to all our new members joining this year. If you see someone you don't know, please introduce yourself and chat. We strive as a club to make all feel welcome.

I am seeing a light, through a crack, at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Please continue to be safe and take care.

Bright beams,
Janice



TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 1-31, 2022

Prepared by Helen Davison, Treasurer

Not available for website

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UPCOMING VFGC EVENTS

SYMPOSIUM – April 4-6, 2022

Symposium is not only for Flower Show Judges, but for all garden club members and those that are interested in learning more about flower design and horticulture. You can attend one or both of the days and do not have to take the exam(s).



VFGC CONVENTION – May 1-3, 2022

The Convention will include a Flower Show, workshops, lunch and dinner programs, shopping, connecting with old friends and making new ones. SGC members Mary Arakelian and Lili Aram-Bost will be presenting a program, "Mother/Daughter Dynamic Designs" and Kathy Ward will be giving a workshop titled "Thinking Inside the Box...Big Box Store".

FOR MORE INFORMATION is available on the VFGC website, viriniagardenclubs.org, in the Winter Edition of the *Old Dominion Gardener* quarterly newsletter, and in the monthly newsletter, *Rooted*. Both events will be held at the Short Pump Hilton.



PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING MEETING

MARCH 21, 2022

We have 21 SGC members registered for the Spring District Meeting. It will be held at a new venue, the **DoubleTree by Hilton at 1021 Koger Center Boulevard**. If you have not registered and would like to attend, please contact Helen Davison (helen.davison@comcast.net) and make your payment by Friday, February 18.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS AWARDS

National Garden Clubs has added two new awards for Garden Clubs that involve our individual and group gardening efforts.

1. There is an award for **Container Gardens** which is given for the most outstanding container or containers of fruits, vegetables, herbs, flower, or a combination thereof. This can be done as a Club or as an individual. The selection of a container and plants are evaluated as are the unity of the container and the plants showing consideration of design elements and principles. The scoring also includes letters of appreciation, community awards and publicity. Pictures are required.
2. There is also an award for **Edible Gardening**. It is given for the most outstanding garden of edibles, including fruits, vegetables, and/or edible flowers. This can also be done as a club or as an individual. A garden plan must be shown showing the selection of plants with respect to their growth, maturity, and size. The overall health and attractiveness of the garden is important as is the successful production of edibles. If planted in a public location, any publicity should be included.

If you have any interest in either of these opportunities, please let me know.

Sue Lindsay, SGC Awards Chairman



In November, we told you about Bloomin' Bucks Fundraising program by **Brent and Becky's Bulbs**. It's a great way for us, as a 501(c)(3) organization, to raise money almost year 'round!

It's simple...just go to www.bloominbucks.com and from the pull-down menu select **Salisbury Garden Club**. With one click, you are sent to the Brent and Becky's website. You can order whatever you want, in whatever quantity you want want...books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates...**ANYTHING...and 25% of all of the orders goes to Salisbury Garden Club!**

If you're planning to do some shopping with Brent and Becky's now or in the future, we hope you take the easy extra step to choose Salisbury Garden Club as the recipient of Bloomin' Bucks!

RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Salisbury Garden Club is a member of RCGC which means our members may attend their meetings and events. Their meetings are held at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond. They meet on the 1st Friday of the month at 10 AM.



Upcoming programs are: March 4 – "The Eastern Bluebird"; April 1 – conservation topic, speaker TBA; May 6 – Luncheon and Fashion with Flowers (this meeting will be at First Baptist Church, 2709 Monument Avenue). For more information, go to their website rvagardenclubs.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

Well, the groundhog predicts six more weeks of winter! We are seeing a few early blooming daffodils but watch for color at our club sites later this month and in March.

We have some work days coming up in March and April where we can commune more closely with our blooms while we



'root out troublesome weeds'. Please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet if you can participate in any of our workdays.

EDUCATION – Camille Archie

Thanks to Linda O'Mara, Peggy Young, Catherine Barnes, Nancy Scherer, Nancy Lee, Janice Beatty, Kerri Butler, Sandy Fry, Meg Winn, Carol Schlichtherle, Lili Kate Bost, Mary Arakelian and Barbara Metz the dining room at **Bickford** was a picture of Spring color. Beautiful arrangements decorated all the dining room tables which the residents and staff are greatly enjoying.



The next several months are very busy with our Education Projects. On March 21st and 22nd, children will be doing the rescheduled Winter Seed Sowing project for **Gardening Enrichment** – see Becky's article on page 8. We will be making arrangements for the **Community Hospice House** on April 8th and on April 12th we will be working with the residents at **Spring Arbor**. April 20th we are back at **Bickford** for our teacup project.

Hopefully Covid will end soon allowing us the opportunity to complete these projects. If you'd like to participate in any of our projects, please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet.

EXHIBITS – Joanne Wallace and Kathy Ward

In January our exhibits were virtual, as was the general meeting. We received 10 design entries and 17 horticulture exhibits. While this is a lower number than previous months, we usually have a lower number of exhibits in the winter.

March will be our next month for design, horticulture and botanical arts exhibits.

GRADUATION FLOWERS – Kathy Ward and Lorna Boucher

Chesterfield County Public Schools has contacted us about providing the flowers for their high school graduations. They will use the VCU Siegel Center and a VSU location in late May. They would be paying for the flowers on their own, as the other county high school graduations will be in June. A quote of the cost for supplying one large arrangement (similar to past years) and 125 boutonnieres has been sent to them. We are waiting on a confirmation that they will accept the costs.

NOMINATING – Martie Parch

At the business meeting today, the nominating committee will be presenting the slate of officers for 2022–23. We will vote on the slate at the March meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made prior to the vote provided consent of the nominee has been secured.

PROGRAMS – Martie Parch and Connie Sorrell

Great news!!! Our February program meeting will be in person at the church! We are all required to wear masks; coffee and tea will be provided and food will be individual servings. We also want to practice social distancing. **Please remember to enter at the side door** where you can sign in and pick up the latest copy of *Mums the Word* and an activity signup sheet.

Our February program will be presented by **Leslie Harris** in person! Her topics will include “winter pruning and other garden chores above 40 degrees”. Leslie is the owner of LHGardens in Charlottesville and does a monthly podcast, consultations and lectures on gardening topics.

Kathy Ward’s botanical arts workshop on March 15 is full. Those who have registered will receive an email about necessary supplies soon.

Next month’s program on March 16 will be on spring designs by local floral designer, **Laura Anne Brooks**. There will be opportunity tickets for sale for her lovely creations.

We are looking forward to the Piedmont District meeting on March 21. We will again be selling garden and design items at a discounted price for the **Piedmont Project Sales** table. Hope to see you there.

SOCIAL HOSPITALITY – Nancy Scherer and Shirley Gates

Hi, Ladies. **Please save May 18th for our annual Awards and Installation Luncheon.** Once again it will be held at the Pavilion at Sunday’s Park overlooking the picturesque Swift Creek Reservoir. Times and a new menu will appear in next month’s *Mum’s the Word*. Hope to see you there.

WEBSITE – Gayle Walters and Becky Sido

Thanks to Helen Davison’s help, **our club website now is accessible via QR code!** Anyone can use this code in advertising

and/or promotional materials. Just go to our website homepage, copy the code box, and paste it into your printed text. And you can give it a try yourself right now!



*The Board wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to **Katie Conschafter** for organizing and monitoring our ZOOM board meetings and our monthly meetings.*

Gardening Enrichment (Homework Helpers)

Our **Winter Seed Sowing project** is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, March 21st and 22. We will set up at 3:00. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with Gardening Enrichment (HH) earlier this year. Homework Helpers is going strong, we now have 27 kids on Mondays and perhaps as many on Tuesdays! I am sorry about all the changes in scheduling this activity but wanted to keep everyone safe. Connie Sorrell had graciously offered to take over and run it while I was gone, but I didn't want to give someone else the job of getting all the gallon jugs to the church, along with the soil, plus I didn't want to miss it! So, the seeds are in my freezer, being stratified, to help them germinate.



This is an easy project; the kids will drill holes in the tops and bottoms of their jug and then put moist soil in. Add their choice of seed and then tape it close. Lastly, label jug, and sign thank you card for Home Depot for their generous donation of soil, seeds and masking tape. We don't need a lot of help, but come if you can, because more is merrier!! (Also helps with awards if we have larger percent of

members helping.) The number of members signing up will determine if we cut the jugs beforehand or do it at the church.

I know that the 21st of March is the Piedmont District Spring Meeting, so I understand that some might not want to come that day. I will be coming straight to HH after the district meeting myself.

If anyone would like to come help me cut the jugs the weekend before, just give me a call, text or email. If you are able to come either Monday or Tuesday to help with the kids, please complete the coupon on the signup sheet.

Thanks again,
Becky Sido, Chairman
201-396-7217 or becky.sido@gmail.com



OAK SPRING
— GARDEN FOUNDATION —

OSGF is an operating foundation dedicated to sharing the gifts and ideas of Rachel "Bunny" Mellon.

Rachel "Bunny" Mellon maintained a lifelong love of plants and gardens, beginning at age 10 when she started collecting botanical books. The famous Olmsted brothers, who managed the property at her family's estate, influenced her early gardening efforts at age 12. When John F. Kennedy was President, she designed the Rose Garden at the White House for her friend Jacqueline Kennedy. A renowned gardener, philanthropist, and art collector, Bunny Mellon died in 2014 at her Oak Spring residence and farm in Upperville, Virginia. She was 103.

Today the Oak Spring Garden Foundation is dedicated to inspiring public interest and education, and sharing the gifts of Bunny Mellon's residence, gardens, estate, library, and collections. Although Oak Spring is not open to the public for general admission, the foundation hosts myriad educational programs. Visit the website (www.osgf.org) and you will find a treasure trove of both on line and in-person educational opportunities. You may

download an exhibit of Frederick Law Olmstead landscapes, or tour the library and view digital copies of books. Sign up for the on line newsletter to learn about news, events, activities and upcoming on-site programs at Oak Spring. An educational series, "Invasive Plant Species: Management and Control," is scheduled for February. A lecture entitled "The Remarkable Nature of Edward Lear" will be held on February 18. A paper making workshop series will take place in June.

Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

Transporting Houseplants

Buying and trading houseplants for our homes is a pleasure for gardeners. Two seasons of the year can cause damage when transporting plants: the hot summer and cold winter months.

In the summer, avoid placing plants in a car and leaving the car shut, because temperatures will rise and destroy the plant in a short period of time. If you must travel for any distance at all, the plant can be burned by the sun shining on it. Shade the plant from direct sun while traveling.

Many foliage plants will be damaged if the temperature drops below 50 degrees, so maintain as warm a temperature as possible around these plants when traveling. Unlike the family pet, plants do not like open windows and wind.

Dana Dee Carragher, Master Gardener

Reference: Master Gardener's Handbook, page 298



Landscape Plants can Impact Fire Safety

In Virginia, we have been fortunate that the devastating wildfires we see in western states haven't impacted us. However, weather conditions that create extreme heat and drought can spur wildfires anywhere, including rural areas of Virginia. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry,

landscape maintenance and plant selection in two key areas can help homeowners reduce fire risk.



First of all, the area within five feet of a home's exterior is important because it can be vulnerable to embers if there is a fire. This area should be free of combustible materials. Many evergreen trees and shrubs are more flammable, and burn with higher intensity than do deciduous trees and shrubs. Dead branches or shrubs, leaf piles, pine needles and other dead plant material can add fuel to a fire and should be removed from the five-foot zone. Plants adjacent to your home should be pruned, with taller plants kept to eight feet tall. Well-spaced plants are important because tightly packed plants can help spread fire.

Secondly, the area up to 30 feet from your home is considered survivable space, a key buffer zone that could help slow a fire, according to safety experts. This area too should be kept maintained, clean and clear of dead wood, firewood stacks and debris. Plant selection is important in both of these zones.

No plant is fireproof but some are safer than others. Plants adjacent to your home, nearby privacy hedges and ground covers should all be chosen with caution. Waxy slender leaves and resinous wood make some plants highly flammable, plants such as junipers, arborvitae, pines, cedars, cypresses, and many hollies. Grasses such as maiden grass and pampas grass are also highly flammable. Japanese honeysuckle, wax myrtle, Algerian ivy, rosemary and broom are other plants to keep away from your home. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service recommends the use of less flammable landscape plants such as most viburnums, hydrangeas, camellias, winterberries and rhododendrons.

As gardeners we have learned about the benefits of selecting native plants and noninvasive plants. Now we should consider taking fire safety into consideration when choosing what plants to purchase and where to plant them in our landscapes.



Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist



Next Month's Program - March 16, 2022

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer - Coffee 9:30/Meeting 10 AM
(See page 108 of your Yearbook for details)

Program: "Springtime in Flower Arranging"
by Laura Anne Brooks

Greeter: Laurie Kalata

Hostesses: Heather Anderson, Mary Arakelian,
Judy Binns, Kathy Casella, Marcia Harrigan,
Laurie Kalata, Susan McKnight, and Anne Ravn

Clerks: Beth Daniel, Mary Louise Miller,
Carol Rogerson, and Emily Stewart



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 18-21 **Great Backyard Bird Count** – birdcount.org
www.gbbc.birdcount.org
- 28 **VFGC Board of Directors Meeting**
- 28-Mar 3 **Flower Show School, Course II** CP11

MARCH EVENTS

- 4 **Richmond Council of Garden Clubs (RCGC)**
- 4-6 **Orchid Show and Sale - LGBG**
- 9 **SGC Board Meeting** – 9:30 AM
- 15 **Design Workshop** – 2 PM CP4
- 16 **SGC General Meeting** – 9:30 AM CP4
- 21 **Piedmont District Spring Meeting** CP1
- 21-22 **Gardening Enrichment Program** – 3 PM C
- 22 **Anniversary Garden Workday** – 9:30 AM CP26
- 26 **Virginia Daffodil Show and Sale** – LGBG
- 28 **Plant Together** – 10 AM NP1
- 29 **Midlothian Post Office Workday** – 10 AM CP7
- 30 **Wishing Well Park Workday** – 10 AM CP13



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