



Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. **Richmond, Virginia**

A Newsletter of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

February 2021

President's Corner

Happy New Year,

I hope that each and every one of you is well. Because of the worldwide pandemic, we last met in early March 2020. That seems like a long time ago and it is. And it appears that we will not be able to meet anytime soon. We do hope that you are practicing "social distancing, etc.," when you find it necessary to go out in public. It is critical that we take good care of ourselves, none of us can afford to catch this coronavirus COVID19.

Knowing that RCGC would not be able to hold public meetings for quite some time propelled us into a new arena to deliver programs. We were able to utilize Bob Schamerhorn who is a National Award Nature Photographer and a *videographer*. Bob is quite skilled in video-taping and therein lies the skill sets that we needed to deliver programs that are recorded, edited and uploaded to the RCGC website where they can be streamed to our users via a computer. Bob also designed and supports our website.

I would like to thank Jane VanDenburgh and Barbara Hollister for finding designers who were willing to be video-taped during this pandemic. They have diligently pursued finding the "right individuals to deliver the right programs". And I am pleased to announce that the newest program, "Plant Pruning and Care" is available on the RCGC website. Click on the link below:

<http://www.rvagardenclubs.com/videos/Video1-WatersEdgePruning.html>

I regret to say that we will NOT be able to hold "Fashions With Flowers" or the Annual Meeting this spring. Hopefully, we will be able to hold these two programs next spring in 2022.

I received a book at Christmas entitled, *Flower Color Guide*, by Darroch and Michael Putnam. It is a color-by-color reference guide. There are more than 400 pages of flowers. This book also includes indexes by botanical and common names. It is a very good resource and I'm sure you can find it available from several sources.

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February



Hellebore Flowers Offer Beautiful Late-Winter Blooms

Commonly known as Lenten Rose

**Open to All Members of
Our member Garden Clubs**

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The Council would like to know how our garden clubs are getting along. Have you been able to meet, etc. There is a long list of questions and we probably will send out a survey sometime in the near future. Meanwhile, stay safe and be healthy!

Sincerely,
Linda

RCGC Creating Video Programs, Using YouTube to Stream

Since RCGC cannot hold public meetings, we decided to provide floral design and horticulture programs that can be video-taped and then posted on the Council's YouTube channel.

To date, two programs have been video-taped and made available to our garden club members. We are delighted that these programs are being viewed. Following are the two programs, the presenters and the number of times they have been viewed: "Four Favorite Floral Designs" with David Pippin 220 views. The second program, "Front Door Designs for the Holidays" presented by Carol Bridgforth and Karen Patterson, Midlothian Garden Club, Mary Wiblin, Clay Springs Garden Club, and Jane VanDenburgh, Old Ivy Garden Club, 106 views.

A third video "Plant Pruning and Care" by Jason and Anna Anderson, owners of Waters Edge Specialty Pruning and Plant Health Care, LLC, Louisa, Virginia is available at the website. This video was recorded on January 28th and I had the privilege of being present. Jason and Anna are extremely well qualified to deliver this program, they are well educated, very skilled in pruning and skilled in their presentation skills. I encourage you to watch the video and share the link with your club members.

<http://www.rvagardenclubs.com/videos/Video1-WatersEdgePruning.html>

Jane VanDenburgh and Barbara Hollister have spent an enormous amount of time finding programs and presenters. But their team efforts have produced fine programs. And they are to be congratulated on delivering another great program.

RCGC would like to take this opportunity to thank our club members for participating in this method of program delivery. But we are not finished - Jane and Barbara are working on more programs. So, stay tuned!

Amaryllis Guide Video link

We don't normally include a link relating to flowers, but this one is very good and comprehensive. Hope you find it full of helpful hints.

A handy guide on growing Amaryllis bulbs and getting them to bloom over and over again can be found on this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x0tELoexPE&t=1862s>

February Gardening Tips

“There must always be someone who is first to listen to the secrets that nature is telling every hour.” -- Luther Burbank

Pruning Basics

February is the perfect month to assess the need for pruning, aiding appearance, health or size, of many trees and shrubs. Late winter, early spring pruning is usually the best time to prune many species as new tissue forms rapidly. Spring blooming trees and shrubs should only be pruned for health at this time. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned in early spring prior to bud set or immediately after blooming. Roses, evergreens and summer flowering shrubs that bloom on new growth may be pruned. Fruit trees should be pruned while they are dormant. Ideally, try to remove crossing branches, preventing chafing, improving light and airflow. Pruning cuts for dead or diseased branches should be made into healthy wood, below the affected area. Pruning cuts should minimize the plant wounding and speed wound closure. Do not coat pruning cuts with paint or wound dressing.

Evergreen shrubs may be pruned severely, promoting new growth, nicely shaped shrubs and rejuvenation for foundation plantings. Do not be alarmed if the space looks empty for a year or so!

For a list of some plants to prune in February see below:

Abelia	Euonymus
Aesculus	Hibiscus Rose of Sharon
Buddleia	Hydrangea
Callicarpa	Hypericum
Caryoptesris	Nandina
Clethra	Potentilla
Chastetree	Photinia
Cotoneaster	Rose Hybrid Tea
Ceanothus	Pittosporum
Crepe Myrtle	Sorbaria
Cornus Colored Stems	Spirea

Any spring blooming cuttings can be brought indoors to force blooming!


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### Night to Shine

Like so many things in our lives, the Night to Shine is being held, but in different location and time of day. The event will be held in the parking lot of the West End Presbyterian Church, 9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, Virginia. The date and time is Saturday, February 6, 2021, 12 to 3 pm. Rain date is Sunday, February 7, 2021 from 1-4 pm.

Premade corsages and boutonnieres were ordered early in the planning stages of this event. Needless to say the flowers are silk. Tables are being set up in the parking lot of the church. The drivers of each automobile will be directed to the different tables. The tables are crowns, tiaras, flowers, photos, party boxes, boxes for caregivers, Gospel and other giveaways. Due to COVID-19 all participants, drivers, and caregivers will remain in their car. Much planning has gone into this event to make it a great success.

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 Please note: Change of address for Jean Fender -

Her new address is 10000 Berry Pond Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2707. Her address needs to be changed three places in the yearbook, i.e., Jean Fender is RCGC Treasurer; Chairman of Habitat for Humanity; President, Hilliard Park Garden Club. Jean's email (jean.fender@comcast.net) and phone number (804-730-2256) have not changed.

*Learn about the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ their history, goals, calendar, newsletters and more.
Visit the website - <http://rvagardenclubs.com/>*



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