

Sow and Tell

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's showtime! We should be well on our way to a very successful flower show with all the instruction we have received from Deneen. Just relax, enjoy and do your best, it's supposed to be fun.

The bluebird house is up in Glyndon Park. I don't know if anyone has moved in yet, I understand it might take awhile. As I don't get over to Vienna very often I could use a little help keeping an eye on it. Please see photo and simple "spying" instructions on page 3 as to how to check if we have bird house occupants.

NCAGC held its Spring meeting and award ceremony on March 28th. Five Hills received three awards. The Member of Honor Award was given to Noreen Linnemann and will now be submitted to the Central Atlantic Region for consideration. Our garden therapy duo of Anne Nelson and Willow Prall were recognized for their program and earned a \$100 award for their outstanding work. Our Website maintained by Shelia Creswell was also recognized. Candace Dibblee did an outstanding job of writing up the applications for all three of these awards. She put in many hours interviewing Noreen and writing up the applications for the awards.

Thank you to all the members who came to the District III meeting and gave Noreen a standing ovation as she received her award.

District III is again offering a \$150 grant. Val Plisko has developed a fund request for HDMI cables needed to hook up our guest speakers' computers to our projector. We requested the additional funds go toward our programs for next year. I have submitted the request to District III and they have acknowledged its receipt.

Don't forget we are voting for next year's board members on April 15th when you bring in your horticulture and photographs for our flower show. Make sure you vote Andy

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Calendar & Upcoming Events

April 9	Board Meeting, 10 am
April 16	Five Hills Flower Show: For the Love of Nature
May 14	Board Meeting, 10 am
May 21	General Meeting: Member Plant Exchange
April 11-21	Sogetsu Ikebana Show at National Arboretum
April 27-28	District III Flower Show, Green Hedges School, Vienna
April 28	Historic Vienna event: Walk on the Hill at Windover Heights, 2-5 p.m.
May 4	Vienna Farmers Market Opening at Vienna Community Center
May 9-12	Biennial Sogetsu Exhibition, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria

Meeting Programs



Program Chair — Val Plisko

April 16, 2024

Five Hills Flower Show (For the Love of Nature)

April 16, 2024 Five Hills Flower Show (For the Love of Nature) It's showtime at last! Now that we have prepped and primed, it's time for our long-awaited biennial flower show of floral design, horticulture, and botanic arts/photography. All members participate in this officially judged show; indeed, there are novice awards for newbies.

Members will deliver their floral design, and/or horticulture entries the afternoon of April 15th or morning of the 16th. All photography **must** be delivered to the church on the **15th** to allow time to get them matted and hung on the wire grids ready for judging. The show will be judged the morning of the 16th, and the show is open for viewing the afternoon of April 16th.

It will take place at the Church of the Holy Comforter (543 Beulah Rd NE 22180) in Vienna and the public is invited, so please tell and invite your friends.

Schedule of Show Events at a Glance

Monday, April 15, 2024

1:00 - 4:00 PM Installation of show staging. Installation of Botanical Arts/Photography Section exhibits.

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

8:00 - 10:00 AM Design Division and Horticulture Division exhibits placed.

11:00 - 1:30 PM Judging is conducted.

2:00 - 4:00 PM Show open to the public.

4:00 - 5:00 PM All exhibits to be removed.

May 21, 2024 Plant Exchange

Bring plants to share, and get new ones, as a part of our annual plant exchange. This favorite event is a chance to enhance your garden and knowledge of gardening.



Please bring your labeled plants to include: Your Name, Plant's Name, Plant's Colors, Plant's requirements (Sun, Part-Sun, Part Shade, Shade), and Plant's details such as Deer Resistant, Heat Tolerant, Perennial, Spring to Frost, etc.

Location: We will meet in the home of Anne Nelson who has once again generously offered her home ([10409 Stone Ridge Lane Vienna VA 22182](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10409+Stone+Ridge+Lane+Vienna,+VA+22182)) to host this general meeting and plant exchange.

At left, a Solomon Seal transplant from 2022 thriving in its new home.

President's Project

The Blue bird house has been placed in Glyndon Park and ready for its first tenants!



As I don't get over to Vienna very often I could use a little help keeping an eye on it. In order to check on it you will need a Phillips-head screwdriver to open up the side panel. Just unscrew the screw and the side panel will drop down.

The one bird we don't want is the sparrow - its nest will be full of trash. If it is a sparrow nest just pull it out and throw it away. Any other nest is okay even if it's not a bluebird, just leave it.

District III Awards

Awards Chair—Candace Dibblee

It is with great honor that our Board share with our members the 2024 District III awards won by our Five Hills Garden Club the following District III 2024 awards recognition.

- 1). Noreen Linnemann received the honorary and cherished “Member of Honor Award”. This award is given yearly to only one member from our District III Region. This winner is someone who has been an active volunteer during a period of five or more years and someone who has made outstanding contributions to the club and to the community.
- 2). Our two excellent coordinators for Five Hill’s Garden Therapy, Anne Nelson and Willow Prall, received a First Place Certificate of Merit Award for the program, accompanied by a \$100 cash award.
- 3). Five Hill’s fine and always interesting monthly Newsletter produced by Kathy Snead received a 2nd Place Newsletter Certificate of Merit.
- 4). Shelia Creswell’s dedication to Five Hill’s Website earned our club a State Website Award for the Electronic Media Award category.



Well done, ladies !!! You make every member of Five Hills Garden Club very proud.

Ways and Means

Ways and Means Chair—Valerie Warriner

Greetings and Happy Spring! It looks like we will have some wonderful items to be auctioned at our April 16th Flower Show. Cary Fichtner-Vu has graciously offered her Folly Beach House (near Charleston, SC) for 5 nights (Wow!). The house is not available during the summer months or holidays. The starting bid will be \$450.00.

Below are other fantastic items to be auctioned are:

- A beautifully hand-painted Bluebird House (outdoor or indoor)
- Fabulous homemade “dessert of the month” for six months
- Floral arrangement for special event
- Rustic Heart sign for indoor or outdoor decor
- A beautiful Dogwood watercolor painting
- Numerous gift cards from local vendors (food and services)



Special thanks to Janet Kramer, Cary Fichtner-Vu, and soon-to-be new member, Cheryl Freeman, for their help securing auction items from local vendors and businesses.

The plan is to open the auction for members on Monday (April 15th) during set-up and open it to club members and the public during Flower Show. Thank you to all who have helped in this new endeavor in raising funds for Five Hills. If there are any questions or suggestions, please contact Valerie.

Field Trip to Blandy Experimental Farm

(400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce VA)

- Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 Tour Time: 10:30 am
- Tour Guide: Jack, Blandy's Assistant Curator for Native Plants
- Tour: Native Plant Tour & other gardens
- Cost: Donation of \$8.00 from each person (bring cash with you & pay the tour guide)
- Parking: Enter from Route 50 entrance, turn left into Lot for “Bus & Visitor Parking”
- Meet Guide: In front of the parking lot next to flagpole & information kiosk
- Lunch Options: We can take suggestions from the group that saw the ginkgo trees in the Fall. Some people had lunch in Middleburg, some in Berryville, and others met at a winery.

If you plan to go on the field trip: Let Rosemarie Jaksetic know.

Either send an email to: rojak14@aol.com, or use the sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

Conservation

Conservation Chair—Elizabeth Huebner

During mid-March I had the opportunity to learn a bit about Phenology, thanks to the NGC Environmental School course in which I participated. Phenology has been around for almost a thousand years, and I had not learned what it is and its uses. One of the required assignments was to collect data for National Phenology Week which occurred the same week as the course. Information in this article comes from the USA National Phenology Network and several Wikipedia sites. Please check out the website, <https://www.usanpn.org/> for additional resources and information.

Phenology is the study of periodic events in biological life cycles and how these are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate, as well as habitat factors (such as elevation). Examples include the date of emergence of leaves and flowers, the first flight of butterflies, the first appearance of migratory birds, the date of leaf coloring and fall in deciduous trees, the dates of egg-laying of birds and amphibia, or the timing of the developmental cycles of temperate-zone honey bee colonies. In the scientific literature on ecology, the term is used more generally to indicate the time frame for any seasonal biological phenomena, including the dates of last appearance (e.g., the seasonal phenology of a species may be from April through September).

Because many such phenomena are very sensitive to small variations in climate, especially to temperature, phenological records can be a useful proxy for temperature in historical climatology, especially in the study of climate change and global warming. For example, viticultural records of grape harvests in Europe have been used to reconstruct a record of summer growing season temperatures going back more than 500 years. In addition to providing a longer historical baseline than instrumental measurements, phenological observations provide high temporal resolution of ongoing changes related to global warming.

Phenology is Nature's calendar, the timing of plant, animal and insect cycles, seasonal activities. It is a major predictor of climate change. The phenology Network gathers and organizes this data to help those who need it to cope with the changes.

Careful documentation of phenology reveals how the timing of seasonal events are changing. This information can support decision making, such as when to treat invasive species, and provide useful information, such as when the allergy season may start. As time passes, formally recorded phenology observations become an increasingly valuable historical record.

In the U.S., long-term phenology monitoring historically occurred to a limited extent. A notable exception is a multi-faceted historical lilac and honeysuckle monitoring effort, established in late 1950s and early 1960s by Joseph Caprio at the Montana State University and supplemented and sustained through the efforts of W.L. Colville (University of Nebraska), Mark Schwartz (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and Dan Cayan and Mike Dettinger (US Geological Survey and Scripps Institute of Oceanography). This program engaged volunteers across the country in tracking first leaf and flower dates at several hundred sites over nearly

four decades. These long-term records have been instrumental in showing that climate change is advancing the timing of spring across the U.S.

Motivated by the trends revealed through the U.S. lilac and honeysuckle monitoring efforts as well as clear advancements in phenology reported around the globe, Mark Schwartz, Julio Betancourt (US Geological Survey), and many others secured support to establish the USA National Phenology Network in 2007. The USA-NPN launched Nature's Notebook, a plant and animal phenology monitoring program employing rigorous observation protocols, in 2009. In the ensuing years, USA-NPN has been shaped by input and contributions from hundreds of educators, scientists, and natural resource managers to become the country's premier organization for phenology data collection, storage, and sharing.

Tell me what you all think of this idea and I am wondering if we might suggest to the larger Garden Club organizations that we sign up to add to the data.

Horticulture and Design

Horticulture and Design Chair—Jane Schmiedekamp

Committee members: Helen Mertz, Anita Parke, Margaret Bain

I am recently back from a trip to Texas where I was able to see my favorite tree, the Live oak. They are all over Texas and one grows in Virginia Beach, but the state of Virginia is not as hospitable to the live oak as Texas is. I am trying to grow one in my back yard but it isn't thriving.



Recently I purchased a small book about identifying trees in Virginia. The book lists the most prominent trees in Virginia...most can be identified by their bark, leaves, flower or fruit.

List of Virginia trees:

Oak	Sycamore
Red maple	Cottonwood
Eastern Redbud	Beech
Black Locust	Tulip poplar
Loblolly pine	Hickory
Pawpaw	Blue Ash
Sassafras	Black Tupelo
Buckeye	Persimmon
Black Cherry	Sourwood
Flowering Dogwood	



Civic

Civic Chair—Noreen Linnemann

Calling All Gardeners! It is Springtime and time to beautify our civic gardens.

Please join us on Tuesday, May 7 from 9:30am -10:30 A.M. We will meet at the Glyndon Street Park Garden. Please bring hand cutters, pruners, shovels, hand spades, rakes. Don't forget your gloves and water.

Everyone is invited and all are needed. Join the fun and make a difference!

Hospitality



Hospitality Chair—Lura Marshall; co-chair—Roberta Lewis

Sign ups have begun for the 2024-25 year. If you have not already signed up please give Lura a call to find a slot that will work for you. Board sign-up will begin in May.

The installation luncheon will be June 18, 2024 at Maggiano's in Tysons II. An evite will come to you in May with all the information. The cost will be \$40 a person. We will be looking for volunteers to make centerpiece arrangements for the luncheon. Looking forward to a great celebration.

Thank you again to Gail Gile and Kathy Nebhut for the flatware for the club. We have enough to cover our membership once we have exhausted our plasticware supply.

District III Awards and Club Recognition





Garden Therapy

Garden Therapy co-chairs—Willow Prall Martin and Anne Nelson

SPRING PLANTING, SNAPDRAGONS, AND SMILES

This month's garden therapy was held on April 9th in the courtyard at Iliff nursing home. Amidst the blooming tulips, hyacinths, and weeping cherry (and under the shade of a tent), residents planted flower seeds in brightly colored plastic pots and made mini-floral arrangements. Crackerjack Marigolds, Lilliput Zinnias, Dwarf Bachelor's Buttons, Strawflowers, and Teddy Bear Sunflower seeds were sowed in the pots. Participants made the petite floral arrangements with Snapdragons, English Daisies, Sea Drift, Bachelor's Buttons and Alyssum that were cut from live potted plants. Each arrangement was unique and charming. Afterwards, Five Hills members planted the plants in a large, self-watering planter that will remain in the courtyard.

The participants really seemed to enjoy the activities and the courtyard was filled with sunshine and smiles. Seven club members volunteered at the session. Those volunteering included Joy Salpini, Debbie Doody, Gail Gail, Rosemarie Jaksetic, Lura Marshall, Anne Nelson, and Willow Prall Martin.

The next garden therapy will be on Tuesday, May 7th. If you would like to volunteer for garden therapy, please contact Anne Nelson or Willow Prall Martin.



