



# Gardenline

SUMMER

2017

## Green Spring's Lesser Known Gardens

**W**ALKING THROUGH GREEN SPRING GARDENS is always a delight, regardless of the season. But most of us are only familiar with the gardens around the Horticulture Center and close to the circular brick path surrounding the center lawn. Here are some lesser-known gardens worth exploring on your next visit to Green Spring (see map on page 5):

### Woodland Gazebo Garden (1):

Leaving the Horticulture Center and walking toward the gazebo, turn to your left up the short grassy slope past the parking circle to find a natural woodland garden. Relax on the bench in the back and note the large groundcover planting of cyclamen. In early spring the showy cyclamen leaves complement the many ephemerals, such as bloodroot, trillium, and bluebells. In late spring a patch of perennial sweet pea (*lathyrus*) shows off flowers. Three newly added hydrangea 'Ruby Slippers' and two native azaleas add beauty in the rear, as do a patch of hardy begonia, blooming happily beneath the shade of cedars. In early summer note the flowering *peony itoh* 'Cora Louise' and the blue flowers of the *baptisia australis* (false indigo) near the path's beginning. The large cyclamen patch then comes alive with bloom in August.

### Cedar Path (2):

From the woodland gazebo garden follow the path to your right. Even though you're steps from the parking lot you're in a private, calm

place. Walk slowly through the cedars, which were already well established in photos we have of the property from the 1950s! Although the cedars are the dominant feature here, there are also lovely shrubs on both sides of the path including acubas, mahonias, *hydrangea quercifolia* 'Sikes Dwarf', camellias, and an early spring blooming viburnum 'Charles Lamont'.

### Upper Vista Garden (3):

This garden is best seen by walking directly in front of the Historic House. Imagine the view from the front windows of this lovely 18<sup>th</sup> century home as you walk down the slope from the house. Standouts of this garden are the trees, including the stately Virginia native scarlet oak (*quercus coccinia*), hollies, magnolias and dogwoods. Also note the lovely shrubs, including the mock oranges (*philadelphus*), which were enjoyed by the last owners of the house, Michael and Belinda Straight. Relax on the bench and enjoy the view back to the house as well as the many perennials planted in front of you.

### Shrub Border (4):

The huge white sycamore/American plane tree (*platanus occidentalis*) dominates the horizon just off the main walkway to the right of the Historic House. Come closer to the tree and discover the special garden close by. In early spring the tree is surrounded by blue shades of *anemone blanda* and numerous other bulbs. Nearby a gold leaf redbud is in bloom. The purple smoke bush (*cotinus coggygria*) planting shows off its bloom in early summer. The stems of the yellow dogwood surrounding the tree front shine in the late fall sun. Take time to sit on the bench opposite the plane tree and enjoy the pleasing fragrance of the *viburnum burkwoodii* or feel the summer cool under the tall pines. Hear the soothing sound of the ponds below the garden. Relax and enjoy.

### Bog Garden (5):

Facing the Historic House from the parking lot, follow the "Ponds" sign on your left down the asphalt path. As you turn the corner, you'll hear the sound of water coming from the huge spraying fountain. Turn to your left up the easy grass slope and continue around the path. Soon you'll see a huge low free-form

*Continued on page 5*

## Manager's Message

"To everything (turn, turn, turn)/  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)/  
And a time to every purpose..."

Contemplating what lies ahead for our lovely Green Spring Gardens (GSG), this song drifts into my head. The season that is coming upon us is one of change. Mary Olien is now the Operations Branch Manager and a new GSG manager will soon lead us into the future. This is a time of transition. Sometimes people are not comfortable with transition, as they don't like change, but with change comes opportunity for growth and new ideas.

As I write this message, the candidates for a new manager are being interviewed. Although I've been asked to serve as acting manager for a time, I too will be leaving GSG later this year, which means the position of Visitor Services Manager will also be vacant. I'm excited to watch it all unfold. I'm only sorry I have to watch from afar. We all know the GSG staff is talented and dedicated, and they will continue to grow with the new managers in place. Friends of Green Spring (FROGS), working closely with the managers and staff, will continue to support Green Spring and help the garden grow.

But enough about what lies ahead; there is immediate work at hand. The Glasshouse was recently renovated and reopened with a totally new look. As the season continues, you will see more additions to this indoor garden. These improvements are the result of FROGS generosity through their 2015 Annual Appeal, along with a Park Authority Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Grant.

The Historic House, recently painted and recarpeted, is on its way

to getting a facelift. With additional funds coming from the 2016 FROGS Annual Appeal, the plan is to repair, replace, refinish and polish the wood floors, doors, front desk and woodwork. A new exhibit will also be installed featuring a video produced by Channel 16 on the history of the house. Any remaining funds will be used for additional upgrades to the house and surrounding area.

Green Spring staff is also working on the development of an interpretive plan, and with it, the installation of much-needed signage in the gardens. After Fall Garden Day, you will begin to see improvements being made to make GSG more accessible to our many visitors.

Recently we learned of a new documentary film, *The Life and Gardens of BEATRIX FARRAND*, directed by six-time Emmy Award winner Karyl Evans. Beatrix Farrand was a prolific pioneer in landscape gardening who designed dozens of magnificent gardens for wealthy clients and institutions during the first half of the twentieth century. She also designed the garden behind the Historic House that was renovated last year by the Garden Club of Virginia. Our plan is to screen this film at Green Spring in September and introduce our Beatrix Farrand garden to many others.

In 2002, when I first started working here, I thought I had stepped into my own sanctuary. Fifteen years later, with the hard work and creativity of staff, volunteers and FROGS, the sanctuary I share with thousands of visitors each year continues to blossom, grow and change through every season-- seasons I will truly miss when I say goodbye this summer. 🌸

*Sandy Rittenhouse-Black*  
Acting Manager

## Gardenline

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**Gardenline** is a newsletter published jointly by Green Spring Gardens and Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). Green Spring Gardens is administered by the Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division. For more information, call the park at

703-642-5173

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4603 Green Spring Road  
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A publication of  
Fairfax County, VA



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 Past President



Summertime might be a vacation at the beach or in the mountains for some, but for FROGS and the Green Spring Gardens staff, summer is anything but being laid back!

FROGS is happy to welcome you once again to the annual Concert in the Garden. The “Fender Benders” band returns by popular demand on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Rain or shine, this enjoyable evening takes place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come put up your feet and sing along as FROGS Board members serve complimentary lemonade and cake.

How about sending a kid to camp at Green Spring Gardens? The Children’s Education staff has many programs lined up. FROGS Library Committee also coordinates a yearly puppet show with the staff and sponsors. This very popular and usually sold out event will take place on August 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have small ones at home or coming to visit, purchase your tickets soon. Check out the FROGS website or pick up a copy of Program & Events at the Horticulture Center.

Too hot outside for adults but need a change of scenery? Be sure to visit Green Spring Gardens; there are two wonderful gift shops filled with treasures for all ages and artwork on display in the Historic House and Horticulture Center. The Glasshouse renovation is complete, and

you are welcome to spend time among the tropical plants dreaming of your winter get-away. Thinking of hosting a special event with English tea? The staff at the Historic House can help you--just ask!

Staff horticulturists and gardeners are busy keeping the gardens looking beautiful, planning for fall and winter gardening chores and propagating plants. Stop by and ask how many plants you see in the gardens are propagated on site... you will be amazed! The Garden Gate Plant Shop is open until the first frost, and don’t forget that FROGS members receive a discount on their purchases.

The entire Green Spring Gardens staff is top notch! Some work behind the scenes and others greet you at the front desk. No matter what their position, they are an incredible group of people,. Please say “hello and thanks” next time you see one of them!

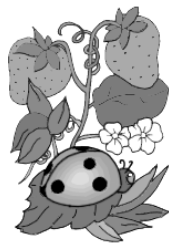
Fall Garden Day will be here before we know it... Saturday, September 9, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Your favorite plant vendors will return in addition to live music, the popular bake sale, children’s activities and, last but not least, treasures to bid on at the popular Silent Auction.

Activities unlike any others.... come to Green Spring Gardens and enjoy! 🌸

Please continue to visit us at [www.friendsofgreenspring.org](http://www.friendsofgreenspring.org), follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



## News about Green Spring Children’s Programs



Children’s Programs is now in its second year of Garden Sprouts: Nature’s Playgroup program for 2–5 year olds and their accompanying adults. Thanks to some of our wonderful volunteers who take on most of the planning, crafting and teaching of this program, it has been a great success and fun for all! Each month a different nature theme is explored through songs, activities, stories, and a seasonal walk around the gardens! These young nature explorers

can also enjoy a brand new summer camp this year. June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be debuting Garden Sprouts Summer Camp for ages 4 – 6 from 9am – noon. You can register for the program on our website and through Parktakes Program Code: 290 220 3601.



Priscilla Plumb  
Children’s Program Coordinator

# Growing Flowers in the Summer Sun



As spring changes into summer, flower gardens come into their own, becoming more splendid and beautiful. The range and variety of flowers, both annuals and perennials, is breathtaking. The Library at Green Spring Gardens has a wonderful collection of books illustrating many flower possibilities for summer gardens.

The books range from large, comprehensive works to more specialized presentations focusing on growing flowers. Here are a few selections, all containing gorgeous color illustrations:

The first three are examples of garden encyclopedias:

*The Complete Encyclopedia of Garden Flowers*, Kate Bryant, (San Diego, CA, Thunder Bay Press, 2003. 703p.). *The Complete Flower Gardener*, *The Comprehensive Guide to Growing Flowers Organically*, Karen Davis Cutler & Barbara W. Ellis, (N.Y., Wiley, 2007. 488p.). *Perennials*, *The Gardener's Reference*, Susan Carter, Carrie Becker, Bob Lilly (Portland, OR, Timber Press, 2007. 542p).

The next four books are more specialized presentations on flowers:

*The Flower Garden*, *Summer Flowers from Seed*, Alan Toogood,

(New York, Crescent Books, 1987. 112p.), Includes site planning, using colors, planting schemes, catalog of annuals and biennials by color, raising and growing them. Each flower included is pictured with information on spread, height, cultivation and propagation.

*The Gardening Year*, Lance Hattatt, (Bath, Parragon Publishing, 2000. 256p). Shows the gardener "how to make the most of his or her garden through the months of the year." It is arranged by month, with check lists and lists of chronological flowering. The summer months include color schemes of flowers, summer bedding, scented plants and containers.

*The New Flower Gardener*, Pipa Greenwood, (New York, DK Publishing 1998. 168p). Focuses on gardening with flowers, favorite flowers and perfect planting. Includes tables of scented flowers, fast growing flowers, flowering climbers, flowers for bees and butterflies, flowers for dry and damp places, for alkaline soil, for containers, for cutting and for ground cover.

*Success with Sun Loving Plants*, Graham Clarke, (East Sussex, Guild of Master Craftsman Publication, 2007. 159p.). Includes an A-Z plant directory, as well as information about planting. Section one discusses sunlight, shade, soil, maintaining plants, year-round care, and plant problems. Section two covers annuals, perennials, climbing plants, and flowering bulbous plants.

Browsing in the Library under GEN (general gardening), PER (perennials) and ANN (annuals) sections, one can find many more in-

## Fairfax County Turns 275

Throughout 2017, Fairfax County is commemorating its 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of special events. The signature celebratory event will be held on June 17 on the grounds of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse. Historical organizations from across the County will be providing a host of activities: live entertainment, living history, exhibits, booths, and displays.

Historic Green Spring will be participating with an exhibit booth showcasing our history and the life stories of our residents, spanning three centuries and reflecting the changing face of Fairfax County. Please come see us!

For more information, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/fairfax-county-275.htm>



### The Historic House: A Story in Pictures

Please step into the Historic House this summer to view a special limited-time exhibit of drawings, photos and correspondence that tell the fascinating history of the house and the families who lived here from 1784 to 1970.

The house is open Wednesday-Sunday, 12–4:30pm June 21–August 20.

teresting and useful books on growing flowers in the summer sun. In addition, please browse through the used book area to the left of the library entrance where there are many interesting books for sale at great prices. Remember that the Library accepts book and gardening magazine donations for resale. Library hours are Monday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 🌸

*Susan Freiband*  
Retired Librarian & Volunteer,  
Green Spring Gardens Library

# Art Shows at Green Spring

April 18 through June 18:

**Potomac Valley Watercolorists** exhibit “Natural Beauty.” throughout both the Horticulture Center and the Historic House.



*Remember: these lovely works of art are all for sale!*

June 20 through August 20:

**Lake Barcroft Art League** shows “Imagining Nature,” at the Horticulture Center and in the Straight Room at the Historic House. Mixed media, including painting and photography. Reception Sunday June 25 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

## Lesser Known Gardens

*Continued from page 1*

“sitting” rock for your enjoyment amidst white spring-flowering serviceberry (amelanchier), viburnum and buckeye (*aesculus glabra*). Be-

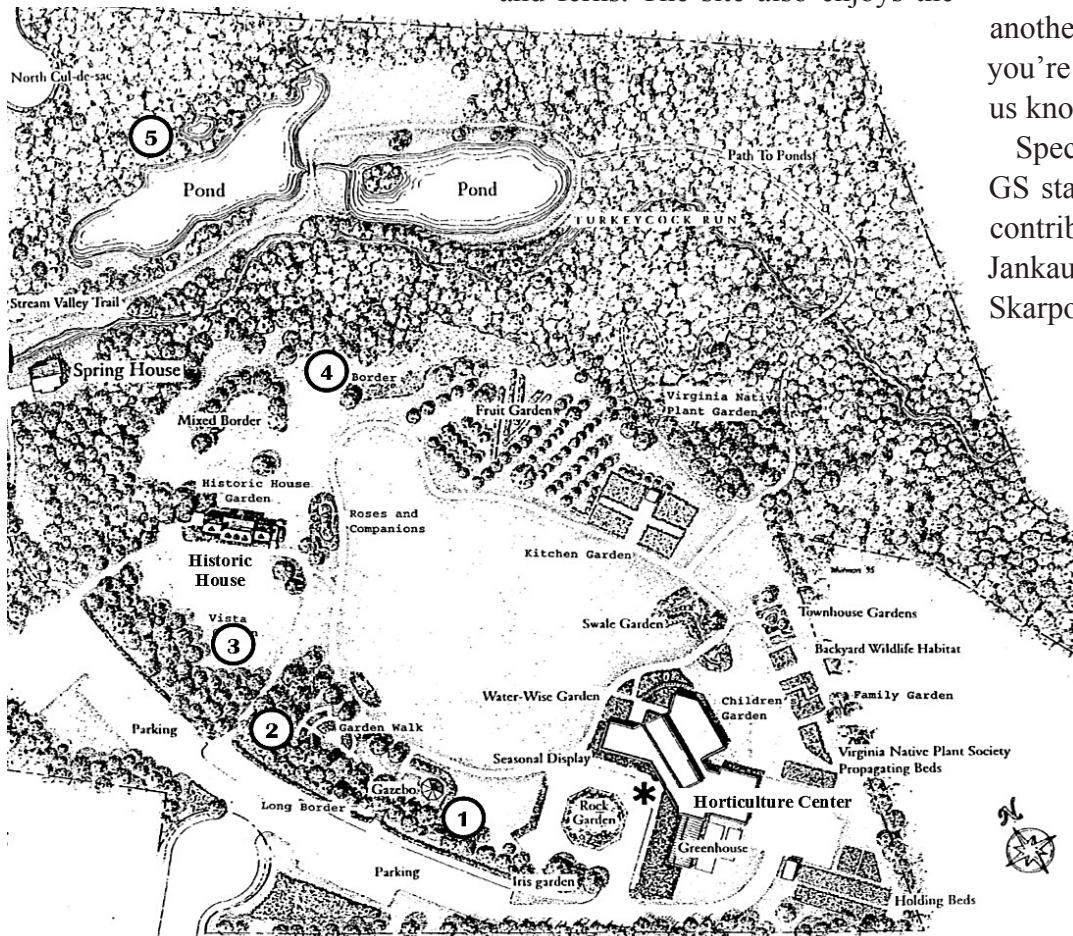
hind you is a natural planting of hollies, rhododendron and dogwood. The highlight of this area is the bog itself, as water flows down from the hillside stream before entering the ponds. The bog is planted with spring flowering water iris, cattails and ferns. The site also enjoys the

addition of numerous tropical plants that come from the Green Spring polyhouses to spend the summer along the stream banks.

These are just some of the many gardens Green Spring has to offer, with beauty at all times of the year. Next time you visit, you might find another “lesser-known” garden. If you’re willing to share the secret, let us know where it is!

Special thanks to the following GS staff members whose expertise contributed to this article: Frank Jankauskas, Nancy Olney, Brenda Skarpohl and Judy Zatsick. 🌸

*Sunny Greene*  
Co-Editor



### KEY TO MAP

- ① Woodland Gazebo Garden
- ② Cedar Path
- ③ Upper Vista Garden
- ④ Shrub Border
- ⑤ Bog Garden

## “Useful, with a Pleasant Degree of Humor”

*August 21, 2017: Total eclipse of the Sun... All regions of North America will be able to view a partial eclipse at some point....*

~ The Old Farmer’s Almanac 2017

THE OLD FARMER’S ALMANAC has been forecasting astronomical and meteorological events since 1792 (though it wasn’t called “old” until the 1848 edition.) It’s the oldest continuously published periodical in North America and it’s entirely fitting that it celebrates its 225th anniversary in this, the year of “The Great American

Eclipse,” the first solar eclipse over the U.S. mainland in 38 years.

The beloved book dispenses a trademark mix of astronomical data, weather predictions, tide tables, fun facts and quirky anecdotes, as well as useful advice on gardening, farming, food, fashion trends, home décor, and much more.

Describing itself as “Useful, with a pleasant degree of humor,” the Old Farmer’s Almanac quickly outstripped all other almanacs in popularity because of the high accuracy rate of its predictions. Its first editor, Robert B. Thomas, devised a secret weather forecasting formula that’s still used – and still kept secret.

The almanac’s rise to fame has also been attributed to a famous error in the 1816 edition....a forecast of snow that somehow made its way into the July weather outlook.

In many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century American households, reading material was limited to the Farmer’s Almanac and the Bible. It’s highly likely that early farmers at Green Spring relied on the almanac in the same way we now rely on websites and weather apps. It was the best resource to keep abreast of seasonal weather shifts, planting times, and other agricultural information. It became customary for readers to drill a hole in the upper left corner to hang it up in their homes, barns, or outhouses. In a nostalgic nod to its past, the book still comes with a hole punched into it.

Along with many other Park Authority sites, Green Spring will be celebrating the solar eclipse this summer. And we’ll be consulting the Old Farmer’s Almanac for detailed viewing information on the big day! In honor of the almanac’s 225 years of predicting such celestial spectacles, we’ll host a special program on Saturday, June 24. We’ll explore its wit and wisdom, sample its homespun humor and sage advice, and discuss just how accurate it really is.

For program information and reservations, please call the Historic House at 703-941-7987. 🌸

*Debbie Waugh  
Historic House Coordinator*

## FROGS Leadership Update

Mary Jane Medeiros, Past President

Several years of searching for a beach community in the South ended in success for this Cape Cod girl this past March. My husband and I have relocated to Florida, a place we have visited for over thirty years, and we are enjoying every minute of it!

It was certainly a great honor and lots of fun to serve as FROGS President. I have been fortunate to get to know many of you, the Green Spring Gardens staff, and especially my fellow FROGS board members.

FROGS leadership is strong and confident, with former president Susan Voss completing my term that ends in December 2017. Susan will be supported and assisted by our executive committee: Aimee Martin (Vice President), Tatiana Lisle (Treasurer) and Bevan Shimizu (Secretary). And we can also count on our continuing veteran board members.

FROGS board has also recently welcomed new members Gioia Forman, Julie Udani, Fred Blott and Dan Scott. They bring added talent and knowledge to your already very hard working Board. Please visit FROGS website to read more about all board members.

As FROGS immediate past president, I will continue to serve as a member of the FROGS board and look forward to seeing all of you during my future visits to Green Spring Gardens. 🌸

Photo by Kathy Triche; all rights reserved



FROGS Officers: Bevan Shimizu (Secretary), Susan Voss (President), Aimee Martin (Vice President), Tatiana Lisle (Treasurer)



# CALL FOR 2017 FALL GARDEN DAY SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

‘Silent’ but hardly subdued, the FROGS SILENT AUCTION has become a notable crowd draw at our annual Fall Garden Day fundraiser! Generous donations from FROGS members and local businesses make it all possible while ‘keeping Green Spring growing.’



Please help us by donating goods and services\* for this event. Our most popular 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

## Sports and Entertainment:

*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!*

- ☀ Decorative housewares (china, crystal, pottery, or silver)
- ☀ Fine art (paintings, photographs, or sculptures)
- ☀ Antiques (toys, tools, or textiles)

\* Items with minimum value of \$20.

To arrange item pickup and storage, or to volunteer to help acquire auction items, contact:

Susan Voss at [susanlvoss@gmail.com](mailto:susanlvoss@gmail.com) or 703.819.1590

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

*A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.*

## Help FROGS win Brent and Becky’s Competition



Brent and Becky’s is offering a presentation by Brent Heath to the organization that has the most “participants” who place orders in their popular Bloomin’ Bucks fund raising program and is in the top five organizations for dollars earned in 2017. Under the Blooming Bucks program, 25% of the orders placed is refunded to the non-profit organization. With over 1400 members,

FROGS should be able to rate high in this competition. Simply log on to [bloominbucks.com](http://bloominbucks.com), click on the drop-down box, scroll down to select Friends of Green Spring Gardens and then enter the online catalog. You’ll get a superb selection of garden items and help support Green Spring Gardens at the same time. Thank you!



FROGS Board honors Green Spring staff at Staff Appreciation Dinner. Ralph Weitz, Tatiana Lisle, Nancy Olney, Bill Peters, Sunny Greene, Frank Jankauskus  
Photo by Ralph Weitz; all rights reserved



# Gardenline

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

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## CONCERT IN THE GARDEN



Green Spring Gardens  
Tuesday, June 27  
6 pm-8 pm

Be our guests for a musical evening in the gardens with the Fender Benders, back by popular demand, 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.*