



GARDEN

DIRT



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Jenny Boyenga Presents “Living Gifts” Workshop to RGC Members



In July, Jenny Boyenga, conducted a fun and very informative workshop on creating dish gardens and terrariums using succulents. Jenny prepared four beautiful arrangements which were auctioned at the end of the program. A few lucky ladies won the raffle for a few smaller, but no less spectacular, arrangements.



Pictured left is Sharon Timm with a really cool cactus dish garden. Above is a beach-themed dish garden made by Cathie Elliott.

The ladies really had a great time making beautiful creations!!



Member.

Robin Perks, pictured left, brought her granddaughter to the workshop who made a particularly fun arrangement under Jenny's tutelage. Pictured on the right is Glo Romaine who is Robin's neighbor and who was just recently installed as a new RGC

Change in Program Line-Up: Lisa Robinson will Present “Plants For Winter Interest”



Lisa Robinson will present our program on “Plants for Winter Interest” August 11. A native of Roanoke, Virginia and avid gardener, she brings with her years of gardening experience. Currently serving in Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. -

- on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors as Blue Ridge District President
- Scholarship Chairman for 5 years
- An active member of Sugarloaf Garden Club, Designers Atelier and Blue Ridge Judges Council
- Accredited NGC Flower Show Judge and an accredited judge for the American Daffodil Society.

New Member, Glo Romaine, Receives a Hearty Welcome From RGC Members



Gloria (Glo) Romaine was officially recognized as a new RGC member at the July garden club meeting. Glo is Robin Perks' neighbor and we are very happy to welcome Glo. She has already attended a Ways and Means committee, has been a hostess and has a lot of good, refreshing ideas for the club. Glo is pictured, left, receiving her official nametag and her Horti-

Helper. WELCOME GLO!!

Don't Forget Your Nametag

My name is ...



Speaking of new members, PLEASE remember to bring your nametag with you to each meeting. We have

several new members and it makes it so much easier for them to get to know everyone. If you have misplaced your badge, please contact Jo Manson to get a replacement.

July Hostesses Whip Up Delicious Luncheon



Pictured left are Anita Shawver, Bonnie Schaschek, Jenny Boyenga, Debbie Burgess, Cheryl Brown Davis and Jo Crichton (not pictured). A

delicious luncheon was prepared in July!

Plus One Membership Campaign

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**.*

Sidebar: I'd like to challenge each RGC member to try and think of that one special someone that you can invite to the next RGC meeting. This is a great organization. Is there a new neighbor that has moved in recently? Is there someone at church you'd like to invite? Think about inviting that special person to the August meeting.
Jo Manson, Membership Chair



July Best in Show Results

Check out this showstopper!! Sharon Rowe won Best in Show for this beauty. The botanical name is *Helianthus annuus*, the common sunflower.

Sorry Sharon, there is **NOTHING** common about this beauty! Congratulations, you are an inspiration to all of us.

President Bonnie Schaschek Needs Your Input at the August Meeting



From President Schaschek "Before the next club meeting on August 11, please think about ideas and suggestions for 2017

programs and/or workshops. We are halfway through the club year and I would like members to have the opportunity to provide feedback on what they would like to see happen in 2017." A suggestion box will be provided for this purpose. Please give this some thought prior to the next meeting.

Here Come The Dog Days of Summer



Plural noun

1. the sultry part of the summer, supposed to occur during the period that Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the sun: now

often reckoned from July 3 to August 11.

2. a period marked by lethargy, inactivity, or indolence.

We refer to it as the hot and humid days in the Northern Neck. But there is a bright spot to this time of the year. If you follow Lisa Ziegler, a cut flower farmer in Newport News, this is the time of year that you can start many seeds inside in preparation for planting later in the fall. Visit her website at www.thegardenersworkshop.com to sign up for her virtual Cool Flowers Book Study. She is taking it chapter by chapter and breaking it all down so that you can learn all the tricks to becoming a successful cool flowers gardener.

Homemade Fruits and Vegetables Needed for October Root Cellar Market



Ways and Means Chair, Jo Manson, is asking for donations of homemade canned fruits and vegetables in preparation for the

October Root Cellar Market. "When you are preserving the wonderful bounty from your garden, please consider 'donating' a few for the Root Cellar Market in October. We plan to have a larger than usual offering of homemade items in preparation for the anticipated larger crowd as a result of the program being presented by Nancy Hargroves who is our incoming NGC President."



In addition, Cathie Elliott will be making dried hydrangea wreaths for the October meeting. Top left, the limelight hydrangea is very fresh looking. Below left is what it looks like as it gets a little age to it. The bloom needs to have a papery, leathery look to it to make it

optimum for making wreaths. If you have hydrangeas that you would be willing to donate, please contact Cathie Elliott to coordinate harvesting plants.

Update on Exciting Butterfly Project



In the June Garden Dirt Newsletter, Cathie Elliott reported on an exciting project being undertaken by Club Member and Webmaster, Carol Clark.

Carol visited River Birch Nursery in Mid-May when she discovered an enormous amount of monarch caterpillars in various stages of growth on the tropical milkweed plants at the nursery. The owners at River Birch Nursery graciously allowed Carol to take home all of the caterpillars to raise. Fast forward... as of late August 1st she has raised and released 98 monarch butterflies and she has 40+



3rd generation chrysalises in her sunroom alone! Her sister, Cathie, is holding approximately 15 chrysalises at her house as well. When they emerge, she will release them into her monarch garden in which she has some

tasty milkweed awaiting hungry caterpillars. While Carol stocked up on several different varieties of milkweed plants, the voracious caterpillars can ravage an entire plant before it pupates. With this last generation, Carol commented that she noticed that at least 20% were born with either wing

damage or some other deformity. This could be due to many factors; OE spore disease, chemicals and pesticides, tachinid fly, just to name a few. Perhaps there has been heavier than normal spraying for mosquitos due to the zika virus outbreak. Be sure and read the September newsletter for an update of the continuation of this exciting monarch butterfly project.



In Memoriam

Sadly, we have learned that RGC Member, Peggy May, passed away on July 3rd. Peggy joined the club in November 2006. She will be missed by many.

Flower Show School IV Coming Up August 29th to September 1st, 2016 in Lynchburg, VA

Flower Show School is a series of four courses that covers the principles of floral design as well as fundamentals of plant life. Training is given in judging design and horticulture. Courses may be taken in any order and may be attended by any garden club member. After successful completion of the four courses and after passing the reading exam, a member may become an accredited judge.

FSS is open to all. You may attend a single session or entire course.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL – COURSE 4

Date: August 29 - September 1, 2016

Location: The Kirkley Hotel and Conference Center, 2900 Candler's Mountain Road, Lynchburg, VA

Design and Flower Show Procedure: Julia Clevett

Julia will teach both the Flower Show Procedure and Design sessions. The design instruction will focus on Functional and Exhibition Tables along with Petite designs. One of her creative floral designs is featured on the cover of the NGC book, *Designing by Types*.

Horticulture: Dottie Howatt

Dottie's instruction will emphasize container-grown ivies and broadleaf evergreens. Collections and Displays will also be considered. Dottie is also a Daffodil Instructor for the American Daffodil Society.

Whether you are taking the courses for credit to become an accredited judge or not, these courses are open to all. You can attend all or just part of the course and you do **not** have to take the exam portion.

Two RGC members, Debbie Burgess and Cathie Elliott, are taking Flower Show School courses to become an accredited judge. One of the requirements to become a judge is that you must earn five exhibiting credits in flower shows with a



90+. You may earn three in horticulture and two in design, or, vice versa. Just recently, Cathie participated in two

back to back Standard Flower Shows held at the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fairgrounds which was conducted by Chanticleer Garden Club. Out of five design classes, Cathie received Best in Show in both flower shows which was the highest award given. Pictured above is Cathie, Jenny Boyenga and Show Chairman, Doris Higginbotham at the first flower show.

RGC Members Are More Than Halfway Through the Frightened Frog Program at the Boys and Girls Club



Since Monday, June 27th, RGC Members have been volunteering to teach lessons to 1st through 4th graders at the Boys and Girls Club based on The Frightened Frog. Each

week, the children are read to and taught about different aspects of an amphibian's life. August 1st marked the 5th week presenting this program which will conclude August 15th. If you are interested in helping, please let Mary Ann McKay know. Several adults are needed especially when the children break out into three groups to do their craft. The Frightened Frog is an NGC President's Project which is an effort to expose children to nature and the problems facing amphibians.

This summer as you spend vacation time with your grandchildren and grandnieces and nephews, consider reading The Frightened Frog to them. If you would like a copy of the Frightened Frog, they are \$10 through NGC. Please contact Cathie Elliott if you would like to order.

Enjoy pictures from weeks 3, 4 and 5 of The Frightened Frog project.

