



# GARDEN

# DIRT



Issue 3 ● March 2018

## RGC welcomes Sheila Weisensale



On Thursday, February 8, Rappahannock Garden Club members enjoyed an informative program presented by Sheila Weisensale on the art of arranging dried flowers.

Weisensale shared her knowledge of how and when



to collect foliage and flowers and the correct way to preserve and store them. She ended her program by demonstrating how to create a dried arrangement. "Members

thoroughly enjoyed her enthusiasm and creativity" said Cathie Elliott.

## Anne Blackwell Thompson to present program in March



RGC members are in for a real treat in March. Anne Blackwell Thompson of Blackwell Botanicals of Richmond will present the program. Vibrant blooms and foliage collected from the

nooks and crannies of the Southern landscape are what define Blackwell Botanicals. Their meticulous preservation and artistic presentation are what elevate these found treasures into sophisticated, unique and highly stylized works of art.

Harvesting from the swamps of South Carolina, the gardens of Virginia's countryside, the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and the mountains of the Shenandoah Valley, artist and plantswoman Anne Blackwell Thompson preserves foliage and flowers using centuries-old traditions and turns her bounty into beautiful, artistic compositions. Her work is a culmination of her years of study, her significant training in studio art and art history and her love of the natural world. Her skills were further honed while studying as an apprentice to world-renowned botanical artist Stuart Thornton in Turin, Italy.

Working with a myriad of plant material – from hydrangea to seaweed to wildflowers - Anne's passion to preserve beautiful flora and create one-of-a-kind compositions spawned Blackwell Botanicals in 2010. Her finished pieces juxtapose tradition with a modern flare, and reflect classical and contemporary styles. Her studio is appropriately located in Richmond, Virginia – a decidedly southern city steeped with tradition, but with a creative vibe all its own.

In addition to working with private collectors, Anne has partnered with Designers and Landscape Architects on several large commercial projects. Anne's botanicals have been featured in many publications including Garden & Gun, Southern Living, Coastal Living, Veranda and Victoria Magazine.



## March Assignments

**Hostesses:** Sara Ford, Sharon Timm, Cathie Ward, Pam Lazorchek

**Clerk:** Karen Rosenfeld, Robin Perks

**Guide:** Carol Shear, Marty Wilson

**Judges:** Darleen Nelson (Accredited), Carolyn King, Susan Edmonds

**Artistic Design Theme:** Song is “*Garden Song*” by *John Denver*.

Make this garden grow.



**Class I**  
**Traditional Mass Design**  
Flower Show Handbook Page 71.  
Designing by Types- pages 162-166.

### Class II

**Designer’s Choice** of style, size, and components. Design must interpret class theme. Entry card must specify design type.  
Flower Show Handbook –Pages 69 – 83.  
Designing by Types

### John Denver – Garden Song 2008

*Inch by inch, row by row  
Gonna make this garden grow  
All it takes is a rake and a hoe  
And a piece of fertile ground  
Inch by inch, row by row  
Someone bless these seeds I sow  
Someone warm them from below  
Till the rain comes tumbling down  
Pulling weeds and picking stones  
Man is made of dreams and bones  
Feel the need to grow my own  
Cause the time is close at hand  
Painful rain, sun and rain  
Find my way in nature's chain  
Tune my body and my brain  
To the music from the land  
Plant your ...*

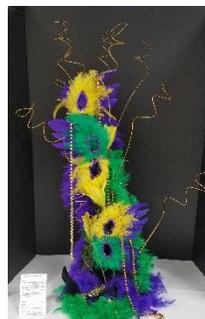
## Horticulture Classes for March 2018

I	Flowering Deciduous Shrubs
II	Flowering Broadleaf Evergreens
III	Foliage Broadleaf Evergreens
IV	Camellias
V	Daffodils - Divisions (1,2,3,4, other)
VII	Other Flowering Bulbs
XXXII	Unclassified
XXXVII	Food Gardens
XXXVIII	Ivy and Vines
XXXIX	Combination Plantings
XXXX	Displays
XXXXI	Container Grown Plants Display Only

## February Best In Show



Despite the cold temperatures, RGC members brought many horticulture and food garden exhibits. Debbie Burgess won best in show for one of her many beautiful house plants, *Beaucarnea recurvata*, “Ponytail Palm”.



Deborah Brooks won best in show for her creative (and fun) abstract design with a Marti Gras theme.

Congratulations Debbie and Deborah!

## Thank You to our February Hostesses



February hostesses provided a yummy offering of Chicken

Tortilla Soup with taco salad and delicious desserts. There was plenty to go around and everyone enjoyed this tasty fare. Hostesses included Bonnie Schaschek, Cathie Elliott, Catherine Brincefield and Mary Ann McKay. Thank you ladies for a delicious meal!

## Gardening Seminar Slated for March 24<sup>th</sup>



The Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar, sponsored by Northern Neck Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension will be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at the White

Stone Church of the Nazarene. Registration is \$30. Forms will be available beginning Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at [nmmg.org](http://nmmg.org) or through the Northumberland County Extension Office 580-5694.

## Also Coming Up...

- March 3 – 11, 2018 -- The Philadelphia Flower Show "Wonders of Water"
- April 14 - 16, 2018 -- 72nd annual Colonial Williamsburg Symposium "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Creating Landscape Design that Reflects Beauty and Awe"
- April 28, 2018 "Herbs Galore & More" sale at Maymont

## Special Letter From NGC President Nancy Hargroves

Nancy Hargroves asked that club presidents forward the following information to their membership pertaining to an exciting fundraising opportunity. Her letter reads as follows:

*Dear Members,*

*There was an overwhelming response to the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program. 415 garden clubs applied in the first year of this new NGC program! This is wonderful that so many clubs are active in their communities.*

*This level of response shows the needs of NGC's clubs. One of our roles as a national organization is to support our clubs in accomplishing our mission. NGC must do all it can to expand the funding for these grants to help clubs all across the country with their projects.*

*In order for this fund to increase so that NGC can give more grants, P. Allen Smith is providing a fundraising opportunity for PLANT AMERICA Grants. He offered his gardening and business advice and expertise for the plant selection, for obtaining the plants and for the method of distribution to our members. He believes in our organization's purpose and mission and has helped develop this promotion in many ways by giving his time, his staff's time and by donating a very generous percentage of the sales.*

*I am very proud to announce that beginning March 1 and ending June 15, National Garden Clubs will be selling plants selected by P. Allen Smith. This promotion, entitled **Inspiring Gardens Across America**, includes three different collections of plants. Each item was chosen because of a special feature in its hybridization for performance or beauty or for its limited availability in the general marketplace.*

1. **Peony Flowering Daylily Collection.** This collection includes three of the most prolific reblooming double-flowering daylilies.
2. **Sunpatiens® 'Razzle Dazzle' Collection.** This is not your grandmother's impatiens! SunPatiens® is a hybrid impatiens bred by Sakata. These remarkable plants represent a breakthrough in flower breeding: they are **sun-loving** and bloom from spring through frost. P.

Allen Smith has grown these in containers and on the grounds of Moss Mountain Farm where they survive the hot summers of Arkansas with no wilting. Each of the four cultivars was picked as the one that is the most vigorous in the series.

3. **Whitewashed Wooden Stand with Succulents.** This selection is for succulent lovers and those who no longer have a garden! The whitewashed wooden stand of reclaimed wood holds three pots of succulents. It's also a great gift item for Mother's Day, Father's Day and other spring occasions.

More detailed descriptions of these plants are included in the brochure/order form that is attached.

Orders can be placed in two ways:

1. NGC Website Online Shopping  
- [www.shopgardenclub.org/shop](http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop)
2. Mail a check with the order form to NGC headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110. The order form in the brochure can be used, or the order form can be downloaded from the NGC website on the PLANT AMERICA page: [www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america](http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america)

Orders will be accepted **starting March 1. Please note:** some items will be shipped when it is appropriate for your growing zone. Order early while supplies last.

This promotion is not meant to be "We've got a bargain for you." These are quality items chosen by P. Allen Smith that he knows will perform well in your home and garden or as a gift for someone. Allen and NGC share the goal of "Inspiring Gardens Across America" by contributing to the PLANT AMERICA Grant Fund so that we may give as much help as possible to NGC-member garden clubs in their projects all across America.

Our purchases will help grow the NGC PLANT AMERICA Grant Program. Thank you for your support, as all of us working together can benefit so many of our garden clubs throughout the country.

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Nancy Hargroves

## Invite a Friend or Neighbor

The March 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.

**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**.

