

PARADE OF THE SEASONS

constructed in 2003. The beautiful curve of Witch Hazel Road was designed by the respected Rhodeside and Harwell landscape architecture firm in Alexandria. The Overflow Garden surrounds the graveled Overflow Parking Lot and service yard. Planting in the Overflow Garden started in 2004 and in the Entrance Garden in 2005. The largest number of woody plants were purchased in 2006 with bond money, and since then plants have been paid for by FROGS and with donations.

The Entrance and Overflow Gardens have the largest woody plant collection at Green Spring and the greatest number of witch hazels in our national witch hazel collection. These gardens had 119 witch hazel cultivars and species in April 2016, with most of them blooming in winter and early spring. Woody plants will be more striking as they grow larger with age - ornamental cherry trees are a good example, such as the heavenly 'Accolade' (*Prunus* 'Accolade').

Three rain gardens in the Entrance Garden illustrate the benefit of using sustainable landscape techniques to filter and reduce stormwater while retaining it for plants. The two largest rain gardens are more commonly used in large public areas and are also referred to as bioretention areas; they are Low Impact

Development/ Environmental Site Design features. The Right Bioretention Area ranges from the stop sign to the concrete drain cover, although the soil in the upper portion of this area has not been modified.

The Shop Bioretention Area on the left side as one enters Green Spring is especially showy in late October and into November, with fall color on many native trees. This rain garden also screens Pinecrest Shop and its entry road from Witch Hazel Road. One of my favorite trees in the fall is in this area – it is the russet-colored Shawnee Brave Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum* Shawnee Brave or 'Mickelson'), which has a formal pyramidal habit.

The smaller rain garden close to the asphalt path on the right side of the Entrance has a homeowner scale and is a wetter site than most of the bioretention areas. This rain garden and the drainage area as it approaches Braddock Road are especially colorful in the summer and into the fall, with many natives and hybrids of natives including herbaceous Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* species, hybrids, and cultivars) and Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium* 'Big Umbrella' and others).

We are making these gardens more sustainable over time by gradually reducing the number of tender



Joe Pye Weed

THE ENTRANCE GARDEN and Overflow Parking Lot Garden (Overflow Garden) welcome visitors to Green Spring. Meandering along Witch Hazel Road, these gardens have a huge variety of beautiful plants for four-season interest: there were over 1100 unique species and cultivars in these gardens in 2015. Summer evenings are a special time to visit due to the shimmering light and the welcome lessening of the heat of the day, with an enormous number of herbaceous plants in flower. One beloved native summer flower is cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), which attracts hummingbirds. Fall is another treat with the wide range of glorious color from flowers and autumn leaves.

The Entrance and Overflow Gardens were developed after the current Green Spring entrance was

Manager's Message



Sustainability at Green Spring Gardens

During the Master Plan process, our mission statement evolved to this simple statement: Green Spring Gardens connects the community to natural and cultural resources through horticulture, education and stewardship. The connections to horticulture and education are obvious everyday, but stewardship is often the quieter part of our activity. Let me share what is happening today to show our responsible management of our natural and cultural resources.

How many staff does it take to install more than 800 light bulbs? Two, Frank Jankauskas and Travis Erkenbrack, our talented buildings and grounds staff, replaced all of the light bulbs inside and outside of the Horticulture Center with LED light bulbs. These long-lasting bulbs will save energy, time and money. Individually the bulbs are more expensive than the fluorescent bulbs. However, they will last longer, reducing an immense amount of time replacing bulbs that require tall ladders to install. With over 800 light bulbs replaced, the Park Authority has made a significant investment in long term energy conservation. We will be curious to see the difference in the electric bill over the next couple of months.

Over the past year, the stone ruin across the road from the Spring House has deteriorated significantly.

This spring we will erect an attractive black picket fence around it to prevent further damage from people climbing on it. As part of the process for rebuilding it, we are seeking an analysis of the mortar used to hold the cobbles together and the concrete used to seal the outer surface. With that information in hand, we will be able to assemble the correct mix of products to restore the structure that from photographic evidence has been around at least since the 1890s.

Coming this spring, summer and fall are education opportunities to influence your own stewardship of the landscapes you oversee. On July 16, 2016, Brenda Skarphol, curatorial horticulturist, will discuss the variety of native trees and shrubs in the landscape. This October for the Fall Symposium, Larry Weaner will deliver the keynote address on designing for sustainable landscapes, with ideas for all of us.

Stewardship doesn't have to be all serious topics. Our team of gardeners and their teams of volunteers have been working this winter and spring on an "art in the garden" project using recycled beverage bottles. How do you turn clear and green plastic bottles into cacti, sunflowers, and a decorative curtain? I recommend a trip or two or three to Green Spring Gardens this summer. Be sure to stop by my office to say hello. ☺

Mary Olien
Park Manager



Gardenline

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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before the event.



FROGS Talk

Mary Jane Medeiros, FROGS President
Tatiana Lisle, FROGS Vice President

Getting to know you... That is exactly what we would like to do! We hope you can take a moment to complete the enclosed survey. Once completed, there are a few ways to return it to us. You can either drop it off at the Horticulture Center or mail it back to us. The FROGS website is another option; just visit us at www.friendsofgreenspring.org, click on the survey link and complete it online. The FROGS Board is listening. How are we doing? What would you like to see us undertake in the future? How do you want to become involved?

Snowing and plant-shopping on April 9th? You bet! The Garden Gate Plant Shop Grand Opening took

place despite the weather. Thanks to our veteran shoppers, attendance was high and netted \$3,300 in sales that benefit FROGS. Judy Zatsick and Diana Shannon on the Green Spring staff will continue to provide their expertise overseeing plant shop operations throughout the coming seasons. Come by for quality plants that are suited to thrive in Virginia. The plant shop is now open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. and Sunday, noon — 4:00 p.m. until the first frost. FROGS members enjoy 10% off plant purchases!

We are excited to once again host the Concert in the Garden. This free event will take place on Tuesday, June 28th. The “Fender Benders”

will be performing from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., rain or shine! For more details, check the concert announcement on the back page of this issue of Gardenline. Be sure to watch for your reminder postcard in the mail. Bring it to the concert for a chance to win a prized plant from the Garden Gate Plant Shop or a one-year membership renewal.

Fall Garden Day and the Silent Auction will be here before we know it... Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Your favorite plant vendors will return in addition to live music, the popular bake sale, children’s activities, and, last but not least, treasures to bid on at the Silent Auction.

As we roll out “those lazy-hazy-crazy days of summer,” come visit Green Spring Gardens! We are busy with all that is happening.

Please continue to visit us at www.friendsofgreenspring.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 🌸

Parade of the Seasons

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plants and increasing the number of hardy plants. Due to the bridge replacement project in the Virginia Native Plant Garden, many herbaceous native plants were moved from the Virginia Native Plant Garden in 2015 to the Right Bioretention Area and to other areas, so the Entrance Garden will be even more vibrant with natives in 2016.

We have encountered some major gardening challenges. The berm on the Pinecrest Shop side is very dry except by the drainage area, making it harder to grow healthy, attractive plants. A few herbaceous natives that are adapted to these tough condition are Maryland Golden Aster

(*Chryopsis mariana*) and Woodland Coreopsis (*Coreopsis major*). The meadow in the Overflow Ravine to the right of the Pinecrest Shop fence has been a major challenge due to the steep slope; the space will transition to an open wooded area over time. We have found it much easier to garden in the stylized meadow or prairie garden along Braddock Road on the office park side of the Entrance. This ecological garden is beautiful in the summer with Autumn Sun Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia* ‘Autumn Sun’ or R. ‘Herbstsonne’), Lemon Queen Sunflower (*Helianthus* ‘Lemon Queen’), and Standing Ovation Little Blue-stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* ‘Standing Ovation’).

We invite you to take a stroll on

the path in the Entrance Garden sometime this summer, and come enjoy the Overflow Garden as well!



Brenda Skarphol
Curatorial Horticulturist

GOING BUGGY! Storytelling with props, puppets, masks and shadow puppets. Presented by the GoodLife Theater, Wednesday, August 3, 10:30 a.m. \$3.00 per person.

Sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring Gardens in support of summer reading.

Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring or call 703-642-5173

Green Spring's Mysterious Ruin

From the Great Sphinx in Egypt to prehistoric Stonehenge in England, many mysterious structures have stumped historians attempting to determine their origin and purpose. Green Spring has its own architectural mystery, which lies in ruin across the lane from the Spring House. It's not an ancient monument, but the remains of a small cobblestone farm structure. Yet even modest vernacular structures can provide important records of everyday life. This one intrigues visitors and staff alike. Why and when was it built?

Nestled into the hillside, the thirteen foot square, four-chambered structure is mortared cobblestone and brick with a thin coat of concrete. We've long referred to it as the "fermentation tank" because descendants of Fountain Beattie, who lived and farmed at Green Spring from 1878 to the early 1900s, described its use as a tank to ferment the juices of fruits grown on the farm.

Beattie's 300-acre farm was a thriving concern with dairy cattle and orchards ... and a burgeoning liquor business! He operated a licensed still in the c.1830 Spring House, where he distilled fermented fruits into applejack and brandies. He also operated a cider mill. On September 12, 1895 the Alexandria Gazette reported: "Mr. Fountain Beattie at his farm in Fairfax county, west of this city, has a steam cider mill which is kept running constantly and farmers for miles

around are taking their apples there to be ground into cider."

At the time, most cider fermentation was done in wooden barrels. In his 1890 guide "The Cider Makers' Handbook," J. M. Trowbridge suggests that American cider makers adopt the French fermentation method for champagne using "large vats or tanks ... where such conveniences are at hand or attainable." Beattie was enlightened and progressive and may well have decided to try this out in a four-chambered tank, with a different product fermenting in each chamber.

use of concrete in the Spring House may have been its application above the original cobblestone floor, a technique he could have used on his experimental fermentation tank.

Yet it's questionable whether Beattie built the structure from scratch for this express purpose. Its outdoor location and configuration weren't entirely practical. So we wondered if he might have repurposed a structure that was already there. In 2010, we consulted archaeologist Dennis Pogue, then director of preservation at Mount Vernon and an expert in historical farm structures. Dr. Pogue



Fermentation Tank circa. 1900

In a c.1900 photograph, the tank is in mint condition, its corners square and its walls smooth and pristine. In 1999, Fountain's grandson Butler Beattie recalled: "My grandfather was much more interested in the future than in the past. He used concrete in the spring house at Green Spring Farm. I heard that was the first use of concrete in that way in Fairfax County and possibly in all of Virginia." Beattie's innovative

examined our ruin and agreed that it could have been adapted for Beattie's purposes, but was more likely to have *originated* some time earlier ... as a water cistern.

Cisterns were common in homes and on farms throughout the 19th century, providing collection and long-term storage of rainwater for domestic use, irrigation and animals. Early cisterns were simple,

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Mystery Ruin

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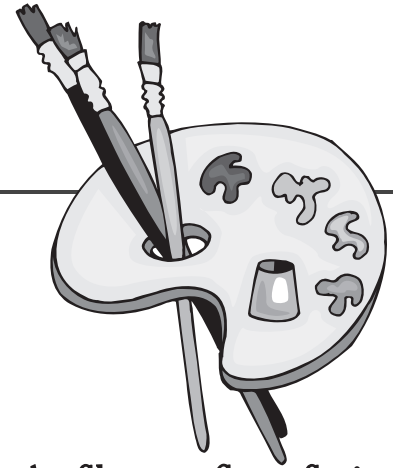
plaster-lined dugouts underneath houses. By the mid-1800s many cisterns looked like our structure: large, semi-buried or aboveground tanks made from stone, brick and cement, with partitions within to filter out debris. Shapes varied, but some were square and flat-topped. Some examples have surviving fill pipes that delivered rainwater diverted from nearby roofs. (The source of water to ours is unknown.) Others still have iron bolts to attach

countryside shutting down illicit stills. A disgruntled bootlegger may have been out for revenge. The loss of the barn, along with stock and feed, put an end to dairy activities on the farm. However, Beattie's *legal* liquor enterprise flourished, and our little ruin may be an inspiring example of adaptive reuse by this visionary farmer!

Adapting buildings for purposes other than those for which they were designed is meant to give them a new lease of life, but our ruin is deteriorating quickly. Remedial work is planned to help preserve what's

ruin is still a carrier of the history of Green Spring and our community, our farming heritage, and the ingenuity and resourcefulness of those who labored here. ☼

*Debbie Waugh
Historic House Coordinator*



Art Shows at Green Spring

The art you enjoy at the Green Spring Art Shows is for sale!

Through June 26:

The splendid works of **Potomac Valley Watercolorists** decorate the entire Horticulture Center and Historic House

June 28-August 28:

At the Horticulture Center: **Ruth Ensley** displays her splendid watercolors, mixed media and photography.

Stanley Nartey shows his wonderful photography.

At the Historic House: **Kathy Ko** exhibits her lovely oil paintings.

Reception for all three artists above is Saturday, July 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Horticulture Center and the Historic House.



Tank ruin today

a wooden cover, a necessary precaution to prevent drownings and to keep out pollutants. A vengeful neighbor might even throw an animal carcass into his enemy's cistern or well.

We don't know of anyone dumping anything nasty into Fountain Beattie's fermentation tank, but in 1890 somebody did burn down his barn. Beattie's second job as a revenue officer took him across the

left of it. This will include protective fencing, a cover to keep out debris, and re-pointing and stabilization of loose mortar. Analysis of the mortar may yield more information about the date of construction.

Interpretive signage will tell visitors as much as we know about it, and we'll continue to research its origin and purpose. It's not a riddle on the scale of the Sphinx or Stonehenge....but our mysterious little

What's Happening in Children's Education at Green Spring



REDBUDS AND TULIPS and magnolias, oh my! Spring has flown by for Children's Education with birthday parties, Scout programs, family fun and school field trips. These programs get kids, their parents, students and teachers learning about animal and plant life cycles, exploring dirt in the soil lab, doing flower dissections, investigating the gardens and more! We've also launched a few new programs this spring.

The Garden Sprouts: Nature's Play Group for children age 2-5 and their accompanying adult on the first Monday of the month covers a vari-

ety of seasonal topics each month! Children explore what's happening in the garden, sing songs, play games and discover more about each seasonal topic. This program will be continuing throughout the year.

This spring we also debuted the Go Native! Workshop all about native plants for Scout groups and community members wanting to start their own native plant garden and to learn about the importance of native plants to the survival of Virginia wildlife. We worked with the Virginia Native Plant Society, which provided workshop partici-

pants with a discounted starter garden specific for their site's needs. Participants also helped pot up native plant seedlings of *Liatris aspera*, Tall Blazing Star, some to take home and some that will be planted in Green Spring Gardens' native plant garden.

Summer 2016 has a full schedule of camps getting kids outside to experience Green Spring! Camps include: Animal Investigations, All-American Girl: Living Dolls Camp, Arts al Fresco, Eco Explorers and Insect Safari Camp!

Children will also be out in our garden planting and tasting this summer with our Let's Grow Garden Club on some Thursday afternoons, learning about planting, growing, caring for and harvesting edible plants. Come see us in the garden! 🌱

Priscilla Plumb

Children's Program Coordinator

WANTED

Items for the SILENT AUCTION at FROGS Fall Garden Day on September 10, 2016

The Silent Auction is a special feature at our Fall Garden Day fundraiser. Please help by donating goods and services for this annual event.

Examples of bestselling auction items:

Gardening Advice and Labor:

Think HELP!

- ✓ Landscape design or pruning consultation
- ✓ A day's worth of planting, weeding, or trimming
- ✓ Gently used gardening items

Getaways and Outings:

Think ESCAPE!

- ✓ A weekend at your vacation home or favorite resort
- ✓ Sailing excursions or hot air balloon rides

Wines and Gourmet Items:

Think DELICIOUS!

- ✓ Catered dinners or prepared meals-to-go
- ✓ Wine tastings or vineyard tours
- ✓ Gourmet foods or drinks baskets (gift certificates preferred for the latter)
- ✓ Restaurant gift certificates

Entertainment and Sports:

Think FUN!

- ✓ Tickets to theaters, concerts, or exhibits

- ✓ Memberships to gyms, spas, or recreation centers
- ✓ Sports tickets or memorabilia (photos, balls, shirts, etc.)

Underused Treasures:

Think REGIFTING!

- ✓ Housewares (china, crystal, pottery, or silver)
- ✓ Decorations (paintings, photographs, or sculptures)
- ✓ Antiques (toys, tools, or textiles)

Contact one of the following people to arrange item pickup and storage, or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173 to make drop off arrangements at the Horticulture Center:

Susan Voss at susanlvoss@gmail.com or 703-819-1590

Bill Tuceling at tuceling@verizon.net or 703-350-3034

Thank you for your support!



SUMMERTIME IN THE GARDEN GATE PLANT SHOP

Summer can be a wonderful time in the garden. We have a great variety of our tried and true perennials to attract those hummingbirds and pollinators to your garden!

This year try *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue'. The flowers of this lovely perennial are eye-catching cobalt blue with nearly black calyces and bloom from mid-summer to fall in a nice sunny spot. We're also offering Deutzia 'Yuki Cherry Blossom' again this year. In spring this splendid shrub is covered with pink flowers that resemble cherry blossoms. Its fall foliage turns a striking purple-burgundy color. Best of all, Deutzias are deer resistant. They do best in moist, well-drained soils,

and in our area may benefit from light afternoon shade.

For winter garden interest we are offering *Cornus sanguinea* 'Arctic Sun'. This bloodtwig dogwood grows best in rich, well-drained soil, in full sun to part shade. The yellow, orange, or coral stems really brighten your winter garden. Although pruning is not necessary, the most colorful stems are the youngest. Some gardeners remove 20-25 percent of the oldest stems annually to encourage new growth; others cut all the stems back in early spring every third year. Whether you prune or not, this *Cornus* will be a stunning garden addition.

How about adding a winterberry this year? Native winterberry hollies are deciduous shrubs, whose bright-colored fruits are highlighted when leaves fall. Winterberries are dioecious, meaning they have separate male and female plants. This year we'll be offering females 'Berry Heavy' and 'Berry Poppins', both Proven Winner cultivars. Our male pollinator is 'Mr. Poppins', another Proven Winner. These hollies do best in moist, acidic soil in sun to part shade. Remember, you need to buy both a male and a female plant to obtain fruits on the female. One

male will provide enough pollen for up to 7 female plants.

Other plants you won't want to miss:

Monarda (bee balm), *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal Flower), and *Lobelia siphilitica* (Great Blue Lobelia) (Hurry: These wonderful natives will not last long in our shop.)

Viola walteri 'Silver Gem', an adorable groundcover

Hydrangea quercifolia 'Little Honey' and 'Gatsby Gal'; Silver-leaved *Hydrangea schizophragma* 'Moonlight'; "Rose Sensation", with pink flowers

Potentilla 'Happy Face Yellow' and 'Pink Paradise', both for sunny spots

Viburnum 'Chicago Lustre' and 'Dart's Duke' to help boost berry production on our beloved 'Wintertur' and 'Brandywine' cultivars

Finally, don't overlook our shade loving natives, including a great selection of ferns.

Happy shopping! 🌿

Diana Shannon
Plant Coordinator



60. MARY JANE MEDEIROS
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF GREEN SPRING

FROGS President Testifies at Budget Hearings

FROGS President Mary Jane Medeiros testified before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at the annual budget hearings on April 6, 2016. She spoke in support of increasing the Fairfax County Park Authority budget for fiscal year 2017. After listing the many ways that FROGS supports the gardens, she emphasized, "We are committed to support Green Spring Gardens as well as we can. However, we cannot help but think that the future will be difficult without increased support from the County." Her complete testimony is posted on the FROGS website: friendsofgreenspring.org. 🌿



Gardenline

Green Spring Gardens • 4603 Green Spring Road • Alexandria, VA
22312

CONCERT IN THE GARDEN



Green Spring Gardens
Tuesday, June 28
6 pm-8 pm

Be our guests for a musical evening in the gardens, with The Fender Benders performing classic rock-n-roll from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Whether you are a “Pretty Woman” or a “Brown Eyed Girl,” “I Heard it Through the Grapevine” that The Fender Benders have something for everyone.

Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the lawn and groove along with this family-friendly band. A food truck, Good Grubbin’, will also be available. The Friends of Green Spring board will serve complimentary cake and lemonade. Please join us for this free event.

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF GREEN SPRING.