

## **The Garden Club of Virginia Board of Governors' Meeting**

### **The Blue Ridge Garden Club Lexington, October 9, 10, 11, 2007 Re-Cap**

The 88th Board of Governors' Meeting in Lexington provided the perfect landscape for The Garden Club of Virginia. Hosted by The Blue Ridge Garden Club, the meeting celebrated growers, promoted community projects and encouraged membership. The gifts of work, wisdom and wealth guarantee the success of ongoing projects.

The GCV welcomes Rose Marie Tronge as The GCV's Executive Director. She encourages communication in keeping the future bright with the fast pace growth and development of all that is on line and in line. Christine Harris joins the Historic Garden Week office as the assistant to the Executive Director. Introduce yourself to these ladies at the Kent-Valentine House.

Conservation, orientation, restoration and education are the keys to Follow the Green Arrow for GCV new members. New member orientation sessions will be interesting, engaging, and mindful of the fun, friendship and future of The GCV.

The market value of the Investment Management Account is \$2,193,265.98. It holds the following:

1. The GCV Endowment
2. Common Wealth Award Fund
3. The GCV Conservation Fund

The GCV Year in Review explains the goal, lists the giving opportunities and the many community projects benefiting from the endowment. It is a marketing tool for cultivation, information and publicity. Read it today.

The Conservation and Beautification Committee asks everyone to change from witches britches (plastic grocery bags) to fabric ones (bags). Members are encouraged to attend Legislative Day, January 21, 2008.

The GCV Symposium will be held at the Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center February 11, 12, and 13, 2008. Learn about the local and global impact of horticulture, restoration and arranging. The Symposium is open to GCV members and their guests.

Historic Garden Week celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2008. The Restoration Committee gratefully benefits from the HGW proceeds. HGW Executive Director, Suzanne Munson, celebrated her 15th Anniversary with HGW. She was honored with 15 roses as she is the heart of HGW, maintaining its sophistication, charm and excellence.

The GCV established two new flower show awards:

1. A perpetual award was established in honor of Mary Jean Printz, Rivanna Garden Club, to be awarded at Rose Shows for the Best Blue Ribbon in Section III, Class 30, The GCV Member Club Rose Chairman Collection.
2. The family of Pat Lawson will honor their mother by giving the Pat Lawson Memorial Trophy at The GCV Daffodil Shows. It is open to all exhibitors and will be given for the best single stem in Division 7. Pat Lawson was a member of Roanoke Valley Garden Club.

For the 2007 Board of Governors' Horticulture Awards, The Spotswood Garden Club received third place, Mill Mountain Garden Club received second place, and Hillside Garden Club received first place for their tussie-mussies. The GCV members are invited to attend Horticulture Field Day May 8 and 9, 2008, in Leesburg.

The GCV is planning a trip to Spain October 21-30, 2008. Andalusia, Granada, Cordoba, Carmona, and Seville are the destinations. Gardens are the inspiration.

Congratulations to the 2007 Common Wealth Award winner, The Spotswood Garden Club, for its project at Camp Still Meadows. All other applicants are encouraged to re-submit their proposals for 2008.

**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS'**

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
OCTOBER 9, 10, AND 11, 2007

HOSTED BY  
THE BLUE RIDGE GARDEN CLUB  
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

ROSTER

**Officers of The Garden Club of Virginia  
2006-2008**

Sally Guy Brown. . . . . President  
Cabell West. . . . . First Vice President  
Kim Nash. . . . . Second Vice President  
Dianne Spence. . . . . Treasurer  
Ann Gordon Evans. . . . . Recording Secretary  
Mary Bruce Glaize. . . . . Corresponding Secretary

**Directors at Large**

Anne Cross. . . . . 2006-2008  
Grace Rice. . . . . 2006-2008  
Catherine Whitham. . . . . 2006-2008  
Peggy Bowditch. . . . . 2007-2009  
Di Cook. . . . . 2007-2009  
Glenna Graves. . . . . 2007-2009

**Former Presidents Attending**

Virginia Guild. . . . . 1990-1992  
Helen Murphy. . . . . 1992-1994  
Betty Schutte. . . . . 1996-1998  
Bessie Carter. . . . . 1998-2000  
Mina Wood. . . . . 2000-2002  
Mary Hart Darden. . . . . 2002-2004  
Deedy Bumgardner. . . . . 2004-2006

**Honorary Member**

C. Dudley Brown

### Chairmen of Standing Committees Attending

Lynne Beeler	Admissions
Donna Clausen	Annual and Board of Governors' Meetings
Nancy Lowry	Common Wealth Award
Cabell West*	Communications
Marsha Merrell*	Conservation and Beautification
Glenna Graves*	Daffodil
Karen Jamison	Development
Anne Baldwin*	Finance
Charlotte Benjamin	Flower Shows
Nina Mustard	GCV Online and Webmaster (Special Committee)
Sarah Bass	Historian and Custodian of Records
Tricia Sauer*	Historic Garden Week
Kay Van Allen	Horticulture
Nancy Bowles	Investment
Betsy Agelasto	<i>Journal</i> Advertising and <i>Journal</i> Chairman for Gail Braxton
Mason Beazley	<i>Journal</i> Editorial Board
Meg Clement* for Missy Buckingham	Kent-Valentine House
Mary Nelson Thompson	Lily
Jocelyn Connors	Massie Medal
Mary Hart Darden	Nominations
Meg Clement*	Parliamentarian and Editor of the Register
Deedy Bumgardner	Personnel
Linda Consolvo	Public Relations
Mary Lou Seilheimer*	Restoration
Pat Taylor	Rose
Betsy Worthington	Speaker Series

### Chairmen of Special Committees Attending

Mina Wood	Symposium
Kim Nash*	Outlook
Rose Marie Tronge	Executive Director of The Garden Club of Virginia
Suzanne Munson	Executive Director of Historic Garden Week

\*Member, The Garden Club of Virginia's Board of Directors

### Club Presidents/Alternates Attending

Albemarle Garden Club  
Candy Crosby, Alternate

Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club  
Ginger Wallach

The Garden Club of Alexandria  
Mary Kay Ryan

The Franklin Garden Club  
Ginna Cutchin

The Ashland Garden Club  
Lyn Hodnett

Gabriella Garden Club  
Sharon Whitt

The Augusta Garden Club  
Grace Rice

The Garden Study Club  
Donna Lawhon

The Blue Ridge Garden Club  
Julie MacKinlay

The Garden Club of Gloucester  
Peggy Bowditch, Alternate

The Boxwood Garden Club  
Nancy Bowles

The Hampton Roads Garden Club  
Joanne Prillaman

The Brunswick Garden Club  
Kay Outten

Harborfront Garden Club  
Elise Pitts

The Charlottesville Garden Club  
Allison Schildwachter

Hillside Garden Club  
Lisa Cresson

Chatham Garden Club  
Huntley Friend

The Hunting Creek Garden Club  
Lea Shuba

The Garden Club of Danville  
Anne Geyer

The Huntington Garden Club  
Carol Hogg

Dolley Madison Garden Club  
Page Sullenberger

The James River Garden Club  
Martha Ware Bryan

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore  
Ellen Lusk

The Leesburg Garden Club  
Cecelia Mahan

The Elizabeth River Garden Club  
Sandy Canada

The Little Garden Club of Winchester  
Suzy Oliver

The Garden Club of Fairfax  
Diane Wilkinson, Alternate

The Lynchburg Garden Club  
Catherine Madden

### **Club Presidents/Alternates Attending**

The Martinsville Garden Club  
Susan Morris

The Garden Club of the Middle  
Peninsula  
Ruth Childress

Mill Mountain Garden Club  
Jane Coulter

The Nansemond River Garden Club  
Pat House

The Garden Club of Norfolk  
Robin Ingram

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck  
C. J. Carter

The Petersburg Garden Club  
Laraine Smith

The Princess Anne Garden Club  
Betty Power

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club  
Betsy Quarles

Rivanna Garden Club  
Louise Tayloe

Roanoke Valley Garden Club  
Linda Steadman

The Spotswood Garden Club  
Monica Frackelton

Three Chopt Garden Club  
Lou Johnson

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of  
Westhampton  
Cabell West

The Virginia Beach Garden Club  
Carol Temple

The Garden Club of Warren County  
Diane Kline

The Warrenton Garden Club  
Kathi Lindquist

The Williamsburg Garden Club  
Lynn Ford

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club  
Betty Schutte, Alternate

# **THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA**

## **THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS'**

Lexington, Virginia

October 9, 10, 11, 2007

The Eighty-Eighth Board of Governors' Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia was called to order by the President, Sally Guy Brown, on October 10, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hampton Inn Col Alto.

Dianne Spence, The Williamsburg Garden Club, gave the following invocation:

*Let us pray:*

*Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for our safe arrival for the Eighty-Eighth Meeting of the Board of Governors' of The Garden Club of Virginia and for this beautiful town of Lexington. You make us truly aware of your gifts to us at this glorious time of year.*

*We ask that you guide us as we meet. Help us to use our hearts as well as our minds. We ask that you comfort those of us who grieve and show your tender compassion for those whose trials are known only to you. We ask that you instill in us the strength and courage to make the right choices, not the easy choices, for this organization and for the future of our Commonwealth.*

*We ask that the friendships we enjoy and the ideas we share send us on our way with renewed commitment to the ideals and goals of The Garden Club of Virginia and to the clubs we represent.*

*Heavenly Father, grant us your peace. Amen*

Sally Guy Brown thanked Frances Brooke, Margery Couper, Mary Stuart Gilliam, Jane Stubbs and the Associate members of The Blue Ridge Garden Club for the lovely Board of Directors' luncheon held at the Reeves Center on the Washington and Lee University campus on Tuesday, October 9. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar H. MacKinlay (Ed and Julie) for hosting the grand barn dinner at their farm on Tuesday evening, October 9. Sally Guy introduced the meeting co-chairmen, Julie MacKinlay, President of The Blue Ridge Garden Club, Julie Grover and Edith Prillaman.

### **Welcome: Julie MacKinlay, President, The Blue Ridge Garden Club**

The Blue Ridge Garden Club welcomes you to the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Board of Governors' Meeting here in Lexington, Virginia. We are so excited that you are finally here. We hope that you will have such a nice time that you will want to come back.



As with the Academy Awards, the people I need to thank for *producing* this event are too numerous to mention. However, my special thanks go out to my co-chairmen, Sissy Prillaman and Julie Grover. I thank Sissy for her unfailing willingness, wisdom and wit, and I thank Julie, who is also our Registrar, for being the brains of this operation. I would also like to recognize Suzanne Carmichael who wrote the wonderful histories for our booklet which I know you will enjoy reading, and Bidy Watson, our Horticulture Chairman for this meeting, who designed and built, with very little help from me, the very handsome trellises we have here in this room.

Again, welcome. Let us know if we can be helpful to you in any way. We hope you all learn a lot and have a really good time.

**Roll Call: Ann Gordon Evans, Recording Secretary**

Ann Gordon called the roll of the 88<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors' Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia and noted with deep appreciation the contributions of the former Presidents of The GCV.

Attendance:

- 7 Former Presidents
- 6 Officers
- 6 Directors at Large
- 25 Standing Committee Chairmen
- 3 Special Committee Chairmen
- 43 Club Presidents
- 4 Alternates for Club Presidents
- 1 Honorary Member
- 1 GCV Executive Director
- 1 Historic Garden Week Executive Director

Those members attending who hold 2 positions: 11

Those members attending who hold 3 positions: 1

Total persons attending: 84

**MOTION:** Mina Wood moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 2007 Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia.

Motion seconded and passed.

Note: These minutes were reviewed by the Board of Directors at its meeting on July 21, 2007.

## **REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:**

### **President: Sally Guy Brown**

Sally Guy asked Cabell West, First Vice President, to take the chair while she gave the following report:

This Board was charged with implementing the Strategic Plan, which was crafted in 2006. Since May 2006, we have been hard at work making the suggested changes. In some cases, we have followed a different path which seemed wiser. We have been diligent about working slowly and carefully. We have our plan, and we are implementing it to make a bright future for The Garden Club of Virginia.

It is not so different from a landscape plan. One first makes a conceptual plan of the site. You chart existing conditions and then decide on a demolition plan. Finally one makes detailed drawings of the grading and specific planting and hardscape. There are many similarities to a strategic plan. For one thing, no matter how beautifully crafted or drawn the plan is, whether it is done by a Business Consultant, or a Landscape Architect, if you don't have excellent and trustworthy workers, the plan means nothing. I have watched Will Rieley implementing his elegant landscape plans, and all of a sudden the brick layers quit or are incompetent, and the work has to stop until others can be found to finish the work. The same is true of our Strategic Plan. We will continue to work toward our goals. We have been successful because of this talented, intelligent Board of Directors and all of the highly competent committee chairmen who have worked diligently to get the work done. Therefore, I would ask them all (the Board of Directors and the Committee Chairmen) to stand for a big round of applause. I thank you all.

### **First Vice President: Cabell West**

For once, I do not have a report. You will hear about all of the good works of the Communications Committee woven into many of the reports to follow.

I do have one thing that I would like to say. Thank you to each of you for all of the love, care and concern that you have shown me and my family. You are important to me. A dear friend of mine told me long ago that if you work in the dirt, you will not go crazy. So my advice to each of you is to keep working in the dirt, be it dirt in your garden or in your community's garden.

### **Second Vice President: Kim Nash**

No report.

### **Treasurer: Dianne Spence**

Madam President and Ladies: The Board of Directors has granted permission for me to present a summarized Treasurer's report. The detailed figures will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting.

This financial report is for the first quarter of our new fiscal year which began July 1, 2007, and ended September 30, 2007.

The balance in the Bank of America Operating Account totaled \$62,866.37. The market value of the Investment Management of Virginia Account which holds The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment, the Common Wealth Award Fund, and the Conservation Fund totaled \$2,193,265.98. The SEED Fund, an acronym for Support, Education, Events, and Development holds laddered Treasury Notes and a money market account totaled \$76,030.39.

The total for the three accounts on September 30, 2007, was 2,332,162.74.

**Recording Secretary: Ann Gordon Evans**

No report.

**Corresponding Secretary: Mary Bruce Glaize**

Madam President, Members of The Garden Club of Virginia and Guests: The Corresponding Secretary serves as New Member Orientation Committee Chairman for The Garden Club of Virginia and the keeper of correspondence, to and from The GCV.

The goal of The GCV New Members Orientation Committee is to provide an opportunity for each new member across the state to receive a brief and thorough orientation to The GCV, recognizing that not every new member may want it, and some other members may enjoy it.

The first round of orientation meetings will include new members from the past five years. The meetings will be held every two years following the first meeting. Anyone is encouraged to attend, especially the newest members of The GCV. The member club presidents will be informed of the sessions in a timely fashion. The new members will receive an invitation in the mail, and reminders will be listed on The GCV Website. The names of The GCV's newest members will be retrieved from the new database. An invitation to the planned meetings will be generated from the office of the Executive Director, Rose Marie Tronge. The orientation meetings will be lead by The GCV Corresponding Secretary and attended by the President, the Chairman of the Development Committee, the Orientation Leaders, the member club presidents and, of course, any interested members. The orientation sessions will be held in each of the HGW Districts. Do you know your Historic Garden Week District? The Eastern Shore will attend the District III session.

The New Members Orientation Leaders are:

Lynne Beeler (IV) - Martinsville

Candy Carden (I) - Northern Neck

Laura Dansby (II) - Spotswood

Kim Nash (V) - Warrenton

Betty Power (III)-Princess Anne

Betsy Quarles - Rappahannock Valley

Chairman-Mary Bruce Glaize - The GCV Corresponding Secretary

Ex Officio-Sally Guy Brown - The GCV President

Liaison-Karen Jamison - The GCV Development Chairman

Advisor-Catherine Whitham - Strategic Plan Committee

The new member orientation will cover the CORE of The GCV: *Conservation, Orientation, Restoration and Education*.

To keep the new members interested, engaged, and mindful of the fun friendship and future of The GCV, the sessions will start with refreshments and a brief slide show. They will continue with a rousing game of BINGO re-named *ARROW* and end with a time for questions, answers and encouragement from The GCV President and Development Committee. Twenty-five opportunities available to the membership of The GCV are named on the *ARROW* card. *ARROW* can be called if the player has completed five of the opportunities. They have to be five in a row on the *ARROW* card. How many of you could call *ARROW*?

This year, in addition to corresponding with the new members, notes of encouragement and condolence have been sent. Letters of accommodation and appreciation were mailed when appropriate. The GCV has also responded to grant requests accordingly. Thank each of you for continually keeping everyone informed of the needs of the membership. The duties of the Corresponding Secretary include welcoming the Honorary Members of The GCV. It is also the job of the Corresponding Secretary to respond to requests for mailing lists. It is the policy of The GCV to share the mailing addresses of the member club presidents for a one time use only upon written request.

Your club will move forward with the energy and enthusiasm generated by your membership. As once said, "Start with good people, lay out the rules, communicate with your members, motivate them and reward them." If we do all of those things effectively, we can't miss.

Sally Guy introduced and welcomed the new Executive Director of The Garden Club of Virginia, Rose Marie Tronge.

### **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:**

#### **Finance: Anne Baldwin**

It is my pleasure to be serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee for these two years. As you know, the Finance Committee supervises all the monies belonging to The Garden Club of Virginia. Our fall meeting was held September 17, 2007, and at that time we reviewed the financial reports from the treasurers of The Garden Club of Virginia, Historic Garden Week, the Kent-Valentine House and the Restoration Committee. We also reviewed the latest reports from the Investment Committee and the work of our Development Committee. In addition, we reviewed the insurance needs of The Garden Club of Virginia.

The current budget for 2007-2008 was presented and approved at the Annual Meeting in May 2007. Since we did not print a new copy of the Register this year, it is available for you on our GCV Website in the *Members Only* section. You can click on the *Contact Us* section and find a link to the 2007-2008 Updates. There have been no amendments to this budget.

I would like to remind all committee chairmen that the Finance Committee must approve in advance any expenditure that is not covered in this current Budget. In January 2008, I will begin contacting all officers and committee chairmen to talk about their budget allowances and to make recommendations for the 2008-2009 Budget.

I also would like to remind you of the increase in the amount of the annual dues submitted by member clubs for their members from \$25 to \$40 beginning with the dues billing in 2009. This increase will impact the 2009-2010 GCV Budget. I am sending a letter to each of the Club Presidents with more details on the need for this increase. I am available by e-mail or phone, if I can answer any further questions.

I want to thank everyone who serves on the Finance Committee. We take very seriously the responsibility of seeing that the monies of The Garden Club of Virginia are handled and invested responsibly.

### **Investment: Nancy Bowles**

Madam President, Ladies and Guests: The Investment Committee is dedicated to its mission of overseeing the management of all funds in the Trust Accounts of The Garden Club of Virginia. The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment, invested in equities and fixed income, consists of The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment, the Common Wealth Award Fund and The GCV Conservation Fund. The investment policy is conservative, with a long range objective of achieving future growth while providing funds for immediate needs. An annual draw of four to five percent is made each year for The GCV Operating Account for maintenance of the Kent-Valentine House, Administrator's salary, the Common Wealth Award and contingencies. The SEED Fund, invested in fixed income and cash equivalents, is used at the discretion of the Board of Directors for Support, Education, Events and Development. The funds have been professionally managed by Investment Management of Virginia since their inception in 2000.

As of September 30, 2007, the combined total of Garden Club of Virginia investments was \$2,274,316.00. Year to date, the total account is up 7.6%, compared to the Balanced Index of 8.1%.

At our meeting in September, the Investment Committee authorized the formation of the Restoration Investment Advisory Committee as a sub-committee of The GCV Investment Committee. The performance of Restoration Investments will be reviewed annually by this committee.

In closing, I hope all of us will help The Garden Club of Virginia plan for the future with our gifts, memorials and bequests to the Endowment Fund. This organization is so rich in its heritage and mission, and it is our responsibility to preserve and enrich this wonderful legacy.

### **Development: Karen Jamison**

Madam President, Members and Guests: Development Committee efforts continue to be guided by the lofty challenge to raise The GCV Endowment to \$3,000,000 by the year 2012. This charge was presented to the committee when the Strategic Plan was introduced at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Charlottesville. Since that time we have been working to create a multi-phase Development Plan to work towards this goal. Our

investment advisors have encouraged the endowment growth to keep up with the ever increasing costs of maintaining and preserving the historic Kent-Valentine House.

Today I am pleased to report that we have exciting news. A new publication, which is a part of the master Development Plan, *The GCV Year in Review*, has been published and is in the mail. You should be receiving it soon. This publication will serve many purposes. It will be used as a marketing tool to interest prospective new members, as a cultivation tool to educate our membership on all The GCV does throughout the state, and as an informational tool for legislators and the public to be better informed about the work of The GCV. This is a first for The GCV, and we hope to be able to continue this publication on an annual basis.

In the first quarter of the new fiscal year (July 1-September 30, 2007) we have received a total of \$12,855.00 in contributions. This includes gifts to the Endowment, The GCV Conservation Fund, the Common Wealth Award Fund and the SEED Fund, all of which come under the umbrella of Development. This represents gifts from 56 individuals. This is an increase over last year during this same time frame. However, The GCV has more than 3300 members and we have 47 member clubs. We encourage everyone to consider giving a gift to The GCV, and we strongly encourage 100% participation of all member clubs.

We are presently working on drafting a detailed Development Plan which will include several constituencies. Once prepared it will be presented to the Finance Committee for approval and it will then move on to the Board of Directors for review.

We will keep you abreast of our efforts as we move forward. Thank you for your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure to this wonderful organization.

### **Common Wealth Award: Nancy Lowry**

Madam President, Ladies and Gentleman: As many of you know, the Common Wealth Award is the only award voted upon by all of the members of The Garden Club of Virginia. The award was begun in 1979 to show appreciation to local clubs for their hard work over the years in making Historic Garden Week successful. The funds from HGW go to Restoration projects. The GCV felt a strong need to support current local projects as well. This year's committee has chosen to give the full amount available, \$9,000, to a single winner. We felt that amount would have a significant impact on the proposed project.

This year's three finalists are:

- The Garden Club of Fairfax - Meadowlark Botanical Garden - *The Lake Lina Wetland*
- The Brunswick Garden Club - A Fort Called Christ-Anna and Its Indian Trading Center
- The Spotswood Garden Club - Camp Still Meadows

We will now distribute green ballots for your votes. Please sign your club's name at the bottom of the ballot. Vote for only one project. The winner will be announced at the banquet tonight. The tellers will collect the ballots as you finish voting.

Projects to be submitted for next year's award should be involved in conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and/or education. The project must benefit your locality or the state at large. Proposals are due by March 1, 2008. The committee will

select the finalists and announce them at the May 2008 Annual Meeting. The guidelines for the Common Wealth Award are listed on The GCV Website.

This is your opportunity to both benefit your community and promote The GCV in your locality. Environmental and *green* issues are more prevalent today than at any other time in our history. Use this chance for the Common Wealth Award to be an active force in your community.

We look forward to receiving many proposals.

Pat House, president of The Nansemond River Garden Club, presented a Power Point update on the 2006 Common Wealth Award recipient, The Cedar Hill Project: The Heritage Garden.

### **Symposium: Mina Wood**

Madam President: *Celebrate 2008*, the first GCV Symposium, will be held February 11, 12, 13, 2008, in Fredericksburg at the Expo and Convention Center. The Symposium coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Historic Garden Week, and is planned to provide a stimulating, educational and entertaining experience for The GCV members and their guests. It will incorporate top speakers, exciting vendors, beautiful receptions, and delicious lunches, comfortable accommodations in new hotels, free passes and tours to the four GCV restorations in Fredericksburg:

- Kenmore
- Belmont
- Mary Washington House and Garden
- Mary Ball Washington Monument

The Symposium is designed to promote fun, friendship and many long, lasting impressions and information about The Garden Club of Virginia.

The cost of the Symposium from mid-day Monday to mid-day Wednesday is \$175. The price can be broken down as follows:

- Monday-free restoration tours of both houses and gardens and an opening reception: \$50
- Tuesday-four major speakers including lunch and a dinner reception: \$125
- Wednesday-speaker and panel of four distinguished landscape architects and a restoration workshop with lunch: \$50
- The tickets are non-refundable but they are transferable.

Each GCV member will receive a detailed brochure/registration form by the end of October 2007, detailing all of the events. The Symposium can accommodate 800 people (approximately 20 people from each member club).

The Symposium Committee is seeking sponsors/underwriters for the event.

### **Historic Garden Week, Suzanne Munson, Executive Director**

Good morning. While some Historic Garden Week Chairmen are taking a breather now between their September Guidebook deadlines and their April tours, the fall is actually our busiest time of the year at headquarters. Guidebook copy and ads have been pouring in from throughout the state with write-ups for more than 30 tours and

artwork for approximately 300 ads. We work on the copy and ads until mid-January, when the book goes on the press, and then there is major distribution in February.

By January, I also will have the Guidebook copy attached to the Historic Garden Week Website and will include pictures and highlights there for the 2008 tours. From all indications, our tours next year will be glorious with beautiful houses and gardens of all sizes and descriptions for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. The cover of the Guidebook will include a scenic, springtime picture of Kenmore, The Garden Club of Virginia's first historic restoration project with funding from Historic Garden Week tours.

While Historic Garden Week is near and dear to the hearts of many in The GCV, we are always pleased when this very special program is honored outside of our group. In August, the obituary of a lovely lady appeared in the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*. In the second paragraph, before any of her other accomplishments were listed, her family noted, "Peggy was an avid and accomplished gardener. She was very proud to be a part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia and had her garden published and toured in 1988." This was a tribute not only to her own gardening talents but also to the regard she held for Historic Garden Week and for the fine work of The Garden Club of Virginia. We thank Linda Consolvo for being such a careful newspaper reader and for giving us this nice clipping.

Another homeowner, who was asked to participate next year, has a sizeable staff to assist her with her landscape. When she agreed to open, she said, "Oh, my gardeners are going to be so pleased." We are grateful to all gardeners, the paid staff as well as the unpaid homeowners, who are working right now to prepare their beautiful properties for our guests next spring.

With all of the hard work that goes into producing Historic Garden Week, by homeowners, volunteers and staff, we want to be sure that clubs are rewarded by good attendance on tour day. Good publicity is key to our success. We don't want to give a party and worry whether people have received their invitations. With this thought in mind, we are conducting a marketing and public relations workshop at the Kent-Valentine House on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, for all 2008 Historic Garden Week publicity chairmen. Cabell West, The GCV Communications Chairman, has asked club presidents also to send club members who have other GCV/club publicity responsibilities. If any of you would like to attend, just let me know by next Monday, including plans to stay for lunch. The program will be held from 10:00 a.m. through lunch, with break-out discussion sessions during the lunch hour. Please encourage members of your club to attend this important meeting. It's the first of its kind and can be very valuable in getting our message out to the public.

In February 2008, The Garden Club of Virginia will honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Historic Garden Week by making Historic Garden Week and historic restoration the major themes of The GCV's first Symposium, a major event to be held in Fredericksburg. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will also be highlighted in our Guidebook, brochures, posters, Website, news releases and other publicity. Historic Garden Week tours have been held every year since 1929, except for a period during World War II when club members tended their Victory Gardens, totaling more than seven decades of outstanding tours.

How do you describe a 75-year-old? In the case of Historic Garden Week, she is beautiful, sophisticated, charming, interesting and enduring because she reflects the



best qualities of The Garden Club of Virginia and because she has been so well cared for and so well-groomed by generations of GCV members. I thank you and your dedicated club members for continuing to make this wonderful event such a great success.

Note: Tricia Sauer presented Suzanne Munson with a bouquet of 15 roses, signifying her 15 years of loyalty and excellence, serving as the Executive Director of Historic Garden Week for The Garden Club of Virginia.

### **Historic Garden Week, Tricia Sauer**

Good morning. This has been a busy and eventful year in the Historic Garden Week office. In May, Susan Flowers retired after twenty years of service, and Christine Harris was hired as Assistant to the Executive Director, joining Suzanne Munson at headquarters. Christine has learned her new duties cheerfully and capably, and we are so pleased to have her on board. She has a calm, pleasant manner, and we know that you will enjoy getting to know her. Just as we are glad to have her on the team, Christine has said many times how glad she is to be working in the beautiful Kent-Valentine House with such a nice group of people.

She and Suzanne are immersed in Guidebook production, fielding questions about Historic Garden Week, and scores of other duties. Plans are already underway for 2009, as we recommend a head start of at least a year and a half for adequate preparation. Meanwhile, the 2008 tours are shaping up beautifully for Historic Garden Week's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sally Guy Brown and I will be comparing our schedules soon to see how many tours we can possibly take in next April.

I also look forward to traveling in February 2008 to District Garden Week programs to meet with local tour chairmen from throughout the state. Following the state Historic Garden Week Committee meeting in January, Suzanne and I drive to local meetings held at the homes of District Chairmen in Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg and Williamsburg, as well as one for the District I Chairmen at the Kent-Valentine House. These are excellent opportunities to exchange information, answer questions, and get a feel for Historic Garden Week organization at the local level.

In September, we met with the printers of the Guidebook to review the production schedule. Christine and Suzanne are both extremely busy getting the book ready for the presses, Christine handling the ads and Suzanne the copy and overall coordination. We are pleased to say that the Historic Garden Week office can now offer color options to advertisers in the inside pages as well as the cover sections. As the years go by, we should see more and more color inside and hopefully, more income from ads to offset our expenses. The printing part of the Guidebook bill is covered by advertising revenue, and in the future we want the shipping costs to be covered as well. Special thanks to members of your clubs who labored this summer to sell ads to businesses across the state.

This year, we want to commend a number of clubs for reducing their tour expenses, helping with the bottom line used by the Restoration Committee to fund our important restoration projects. Local tour expenses amounted to \$95,390, a reduction of \$23,679 from last year. Cost savings occurred through reductions in the number of purchased

flowers, fewer shuttles needed for several walking tours this time, and many other variables. We especially want to commend three clubs for submitting "0" expenses on their reports, deducting nothing from their tour income. Chatham Garden Club submits "0" expenses every year, a very admirable, long-standing tradition. The Garden Club of Warren County deducted only \$15 for a money box and guest book, so we are counting that as essentially "0" in expenses. The Garden Club of Norfolk had a number of routine costs, but these were covered by a \$5,000 gift from an anonymous donor. Hats off to 2007 Norfolk tour Chairman, Pam Combs, for working this bit of magic and to all clubs for your diligent work.

All of this is to say that all club members, from the smallest to the largest areas of our state, are putting their hearts into Historic Garden Week and their shoulders to the wheel to benefit our many beautiful historic restoration programs throughout Virginia. Thank you, one and all, for making this outstanding event possible each and every year.

### **Restoration: Mary Lou Seilheimer**

Two special events for The Garden Club of Virginia and the Restoration Committee took place recently. On September 25, 2007, the presentation of the renovated and conserved grounds at Historic St. Luke's Church in Isle of Wight took place. Our work there consisted of planting trees and shrubs to screen the church setting from encroaching development and thus preserve the tranquility of the churchyard. We also added to, realigned, and widened brick walks, and we reconfigured the parking and added plantings and a wrought iron fence to enhance the visitors' experience from the time they enter the parking lot until they get to the church.

Two days later, the presentation to APVA Preservation Virginia of the Yeardeley House garden at Historic Jamestown was made. This garden is a reinterpretation of the 1920's garden that was originally filled with 48 roses, one representing each state. Over the years, the garden declined and the roses were removed. Within the original boundary of the old garden, Mr. Rieley designed a simple oval of grass, bordered by a new brick walk and surrounded by plantings of native trees and shrubs. The original central sundial remains. Large boxwoods were brought in to fill in the gaps. Two magnificent metal bowers, which add an important architectural feature, will have climbing roses to remind us of the many roses that once filled the space. The Restoration Committee felt that this garden would be a meaningful way for The Garden Club of Virginia to participate in the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing of Jamestown

At both events, we had a wonderful turn-out of Garden Club members and other interested people. At both events, our President, Sally Guy Brown, welcomed everyone; William D. Rieley, Landscape Architect for The Garden Club of Virginia, described the research and design work and history of each property; I made the actual presentations. Representatives of both properties thanked The Garden Club of Virginia and expressed their great appreciation for the work that had been done. They also provided lovely receptions for all of the visitors. You should all feel very proud of these new properties which are now added to the list of restorations made possible with the money you work so hard to raise during Historic Garden Week.

The Restoration Committee held its regular fall meeting in Smithfield, between the two presentations, and we also visited Bacon's Castle and Smith's Fort Plantation. I am happy to report that the new brick steps and walks at the Mary Washington Monument are complete and beautiful. The work on repointing the wall is nearing completion, and the plantings will go in as soon as the weather cools off and we have some rain. The restoration of the Pavilion VI Garden at the University of Virginia is also nearing completion, and the plantings there also await a change in the weather. The Committee voted to refurbish the garden adjacent to the bowknot garden at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, formerly the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, and an area where some plants had out-grown their space or had declined as conditions changed with time. Lilacs, bulbs, tree peonies and a fence will be added. The committee also voted to replace the roof of the gazebo at the St. John Mews in Richmond, and at the same time, to restore the landscape back to the original Griswold plan of the late 1960's. You may begin to see a pattern here of the Restoration Committee revisiting some of our wonderful old restorations which were completed so long ago that they are in need of some restoration. This committee feels that it is important for us to consider the needs of our older restorations as we also look at possible new projects.

In May, I reported that the John Handley High School in Winchester had made a request of The Garden Club to restore the beautiful park in front of the school and that the committee voted to ask Mr. Rieley to research the original plans and to create a conceptual plan to be given to Handley High School. Mr. Rieley has presented these plans to the School Board and there is much enthusiasm for the potential restoration. Our current commitment was only to provide a plan, but we may be asked to contribute, along with others, to its eventual implementation.

Our 2007 Rudy J. Favretti Historic Landscape Fellow, Carrie Trebil, is student at Clemson University pursuing a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. Carrie researched and documented the grounds at Bloomsbury, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century home of James Taylor in Orange County. Many landscape features remain adjacent to the immaculately restored house, including the site of a sunken garden, a cemetery, and significant old road traces. Carrie did excellent work discovering some important historical data and also providing an oral history from the owner.

*Historic Virginia Gardens, Volume Two* has gone to press. The manuscript and the photographs are outstanding, and the University Press is thrilled with what they have received.

I encourage everyone attending the Conservation Forum to stop and visit Ker Place in Onancock, our only restoration on the Eastern Shore.

I have brought copies of our Restoration Brochures, which I hope you will take and share with your friends. This is another way the Restoration Committee shares the good work of The Garden Club of Virginia. And last, I want to let you know that the Power Point presentation that I am giving tomorrow is not the same one I gave at the 2007 Annual Meeting. It has been revised, refreshed, and has pictures of some of the properties I have reported on today.

### **Admissions: Lynne Beeler**

Madam President, Ladies and Gentleman: As Chairman of the Admissions Committee, it is my job to receive the names of prospective GCV clubs and names of individuals who might be considered for honorary membership. At the May 2007 Annual Meeting, we fulfilled one of these jobs. Calder Loth, the Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, was unanimously elected and introduced as our newest Honorary Member.

About the same time there were rumblings and high hopes that a new club would be joining our ranks. However, this did not come to be.

If you are aware of a garden club that can fulfill The GCV requirements of a member club, please let me know. Should you know of someone who has made noteworthy contributions in conjunction with The Garden Club of Virginia in order to preserve our Virginia heritage, and who would be a suitable candidate for honorary membership, I would appreciate a call.

### **Historian and Custodian of Records: Sarah Bass**

As Historian and Custodian of Records, it is my charge to maintain the official minutes of The GCV meetings and to collect and store the member club histories, yearly handbooks and supplements.

Each club has an archival box that contains the club's information. The boxes are stored on the second floor of the Kent-Valentine House. The GCV minutes and other related information is stored in the files in the basement of the K-V House.

This information is available to any club to review if it is doing research about its own clubs, if it is gathering information about other clubs or if it needs information about The GCV meetings. I encourage the club members to look at the boxes when they visit the Kent-Valentine House.

I have contacted the member club Historians and asked that they send to me the current histories, handbooks and any other information they may want to put in their box. This can be done by mail or perhaps some of you presidents have brought this information to this meeting. I have a box marked "Member Club Histories and Handbooks" on the information table.

If any of you have questions about the histories, please feel free to contact me.

### **Conservation and Beautification: Marsha Merrell**

The Conservation and Beautification Committee held the annual Workshop for club conservation chairmen on September 10, 2007, at the Kent-Valentine House. The theme of the workshop was "Make an Impact in Your Community." Presentations on programs and projects were followed by breakout sessions. A club manual has been given or mailed out. We hope the manuals will be of value as your chairmen carry out their duties. Included in the manual are program ideas and contact information, legislative pointers and a comprehensive list of green Websites. A power point presentation on the work of The GCV in Conservation and Beautification was presented, and now each club has a copy. I hope you will make every effort to show

this in your club and encourage your membership to make a donation to The GCV Conservation Fund. We should be very proud of our collective work in conservation to make the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place. We look forward to being able to provide funds for major club projects in the near future.

If you have not registered for the Conservation Forum to be held on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands on November 7 and 8, 2007, please do so soon. The deadline is October 20, 2007. Unfortunately, we are limited to 150 participants. The line-up of field trips is superb. The theme of the forum is "Competition and Cooperation on Virginia's Eastern Shore." Bob Bloxom, the Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Karen Terwilliger, former head of Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Alice Baird for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Program, will be the speakers.

Legislative Day will be January 21, 2008. This year The GCV will combine with the Virginia Conservation Network's Lobby Day. Please get to know your newly elected Delegate and Senator.

The Deadline for the submission of nominees for the deLacy Gray Medal is December 1, 2007. This Medal is presented to an individual member or club in The GCV for outstanding efforts to further the knowledge of our natural resources and to encourage the wise use of them. There are many deserving conservationists in our clubs. Please take the time to nominate a member or your club.

Do you know what these plastic grocery bags are? They are "witches britches." You see them in trees most especially in the winter. The James River Garden Club is issuing a challenge to all clubs to encourage all members to stop using them. Here are examples of reusable bags. We receive all sorts of cloth bags. Save them and take them shopping with you. I keep an assortment in my car at all times. By doing this simple act, we can reduce the amount of oil used, decrease the amount of non biodegradable materials in the landfills and beautify the countryside.

Sally Guy introduced GCV Honorary Member C. Dudley Brown who thanked the members of The Garden Club of Virginia for their good work, highlighting the important example set for historic properties with the Balustrades Project at the Kent-Valentine House.

Deedy Bumgardner announced that The GCV *Members' Handbooks* (\$3.50) are available for sale during the Board of Governors' Meeting. She encouraged club presidents to make them available to their officers and to their new members.

Sally Guy reconvened the 88<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors' Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on October 11, 2007. She congratulated The Spotswood Garden Club for receiving the 2007 Common Wealth Award in the amount of \$9,000 for Camp Still Meadows in Rockingham County. The camp provides year-round therapeutic activities for children and adults with mental retardation and/or physical disabilities in a safe, creative environment. Monica Frackelton, president of The Spotswood Garden Club, accepted the award at the Board of Governors' Banquet on October 10, 2007.

## **Online and Webmaster: Nina Mustard**

Nina conducted an Online Training Session for the delegates to the Board of Governors' Meeting.

## **Flower Shows: Charlotte Benjamin**

Madam President, Past Presidents, Board of Directors Members, Club Presidents and Guests: It is my pleasure to report on the recent activities of the Flower Shows Committee. This Committee is a very active committee, and the members of The GCV benefit from the fruits of its labor. It is responsible for the oversight of three GCV Flower Shows, hosted annually by GCV member clubs. It conducts annual Flower Arranging Schools and spring Workshops and it manages The GCV Artistic Judges' program. Each of these mentioned events now has an intentional educational component. This new feature has been enthusiastically received.

In 2008 we will have two additional events for you to look forward to. We are delighted to be part of the first GCV Symposium and happy to announce that the Flower Shows Committee is sponsoring a morning and afternoon seminar workshop at the Symposium. Also, 2008 is the target year for publishing the new *GCV Flower Shows Handbook*

Since the GCV Annual Board Meeting, three annual events have occurred:

- The Winchester-Clarke Garden Club hosted a beautiful Lily Show in June. Aptly named the *Wonders of Our World*, it truly showcased the wonderful and diverse qualities of the lily. The Club is now busy making plans for next year's show.
- September found the Committee once again at LGBG, conducting the 2007 GCV Flower Arranging School. The speaker this year was Julia Clevett who thoroughly engaged her audience with her vast knowledge and lovely English personality. She graciously gave us her beautiful arrangements with containers to raffle at the end of the program. This raffle and the silent auction item, a beautiful, anonymously donated Victorian bronze container, certainly lent additional excitement to the day. This year was the first year that the School was able to use a portion of the designated gift given to The GCV SEED Fund by the Boxwood Garden Club and the Stuckey Family. This gift, given in memory of Millie Stuckey, is to be used by Flower Shows Committees to help underwrite the cost of speakers for the Schools. It was my great pleasure at this year's School to publicly acknowledge this wonderful gift and to thank The Boxwood Garden Club. For The GCV, this is a gift that will keep on giving. Also, the Judges Program experienced a bountiful resurgence with many new applicants taking the exam.
- Last week beautiful rivers and roses surrounded us at The GCV Rose Show. The Middle Peninsula Garden Club's final show, *River Reflections*, was gorgeous, in spite of awful summer weather conditions. For the next two years The Franklin Garden Club will be hosting The GCV Rose Show.

On behalf of the Flower Shows Committee, I thank Mary Wynn McDaniel and her family for their most generous contribution to The Garden Club of Virginia. Their company, Hilldrup Moving and Storage, provides storage and transportation for our

entire assemblage of flower shows properties. At each show, the host club and this Committee experience the importance of this valuable gift.

Last year The GCV Board of Directors engaged a consultant to work with the Flower Shows Committee "to research and explore the unique aspects of GCV flower shows." Working with consultant, Beth Morchower, this past year has been a pleasant experience. We recently received her final report and look forward to the Board of Directors' comments.

I know every committee chairman thinks she has the best committee, but I know the Flower Shows Committee is the very best committee. The members of the committee love what they do, and they do it well. I thank them for serving The GCV with excellence. Because of their good work, I can proudly say that each of the recent Schools and Workshops has made a significant profit for The Garden Club of Virginia. Thanks to GCV members, our *Flower Shows Handbooks* have been 'spilling black ink' for more than a year.

Throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, the reputation and esteem of The Garden Club of Virginia is rightly recognized. It is my privilege to be your representative as Chairman of the Flower Shows Committee.

C. J. Carter, president of The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, issued the following invitation to the Daffodil Show, April 2-3, 2008: Nestled between the Potomac River to the north and the Rappahannock River to the south, lies the tiny Kingdom of the Northern Neck. The northern most peninsula in Virginia, our eastern border is a major migration flyway. The Chesapeake Bay is home to hundreds of migrating birds, ducks, and most notably the Tundra Swan. In April bushels of crabs and oysters are gathered, frogs turn into princes and the Neck comes alive in the color yellow. Our Kingdom offers cozy B&B's, nouveau cuisine restaurants and chic shops.

We are ready to welcome you to the Daffodil Show, and so that you don't forget the date on April 2 and 3, 2008, we offer each of you a *Daffy Twister*.

### **Rose: Pat Taylor**

The Garden Club of Virginia's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Show took place October 3 and 4, 2007, at Christchurch School. It was hosted by The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, under the leadership of Show Chairmen, Lexi Byers and Anne Bland. The members of The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula once again provided the organizational skills, attention to detail, and dedication necessary to orchestrate an exemplary flower show.

The Rose Show boasted spectacular blooms, as 106 exhibitors entered 215 stems in the Horticulture division and 64 arrangements in the Artistic division. Exhibitors Howard and Sara Jones captured the Horticultural Sweepstakes Award, and GCV member Kathy Watson of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton was awarded the Dr. and Mrs. James R. Hundley Perpetual Trophy for the Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-up. The collection of roses representing The Garden Club of the Northern Neck won the Rose Chairman's Cup for the best GCV Member Club Collection amidst stiff competition.

The Rose Committee met September 19, 2007, at the Kent-Valentine House to choose roses for the 2008 collection. The names of the three roses comprising this year's collection and ordering information are currently posted on The GCV Website. The deadline for ordering the rose collection is December 1, 2007. Presidents, if you know your club's rose chairman does not have internet access, please have your Online Chairman print out the information from The GCV Website and give it to her, so she can announce the ordering details to your membership.

Following the Rose Committee meeting on September 19, an educational program focusing on successful tips for exhibiting roses was presented for the benefit of member club Rose Chairmen. Judging from The GCV members whose roses won trophies at the Rose Show, I feel the program was a resounding success.

I wish to thank Sally Guy Brown for the privilege of serving as GCV Rose Chairman, Nina Mustard for her help with the Rose Page on The GCV Website, the ladies of The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula for two successful Rose Shows and members of The GCV Rose Committee for their invaluable help and support.

Pat noted that the explanation for ordering the 2008 Rose Collection is on The GCV Website. Each member club Rose Chairman is to send one check for her club's orders, payable to Pat Taylor. The deadline is December 1, 2007. The complete list of the awards from the 2007 Rose Show is on The GCV Website.

Note: The Board of Directors voted to establish a perpetual award in honor of Mary Jean Printz, Rivanna Garden Club, to be awarded at Rose Shows for the best blue ribbon in Section III, Class 30, *The GCV Member Club Rose Chairman Collection*.

### **Daffodil: Glenna Graves**

Madam President and Members: Many of you have just attended the Rose Show at Christchurch School, sponsored by The Middle Peninsula Garden Club, and enjoyed the fall beauty of the area. April 2 and 3, 2008, you are invited to attend the Daffodil Show at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene, hosted by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck. You can enjoy the springtime beauty and the beginning of a new growing season in the same general area. The church offers plenty of space in the exhibit hall, the workrooms, and for parking, so please come and enjoy the beautiful show.

Under the horticulture exhibit tables you will find the 377 club daffodil collections as well as the 417 Garden Collections. Many clubs have multiple bags so please check your space carefully. Your daffodil chairman will be expecting the collections so please deliver them soon. Don't leave them in your hot cars as they need to stay cool. If your space is empty, either you did not order collections or they have already been picked up or delivered.

The GCV Daffodil Committee welcomes a new member, Joyce Rice, of The Roanoke Valley Garden Club. The committee has 15 members from clubs across the state including our GCV President and Flower Shows Chairman. This committee will meet on November 5, 2008, at the Kent-Valentine House for the selection of next year's collection. We anticipate a very informative workshop/meeting at the Kent-Valentine



House in March 2008 for the entire member clubs daffodil chairmen, their alternates and other club members who want to learn more about getting your blooms ready for competition.

The GCV Board of Directors approved a new daffodil award beginning with the 2008 Daffodil Show. It is the Pat Lawson Memorial Trophy to be awarded annually to any exhibitor for the best single stem in Division 7. The award is given by her family. Pat Lawson was a member of Roanoke Valley Garden Club.

### **Lily: Mary Nelson Thompson**

The 2007 Lily Show hosted by Winchester-Clarke Garden Club was a tremendous success. In spite of inclement weather, 191 horticulture entries graced the lovely Millwood Station in Winchester. Forty-five clubs presented outstanding creative and period arrangements. The competition was as challenging as I have ever seen it to be.

Wonderful publicity made this a great public relations event for The GCV. Local merchants were thrilled with the economic impact of our show on their area. Many are making plans to make next year's event even more enjoyable.

Blandy Arboretum, a recipient of GCV Restoration funds, was the site of the 2-day Lily Horticulture and Judging Class. Twenty-five ladies attended with five entering the judging program. The second half of this excellent educational program will be presented at the show site next year, as it will involve horticulture identification.

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club is to be congratulated on keeping expenses down, while producing a first rate show. President, Elaine Brandt, Co-chairmen, Jean Gilpin and Susan Claytor, Club Chairmen, and all members worked diligently to make this possible. As always, our out of club participants and judges are most impressed with the superior quality of The GCV Lily Show. We are looking forward to the 2008 Lily Show.

There were 323 lily collections ordered this year. They will be delivered by the end of October. I encourage you to plant the bulbs when the earth cools down. The bulbs may be kept refrigerated until ready for planting.

### **Horticulture: Kay Van Allen**

Madam President, Board of Governors' Delegates, Ladies of Culture...Horticulture: Your Horticulture Committee has had a wonderful year, and here are some of the highlights. For the May 2007 Annual Meeting in Newport News, our committee members Linda Pinkham and Libby Oliver, in keeping with the overall theme of celebrating the founding of our country, created a well researched and beautifully presented exhibit featuring plants that the first settlers would have encountered when they landed at Jamestown. Our committee has decided to have bi-annual themes. This is the year of *DIRT*. We plan to have an article in the upcoming *Journal* by Heidi Baldwin on composting. Archer Hunt and Tata Kellum are working on a short program for each club chairman to present to her own club. For the 2008 Annual Meeting in Richmond, C. J. Carter is leading a team to produce an exhibit on dirt.

We will participate in the 2008 Symposium with a presentation by our own Linda Pinkham on "The Thrill of the Hunt for Better Plants." She will talk about new plants and

explain the Beautiful Gardens™ program started by VA Tech and VA Nurserymen and Landscape Association.

Horticulture Field Day this spring is going to be a day to remember. Di Cook is cooking up a true feast for the eyes. There is an arboretum full of fabulous trees, private gardens to die for and a wildflower walk that has my heart racing. Put May 8 and 9, 2008, on your calendar now.

Thank you all for participating in our Tussie-Mussie run off. You are the best judges. The winners are: Third place-The Spotswood Garden Club, Second place-Mill Mountain Garden Club, First place-Hillside Garden Club. Congratulations to each of you.

Remember to compost. Composting creates black gold (dirt).

### **Journal: Mason Beazley, Editor**

The September issue of the *Journal* was both the swan song of our former Editor, Peggy Federhart, and the maiden voyage of the team she had worked so hard to train, the Editorial Board. At our August planning meeting, Peggy formally announced her resignation as Editor and very shortly she and her husband set off on a trip to Oregon, leaving us to complete the September *Journal*.

Peggy, who served as a volunteer in a job that had previously been a paid position, worked hard for the past 2 years to give the Editorial Board a broader role. She assigned each of us a particular area of responsibility and allowed us lots of room, both for creativity and for the inevitable mistakes. Now, we were on our own. Laurie Starke agreed to act as Editor Pro Tem and to use her computer skills to put together the mock up, a difficult and crucial job. The rest of us worked to get the lists, the ads, the pictures and the articles in shape to go to press.

With email, Oregon is a lot closer than it once was, and we kept in touch with Peggy who gave us guidance when we asked for it, but otherwise let her little team do its work.

Jeanette Cadwallender will assume the Editorship in the spring of 2008. I think she will find that she has a focused Editorial Board, well prepared and ready to do its part, thanks to Peggy's superb organizational skills, foresight and wisdom.

### **Journal: Betsy Agelasto for Gail Braxton**

We appreciate so much the talents of Peggy Federhart who retired as Editor of The GCV *Journal*. We will miss her guidance. Fortunately the *Journal* is continuing to do well thanks to Laurie Starke, Editor Pro Tem, the Editorial Board and Betsy Agelasto, *Journal* Advertising Chairman.

The *Journal* is sent to our membership and to individual subscribers. It is also available on The GCV Website if you need to review a special article.

We thank Rose Marie Tronge, The GCV Executive Director, for her help with the returned *Journal* covers for incorrect addresses. It costs The GCV \$.75 for each returned cover, so please ask your Online Chairman to review her club's database regularly to keep it accurate. Since October 2006 we have had 95 *Journal* cover returns from a variety of clubs.

As *Journal* Committee Chairman, I am responsible for the business end of the *Journal*. I have recently filed an annual post office form, and I monitor the budget. I wish to give special thanks to Dianne Spence, The GCV Treasurer, who keeps track of all of our expenses. We have just had a postage rate increase so we will continue to watch the budget closely.

**Journal: Betsy Agelasto, Advertising**

The job of The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* Advertising Chairman is to find and co-ordinate advertising for The GCV *Journal*. Since the *Journal* reaches all 3400 members of the 47 GCV clubs around the state, it is the perfect market for any advertiser, including any of you wanting to advertise your own club event. Your club can take advantage of the 50% discount which can make a ¼ page ad in the *Journal* very reasonable. The Virginia Beach Garden Club and The Garden Club of Norfolk advertised in the *Journal* for their Tidewater Garden Symposium in March and so did The Garden Club of Gloucester for their annual Daffodil Show. Be sure to put those dates on your calendar as soon as you get your *Journal*.

So if my job is to advertise for the *Journal*, let me give a little bonus to our December advertisers and tell all of you to go to Bizarre Bazaar in Richmond to do your Christmas shopping; get excited about The GCV Symposium when you see the City of Fredericksburg's full page ad; tour the gardens of the Maymont Home and Garden Show in Richmond; try on sweaters at The Fashion Gallery in Staunton and buy your fall pansies from Strange's in Richmond. They are wonderful *Journal* advertisers, so be sure to tell them, "I saw your ad in The Garden Club of Virginia's *Journal*." Then, be sure to buy something from our advertisers.

**Kent-Valentine House: Meg Clement for Missy Buckingham**

Madam President and Ladies: This past summer afforded us the opportunity, thanks to the willingness of our new Executive Director, Rose Marie Tronge, to do an extensive review of all of the systems in the House as well as review interior and exterior maintenance of our beautiful Garden Club of Virginia headquarters. Improvements have been made, services upgraded and new procedures implemented. The staff members, including those with Historic Garden Week, have entered the whirlwind of fall with gracious expertise. There have been numerous club and committee meetings as well as several weddings, receptions and photo shoots so far. We encourage all of you to plan at least one club function this year at your GCV headquarters and also to consider the Kent-Valentine House for your personal use. Reduced member rates are listed on the Website. Please stop by the House any time you are in Richmond. You are always welcome.

**Parliamentarian and Editor of the Register: Meg Clement**

No report.

## **Personnel: Deedy Bumgardner**

The Personnel Committee is responsible for overseeing all GCV staff, the hiring of new employees, and conducting annual reviews. Since my report at the Annual Meeting in May 2007, the committee finished interviews and hired the replacements needed for Executive Director of The Garden Club of Virginia and the Assistant to the Executive Director of Historic Garden Week. Both women started working the end of May 2007.

Rose Marie Tronge fills the full time position as Executive Director of The GCV and has hit the road running. Due to her educational background and work experience, this native of Ohio has brought new and much needed resources to the position. Her responsibilities are many, and she is busy mastering them.

The part time position of being Suzanne Munson's assistant had been filled by Christine Harris. This Mary Washington College graduate previously worked as a paralegal and then for the Henrico County Public schools. She came with great recommendations and is living up to our high expectations.

Rose Marie and Christine are quickly learning the ways of The GCV. Be a help and tell them your name and GCV position when you see them. We are so pleased that these positions were filled with these attractive, smart, enthusiastic, capable women and warmly welcome them to our family.

Suzanne Munson has been the "mother" to answer questions and give assistance as these new women settle into their jobs. Thank you, Suzanne, for your help and the continued wonderful work you do for The GCV.

## **Executive Director of The GCV: Rose Marie Tronge**

Madam President and members of the Board of Governors': It is an honor to be a part of The Garden Club of Virginia and a pleasure working with all of you wonderful ladies. Since this is my first official meeting, I'm going to talk about my job responsibilities.

My daily responsibilities include:

- Managing operations at the K-V House
- Office Administration, including K-V House finances
- Website content and Communications
- Overseeing Rentals and Event Planning
- Develop Marketing Ideas
- Support Business Development

So far, the projects I've completed to-date are:

- Worked with Suzanne Wright to clean up the library. Raised \$1,600 for the library fund.
- Designed new rental packets
- Launched our new Website and held training sessions
- K-V House
  - Replaced missing downspouts

- Corrected phone bill and saved \$2,000/year
- 5 rugs on first floor repaired and cleaned
- Hired new grounds keeping service with more experience and attention to detail
- Met with most of the vendors who work on the house and grounds
- Ensured we have adequate exterior lighting
- Increase security by adding 4 motion sensors
- Upgraded office computers to MS Office 2003, Antivirus software, back-up system
- Events
  - Wedding ceremony in July and October 6
  - The house is reserved for a wedding in December
  - Several committee meetings in August and September

In the upcoming months, I will finish several projects, including:

- Replace recalled sprinkler heads
- Establish back-up plan for personnel
- Implement Disaster Plan
- Provide additional Website training sessions
- Write K-V House Procedure Manual
- Schedule basement clean-up project (summer)

### **Nominations: Mary Hart Darden**

Madam President and Members of the Board of Governors': You should have in your possession a light green envelope addressed to you as President of your Club or Chairman of your GCV Committee or Officer of the Club and Past Presidents of The Garden Club of Virginia. If you are a substitute for any of these positions, please deliver the envelope to the person whose address appears on the envelope or return the envelope to me for mailing.

This year we need nominations for all the Officers and three Directors-at-Large. You will note that two spaces have been allocated for these positions. We gladly accept two suggestions of talented and dedicated women in The GCV for each office up for election.

This year there is a third sheet in the envelope. This is a request for recommendations for people with specific talents needed in the committee structure of The GCV. Take some time and think about your suggestions. These names will be given to the incoming Chairmen of Standing Committees for the replenishment of their teams. I will ask that you add one more specific need to the list. That is, a member with Human Resources experience. Please include it along with your ballot in the stamped and addressed envelope and mail to me by November 15, 2007. The Nominations Committee is scheduled to meet at the Kent-Valentine House early in December to review all information and prepare a slate to present to you at the Annual Meeting in May 2008.

If you have any questions or concerns, Betty Schutte, Mina Wood, Deedy Bumgardner, Cabell West, Mary Lou Seilheimer and I will be available to help.

**Public Relations: Linda Consolvo**

No report.

**Massie Medal: Jocelyn Connors**

The Massie Medal is the most prestigious award presented by The Garden Club of Virginia, and I wish to invite you and your members to send nominations for the 2008 award. The criteria, as stated in our Bylaws, is that “the Recipient(s), in the judgment of the Committee, must have done outstanding work in gardening, served The Garden Club of Virginia with unusual dedication and distinction, improved the quality of life or have been effective in the protection, restoration or preservation of the natural beauties of our Commonwealth.” The winners of the Massie Medal, the Distinguished Achievement Medal for 2007, were Genie and David Diller, members of The Spotswood Garden Club. With their passion for lilies and dedication to horticulture and the education of others, they more than met the criteria for this award.

An *individual member, honorary member, or a member club* of The Garden Club of Virginia is eligible to receive the Massie Medal. The candidate(s) must be proposed by an individual club of The Garden Club of Virginia and endorsed by two other clubs. Previous, non-winning proposals may be resubmitted, as is, or updated. The proposals must be in the hands of the chairman of the committee by December 1, 2007.

Guidelines and an application form to be used in proposing your candidate(s) may be found under GCV Awards in the Members Only section of The GCV Website. If you wish, you may send a one page letter telling us about the candidate(s). This would be helpful to the committee. You will also find a list of recent past recipients. This information, along with a list of current members of the Massie Medal Committee was mailed to all club presidents in August. For more information, please contact me. I thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Jocelyn read a thank-you note from David and Genie Diller, recipients of the 2007 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement at the 2007 Annual Meeting, thanking The Garden Club of Virginia for honoring them with the award.

**The GCV Trip to Andalusia, Spain: October 21-30, 2008: Jocelyn Connors**

The plans for our trip to Spain have been finalized. I am very pleased to be able to present this short Power Point presentation of the itinerary and other details to you this morning. Mary Anne Wilson, who will accompany us on the trip, is the recently retired Director of the Junior Year in Spain program at Sweet Briar College. She and I have been working with Barbara Fulford, the President of Valesa Cultural Services in Madrid, who planned this wonderful itinerary especially for The Garden Club of Virginia. Barbara is an American citizen who founded her company nearly 30 years ago. It is the best destination management tour company in Spain, one that provides unsurpassed

expertise and personal contact, providing customized arrangements with creative itineraries.

We will place reservation forms and all the pertinent information and details on The GCV Website on October 19, 2007. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis based on the receipt of reservation forms and deposits. The maximum number of travelers will be 24. Due to the fluctuation of the dollar, the price of the trip is based on the Euro. I urge you to arrange to have a roommate for the trip, for as you will see, the price increases substantially for single rooms: 3,875 Euros for double occupancy, and 1043 Euros, single supplement.

We are working with a local travel agent on reasonably priced airline tickets, but many people may prefer to make their own arrangements. Husbands and GCV friends are welcome.

### **Seminars**

There were three seminars for all Board of Governors' delegates to attend. Each delegate attended two of the following three seminars:

- *Conservation* conducted by Marsha Merrell
- *Restoration* conducted by Mary Lou Seilheimer
- *Development (How to Seek and Retain Club Members)* conducted by Karen Jamison and Catherine Whitham

Sally Guy reconvened The Board of Governors' Meeting following the seminars.

### **Annual and Board of Governors' Meetings: Donna Clausen**

Madam President and Ladies: The Blue Ridge Garden Club has outdone itself, providing us all a most memorable three days. Thank you, Julie MacKinlay, Sissy Prillaman and Julie Grover for years of hard work.

It is my pleasure to introduce Cabell West, president of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, and Sandy Canada, president of The Elizabeth River Garden Club who have invitations for you.

### **Cabell West: President, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton**

Tradition in Transition is awaiting you at The GCV's 2008 Annual Meeting hosted by The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton. Westhampton has now transitioned into being called Richmond, Virginia. You will see adaptive reuse at its best. Our city is putting the finishing touches on many of its crown jewels, and my Club cannot wait to share them with each of you. We would be most appreciative if your Club would respond to the registration and hotel reservations by mid-February 2008. That is a bit earlier than the traditional deadline. See you in Richmond, May 13-15, 2008.

### **Sandy Canada: President, The Elizabeth River Garden Club**

This is a replica of the Lightship on the downtown Portsmouth waterfront. Its beacon reaches out to you in invitation to the next Board of Governors' Meeting October 14-16, 2008. Hosted by The Elizabeth River Garden Club, our Olde Town offers a hotel by the water, a seawall for walkers, museums for the curious, old homes and churches for the history buffs, a nature preserve and parks for the gardeners and conservationists and art and antique shops galore for the shoppers. We look forward to your visit in October 2008.

### **Tribute to The Blue Ridge Garden Club: Deedy Bumgardner**

From barnyards to backyards,  
From business to banquets,  
From schools to socials,

The Blue Ridge Garden Club has been a most gracious hostess to all of us.

I feel certain that everyone joins me in giving the club members a heart-felt *thank you* for this wonderful 88<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors' Meeting.

The delegates enjoyed a Power Point presentation prepared by Nina Mustard, Online Chairman and Webmaster, and Linda Consolvo, Public Relations Chairman, with pictures of The GCV during 2006-2007.

Julie MacKinlay introduced the speaker, Philip Coulling, Director of Nature Camp, who has been affiliated with Nature Camp for over 30 years. He has served as the Director for the past 4 years and spoke about how Nature Camp "has the power to transform the lives of campers." There were 297 attendees at Nature Camp in 2007. Mr. Coulling thanked The Garden Club of Virginia and its members for their loyal support of Nature Camp.

Sally Guy thanked the members of The Blue Ridge Garden Club for a most enjoyable and delightful Board of Governors' Meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 12 noon on October 11, 2007.

Ann Gordon Evans  
Recording Secretary  
The Garden Club of Virginia



**THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA**  
*Report to the Board of Directors*  
*October 9, 2007*

**Balance June 30, 2007** **\$ 113,407.46**

**Income**

Flower Arranging School – registrations	8,870.00
Flower Shows Handbook sales	40.00
Symposium income – vendors	1,200.00
Investment income – July and August, September	14.63
<i>Journal</i>	1,040.75
Refund from Insurance – premium change	15.00
Conservation Workshop income	624.00
Conservation Forum income	3,880.00

**Total Income** **\$ 15,684.38**

**Expense**

Development	
Susan T. Burtch, LLC- <i>Highlights</i>	500.00
Team Communications- <i>Highlights</i>	500.00
Kinker Press, Inc. – remittance envelopes	1,148.70
Karen Jamison – postage	48.00
Carter Printing – donor envelopes in Journal	50.00
Team Communications – “ <i>Highlights</i> ” printing	1,972.00
ICM, Inc. postage – “ <i>Highlights</i> ” postage	461.23
Charitable Contributions/Memberships	
Virginia Conservation Network	2,000.00
Nature Camp Foundation	1,000.00
Scenic Virginia	1,000.00
Flower Arranging School	6,861.50
Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula-Rose Show	2,000.00
Insurance	592.00
Officer and Chairman Expense	3,966.98
President’s Forum-luncheon	959.05
Symposium	
facility deposit	7,421.00
brochure deposit	1,745.00
Website – setup and software	6,006.50
<i>Journal</i>	4,923.29
Elizabeth Morchower-Flower Shows consulting	4,668.66
Conservation Workshop expense	502.59
Registration Fees – PayPal service charges	82.53

**Total Expense** **\$48,409.03**

**Net** **(\$32,724.65)**

**Balance** **\$80,682.81**

**Transfers In**

Historic Garden Week – First transfer	250,000.00
Historic Garden Week – Second transfer	209,266.18
SEED Fund – reimbursement for approved expenses	23,459.66
GCV Endowment – reimbursement Development	4,679.93
<b>Total Transfers In</b>	<b>\$ 487,405.77</b>

#### **Transfers Out**

Kent-Valentine Operating – HGW salary share	16,112.50
Kent-Valentine Operating – GCV salary share	7,000.00
GCV Endowment – HGW proceeds	100,000.00
GCV Endowment-Common Wealth HGW	30,463.31
GCV Restoration Committee – 7 books	210.00
GCV Restoration Committee – First HGW transfer	133,887.50
GCV Restoration Committee – Second HGW transfer	178,802.87
SEED Fund – Legislative Day	131.97
SEED Fund – Flower Arranging Workshop	1,105.31
SEED Fund – Horticulture Field Day	1,387.91
SEED Fund – Officers/Chairmen surplus	2,358.63
SEED Fund – Flower Shows Handbook	583.00
SEED Fund – Members’ Handbook	1,202.15
<b>Total Transfers Out</b>	<b>\$ 473,245.15</b>

**Balance October 9, 2007** **\$ 94,843.43**

Note: The totals for investment accounts reflect the new Charles Schwab custodial account. IMVA has been instructed to invest up to \$200,000 of the endowment portfolio in small/mid-cap stocks.

## IMVA Trust Account

**This account holds The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment, the Common Wealth Award Fund, and the Conservation Fund**

Note: The total income is not entirely from donations but includes the Historic Garden Week transfers of \$100,000 to the Endowment and 5% of net HGW funds of \$30,463.31 to the Common Wealth Award Fund. Actual combined donations: \$12,830.

**Portfolio value June 30, 2007** **\$1,972,628.97**

### Income

Conservation Fund	325.00
Common Wealth Award Fund	30,763.31
GCV Endowment	112,205.00
Total	\$ 143,293.31

### Withdrawals/Transfers

Kent-Valentine House – automatic draw maintenance	10,225.00
Kent-Valentine House – automatic draw salary	5,471.88
GCV operating – Development expenses	4,679.93
Total	\$ 20,376.81
<b>Balance October 9, 2007</b>	<b>\$2,193,265.98</b>

**THE SEED FUND**  
**Money Market, Laddered Treasury Notes**

**Balance June 30, 2007** **\$ 90,183.71**

**Income**

Donation	25.00
July interest	115.71
August interest	125.05
September interest	166.91

Total \$ 432.67

**Withdrawals/Transfers**

GCV Operating – approved expenses	23,459.56
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**Balance October 9, 2007** **\$ 76,030.39**

**Total all accounts** **\$2,364,139.80**

**Funds Committed:**

**Symposium: \$20,000- \$9,166 (facility rental, brochure deposit)**

**Closerware: \$10,000 - \$9,625 actual**

**Events Accounting:**

Conservation Workshop	Income:	624.00
	Expense:	502.59
	Balance:	121.41
Flower Arranging School	Income:	8,870.00
	Expense:	6,861.50
	Balance:	2,058.50

**The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal***  
**First Quarter Accounting**

Budget	\$14,000.00
Income	
Advertising	836.75
Subscriptions	204.00
Total	1,040.75
Expenses	
September postage (will go up)	625.00
September printing less Dev. Envelopes	4,223.35
K-V House – returned mail	24.94
Total	4,873.29
Balance	\$10,167.46

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne N. Spence, Treasurer