

**At RGC's November meeting, members will be invited to:**

Cast ballots for 2016 - 2017 RGC Officers (see Nominating Committee slate, included in October meeting minutes, page 4); make reservations for the Holiday & Awards Luncheon; cast ballots for the 2016 "Most Valuable Gardener" (see biographies, page 6); support the Northern Neck Food Bank with food and/or monetary donations (see page 3); AND, enjoy a creative and informative "Holiday Tablesapes & Design" demonstration. Such excitement! Don't miss a minute!



The Official Newsletter of the Rappahannock Garden Club

November 2015

Rappahannock Garden Club was very well represented at the Piedmont District's Fall Meeting that was convened in Richmond on October 12. On the front row (left to right) are Jo Manson, Debbie Burgess, Bonnie Schaschek and Tami McCauley. On the second row (left to right) are Sharon Rowe, Jenny Boyenga, Margaret Curtis and Deborah Brooks. In addition to taking care of administrative responsibilities, RGC members were treated to a designers' challenge competition, as well as a container garden demonstration. Kudos to District organizers who presented a well-rounded, informative and inspirational Fall Meeting!



## President's Corner from RGC President Cathie Elliott



I just got back from the Outer Banks where we spent close to nine glorious days on the oceanfront at south Nags Head. Watching and listening to the waves crashing into the shore promotes within me a

contemplative spirit. A time of reflection and revelation of sorts. We enjoyed many days of sunny and comfortable fall weather conditions. Warm sand and water.

But alas, our last three days were on the brisk side, as evidenced by the breathtakingly cold but beautiful sky in the picture above. Not to be deterred, I donned several layers of clothing (which I likened to the "Michelin man") and ventured out to Hatteras Island to go shelling, my favorite pastime. To my delight, I found starfish, scallops and a myriad of other wonderful creations of nature.

And so it goes this time of year, a few warm days, a few chilly days, all the while Mother Nature is preparing and easing us into winter. At our November meeting, we will be preparing for winter as well. Aaron Ward, owner of Wilton Cottage in Hartfield (and now owner of a new storefront on Main Street in Gloucester) will dazzle us with festive tablesapes and designs. This program is sure to inspire you in preparation for the holidays.

There will be NO Horticulture or Food Garden exhibits for the November meeting. Rather, in celebration of our upcoming festivities in November and December, club members are asked to create and bring an American Traditional Centerpiece. Class I of the schedule, page 41 in your Yearbook, is entitled "Decorating for the Holidays." Try your hand at a traditional centerpiece. Exhibits are limited to one design per member. Unlike past years, this is not a workshop. Create a design at home and enter it in November. I am looking forward to seeing Aaron Ward's amazing creations. Invite a friend to this very worthwhile program.

— Cathie

## 2015 Calendar of Events

- 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



At RGC's October meeting, "Dueling Chefs" prepared a luncheon emphasizing the use of garden herbs. The "Dueling Chefs" (in black) were Helen Elizabeth Ward (of "The Table to Go") and Steve Burrell (from Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club). Helen and Steve were capably assisted by RGC's October Hostess Committee which included (left to right, behind the chefs): Sharon Rowe, Debbie Burgess, Carol Clark, Kaye Simpson and Susan Edmonds (chair). In addition to delivering libations and the chefs' creations, the Hostess Committee prepared and delivered dessert trays. Recipes for the culinary creations are being forwarded to RGC's members.

### 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

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

In case you missed the memo, Christmas is just around the corner! In preparation for the holidays, you are sure to be inspired by the **November 12** meeting, when the amazingly talented Aaron Ward (of Wilton Cottage and Garden) will dazzle us with his design demonstration featuring "Holiday Tablesapes."

**BRING A FRIEND FOR A FESTIVE DAY.** In celebration of this program, club members are asked to create and bring an American Traditional Centerpiece incorporating a "Decorating for the Holidays" theme. Exhibits are limited to one design per member.

Unlike past years, this is not a workshop. RGC members are encouraged to create a design at home and enter it in the November design competition. This is, truly, the time for Design to shine!



For the October meeting, Jo Manson created this American Traditional Centerpiece Design to inspire members preparing for the November Design competition. Thank you, Jo, for creating this wonderful design!!

### ***Make Your Reservations in November for the December Holiday & Awards Luncheon***

At the November 12 meeting, please come prepared to make your reservations for our Holiday Luncheon, Awards Presentations and Installation of Officers which are scheduled for Friday, December 11, at the Tides Inn.

Attendees will have a choice of two entrees: (1) Chicken Crepe; or, (2) Grilled Fish topped with crab. Both entrees will be accompanied by fresh vegetables (chef's choice) and a holiday Crème Brulee.

The cost this year is \$27.00. Margaret Curtis will once again be collecting payments and has requested checks only, made payable to RGC.

## VFGC Announces "Plus One Membership Campaign"

(by Val Story, VFGC Membership Chairman;  
from Fall 2015, Old Dominion Gardener)

Members are the heart and soul of our garden clubs. Our clubs are struggling to maintain their membership and many clubs have only a few new members join in a given year. Have we become complacent, too comfortable, dislike change, dislike new thought or new ideas? Our members are older too, but should this be an excuse?

VFGC recognizes what a challenge we all face with our club's memberships. This will be a major focus for the coming two years...introducing the "**Plus One Membership Campaign**". The plan is; "*every member invite another person to visit their club, with hopes of them joining.*" This will take effort from each and every one of us.

Thoughts on how to attract members to your clubs are wide and varied. First and upmost, the responsibility is ours...we must make our clubs likeable, fun, and attractive. Being seen in the community is a very positive way to make your club known. Having an open house/tea, inviting newcomer clubs, and having a club brochure in visible places i.e., visitors centers, libraries, any place your community allows, writing articles for the local newspaper. Send your club newsletter to potential new members....all helps. Having flower shows or participating in community outreach programs makes us look involved and active.

Is this old news, maybe, but we all need to look at this challenge in the most productive light we can find...as our VFGC President says "Making Connections to Shape the Future". Let's take heart with this message, let all of us work together to increase our membership.

## START PLANNING AHEAD FOR RGC 2016 ACTIVITIES!

Please bring your calendars with you to the November meeting! Spreadsheets will be available for you to sign up as a hostess, judge, clerk and/or guide, along with a separate spreadsheet to sign up for committee(s).

All Active Members must serve as a hostess once per year. They must also serve on at least one committee, and they must serve as either a judge, clerk or guide.

Our new administration will need help and support from everyone. So, please bring your calendars and come prepared to support your club and your club's new administration.



Marty Wilson captured "Best in Show" honors in Horticulture at RGC's October meeting, with this brilliant dahlia. Congratulations, Marty!

### October Horticulture, Food Garden Results

Following are the results of October entries judged in Horticulture and Food Gardens:

#### Horticulture - Floral:

Deborah Brooks	10 Blue	50 points
Cheryl Brown Davis	1 Blue	5 points
Carol Clark	1 Blue	5 points
Margaret Curtis	1 Blue, 2 Red, 1 White	12 points
Sandra Harris	2 Red	6 points
Ann Hecht	1 Blue, 1 Red	8 points
Jo Manson	2 Blue	10 points
Karen Rosenfeld	1 Red, 2 Yellow	7 points
Sharon Rowe	4 Blue, 4 Red	32 points
Kay Vincent	1 Blue, 1 Yellow	7 points
Cathie Ward	1 Red, 1 Yellow	5 points
Marty Wilson	4 Blue, 2 Red, 2 yellow plus best in show	45 points
Ann Gray Wood	1 Blue, 1 Red	8 points

#### Food Gardens:

Carol Clark	3 Blue, 1 Red	18 points
Ann Hecht	2 Blue	10 points
Sharon Rowe	2 Blue	10 points

Submitted by Bonnie Schaschek

### Drive to Support Northern Neck Food Bank Scheduled for November

All of us are blessed to know that food is within our reach every day. But some families in our community lack means for proper nutrition and face challenges daily. Northern Neck Food Bank (NNFB) offers hunger solutions that target our region's most vulnerable neighbors.

NNFB provides services to more than 6,000 a month! For as little as \$5, NNFB can provide 40 pounds of food consisting of produce, dairy and dried goods. Julie Dudley, Executive VP of the Northern Neck Food Bank, has been in touch with RGC members regarding the needs of the less fortunate in our community. As a result of discussions with Julie, YOU are invited to participate in a food drive at our November meeting. Peanut butter, tuna and canned tomatoes are three of the most needed items, but any dried or canned goods will be appreciated. You may prefer to give a monetary donation.

Please join RGC in making this food drive successful. We CAN help make a difference in a healthier community. THANKS, LADIES!

# Minutes from RGC's October 8 Meeting

President Cathie Elliott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cheryl Brown Davis blessed the food. The eighth meeting of 2015 of the Rappahannock Garden Club was called to order.

Cathie welcomed the following guests to the meeting: Gail Feddeman (sister-in-law of Anne Warner); Sue Gizelle (neighbor of Edna Earle Mizelle); and, Sandra Baxter (neighbor of Jo Manson).

Happy Birthday to members who celebrate birthdays in September and October: Anne Warner, Loya Wheatley, Pam Lazorchak, Mary Jacobs, Claudia Holmes, Peggy May, Joan Eremenko, Ann Hecht, Mary Ann McKay, Sara Ford, Ann Burgess, Katherine Pickle, Anne Skerrett, Margie Redlin and Tami McCauley.

Judy thanked the hostesses for a splendid dining experience. Susan Edmonds, Debbie Burgess, Carol Clark, Sharon Rowe and Kay Simpson created and set up a wonderful backdrop for our program, "Dueling Chefs." Chef and owner of The Table at Wilton, Helen Elizabeth Ward, and, Sous Chef of Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club, Steve Burrell, prepared the meal. The Dueling Chefs demonstrated their culinary expertise using garden herbs to create a Beet and Lentil Mixed Green Salad and Cream of Herb Soup. Desserts were made by the hostesses. A splendid time was had by all.

The August minutes were reviewed. Sharon Rowe motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Jan Litsinger. All approved.

President Elliott thanked everyone for their help and support for the outstanding Small Standard Flower Show. Cathie noted there was nothing "small about this show!"

President Elliott requested volunteers for two fundraising events in which the Club participates annually. They are: 1) Reedville Fishermen's' Museum Tablescape Event; and 2) Festival of Trees Event for the YMCA.

Vice President Judy Ripley announced the Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2016-2017:

Bonnie Schaschek	President
Jenny Boyenga	First Vice President
Tami McCauley	Second Vice President
Anne O'Bryant	Recording Secretary
Robin Perks	Treasurer

Thanks to Judy, Robin Perks and Deborah Brooks for their effort in putting together such a great slate of officers.

Carol Clark presented our new website. Ann Burgess had a dream of creating an RGC website and it has come to fruition with the help of Robin Perks, Tami McCauley, Cathie Elliott, Margaret Curtis and Carol Clark. The website reflects a current, vibrant view of our club and is user-friendly. Go to [RappahannockGardenClub.org](http://RappahannockGardenClub.org) to access the new website.

Each club member submitted Most Valuable Gardener nominations. The MVG ballots will be distributed next meeting and the winner will be announced at the December meeting, along with the installation of new officers.

Judy announced our November Program featuring Aaron Ward from Wilton Cottage. Mr. Ward will present our November program on Holiday Tablescapes. He will show us impressive and fantastic ways to dress up our holiday tables. Plants and accessories will be available for purchase.

Jo Manson demonstrated the November Artistic Design of a Traditional Triangular Mass. For more information please check your yearbook and handbook.

Anne O'Bryant presented the October results for Artistic Design (shown on the following page).

Bonnie Schaschek presented the October results for Food Garden and Horticulture (shown on page 3).

President Elliott announced that Flower Power will not meet at Grace Hall in November. Instead, Flower Power will go on the road and will meet at the Boys and Girls Club at 4:30 p.m. on November 9. Karen Rosenfeld asked for volunteers so that we have at least 1 club member to 2 or 3 kids. Volunteers included: Jo Manson, Debbie Burgess, Mary Ann McKay, Robin Perks, Jenny Boyenga, Margie Redlin, Judy Ripley, Cathie Elliott, Sharon Rowe, Sara Ford and Marty Wilson.

In addition, President Elliott requested volunteers to hostess in November. Marty Wilson mentioned that many of the members listed in the yearbook are no longer in the club. Volunteers included: Sandra Harris, Jenny Boyenga, Bonnie Schaschek and Nan Liner.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jacobs  
Recording Secretary



The Ways & Means Committee gathered at Lancaster Tavern for a meeting and a celebratory lunch generously hosted by Committee Chair Jo Manson. In just four months, Ways & Means has far exceeded its fundraising target for the fiscal year ending 5/31/16! Year-to-date, nearly \$2,000 has been raised, compared with a budgeted target of \$1,500. Fund-raising activities have included the Country Store and Barbeque Plate Luncheon (both of which were adjuncts to the Small/Standard Flower Show); the Northern Neck Burger Co. fund-raiser; and the Root Cellar Market Place offered at many of the Club's regular meetings.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**April 25-27, 2016**



**2016 VFGC Convention, Lynchburg, VA**

# Committee Reports

## Membership as of October 8, 2015:

42 Active  
9 Associate  
14 Emeritus  
65 total (51 dues paying)

## Attendance at October 8, 2015 Meeting

30 Active  
7 Associate  
4 Emeritus  
41 Members

## Guests at October 8 Meeting

Sandra Baxter (guest of Jo Manson)  
Gail Feddeman (guest of Anne Warner)  
Susan Gesell (guest of Edna Earle Mizelle)

## Membership changes for 2015 to date:

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

Prospective Members: The Fall 2015 Old Dominion Gardener describes VFGC efforts to encourage membership growth. A new program, the "Plus One Membership Campaign," has been launched to promote club growth. The plan includes a provision that "every member invite another person to visit their club, with hopes of them joining." A copy of the article appears in this issue of "Garden Dirt" and will be available at the welcome table in November. *Submitted by Susan Edmonds*

**Artistic Design:** Artistic Design results for October were as follows:

Jenny Boyenga	1 Blue	5 points
Deborah Brooks	1 Blue	5 points
Carol Clark	1 Red	3 points
Cathie Elliott	1 Blue	5 points
Margie Redlin	1 Red	3 points

There is only one more opportunity for members to exhibit artistic designs this year. The November 12 meeting will provide each member a last chance to submit a design. The theme is "Home for the Holidays," and there is only one class and one design per member. The Class, carrying the theme "Decorating for the Holidays" calls for an American Traditional Centerpiece Design. Jo Manson provided the sample design at the October meeting. It was both elegant and beautiful, with roses as the centerpiece of the design. *Submitted by Anne O'Bryant*

**Free Health Clinic:** The Free Health Clinic Committee has a number of returning folks on the committee for next year but the committee will also need to bring on new people. It's not a lot of work for those who participate -- particularly so if there are sufficient numbers serving on the committee.

In October, Chair Cathie Ward rounded up a few folks from the committee to plant pansies and take out the summer annuals. Margie Redlin was there to snap a photo for the Rappahannock Record. In late November or early December, a larger group will be needed for a fall cleanup. That activity cannot be scheduled until there has been a hard frost, and foliage that is not winter hardy has died back. The Committee's 'official' season starts in mid-February with a "planning" luncheon at Cathie Ward's home. At that gathering, the date for the first spring cleanup and other one-time activities are determined, and members sign up for the maintenance schedule. Last year, Jenny provided a "to die for" lasagna even though she couldn't attend. (The luncheon had to be rescheduled twice because of winter storms -- but the third time was the charm.) Typically, each person signs up for a

couple of one-week stints from May through October, each of these involving a total of 1 to 3 hours of weeding and other maintenance activities. Committee members and other RGC volunteers are rounded up later in spring to plant the summer annuals — and then, in fall, to put in pansies and tidy up. With enough folks, the work is spread around, and also the satisfaction that we are making a difference for the staff and patients at the Free Health Clinic, who continue to sing our praises. To find out more about the committee and sign up, please contact Cathie Ward ([cathieward@gmail.com](mailto:cathieward@gmail.com)). *Submitted by Cathie Ward*

**Flower Power:** There was a good group of hard working members at the October Flower Power meeting with an abundance of material (for a change!). This made for a fun and carefree working atmosphere and beautiful cups of flowering cheer!

As mentioned in recent updates, the Committee is doing something different in November. The Flower Power Committee (plus additional member volunteers) are going to the Boys & Girls Club to work with interested girls, teaming with them to make the arrangements with help from Committee members and additional RGC volunteers. The arrangements will still be delivered to RGH and will note the children's participation. If this works well, similar plans will be made on a more regular basis. *Submitted by Karen Rosenfeld*

**Ways & Means:** On October 6, the Ways and Means Committee met for lunch and a business meeting at Lancaster Tavern. Those present included Cathie Elliott, Anne Warner, Margie Redlin, Robin Perks, Kaye Simpson and Jo Manson. We celebrated being ahead of budget for the year and laid plans for the remaining year. *Submitted by Jo Manson*

**Website:** RGC's new website has launched! The url is [rappahannockgardenclub.org](http://rappahannockgardenclub.org). The password to get into the Members Only tab is RGC2015. Check out our new site. Many thanks to Ann Burgess for her vision, Carol Clark for the many hours spent on creating this site, and to Robin Perks, Tami McCauley and Margaret Curtis for their help, support and assistance in seeing this project to the end. *Submitted by Cathie Elliott*



An October Sunday was a warm, sunny fall day — perfect for planting pansies at the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic! Pictured, from left, are Margie Redlin, Carol Shear, Sharon Rowe and FHC Chair Cathie Ward. Working together, this team planted pansies at the Clinic entrance in record time! FHC Committee Members frequently receive "thank-you's" from FHC staff and patients, as they work in the gardens.

## RGC Members to Cast Ballots for 2015 "Most Valuable Gardener" in November

Members of RGC's "Most Valuable Gardener" (MVG) Committee, Deborah Brooks (Chair), Susan Edmonds and Joan Eremenko, have been working diligently to prepare for the November meeting. The MVG Committee has tallied the results of October nominations, determined the eligibility of nominees, secured nominee acceptances and reviewed biographies of members who were nominated.

In November, RGC members will be asked to vote for one of the three nominees presented by the MVG Committee. The 2015 MVG nominees (in alphabetical order, by last name) are Jo Manson, Margie Redlin and Anne Warner.

As stated in the Yearbook, "The Most Valuable Gardener (MVG) Award, the most prestigious club award, is presented to a member who is in good standing and has gone above and beyond club expectations." Activities undertaken during the Club's calendar year (rather than activities undertaken in prior years or expectations of activities in future years) should provide the basis for membership consideration.

Biographies of the candidates follow.

**Jo Manson** has been an active member of RGC since joining in September 2014. In 2015, she managed the Northern Neck Burger fundraiser evening. She serves as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. This included managing the Country Store at the recent Small/Standard Flower Show. She has served as a guide, clerk and head cookie throughout the year. She is a member of the club Publicity Committee. She is also a frequent contributor to the "Garden Dirt" newsletter. Jo loves to cook, travel and spend time with her family.

**Margie Redlin:** This year, Margie has served as RGC Second Vice President. She chaired the Publicity Committee, writing articles for the Rappahannock Record, Piedmont District Newsletter (*Footprints*) and the Virginia Federation of Garden Club newsletter (*Old Dominion Gardener*). Margie helped compile the 2015 club Yearbook; she also attended Flower Show School I. Margie participated in RGC's Flower Show by entering the Artistic Design division and helped serve in the kitchen for the RGC Pork Barbecue Fundraiser. She helped with publicity for both these events. Margie notes, "It is an honor to be selected as a candidate for this award."

**Anne Warner**, a member of Rappahannock Garden Club since November 1999, has dedicated considerable time and effort this year to RGC activities. Her contributions to RGC in 2015 have been dedicated primarily to Club Communications, Ways & Means, and other Club activities. Specific contributions in 2015 include:

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Preparation of monthly issues of "Garden Dirt," coordinating with RGC's Club President, Committee Chairs, Treasurer and all contributors. In 2015, "Garden Dirt" won a blue ribbon in District competition and placed second in state-wide competition;
- Preparation of the Club's "Prospective Member" brochure, coordinating with RGC's Club President and First Vice President. In 2015, the Club's "Prospective Member" brochure won a blue ribbon in District competition and placed second in state-wide competition;
- Co-chair of the Yearbook Committee, assisting in the preparation of RGC's 2015 Yearbook; and,
- Transmittal of numerous e-mail "blasts" throughout the year and maintenance of RGC's e-mail list.

### WAYS & MEANS:

- As a very active member of the Ways & Means Committee, relative to the "Root Cellar Market" and the Small/Standard Flower Show's adjunct "Country Fair Store," Anne assisted in: collection, set-up and display of items for sale; event sales and accounting; creation of decorative decoupage baskets; and, design and production of tickets for the BBQ Lunch Plate fundraiser.
- With respect to the Northern Neck Burger Company fund-raiser, activities included: creation of flyers promoting the event; creation of table announcements; and, hostess at the afternoon/evening event.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Served on RGC Board of Directors, attending and contributing to meetings;
- Participated in the Free Health Clinic Spring Clean-Up;
- Created Design entry and Horticulture entry in RGC's Small/Standard Flower Show;
- Serving on Committee to create RGC's silent auction contribution for this year's YMCA "Festival of Trees;"
- In the process of sponsoring new member; and,
- Completed other assigned duties.



## Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs

When ordering your bulbs from **Brent and Becky's Bulbs**, please go to <http://www.bloominbucks.com/>.

**25%** of your purchases will be donated to Rappahannock Garden Club, when you select Rappahannock Garden Club from the drop-down menu at the time that you place your order. Please visit the above website for more details. If you prefer to go in person to the shop, tell your cashier, before your sale is rung up, that you are with the RGC so that the club will receive the 25% donation.

Brent and Becky's offers exquisite bulbs. Your purchases will support our club. What could be more perfect?

# November Horticulture Report

(submitted by Bonnie Schaschek)

"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud.

So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellower,  
its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow.

Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring,  
nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness  
and kindly wisdom of approaching age.

It knows the limitations of life and its content."

— Lin Yutang

## To Do's:

- Collect seeds of non-hybrid flowers. Many annual flowers and vegetables can be collected, dried, and stored in an airtight container in a cool location. They can then be planted next season.
- Lift tender bulbs and tubers like Dahlias and Gladiolus if you know they won't overwinter in your garden.
- Plant pansies outdoors now and enjoy the flowers until late spring.
- Mound soil or leaves around the base of hybrid teas and other grafted roses to protect the graft union from frost.
- Enjoy the fall blooming Camellias, some of which are fragrant.
- There's still time to plant flowering bulbs and get late season discounts.
- Plant Amaryllis bulbs to bloom for Christmas.
- Plant paperwhite narcissus at two week intervals. Grow at least 6 to a pot for maximum bloom effect.
- In sunny windows (6 hours of sun a day), grow herbs like rosemary, basil, mint, parsley, thyme and chives.
- Slow down watering and fertilization of indoor plants.
- Time to mulch shrubs, trees.
- Keep leaves raked from the lawn. They should be composted. Alternatively, you can just mow over them, turning them to a mulch which adds important nutrients back to the lawn.
- Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst.
- Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and some oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting.
- This is also a good month to restock any tools that have seen better days, while the prices are lower.

A tip from The 1899 Old Farmer's Almanac "Useful Hints: Keep all fruit stones (pits), cooked or uncooked. Dry them slowly in the oven, put in a large jar, and in winter throw a handful on the fire of an evening. They will crackle for a moment, send up a bright flame, and fill the room with a delicious aroma."

**Are your Bird Feeders ready for Winter?** In addition to choosing plants that develop seedheads and berries that birds love, you'll probably want to set up a few feeders. This supplements food when other sources are scarce. If you feed only black-oil sunflower seeds, you'll likely get plenty of variety at your bird feeder because so many birds like them, such as chickadees, house finches, Northern cardinals, nuthatches, grosbeaks, titmice and others.

**Folklore:** The name 'November' is believed to derive from 'novem,' which is the Latin for the number 'nine.' In the ancient Roman calendar November was the ninth month after March. As part of the seasonal calendar, November is the time of the 'Snow Moon,' according to Pagan beliefs, and the period described as the 'Moon of the Falling Leaves' by Black Elk.  
- *Mystical WWW*

## Artistic Design Notes

The holiday season is a time for personal celebrations and traditions shared with family and friends. Flowers and plants have long played a special role in Christmas festivities. Dating back to the early settlers in America, Christmas celebrations centered on food, family and friends just as they had in the "Old World." Churches were often decorated for Christmas while individual homes were decorated less frequently and more sparsely. Christmas decorations of the time involved natural materials such as holly, ivy, mistletoe, bay and evergreen, because they were believed to have magical powers. Today, these plants still hold the magic of transforming homes into a holiday heaven.

As holiday decorating has evolved over the years, floral designing has become very prominent in the process. Along with traditional flowers and greenery, designers are now using carnations, roses and lilies in holiday arrangements. They are also using non-traditional colors in design such as blue and pink. A designer can add a unique flair to the holiday decorations. The possibilities are endless, so let your imagination run wild and get started creating your own special holiday memories.

— submitted by Anne O'Bryant

"Plants want to grow; they are on your side  
as long as you are reasonably sensible."

— Anne Wareham

## Volunteers Needed 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.

## Using Burn Barrels to Save a Trip to the Dump? Not a Good Idea!

(submitted by Cathie Ward)



Along the roadways this time of year, it's easy to spot the burn barrels when they are belching smoke. For those who use them regularly, it can cut down on trips to the dump, or clandestine visits to nearby wooded areas to dispose of yard waste. Do you have one, or wish you did?

Not a good idea! Get rid of your burn barrel. Despite what you might think, they don't burn efficiently and release a lot of toxins in their smoke – especially if you include packaging and other household waste. Smoke from plastics and Styrofoam is extremely toxic. And most of it is released close to the ground, where you are likely to inhale it.

You can save on trips to the dump and benefit your home landscape by using a chipper or even your lawn mower to grind up branches and yard waste for mulch and compost and composting your kitchen wastes. The more compost you have on hand this way, the fewer bags of fertilizer and soil amendments you will need to purchase. Such a deal!

Recycle your plastics, glass, and metal and take your used toys, clothing and household items to local thrift stores. At least then these items will be put to good use, and the landfill will be spared.

“The master of the garden is the one who waters it, trims the branches, plants the seeds, and pulls the weeds. If you merely stroll through the garden, you are but an acolyte.” — Vera Nazarian

## My Love of Gardening (submitted by Margaret Curtis)



I have always thought that real gardening was a lot different from the romanticized version in books where ladies strolled their garden with lovely dresses, white gloves and just the right straw basket. And while we may have an opportunity to play the lady, in reality gardening is hard work.

I somehow return to the house after working in my yard with dirt in my hair which is not deemed to be ladylike. And gardening is somewhat like house work in that, if we are organized, we can plan and rotate the tasks so that it is not so overwhelming (but that assumes we are all that organized — and I am working to do just that).

I originally planted my perennial garden in 2000. Not having any experience, I had someone plan the garden and assist me in planting it. And I thought, well, that would be the hard part. But as we all know, that was just the beginning.

I probably now have only about 50% of my original plants, as I began to see what was to my liking and what was high or low maintenance. One positive thing I did was to photograph the garden frequently to enjoy the progress and then realized that it was also a great tool. Now there are four books of photos which I enjoy and which, over time, have served to be a reminder of what the garden looked like in different seasons. It has also been a great tool to review these photos prior to any shopping or planning for next year's season - reminders of color, texture, height and what I may or may NOT need to plant.

The sharing experience of gardening has been another feature which brings a lot of satisfaction. I have been working

with Julie Thostenson (dba Julie, The Gardner) since 2001 when Hurricane Isabelle brought down over 200 pine trees along our driveway. So, although I had not planned a woodland garden, I was faced with a lot of open spaces where once there had been a lovely stand of trees.

Since that time, we have worked together in adding a variety of plants. Not only has her expertise made a huge difference in the area but we have enjoyed researching and creating this area together. Julie often takes things from my garden to others and brings me things that they have. It has really given me pleasure to see items and recognize that they had originated in another garden - somehow, it just makes them special.

Rappahannock Garden Club has provided an extensive opportunity for sharing plants and ideas. Seeing the horticulture and designs at meetings is not only a learning experience but an inspiration.

The sharing is also why I accepted the opportunity to be on the “Just Gardens” tour in 2010. This was a joy, having almost 900 people come through and appreciate what nature has provided us and, of course, benefitting The Haven.

Of the six “Just Garden” venues scheduled in 2016, three of them are the gardens of Rappahannock Garden Club members - Bonnie Schaschek, Susan Edmonds and Deborah Brooks. I hope that everyone will take the time May 20 and 21, 2016, to support our fellow members, as well as The Haven.

