

Sow and Tell

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is finally here and our gardens are starting to show all their finery. I always marvel at how green and lush everything is at the beginning of the growing season. Now, if it would just stay that way throughout the summer!

The Tea Tasting and formal Tea at the April meeting was wonderful! Lura and her team did a super job. Several members dressed up and put on their fancy hats. The tables were beautifully decorated with teacup florals and the food was outstanding. Our presenter was extremely interesting explaining about the different colors of tea and how each would taste. Everyone truly enjoyed themselves.

Several of our members shared an enjoyable time at the Ayr Hills botanical arts program. Our own Lucia drew the largest crowd making botanical note cards. Others of us made hat bands and jewelry (ask Trish to show you her beautiful earrings and ring). They all came out beautifully.

Our plant sale was a great success, despite the weather. Valerie and Lura worked hard to organize and guide everyone on what to do. They stood in the freezing rain on Friday night as well as showing up early Saturday morning to organize and direct the operations. Almost everyone in the club that could, showed up and helped in some way or another. It was truly a fun day. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Also, a big thank you to those that came out and helped in our Glyndon Park and the Blue Star gardens. For those of you that are new to the club, helping in the gardens and going on field trips is a good way to get to know other members of the club and feel more connected.

This month is one of our favorite programs of the year - the plant exchange. I'm not sure how many people NEED more plants after all the plant sale purchases, but it's a fun day sharing and exchanging favorite plants of our members.

We are in need of someone to take over the hospitality committee. Eve Anderson's husband has been offered a board position that will take them on numerous overseas trips next year and she feels it would be better if she resigns. Please let me know if you would be interested.

Andy Bothwell

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 9	Board Meeting, 9:30 am
May 16	Five Hills Garden Club Plant Exchange & General Meeting
June 13	Board Meeting, 9:30 am
June 20	Five Hills Garden Club General Meeting 10 am, VPC Choir Room

Area Activity: Saturday, May 13: Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale & Garden Faire, 8 am to 1 pm, on the Freeman Store Lawn

Hospitality Sign Ups for 2023-24

In preparation for next year's meetings, we will again circulate the Hostess sign-up sheets at the May and June meetings. There will be one for the general meetings and one for board meetings. There will be only five slots each month for members to bring food. Additionally, there will be a slot for one person to bring flowers to adorn our luncheon table. This is your chance to select in what month you want to participate. Those people who have not signed up by the end of June will be assigned a slot based on availability. Things do come up unexpectedly during the year so if you can't bring food on your assigned month, you can trade with another member of the club.

Plant Exchange: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Program For May Meeting May 16, 2023

Program Chair—Val Plisko



Bring plants to share, and get new ones, as a part of our annual plant exchange. This favorite club event is a chance to enhance your garden and knowledge of gardening. **New members will get the first round of picks.**

In preparing for the upcoming plant exchange, prepare tags for your plants which can identify growing conditions such as sun or shade growth area. If there is more guidance that will help the plant flourish, try to include an information card along with the plant's name. Please bring your labeled plants to include: Your Name (so we know who it came from), Plant's Name, Plant's Colors, Plant's requirements of Sun, Part-Sun, Part Shade, Shade, Plant's details if Deer Resistant, Heat Tolerant, Perennial, Native, Spring to Frost, etc.

We will meet in the home of Anne Nelson who has once again generously offered her home to host this general meeting and plant exchange. **Her house is located at the end of a long driveway at 10409 Stone Ridge Lane, Vienna VA 22182 in the Wayside subdivision.**

Horticulture and Design Chair—Jane Schmiedekamp

Committee members: Helen Mertz, Anita Parke, Margaret Bain

The program for the coronation of King Charles of England included paintings of the flowers of the British Empire...English roses, Scottish thistles, Welch daffodils, and Irish Shamrocks. Coronation news for Queen Camilla's dress and flower lovers. Embellishing the front hem area of the underskirt and the cuffs of each sleeve are the flower emblems of the four nations of the United Kingdom – a rose (England), a thistle (Scotland), a daffodil (Wales) and a shamrock (Northern Ireland) – of which she is now Queen.



Virginia Wild Orchid

Teacup Floral Arrangements created by club members in support of Ways and Means fundraising initiative. Photos by Brigitte Hartke and Kathy Snead.



Civic Chair—Noreen Linnemann

The gardens in Vienna maintained by Five Hills are gorgeous! The Blue Star had a facelift by removing the overgrown hellebores. They were replanted in the Glyndon Park garden. Moving and transplanting other plants was done as well as weeding and cleaning. The Beulah Garden was weeded and mulched. All of this was done in an hour by an army of 12.



Thanks go to Lucia Bacon, Andy Bothwell, Ann Carter, Shelia Creswell, Noreen Linnemann, Lura Marshall, Nancy Peters, Val Plisko, Kathy Snead, Karen Thompson, Nancy Walker, and Valerie Warriner for volunteering their time and experience. Jeremy Edwards, the Town of Vienna Maintenance Superintendent stopped by to help trim some tree branches and was full of compliments.

Although we were working, there was also plenty of socializing happening. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better and chat as we did our beautifying work. Let's make it a goal to have each member join the gardening day at least one time this summer. You will meet some really nice people. Please stop by and admire the gardens. It will make you proud to be a Five Hills member.

Noreen Linnemann, Anita Parke, and Shelia Creswell attended the National Capital Area Garden Clubs Gardening and Environmental Consultant Council at Huntley Meadow Park April 26. Huntley Meadow is Fairfax County's largest park (1,452 acres) located south of Alexandria. The park features a visitor center, a beaver created wetland with boardwalk, wildlife observation platforms, and an interpretative trail system.



To be a member of the Gardening Consulting Council, a member must pass a series of four gardening courses offered in person and on Zoom. They are excellent courses taught by subject matter experts. Subjects cover all aspects of horticulture, gardening, and related subjects. See the the National Garden Clubs website "gardenclub.org/gardening-school" for more information.

Iliff Flower Sign-up

Below is the sign-up genius for taking flowers to Iliff for spring:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4ca4a82eabf58-iliff5#/>

FIVE HILLS GARDEN CLUB 2022 AWARDS

Awards Chair—Candace Dibble

We recently learned that our Five Hills Garden Club is the recipient of the following 2022 awards:

2022 NCA First Place: Newsletter

2022 NCA Second Place: Social Media/Website

2022 District III: Publication Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Club Newsletter

2022 District III: Yearbook Certificate of Merit Club Yearbook
(Tied for Second Place)

During 2022, particular members of our Five Hills Garden Club devoted quite a bit of time to their positions. Lucia Bacon is responsible for our receiving the award for our Newsletter; Debbie Doody put together an impressive yearbook; and Shelia Creswell is responsible for our club's fine website. Well done, everyone !!!

SNAPSHOTS FROM AYR HILL BOTANICAL ARTS WORKSHOP

Photos by Lucia Bacon



Garden Therapy Chair—Willow Prall; co-chair, Anne Nelson

Patriotic Theme commemorating Memorial Day

On May 2nd, as the Iliff residents entered the activity room, we played the uplifting melody of John Philips Sousa's "The Washington Post March," and followed the beat with hands on our hearts to hear "The Star-Spangled Banner," our National Anthem. We had 10 participants and 6 volunteers to help with 2 activities.

First, bunches of fresh red and white carnations were distributed, with a blue ribboned vases. Residents were encouraged to create their own bouquet in vase, help given where needed. The second activity was creating an American Flag Wreath on round wire form. Two options were available: a wreath made with red, white, blue hand-cut felt stars or wreath made entirely with red, white, blue clothespins. Both sets included white star stickers to adhere to blue canton (field of blue). Residents liked the challenge of matching clothespins to felt stars and the ease with which they were able to hold stars then pinch and attach pins with other hand, or just pinch and attached clothespins directly to form without help.

The residents liked our selection of nostalgic patriotic tunes including "America the Beautiful" by Ray Charles, U.S. Marine Band's "Semper Fidelis" by J.P. Sousa, rock classic "Born in the USA" by Bruce Springsteen, and pop song "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus. Our May Volunteers were Darla Anderson, Debbie Doody, Gail Gile, Janet Kremer, and Willow Prall Martin, & Anne Nelson.



Five Hills Garden Club Tea

Program presented by Hillary Coley, owner of DominionTea in Purcellville, VA. The group pictured below is the Hostess Committee for April's tea.

Photos courtesy of Brigitte Hartke and Kathy Snead



TEA TASTING



Ways and Means Chair—Valerie Warriner

Successful Fundraisers

We have had a successful month of fundraising to include the April Tea Raffle and the Plant Sale!. Our tea raised \$250 by raffling the lovely tea cup floral arrangements as well as the handmade cards made by our members. Thanks to Lura for organizing the event and thank you to the members who took their time to create floral arrangements and card creations. All were beautiful and so creative. A collage featuring some the teacup arrangements appears on page 3.

The plant sale—even with the stinky weather— turned out to successful as well. We still have some plants to sell at cost - petunias, seasonal salvia, white Alyssum, and pink zinnias. Please call/email me (or Lura) if you are interested in purchasing individual 4 inch pots or flats. While I would like to share our GRAND TOTAL, we won't have a final count until all bills are paid and additional monies are collected from extra plants. The final update will be reported in June.



Again, a huge thank you to all who helped in any way to make our plant sale a success,

Valerie and Lura



WAYS AND MEANS



Conservation Chair—Elizabeth Huebner

Thoughts on **Water** in our homes, gardens, and environment.

As we notice changes in weather patterns and climate, it is useful to know more about where we get our water, what happens to it when we dump it down the drain or flush our toilets. Do you know what happens to stormwater runoff here in Fairfax County?

Water is one of our most important resources, we cannot live without water. For most of Fairfax County: our drinking water comes from the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. Water is treated and piped to our homes and businesses where we use the clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and plumbing. About 15,000 homes and businesses rely on ground water/aquifers for their water supply.

If our home is connected to the public sewer system, water used in the kitchen, laundry room, and bathroom becomes wastewater and is conveyed to wastewater treatment plants. The treated wastewater is discharged back into the environment, some of it back into our home thus completing the water use cycle. After treatment, water is returned to a local waterway or diverted to a water reuse program for irrigation and industrial purposes.

Stormwater is runoff such as rainwater, melting snow, and ice.

- In natural areas where the land has not been paved, this runoff soaks into the soil and may be taken up by plants or enter the groundwater system.
- In heavily developed areas, stormwater runoff from roads, sidewalks, driveways, roofs and other hard surfaces cannot soak into the ground, but instead flows rapidly off these impervious surfaces and into the storm drainage system.

The runoff is carried either to a stormwater management facility or directly into lakes, streams, rivers, or wetlands. On its path to our waterways, runoff can pick up pollutants such as sediments, excess nutrients, toxic substances, and disease-causing microorganisms. These pollutants have potentially harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation and our fish populations. Ultimately, this polluted runoff makes its way to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay through our many watersheds.

Each of us can help preserve our water quality and protect the environment; by ensuring that only rain goes down the storm drain by limiting lawn fertilizer, picking up pet waste, managing trash, and properly disposing of paint, motor oil, and chemicals.

Inside our homes, avoid pouring fats, oils and grease down the drain, and never flush used medicine (many pharmacies have a locked container for discarding medicines) down the toilet. Some medicines can harm everything down stream even if it goes to a wastewater treatment plant.

Note: Fairfax Water adds fluoride to drinking water at the request of, and in accordance with recommendations from, federal and state public health agencies.