



Can You Dig It?

Welcome to the beginning of our 10th Year of writing "Can You Dig It"! It is so hard to believe that we have been doing this for 10 years.....and still have enough in us to hopefully keep you entertained and educated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that is contributed to this effort over these past 10 years.....as has been said, "It takes a village"!

With this issue we want to welcome a new member of our Committee, Louise Williams. Louise is also a new member of TCGC but comes to us with years of experience from the Perennial Garden Club, a GCA club in Washington, D.C. Welcome, Louise.

I might have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating, Christie Hamilton and Chloe Pitard are taking a break from CYDI. We will miss the lyrical writing of Christie and the always educational writing of Chloe; we hope you gals might join us again down the line. We also have Dede Hoopes taking a break to concentrate on her business: Dede promises to return when time allows. Thank you, Dede.

As they say in show business....."Now, on with the show."

Trish Reynolds
Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

*The Beauty of the Winter Garden.....*Louise Williams

*A Winter's Walk in TCGC's Gardens.....*Janet Mackey

Using Principles of Design to Create a Garden.....
.....Kim Eckert

*A Shady Past.....*Bobbie Brittingham

A Four Letter Word Worth Repeating & Planting.....
.....Lin Moeller

*House Plants 101.....*Trish Reynolds

Rubbing Shoulders with the Experts.....
.....Samantha McCall

Blanket by Kathie Fiveash,
Maine literary award winner

Editor.....Trish Reynolds
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The Beauty of the Winter Garden

❄ Louise Williams

There is nothing quite as dramatic and special as a winter view of your garden. The glorious soft colors of spring, the boldness of summer annuals and the special hues of autumn



lead to the stark winter months when leaves are gone and the tree shapes appear. How did everything become so dark? This black and white view of the garden is

spectacular. With shortened days one should appreciate the positives!

Snow simplifies everything in a garden, creating gaunt sculptural forms with their own unique beauty. Not unlike the sculptural wrought iron gate work of Charleston SC, the tangles of branches of a dormant bush or tree are reminiscent of the unmatched beauty of this art form.



On a winter day, sit by the fire with a cup of cocoa in hand and enjoy delightful garden books and catalogues – of which I’m sure you have many – and dream of what will delight you in a few short weeks. This is perhaps the most relaxing time of the gardening year.

Don’t forget that the most interesting thing in any garden is the person who gardens it!

A Winter’s Walk in TCGC’s Gardens

❄ Janet Mackey

On a couple of cold, gray days in January, I made a visit to each of TCGC’s gardens in Easton. Traveling from south to north, I strolled through the Children’s Garden in Idlewild Park, the Five Corners/Fountain Garden, the Historical Society Garden, the Huxley Herb Garden, and the Entry Garden at the Library. I wanted to experience each of the gardens in their quiet season, and I hoped for reassurance that spring would indeed find these gardens in the near future. I spoke with members of the various garden committees to get their perspectives on the gardens’ transition from winter to spring. I’m sharing my tour with you to encourage you to visit these gardens yourself in the off-season to enjoy the late winter beauty and to watch for the earliest signs of spring.

The **Children’s Garden** sports a new entrance installed in 2018 that welcomes visitors from the parking area along Aurora Avenue and focuses their view on the garden’s major features. I was drawn to the contorted branches and dangling catkins of Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* (“Contorta’), the lovely red stems of red twig dogwood, and the bird houses nestled among dried grasses. What characterizes the arrival of spring in the Children’s Garden? Boots Michalak, one of the Chairs of the Children’s Garden, assures me that it will be when the fountains come back on and the “little people” return. “The pleasure of that garden is seeing the joy of the children who use it.”



Corkscrew branches of Harry Lauder's Walking Stick



Birdhouse among the dried grasses in the Children's Garden



Smoothed-barked Crape Myrtle stands sentry by the Fountain

The **Five Corners/Fountain Garden** has beautiful architectural features that stand out year round – the multi-tiered



Daffodils emerging among fallen holly berries

fountain, beds edged with winterberry hollies whose branches are laden with red berries, towering hollies, and stately crape myrtles showing off their beautiful salmon-colored smooth bark. Anne Jelich, one of the Chairs of the Fountain Garden, says spring arrives with masses of early-, mid-, and late-flowering daffodils followed by gorgeous multi-colored peony-flowered tulips. Many people in Easton look forward to this display.

Architectural features also provide year-round structure in the **Historical Society Garden**. Brick walls, pathways, and garden edges define separate garden rooms, benches and stately containers add welcoming elements, and the grand trees, rows of hydrangeas, and the allee of crape myrtles beckon the visitor deeper



Camellia buds promise spring blooms

into the garden. Joey Frankos, one of the Chairs of the HSG, says she loves the profusion of informal flowering plants in the formal garden from spring through fall. I spotted several plants promising early-spring blooms, including a camellia, hellebores, epimedium, and eranthis. For Joey, though, spring in the garden means baby owls in the sycamore tree.



The allee of Crape Myrtles provide structure to the garden.



Ornamental kale shines on a rainy day



Pansy faces smile despite the winter chill.

The Historical Society Garden also is home to the **Huxley Herb Garden**. This charming space rewarded me with welcome bursts of color from ornamental kale, pansies, and perennial lavender plants. Peggy Hegwood, Chair of the Herb Garden, points out that they leave the previous season’s litter on the soil and seed heads on plants “for the pleasure of the winter garden residents,” such as birds and insects. To Peggy, spring in the Herb Garden means sharing herbs with garden club members, both seedlings planted by Mother Nature and divisions of perennial herbs.

The ***Gardens at the Library*** are our club's newest garden responsibility, growing from taking care of the containers near the entrance door, to planting tulip bulbs donated by People's Bank along the wall by West Street, to planting the Children's Garden in the annex to the Children's Library as part of the Young Gardeners Club, to planting the beds inside the courtyard at the entrance to the library. Cordy Tucker, Chair of the Library Gardens, says the Entrance Garden will have a variety of spring blooms including foam flowers, coral bells, and hellebores in addition to daffodils and tulips. "The burst of color from the bulbs was really spectacular last spring, and we hope it will be just as good this year!"



A lone tulip waits for Spring at the Library



A hellebore among daffodils promises spring blooms for Library patrons

The gardens that TCGC cares for around town play different roles in the lives of residents and visitors alike, and this is most apparent in the winter. The most viewed garden is the Five Corners/ Fountain Garden. The viewing, though, primarily is through a windshield as the car zips by *en route* to a warmer spot. Having strong architectural features makes the garden stand out from a distance. The garden that receives the most foot traffic in the winter is the Entrance Garden at the Library. Library patrons are a hardy set, and blustery winds and low temperatures do not keep them from walking by the containers and the beds that line the path to the library door. The number of visitors to the Historical Society Garden and the Herb Garden drops off with the temperature, but I saw a few folk who choose the scenic route along garden paths rather than the sidewalk outside the walls. I wasn't surprised that I didn't encounter any garden visitors in the Children's Garden. The garden's opportunities for exploration, inspiration, and play are much more appropriate without parkas, scarves, and gloves. When the little kids come back, the Children's Garden again will bloom. I hope some of you will visit a garden you might not have seen recently and watch for the arrival of spring!



Using Principles of Design to Create a Garden

✿ Kim Eckert

Many of us enjoy the beautiful gardens of our friends in the Club, as well as gardens of our own. Certainly, we can see what appeals to us without understanding the technical aspects of a design. Having a bit of knowledge regarding three principles of design will help to enhance our experience and give us new perspective when we view and/or create a garden. In addition, being able to identify the principles will allow you to incorporate a piece of a garden you love into your own landscape flawlessly.

The **first design principle is order**. Order is defined as the underlying visual structure of design in the entire garden. It can be symmetrical, asymmetrical or a mass collection of drifts. Symmetry is the easiest form of order to identify. It can be achieved with plantings (a boxwood hedge for example) or the color and bloom of flowering plants, creating a mirror image. Asymmetry is achieved through the balance of unequal parts. The height of trees on one side of a mixed border may be balanced by an open space or field on

the other side. Another way to achieve order is through large collections of drifts and waves. This type of order was made popular by my personal favorite garden designer of all time, Gertrude Jekyll. I call it *organized chaos*. I'm not sure she would appreciate that!

The **second design principle is unity**. Unity is the one piece of a garden that ties it all together. Unity can be achieved through color, materials used and/or shape. By repeating the use of certain elements, a garden will be linked together. I typically use color and materials. In my gardens in Easton, I have incorporated several different types of plant material that share the same color (chartreuse) to help one's eye move uninterrupted through my beds. The textures are different but, the color is the same. Plants I've used to create unity through color are *Carex "Everillo," Huechera "Pistache" and Hosta "Guacamole."* To carry the same color into sunny beds, I used *Spirea "Goldmound."*



The **third principle of garden design is rhythm**. Rhythm refers to the flow in a garden and it is created through repetition and alternation. It can be created through repetition and/or alternation of a color, texture or form and will set the pace of your garden. For example, plants that are close together and in a straight line encourage a quick pace through the garden, whereas a meandering border of irregular or wider spacing causes us to slow down. **Color** is used to draw your eye from one side of a garden to another as it moves you through the pathway. **Texture** is typically used to establish rhythm through the use of hardscaping

with steps and walls creating a pace as well as a direction. **Form** is used to draw your eye in the direction of the garden path or focal point at the end of a pathway.

Incorporating these three principles of garden design takes time and practice. We all know when we see it done well. We have so many examples of well-designed gardens amongst our members' homes and landscapes. Knowing the principles may just give us a different perspective, a deeper insight to know why some of the gardens we live near or visit make us feel relaxed, comfortable and happy. They are designed to make us feel that way.



A Shady Past

✿ **Bobbie Brittingham**

The old sayings --- "*Time waits for no one*"--- "*Everything changes*" --- "*Nothing stays the same*" all mean the same thing. Anyone who has been gardening for any length of time knows these sayings to be brutally honest. I have come face to face with this truth many times but this last time was really a doozie.

About eight years ago, I bought a new house and surrounding few acres after my husband had passed away. The house needed complete renovating and updating and the lot was virtually untouched except for several very large established shade trees and a few evergreens strewn around. I now joyfully had many different areas to build gardens that would require different conditions. I found a perfect location for the shade garden I lusted for during my many years of strong sunshine gardening. It was situated along the property line between my neighbors and I wanted to create a lot more privacy for us both. This lovely site with ample shade, dappled shade, and a little sun offered me an opportunity to use many of my special and prized plants I had divided, potted and/or dug and wrapped then moved to the new house. Plus, I had to start scouting for more of the plants I had to have for the new garden. The transferred plants from the old property were healed in at the new property in a well-protected area and heavily mulched. These were my special babies and some not so babies, but they had all been very small at one point. Their survival was important.

Providing most of the shade for this new garden was a very large wide spreading sliver maple. I know that they don't live very long and this one was probably planted thirty or forty years ago, maybe even longer, and would not last forever but I thought, "Oh well it will probably out last me." So I marched on with my plans for my new highly anticipated shade garden. You must remember that these plans were completely in my head, guided by a rampant imagination and visions of *Southern Living* or *Gun and Garden* clamoring to do a photo shoot! They were not on paper or in a computer so they were extremely subject to change.

The first few days of decent weather in very early spring signaled me to go ahead and begin laying out the garden. With the help of a good landscaper and his tribe of strong young manpower we pulled everything out from under their protective environment and did an inventory. The list read as this: "two of these, one of this, five of that, four of those, three more of I don't know, and a few we're not sure what that is but it must be good because I brought it with me." With man power and machine power we really made progress. I was amazed at how quickly things went in the ground after we made the often labored decision as to the placement of everything and then replaced the placement. In the end it looked remarkably established. Plants were close enough to create some screening but also gave them room to grow, along with lots of spots for some new guests. I've decided to call my plants *guests* because I'm never sure how long there going to stay.

I enjoyed adding to this hodgepodge shade border at all times of year. More hydrangea, camellia, hosta, ferns, hellebores, spring bulbs, lilies, astilbe, acuba, and on and on.

Each year I was amazed at how everything was filling in and developing. The border was so much fun because I finally had shade - something I had little of at the old house. The old maple tree hung in there and continued to provide the large shade canopy for the garden.

About two or three years ago, I noticed the aging maple tree was getting more aged with each passing storm or heavy weather event. It had been getting more hollow and large limbs, not just branches but huge limbs, were falling off too. A year ago, I had several very large limbs, almost trunk like, removed from the old fellow. Still it continued to deteriorate and I felt with impending doom of what the outcome would be.

I put off admitting to myself that it was fruitless to put the tree on life support. I knew it was hopeless. But what about my wonderful, well-established, overflowing with beauty, plethora of shade plants, overindulged credit card use, and online nursery catalog plant ordering that was often forgotten until it arrived for the shade garden. What will happen????? I'm not doing that!

After a lot of inner turmoil, I decided to take down only about two thirds of the tree. I knew it would create a lot of sun, but that was better than the alternative of felling the whole tree and having a lot more sun for the shade garden. Yes, the tree would be really uneven, lopsided and precariously leaning toward the house and block the driveway but at least I was making an effort to save both the tree and my garden. I felt so smug because I was getting away with it.

I called the tree removal company and they had their "expert" come out and go over the work I wanted done. He agreed with all the work I wanted done on other trees, but had some issues with my insistence on removing only a portion of the old maple tree. He valiantly tried persuading me to remove the whole tree and listed all the problems of leaving only a portion. I knew his reasons were sound, sincere and truthful. I had thought of these myself. I just couldn't bring myself to give in or give up. Bull headed, or hard headed might be accurate.

A last ditch effort on his part was the monetary aspect of the whole process. He appealed to the pocketbook. After his appraisal of taking down the tree in pieces at the same time as the other property work was done or having to come back in a few months to remove what was left at another high cost made me reconsider the termination of the tree over my shade garden. His most appealing argument for the removal of the entire tree was that by removing it in the fall the shade garden plants would be spared a tumultuous plunge into sunshine and would gradually be introduced to it during the spring. Mulling this over for a while gave me a new perspective. It wouldn't be full sun as there was some nice dappled and heavy shade areas under some of the older more developed plants and so what if a few don't like the sun. They can move elsewhere. This might allow me to add some other highly craved horticulture specimens to the mix. Also if, now that is if, the tree is removed it leaves a large area that is devoid of vegetative interest and really needs to

be developed. This would give me a site to introduce the big crabapple tree I have yearned for and then I could also add....

OK. OK. Chop it down.



When the tree had been felled and mostly removed, I went outside to inspect the results. I could see that the tree was almost completely

hollow down to the ground and would not have lasted upright much longer. That calmed my fears as to whether I had made the right choice. I looked at this new area now with anticipation of all the possibilities that were now presented to me. So sad. What a shame. A new border had to be created to protect the shade border. I'm not really sure if that argument is valid but it sounds good and who is going to rebuke me anyway? I should be able to scrounge around and find a few plants that could be moved to this new garden, after all it had been eight years since some things went in the ground and surely they might enjoy being in a different neighborhood.

With renewed enthusiasm, I strolled around my gardens looking for possible candidates to join this new horticulture assemblage. Well, I have one of these that I have to get out of the ground, and I have three of these too, and four of this one that has grown way too big, along with two under that big shrub, and oh, I forgot this has to be moved also. Oh how these have multiplied and are crowding out that one too. If my memory is correct (not usually) I did this same thing eight years ago. Isn't that just what a garden is all about? The constant change, an unforeseen opportunity being exposed and the circle of life continues for everything.



A Four Letter Word Worth Repeating & Planting

✿ Lin Moeller

Over four hundred years ago Captain John Smith journalized his experiences and observations while navigating his schallop along the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. He noted an area teeming with wildlife, waters thick with Bay grasses, great reefs of oysters creating navigational hazards at low tide, thick forested areas coming to water's edge, and the clarity of the water – twenty feet deep! During that time period, torrential rains like those of the past year would have made very little impact, run-off into the Bay. Why? The answer is a four letter word and lots of them – TREE.

Trees are the answer to improving a primary woe of the Bay. Trees are the answer to less sediment and nutrient runoff. Thus, trees are the answer to greater water clarity. Planting of at least one native tree this spring in our own 'Garden of Eden' or other designated areas is something each of us could do easily, thus helping to reverse the Bay's decline.

Four hundred years ago forested, woodland areas covered the Bay's watershed right to its shoreline. It created a canopy of coolness during summer months while also absorbing carbon dioxide. On the forested floor of the understory, protecting the trees' roots was a thick carpet of layered, dense matted leaves from past seasons, slowly decomposing and creating a rich, sustaining, composted soil. When heavy rains fell upon the lush canopies, they were slowed. As this wetness dripped off the leaves, it fell down through an understory of smaller trees and shrubs where it was further slowed. By the time the heavy rains reached the forest's floor, it was a steady trickle, slowly passing through the layers of decomposing leaves to be absorbed by the roots and soil. There was very little run-off into the Bay from these areas and that which did flow was low in nutrients and sediment. According to Tom Horton in the *January-February 2019 Bay Journal*, "Forests let the rains soak in and meter them back through groundwater during droughts, in effect stabilizing the Bay against flashy weather better than any other land use."



Photo by Trish Reynolds

One of the first and most influential voices of the conservation movement, Gifford Pinchot died more than 75 years ago. He developed the basic definition of conservation as the 'wise use' of our natural resources. Planting a tree is a common sense, wise thing to do with our natural resources to restore woodland and buffered areas for a clean and healthy Bay. As part of the *Bay's Clean-up Program*, for years farmers and waterfront homeowners have been encouraged to plant/create treed, vegetated buffers to absorb nutrient and sediment rich run-off. In January 2019 the Maryland Board of Public Works approved *Rural Legacy Grants* totaling \$2.1 million of funding to **'permanently protect working farms and forests, and provide vegetative stream buffers to improve water quality and bolster climate resilience.'** (DNR, Jan 23, 2019)

The benefit of planting native trees, especially to sustain wildlife is not a new concept to garden club members, but the importance of them in helping to curb climate change is equally important. Record high monthly average temperatures and rainfalls levels have been seen too frequently over the past couple of years. The forecast for the future is equally concerning. Scientists are still collecting data to determine the degree of impact of this past year's record rains on the Bay's past improvements. (*Bay Journal Jan-Feb 2019*) As we wait for the result, we each need to continue to do our part by trying to plant at least one native tree. In doing so, it is also important to note proper planting methods to make sure its roots will thrive, essentially planting it in good soil that encourages root growth beyond the root line and using mulch that will absorb and conserve moisture and prevent runoff.

Again, *trees are the answer*. Quoting a line from *The GCA's Winter 2019 Bulletin*, "...trees are nature's foundation." Trees "thrive because roots thrive. Roots provide structure, substance and strength."

TREE is a wonderful four letter word with all of its glory and splendor, providing great benefits when planted.

Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.

—Josephine Neuse

House Plants 101

❄ Trish Reynolds

To use another cliché – “what is old is new again” - and according to an article in *The American Gardener*, houseplants are going thru a “Renaissance” with “the current houseplant craze inspiring new generations to connect with nature while spurring innovation in the green industry.” (Jan/Feb/. 2019)

Most of us can reflect back on our mother and grandmother’s versions of houseplants. Ferns in the summer and African violets in the winter, with a few other easy plants thrown in. Today when we think of houseplants we can add succulents, terrarium plants, new and exciting cultivars of begonias, plants grown for their foliage or for their flowers, forcing bulbs in the winter and on and on.



Photo by Trish Reynolds

But before we leap into this “Renaissance” of houseplants there are few basic considerations we should keep in mind. Thus, Houseplants 101:

Light - Right light for the right place. Consider exposure. Do your windows have a northern exposure vs. southern exposure, eastern vs. western? You can change many things in your home but not your windows. Read the labels before buying your new plant and understand the light requirements. If you have not enough or the incorrect light for your plant you will stress the plant and this could lead to disease or insect damage. Remember too to rotate your plants. It is suggested every time you water them. Generally a south facing window will give you the brightest light and works well for our sun-loving plants, but perhaps not for what we might think would be good light, for example, cacti or succulents. West facing windows in the winter work well for shade loving plants and even some of the sun-lovers. East facing windows for shade lovers and north for “cast-iron” plants. So read the label or do some research. Plants will tell you when things are “wrong” – too little light and your plant will stretch toward the light and might develop yellow or brown leaves that eventually will fall off. Too much light (not usually our problem) can result in leaf scorch, or it may “frizzle” as if it is baked in an oven!

Temperature – Misconception - house plants (HP) need a toasty environment. Not true – if it is warm enough for you, it is warm enough for your HP. A good environment for your HP is 65-70F during the day with a 5 degree drop at night.

Too warm in the winter can lead to increased insect activity and remember to keep your plants away from heating vents and cold drafts.

Humidity - Lack of humidity and water can also be a problem for HP – exception cacti and succulents as they thrive in low humidity. But the majority of HP do suffer from a lack of humidity.

Contrary to popular thought, misting is not the answer. Wet leaves can bring disease. An alternative to misting would be to place your plants on a pebble tray with water, as the water evaporates it creates humidity.

Other thoughts –

If your HP looks bad – insect damage or on its last legs – say good-bye!

Avoid toxic plants, especially if you have curious pets or little grandchildren.

Proper watering, feeding, potting and repotting, grooming and pruning can make for the success or failure of your House Plants.

Editor’s Note – While “Can You Dig It?” has historically been devoted to horticulture-related articles, we have frequently featured articles on design for those of us that are more inclined to design as our favorite topic. We think that this enhances our newsletter and hope that you have enjoyed this feature.

We are once again being treated to a beautiful article/pictures by Samantha McCall....Enjoy, and maybe you will try to create a design to lighten your spirits during these dreary days of winter! Read on!

Rubbing Shoulders with the Experts

❁ Samantha McCall

Garden club confession time, ladies: I don't always read all of the emails that are sent to us. Scorn me if you will. I understand. It's not something that I am proud of. Nor is it a regular practice.

Thankfully I didn't miss a certain one in particular last September when an invitation was extended to join a GCA-led floral design workshop featuring acclaimed designer Jane Godshalk to be held outside of Philadelphia.

I knew Jane well from my days of studying for my Certificate in Floral Design at Longwood Gardens. Always graceful and poised, Jane was my favorite teacher there and I looked forward to being inspired by her newest techniques and designs.

This GCA workshop was listed as FA-301 and geared toward experienced designers to inspire "an easy-going way to prepare club members for flower shows." Sponsored by Zone V, the workshop was held in mid-October at the Radnor



Samantha's morning session design.

Methodist Church in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. I knew I was going to be out of my league but this country mouse was up for the challenge.

Organized by Mary Jo Strawbridge and Ginny Vtietjens, the workshop included an ambitious morning and afternoon session thankfully interrupted by a sumptuous homemade luncheon. And like all good workshops, it ended with a critique of our day's work.

In the morning, Jane

demonstrated an abstract design that hinted at having several points of emergence. We were all given a 4x4 white ceramic cube, to be filled with sand as support for 4 white dowels standing vertically in each corner. Other supplies included midollino sticks, bronze mesh, copper wire and water tubes as needed.

Aiming to create a focal area up high, she used roses, Ornithaligum, Antherium, white Nerine, bleached white oak leaves, passion flower vine, reindeer moss and Grevillea. "Adding vine at the end of the design creates another layer of dimension," said Jane, who expertly wrapped her design in passion flower vine.

Though the materials alone seemed kind of basic, when it all came together the design was stunning. It was just the beginning of imagining all kinds of design possibilities yet to be born.

Our lunch break was delicious and provided a nice opportunity to make new friends. I was surprised, however, at the short duration. These ladies, hailing from prominent

garden clubs in Philadelphia, Wilmington and beyond, are hardcore. They were there to design and learn. I was quick to learn that many of these women were blue-ribbon winners at "the flower show."

The afternoon session had similar plant materials and supplies but this time we got to design with the tall metal armature. There were few guidelines given and Jane's focus was to create a design that showed no point of emergence. In other words, the viewer would not be able to tell where the plant material originated.

This cutting-edge concept, she said, was coined by noted designers Hitomi Gilliam and Thomas de Bruyne, both of whom I've taken workshops with in the past. It's a concept she believes we will see more of in the future.

There were 22 students in total and the supplies were generous. We were each given an armature that can be re-used over and over again. The metal stand with six metal rods sticking up from the base was my favorite as I had never seen anything like it before. The flower material was rightly minimal as quite often in contemporary designs not much is needed.

In addition to the other plant materials from the morning, we were also given our own orchid plant. You could hear people hold their breath as Jane surgically dissected hers. She used the roots in one part of the design, the arching stem in another and finally she used U-glu to attach the blossoms to seemingly random pieces of the bronze mesh. The results were breathtaking.

There was so much to absorb from our immersion into the latest floral design trends that I left more than satisfied. I hope that our Zone VI will take Zone V's lead in holding floral design workshops of such high caliber because I can't wait to immerse myself in the next workshop.

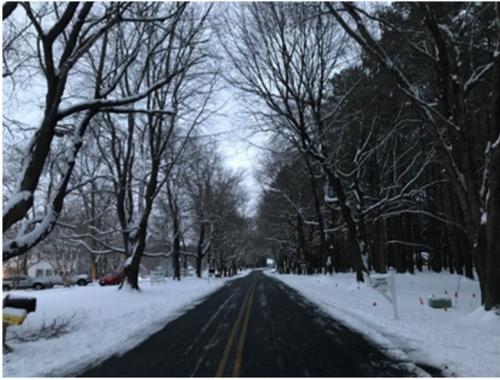
New portals of possibility were opened and the camaraderie of working next to other designers was almost as inspiring as learning from Jane. We were all given the same materials yet we all created our own individual designs. No two were alike.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of the day was hearing Jane say that good designs can take several attempts, re-dos and tweaks, if not more, to create. They can be tweaked for days, even weeks, as the final versions take shape.

I considered those parting words to be an invitation to play, to experiment and to explore all sorts of possibilities yet to be born. Traveling beyond the realm of rules and daring to create outside of the box. And that is just the recipe that continues to feed my creative soul.



Samantha's afternoon design, using midollino sticks wrapped in bouillon wire to create a diagonal line



We hope you have enjoyed our various winter musings. We look forward to visiting you again in late spring/early summer.

Soon enough winter will leave us. We can only hope!

Trish Reynolds, Editor

Photo—Louise Williams

Below is a beautiful poem contributed by Christie Hamilton – so perfect for this time of year!

**“....Under them the springtime lies.....”
(Written by Maine literary award winner, Kathie Fiveash)**

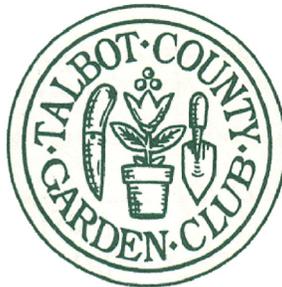
Blanket

**“Take every leaf on every tree
and put its tired green to bed,
and when the green has gone to sleep
and red and yellow lift their heads**

**set them shining in the sky,
wild against the blue expanse.
Loosen them and let them fly,
stir the wind until they dance**

**in airy swirls. Then lay them down
under the gentle hands of rain.
Turn their colors all to brown,
decompose their withered veins,**

**press them drenched in sodden layers,
freeze them with icy sighs,
bless them with your wintery prayers.
Under them the springtime lies.”**



TALBOT COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

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Member of

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National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Atlantic Region

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District I