

Sow and Tell

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

I hope this message finds you well as we enter the beautiful month of May. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Green Expo—Valerie for organizing our table, Noreen for her lovely table arrangement, Rosemarie for the Gerber daisies and Lucia, Carolyn, Val, Stephanie, Sheila and Lisa for helping to man the table.

Several of our members enjoyed a beautiful day at Hillwood in April, touring the Mansion and the gardens, which are so beautiful in the spring. Thanks to Candace for planning the delightful day. These excursions are wonderful opportunities to explore new gardens and enjoy the beauty of nature together.

Our meeting and program at Barbara's house in April were lovely. Although the azaleas were just a few days away from blooming, it was fun to tour Joe's garden, hear all about his azalea hobby, and learn how he propagates new cultivars.

Looking ahead, our Yard Sale is approaching quickly! This event is our fundraiser for the year, and I encourage everyone to participate and enjoy what we hope will be a beautiful day on May 17. Please spread the word to your friends and share information about the sale with any other groups you may belong to.

Finally, our May meeting will feature our annual plant exchange at Anne Nelson's house. This event is always a highlight of the year, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| May 13 | Board Meeting |
| May 17 | FHGC Yard, Plant, Bake Sale |
| May 20 | General Meeting at Anne Nelson's home |
| June 3 | Glyndon Garden Cleanup |
| June 10 | Board Meeting |
| June 17 | Garden Therapy |
| June 24 | General Meeting** |
| June 26 | District III Meeting |

****NOTE:** Our June meeting had to be moved to the fourth Tuesday of the month, so this date is different than the date listed in our yearbook.

MAY 20, 2025 PROGRAM SHARING OUR BOUNTY – PLANT SWAP



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 your 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 at Anne Nelson's, who has once again generously offered her home (10409 Stone Ridge Lane, Vienna 22182) to host this general meeting and plant exchange. Please note that you should unload your plants at the end of Anne's driveway and then park your car on the street. Please do not block neighbors' driveways. If it is easier, you can also drop off plants at Anne's house anytime on Monday, May 19th.



Val Plisko

FIVE HILLS APRIL 15 MEETING - TOURING THE AZALEAS AT THE HOME OF JOE KLIMAVICZ



Joe giving Five Hills members a comprehensive tour of his beautiful azaleas as they were beginning to bloom.

Our gracious hostess Barbara modeling her handmade jewelry crafted with wire and orchids.



TWO WEEKS LATER AT JOE'S GARDENS ...



Azaleas in Joe's front yard



Fragrant deciduous azalea

CONSERVATION

RAIN



We all need to conserve rainwater, you can collect it using rain barrels or cisterns, redirect downspouts to plants or gardens, and create rain gardens or other permeable surfaces to absorb runoff.

The next time it rains, grab your umbrella and take a walk. Watch where the rain goes.

Does it soak into the ground? Does it flow across a lawn? Does a downspout send it down a driveway or parking lot to the street and down a storm drain? Where does the rain go?

Possible things that can be done to conserve rainwater:

- [Disconnect/Redirect Downspouts](#)
- [Use a rain barrel to capture rain from your roof](#)
- [Plant a rain garden](#)
- [Plant trees](#)
- [Reduce impervious surfaces; install permeable pavement](#)
- [Plant a green roof](#)

How can you make your yard more attractive, cut back on chores and

improve the quality of your local waters?

MAKE YOUR YARD A SPONGE
Rainwater that lands in your yard is a free resource that often just washes away. In some communities, watering is restricted in the summer months. The next time it rains, watch where the water flows from your gutters and your yard. Use the techniques below to capture the water for reuse.

- Rain barrels can be hooked directly to downspouts. The rain they collect from the roof can be reused for watering your lawn and flower garden.
- Use alternatives to concrete and asphalt for driveways (such as gravel or crushed shells) and walkways (such as blue stone set in stone dust or sand). Plant shrubs around driveways, and direct runoff to planted areas.
- Plant groundcover, shrubs or trees on steeper slopes. These plants have deeper root systems than grass and can better hold the soil in place, slow down storm water and help water soak into the soil.

• Direct downspouts from your roof onto flat grassy or gravel areas or into rain gardens. Rain gardens are shallow, planted depressions that collect, and infiltrate rainwater diverted from your roof and paved surfaces. Rain gardens collect a few inches of rain during a storm; the water soaks slowly into the ground and dries up before the next storm.

The following are videos that help one visualize better management of rainwater so it does not run off, but soaks in and decreases water runoff

and pollution of our waterways. Also, if you live on a well with a septic system you want the water to soak in and replenish our aquifers so we have water to pump into our homes.

[Faces of "Soak up the Rain" Video](#)

[Stormwater Pollution and Green Infrastructure Solutions](#)

[Reduce Runoff: Slow it down, Spread it Out, Soak it In, U.S. EPA](#)

Much of this article comes from various EPA sites.

Elizabeth Huebner



WAYS AND MEANS Yard, Plant, Bake Sale Saturday, May 17



Five Hills only does a big fundraiser every two years—biennially (I looked it up!) The 2025 one is here! Thank you, thank you for all you've already gathered to donate and the hours you've signed up to work. We do need everyone to help in some way since we all benefit from the monies raised.

Donations for the yard sale should be dropped off Thursday, May 15 between 1:00 and 3:00 and/or Friday May 16 between 12:00 and 3:00. Please bring your items during these times so they can be sorted and priced before the sale begins on Saturday. Baked goods

can be brought on Friday between 12:00 and 3:00.

Please consider donating 2 or 3 plants. So far only 7 people have signed up for that. These can be dropped off on Friday 1:00 to 4:00. Please label with all pertinent information.

All hands are needed to make this a success; if you have questions please contact:

General sale and volunteering--
Carolyn Staska or Roberta Lewis
Plant Sale—Valerie Warriner
Bake Sale—Anne Nelson

Roberta Lewis and Carolyn Staska

FIVE HILLS GARDEN CLUB AT THE VIENNA GREEN EXPO



Valerie Warriner and her volunteers Val Plisko, Rosemarie Jaksetic, Lucia Bacon, Sheila Creswell, Carolyn Staska, and Lisa Rzepka spread the word about Five Hills Garden Club at the Vienna Green Expo. Noreen Linnemann made the beautiful table arrangement that was given away in our raffle.



NCAGC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS COUNCIL



Noreen Linnemann was installed as President of the Environmental Consultants Council for NCAGC on April 23rd.

Congratulations Noreen!

CIVIC



Our garden at Glyndon Park is growing and blooming! Keep an eye out for the upcoming Sign Up Genius for the next work day on Tuesday, June 3 to join our group of volunteers working to keep the garden looking its best.

Lisa Rzepka

HORTICULTURE

“LET’S COUNT OUR TREES”

As gardeners we love our yards, flowers, bushes and trees. As garden club members we hope others will share our interest and improve our community. Let’s do an easy survey to share with our club . . . Count the trees in your yard and share the number with the club. If you have an unusual tree, share the name and even a photo.

Can you name the tree in the picture?

Also, the Washington Post listed fun summer book recommendations. On the list was The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of Braiding Sweetgrass. It is the story of Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World.

Jane Schmiedekamp



Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky.”

— Khalil Gibran, Sand and Foam