



GARDEN

DIRT



Issue 5 ● May 2018

Donna Cottingham does not disappoint



Donna Cottingham spoke to RGC members on April 12th on habitat gardening. Donna discussed the benefits of biodiversity and examined landscape techniques to make yards attractive to birds, pollinators and other beneficial creatures. Donna is a member of

Salisbury Garden Club and is a James River Master Naturalist. She has been gardening for nature for many years and even created her own butterfly meadow. Donna is pictured above with Cathie Elliott holding district awards, one of which was a Blue Ribbon for Butterfly Monarch Waystations.

Join us May 10th for a Design Workshop



Accredited NGC Judge **Diane Burgess** will demonstrate arranging with fruits, vegetables and flowers in floral design covering

mechanics, treatment (including sealing) and other practice information. A Design Workshop will follow. Most components will be supplied by committee. Bring your container with oasis (approximately 4" wide), snips, large plastic trash bag for debris, and imagination! No additional charge to members. Non-members, \$20.00. PRE Registration for workshop is *required*, email Jenny B no later than May 8. email: jennyboyenga@boyenga.net.

May Assignments

Hostesses: Sandra Harris (chair), Anne O'Bryant, Bonnie Schaschek, Anita Shawver

Judges: Carol Medlin (Accredited), Sharon Rowe, Deborah Brooks

Clerks: Mary Ann McKay, Susan Edmonds

Guides: Margie Redlin, Cheryl Brown Davis

Artistic Design Theme: **Sea reflections in the waves**

Song is "Come Sail Away" by Styx



Class I

Creative Reflective Line Design, FSS Handbook page 75.

Designing by Types pages 111-114.

Class II

Designers Choice of style, size and components.

Design must interpret class theme. Entry card must specify design type.

Flower Show Handbook – Chapter 7 pages 69 – 83.

Come Sail Away – Styx



*I'm sailing away set an open course
for the virgin sea
I've got to be free free to face the life
that's ahead of me*

*On board I'm the captain so climb aboard
We'll search for tomorrow on every shore
And I'll try oh Lord I'll try to carry on
I look to the sea reflections in the waves spark my
memory*

*Some happy some sad
I think of childhood friends and the dreams we had
We live happily forever so the story goes
But somehow we missed out on that pot of gold
But we'll try best that we can to carry on
A gathering of angels appeared above my head
They sang to me this song of hope and this is what
they said*

*They said come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me
Come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me
Come sail away come sail away*

Horticulture Classes for May 2018

I	Flowering Deciduous Shrubs
II	Flowering Broadleaf Evergreens
VII	Other Flowering Bulbs
VIII	Azaleas
X	Flowering Trees
XI	Perennials
XV	Roses
XVI	Daylilies
XVIII	Peonies
XIX	Iris
XXXII	Unclassified
XXXIII	Collections
XXXVII	Food Gardens
XXXVIII	Ivy and Vines
XXXX	Displays
	Display Only

April Best In Show



Bonnie Schaschek won Best in Show for this stunning tulip. Way to go Bonnie!



Sharon Rowe won Best in Show for this beautiful Clivia potted plant.

Carol Clark won Best in Show in Artistic Design for her sentimental Still Life design. "Wait a Minute Mister Postman" was the artistic design theme.



Carol displayed love letters and special mementos between her parents during the time when her Dad served on the USS Iowa during WWII. Accredited Judge

Jane Denton was emotional when she read Carol's account on her 3"x5" card. Way to go Carol!

Thank You to our April Hostesses



April hostesses provided a wonderful all you can eat pasta and salad bar. Hostesses included Muffin Fitzpatrick, Debbie Burgess (chair), Carol

Clark and Carol Shear. Thank you ladies for a delicious luncheon.

RGC Members Visit Middlesex County Kindergarten Classes for Earth Day



On April 20th, RGC members Mary Ann McKay, Jenny Boyenga, Susan Edmonds and Margie Redlin visited Middlesex County Kindergarten Classes for Earth Day. Members presented a program on The Frightened Frog. According to

Publicity Chair, Margie Redlin, "After our presentation, one young student raised her hand and said, "Sometimes I want to ask the bus driver to stop so I can get out and pick up all the trash." She won our hearts." Many of the students also recognized Mary Ann from her participation with county reading programs.

Plan to build a monarch waystation this spring



Last month, a lengthy article was included pertaining to the plight of our Monarch Butterfly (refer to the website and read the April 2018 Garden Dirt

article in its entirety). Plan now for creating your own Monarch Waystation. Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweed throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall. Similarly, without nectar from flowers these fall migratory monarch butterflies would be unable to make their long journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico. The need for host plants for larvae and energy sources for adults applies to all monarch and butterfly populations around the world.

River Birch Nursery in Locust Grove has native Swamp Milkweed in stock in both pink and white

varieties. The plants are healthy and ready for planting. Three Gallon containers cost \$8.99. "We visited River Birch nursery on Monday, April 23rd, and they had plenty in stock", reported Cathie Elliott.

The Value of Monarch Waystations

By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation you are contributing to monarch conservation, an effort that will help assure the preservation of the species and the continuation of the spectacular monarch migration phenomenon."

Start planning your own monarch habitat this spring. Register your garden at monarchwatch.org. When you do, please send your monarch waystation certified number to Cathie Elliott.

Invite a Friend or Neighbor

The May meeting is an excellent opportunity to invite a friend, a neighbor, or someone you have met through your other clubs and organizations. There will be no admission fee for guests. However, if you have a visitor that wants to participate in the design workshop, their cost is \$20 (no cost to members). Be sure and pre-register your guests with Jenny B.

Don't Forget the Plus One Membership Campaign! RGC Can Make a Difference!

*Garden Clubs and members are challenged to promote and increase our membership. It's up to each one of us to invite prospects to join our organization to add more talent, ideas, and **helping hands**.*