

Sow and Tell

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Member of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region, District III

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy, Healthy 2022!

Only several days into 2022 and already I am marveling over the weather. The snow covered trees and yard are gorgeous to see from a warm house! This is Nature wearing its winter finest! As I see the carpet of snow, I cannot help but think of spring and the bulbs patiently waiting to burst into bloom. I am grateful for Mother Nature keeping me hopeful!



A new year often brings change and this year Five Hills will elect new officers. A nominating committee is formed in January,

officers are elected in April, and their installation is in June. The nominating committee presents a slate of officers and the newly elected president appoints the committee chairs. Please consider serving on the board as an officer or a standing committee chair. You would be working with a great group of ladies to organize the club's activities. I cannot recommend it enough!

At the wreath workshop, I was naively thinking COVID was nearing its end thanks to the vaccines. Wrong! Over the holidays, the number of COVID cases set new records in the US. This was like getting a piece of coal from Santa! So, we continue to wear masks, meet virtually, and enjoy our Five Hills activities. Hooray for the Five Hills Garden Club and all its members!

Shelia

Upcoming Events

- Jan 11 Virtual Board Meeting
10am**
- Jan 18 Virtual General Meeting
10am**
- Feb 2 Deadline for completed card
delivery to Lucia**
- Feb 7 Cards delivered to Iliff by
Lucia**
- Feb 8 Virtual Board Meeting
10am**

WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message	1
Calendar & Upcoming Events	2-3
Membership	4
Hospitality	4
Horticulture & Design	5
Civics.	6
Conservation	7-9

Program For January 18th Meeting

Crafting Floral Greetings (Lucia Bacon)

Led by our own Lucia Bacon, members will create greeting cards featuring flowers to share with friends and loved ones. As we craft, we will learn about the history of greeting cards and the symbolism of flowers in conveying messages in the Victorian era. These special cards will go to residents of Iliff Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to send wishes of good health and well-being for Valentine's Day.

You will need to provide:

- Glue stick or double sided tape
(Check your packets, some include glue sticks)
- Sharp/good pair of PAPER scissors
- Your imagination



Val Plisko - Program Chair

The Language of Flowers

In Victorian culture, flowers were the language of love. Learning the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s when each flower conveyed a particular meaning. Senders could express through flowers feelings that they could not proclaim publicly.

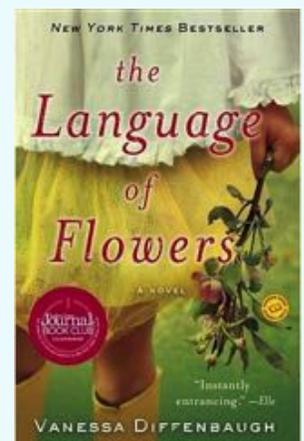
Guidebooks dedicated to the 'language of flowers' were popular in Victorian homes. These guidebooks used visual and verbal analogies, religious and literary sources, folkloric connections, and botanical attributes to derive the various associations for the flowers. For example, bluebells stood for "kindness," peonies meant "bashfulness," rosemary was for "remembrance," and tulips represented "passion." Meaning also varied based on colors--a white violet meant "innocence" while a purple violet would symbolize that the giver's "thoughts were occupied with love" about the recipient.

Flower	Latin Name	Meaning
Ivy leaf	Hedera helix	Friendship
Apple Blossom	Cassia fistula	Preference
Rhododendron	Rhododendron albiflorum	Danger, flee
Myrtle	Myrtus communis	Good luck and love in marriage
Passionflower	Passiflora cerulea	Mourning over of a loved one
Rose	Rosa	Love
Lily-of-the-valley	Convallaria maialis	Purity
Bluebells	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Kindness
Peonies	Paeonia officinalis	Bashfulness
Rosemary	Rosmarinus	Remembrance
Tulips	Tulipia	Passion
Wallflowers	Cheiranthus cheiri	Faithfulness in adversity
Aloe	Aloe, succotrina	Bitterness
Pomegranate	Punica granatum	Conceit
Purple Violet	Viola	Thoughts occupied with love

Source: Smithsonian Gardens: [The Language of Flowers](#)

Thank you Nancy Peters for suggesting this book which fits our program:

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system with nowhere to go, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome Margaret Bain our newest member.

I have been somewhat interested in growing things for as long as I can remember. There was a shift in my attitude in about 2007, when I read a book by Doug Tallamy called "Bringing Nature Home." It explained something of the special responsibility that we as gardeners have to the earth in which we work. We can grow plants because they look lovely (and they do!) and we can also grow plants for their role in the eco-system. Plants possess the magic to turn sunshine into food, and therefore are essential of the food web. What a responsibility to be a part of that! So I worked to create my own little patch of paradise, which was duly certified by the Audubon-at-Home program. Last year, I retired and moved to a condo. Now I have a tiny patio garden to tend. I am keeping my hands in the dirt though, working on the property of the church I attend - clearing invasive vines, and planting flowers and trees. Of course, I know very little, so I became a Master Gardener last year to learn more. It was so much fun that I have signed up for some horticulture classes offered at NOVA Community College. I'm looking forward to joining the Five Hills Garden Club and learning from all of your experience.



Andy Bothwell, Chair

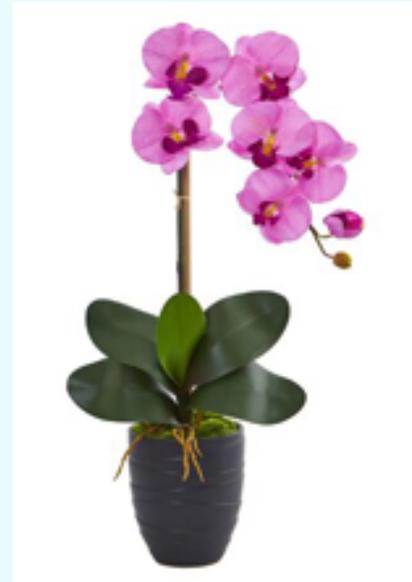
HOSPITALITY

Hospitality reminders were set up through Sign Up Genius for the 2021-2022 Garden Club year. Currently no in person meetings are being held due to Covid. Until further notice please ignore these reminders when you get them until we resume in person meetings.

Lura Marshall, Hospitality Chair

Jane Schmiedekamp - Horticulture and Design Chair

Horticulture: Share your simple rules for orchids; what works for you? Display your orchid



Design: Consider green/shade/texture/shapes. Make an arrangement using only greens

Taming the Garden (Sundance Film Festival Winner)

The opening shot of filmmaker Salomé Jashi's striking environmental tale (click on the title to view) captures a tree as tall as a 15-story building floating on a barge across the vast Black Sea. Its destination lies within a garden countless miles away, privately owned by a wealthy and anonymous man whose passion resides in the removal, and subsequent replanting, of foreign trees into his own man-made Eden.

With astonishing cinematic style, *Taming the Garden* tracks the surreal uprooting of ancient trees from their Georgian locales. With each removal, tensions flare between workers and villagers. Some see financial incentives—new roads, handsome fees—while others angrily mourn the loss of what was assumed an immovable monolith of their town's collective history and memory. With a steady and shrewdly observant eye, Jashi documents a single man's power over Earth's natural gardens: how majestic living artifacts of a country's identity can so effortlessly become uprooted by individuals with no connection to the nature they now claim as their own.

Noreen Linnemann

Table arrangements made by Five Hills for the dining room tables for Christmas at Iliff.



Iliff December 22nd flower arrangement

Next Iliff Sign Up Genius (Winter 2022)

Here is the link for Sign Up Genius:

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

Magnolia Tree Types

Submitted by Elizabeth Huebner

(Article courtesy of Southern Living)

Magnolias belong to the family Magnoliaceae. They're deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs that can most accurately be described as magnificent—they're magnificent flowering plants featuring blossoms in white, pink, red, purple, or yellow. Magnolia trees are diverse in leaf shape and plant form, and they include both evergreen and deciduous sorts. They aren't usually munched by deer. (An attractive characteristic for gardeners with yards where deer are known to browse.)

Magnolia zones vary by species, but most all of them thrive in full sun or partial shade with regular water. Their summertime blooms are creamy and thick, and their foliage varies from shiny and waxy (see: *Magnolia grandiflora*) to soft, green, enormous, and shaped like saucers (see: *M. macrophylla*, also known as bigleaf magnolia). Whether evergreen or deciduous, most magnolias have large, striking blossoms composed of petal-like segments. A few are grown for use as foliage plants. Some even grow big and thick enough to be used as privacy plantings and hedge-type tree plantings.

The following text classifies magnolias by general type, including species, hybrids, and selections. New magnolias seem to appear almost hourly, but most garden centers carry only a few. To track down a prized selection, you'll probably need to hunt through mail-order catalogs.

To many people, the word "magnolia" is synonymous with our native *Magnolia grandiflora*, the classic Southern magnolia with large, glossy leaves and huge, fragrant white blossoms—the state flower of Mississippi and Louisiana. Few trees can match it for year-round beauty. It does, however, have its drawbacks. Unnamed seedlings often take 10 years after planting before they come into bloom. Dense shade and shallow roots make it impossible to grow grass beneath the canopy, and the roots often crack and lift pavement if the tree is planted between sidewalk and curb. If you can't abide leaf drop, this isn't the magnolia for you, because the leaves of *M. grandiflora* drop 365 days a year. Since the tree grows as wide as 40 feet, it takes up a lot of garden space. Sweet bay (*M. virginiana*), a smaller tree, is easier to fit into most gardens. Though mostly deciduous in the Upper and Middle South, it's evergreen in the Lower and Coastal South and more cold hardy than *M. grandiflora*.



Photo courtesy of Winnie Frost (GFGC)

Magnolia Tree Types (continued)

New entries to this group are plants previously listed under the genus *Michelia*. These trees and shrubs hail from China and the Himalayas and are generally less cold hardy than other evergreen magnolias. They're renowned for their profuse, wonderfully fragrant flowers, which are borne among their leaves as opposed to the ends of the branches. Popular selections: *M. grandiflora*: 'Alta,' 'Bracken's Brown Beauty,' 'D. D. Blanchard,' 'Edith Bogue,' 'Little Gem,' 'Majestic Beauty,' 'Samuel Sommer,' 'St. Mary,' 'Symmes Select,' 'Teddy Bear,' 'Timeless Beauty,' 'Victoria' *M. virginiana*: 'Henry Hicks,' 'Moonglow,' var. *australis* 'Mardi Gras,' 'Green Shadow,' 'Sweet Thing,' 'Tensaw'

Deciduous Magnolias with Saucer Flowers This group includes the popular saucer magnolia (*M. x soulangeana*) and its myriad selections, often called tulip trees because of the shape and bright color of their flowers. They prefer fertile, acid, well-drained soil. They do not tolerate heavy wind or salt spray. Early flowering selections are prone to frost damage. Related to these, but less tolerant of winter cold and summer heat, are the spectacular magnolias from western China and the Himalayas—Sargent magnolia (*M. sargentiana*) and Sprenger magnolia (*M. sprengeri*). Though their early flowers may fall victim to late freezes, one spring season with good blooms will quickly make you forget the disappointments of years past. Popular selections: *M. x soulangeana*: 'Alba Superba,' 'Alexandrina,' 'Black Tulip,' 'Brozzonii,' 'Lennei,' 'Lilliputian,' 'Rustica Rubra,' 'Verbanica' *M. sprengeri*: 'Diva'

Deciduous Magnolias with Star Flowers This group includes Kobus magnolia (*M. kobus*), Loebner magnolia (*M. x loebneri*), and star magnolia (*M. stellata*). All are cold-hardy, heat-tolerant, adaptable plants with fragrant flowers. The flowers have petals that branch out in forms resembling many-armed stars. Late frosts sometimes damage the early blooms of these magnolias. Several selections of star magnolias bear rosy, pink blooms. *M. stellata* 'Rosea' is also commonly known as "pink star magnolia." Popular selections: *M. stellata*: 'Centennial,' 'Dawn,' 'Royal Star,' 'Two Stones,'

Pink blooms: *M. stellata* 'Rosea,' 'Jane Platt,' 'Rubra,' 'Water Lily'

Other Magnolia Species Less widely planted—but deserving of greater attention—is a group of large-leafed native magnolias generally grown as bold accents or shade trees. Cucumber tree (*M. acuminata*) and its smaller sibling, yellow cucumber tree (*M. a. subcordata*), are the source of the yellow blossom color of many new hybrids. Bigleaf magnolia (*M. macrophylla*), umbrella magnolia (*M. tripetala*), Fraser magnolia (*M. fraseri*), and Ashe magnolia (*M. ashei*) are medium-size trees with huge leaves and large flowers that appear after the leaves unfurl. In its own category is Oyama magnolia (*M. sieboldii*), native to western China. It bears drooping, cup-shaped, fragrant blooms after leaves emerge.

Magnolia Tree Types (continued)

Planting Magnolia Trees

For any magnolia, be sure to pick your planting site carefully. Virtually all types are hard to move once established, and many grow quite large, which makes them nearly impossible to move later. The best soil for magnolias is fairly rich, well drained, and neutral to slightly acid; if necessary, add generous amounts of organic matter when planting. Southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora*) is good for planting at the beach, though not on dunes. It can stand up to some salty sea breezes. Sweet bay (*M. virginiana*) tolerates wet soil. The species and selections listed are adapted to a wide range of growing conditions and are easy for most gardeners to grow.

Magnolias never look their best when crowded, and they may be severely damaged by digging around their roots. Larger deciduous sorts are most attractive standing alone against a background that will display their flowers at bloom time and show off their strongly patterned, usually gray limbs and big, fuzzy flower buds in winter. Small deciduous magnolias show up well in large flower or shrub borders and make choice ornaments too. Most magnolias are excellent lawn trees; try to provide a good-size grass-free area around the trunk, and don't plant under the tree. Balled-and-burlapped plants are available in late winter and early spring; container plants are sold all year. Do not set plants lower than their original soil level. Stake single-trunked or very heavy plants to prevent them from being rocked by wind, which will tear the thick, fleshy, sensitive roots. To avoid damaging the roots, set stakes in planting hole before placing tree.

Caring for Magnolia Trees You can help your newly planted magnolias establish themselves in your yard by preventing soil compaction around the root zone. Try to keep foot traffic around the base of the tree to a minimum. Also, prune only when absolutely necessary. Magnolias seldom have serious pest or disease problems, so that shouldn't affect your tree care. They're also rarely browsed by deer or other wild garden visitors. Magnolias thrive in full sun or partial shade with regular water. Ensure your magnolia receives enough water and that it's planted in well-drained soil. Few magnolias tolerate soggy soil. Sweet bay (*M. virginiana*) is an exception and can thrive in wet areas.

Happy New Year and wishing each of you all the best, Elizabeth Huebner.