



Mum's the Word

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.org

January 2019 – Volume 51, Issue 5

A Message from SGC President, Lorna Boucher. . .

Happy New Year, Everyone,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, a gate closes behind us but perhaps we can look through the bars at the year gone by. If so, we will see among many other memories, the celebrations of our 50th Anniversary – the presentation of a beautiful book to the Library, the Anniversary luncheon, the afternoon tea, and the preparations for a commemorative garden at Redeemer Episcopal Church. We will remember the friends we have made but we will mourn the ones we have lost.

Before us, however, another gate will open to give us a glimpse into the year ahead. We may see, as I have just done here in England, some tiny green shoots pushing their way through the hard winter soil and among them, one with amazing determination to be the first flowering snowdrop. These delicate little flowers were christened “the star of hope” or “the star of consolation” by soldiers of the Crimean War, whose weary and flagging spirits were revived by the sight of them pushing their way to bloom in the battle-ravaged soil.

Although we may look through the gate with some trepidation as what the new year will bring, it would be good to believe that these tiny “stars of hope” will herald the beginning of peaceful times ahead, during which we will round up our anniversary celebrations with a stunning flower show and the official commemoration of our garden.

Perhaps this poem by Dollie Redford will inspire

Today's Program:

“How to Garden
with Ease”

by

Charlie Morgan,
Master Gardener



us to get going to prepare our own gardens for spring!!

*“Trees look empty, branches bare, when the busy months begin,
Gardeners all must have a care not to stay too much within.*

*Catkins on the hazel show, garden work has well begun;
Snowdrops in a shining row, blossom in the winter sun.*

*Brush the old year leaves away, make the new year garden neat,
Gardeners must not stop to play till their labor is complete.”*

Best wishes for 2019,

Lorna



**TREASURER'S REPORT
DECEMBER 1, 2018 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Prepared by: Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

Not available for website

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REGION AND STATE UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Winter Edition 2018** of VFGC’s newsletter, *Old Dominion Gardener (ODG)*, is filled with news and many upcoming region and state events. Every member of SGC should be receiving the ODG by mail, but you can also check it out on their website, www.viriniagardenclubs.org.

The **South Atlantic Region (SAR)** will hold their 58th Annual Convention in Williamsburg from March 28-30. Details are in ODG on pages 3-5.

Immediately following the SAR Convention, **Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC)** will hold their 85th Annual Convention in Williamsburg from March 31-April 2. National President and SGC member, **Nancy Hargroves** will attend and speak at the Installation Dinner. See ODG pages 8-11 for convention details.



Flower Show School, Course 4, will be held at The Four Points Sheraton on Laburnum Avenue from February 25-28. All are invited to attend – it’s not just for flower show judges. See pages 13-14 of ODG for more information.

Landscape Design School, Course 1 will be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on April 8 and 9. Details about the course and the instructors are in ODG on pages 11-13.

PIEDMONT DISTRICT SPRING MEETING MARCH 18



The Spring District meeting will be held on **Monday, March 18 at the Four Points Sheraton on Midlothian Pike**. The meeting includes a short business meeting, a great program, lots of vendors for your shopping needs, and lunch. The design program will be the “Gals from the Cathedral Flower Guild”. For more details about the meeting, see ***Footprints – Winter 2018*** on the Piedmont District website, www.piedmontdistrictvfgc.org.

The cost is \$30 per person. If you'd like to attend, just complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet. The **deadline for our SGC group reservation is February 1**, but you may register as in individual until March 4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn



On January 3rd Emily Stewart led volunteers in removing and organizing Christmas decorations at the Salisbury entrances. Those helping were Debbie Jackson, Becky Sido, Barbara Metz, Suzy Miladin, Peggy Young, and Meg Winn.

EDUCATION – Camille Archie

Happy New Year to all!

Becky Sido – Gardening Enrichment: Thanks to all the SGC members who helped students in Homework Helpers plant Paper White Bulbs. Your enthusiasm in helping these students learn about planting and growing Paper Whites is amazing. We helped about 36 elementary students plant three Paper White Bulbs in mason jars to take home on Monday January 7th and about 37 more on Tuesday

January 8. The students also learned about the Smokey the Bear Poster Contest being sponsored by the National Garden Club and The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The students were excited about the contest and worked on their rough drafts, learning about all the rules for their posters. Thanks to those who volunteered on Monday: Liz Brengel, DanaDee Carragher, Nell Masee, Karen Rice, Carol Romeo, Doris Wier, Peggy Young, Becky Sido and on Tuesday: Fran Judd, Barbara Metz, Karen Rice, Peggy Young and Becky Sido.



February Education Projects include designing Valentine's arrangements for the **Community Hospice House** on February 12th and working with the residents at **Spring Arbor Memory Care** on February 26th – see Chairman JJ Jordan's article on page 6. **In March**, we will have another **Gardening Enrichment** project -- see Chairman Becky Sido's article on page 7.

Please consider volunteering!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Nancy Scherer

The Nominating Committee (Nancy Scherer, Shirley Gates, Martie Parch, and Peggy Young) has been working diligently to formulate a **Slate of Officers for 2019-2020**. All six Executive Board positions will be up for change this year. If you know of someone who would be a welcomed addition to our board, please encourage them to come forward and talk to someone on the committee or to the person whose position they might be considering. We have a lot of talented ladies in our membership whom I know could contribute some new ideas.

The term of office is for one year and no elected officer shall serve more than two consecutive years in the same office, except Treasurer, who may serve an additional term. Requirements for each office and explanation of their duties may be found in the appendix of your SGC Yearbook (pp. xxiii-xxv)

YEARBOOK – Linda Nau

I'm compiling a membership roster addendum to hand out next month. Please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet if you would like to add a spouse name or cell phone number or list changes/updates to your contact information.

What good is the warmth of summer without
the cold of winter to give it sweetness? ~ John Steinbeck

FOOD FROM THE HEART LUNCHEON

Wednesday, February 20



For those of you who are new to the Club, this is our annual February Luncheon. It will be held immediately following our morning program. See your Yearbook page 101 for more information.

Members are asked to bring a favorite dish to share. Your choices are salad, main dish or dessert. We are also asking for help with set-up and clean-up. **Please complete the coupon on sign-up sheet to participate.** If you have any questions, you may contact me at shirleyggates@aol.com.

Shirley Gates, Chairman



The Board wishes to express their sincere thanks to Debby Gies for hosting the January Board Meeting and New Member Brunch!

Spring Arbor Memory Care Project February 26 – 10 AM



In keeping with using the five senses to make the lives of those with memory loss more meaningful, our project for February 26th will be putting together a wind chime and a bird house for their garden. We will need lots of hands to guide the residents in this project, so please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet if you'd like help. Hope to see you at 10:00 on Tuesday, the 26th of February.

JJ Jordan, Chairman

GARDENING ENRICHMENT PROJECT

On March 11th and 12th, the students will learn about Winter Seed Sowing and create their own Miniature Greenhouses using recycled salad containers. Just complete the coupon if you can participate on either or both days. We will meet at 3 PM at Stony Point Church, 2330 Buford Road.



Please save your small, 5oz. clear recycled salad containers which will be used for the greenhouses. We will need 146 containers, so if everyone brings in 1 or 2, we will have plenty. I will collect them at any meeting through February. It would be great if we can get 100% participation - or close to it. Thank you!

Becky Sido, Chairman

SGC FLOWER SHOW – STAGING NEEDS

Looking for a way to participate in our spring Flower Show? The staging committee needs the following items for the show:

- Round Accent Table (Pressed board with three legs? Approximately 24” high and 20” diameter.) 4 needed
- Wooden easels (about five ft. tall.) 4 needed
- Shoe boxes (Cardboard, approx. 7”X12”). 4 needed
- Small arrangements (not judged) for bathrooms. 2 needed
- Arrangement or display for bench outside main entrance

If you are able to provide any of these items for us, please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet. Also, if you would like to help with staging, please contact either of the chairmen. The club’s goal is to have 100% participation in the show. JJ’s e-mail address is jjafta5@yahoo.com and Peggy’s is anpyoung1@msn.com.

JJ Jordan & Peggy Young, Staging Chairmen

2017 Handbook for Flower Shows – Order Yours Today!



I will be placing a large order of a variety of items for SGC, including Flower Show Handbooks. **If you would like to take advantage of a low shipping rate and order a Handbook for yourself, just complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet.**

The base price is \$25 for the book, but individual orders are charged \$8 in shipping by National Garden Clubs. With our group order, we are able to reduce the shipping cost to \$1.50 per book, **so your total cost would be \$26.50.**

Claudia Cosby, Treasurer



FEBRUARY 15-18

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Since then, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life have joined the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Each year there are participants in more than 100 countries counting almost 6,000 species and more than 18,500,000 individual birds!

You are invited to participate. Simply tally the kinds and numbers of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 15-18**. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world! For more information, go to **www.birdcount.org** and join the fun.

Order Free Catalogs for Free Ideas

For avid gardeners, a great way to pass those long days of winter is perusing gardening catalogs. Sometimes just looking at pictures of the beautiful blooms gives us pleasure. Or, perhaps we see a wreath or container garden idea we'd like to pursue. Some catalogs teach us better gardening techniques. Here are a few free catalogs you can request that are guaranteed to get you through the winter blues.



White Flower Farm. 800/503-9624. whiteflowerfarm.com

Brent And Becky's Bulbs. 877/661-2852. brentandbeckysbulbs.com

Wayside Gardens. 800/845-1124. waysidegardens.com

Prairie Moon Nursery. 866/417-8156. prairiemoon.com

American Meadows. 877/309-7333. americanmeadows.com

Prairie Nursery. 800/476-9453. prairienursery.com

Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

THREE-MINUTE TIP by JJ Jordan

It's hard to believe with the snow on the ground and another snow storm predicted that at the end of next month we'll be starting to plan our next summer's plantings. One of the first will be our pot designs.



As we all know using last years' soil is a no no if you want beautiful flowers in your pot designs. It's a shame to throw away soil which we paid for last year.

A suggestion from "Garden Gate" recently caught my eye. It suggested that since most root growth occurs at the top several inches of pot designs using last years' potting soil in the bottom of this years' pot followed by the new soil in the top of the pot will not diminish the growth of your new plants. This is an especially a good suggestion for large pots. That way you are not wasting last years' soil but you are not shorting your new plants of their needed nutrients. So get planting.

Stop the Crape Murder!

Dreadful crimes are being committed all over Salisbury, some even in our own yards. Every year in late winter to early spring, I shudder when I see the murdered Crape Myrtles. Why do people butcher their Crape Myrtles I wonder? It turns out that many believe that they are supposed to prune the graceful Crape Myrtles that way.

Butchering, or topping these beautiful trees, is not the way to 'trim' them. Plus, large wounds can become openings for fungal decay organisms. Stem decay increases



All of these crapemyrtles have been improperly pruned or topped.



considerably when topping cuts are made, causing more dead branches to occur within the canopy, according to research.

Pruning like this shortens the life of the tree.

Topping Crape Myrtles causes numerous vigorous shoots to grow from the top of the cut stems.

The quick growing succulent shoots are not attached well, and the large

bloom that grows on the end of every shoot flop, because they are too top heavy. When strong winds come, the shoot breaks off. The number of bloom days is also shortened, because only one main flower cluster is produced on the end shoots, instead of many smaller flower clusters with staggered bloom times.

As when pruning any plant, always remove the dead, dying, and diseased branches. Branches that are growing toward the center of the tree canopy or growing downward should be removed. For crossed branches, remove the weaker of the two limbs, even if they are not touching yet. Over time, some branches that are too low on the trunks will need to be removed to raise the canopy. Often, weak, thin or vertical shoots need to be pruned from the inner part of the tree to produce a cleaner-looking plant. Suckers from the base of the trunk also need to be removed.

The best time to prune crape myrtles is in late winter, (February-March), right before new growth begins in the spring, since flower buds are produced on new growth. Enhancing a Crape Myrtle's natural form, rather than trying to force it to grow in an artificial shape or in a space that is too small, is the proper way to prune them. Crape Myrtles naturally grow as small upright or vase shaped trees with many trunks. In a properly pruned crape myrtle, the trunks grow upward and outward, with branches fanning out rather than growing inward into the center of the tree.

Please help us end the murdering of these beautiful Crape Myrtle this coming year. Spread the word that butchering crapes is not the way. Here are some websites with more information on the proper pruning of Crape Myrtles.

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/430/430-451/430-451_pdf.pdf

go.ncsu.edu/readext?459470

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/rbogren/articles/page1486133699735>

Becky Sido, Master Gardener

(Note: Photos from Virginia Tech website article noted above.)

Next Month's Meeting – February 20, 2019

*Episcopal Church of the Redeemer – Coffee 9:30/Meeting 10 AM
(See Yearbook page 100 for meeting info and page 98 for speaker info)*

Program: “*Designs from the Handbook for Flower Shows*” by Julia Clevett

Greeter: Doris Wier

Hostesses: Julia Clevett, Claudia Cosby,
Deirdre Knight, Donna Ludwig, Nell
Massee, Anne McCormick, Susan Nienow,
Connie Sorrell, Doris Wier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY EVENTS

25-27 Virginia Flower & Garden Expo - vafgs.org

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- | | | |
|-------|--|------|
| 12 | Community Hospice House Project | CP24 |
| | Meet at Anne McCormick's at 9:30 AM | |
| 13 | SGC Board Meeting – 9:30 AM | |
| | Hostess: Nancy Scherer | |
| 15 | DEADLINE for Piedmont District Grants | |
| 15-18 | The Great Backyard Bird Count | |
| | www.birdcount.org | |
| 20 | SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM | CP4 |
| 20 | Food from the Heart Luncheon | |
| 24 | VFGC Finance Committee Meeting | CP1 |
| 25 | VFGC Board of Directors Meeting | CP1 |
| 25-28 | Flower Show School – Course IV | CP11 |
| | Four Points, Henrico | |
| 26 | Spring Arbor Project – 10:00 AM | NP1 |
| | Wind Chime and Birdhouse Project | |



Newsletter Editor: Linda Nau, naule@aol.com