



Mum's the Word

December 2023 – Volume 56, Issue 4

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

A Message from SGC President, Connie Sorrell. . .

“Gardeners are the Seeds of Change”

As I think back on the year we have had as a community service organization, it is most heartwarming to reflect on the special friendships we have developed and nurtured, the many joys we have shared, and the obstacles we have overcome together, I am most grateful for the support and love you have shared with me, with each other, and with our community. As “seeds of change,” we have changed our community for good. My heart is full of gratitude and love for each of you.

Christmas helps us to appreciate the love and friendship in our lives that we often take for granted. We may not remember what we did from year to year, but we will always remember the feelings of love, support and care we showed each other, the laughter we shared and the good works and joy we brought to others.

A lovely Irish blessing:

*“May the songs of the season rise to greet you.
May the winter wind be always at your back.
May the frost shimmer soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May the love of God shine warm upon your home.”*

I look forward to the exciting year ahead and all the joy we will spread throughout the community.

My prayer for the New Year is that we make a way

Today's Program:

“Creating Festive
Holiday
Arrangements”

by Kate Vernon



to listen to those whose views are different from our own, that we seek to understand and respect each other, that we spread tolerance throughout the land, and to help find ways for the World to be at Peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Connie



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

2-3 Treasurer’s Report

4-5 Committee Reports – Civic Beautification

5-7 Committee Reports – Community Outreach

7 Committee Reports - Exhibits

8 Holiday Design Workshop Update

8 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

8-9 Trex Challenge Update

9 Food from the Heart Luncheon

9 January Program Information

10-11 Article: “Amaryllis Bulbs Create Floral Explosion...”

12 Back Page – Next Month’s Meeting Info, Calendar of Events



TREASURER’S REPORT – JUNE 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 13, 2023

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

OPERATING FUND					
Beginning Balance June 1, 2023					\$3,096.66
Receipts					
<i>Administrative</i>					
Membership Dues 2023-24 (paid 2022-23)		4,050.00			
Membership Dues 2023-24		1,200.00	5,250.00		
<i>Activities</i>					
Atlas Grove Orders & Sales		1,130.00			
December Workshop		220.00			
Richmond Council GC Hospitality		125.00	1,475.00		
<i>Donations</i>					
Penny Pines Donations		144.00			
Misc. Donations		2.00	146.00		
<i>Meetings</i>					
District Meetings Registration		855.00			
Opportunity tickets		158.00	1,013.00		
<i>Social Hospitality</i>					
Christmas Party		2,835.00	2,835.00		
Total Receipts			10,719.00		

TREASURER'S REPORT – Continued

Disbursements					
<i>Administrative</i>					
	Bank Fee		8.00		
	Corresponding Secretary		20.60		
	Liability Insurance		294.00		
	Membership		7.73		
	Newsletter		105.82		
	Piedmont District Dues		20.00		
	Richmond Council Dues		40.00		
	VFGC Dues 2023-24		535.00		
	Website Hosting, Domain (annual)		278.95		
	Yearbook		685.47	1,995.57	
<i>Activities</i>					
	Atlas Gloves		761.86		
	Flower Show		47.41		
	Richmond Council GC Hospitality		146.43	955.70	
<i>Donations</i>					
	Penny Pines Donations (2)		136.00		
	RCGC Youth Education Donation		50.00		
	VFGC, Piedmont District Awards Sponsors		40.00	226.00	
<i>Meetings</i>					
	Awards Luncheon 5/24 Deposit		500.00		
	District Meetings Registration		900.00		
	Monthly Programs		362.75		
	Meeting Setup		110.00		
	Facility Rental, etc.		1,000.00	2,872.75	
<i>Social Hospitality</i>					
	Christmas Party refund		90.00	90.00	
Total Disbursements				6,140.02	
Operating Fund Balance Dec. 13, 2023					\$7,675.64
COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND					
Beginning Balance June 1, 2023				\$2,113.00	
Receipts					
	Graduation Flowers		1,375.00		
Total Receipts				1,375.00	
Disbursements					
<i>Community Outreach</i>					
	Art for the Journey/Veterans		26.45		
	Bickford		50.05		
	Southampton Youth Program		13.73		
<i>Civic Beautification</i>					
	Daffodil Project		100.00		
	Fire Station		106.88		
	National Garden Week		113.80		
Total Disbursements				410.91	
Community Projects Fund Balance Dec. 13, 2023					\$3,077.09
RESERVE FUND					
Reserve Fund Balance Dec. 13, 2023					\$2,895.61
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	Youth Grant Awarded		125.00		
Total Restricted Funds Dec. 13, 2023				125.00	\$125.00
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS					\$13,773.34



The Board wishes to thank Linda Nau for hosting the December board meeting and luncheon. The board members and the clerks, drivers and judges for the Holiday Design Exhibits all enjoyed spending time together.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

The holidays are here and the club has been busy decorating the village!

Thursday, November 30th Nancy Lee and Barbara Metz clipped heaps of beautiful cedar at **Sue Lindsey's farm**. Then later in the morning we met in Fran Judd's garage and sorted through lights, bows, and garland and made 10 fresh swags for the Salisbury entrances and sign. Fran Judd,

Lorna Boucher, Barbara Metz, Shirley Gates, and Meg Winn helped prepare for next day's project.

Friday, December 1st we met at the main **Salisbury entrance** at Robious and Salisbury Road and proceeded to decorate. Barbara Metz, Shirley Gates, Lorna Boucher, Becky Sido, Anita King, Marsha Caratelli, Nancy Lee,



Camille Archie, Anne Faszewski, Connie Sorrell, and Meg and Keith Winn all worked together and then divided up to decorate the **Brigstock entrance and signs**.

Saturday, December 2nd we conducted a "Pop-Up Planting" at **Manakin Episcopal Church**. Kerri Butler and Meg Winn relocated the arborvitae container to Manakin with

help from Keith Winn and then seven of us planted 140 daffodil bulbs and 20 allium bulbs. Kelly Tartaglio, Sandy Fry, Susan Oakey, Kathy Casella, Marsha Caratelli, Kerri Butler, and Meg Winn all participated and sampled Kerri's vanilla pound cake afterwards.

Sunday, December 3rd Camille Archie and Meg Winn made garland and wreaths for the **Midlothian Fire Station** and assembled greens for the **Post Office** and other sites to be decorated.



Thursday, December 7th Kerri Butler, Lorna Boucher, Jean Hillsman, Marsha Caratelli, Camille Archie, Sandy Fry, Danadee

Carragher, and Meg Winn met at noon for our 2nd annual holiday decorating of the **Midlothian Fire Station**. We hung fresh wreaths on



the front and garland on the main sign and on the antique fire wagon as planned in advance with **Station Captain Eugene Durham**. Afterward, **Midlothian District Supervisor, Mark Miller**, joined us for photos and conversation.

DanaDee Carragher, Jean Hillsman, and Marsha Caratelli then festooned the **Midlothian Post Office** with evergreen swags and bows.

Friday, December 8th, Marsha Caratelli, DanaDee Carragher, Camille Archie, Peggy Young, and Meg Winn met at **Wishing Well Park** and made evergreen swags for the park sign and wreaths for **Lifelong Learning Institute**.

Today, December 13th, we'll deliver



137 fresh mini-bouquets to the mission house at Central Baptist Church for **Meals on Wheels** clients.

We've had lots of fun working together to decorate the neighborhood and bring holiday beauty and cheer to our neighbors and friends.

Upcoming Workdays: On January 5th we will remove the decorations from the Fire Station at 12 noon; and on January 19th we will remove the **Salisbury** decorations also at 12 noon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Lorna Boucher & Camille Archie

Spring Arbor Senior Living: On November 13th a group of SGC volunteers led by Kathy Casella helped residents to make small arrangements in pumpkins which Kathy, in her usual efficient way,

had prepared beforehand. The SGC team cut the flowers into suitable sizes and gave each participant a varied bunch along with some ears of wheat and a little red bow (bows made by Kathy).



So enthusiastic were the first four residents that they started almost before we had finished cutting the flowers! All the finished designs looked really pretty and were carried off proudly to the owners' rooms. Four extra pumpkins were finished off by Camille and some of the SGC team and were destined



for the main dining room.

The SGC volunteers were: Kathy Casella Mary Arakelian, Lili Aram-Bost, Janice Beatty, Katie Conschafter, Sandy Zima, Sandy Fry, Marsha Caratelli, Camille Archie and me (Lorna Boucher)

Southampton Elementary School: On November 20th a group of our members helped pupils at Southampton Elementary School to make floral arrangements to take home to their families. Camille took charge of this project at the last minute and she was delighted that



the children entered into the whole thing with tremendous enthusiasm. They did not realize that they were to take their arrangements home and so were extra excited at this prospect. There were eighteen children present, an unusually large number, which is encouraging for us in SGC as it makes our participation seem so worthwhile.

Our team of volunteers was: Camille Archie, Katie

Conschafter, Anita King, Marsha Caratelli, Catherine Barnes, Laurie Kalata, Becky Sido.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers should complete the coupon on the sign up sheet if they'd like to participate in making small arrangements for patients at the **Community Hospice House on January 4. Your arrangement(s) should be delivered to Catherine Barnes, Chairman, by 3 PM.**

Gardening Enrichment with Homework Helpers: On January 8th and 9th our activity will be Winter Seed Sowing, a fun way to teach



about recycling and starting seeds. Students will plant seeds in translucent one gallon plastic water jugs and take them home and leave outside. Seeds will germinate and grow in the mini-greenhouses



throughout the winter. We will need at least 50 translucent gallon water bottles and will beg for soil and seeds from Home Depot and Lowes. Becky has many water bottles already saved, but we could use more. Please join us from 2:30 to 4:30 on either/both of those days. Questions? Contact Becky Sido at 201-396-7217.

EXHIBITS – Joanne Wallace & Fran Judd

At our November meeting, our members exhibited 10 Designs, 28 Horticulture specimens, and 9 Botanical Arts exhibits.

Congratulations to the winners: Martie Parch – Design; Marsha Caratelli – Horticulture; and Laurie Kalata – Botanical Arts.



And congratulations to our **Holiday Design Exhibit winners.**
Wreaths: Meg Winn, Candy Nasser, and DanaDee Carragher.
Mailbox Design: Nancy Lee.



HOLIDAY DESIGN WORKSHOP UPDATE

Kathy Ward's Holiday Design Workshop, held on December 4 at the Shed in Reed's Landing, was a huge hit. Not only did Kathy share her creativity, but her 'how to' and 'what to avoid' hints also.

You'll see the results in the slide show (prepared by Nancy Lee) of the December Holiday Design Exhibits.

Over 20 members were able to work at tables outside and enjoy the beautiful afternoon. Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your talents and time with us again!



There is still time to have your children, grandchildren or neighbor kids, Grades 1-5, create a poster to celebrate Smokey's 80th birthday. The paper is 11X17 and the poster must include Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." Please check out the website, <https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest> . For more information and poster paper, contact Becky Sido. Posters should be delivered by December 28th to Becky Sido.

TREX CHALLENGE

So far 147 pounds collected in 8 weeks. Members will continue to weigh their own plastic and drop it off at any store they shop that has a bin for plastic. Weights and pictures can

be emailed to Becky at becky.sido@gmail.com or Janet Mallon at janmallon@sbc.global.net. Along with pictures supporting plastic turned in, Trex prefers the plastic be put in clear or translucent bags, so stores know it isn't garbage. JJ Jordan collects lots of clear bags from her daughter and she has offered to bring in these clear bags, so others can use them to collect their plastic.

Please try to remember to take a photo of the plastic you're recycling and send it with the amount of plastic! Thank you! Any questions, please contact **Becky at 201-396-7217** or visit the website at <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>

FOOD FROM THE HEART LUNCHEON Wednesday, February 21st

For those of you who are new to the Club, this is our annual February Luncheon. It will be held immediately following the morning program. See your Yearbook page 97 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 the set-up and clean-up. Please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet to participate. If you have any questions, you may contact:

**Martie Parch (tredwr@msn.com) or
Nancy Scherer (nancysch@aol.com)**



JANUARY PROGRAM

Laura Petrella, an SGC member, will present January's program "**Charles Gillette-Evolution of the "Virginia Garden."** We will look at what influenced the quintessential Gillette style, what made his gardens unique and analyze his functional and design aesthetic. For details about Laura and her program, see page 94 of your yearbook.

Amaryllis Bulbs Create Floral Explosion for the Holidays

One of the many great things about the holiday season is the abundance of amaryllis bulbs available. No matter how cold it is outside, you can get in touch with your inner gardener with the giant, exotic blooms of amaryllis flowers. Rarely in gardening does such a small amount of effort yield such dramatic results.

Bulbs are available singly or in kits that contain a growing medium, pot, bulb and instructions. I usually buy boxed kits and buy lots of them. The kit bulbs generally bloom as profusely as more expensive bulbs. To make a bold statement using Amaryllis



flowers, place two or three potted bulbs in a large container such as an oblong wicker basket or a decorative ceramic or metal container. Cover the soil with Spanish moss. You can even add a colorful bow. Or, buy several bulbs and stagger the planting schedule over a period of weeks. That way you can keep your favorite ceramic pot filled with blooms throughout the holiday season. When potting the bulb, insert a thin bamboo stake alongside it so that once the plant gets tall, you can stake the stem with raffia or ribbon for support if needed.

Potted bulbs make great gifts during the holidays. The blooms last for weeks and once they finish, the plant can simply be thrown away, or you may keep it and try to get it to re-bloom next year. Amaryllis flowers also make great gifts after the holidays when bulb prices are usually reduced, and the bright “Red Lion” amaryllis makes a lovely Valentine’s gift. Pot it in

January and it should be near bloom by Valentine's for a floral gift that is fresher and far more dramatic than the usual red roses. If you buy boxed kits after the holidays, look inside to make sure the bulb hasn't already sprouted or flowered inside the box.



Amaryllis plants are tropical but have been hybridized by Dutch growers for many years. Colors range from white to pink to red, with numerous variations in between.

People often ask about getting a plant to bloom a second time. It is not difficult. Here are instructions for next year's bloom.

Forcing an Amaryllis Plant to Re-Bloom

1. Cut back the flower stalk after blooming stops, but allow the leaves to grow. You can place your plant outdoors for summer in partial shade.
2. Keep watered so the soil is moist, but not wet. You may fertilize it during summer months.
3. Stop fertilizing in August. Reduce watering gradually and stop watering after three weeks.
4. When it's time to bring plants indoors, in September or early October, move your amaryllis to a cool (55 to 60 degrees F), dark, dry place for six to eight weeks. The plant needs this dormant rest period in order to re-bloom. The foliage will likely turn yellow and die back and you can remove it.
5. In November or later, move the pot into a warm, bright area and resume watering. Do not re-pot since the plant likes to be somewhat pot bound. Be patient. The plant should produce a green bud.

Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

Next Month's Meeting – January 17, 2024

Manakin Episcopal Church, 985 Huguenot Trail
Refreshments 9:30 AM – Meeting 10 AM
(Note: Meeting place/time updated here vs. yearbook)

Program: “Charles Gillette – Evolution of the Virginia Garden” by Laura Petrella

Greeter: Janice Beatty

Hostesses: Lili Aram-Bost, Janice Beatty, Judy Binns, Julia Clevett, Linda Nau, Lynn Neviasher, Carol Schlichtherle, and Dominique Spinosa

Clerks: Janet Mallon, Karen Rice, Susan Preston, and Sandy Zima

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1-31 **GardenFest of Lights** continues – LGBG
15 **Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House** CP34

JANUARY EVENTS

- 1-7 **GardenFest of Lights** continues – LGBG
4 **Community Hospice House Project** CP31
Arrangements delivered by 3 PM
5 **Remove Fire Station and Post Office** CP17
Decorations – 12 Noon CP18
8-9 **Gardening Enrichment Program** CP32
10 **SGC Board Meeting – 9:30 AM**
Hostess: Candy Nasser
15 **Piedmont District Board Meeting** CP1
17 **SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM** CP4
(Exhibits must be in place by 9:45 AM)
Program: “Charles Gillette - Evolution of Virginia Garden” by Laura Petrella
19 **Remove Salisbury Decorations** – 12 Noon CP20
19 **Monthly Flowers for the Hospice House** CP34
20-21 **Mid-Atlantic Home & Outdoor Living Show**
Virginia Beach Convention Center



Newsletter Editor: Linda Nau, naule@aol.com

