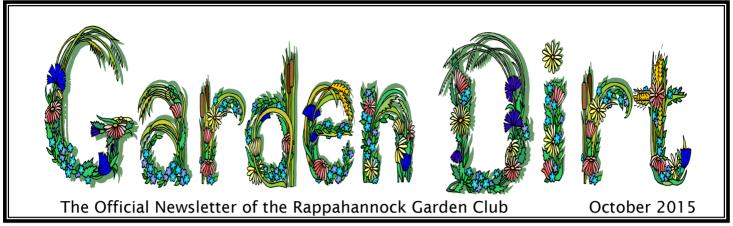
# RGC 2016/2017 Officer Slate and 2016 Most Valuable Gardener Nominations will be addressed at RGC's October 8 meeting. Don't miss a minute!



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

Rappahannock Garden Club meeting
VA Landscape Design CC School
Rappahannock Garden Club meeting
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



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





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
Deborah Brooks
Debbie Burgess
Susan Edmonds

1 Blue - 4 points
1 Blue, 1 Red, Merit Award - 12 points
1 Red, 1 White - 4 points
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
Jean Ehlman
Cathie Elliott
Robin Perks

1 Blue, 2 White - 6 points
1 Red, 1 Yellow - 5 points
1 Blue, 2 Red - 10 points
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
Kaye Simpson
Anne Warner
Marty Wilson
Ann Gray Wood

1 Red, 2 White - 5 points
1 White - 1 point
1 Yellow - 2 points
2 Red, 1 White - 6 points
2 Blue, 1 White - 9 points

# Committee Reports

#### Membership as of September 10, 2015:

- 42 Active
- 9 Associate
- 14 Emeritus

65 total (51 dues paying)

Attendance at September 10, 2015 Small/Standard Flower Show 29 Active

- 6 Associate
- 6 Emeritus
- 41 Members

Membership changes for 2015 to date:

- 4 Resignations
- 6 Non-payment of dues, failure to renew
- 2 Status in membership changes
- 1 New member

Submitted by Susan Edmonds

**Artistic Design:** RGC's Small/Standard Flower Show was a huge success! It involved a lot of work on the part of so many, but the end product justified the collective effort. It was a fantastic display of creativity at its best! Thanks to each of you who entered an Artistic Design. The designs showed how much we have improved individually as designers. We strengthened our knowledge and broadened our scope by entering a design in this competition!

With an ever-growing interest in the natural world and flowers, we continue to increase our floral design knowledge and skills. Floral design is defined as the art of using plant materials and flowers to create a pleasing and balanced composition. Evidence of floral design dates back to ancient Egyptian civilization. There are many styles of floral design throughout the world!

There are only two more opportunities this year to enter artistic designs at RGC meetings. Let's put our creative talents to work for the October and November meetings. Class I for the October meeting is a Creative Line Mass Design. American Traditional Centerpiece Design is scheduled for the November meeting.

Submitted by Anne O'Bryant

Flower Power: Many thanks to those at our last meeting who remembered to save flowers for us. Judy Ripley also let me snip through her garden for an abundant array of beauties. With that, plus what Sharon Rowe and I brought, we had plenty to work with this past month. I think this is going to require on-going effort, as our florists just don't seem to have enough to help us fill our cups. So thank you all for your recent help — and for the help that I know you will provide in months to come!

Regarding the idea mentioned in the last report, we have been given the go-ahead to have our November Flower Power workshop at the Boys & Girls Club. This will still probably be on Monday, November 9, but the time will be changed to approx. 4-5 p.m. I will contact those scheduled to see if this is convenient, but we are likely to need the help of a few additional members to guide the children as they prepare their arrangements. Please call me (462-0020) if you are interested in assisting. This should be a fun and rewarding activity! (Submitted by Karen Rosenfeld)

Ways & Means: The Country Fair Market (also known as RGC's "Root Cellar") had a huge showing at our recent Country Fair-themed Small/Standard Flower Show. Ways and Means Chair Jo Manson (assisted by the incomparable Anne Warner) organized, staged, and executed a remarkable display of homemade canned items, crafts and other very interesting items. The Country Fair Market netted \$668.05! In addition, the \$10

BBQ Plate fundraiser brought in a profit of \$754 which includes the "super sale" of BBQ, coleslaw and beans at the end of the Flower Show. Raffle ticket sales for Jacquie Colligan's beautiful watercolor print (of which Kaye Simpson was the proud recipient) brought in approximately \$140. Working the crowd to sell raffle tickets were Robin Perks and Barbara Pulling. From June 1, 2015 to present, Ways and Means has raised \$1,948, surpassing our 2015/2016 budget of \$1,500 which means we have raised \$449 over the budgeted amount in less than four months. And that's a good thing! (Submitted by Cathie Elliott)

**Website:** Carol Clark has done extensive testing on the new website. Look for an announcement shortly! (Submitted by Cathie Elliott)





Members of the Barbecue Luncheon Committee and the Country Store Committee got together for a brief moment before the doors were opened for business. From left are Anne Warner, Katherine Pickle, Kaye Simpson, Cathie Elliott, Judy Ripley, Jo Manson and Karen Rosenfeld. Judy Ripley chaired the Barbecue Luncheon Committee. Cathie Elliott and her husband, John, prepared the pork barbecue. Many members contributed to the barbecue lunch efforts, preparing and serving 100 plates! Jo Manson and Anne Warner organized and managed the Country Store. In addition, many members contributed jams, jellies, baked goods, antiques and a wide variety of decorative gift items to the Country Store. Thanks to all who made the event so successful!

# 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!

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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 

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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!

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## 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, <u>Living Landscapes: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden.</u>



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"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.