



GARDEN

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Donna Cottingham Presents Wild Flower Meadow Program in April



Donna Cottingham, VFGC State Chairman for Wildflowers is also a professional photographer. Donna presented an exceptionally

informative and rivoting program on nature’s amazing wildflowers. Members learned about some unusual plants, plant/pollinator relationships, propagation and some strange characteristics of flowering plants. Find out about plant history and where some of our non-natives came from. Visit her ‘blog’: natureandgardening.blogspot.com.

Bob Schamerhorn to Present May Program (photo below from Bob’s photo gallery)



Bob Schamerhorn, Naturalist and photographer, will share helpful techniques for attracting our feathered friends and butterflies to your backyard. "Informative and inspirational program. The photography, video clips, including the accurate sounds, were so professional!" Cross Roads GC Visit Bob at: www.iphotobirds.com.

Artistic Design for the April Meeting



Artistic Design committee members, Joan Eremenko and Sara Ford, have developed a

very creative artistic design theme for 2017. It’s based on the Rainbow. In May, the theme is “Orange” and “Nature’s Power”. Cathie Elliott displayed a representative sample of each Class I and Class II design types interpreting the theme for May (see below). Try your hand at one of these next month or choose Class III, Designer’s Choice in which you can choose any NGC Design type.

Rainbows In Our Environment

May 11th -- Orange

Theme: “Nature’s Power”



Class 1: Angular Design- HB pgs. 196-197; DBT pgs. 27-30



Class 2: Abstract Creative Design, HB p. 196, DBT pgs. 24-26

Class 3: Designer’s Choice of style, size and components, must interpret class theme.

Best in Show for March



Sharon Rowe won Best in Show in Horticulture for this beautiful potted Clivia plant. Sharon continues to inspire the membership with her magnificent

horticultural specimens! In addition to Sharon, RGC has several extremely talented gardeners, one of which is our own President Bonnie Schaschek who won Best in Show for her beautiful Sweet Shrub exhibit (photo not available).

April Hostesses Prepare Delicious Luncheon



April hostesses included Cathie Elliott (head hostess) along with Mary Jacobs, Cathie Ward, Ann Hecht and Carol Clark. These ladies prepared a tasty meal with John Boy's delicious

NC BBQ, broccoli salad, coleslaw, black bean and corn salad along with delicious brownies and strawberries. The table was decorated with a festive Easter theme. Thank you ladies for preparing such a nice offering to RGC Member.

Expect a Bumper Crop of Ticks This Season



All reports indicate that we are going to have a bumper crop of ticks this year. Be on the lookout. Be vigilant before and after you spend time outside.

RGC Receives Blue at State for Monarch Waystations



As President Schaschek communicated at the April Meeting, RGC won a Special Achievement Award for the most monarch waystations at the State level, earning the club \$100. For the entire state of Virginia, RGC had the most registered Waystations, 13 to be exact -- quite an accomplishment for a medium size club. Even Donna Cottingham who presented the April program commented on what an outstanding achievement this was! Let's expand on this project. It is very simple to establish a monarch waystation. You just need milkweed and nectar plants. That's it! Simple!



Did you know that monarch butterflies will ONLY lay eggs on milkweed? That's one of the reasons they are slowly becoming extinct. Start watching for sales of milkweed plants at the local nurseries and plant your monarch waystation this spring. River Birch Nursery in Locust Hill has just received a big shipment of milkweed plants. Check out monarchwatch.org for more helpful information and instructions on how to register your new garden! Pictured above are monarch caterpillars and eggs on a milkweed leaf.

Speaking of milkweed, we received an urgent message from NGC President Sandy Robinson about "big box" stores selling milkweed that has been treated with systemic neonicotinoids. This chemical will KILL monarch caterpillars. While these plants should be marked accordingly, ask personnel in the plant department about this. Spread the word! Tell your friends and family about this as well.

Change in Club Year Voted on at March Meeting



Currently, RGC meets March through December of each year. To sync our club with the state and national officers' terms, goals and objectives, a proposed change was discussed and voted on with a majority in favor. Instead of being off in January and February, RGC will be off in July and August. Parliamentarian, Anne Skerrett, has revised the bylaws to reflect the impact of this change. This document has been posted on the website. Please review this new language and plan to vote on it at the May meeting.

RGC Takes Frightened Frog “On The Road”



Club members presented a one hour program of the Frightened Frog to 36 children and 12 adults at the Middlesex County Public Library in Urbanna during the April spring break. Mary Ann McKay read the book and Jenny Boyenga, aka. Frieda, the Frightened Frog, appeared and

was interviewed by Susan Edmonds as to why she was frightened and what could we do to help.



Chrissy Ketner, our honorary youth member then showed the children things that were good and bad for a frog and children put a “thumbs up or down”.

Everyone sang Ba-Rump Went the Little Green Frog. Susan talked about frogs being amphibians and Jenny showed pictures of her relatives. All sang



the song Amphibians. Pam read the story The Wide Mouthed Frog. Everyone helped with the craft, a frog face with a party blower as the tongue. The children really enjoyed the program.

Do You Know What This Picture Is?



Have you driven around the area and noticed these beautiful fields of yellow flowers and wondered what they are? Mystery solved – it's Canola!!

(photo taken on Rt. 200 across from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church).

RGC Members Hard at Work at the Free Health Clinic



Several RGC Members participated in a cleanup at the Free Health Clinic this past week. Members planted lantana and did a little cleanup as well! If you would like to volunteer for

the FHC committee or just help in any small way, please contact Cathie Ward, Chair of the FHC committee. “Many hands make light work.” Pictured are: (from left to right) Karen Rosenfeld, Sharon Rowe, Claire Adams, Deborah Brooks and Cathie Ward.

Correction for the June Program

The **June** Program which will be conducted by Jenny Boyenga will be on a mono-chromatic design; **NOT** a mono-botanic design. More information will be sent out prior to this workshop. Please note this correction.

Happy Memorial Day

