



Mum's the Word

December 2021 – Volume 54, Issue 4

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

A Message from SGC President, Janice Beatty. . .

Hello Friends,

Our members have been very busy beautifying our surroundings and bringing smiles and happiness to the community. Just look around, and you will see that the entrances to Salisbury have been beautifully decorated with wreaths, garland and bows. The Dorothy Braden Bruce Post Office Building in Sycamore Square has a holiday look, and the Fire station is also decorated for this joyful season. Last week many dedicated volunteers gathered at Park Place, in Reeds Landing, to make mini bouquets for Bickford Senior Living. Becky Sido and her helpers worked the children involved in Homework helpers to create Woodsy the Owl Posters.

It is good to see so many of our members participating in activities again. Sharing our gifts of time and talents is a wonderful way to spread kindness and happiness to ourselves and others.

I am looking forward to seeing Kathy Ward's PowerPoint presentation of all the lovely wreaths and mailbox covers that were submitted as part of the Botanical Arts Division December Exhibits. Always fun to see the creativity of our members.

December's program by Al Brockwell, from Flowers Make Scents, is sure to inspire. Opportunity tickets will be available via PayPal prior to the meeting and with cash or check during the meeting. I, for one, am always looking for new ideas to decorate for the holiday.

Today's Program:

"Christmas with a Flair"

by
Al Brockwell
of

Flowers Make Scents



May you and yours have a delightful holiday filled with much joy, love and happiness.
Best wishes for the new year.

Bright Beams, Janice



TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Prepared by Helen Davison, Treasurer

Not available for website

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VFGC Flower Show School Course II **February 28 – March 3, 2022** **Waynesboro, Virginia**

This course is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in flower design and horticulture. Many people attend for information only and those people do not have to take the examinations!

Judy Binns, SGC member and NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, will be the Design instructor. **Darlene Newell**, also an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, will be the Horticulture & Flower Show Procedure instructor.

For more information, go to the VFGC website: **viriniagardenclubs.org**. Information about Flower Show Schools in general can be found in the **Education** section. Details about this particular course is in the November 2021 edition of the **“Rooted”** newsletter under **Publications**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

We began December holidays by decking the **Salisbury entrances** with evergreens, bows, and lights. It takes a village - or some part of it - to pull it off! December 1st - Lorna Boucher, Barbara Metz, Delora Stites, Nancy Lee, and Vicki McGonegal all converged on Sue Lindsay's farm and cut and gathered beautiful cedar boughs for our jabots. December 2nd - we met in Anne McCormick's garage workshop and sorted out bows and lights and made 20 cedar and magnolia jabots. Vicki and Nancy supplied the magnolia leaf clusters. Lorna, Barbara, Anne, Shirley Gates, Kerri Butler, Linda Jones, Nancy Lee, Vicki McGonegal, Peggy Young, and Meg Winn all helped with the project. Then we met at the main Salisbury entrance on December 3rd to decorate. Lorna, Barbara, DanaDee Carragher, Kathy Ward, Shirley Gates, Fran Judd, Nancy Lee, Vicki McGonegal, Becky Sido, Connie Sorrell, and Meg Winn all pitched in. And that it was a mild and sunny day meant our fingers were nimble as we wired wreaths and bows.



On December 7th, Kerri Butler, Sandy Fry, DanaDee Carragher, Lili Arum-Bost, and Meg Winn decorated the **Midlothian Post Office** with evergreen swags and red bows.

Then on December 9th, ten volunteers gathered at The Shed at Reed's Landing and made 28 beautiful Christmas bouquets for the dining tables at **Spring Arbor**.

Katie Conschafter set up the room plus refreshments with some help from her grandson, Knox. Kerri Butler did extra duty ferrying flowers, containers, and oasis blocks to our event. Those creating the bouquets were



Katie, Kerri, Candy Nasser, Becky Sido, Peggy Young, Gay Kistler, DanaDee Carragher, Janice Beatty, Kathy Casella, and Meg Winn.

Young, Gay Kistler, DanaDee Carragher, Janice Beatty, Kathy Casella, and Meg Winn.

DanaDee Carragher and Becky Sido added lights to the **Salisbury entrance** garland on their way back from Reed's Landing.

We finished our week festooning the **Fire Station** on Friday. DanaDee Carragher,

Kerri Butler, and Meg Winn added cedar and fir boughs and red ribbon to the antique fire wagon and the signs.

Our lively and generous volunteers from SGC certainly decked the village for a season of cheer and comfort to all.



EDUCATION – Camille Archie

Many thanks to Becky Sido, Delora Stites, Peggy Young, Karen Rice, Candy Nasser, Connie Sorrell, Janice Beatty and Nancy Lee for helping with our **Gardening Enrichment Project** in November. See



the article on page 8 for details about the next Gardening Enrichment project in January.

On January 13th volunteers will make small flower arrangements for the **Community Hospice House**. Please deliver the arrangements to Catherine Barnes home 2830 Park Ridge Road Midlothian, place arrangements on wooden steps near the garage by 3:00pm.

Volunteers are needed for our **Bickford project** scheduled for February 9th at 1:30pm. We will be making arrangements with the residents so please bring greenery from your gardens.

EXHIBITS – Kathy Ward and Joanne Wallace

Congratulations to our **November winners**: Dominique Spinos for Horticulture; Kathy Ward for Design...



...AS WELL AS Gayle Walters for Botanical Arts Horticulture; and Laurie Kalata for Botanical Arts Artistic Craft.



Congratulations also to the **December winners of our Holiday Designs:** Mary Arakelian, Donna Ludwig and Phyllis Miles.



PROGRAMS AND NOMINATING – Martie Parch

Next month's program will be presented by Bob Schamerhorn, noted local bird expert and photographer, who will teach us how to attract birds to our winter yards. We wish all of you happy times with family and friends and a peaceful new year!

Please fill out the sheet provided your suggestions for the SGC slate of officers for 2021-2022. If you have any questions, please contact Martie Parch, Candy Nassar, or Becky Sido.

Here we grow again...please welcome our newest member:

Jean Hillsman

Personal information not available for website





YEARBOOK – NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

Donna Ludwig has a new email address- please update her info to: dmlroslud@gmail.com

New Member Brunch

Please join us for the New Member Brunch at **11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 12, hosted by Delora Stites.** We will meet at **The Charter House at 1101 Charter Club Way, Midlothian.** All new and prospective members are welcome to attend. If anyone has friends who are interested in the club, please let me know so I can send them an invitation.



We will have a very relaxed, informal brunch where everyone can ask questions and learn more about the club's activities. **Just complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet if you'd like to attend.** If you have any questions, please contact me at 794-6376.

Barbara Metz, Membership Chairman



BOTANICAL ARTS DESIGN WORKSHOP JANUARY 18, 2022

Kathy Ward will lead us in this hands-on workshop, **“A Piece of Cake”**, where we will create beautiful floral cakes from floral foam and botanical materials. The cake you fashion will be perfect for a centerpiece or perhaps a birthday present for a friend. “Cakes” may be left at the church for exhibiting at the club meeting the next day.

We will meet from **2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Pinder Hall** at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. **The cost is \$10 per person.** For more information about Kathy and the workshop, see pages 98-99 in your Yearbook. Complete the signup sheet if you'd like to participate.

GBGH “How to Make Houseplants Happy” February 8, 2022 – 10 AM

Join us at the Great Big Greenhouse (2051 Huguenot Road) for a fun morning learning “How to Make Houseplants Happy”, presented by Bonnie Pega and her assistant, Emma Lamberta. They will be ready to address all of our concerns and questions about tropical and other houseplants.



There is **no fee**; just complete the coupon on the signup sheet if you'd like to attend. For more information, see page 104 of your Yearbook.

Martie Parch and Connie Sorrell, Program Chairmen

Gardening Enrichment Project

November 22, 23, 29, 30 and December 6 & 7, several SGC members came to Homework Helpers and facilitated students in creating their posters for the **Piedmont District Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**. The tutors first read information, provided by SGC, about Woodsy Owl's and his message of



basic environmental conservation principles and his motto, “Lend a hand, care for the land.” We not only taught the 50 elementary students Woodsy Owl's message about caring for the land, but none of the high

school tutors knew anything about Woodsy Owl. SGC members then helped students follow all the rules in creating their posters and fill out the necessary paperwork to submit

posters. Homework Helpers were short of help for several days and SGC members stepped in and set up the regular set up, along with preparing for the poster project.

A huge thank you to: Janice Beatty, Nancy Lee, Candy Nasser, Karen Rice, Connie Sorrell, Delora Stites and Peggy Young, many who volunteered several days! Over those six days, we had seventeen SGC members volunteer. We now have about 45 posters to judge before we send them along to Piedmont District.

Our next project, **Winter Seed Sowing**, is tentatively scheduled for **January 24th and 25th**. Winter seed sowing is a method of starting seeds outdoors, in the winter. It is best for seeds that need to be stratified, (a short cold period) in order to germinate. Winter seed sowing takes advantage of the natural temperatures and length of day to trigger germination. The advantages of winter sowing are many; no seed trays, lights, treatment for damping-off disease or worry about seedlings drying out. The students will plant seeds in gallon translucent jugs and leave them outside. **We still need more gallon jugs**, especially since the number of elementary students at Homework Helpers is growing. Any questions, please email me at becky.sido@gmail.com.

Thanks, Becky Sido, Chairman

FOOD FROM THE HEART LUNCHEON **Wednesday, February 16**



For those of you who are new to the Club, this is our annual February Luncheon. It will be held immediately following our morning program. See your Yearbook page 106 for more information.

Members are asked to bring a favorite dish to share. Your choices are salad, main dish or dessert. We are also asking for help with set-up and clean-up. **Please complete the coupon on sign-up sheet to participate.** If you have any questions, you may contact me at shirleyggates@aol.com.

Shirley Gates, Chairman

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

FEBRUARY 18-21, 2022

For four days in February, the world will come together for the love of birds. Over these four days people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen science (community science) project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. In 2013, they became a global project when they began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project.



To learn more about GBBC and how to participate, go to their website at www.birdcount.org.



The Board wishes to thank Linda Nau for hosting the December board meeting and luncheon.

The bee is not afraid of me.

The bee is not afraid of me,
I know the butterfly;
The pretty people in the woods
Receive me cordially.



The brooks laugh louder when I come,
The breezes madder play.
Wherefore, mine eyes, thy silver mists?
Wherefore, O summer Day?

~ Emily Dickinson

New Neighbors – The Wrens

When pottery classes were cancelled last year due to Covid, I began making ceramic birdhouses in my garage. One house



seemed a bit small so I hung it on a covered porch by the back door for decoration. Two days later the floor beneath it was covered in twigs. Then I noticed a pair of busy body house wrens flitting in and out

of the house. A short time later the pair began feeding babies.

All birds, even seed-eating birds, feed their young insects. Doug Tallamy, in his book *Bringing Nature Home*, tells us that a pair of chickadees will feed their nestlings 390 to 570 insects a day! Who needs a mosquito squad when you have a squad of bird parents?

I was amazed at the frequency that the wrens fed the babies. Small worms, caterpillars, tiny moths, things with legs and wings – the efforts were relentless. At this rate, I thought, there can't be any bugs left within a mile of my house.

I thought of Tallamy's chickadees and decided to make my own amateur investigation. In a 15-minute period, the wrens brought 9 insects to the gaping mouths vying for space at the house entrance. That could be 36 insects in an hour. Starting at daybreak that number would be 324 for a nine-hour day. Assuming the parents feed the young for 15 days...that's nearly 5,000 insects that were biologically eliminated from my yard, thank you very much.



House wrens aren't the nicest birds. They have been known to destroy the eggs of nearby birds. In addition to house wrens, other birdhouse nesters include Carolina wrens, chickadees, swallows and titmice. After a brood fledges, a birdhouse should be cleaned of old nesting material.

Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist



Next Month's Program – January 19, 2022

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer – Coffee 9:30/Meeting 10 AM
(See page 100 of your Yearbook for details)



Program: "Attracting Birds with Water to
Your Backyard"

by Bob Schamerhorn, iPhotoBirds

Greeter: Anne Faszewski



Hostesses: Lu Cavallaro, Holly Faison, Anne
Faszewski, Sandy Fry, Joy Mingis, Adele Topham,
Gayle Walters, and Joanne Ward



Clerks: Lili Aram-Bost, Lesley Dobson,
Debby Gies, Pat Wilson



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------------|--|------|
| 1-9 | GardenFest of Lights continues – LGBG | |
| 3-4 | Remove Salisbury Decorations – 10 AM | CP10 |
| 12 | SGC Board Meeting – 9:15 AM
Hostess: Delora Stites | |
| 12 | New Member Brunch – 11 AM
Hostess: Delora Stites | |
| 13 | Community Hospice House Project
Arrangements delivered by 3 PM | CP24 |
| 18 | Botanical Arts Workshop – "A Piece of Cake!"
by Kathy Ward – 2:00 PM | CP4 |
| 19 | SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM
(Exhibits must be in place by 9:45 AM)
Program: "Attracting Birds with Water to
Your Backyard" by Bob Schamerhorn | CP4 |
| 19 | Piedmont District Board Meeting
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer | CP1 |
| 24-25 | Gardening Enrichment Program | CP9 |



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