



GARDEN DIRT



Issue 4 ● July 2016

Barbara Dillard Presents Design Program to RGC Members



Barbara Dillard, VFGC Master Accredited Judge and Award Winning Floral Designer presented a delightful floral design program at the June garden club meeting. Barbara was given four unusual floral containers (strategically

difficult in which to design) and tasked with designing in them in front of garden club members. Her creations were stunningly spectacular. Members and guests thoroughly enjoyed watching her quietly create beautiful designs in all four containers. Two very lucky members, Cathie Elliott and Sharon Rowe, were fortunate enough to take their creations home as their containers had been chosen by the membership the month before as being “unusual”.



Jenny Boyenga to Present “Living Gifts” Workshop at the July Meeting

First Vice President, Jenny Boyenga, will present a program on Terrariums and Dish Gardens at the July meeting with a workshop to follow her presentation. The workshop will be a dish garden using succulents.



A materials list was emailed to the membership in preparation for this workshop. **Invite a neighbor or friend to come to this exciting design program. Whether you make one or not—it will be fun watching Jenny create beautiful “Living Gifts” so that you can make an arrangement at a later date.**

June Hostesses Kick Off the Summer Season With A Beach Inspired Theme



The June luncheon was prepared by (from left to right), Mary Ann McKay, Glo Romaine, Muffin Fitzpatrick, Julia

Brandt, Jane Austin, Susan Edmonds, Jo Manson (chair) and Margie Redlin. The table was decorated with a beachy feel and the food was presented in red baskets. Members thoroughly enjoyed the enthusiasm and culinary delights by these hostesses.

Plus One Membership Campaign



Hello to new visitor, Paula Brinser who attended the June meeting. Paula was a guest of Cathie Elliott.

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.***

RGC Membership Thanks Brooks, Edmonds and Schaschek



At the June Meeting, Susan Edmonds, Deborah Brooks and Bonnie Schaschek were recognized for having three out of the five gardens on the Just

Gardens Tour this year which benefits The Haven in Warsaw. A tremendous amount of time, effort and expense is put towards getting their gardens in "show ready" condition. This year, these ladies were faced with unseasonably cool and rainy conditions making the task of getting their yards together an even more challenging task.



Register Your Garden Today

Pollinators are responsible for 1 out of 3 bites of food we take each day, and yet pollinators are at a critical point in their own survival. Many reasons contribute to their recent decline. We know for certain, however, that more nectar and pollen sources provided by more flowering plants and trees will help improve their health and numbers. Increasing the number of pollinator-friendly

gardens and landscapes will help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across the country.

Be a part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge by registering your garden at <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org>. There is no charge. For more information on this project, visit the National Garden Club's website: www.gardenclub.org and click on 2015 President's Project. **Sidebar: If you need any help with registering, please contact Cathie Elliott.**

June Best in Show Results

Debbie Burgess won Best in Show in the Food



Division for her purple cabbage shown here on the left.



Cathie Elliott won Best in Show for Class I, Traditional Design.

RGC Members Conduct Second Flower Power Event of 2016 at the Boys and Girls Club



On May 26th, Rappahannock Garden Club members conducted a floral design workshop with children at the Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club. Each child made

two patriotic design - one to take home and one for patients at Rappahannock General Hospital.

RGC Ladies Take Fieldtrip to Lisa Ziegler's Farm



On June 18th, several members and one guest travelled to Newport News to visit Lisa Ziegler's cut-flower farm in Newport News. Lisa walked the entire farm discussing her cool season and warm season flower strategies. Sadly, a development is being built adjacent to Lisa's property. (In the photo above, the open pastoral property in the back is being developed which is the current grazing site for four beautiful horses). Lisa explained that she is taking about half of her commercial cut flower area and will be making this a naturalized area with native trees, flowers and shrubs in an effort to offset the area that is being developed. After touring Lisa's farm, the ladies travelled to Anderson's in Newport News where they had an outstanding lunch at the Sage Café followed by some leisurely shopping. On the road again, the ladies caravanned to Forest Lane Botanicals in Williamsburg to look at and purchase more shrubs and flowers. The weather was delightful. Everyone enjoyed the day.

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.

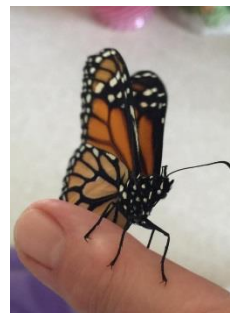
Carol visited River Birch Nursery in Mid-May when she discovered an enormous amount of monarch caterpillars in various stages of growth on the tropical milkweed plants at the nursery. The owners at River Birch Nursery graciously allowed

Carol to take home all of the caterpillars to raise. Over the course of the next several weeks, Carol has successfully raised and released 42 monarch butterflies. Now, the first generation of monarchs have produced second generation caterpillars totaling around 40. Carol is busy at work (once again) caring for these babies. In the second phase of this project, Carol experimented by allowing some of the caterpillars to remain outside on milkweed plants with the majority left inside. As the ones outside increased in size, she brought them inside for protection. Sadly, some of the caterpillars that had been outside did not make it; they had been exposed to the tachinid fly whereby the fly lays



eggs on the caterpillar. Once the eggs hatch, they bore into the caterpillar body which eventually leads to the monarch caterpillar's death. Statistically, only 1% to 12% of monarch caterpillars make it to the butterfly stage

when left outside. The caterpillars that were kept inside are healthy and are doing well. This is yet another reason why the monarch population is at such risk. The natural predators are many. One of the VFGC's President's Project is establishing Monarch Waystations. Carol has a Monarch Waystation for sure! She has an array of native milkweed plants and nectar sources. Carol will continue to raise and care for these monarchs well throughout the summer season until fall when they will migrate to Mexico. If you already have a Monarch Waystation, please consider registering your garden at MonarchWatch.org/waystations. There is a questionnaire that needs to be completed and a nominal processing fee of \$16. You can also order a 9"x12" aluminum sign which you can display in your garden. This is a great way to promote this important cause for monarch preservation.



Pictured left is one of Carol's monarch butterflies.

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

*Are you interested in learning about artistic design
and flower shows?*

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.

RGC Members Will Present the Frightened Frog to the Boys and Girls Club



Beginning Monday, June 27th and continuing for seven weeks, RGC members will teach lessons to first and second graders at the Boys and Girls Club based on The Frightened Frog. This is an NGC President's Project which is an effort to expose children to nature and the problems facing amphibians. Week 1 will focus on reading the entire book to the children. The frightened frog (as portrayed by



Jenny Boyenga) will be interviewed by frog field reporter from Frog TV (as portrayed by Cathie Elliott) to find out why she is so frightened! Kids will be involved in songs and crafts. Subsequent weeks will reinforce the plight of The Frightened Frog. Volunteers are always welcome.

An excerpt from NGC President Sandra Robinson about the Frightened Frog reads:

“Do you remember being told to go outside and play as a child? Without realizing it, our parents gave us the greatest gift of all, freedom to experience the great outdoors where our imagination ran wild and our stress and unneeded calories melted away.

Today's children are held captive by our fears and electronic devices. Spending more than 7 ½ hours a day consuming media, these “digital natives” often spend less than 1 hour a week on unstructured recreation. As a society, we have a moral and ethical obligation to give the natural world back to our children.

Every child needs time in a natural setting. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends sixty minutes of daily unstructured free play as essential to children's physical and mental health. The worldwide initiative to reconnect children with the natural world is making a difference. The International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2012 recognized “Children have a human right to a connection to the natural world and to a healthy world.”

Recent scientific research identifies strong correlations between experiences in nature and children's ability to learn and cope. Schools with environmental education programs score higher on standardized tests in math, reading, writing and listening. The National Wildlife Federation notes Cal Tech's Jet Propulsion Lab interviews all candidates about their play experiences as children, because they've found a direct correlation between hands-on play and superior problem solving skills.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. encourages you to read and discuss *The Frightened Frog* with the children in your life. Even better, take them on a quest to find an egg mass, tadpoles, frogs and other amphibians. Become an environmental hero! Sit and listen while enjoying the mystery and magnificence of the natural world with the most important people anywhere, our children.

As parents, grandparents, and educators, we have a pivotal role in the experiences of the future stewards of the natural world. Now is not the time to hesitate, but to leap into action."

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 the first week of The *Frightened Frog* project.



Frog Field Reporter, Cathie Elliott, interviewed Frightened Frog, Jenny Boyenga to find out why she is so frightened!



Children working on frog craft.



Completed frog craft project. The kids had a blast doing this!

And Look What Else One of Our RGC Members is Doing...



Mary Ann McKay, RGC Youth Chair, reads *The Frightened Frog* to first and second graders at Boys and Girls Club.



On Wednesday, June 29th, RGC Member Pam Lazorchak visited the Urbanna Library along with her therapy dog, Chippy, who is a Bichon Frise. The children read *The Frightened Frog* to Chippy. So many exciting things going on in the Rappahannock Garden Club.