

**RGC 2016/2017 Officer Slate and 2016 Most Valuable Gardener Nominations
will be addressed at RGC's October 8 meeting. Don't miss a minute!**



The Official Newsletter of the Rappahannock Garden Club

October 2015

Below, Jenny Boyenga's Angular Design, "Wild Ride," captured the Designer's Choice Award at RGC's September 10 Flower Show. Truly inspirational!



Sharon Rowe (above left) was presented with the Sweepstakes Award at RGC's Flower Show. Presenting the award was Jenny Boyenga, General Chairman of the show. Congratulations, Sharon!

In the Horticulture Division, Margie Redlin's Hydrangea 'Limelight' (below) was one of four Award of Merit winners. See additional Flower Show results in this edition of "Garden Dirt!"



President's Corner from RGC President Cathie Elliott

September 10 was a remarkable day in the history of Rappahannock Garden Club. Not only did we have an incredible flower show, we held an extremely successful barbecue luncheon, "Country Fair" market and raffle ticket fundraiser to boot! I marvel that our members pulled this huge event together in an almost effortless manner. Not too many garden clubs can say that. I am so proud of what our club accomplished that day and I sincerely thank all of you for "stretching yourselves, branching out, stepping to the plate, expanding your knowledge base and trying something different." Bravo and job well done!

You will not want to miss our October meeting. Two local chefs will be cooking for us and tantalizing our taste buds with their culinary delights with an emphasis on herbs. In a different twist, "our program will be lunch" so please come prepared to sit back and relax and enjoy a nice lunch in a relaxed atmosphere. You will be served and you will be pampered. This meeting would be a particularly good opportunity to invite guests and prospective members.

There will be a nominal charge of \$5 for guests; no charge to members. I encourage you to think of someone who might want to come to this nice affair and invite them to come. If you plan to invite someone, please let Judy Ripley know as soon as possible so that we can pass on this information to our two chefs for planning purposes.

Following our "lunch/program," we will have a business meeting with two very important subjects. First, you will be asked to nominate club members for the Most Valuable Gardener Award. Please give this careful consideration before coming to the meeting. Second, the new slate of officers will be announced. In November, you will be asked to vote on this slate.

These are exciting times for our club. Again, I want to thank everyone who helped, even in a small way, to make the September 10 event possible. It takes a village!

See you in October.

— Cathie

2015 Calendar of Events

Oct. 8	Rappahannock Garden Club meeting
Oct. 28-29	VA Landscape Design CC School
Nov. 12	Rappahannock Garden Club meeting
Dec. 1	Awards Applications deadline (to District Chair)
Dec. 11	(FRIDAY) RGC holiday luncheon, awards, induction ceremony; Tides Inn, Irvington.

2016 Calendar of Events

February 8	Piedmont District Winter Board Meeting
Feb. 29-	
March 3	Flower Show School, Course 3, Richmond
March 13-15	South Atlantic Region Convention, Raleigh, NC
April 4	Piedmont District Spring Meeting, Richmond
April 26-27	VA Federation of Garden Clubs Convention
June 5-11	National Garden Week



Merit Award winners at RGC's Flower Show included Deborah Brooks, for her Foxtail Fern (above left) and Sharon Rowe for her Mexican Sunflower (above right). Congratulations, ladies!

From RGC's "Country Fair" Flower Show

Design Results

Class 1. "Fantasy" - Small Design

1. Margie Redlin - 4 points
2. Debbie Burgess - 3 points
3. Marty Wilson - 2 points

Class 2. "Wild Ride" - Angular Design

1. Jenny Boyenga - 4 points (+ Designers Choice Award Winner)
2. Cathie Elliott - 3 points
3. Deborah Brooks - 2 points
4. Anne O'Bryant - 1 point

Class 3. "Alone At The Fair" - Capsule Functional Table for One

1. Carol Clark - 4 points
2. Deborah Brooks - 3 points
3. Anne Warner - 2 points
4. Sara Ford - 1 point

Horticulture Results

Scoring was calculated as follows: Blue - 4 points; Red -3 points; Yellow - 2 points; White - 1 point; Award of Merit - 5 points; Sweepstakes Award - 5 points.

Food Gardens:

Jennifer Boyenga	1 Blue - 4 points
Deborah Brooks	1 Blue, 1 Red, Merit Award - 12 points
Debbie Burgess	1 Red, 1 White - 4 points
Susan Edmonds	1 Yellow - 2 points
Robin Perks	1 White - 1 points
Sharon Rowe	2 Blue, 1 Red - 11 points
Bonnie Schaschek	1 Blue, 2 Red - 10 Points
Ann Gray Wood	1 White - 1 point

Horticulture:

Jenny Boyenga	1 Blue, 2 Red - 10 Points
Deborah Brooks	1 Blue, 1 Red, 1 Yellow, Merit Award - 13 points
Debbie Burgess	1 Blue, 2 White - 6 points
Jean Ehlman	1 Red, 1 Yellow - 5 points
Cathie Elliott	1 Blue, 2 Red - 10 points
Robin Perks	1 Red, 1 White - 4 points
Marge Redlin	1 Blue, 1 Red, 1 White, Merit Award - 13 points
Judy Ripley	1 Blue - 4 points
Sharon Rowe	2 Blue, 1 Red, Sweepstakes Award - 16 points
Bonnie Schaschek	1 Red, 2 White - 5 points
Kaye Simpson	1 White - 1 point
Anne Warner	1 Yellow - 2 points
Marty Wilson	2 Red, 1 White - 6 points
Ann Gray Wood	2 Blue, 1 White - 9 points



From left, Ann Gray Wood and Susan Edmonds extended a warm welcome to visitors who came to enjoy RGC's Flower Show at the completion of judging. In addition to manning the "Welcome Table," Ann Gray managed ticket sales for the barbecue fund-raiser. Susan was also the Staging Chairman for the Show. Both contributed to the Barbecue Luncheon preparations. The event did, truly, take a village!

Rappahannock Garden Club 2014-2015 Officers

President:	Cathie Elliott
First Vice President:	Judy Ripley
Second Vice President:	Margie Redlin
Recording Secretary:	Mary Jacobs
Treasurer:	Bonnie Schaschek
Corresponding Secretary:	Jan Litsinger
Historian:	Ann Gray Wood
Chaplain:	Cheryl Brown Davis
Parliamentarian:	Anne Skerrett



Most Valuable Gardener Award Details; What You Need to Know!

Nominations for the **Most Valuable Gardener Award** will be submitted at the October 8 meeting.

The Most Valuable Gardener Award, also known as the Golden Trowel, is Rappahannock Garden Club's most prestigious award and is presented to a member who is in good standing and has gone above and beyond club expectations. The recipient is chosen by membership vote. The award is presented at the December meeting.

Please give consideration to members who are in good standing and have demonstrated extraordinary club participation and character. You may nominate up to three members. You must be present at the meeting in October to submit nominations and only Active and Associate members who are present at the November meeting may vote.

"Member in good standing" requirements may be found in the Yearbook in the blue Reference section—Bylaws, Article III — Membership (page 2 of Bylaws):

- Contribute to the objectives of the Club;
- Actively participate in all aspects of the Club;
- Attend meetings unless there is a valid reason;
- Pay dues on time;
- Exhibit horticulture and/or design at a minimum of two meetings per year;
- Support at least one Club committee or serve as an officer;
- Serve as a hostess each year, or as assigned;
- Serve as a horticulture/design clerk, guide, and/or novice judge; or as assigned;
- May vote and hold office. (Associate members may hold appointed office.)

In order to vote, you must be an Active or Associate member. At the October meeting, please pick up your nomination form at the entrance door from Joan Eremenko; she will check your name off the list and give you one form. Please complete the form and place it in the box provided.

*(Submitted by the MVG Committee:
Deborah Brooks, Susan Edmonds and Joan Eremenko)*



In the Design competition at RGC's "Country Fair" Small/Standard Flower Show, Margie Redlin captured the blue ribbon in Class I with her "Fantasy" theme (above left). In Class 3 ("Alone at the Fair"), Carol Clark won first place with her Capsule Functional Table for One. The designs in all classes were inspired and inspiring!



In the Food Gardens division, Deborah Brooks received an Award of Merit for her Tomatillos, pictured above. Congratulations, Deborah!

On behalf of my Staging Committee,
I extend a very big thank you to all members who
contributed time and props to "A Country Fair"
Small/Standard Flower Show.

The membership was very generous and we had more
items offered than we could use!

My hardworking and creative committee—
Deborah Brooks, Debbie Burgess & Jenny Boyenga—
worked together to produce the staging outside and
inside the room.

Special thanks for props, flowers and produce
to the following members and community donors:
Jenny Boyenga, Deborah Brooks, Debbie Burgess,
Susan Edmonds, Cathie Elliott, Nan Liner,
Mary Loftus, Margie Redlin, Judy Ripley,
Anne O'Bryant, Sharon Rowe, Bonnie Schaschek,
Anne Warner, Marty Wilson, Ann Gray Wood,
Burke's Fine Jewelers, Farm and Home,
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and
Grace Episcopal Church.

Susan Edmonds
Staging Committee Chair



The "Country Store," which netted nearly \$700, featured a wide variety of jams, jellies, baked goods, sunflowers, antiques and craft items. After less than four months since the beginning of RGC's fiscal year, the Ways & Means Committee, chaired by Jo Manson, has surpassed the annual budget target of \$1,500, with year-to-date income totaling nearly \$2,000! The creativity, hard work and perseverance of this Committee is, truly, paying off!

October Horticulture Report *(submitted by Bonnie Schaschek)*

"Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking,
perfect pause between the opposing miseries
of summer and winter."

-- Carol Bishop Hipps

To Do's

- Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after the leaves have fallen.
- Pot amaryllis bulbs now for indoor blooms during the holidays.
- Hill soil to a height of 8 to 10 inches around roses for winter protection. Mulch after the ground freezes.
- Save packets of half used seeds in airtight containers in a cool dry place.
- Continue planting, dividing and transplanting lilies, perennials & shrubs.
- Continue planting fall bulbs.
- Bring houseplants indoors.
- Begin to clean garden tools for winter storage.
- Plant cool-season annuals.
- Complete pruning of rambler roses.
- Prune late-flowering shrubs and trees when dormant.
- Compost fallen leaves and garden debris such as annuals and spent vegetable plants.
- Continue to weed, weed, weed.
- Complete staking chrysanthemums; water and fertilize.
- Lift and store tender bulbs (i.e., cannas, dahlias).
- Plant spinach and garlic.
- Plant ornamental cabbage and kale.
- Spray your pumpkins and Indian Corn with Hot Pepper Spray to keep the squirrels at bay.

Folklore

When leaves fall early, autumn and winter will be mild; when leaves fall later, winter will be severe.

Flowers blooming in late autumn are a sign of a bad winter.

When deer are in a gray coat in October, expect a hard winter.

A warm October means a cold February.

Powdery Mildew:

What causes powdery mildew: Powdery mildew fungi overwinter in plant debris and begin producing spores in the spring. The spores are carried to your plants by wind, insects and splashing water. Conditions that encourage the growth and spread of powdery mildew are: dampness or high humidity; crowded plantings; and, poor air circulation.

Once your plants are infected: remove and destroy all infected plant parts; improve air circulation by thinning and pruning; and, don't fertilize until the problem is corrected. Don't water plants from above. Apply a fungicide: there are many fungicides available. Check the label to be sure they are safe and effective on the type of plant that is infected. Look for ingredients such as: potassium bicarbonate, neem oil, sulfur and copper. Most fungicides will need repeat applications every 7 - 14 days, for continuous protection. Always follow the label instructions for both application and waiting period before harvest. Powdery mildew is unattractive but it is rarely fatal.

A Must Read:

Planting natives for natives, "There are so many good reasons to create a natural home landscape. Chief among them is the lifeline that native plants throw to native insects and birds" (Douglas W. Tallamy). This is an excerpt from his most recent book, [Living Landscapes: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden](#).

Volunteers Sought for Reedville Fishermen's Museum December Fundraiser, "Christmas on Cockrell's Creek"

"Tablescapes" is an event that is part of the
Reedville Fishermen's Museum fundraiser,
"Christmas on Cockrell's Creek."

This event takes place the second weekend in December.
Exhibitors in the "Tablescapes" category are asked to prepare
a display that represents their club;
the display must include a dining/drinking component.
Two or three members are asked to volunteer for this fun event.
If you are interested, please contact Cathie Elliott.



Former RGC member Jacquie Colligan (now a resident of Urbanna) donated her original artwork, "Poppies," which was raffled during the RGC Flower Show. Kaye Simpson was the very lucky winner. Many thanks to Jacquie for her generous contribution to the club!

Conservation Report: The Water-less Landscape *(submitted by Mary Jacobs)*

Reference: By Megan McConnell Hughes, November 26, 2010 from [Rodale's Organic Life](#)

A garden that's lush and drought-tolerant at the same time? It's do-able.

In recent years, many states have suffered through droughts, forcing some municipalities to limit non-essential water use. If you don't yet have watering restrictions in your area, hold on to your garden hose because they could be in your future. But you don't have to say goodbye to irises and peonies and hello to cactus and rocks. Learn the principles of xeriscaping -- gardening that conserves water -- and you'll save money, time and labor, while enjoying the plants you love.

Site and soil. "I would rather rely on nature for rainfall and not worry about watering," says Carol O'Meara, Horticulture Extension Agent in Boulder, CO. To do that, you must maximize the benefits of every raindrop by allowing as little as possible to leave the site and by putting plants that need the most water where they're most likely to get it. "Look at how water moves naturally through your landscape," O'Meara says. Note areas that receive more water than others; the space around downspouts, for example. Then cluster plants that like moist soil in those areas. Put drought-tolerant plants in the drier places.

You want the soil to hold moisture but still drain well, and adding organic matter is the surest way to achieve this. Do a simple drainage test: dig a 12" hole and fill it with water. If the

water either drains instantly or sits for 30 minutes or more, it's a sign that your soil is too porous, or not porous enough. Mix in compost or finely shredded leaves.

Condition ready. "Plants don't save water, people do," proclaims a xeriscaping bulletin from the University of Georgia. Save by choosing healthy plants that are adapted to your climate and soil type, and growing them in their preferred conditions alongside plants with similar needs. The reason? The right plant in the right place needs less care overall, and that includes supplemental water.

Botanic gardens, garden clubs, and your extension service can all steer you to plants that are right for your region. And don't forget your nursery. "Local garden centers are very in tune with what does well in their area," O'Meara says.

Water when necessary. The ideal "water less" landscape gets by on rainfall alone, but that's not always possible. Even when you do need to water, however, following xeriscaping principles can reduce your outdoor consumption by as much as 50 percent.

Most perennials need supplemental water only in the three months after planting. Water trees and shrubs through the first growing season or until they become established.

Drip-irrigation systems and hand watering are the most efficient hydration methods. Avoid overhead sprinklers; they waste water by directing it where plants aren't (enabling weed-seed germination) and also wet the foliage, inviting disease.