



GARDEN DIRT



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Donna Cottingham Presents Butterfly Program to RGC Members



VFGC State Chairman for Butterflies and Pollinators, Donna Cottingham, provided an

educational slide presentation on butterflies and pollinators.



Not only did Donna present a very informative program, checkout member Deborah Brooks sporting her very colorful butterfly/frog hat. The butterfly theme was carried out by our hostess committee as well; the table

was filled with decorative and colorful butterfly decorations.

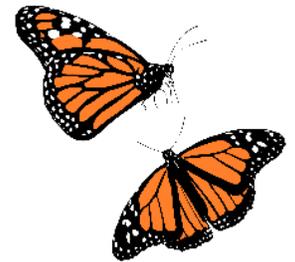


Featured from left to right are the April Hostesses: Sharon Rowe, Margie Redlin, Cathie Elliott,

Ann Hecht, Anne Warner, Anne O'Bryant and Margaret Curtis.

Monarch Waystations

VFGC Project -- Help protect and preserve the monarch butterfly by creating certified Waystations planted with milkweed and nectar plants in new or existing private or public gardens. Waystations provide the resources necessary for the monarch to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Creating a Waystation can be as simple as adding milkweeds and nectar sources to an existing garden. Monarch Butterfly Waystations are certified through www.MonarchWatch.org.



Membership Update



RGC President Bonnie Schaschek welcomed new member, Mary Hutya. Mary was presented with a "Horti Helper" package of horticulture display items that included small

bottles, mini-bubble wrap and display cards along with a personal welcome note.

From Membership Chair, Jo Manson:

Welcome Mary Hutya!

Mary and her husband, Edward, were weekend visitors to the Kilmarnock area for 10 years. They became full time residents in 2014 when Mary retired. Prior to retiring, Mary was Vice President in

charge of the event department for a trade association in Reston, VA.

Mary's mother instilled a love of gardening in her at a young age. Mary enjoys planning her garden and seeing it come to fruition each year. During her working years, gardening was limited to weekends. Weekend gardening helped her discover container gardening. She has expanded her flowerbeds, including several raised beds, but still enjoys creating container gardens. Mary and Edward enjoy sailing and traveling. She is sponsored by Sara Ford.

Ways and Means

We encourage all members to bring potted plants to sell at the May meeting Root Cellar Market. We all love to share special treats from our gardens!

Also if you wish to pre-order pound cake, please contact Jo Manson, mansonj217@gmail.com or at her cell, (703) 606-3925. Whole cakes are \$20, half cakes are \$10. She needs to know one week in advance of the meeting to ensure all orders can be filled. You can also specify if you want the Buttermilk Mace Pound Cake or the Almond Cream Cheese Pound Cake.

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.

April Artistic Design and Horticulture Results



"Diamonds Are A Girls Best Fiend" was the theme for the April Artistic Design.

Member Carol Clark won "Best in Show" for

her over the top Functional Table Design.



Member Sharon Rowe won "Best in Show" for her beautiful red azalea.



Mark your calendars for the second annual Northern Neck Fundraiser on Wednesday, May 18 from 3pm to 10pm. **(Please note correct date of May 18th; it was incorrectly listed on the flyer that was placed on the tables at the April garden club meeting).** All proceeds from this event (including all food; take-out or eat-in, all beverages and gift certificates) will go directly to our scholarship fund. RGC will receive 10% on anything that is purchased between 3pm and 10 pm that day. Start now by inviting your friends, family, neighbors, and other acquaintances to this special FUNdraiser event! Join us at NNK Burger on May 18th for food, fun and fellowship – all for a great cause!

Just Gardens to Feature Three Members' Gardens

On May 20 and 21, the Just Gardens tour will feature five gardens in the Irvington and White Stone area, three of which belong to RGC Members President Bonnie Schaschek, Susan Edmonds and Deborah Brooks. From its humble beginnings, Just Gardens has grown into a much anticipated spring event over the past 16 years with proceeds benefitting the Haven, a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The gardens will be open from 10 am until 4 pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on tour days. Advance tickets are at The Dandelion in Irvington, The Pedestal in Kilmarnock, The Box Boutique in White

Stone, Wildest Dreams in Burgess and the Shoppe for Haven's Sake in Warsaw. Show your support for our three RGC Members by coming to this event and supporting the Haven at the same time.

The Schaschek Garden

When the Schaschek's bought this parcel of 5-1/2 acres in 2000, they had to have the area cleared of scrappy woods in order to build leaving open areas requiring extensive plantings. The gardens and plantings are an eclectic work in progress, designed by the owners with foundation plants, shrubs and trees for specific purposes. There are various flowering shrubs, textural shrubs, low-maintenance perennials, bulbs, fragrant shrubs, drought tolerant, deer resistant and native plants. Deciduous and evergreen trees, such as; flowering trees, nut trees, fruit trees, green giants, cypresses, and white oaks were planted for shade, wildlife and problem solving. There is a large herb and vegetable garden with separate raised beds for root vegetables. There is a putting green among the fruit trees with a picnic area, an outdoor fireplace with plantings for privacy, an archway to a mystery garden and various fences as backdrop for planting. Overall the gardens and plantings promote seasonal interest.



The Brooks Garden

When Deborah moved to her home in 2008, she began to transform a clearing in the woods to an exciting landscape complemented by flower beds, trees, vegetables, and herbs. It is now a delightful private retreat with a pool, terrace, gazebo, pond, and whimsical features to entertain visitors. Mermaids appear in unexpected niches. Sustainable gardening plus bird and bat houses and feeders attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Because it is important to Deborah to provide flowers and foliage at all seasons for flower arrangements, her garden is full of color and interesting, dramatic plants. Along the wooded area, there are blueberries, crape myrtle, bayberry, Mexican petunias, daisies, and herbs; there is a natural transition from lawn to woods, as well as to the shore of the adjacent creek. In the midst of its quiet seclusion, this garden has a lot of excitement and fun! Just recently, Deborah applied for, and received, official Monarch Waystation signage for her butterfly garden.



The Edmonds' Garden

The Edmondses have transformed a garden with good bones into a garden with great variety and three seasons of bloom. Using a multitude of perennials transplanted from their former New Jersey garden, Susan gave her new garden the texture and layers of color it so needed. The house and main garden area are perched on a 40 foot high precipice overlooking the cove and an additional terraced garden is reached by steps. The back yard, accessed down a pathway between house and garage, is the real show-stopper. A pretty deck and screened porch overlook a manicured lawn edged with a wide perennial border. Like so many informal English gardens, this one mixes color, height, texture, bloom time, fragrance, and variety, with the best of them. Gardenias, baptisia, iris, dianthus, deutzia and lots of herbs will be on display in May.



May Meeting to Feature Master Gardener, John Lundsford on Raised Garden Beds



John Lundsford will speak at the May meeting on “Square Foot Gardening”. He will share his expertise, experiences and knowledge of Raised-Bed construction. Invite a neighbor or friend to this very informative program.

Bring “That Container” to the May Meeting



Everyone has “that container” that you have acquired – an unusual container that you love but haven’t quite figured out how to design in it or what to do with it! The June Meeting will feature Barbara Dillard who will take those containers and dazzle us with her floral designs. In preparation for this program, please bring “that container” to the May meeting and members will select 5 to 6 containers.

RGC Receives District and State Awards

On Monday, April 4th, four RGC Members travelled to Richmond to attend the Piedmont District Meeting. On behalf of RGC, President Bonnie Schaschek was presented with several awards:



District Awards:

Red Ribbon -- Community Garden (for the Free Health Clinic)

Red Ribbon -- Youth Program (Flower Power Event at the Boys and Girls Club)

Yellow Ribbon -- Yearbook

Blue Ribbon -- Club Brochure

Blue Ribbon -- Club Newsletter

Blue Ribbon -- Website

State Awards:

Red Ribbon -- Club Newsletter

Blue Ribbon -- Club Brochure

Blue Ribbon -- Website

Congratulations to everyone that contributed to RGC receiving these awards. It takes a village!



The Piedmont District meeting in April was attended (from left) by Cathie Elliott, President Bonnie Schaschek, Marion Zimmerman,

Debbie Burgess and Jo Manson. Marion Zimmerman, a renowned floral designer from England, wowed the audience. The RGC Members in attendance were in agreement that this was one of the best floral design programs ever!! Be sure to come to the next Piedmont District Meeting in October.