



**HIGHLIGHTS of the 99th Annual Meeting
May 7 – 9, 2019
Portsmouth, Virginia**

- **President Jean Gilpin** welcomed 144 attendees to the meeting hosted by The Elizabeth River Garden Club and thanked Betty Jo Gwaltney, Martha Perkins, Shirley Sondej, and all members of Elizabeth River for hosting a wonderful meeting. **Martha Perkins, Co-chair of the Annual Meeting**, welcomed everyone to Portsmouth. **President of The Elizabeth River Garden Club, Betty Jo Gwaltney**, introduced **Mayor John L. Rowe**. Mayor Rowe welcomed the GCV back to Portsmouth as the Board of Governors was hosted in Portsmouth in 1931. Mayor Rowe noted that he was very impressed with the GCV Fellowships and awards.
- **President Gilpin** proclaimed, "Today marks the day we begin celebrating our Centennial!" President Gilpin recognized the past GCV Presidents and stated members need to carry on the traditions and aspirations of the GCV.
- **President Gilpin** announced Bartlett Tree Experts would be the main Centennial sponsor! Bartlett shares the same values as the GCV. Their support will include 12 in-kind support workdays and are hoping to focus their efforts on the GCV Restoration properties.
- **First Vice President and Chairman of the Centennial Steering Committee Missy Buckingham** announced: "The Centennial merchandise is here!" Scarves, ties, bow ties, a Centennial Waterford ornament, and Tervis Tumblers were available for purchase at the meeting.
- The 2019 **Massy Medal for Distinguished Achievement** was awarded to Judy Perry, GCV Historian, GCV Restoration Fellowships Chair, and member of The Elizabeth River Garden Club. The Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement is given to an individual member or member club of the GCV who has served with unusual dedication and distinction.
- The 2019 **de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation** was presented to Anne Meade Beals of The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. This award is given to an individual member or member club of the GCV in recognition of outstanding effort to further the knowledge of our natural resources and to encourage their wise use.
- The 2019 **Bessie Bocoock Carter Conservation Award** was given to the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club for their Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve project. Barbara Bandyke, President of

Winchester-Clarke, received the award of \$7000 presented by **GCV Conservation Awards Chairman Heidi James**.

- **Conservation Fellow Brynn Cook** gave a very informative presentation on “Foraging Specialization in Polluted Atmospheres.”
- **GCV Landscape Architect Mr. Will Rieley** gave an excellent presentation titled “A Short Look Back at What We have Done in Virginia.”
- **Captain M.K. Nunley, Nurse Corps, USN, Retired**, gave a fascinating presentation about activities on a US Navy aircraft carrier. **George W. Watkins** shared delightful pilot stories and facts about the Port of Virginia, including Virginia’s imports and exports.
- **Treasurer Vicky Alexander** presented an abbreviated Treasurer's report, including the GCV budget for 2019-2020 and noted that the GCV is in great shape through the end of the current fiscal year. **Finance Committee Chairman Tricia McDaniel** communicated the Finance Committee supervises the expenses of the GCV including overseeing the budget and investments. Tricia reviewed the current investment portfolios of the GCV. The Finance Committee promises to be good stewards of the GCV finances.
- **First Vice President and Chairman of the Centennial Steering Committee Missy Buckingham** announced “Let the countdown begin!” launching us into the celebration of 100 years. The Centennial packet was reviewed and will be sent to the Centennial Club Liaisons which includes a press release and save-the-date cards. On May 13, 1920, Laura Wheelwright, President of the James River Garden Club, hosted a meeting with the eight original member clubs, and a motion was passed to create a federation of garden clubs now known as the GCV. The Centennial Celebration Founders Day events include:

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

The 100th Annual Meeting will be hosted by the James River Garden Club.

An evening reception will be hosted at the Kent-Valentine House for those arriving early but not attending the Annual Meeting. The evening event will showcase the renovations of our beautiful headquarters and provide an opportunity to socialize with GCV friends from around the state and see the location of the Time Capsule.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Founders Day events will begin at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture with a presentation by Thomas Woltz, Landscape Architect.

A Luncheon will be offered at the grand and glorious Marble Hall at the adjacent Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Participants are encouraged to use their free time to visit the seven nearby GCV Restoration properties or other local points of interest.

The Evening Gala with husbands and guests will offer a spectacular evening of fabulous food, drink, and flowers at the VMHC and the highlight of the evening will be the grand opening of our featured exhibition...*A Landscape Saved: Garden Club of Virginia at 100.*

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Famed floral designer Paula Pryke will be our featured speaker.

Each member club will have the opportunity to create a flower arrangement displayed at the VMHC during the Founders Day Celebrations. Please come to all or as many events that you can. These Founders Day Celebrations will highlight the efforts of those who have come before us while launching us into our next century in style. Please bring this message back to club members and make plans to be there!

- **Second Vice-President Catherine Madden** introduced **Adele Smith, Daffodil Day Chairman**. Adele delighted all with a presentation of “By the Numbers” representing facts and figures associated with a very successful Daffodil Day. Adele thanked the GCV Membership Committee for hosting a new member orientation during the event and thanked Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens for their Facebook posts and information in their membership newsletter. Jeanette Cadwallender was awarded best in show for her 'Green Arrow' daffodil entry. The Daffodil Show will again be hosted at Lewis Ginter next year. **Lilies in Bloom Chairman Nina Mustard** announced the show would be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond on June 18, 2019.

Monday, June 17 - Registration and workrooms open

An Evening with Margot Shaw, Editor of *Flower Magazine* and author of *Living Floral: Entertaining and Decorating with Flowers* will be hosted at the KV House.

Registration is required for the Margot Shaw event.

Tuesday, June 18 - Registration and workrooms will be open until 10:00 a.m.

The Show will open to the public at 1:00 p.m.

Please note both Inter Club Artistic Classes are full. The show is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Beale.

- **Artistic Design Chair Tory Willis** noted the Artistic Design Committee has been very busy with the flower and photography workshop, Symposium, and Daffodil Day over the last year. A special thanks were given to everyone who helped with revising the judging process and the revisions on modern designs. There will be no Symposium in 2020, but the committee is hoping to host an event during that time frame. There will be an opportunity for each club to create an arrangement displayed during the Founders Day Celebration at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture featuring distinct periods. Each club is encouraged to participate.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Rosser thanked everyone for their generous donations to the Annual Fund. Janet then introduced the following Committee Chairmen for whom she serves as Board Liaison. **GCV Historian and Custodian of Records Judy Perry** reminded everyone to write their two-year club history after their term as president and email them to Judy or bring them to the KVH to be placed in each club's box. Ann Heller will place them on the GCV

website. The Humorous Memories Project continues, and the deadline for stories is June 1. Over 100 stories have been received. Please encourage your club to submit stories. Names will not be used, but please include your name and club for contact information. Please send these to Judy at gcvhistorian1920@gmail.com. Judy reported that she had been contacted by Architect Mr. Liam O'Connor, who is designing the British Normandy Memorial that will be unveiled in 2020. Mr. O'Connor had noticed the plaque installed at a church listing the names of GCV husbands and sons that had been lost in WWII. The GCV had adopted the little war-torn town of Ver-sur-Mer, a commune in the Normandy region, and restored ten stained glass windows in a 12th-century church located there. The town honored the GCV by naming a street the "Rue de Garden Club of Virginia, USA." Judy will be writing a *Journal* article about this. The story of GCV's involvement with Ver-sur-Mer can be found online as written in *Follow the Green Arrow, Volume 1*. **Journal Editorial Board Chairman Julie Grover** announced the *Journal* would be redesigned and the new format will be revealed in the June 2020 edition that will be devoted to the Centennial. The new *Journal* will feature more and larger photographs, more white space, and issues with themes such as floral designs, the environment, garden legacies, and travel. There will be more focus on member club projects, member gardens, and profiles on experts and organizations in GCV-related fields. Julie asked each GCV committee to appoint a *Journal* liaison and forward their name to her by June 1. **Journal Advertising Chairman Lea Shuba** asked members to reach out to her with leads for potential *Journal* advertisers. There are advertising packets available, and Lea noted there is more success with a local connection. Please remember to advertise club events and club items for sale in the *Journal*. When shopping, please tell participating businesses that you saw their advertisements in the *Journal*.

- **Conservation Chairman Carrie Dorsey** reported the Committee has been very busy and Legislation Day was very successful with a great turn out. The Committee reviewed the Governor's proposed budget that allocated funds for conservation and natural resource programs representing a historic increase this year. A bill was passed to require Coal Ash Clean Up at the four unlined coal ash ponds in Virginia. The GCV continues its affiliation with the Virginia Conservation Network and Virginia Forever, which are excellent resources. The Committee will write a letter to the EPA on behalf of the GCV supporting the protection of the highest standards of water quality and to maintain the integrity of the Clean Water Act.
- **Back to Nature - Horticulture, Hiking and Conservation Forum – Trees: Canopy of Conservation at Natural Bridge - Conservation Chairman Carrie Dorsey** reported The Conservation Forum Committee would be hosting the Conservation Forum in conjunction with the State Parks and Horticulture Committees as part of the Centennial Celebration on September 24 – 25 at Natural Bridge State Park. There will be four speakers on September 25 with the topic of "Trees: Canopy of Conservation." The speakers include Frazier Armstrong of Capital Trees, Elizabeth Brantly of Bartlett Trees, Eric Wiseman of Virginia Tech Big Tree Program, and Andrew Moore, author of *Pawpaw: In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit*. **State Parks Chairman Nina Mustard** presented the schedule of events. Monday, September 23 will be a set-up day. Tuesday, September 24 will include the Native Plants Horticulture Show, group and self-guided hikes, and geocaching. Bartlett Trees will have an event for children, and there will be a tree planting instead of a ribbon cutting. A Sip and See is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Horticulture Chairman Wendy Walker** encouraged members to bring blooms to the horticulture show and noted there is no advanced registration except for the Picnic in the Park exhibitors. The Picnic in the Park class requires individuals to

bring a food item from their garden that will be judged. Please save green glass bottles for the horticulture display. The signup is available on the GCV website.

- **Horticulture Chairman Wendy Walker** thanked everyone for bringing the horticulture “Storm Survivors” display. Please inform the Horticulture Committee about what topics members want to read about in the *Journal*. Horticulture Field Day will be held May 22-23 and is sold out. The 2019 Horticulture Award of Merit winners are Susan Garrett, The Nansemond River Garden Club, and Sherry Leffel, The Spotswood Garden Club.
- **GCV Recording Secretary Kris Carbone** presented the Membership Committee report for Chairman Diane Wilkinson. The Three Rivers Garden Club has increased their membership to 25, and they helped The Ashland Garden Club with their 2019 HGW tour. Membership Orientation was held at Daffodil Day and was informative and interesting with the strong support of GCV chairmen and staff. The Membership Committee will request nominations for GCV honorary membership from member clubs in the near future.
- **Common Wealth Committee Chairman Karla MacKimmie** reminded everyone the Common Wealth Award provides annual grants to the community projects of the GCV’s member clubs. The 2019 finalist will be written about in the *Journal* and voted on by the member clubs in the fall. The winner will be announced at the Board of Governors in October. Congratulations to the two finalists for the 2019 Common Wealth Award: Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement submitted by the Boxwood Garden Club, and The Discovery Trail: Connecting Children with Nature submitted by the Mill Mountain Garden Club.
- **Restoration Chairman Anne Baldwin** reported each member of the Committee serves as a liaison to several of the Restoration properties. The Committee travels across the state several times per year to visit the properties on a rotating basis. Members of the Committee would love to visit each of the member clubs and give a 30 or 50-minute presentation. They can also visit and provide an update on Restoration and answer questions about the activities of the Committee. The GCV Restoration Research Fellowships were awarded. Dania Khlaifat, the Rudy J. Favretti Fellow, will be researching the historic landscape at Farmington Country Club. The William D. Rieley Fellow, Hayden Hammons, will be researching Mount Airy in Warsaw, VA. There will be special events planned at some Restoration properties in honor of the GCV Centennial with information to follow. Anne presented an opportunity for a special gift from the GCV to The British Normandy Memorial in honor of the 75th anniversary of D Day. The history of the GCV's support of war-torn Europe in WWII in the 1940s was presented. The Restoration Committee recommended the GCV send \$20,000 from Restoration funds to support landscaping at The British Normandy Memorial, and the GCV Board voted to support this. A vote was taken, and it carried unanimously.
- **Development Committee Chairman Sue Rosser** thanked the Centennial sponsors in addition to Bartlett Trees. These sponsors include Towne Bank, Hilldrup and the McDaniel family, IMVA, Valley Protein, Robert and Lucy Huff, and Grelen Nursery. "The top ten reasons of what the GCV does for me" was given and everyone was reminded of the elevator cards that were left for each attendee on the tables promoting the GCV’s positive impact on Virginia.

- **GCV Executive Director Lynn McCashin** proclaimed the ladies of the GCV have always had their own way of getting things done, are relentless, and have been able to grow with the sophistication of our knowledge! Great examples include fighting against billboards, the protection of the Goshen Pass, and the development of position papers. We must carry on our mission.
- **Kent-Valentine House Committee Chairman Jody Branch** thanked Lynn McCashin, Quan McGough, and Lee Mondesir for keeping the KVH running smoothly. All current projects at the KVH will be finished by summer. There is new paint, a repaired roof, new carpet, new upholstery, refinished furniture, and soon the floors will be refinished. There are currently two pier mirrors that have been conserved, two that are in the process of being conserved, and one in the pipeline. The landscape will be attended to and ready for the fall. The dogwood planted in honor of Margaret Bemiss was filled with blooms during Historic Garden Week, and the ‘Green Arrow’ daffodils bloomed in the pots out front. Please bring members to visit the KVH.
- **The Directors at Large (Bettie Guthrie, Meg Laughon, Anne Harrison Harris, Debbie Lewis, Tuckie Westfall, Ellen Upton)** presented the accomplishments of the member clubs. The DALs reminded everyone that the 6 DALs are here to help the member club presidents. There will be a Presidents Day hosted on June 3, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the KVH. DALs Debbie Lewis, Ellen Upton, and Meg Laughon with the help of 2nd Vice President Catherine Madden sang the song “Red Roses,” and each president was given a red rose. Tuckie Westfall, Meg Laughon, and Ellen Upton are ending their terms and were thanked for their service by President Gilpin.
- **First Vice President Missy Buckingham** presented the Nominations Committee report for Chairman Ann Gordon Evans. The nominations for Directors at Large include:

District 2: Fran Carden-Albemarle Garden Club
 District 5: Laura Francis-The Hunting Creek Garden Club
 District 6: Debbie Bonnewell-Harborfront Garden Club

President Gilpin read Article VIII, Section 8.3 of the Garden Club of Virginia Bylaws which states: Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor, provided consent of the candidate has been obtained in advance. No nominations from the floor were presented. The May 2019 –May 2021 slate for the three Directors at Large was accepted as presented.

- **Chairman of Strategic Planning Candy Crosby** communicated the Committee has had nine meetings since 2018 and shared the issues and recommendations which will be presented to the GCV Board of Directors for their discussion. These include:
 - Ownership of HGW including the trademark and copyright of HGW
 - HGW accounting – best practices provided for member clubs on how to handle HGW
 - GCV Finance - create a five-year budget and hire a consultant to determine if our level of spending is sustainable.
 - GCV Communications - establish a Communications Committee to oversee the President’s monthly newsletter, *The Year in Review*, the website, and social media.
 - GCV *Journal* - Explore the possibility of upgrading the design
 - GCV Membership – Investigate whether new membership categories could be added

GCV Nominating and Leadership - Create a simple electronic survey to identify potential leaders and talents of club members

GCV Member Club Presidents - Club Presidents invite their respective Director at Large and the GCV President to attend one of their membership meetings during their term

- **Claire Mellinger, Albermarle Garden Club** has been an integral part of GCV events by creating a photography class at Daffodil Day and Symposium. Claire noted member photography is now included in the President's *Membership News*. Symposium had six classes and 36 entries, and Daffodil Day had four classes and 16 entries. The photography workshop was a great time, and participants used their cell phone cameras. This workshop may be hosted again in 2020. In 2020, Claire will join forces with the Restoration Committee and create a photography show called "A Sense of Place." The schedule will be sent to all members. This will be a juried show displayed at the KVH.
- **Historic Garden Week Chairman Stephanie Broadwater** thanked everyone for all their time and energy to pull off HGW. Stephanie visited seven tours and noted the beautiful weather. Because HGW concluded on May 4, no reports are currently available with results expected by mid-June. KISS or Keep it Simple Sisters was presented encouraging clubs to focus on what HGW is – a home and garden tour. Each club should take a fresh look at how tours are planned including the number of volunteers, the number of arrangements, and the number of houses. When planning a tour, the number of homes should be based on the available resources. The HGW state level is focused on social media and encouraged clubs to do the same. All but one tour has a Facebook page and all but two have an Instagram presence. Facebook followers have had an increase of 20%, and Instagram followers have increased by 42%. The state Instagram account is @historicgardenweek, and the local tours are @historicgardenweekfredricksburg (example.) Please like and comment on Facebook and Instagram. This year was the first ever mention of HGW by the *Wall Street Journal*! HGW was also seen in *Virginia Living*, *Garden and Gun*, *Albermarle* magazine and other publications. We have a continued relationship with *Flower Magazine* and a writer from *Architectural Digest* attended. There will be a significant update to the *Insiders Guide*, which will include job descriptions of key roles. The best practices on tracking attendance include using a clicker at one or two of the homes, and every visitor should be counted including state pass holders. The state HGW Committee has been working very hard over the last two years and has made two recommendations to the GCV Board. These include the tour change request process and a change to the GCV bylaws of member clubs annual responsibilities associate the HGW. It is also the Committee's job to view HGW as a statewide event, not just single tours. HGW is going to be organized into geographic regions instead of the current districts. These regions include the east, west, north, south, and central regions. A handout was shared titled "Historic Garden Week by Day" showing a layout of how many tours are scheduled on each day. Tour proceeds can be affected by too much competition on a single day, bad weather, and gaps between regional tour days. If you would like to change your tour day, please contact the HGW State Chairman. An announcement was made that a new database project will be started to include tour histories, and this will occur in phases. In addition, there will be an update to the economic impact study that was completed in 2014. The photograph for the cover of the 2020 Guidebook has been taken, and it fits perfectly into the Centennial year. You are going to love it! Tricia Garner, Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, will be the 2019 - 2021 HGW State Chairman.

- **Virginia State Parks Committee Chairman Nina Mustard** reported the GCV is in year four of our five-year, \$500,000 funding commitment to the State Parks. A slide show was presented depicting the history, attendance, and spending at Virginia State Parks. Nina noted a total of 21 member clubs partnered with 23 State Parks, and 12 grants were given in 2019. Nina also shared slides of projects funded by the GCV Centennial State Park commitment. Everyone was encouraged to attend the event at Natural Bridge on September 24 – 25.
- **Annual and Board of Governors Meetings Chairman Sydney Jordan** thanked members of The Elizabeth River Garden Club including Co-Chairs Martha Perkins and Shirley Sondej for planning a wonderful Annual Meeting. **Susie Rawles, James River Garden Club**, thanked Elizabeth River and noted they had set the bar high! Susie read a poem and invited attendees to the 100th Annual Meeting in Richmond on May 12, 2020.



PICK UP YOUR PENCIL AND MAKE A NOTE!

- Update your club's **database** information on the GCV website.
- Submit club members' photography and club events to President Jean Gilpin for inclusion in her monthly newsletter.
- Check the GCV website for guidelines and deadlines for article and advertising submissions to *The Journal*. Cover artwork submissions are also appreciated.
- **Humorous Recollections** project deadline for submission is June 1, 2019.
- **Presidents Day** will be held on June 3, 2019, at the KVH.
- **Lilies in Bloom** will be held on June 18, 2019, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA.
- **Back to Nature – Horticulture, Hiking, and the 61st Conservation Forum Trees: Canopy of Conservation** will be held at Natural Bridge, September 25 -25, 2019.
- **99th Board of Governors** – hosted by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, October 15 -17, 2019
- **Founders Day Centennial Celebration** events will be held May 12 – May 14, 2020, in Richmond, VA.



**Minutes of the 99th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 7 - Thursday, May 9, 2019
Portsmouth, Virginia**

ATTENDEES

GCV Board of Directors Officers

President	Jean Gilpin, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club
1st Vice President	Missy Buckingham, The Boxwood Garden Club*
2nd Vice President	Catherine Madden, The Lynchburg Garden Club
Treasurer	Vicky Alexander, The Hunting Creek Garden Club
Recording Secretary	Kris Carbone, The Garden Club of Danville
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Rosser, The Ashland Garden Club
Parliamentarian	Linda Consolvo, The Nansemond River Garden Club*

Directors at Large

District 1	Bettie Guthrie, The Petersburg Garden Club
District 2	Meg Laughon, Hillside Garden Club
District 3	Anne Harrison Harris, The Hampton Roads Garden Club
District 4	Debbie Lewis, The Garden Study Club
District 5	Tuckie Westfall, The Garden Club of Alexandria
District 6	Ellen Upton, The Elizabeth River Garden Club

Board Committee Chairmen

Artistic Design	Tory Willis, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Conservation and Beautification	Carrie Dorsey, The James River Garden Club
Development	Sue Rosser, The Martinsville Garden Club
Finance	Tricia McDaniel, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Historic Garden Week	Stephie Broadwater, The Nansemond River Garden Club
Horticulture	Wendy Walker, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore*
Restoration	Anne Baldwin, The Garden Club of Alexandria

GCV Chairmen of Standing Committees

Annual and Board of Governors Meetings	Sidney Jordan, The Hampton Roads Garden Club
Common Wealth Award	Karla MacKimmie, The Warrenton Garden Club
Conservation Awards	Heidi James, The Lynchburg Garden Club
Historian and Custodian of Records	Judy Perry, The Elizabeth River Garden Club
Journal Advertising	Lea Shuba, The Hunting Creek Garden Club

Journal Editorial Board
Kent-Valentine House
Massie Medal
Photographer

Julie Grover, The Blue Ridge Garden Club
Jody Branch, The Boxwood Garden Club
Dianne Spence, The Williamsburg Garden Club
Penny Dart, The Warrenton Garden Club

GCV Chairmen of Special Committees

Centennial Steering
Daffodil Day
Strategic Planning
Virginia State Parks

Missy Buckingham, The Boxwood Garden Club*
Adele Smith, The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula
Candy Crosby, Albermarle Garden Club
Nina Mustard, The Williamsburg Garden Club*

Former Presidents

2016-2018
2014-2016
2010-2012
2008-2010
2006-2008
2004-2006
2002-2004
2000-2002
1992-1994
1986-1988
1984-1986

Nina Mustard, The Williamsburg Garden Club*
Jeanette Cadwallender, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Kim Nash, The Warrenton Garden Club
Cabell West, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
Sally Guy Brown, The Garden Club of Alexandria
Deedy Bumgardner, The Augusta Garden Club
Mary Hart Darden, The Nansemond River Garden Club
Mina Wood, The Lynchburg Garden Club
Helen Murphy, The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
Ellen Godwin, The Nansemond River Garden Club
Katty Mears, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

GCV Member Club Presidents and Delegates

Albermarle Garden Club
The Garden Club of Alexandria
The Ashland Garden Club
The Augusta Garden Club
The Blue Ridge Garden Club
The Boxwood Garden Club
The Brunswick Garden Club
The Charlottesville Garden Club
Chatham Garden Club
The Garden Club of Danville
Dolley Madison Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
The Elizabeth River Garden Club
The Garden Club of Fairfax
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club
The Franklin Garden Club
Gabriella Garden Club
The Garden Study Club
The Garden Club of Gloucester
The Hampton Roads Garden Club
Harborfront Garden Club
Hillside Garden Club
The Hunting Creek Garden Club
The Huntington Garden Club

Esther Hannon, 1st Vice President, Nancy Inman, Delegate
Michaela Robinson, President, Barbara Warder, Delegate
Mary Anne Griffin, President, Michelle Hamner, Delegate
Virginia Gillock, 1st Vice President, Sally James, Delegate
Beth Coleman, President, Leslie Bovay, Delegate
Kathryn Angus, President, Nella Timmons, Delegate
Mary Smith, President, Becky Waters, Delegate
Robin Cherry, President, Jeanne Marie Holden, Delegate
Gayle Gwaltney, President, Susan Bower, Delegate
Bonnie Griffith, President, Gayle Thomson, Delegate
Anne Vanderwarker, President, Pat Filer, Delegate
Traci Jones, 1st Vice President, Lenka Harvie, Delegate
Betty Jo Gwaltney, President, Diane Liedman, Delegate
Linda Schlesinger, President, Lisa Johnson, Delegate
Christine Perdue Smith, President, Georgie Watt, Delegate
Betsy Brantley, President, Patty Rabil, Delegate
Cathy Green, President, Betsy Bacon, Delegate
Judy Epperly, President, Sally Miller, Delegate
Anne Marshall, President,
Dale Banning, President, Sidney Jordan*, Delegate
Debbie Bonnewell, President, Greta Gustavson, Delegate
Leigh Barth, President, Sarah Hellewell, Delegate
Gugi Hooff, President, Joyce Stevens, Delegate
Tricia Russell, President

The James River Garden Club
 Leesburg Garden Club
 The Little Garden Club of Winchester
 The Lynchburg Garden Club
 The Martinsville Garden Club
 The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula
 The Mill Mountain Garden Club
 The Nansemond River Garden Club
 The Garden Club of Norfolk
 The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
 The Petersburg Garden Club
 The Princess Anne Garden Club
 The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
 Rivanna Garden Club
 Roanoke Valley Garden Club
 The Spotswood Garden Club
 Three Chopt Garden Club
 The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
 The Virginia Beach Garden Club
 The Garden Club of Warren County
 The Warrenton Garden Club
 The Williamsburg Garden Club
 Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

Susan Rawles, President
 Suzi Worsham, 1st Vice President, Rosalie Leigh, Delegate
 Anita Shull, 1st Vice President, Karen Helm, Delegate
 Mary Byrd Denham, President, Jenny Tugman, Delegate
 Cindy Edgerton, 1st Vice President, Kim Snyder, Delegate
 Anne Glubiak, President, Lisa Vawter, President
 Valeta Pittman, President, Pam Moskal, Delegate
 Linda Consolvo*, President, Susan Garrett, Delegate
 Jane Edwards, President, Katherine Knaus, Delegate
 Kate Muller, President, Maureen Cappelli, Delegate
 Kate Short, President, Elizabeth Johnson, Delegate
 Carrie Goodman, President, Katie Hand Delegate
 Kelly Johnson, President, Karin Beals, Delegate
 Martha Wertz, President, Dody Chaplin, Delegate
 Joanne Callis, President, Colleen Hamlin, Delegate
 Joy Strickland, President, Donna Harper, Delegate
 Alison Fauls, President, Veronika Walmsley, Delegate
 Betty Jenkins, President, Patricia Hunter, Delegate
 Lou Flowers, President, Pam Pruden, Delegate
 Beth DeBergh, President, Jenny Murphy, Delegate
 Margrete Stevens, President, Kathleen Nevill, Delegate
 Beth Stabler, President, Leslie Coe, Delegate
 Barbara Bandyke, President, Edie Hessberg, Delegate

GCV STAFF

Executive Director
 Director of HGW and Special Programs
 Director of Development
 Communications Coordinator

Lynn McCashin
 Karen Ellsworth
 Lexie Haglund
 Ann Heller

SPECIAL GUEST

GCV Landscape Architect
 GCV Conservation Fellow
 GCV 2019 Annual Meeting Co-Chairman
 GCV 2019 Annual Meeting Co-Chairman
 Guest Speaker
 Guest Speaker
 Guest Speaker
 2020 GCV Annual Meeting Chairman
 GCV Photography

William D. Rieley
 Brynn Cook
 Martha Perkins, The Elizabeth River Garden Club
 Shirley Sondej, The Elizabeth River Garden Club
 Mayor John L. Rowe, Jr.,
 Captain M. K. Nunley, Nurse Corps, USN, Retired
 Captain George W. Watkins, Retired
 Cammie Furber, The James River Garden Club
 Claire Mellinger, Albermarle Garden Club

ABSENT

Membership
 Nominations

Diane Wilkinson, The Garden Club of Fairfax
 Ann Gordon Evans, The Huntington Garden Club

President Jean Gilpin called to order the 99th Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of Virginia at 1:05 p.m.

Director at Large Debbie Lewis led the group in an opening prayer.

Let us pray

This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding
A poem that is being written
Not in words
But in colors
Wind's whisper
Soaring bird
Snowdrop's petal
Gentle rain
Sunlight's warmth
This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty
Beyond understanding

Creator of all living things, Help guide us in our actions and thoughts to become better stewards of the earth. Guide us to act responsibly, care for the earth you gave us, and make wise choices in our everyday living. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Martha Perkins, Co-Chairman of the Annual Meeting, welcomed everyone to Portsmouth. **President of The Elizabeth River Garden Club, Betty Jo Gwaltney**, introduced **Mayor John L. Rowe**. Mayor Rowe welcomed the GCV back to Portsmouth as the Board of Governors was hosted in Portsmouth in 1931. Mayor Rowe noted that he was very impressed with the GCV Fellowships and awards.

Recording Secretary Kris Carbone called the roll. **Parliamentarian Linda Consolvo** established that a quorum was present.

Motion: Anne Vanderwarker moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 99th GCV Board of Governors meeting held in October 2019. Tricia McDaniel seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Gilpin thanked Betty Jo Gwaltney, Martha Perkins, Shirley Sondej, and all members of The Elizabeth River Garden Club for hosting a wonderful meeting. Jean noted what a lovely evening it was on the Carrie B. President Gilpin presented important points in the history of the GCV and said that we should carry on the traditions and aspirations of the GCV. **President Gilpin** proclaimed, "Today marks the day we begin celebrating our Centennial!" President Gilpin recognized the past GCV Presidents and presented them with a GCV Centennial scarf.

Treasurer Vicky Alexander presented an abbreviated Treasurer's report including the current fiscal year report and the proposed GCV budget for 2019 – 2020. There are two interest-bearing accounts with Union Bank & Trust in Richmond with a total of \$380,639 as of April 30, 2019. The GCV has two endowment accounts. Investment Management of Virginia (IMVA) manages one account with a total of \$5,419,674

as of April 30. IMVA manages the GCV Endowment and restricted funds. Darrell and King manage the other account with a total of \$1,671,920 as of April 30. The Darrell and King account contains the Restoration and State Parks funds. The current liabilities include accounts payable and the Centennial State Parks Project with total liabilities of \$10,114 as of April 30. Vicky noted the GCV is in a great position to end the fiscal year.

The GCV Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 13-page annual budget and also approved a motion for the presentation of an abbreviated budget. Vicky reviewed the process of creating the budget and noted the full budget is available to anyone who would like to see it. A copy of the summarized budget was provided to each attendee. A summarized GCV operating budget for 2019-2020 was presented, and it was noted that dues have not changed since 2008. The total funding for the budget will be \$1,398,842. The total projected revenue is \$1,305,761, including line item 4900 – Centennial funding. The GCV projected expenses is \$1,844,979 with management and general expenses at \$217,144. The total projected is \$2,083,108. There is enough funding to cover our anticipated expenses, and we will be able to forward fund for 2020-2021. The budget does show a net cash flow of -\$7,705, but the Centennial donations will cover the shortfall. Vicky Alexander made the following motion:

Motion: Madame President, I move that the GCV vote to approve the budget as presented for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020. Bettie Guthrie seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Chairman Tricia McDaniel reviewed the responsibilities of the Finance Committee, including the budget, investments, insurance matters, and an annual audit of the GCV accounts. Tricia explained the IMVA endowment account includes monies from the GCV Endowment Fund, the GCV Conservation Fund, the Common Wealth Award Fund, the Symposia Fund, and the Kent-Valentine House Fund. Darrell and King manage the funds for the GCV Restoration projects. The GCV has an investment policy that both firms follow when investing our funds. The Finance Committee conducts annual reviews of the investment firms. As of March 31, 2019, the GCV Endowment Fund invested with IMVA totaled \$5,340,330. The GCV Restoration Fund with Darrell and King totaled \$1,798,674 as of March 31. The Finance Committee promises to be good stewards of the GCV finances.

First Vice-President and Chairman of the Centennial Steering Committee Missy Buckingham announced “Let the countdown begin!” launching us into the celebration of 100 years. The Centennial Club Liaisons have met several times as a group to bring back information about the Centennial to their clubs. The Centennial packet was reviewed and will be sent to the Centennial Club Liaisons which includes a press release and save-the-date cards. On May 13, 1920, Laura Wheelwright, President of the James River Garden Club, hosted a meeting with the eight original member clubs, and a motion was passed to create a federation of garden clubs now known as the GCV. The Centennial Celebration Founders Day events include:

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

The 100th Annual Meeting will be hosted by the James River Garden Club.

An evening reception will be hosted at the Kent-Valentine House for those arriving early but not attending the Annual Meeting. The evening event will showcase the renovations of our beautiful headquarters and provide an opportunity to socialize with GCV friends from around the state and see the location of the Time Capsule.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Founders Day events will begin at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture with a presentation by Thomas Woltz, Landscape Architect.

A Luncheon will be offered at the grand and glorious Marble Hall at the adjacent Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Participants are encouraged to use their free time to visit the seven nearby GCV Restoration properties or other local points of interest.

The Evening Gala with husbands and guests will offer a spectacular evening of fabulous food, drink, and flowers at the VMHC. The highlight of the evening will be the grand opening of our featured exhibition...*A Landscape Saved: Garden Club of Virginia at 100*.

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Famed floral designer Paula Pryke will be the featured speaker.

Each member club will have the opportunity to create a flower arrangement displayed at the VMHC during the Founders Day Celebrations. Please come to all or as many events that you can. These Founders Day Celebrations will highlight the efforts of those who have come before us while launching us into our next century in style. Please bring this message back to club members and make plans to be there.

Second Vice-President Catherine Madden introduced **Adele Smith, Daffodil Day Chairman**. Adele presented "By the Numbers" representing facts and figures associated with a very successful Daffodil Day. Adele thanked the GCV Membership Committee for hosting a new member orientation during the event and thanked Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens for their Facebook posts and information in their membership newsletter. Jeanette Cadwallender was awarded best in show for her 'Green Arrow' daffodil entry. The Daffodil Show will again be hosted at Lewis Ginter next year. **Lilies in Bloom Chairman Nina Mustard** announced the show would be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond on June 18, 2019.

Monday, June 17, 2019

Registration and workrooms open.

An Evening with Margot Shaw, Editor of *Flower Magazine* and author of *Living Floral: Entertaining and Decorating with Flowers* will be hosted at the KV House. Registration is required for the Margot Shaw event.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Registration and workrooms will be open until 10:00 a.m.

The Show will open to the public at 1:00 p.m.

Please note both Inter Club Artistic Classes are full. Lilies in Bloom is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Beale.

Artistic Design Committee Chairman Tory Willis noted the Artistic Design Committee has been very busy with the flower and photography workshop, Symposium, and Daffodil Day over the last year. A special thank you was given to everyone who helped with revising the judging process and the revisions on modern designs. There will be no Symposium in 2020, but the Committee is planning to host workshops during that time frame. There will be an opportunity for each club to create an arrangement displayed during the Founders Day Celebration at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture featuring distinct periods. Each club is encouraged to participate.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Rosser thanked everyone for their generous donations to the Annual Fund. Janet then introduced the following Committee Chairmen for whom she serves as their Board Liaison prior to their reports. **GCV Historian and Custodian of Records Judy Perry** reminded everyone to write their two-year club history after their term as president and email them to Judy. Presidents may also bring them to the KVH to be placed in their club's box. Ann Heller will place them on the GCV website. The Humorous Memories Project continues, and the deadline for stories is June 1. Over 100 stories have been received, and please encourage your club members to continue to submit stories. Names will not be used, but include your name and club for contact information. Please send these to Judy at gcvhistorian1920@gmail.com. Judy then reported Architect Mr. Liam O'Connor who is designing the British Normandy Memorial that will be unveiled in 2020 had contacted her. Mr. O'Connor had noticed the plaque installed at a church listing the names of GCV husbands and sons that had been lost in WWII. The GCV had adopted the little war-torn town of Ver-sur-Mer, a commune in the Normandy region, and restored ten stained glass windows in a 12th-century church located there. The town honored the GCV by naming a street the "Rue de Garden Club of Virginia." Judy will be writing a *Journal* article about this. The story of GCV's involvement with Ver-sur-Mer can be found online as written in *Follow the Green Arrow, Volume 1*. **Journal Editorial Board Chairman Julie Grover** announced the *Journal* would be redesigned and the new format will be revealed in the June 2020 edition that will be devoted to the Centennial. The new *Journal* will feature more and larger photographs, more white space, and issues with themes such as floral designs, the environment, garden legacies, and travel. There will be more focus on member club projects, member gardens, and profiles on experts and organizations in GCV-related fields. Julie asked each GCV committee to appoint a *Journal* liaison and forward their name to her by June 1. **Journal Advertising Chairman Lea Shuba** asked members to reach out to her with leads for potential *Journal* advertisers. There are advertising packets available, and Lea noted there is more success with a local connection. Please remember to advertise club events and club items for sale in the *Journal*. When shopping, please tell participating businesses that you saw their advertisements in the *Journal*.

Conservation and Beautification Chairman Carrie Dorsey introduced **Conservation Fellow Brynn Cook** who gave a very informative presentation on "Foraging Specialization in Polluted Atmospheres."

First Vice President and Chairman of the Centennial Steering Committee Missy Buckingham announced: "The Centennial merchandise is here!" Scarves, ties, bow ties, a Centennial Waterford ornament, and Tervis Tumblers were available for purchase at the meeting. The costs of the merchandise are as follows:

Silk Scarf - \$100

Ties - \$85 (available in coral, blue and green)

Bow Ties - \$85 (available in blue and green)

Waterford Ornament - \$75

Tervis Tumbler - \$25

These items will be for sale during the Annual Meeting and will also be available at the KVH, GCV events, and on the GCV website soon excluding the Tervis Tumblers.

After a 20-minute break, the meeting resumed at 3:15 p.m.

Conservation Awards Chairman Heidi James thanked member clubs for submitting their ballots for the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award. This award is supported through the generosity of the Carter family. Clubs receiving this award must implement a project that conserves resources and/or protects the environment, benefits a local community or the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, should serve as a catalyst for community action and inspire future conservations and conservation accomplishments. The 2019 winner of the Bessie Bocock Carter Award was announced as the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club for their Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve project. President Barbara Bandyke accepted the \$7000 award.

Conservation and Beautification Chairman Carrie Dorsey reported the Committee has been very busy, and Legislation Day was very successful with a great turn out. The Committee reviewed the Governor's proposed budget which allocated funds for conservation and natural resource programs representing a historic increase this year. A bill was passed to require Coal Ash Clean Up at the four unlined coal ash ponds in Virginia. The GCV continues its affiliation with the Virginia Conservation Network and Virginia Forever, which are excellent resources. The Committee will write a letter to the EPA on behalf of the GCV supporting the protection of the highest standards of water quality and to maintain the integrity of the Clean Water Act.

Back to Nature - Horticulture, Hiking and Conservation Forum – Trees: Canopy of Conservation at Natural Bridge - Conservation and Beautification Chairman Carrie Dorsey reported The Conservation Forum Committee would be hosting the Conservation Forum in conjunction with the State Parks and Horticulture Committees as part of the Centennial Celebration on September 24 – 25, 2019, at Natural Bridge State Park. There will be four speakers on September 25 with the topic of “Trees: Canopy of Conservation..” The speakers include Frazier Armstrong of Capital Trees, Elizabeth Brantly of Bartlett Trees, Eric Wiseman of Virginia Tech Big Tree Program, and Andrew Moore, author of *Pawpaw: In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit*. **State Parks Chairman Nina Mustard** presented the schedule of events. Monday, September 23 will be a set-up day. Tuesday, September 24 will include the Native Plants Horticulture Show, group and self-guided hikes, and geocaching. Bartlett Trees will have an event for children, and there will be a tree planting instead of a ribbon cutting. A Sip and See is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Horticulture Chairman Wendy Walker** encouraged members to bring blooms to the horticulture show and noted there is no advanced registration except for the Picnic in the Park exhibitors. The Picnic in the Park class requires individuals to bring a food item from their garden that will be judged. Please save green glass bottles for the horticulture display. The sign-up is available on the GCV website.

Horticulture Committee Chairman Wendy Walker thanked everyone for bringing the horticulture “Storm Survivors” display. Please inform the Horticulture Committee about what topics members want to read about in the *Journal*. Horticulture Field Day will be held May 22-23 and is sold out. The 2019 Horticulture Award of Merit winners are Susan Garrett, The Nansemond River Garden Club, and Sherry Leffel, The Spotswood Garden Club.

GCV Recoding Secretary Kris Carbone presented the Membership Committee report for Chairman Diane Wilkinson. The Three Rivers Garden Club has increased their membership to 25, and they helped The Ashland Garden Club with their 2019 HGW tour. Membership Orientation was held at Daffodil Day and was informative and interesting with the strong support of GCV chairmen and staff. The Membership Committee will request nominations for GCV honorary membership from member clubs in the near future.

Common Wealth Committee Chairman Karla MacKimmie reminded everyone the Common Wealth Award provides annual grants to the community projects of the GCV's member clubs. The Elizabeth River Garden Club was the 2018 recipient. The 2019 finalist will be written about in the *Journal* and voted on by the member clubs in the fall. The winner will be announced at the Board of Governors in October. Congratulations were given to the two finalists for the 2019 Common Wealth Award: Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement submitted by the Boxwood Garden Club, and The Discovery Trail: Connecting Children with Nature submitted by the Mill Mountain Garden Club.

Restoration Chairman Anne Baldwin reported each member of the Committee serves as a liaison to several of the Restoration properties. The Committee travels across the state several times per year to visit the properties on a rotating basis. Members of the Committee would love to visit each of the member clubs and give a 30 or 50-minute presentation. They can also visit and provide an update on Restoration and answer questions about the activities of the Committee. The GCV Restoration Research Fellowships were awarded. Dania Khlaifat, the Rudy J. Favretti Fellow, will be researching the historic landscape at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, VA. The William D. Rieley Fellow, Hayden Hammons, will be researching Mount Airy in Warsaw, VA. There will be special events planned at some Restoration properties in honor of the GCV Centennial with information to follow. Anne presented an opportunity for a special gift from the GCV to The British Normandy Memorial in honor of the 75th anniversary of D Day. The history of the GCV's support of war-torn Europe in WWII in the 1940s was presented. In 1940, a \$1000 gift was sent from Restoration funds to England in support of civilian relief. In 1941, \$20,000 was donated for relief in Britain, which was the entire proceeds of HGW for that year. \$20,000 is the equivalent of \$357,000 today. Lady Astor, the first woman elected to the British Parliament, facilitated these efforts. The Restoration Committee recommended the GCV send \$20,000 from Restoration funds to support landscaping at The British Normandy Memorial, and the GCV Board of Directors voted to support this. This gift will be listed as part of the Restoration budget under "Special Gifts and Contributions." Anne Baldwin made the following motion:

Motion: I move that the GCV send \$20,000 from the Restoration funds to support the British Normandy Memorial for the landscaping of the grounds of the Memorial. The motion carried unanimously.

Restoration Chairman Anne Baldwin introduced **GCV Landscape Architect Mr. Will Rieley**, who gave a presentation titled "A Short Look Back at What We have Done in Virginia."

President Gilpin reminded everyone the Annual Meeting will continue at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday and adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

The Annual Meeting resumed at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday with a call to order by President Gilpin.

President Gilpin began the morning by thanking The Elizabeth River Garden Club and congratulated Judy Perry for receiving the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. President Gilpin also

congratulated Anne Beals for being the recipient of the deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation. **Recording Secretary Kris Carbone** presented the Roll Call Report: 7 Officers, 6 Directors at Large, 7 Board Committee Chairmen, 9 Standing Committee Chairmen, 4 Special Committee Chairmen, 4 GCV Staff members, 11 former GCV Presidents, 41 Presidents, 6 Vice Presidents, 44 Delegates, 4 Special Guests, and accounting for those attending in more than one capacity, the total number of attendees was 144.

President Gilpin announced Bartlett Tree Experts would be the main Centennial sponsor. Bartlett shares the same values as the GCV. Their support will include 12 in-kind support workdays, and they are hoping to focus their efforts on the GCV Restoration properties.

Development Committee Chairman Sue Rosser thanked the Centennial sponsors in addition to Bartlett Trees. These sponsors include Towne Bank, Hildrup and the McDaniel family, IMVA, Valley Protein, Robert and Lucy Huff, and Grelen Nursery. Sue presented "The top ten reasons of what the GCV does for me." Everyone was reminded of the elevator cards that were left for each attendee on the tables promoting the GCV's positive impact on Virginia.

GCV Executive Director Lynn McCashin proclaimed the ladies of the GCV have always had their own way of getting things done, are relentless, and have been able to grow with the sophistication of our knowledge! Great examples include fighting against billboards, the protection of the Goshen Pass, and the development of position papers. Lynn encouraged the attendees to carry on the GCV mission.

Kent-Valentine House Committee Chairman Jody Branch thanked Lynn McCashin, Quan McGough, and Lee Mondesir for keeping the KVH running smoothly. All current projects at the KVH will be finished by summer. There is new paint, a repaired roof, new carpet, new upholstery, refinished furniture, and soon the floors will be refinished. There are currently two pier mirrors that have been conserved, two that are in the process of being conserved, and one in the pipeline. The landscape will be attended to and ready for the fall. The dogwood planted in honor of Margaret Bemiss was filled with blooms, and the 'Green Arrow' daffodils bloomed out front. There will be a cocktail reception at the KVH on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, as part of the Centennial Celebration events. Jody reminded everyone to please bring members to visit the KVH.

The Directors at Large (Bettie Guthrie, Meg Laughon, Anne Harrison Harris, Debbie Lewis, Tuckie Westfall, and Ellen Upton) presented the accomplishments of the member clubs. The DALs reminded everyone that the 6 DALs are there to help the member club presidents. There will be a Presidents Day hosted on June 3, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the KVH. DALs Debbie Lewis, Ellen Upton, and Meg Laughon with the help of 2nd Vice President Catherine Madden sang the song "Red Roses," and each president was given a red rose. Tuckie Westfall, Meg Laughon, and Ellen Upton are ending their terms and were thanked for their service by President Gilpin.

First Vice President Missy Buckingham presented the Nominations Committee report for Chairman Ann Gordon Evans. The nominations for Directors at Large include:

District 2: Fran Carden-Albemarle Garden Club
District 5: Laura Francis-The Hunting Creek Garden Club
District 6: Debbie Bonnewell-Harborfront Garden Club

President Gilpin read Article VIII, Section 8.3 of the Garden Club of Virginia Bylaws which states: Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor, provided consent of the

candidate has been obtained in advance. No nominations from the floor were presented. The May 2019 – May 2021 slate for the three Directors at Large was accepted as presented.

Chairman of Strategic Planning Candy Crosby communicated the Committee continues to focus on ways the GCV can embrace the next 100 years. The Committee has had nine meetings since 2018 and announced the issues and recommendations for the GCV Board of Directors. These include:

- Ownership of HGW including the trademark and copyright of HGW
- HGW accounting – best practices provided for member clubs on how to handle HGW
- GCV Finance - create a five-year budget and hire a consultant to determine if our level of spending is sustainable for five years.
- GCV Communications – The GCV should consider establishing a Communications Committee to oversee the President’s monthly newsletter, *The Year in Review*, the website, and social media. The Chairman would serve on the Board of Directors.
- GCV *Journal* – Explore the possibility of upgrading the design
- GCV Membership – Investigate whether new membership categories could be added
- GCV Nominating and Leadership – Create a simple electronic survey to identify potential leaders and talents of club members
- GCV Member Club Presidents – Club Presidents invite their respective Director at Large and the GCV President to attend one of their membership meetings during their term

Claire Mellinger, Albermarle Garden Club has been an integral part of GCV events by creating a photography class at Daffodil Day and the Symposium. Claire noted member photography is now included in the President’s *Membership News*. The Symposium had six classes and 36 entries, and Daffodil Day had four classes and 16 entries. The Novice Award at the Daffodil Show was given to Patricia Sauer, Tuckahoe, and the Claire Smithers Mellinger Award was given to Catriona Erler, Albermarle. The photography workshop was a great time, and participants used their cell phone cameras. This workshop may be hosted again in 2020. In 2020, Claire will join forces with the Restoration Committee and create a photography show called “A Sense of Place.” The schedule will be sent to all members. This will be a juried show displayed at the KVH.

2019 Annual Meeting Co-Chairman Shirley Sondej introduced guest speaker **Captain M.K. Nunley, Nurse Corps, USN, Retired**, who gave a presentation about activities on a US Navy aircraft carrier. Shirley then introduced **Captain George W. Watkins, Retired**, who shared pilot stories and facts about the Port of Virginia, including Virginia’s imports and exports.

After a 23-minute break, the meeting resumed at 10:53 a.m.

Historic Garden Week Chairman Stephie Broadwater thanked everyone for all their time and energy to pull off HGW. Stephie visited seven tours and noted the beautiful weather. Because HGW concluded on May 4, no reports were currently available with results expected by mid-June. KISS or Keep it Simple Sisters was presented encouraging clubs to focus on what HGW is – a home and garden tour. Each club should take a fresh look at how tours are planned including the number of volunteers, the number of arrangements, and the number of houses. When planning a tour, the number of homes should be based on the available resources. The HGW State Committee is focused on social media and encouraged clubs to do the same. All but one tour has a Facebook page and all but two have an Instagram presence. Facebook followers have had an increase of 20%, and Instagram followers have increased by 42%. The state Instagram account is @historicgardenweek, and the local tours are @historicgardenweekfredricksburg (example.) Please like and comment on Facebook and Instagram.

This year was the first ever mention of HGW by the *Wall Street Journal*. HGW was also seen in *Virginia Living*, *Garden and Gun*, *Albermarle* magazine and other publications. HGW has a continued relationship with *Flower Magazine*, and a writer from *Architectural Digest* attended. There will be a significant update to the *Insiders Guide*, which will include job descriptions of key roles. The best practices on tracking attendance include using a clicker at one or two of the homes, and every visitor should be counted, including state pass holders. The state HGW Committee has been working very hard over the last two years and have made two recommendations to the GCV Board. These include the tour change request process, and a change to the GCV bylaws of member clubs annual responsibilities associate with HGW. It is also the Committee's job to view HGW as a statewide event, not just single tours. HGW is going to be organized into geographic regions instead of the current districts. These regions include the east, west, north, south, and central regions. A handout was shared titled "Historic Garden Week by Day" showing a layout of how many tours are scheduled on each day. Tour proceeds can be affected by too much competition on a single day, bad weather, and gaps between regional tour days. If you would like to change your tour day, please contact the HGW State Chairman. An announcement was made that a new database project will be started to include tour histories, and this will occur in phases. In addition, there will be an update to the economic impact study that was completed in 2014. The photograph for the cover of the 2020 Guidebook has been taken, and it fits perfectly into the Centennial year. Stephie stated, "You are going to love it!" Stephie thanked Karen Ellsworth, Terri Lowman, Jean Gilpin, Lynn McCashin and the HGW State Committee for all their efforts during her time as HGW Chairman. Tricia Garner, Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, was introduced and will be the 2019 - 2021 HGW State Chairman. Tricia thanked Stephie for all that she has accomplished during the past two years.

Virginia State Parks Committee Chairman Nina Mustard reported the GCV is in year four of the five-year, \$500,000 funding commitment to the State Parks. A slide show was presented depicting the history, attendance, and spending at Virginia State Parks. Nina noted a total of 21 member clubs partnered with 23 State Parks, and 12 grants were given in 2019. Nina also shared slides of projects funded by the GCV Centennial State Park commitment. Everyone was encouraged to attend the event at Natural Bridge on September 24 – 25. President Gilpin noted Nina would be rotating off the Board as Past GCV President and thanked Nina for her 11 years of service to the GCV Board of Directors.

Annual and Board of Governors Meetings Chairman Sydney Jordan thanked members of The Elizabeth River Garden Club including Co-Chairmen Martha Perkins and Shirley Sondej for planning a wonderful Annual Meeting. **Susie Rawles, James River Garden Club**, thanked Elizabeth River and noted they had set the bar high. Susie read a poem and invited attendees to the 100th Annual Meeting in Richmond on May 12, 2020.

Annual Meeting Co-Chairmen Martha Perkins and Shirley Sondej thanked everyone for coming to Portsmouth. Martha Perkins stated she hoped everyone has made new friends and enjoyed learning about Portsmouth.

President Gilpin thanked the GCV Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and club presidents and commented that they inspire us all. President Gilpin also thanked The Elizabeth River Garden Club for all their efforts in making this a wonderful meeting.

With no new business being brought forth, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Carbone
Recording Secretary

MOTIONS

Motion: Anne Vanderwarker moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 99th GCV Board of Governors meeting held in October 2019. Tricia McDaniel seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Vicky Alexander made the following motion -

Motion: Madame President, I move that the GCV vote to approve the budget as presented for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020. Bettie Guthrie seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Restoration Chairman Anne Baldwin made the following motion-

Motion: I move that the GCV send \$20,000 from the Restoration funds to support the British Normandy Memorial for the landscaping of the grounds of the Memorial. The motion carried unanimously.



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

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May 8-9, 2019

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President's Remarks

Jean Gilpin

I want to welcome all of you to what I know will be an exciting, informative, inspiring and fun annual meeting. Thank you to Betty Jo Gwaltney, Martha Perkins, Shirley Sondej, and all the members of The Elizabeth River Garden Club for everything they have done to make this meeting special for us.

99 years ago, on May 13, 1920, Laura Wheelwright invited friends from 8 garden clubs across the commonwealth to come to Richmond and discuss the formation of a federation of garden clubs. Who could have known what an impact this one act would have on the Commonwealth of Virginia? These ladies spoke about their interests: floral and garden design, native plants, shrubs and trees, preserving the beauty of the landscape. And they also talked about their concerns: pests in their gardens, billboards, clear cutting trees to make way for roads, the destruction of habitats. They quickly realized that together they could learn from each other, and together they could make a difference. On that day in 1920 those women founded the Garden Club of Virginia.

Intrepid, courageous, resolute, dauntless, passionate. All of these words describe the women of GCV's past. They created house and garden tours to fund the restoration of landscapes of our historic treasures. Why? Because they knew how fragile and transient these landscapes could be. And they understood the importance of these properties, not just to Virginia, but to our nation's history. They fought against the development of Goshen Pass. Why? Because they

understood that the view sheds and habitats, once gone, could not be replaced. They fought for the establishment of the Virginia State Parks. Why? Because they realized the protection of open space is intrinsic to our way of life in Virginia.

Today, we, the 3,500 members of the Garden Club of Virginia, not only carry on the traditions and aspirations of our past, but we continue to build on these goals and beliefs. We have become stronger, more dedicated, and more impassioned as we carry out our mission to conserve, preserve and beautify our Commonwealth while educating and encouraging future generations to do the same.

Today marks the beginning of our year of Centennial celebration. Today, you will hear from committee chairmen about how their committees will celebrate our past while reaching out to the future. I invite you to join us as we celebrate all that we are. And I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and the Garden Club of Virginia.

To start the celebration, I would like to recognize a very special group of women. These ladies have been steadfast in their loyalty to GCV. They are our pillars, our ambassadors, truly the shoulders upon which this organization stands. We would not be here today without their efforts, hard work and support. So, I ask our Former Presidents of the Garden Club of Virginia, to please stand and accept, with our gratitude and respect, a gift we have for you to mark the beginning of our Centennial Year.

Annual Meeting and Board of Governors

Sidney Jordan, Chairman

Annual Meeting 2019

The Elizabeth River Garden Club in Portsmouth is our host for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Their theme “Welcome to Portsmouth the Port of Virginia” shares with us the waterways of Hampton Roads. Our meeting chairmen, Martha Perkins and Shirley Sondej, have been hard at work laying the plans for the meeting. President Jean Gilpin, Lynn McCashin, Ann Heller and myself were welcomed to Portsmouth in March to review the plans.

Board of Governors Meeting 2019

The Board of Governors Meeting 2019 will be hosted by the Garden Club of the Northern Neck. The chairmen of the meeting are Lois Spencer and Jan Schuler. The dates of this meeting will be October 15, 16, & 17 held at Stratford Hall and Westmoreland State Park. Their theme will be “The Northern Neck, Where Nature Speaks to your Soul”. President Jean Gilpin, GCV Staff and myself will review plans coming up this summer.

Upcoming Meetings

Annual Meeting 2020, hosted by the James River Garden Club, is in the planning stages. Hotels are finalized with the schedule being worked on. A reminder that this Annual Meeting is

a 2-day event beginning on Monday and ending Tuesday, leading into our Centennial Celebration. The date for this annual meeting will be May 11, and 12th, 2020.

Upcoming Board of Governors will be October 13-15, 2020 with our hosts being The Garden Club of Warren County.

Artistic Design Committee

Tory Willis, Chairman

The Artistic Design Committee continues to move forward and accomplish great things thanks to the tireless work of the members!

Thanks to the efforts of Pat Filer – Dolley Madison – a successful hands on flower workshop and photography instruction was held at KVH. Claire Mellinger managed the photo instruction to a sold-out class. We are so blessed as Anne Vanderwarker – Albemarle and Laura Francis – Hunting Creek -leaders of the floral workshop – also sold out. Included in the hands-on workshop was the material for judging. Each participant had the opportunity to take the first of the Judges exam and all that took it passed! Pat is already looking at dates for a fall workshop and the second exam will be offered.

Following the success of the Fall Symposium 2018, the committee quickly gathered speed to develop the schedule for the next show - Daffodil Day held at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (LGBG). Adele Smith was Chairman, and her energy and enthusiasm was contagious. Virginia Living came and photographed the Artistic and Horticulture Exhibits as well as interviewed judges and other members.

The Artistic Exhibit space was lovely. The schedule was developed by Lee Snyder - Harborfront, Meredith Lauter - Three Chopt Garden Club and me – Rappahannock Valley. We continue to expand the number of entries in the InterClub class division, and this remains the most popular class for entry. The Azalea room was a profusion of blooms, and with the use of the pedestals each arrangement was its own work of art. We benefited from the publicity of the LGBG and had public visitors to the Artistic Exhibit. The total number of exhibits was 38 and all classes were filled. So many members of the Committee were instrumental to the success of the show!

A special thanks to Bev Earman - Spotswood - who following the Fall Symposium 2018 – implemented a number of registration and tabulation changes that made the Daffodil Day run much smoother.

The dust had barely settled from Daffodil Day before we began the process of including a small Artistic element to the upcoming Lily Show. There is space for a total of 12 entries and as of this report – only four spaces are available! Thanks so much to Nina Mustard for letting us make this happen.

The Committee continues to expand its membership to assure that we have sufficient numbers to manage the shows, workshops and judging. A revision to the Contemporary Styles is proceeding along with the judging criteria and testing.

Plans are underway for the Centennial Celebration and the Committee hopes to be able to unveil more detail at the meeting. For now – we hope to be able to facilitate club arrangements representing distinct time periods for placement in the museum!

While no Fall Symposium is planned for 2019 – the Committee is looking at ways to facilitate an exhibit in Richmond.

Centennial Committee

Missy Buckingham, Chairman

Madame President, Board of Directors, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let the countdown begin! How exciting that we can say that as of today the Garden Club of Virginia is beginning its Centennial year! And you are here to launch us into this celebration of our first 100 Years.

Your club liaisons have already met several times as a group with the Centennial Steering Committee to bring back information to your members and to suggest plans on how everyone can participate in their communities. You have at your seats copies of what we will be providing the liaisons very soon to use to help spread the word about the wonderful work that the Garden Club of Virginia has done across our Commonwealth – including the initial press release, which can help everyone tell our story. Surely you, too, will be wonderful ambassadors for the Centennial and proud not only of where our organization has been, but where it is going.

Now for a reminder of how it all began...

Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright, who was President of the James River Garden club in 1920 extended an invitation to 7 other Virginia clubs to send their presidents and one delegate to a conference in Richmond on May 13, 1920. The guests included The Albemarle Garden Club, The Danville Garden Club, The Dolly Madison Garden Club, The Norfolk Garden Club, The Warrenton Garden Club, and The Augusta Garden Club. It was at that time that the motion was passed to form a state federation of Garden Clubs, known as the Garden Clubs of Virginia.

So, it is only fitting and proper that exactly 100 years later we will be celebrating our founding with special festivities in Richmond, Virginia. Thanks to a collaborative and forward thinking planning effort over recent years by GCV members from around the state that continues to this day, I am pleased to present to you the schedule of events for our Founders Day Celebration festivities in May 2020. (*Drumroll, please*)

On Tuesday May 12 will be the 100th Annual meeting and Awards banquet of the Garden Club of Virginia for former presidents, club presidents, delegates, Board members and committee chairs hosted by the James River Garden Club. In addition, for those arriving early for Centennial events there will be a reception at the Kent-Valentine House that evening to showcase the renovations of our beautiful headquarters, see the location of the Time Capsule, and socialize with GCV friends from around the state.

On the morning of Wednesday, May 13th, Founders Day events will begin at the former Virginia Historical Society - the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. This museum will be the location over the next few days for two speakers, a Gala Reception and the grand opening of the Garden Club of Virginia Exhibition. GCV clubs will be offered the opportunity to showcase their members floral arranging talents as part of the decor during our Founders Day events. Our exhibition will be in place and open to be viewed by the public after our grand opening until early fall of 2020. What a wonderful opportunity to share our history, mission and contributions to our state linking our past to the present and looking to the future.

If you refer to the Save-the-Date cards at your seats, the morning of Wednesday, May 13 begins with a presentation by Thomas L. Woltz – a most engaging, very handsome and internationally renowned landscape designer. His work is innovative and cutting edge – saving both urban and pastoral landscapes. His remarks about conservation will educate and enlighten all.

Midday there will be a luncheon (with wine, of course!) offered in the grand and glorious Marble Hall at the adjacent Virginia Museum of Fine Arts where you will be free to browse or perhaps take a tour. Centennial participants will also be encouraged to use their free time to visit the Garden Club of Virginia's seven nearby Restoration properties or other local points of interest.

That night there will be a spectacular evening of fabulous food, drink, and flowers that no member will want to miss. You, your GCV friends, husbands and guests will be able to browse throughout the entire Virginia Museum of History & Culture with the highlight of the evening being the grand opening of our featured exhibition *A Landscape Saved: Garden Club of Virginia at 100*. Many thanks to all of you and your club members who have looked in attics, closets and under your beds to find relics from past Garden Club days to help tell our story in the exhibition. This evening is not to be missed!

The next morning on May 14 plan to return to the Virginia Museum of History & Culture for what is certain to be a fabulous and inspiring demonstration by famed English floral designer Paula Pryke. Paula is coming all the way from London to share her extraordinary talents with us. This is your chance to get a global sense of what's hot in the world of international floral design.

What a fabulous way to reflect on the Garden Club of Virginia's first century, the dedication to our mission and our contributions to the state of Virginia. We can celebrate with pride what we have done and consider how we are poised to do even more in the future.

These Founder Day celebrations will give us all the opportunity to be inspired. By highlighting the efforts of those who have come before us, you can't help but feel a sense of pride and appreciation for our wonderful organization - launching us into our next century in style.

And of equal importance, it gives us the chance to do what we all love to do... meet and mix with our sister club members from around the state while we eat, drink and be merry!! Don't miss this chance to embrace our past and plan to come to all or as many of these Founders Day events as you can to enjoy the camaraderie that the Garden Club of Virginia offers and that we all treasure.

It has been so exciting and an honor to work with all of the committees involved over this past year– without such a smart and talented group of women dedicated to bringing our Centennial celebrations to life none of this would have become a reality. We would like each and every one of you to bring this message back to your club members and start making your plans to be in Richmond May 12-14, 2020. Thank you.

LAUNCH OF CENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE

Jean has already given you a “sneak preview” in her gift to our cherished former Presidents of a very special Garden Club of Virginia scarf. But what you may not have expected is that these scarves and other specially designed and created Centennial keepsake merchandise are here... just behind those closed doors... today and throughout this Annual Meeting for you to

purchase. I am delighted to unveil these wonderful commemorative items to you at this time. The shopping will begin in a few minutes.... hold on to your hats!

First, our scarf-

Specially designed to celebrate our Centennial by Peter-Blair Accessories in Richmond, this oblong scarf is 100% silk twill with the edges hand rolled and hemmed. The design features local botanicals, both cultivated and from the wild, creating a lush border complete with our favorite pollinators. Its color palette is soft, subtle and intended to be worn year-round. Sales price is \$100.

Not wanting to overlook the special gentlemen in our lives, we are offering men's neckties and bow ties also designed by Peter-Blair Accessories with a subtle overall pattern of our signature GCV leaf logo. These handsome ties are 100% imported silk, and hand sewn in the United States. The neckties will be offered in coral, blue or grass green and the bow ties in blue and green. Sales price for each is \$85.

This classy and classic Waterford Crystal Keepsake Ornament is offered with our Centennial logo. A limited edition, this ornament is the perfect way to celebrate and commemorate the GCV Centennial. It also makes a lovely gift. Don't go home without one. Sales price is \$75.

And finally, just in time for summer, plan to stock up on Tervis tumblers with our Centennial logo for your home, beach, or river house. Only \$20 each.

Just a note.....

After this Annual Meeting, the sales will continue and be open to our entire membership. The scarves, ties, ornament and tumblers will be able to be purchased at the Kent-Valentine House and at select GCV events. All of the items except the tumblers will be able to be ordered online soon from the GCV website. Just a reminder that the Waterford ornaments are offered as a limited edition. Keep in mind that Mother's Day and Father's Day are fast upon us as well as high school and college graduations. One stop...easy shopping!

Now, as soon as Jean announces the break, the doors will open and you will have your first opportunity to view and purchase these wonderful keepsake items to celebrate our Centennial.

Oh, and don't worry. If there is not enough time to get what you would like during this break, please note that the merchandise will be available after the meeting today and before and after the meeting tomorrow. LET THE SHOPPING BEGIN!

Common Wealth Committee

Karla MacKimmie, Chairman

The Common Wealth Award, established by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1979, provides an annual grant or grants to fund community projects of member clubs in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education. How fitting that our host club for this meeting, The Elizabeth River Garden Club, was the recipient of the 2018 Common Wealth Award for their outdoor classroom at Paradise Creek Park.

An article detailing the 2019 finalists' projects will appear on the website and in the June issue of the *Journal*. Member clubs will vote on the project prior to the Board of Governors meeting in October, at which time the winner will be announced.

Congratulations to the two finalists for the 2019 Common Wealth Award: Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement submitted by the Boxwood Garden Club and The Discovery Trail: Connecting Children with Nature submitted by Mill Mountain Garden Club.

Conservation and Beautification Committee

Carrie Dorsey, Chairman

Thank you to all of the Elizabeth River Garden Club – your gracious hospitality has made us all feel so welcome!

Legislative Day: The Conservation and Beautification Committee continues to be busy! We had a hugely successful Legislative Day back in January with the Virginia Conservation Network putting together a line-up of state officials and conservation directors to speak with us on some of the most pressing environmental policies facing Virginia. GCV had a good turnout of club members who gathered in Richmond to visit their legislators and advocate for the Garden Club's issues of concern.

As many of you know, the Governor's proposed budget allocated for conservation and natural resource programs represented a historic increase this year! The VA General Assembly focused much of its spending on water quality programs. Several outstanding accomplishments included the bills passed to require **Coal Ash Clean Up** at the 4 unlined coal ash ponds in Virginia. At least 1/4 of the coal ash collected will be recycled and the remainder will be removed safely to contained areas away from any watershed. **Agriculture Best Management Practice programs** were the big winner in terms of funding. Those programs will allow farmers and rural residents more money to invest in tree planting and fencing which will reduce polluted water runoff into streams and rivers. In tangent with water quality improvement, Alexandria water treatment facilities received the money they needed to bring their facilities up to the highest standards and reduce runoff into the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay. These are just a few of the General Assembly's bipartisan accomplishments.

GCV's affiliations with **Virginia Conservation Network and Virginia Forever** organizations have proved to be excellent partnerships and resources to help us understand the complex conservation issues **and** corresponding budget appropriations. Additionally, these partnerships expand our contacts at the state association level with whom we can build relationships and continue to learn from. It's nice to be able to call up people at the Department of Forestry or Department of Environmental Quality and learn how specific funding may affect their success.

GCV also follows national level issues – especially when they are complicated and affect Virginia directly. This year's hot topic was the proposed changes to the Clean Water Rule of 2015. It is still in play... After much research, it was agreed that the issue was best addressed by GCV crafting our own letter of support rather than sign onto a group letter of other environmental organizations. This letter to the Environmental Protection Agency outlined

GCV's mission of protecting **the highest** standards of water quality and asked the federal government not to jeopardize the integrity of the original Clean Water Act. I am expecting a response back from Andrew Wheeler of the EPA!

Onto our Fall Activities: The Conservation Forum committee is excited to announce this Fall's Conservation Forum in conjunction with the Parks and Horticulture Committees as part of our big Centennial Celebration on **September 24 and 25th at Natural Bridge State Park!** The topic is **Trees: Canopy of Conservation**. Four **excellent** speakers will present on Wednesday as well as a guided hike offered that afternoon outside of the Lexington Horse Center which will focus on the unique topography of the area around the river in addition to the trees that thrive there. It will be an athletic hike from what I am told.

The Wednesday speakers will revolve around the health of our forests and trees, and their various ecosystems. We have engaged the **head** of Virginia Tech's Forestry Program, Eric Weisman, who also sits on the board of Trees Virginia. He will speak about the Big Tree Program along with diseases and pests challenging trees in VA. The executive director of Capital Trees in Richmond will showcase all that has been accomplished by their organization to transform a once desolate area of inner-city Richmond into a beautifully landscaped park that is now a destination for urban residents and tourists alike. Their process of collaborating with the city has become a formula for other organizations to achieve public/ private partnerships in cities across Virginia. Focusing on Tree health will be an expert from Bartlett Trees who will show us the symbiotic relationship of trees and other plants and how that effects other ecosystems. Our show case speaker is a renowned author whose book on the forgotten Paw Paw Tree will speak about fruit trees and their beneficial relationship to other plants. **Who knew** that the Paw Paw fruit is North America's **largest** edible fruit? I am looking forward to learning more...perhaps tasting a sample... and hope **you all** will join us at Natural Bridge for this multi program, **super interesting** conservation forum and centennial celebration this September!

Conservation Awards Committee

Heidi James, Chairman

Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Winner for 2019

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club
Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve

Thank you to all member clubs for sending in your ballots to determine the winner of this year's Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award. We were honored to have two unbelievably outstanding projects to choose from and that made the voting very close right up to the end.

This award, named for the GCV President from 1998-2000, was established in 2009 and is a monetary award that is funded through the GCV with the generous support of the Carter family. Clubs receiving this award must implement a project that conserves resources and/or protects the environment, benefits a local community or the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, should serve as a catalyst for community action and inspire future conservationists and conservation accomplishments.

This year's winning project is the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve, sponsored by the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club. Barbara Bandyke is their President and would she please come forward! The Winchester Clarke Garden Club, in partnership with the City of Winchester's Parks and Recreation Department and Shenandoah University's Environmental Studies Program, began supporting the project in 2003.

With a central location, this 25-acre urban greenspace and wetlands preserve is an educational and recreational resource for Winchester. In 2017, recognizing the fragility of the marsh, the WCGC began raising funds and donating volunteer hours to restore and protect it. The marsh is a habitat for over 304 plant species, including 20 that are rare in Virginia and 2 that are found nowhere else in the state. No other comparable wetlands in Virginia has as many rare plant species.

Because the marsh is also a calcareous muck fen with a limestone bedrock, low acidity and high nutrient levels, it captures pollutants and keeps them out of drinking water. It can take 10,000 years for a fen to develop and it would be terrible to lose it. Encroaching shrubs and trees threatened the area, as does nearby development.

WCGC members will add signage, handicap accessible paths, an audio walking tour, and manpower to help keep the marsh free of invading plant life. Because of the efforts of the WCGC, the City of Winchester and Shenandoah University, the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve is a protected haven for learning, relaxing and appreciating the gifts of nature.

Congratulations to the Winchester Clarke Garden Club. This year's award amount is \$7,000 and we know they will put it to great use!

Presentation of deLacy Gray Medal for Conservation

It's not often that one has the honor of recognizing someone who has dedicated her life to a worthy cause that benefits every single one of us. I have just such an honor tonight as I introduce this year's winner of the deLacy Gray Conservation Medal. First awarded in 1965 as a memorial to de Lacy Thompson Gray and given originally by the Dolley Madison Garden Club, this medal is presented to an individual member, or a member club, for outstanding effort to further the knowledge of our natural resources and to encourage their wise use. This year's winner is Anne Mead Beals, who was nominated by Jeanette Cadwallender.

Anne has worked throughout her life to promote responsible forestry and the ideals of conservation. Beginning in 1973, Anne and her late husband, George, lived on 3,800-acre Oakley Farm in Spotsylvania County and managed it using responsible farming and forestry practices. Because of their efforts, Oakley Farm was designated as a Tree Farm in 1988, earned recognition from the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation in 1990, won the Clean Water Farm Award in 1999, and was recognized as a Good Earth Conservation Farm.

Anne has also been a great educator. Over the years, 4th graders in Spotsylvania County had the opportunity to come to Oakley Farm for a program called the Meaningful Watershed

Educational Experience, through a partnership between the Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District, Virginia Tech and the local public school system.

In 2017, the Beals family sold 2,900 acres of Oakley Farm to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries now oversees it as the Oakley Forest Wildlife Management Area. It will be managed in perpetuity as working forest land. The remaining 900 acres, including two historic homes, will remain in the family and will be protected by a conservation easement. By putting 2,900 acres of Oakley Farm in perpetual managed care, the Beals family has preserved open space, protected a fragile wildlife habitat and conserved natural resources.

Anne has served on the GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee several times and was chairman from 2012-14. She was on the committee when the GCV, in partnership with the National Wildlife Foundation, created a PowerPoint presentation on Climate Change. Anne traveled to member clubs to share the presentation. This work led to the GCV adopting a position on climate change. Anne has written numerous articles for the *GCV Journal*, including one on the GCV's position on uranium mining.

In the 35 years of membership in the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, including serving as President from 2004-2006, Anne has led club conservation projects on best practices for water conservation, urban forestry, recycling and smart growth.

Anne has served on numerous boards over the years including the Virginia Conservation Network, the Virginia Forestry Board, she served as Chairman of the Editorial Committee of Virginia Forests Magazine, and the list goes on and on. We can all appreciate Anne's efforts by hearing this list, but we know it is only the tip of the iceberg of what else she has done behind the scenes. With much enthusiasm I present to you

Anne Mead Beals

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Rosser

Madame President, Past Presidents, Members of the Board, and Ladies of the Club:

As Corresponding Secretary, I have the pleasure of conveying our thanks to many donors for their continued generosity in contributing to the GCV. Donations to the Annual Fund are very important to the operating needs of the GCV, as are the gifts to other GCV funds and to the endowment.

As an ex-officio member of the Development Committee and the *Journal* Editorial Board, I continue to facilitate communications between these groups as they tackle their important work and implement exciting plans for the future. With the beginning of the celebration of our centennial, smooth communications within the GCV and with the public at large will be vitally important, and I will strive to help in this effort.

Daffodil Day

Adele Smith

By the Numbers

As a math major, teacher and tutor, I spent most of my adult life working with numbers. It obviously came naturally to me since I have discovered that I count things...steps I climb or each time my knife slices a vegetable and the compulsive part of me wants to slice each veggie the same number of times. I have a problem...or two.

Today I am going to use my fascination with counting to describe the numbers associated with a VERY successful Daffodil Day held this year at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond:

- 0** – The number of daffodils I thought we might have at the show since we had a very rainy fall and winter but Mother Nature and Father Time proved me wrong.
- 2** – The number of days in the show
- 3** – The number of judged events--Artistic design, Horticulture and Photography
- 4** – The number of people sent by Virginia Living to get pictures and background information for an article to appear in next spring's House and Garden Supplement.
- 5** – The time my alarm went off THREE DAYS IN A ROW! (OK, so that was not a real number but I haven't been up before the sun since I had babies!)

These next numbers will not be in numerical order which makes me cringe just a little but makes better sense this way.

- 120** – The number of volunteers
- 27** – The number of interclub exhibitors
- 132** – The number of individual exhibitors
- 40** – The number of pieces of silver, cups, crystal, and special ribbons presented
- 489** – The number of ribbons given (164 – blue; 123- red; 97-yellow; 105-white/HM) And congratulations to all who won ribbons and special awards!
- 1419** – The number of stems in Horticulture

Before I tell you my favorite number, I will confess that when the happy people kept coming into the show – thanks to our members who attended the New Member Orientation and the people notified by Lewis Ginter either through their membership newsletters or posts on Facebook – I wish I had thought to bring a counter/clicker. We all were surprised and thrilled at the number of visitors who came to the show. My guess would be well over 100.

Now for my favorite number:

1 – There can only be one best in show and this year it was a Green Arrow and it was not even displayed with the rest of the green arrows! No one knew until the tab was flipped up to reveal the name of the flower. Imagine our delight that it was our newly hybridized Green Arrow grown by our own Jeannette Cadwallendar! The show couldn't have ended on a better note.

Development Committee

Sue Rosser

Madam President, Former Presidents, Members of the Board, Ladies and guests,

These are truly exciting times in the life of our Garden Club of Virginia as we plan to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2020. To commemorate this occasion, we are hosting programs and events that will raise awareness of our role in conservation, preservation, education and beautification.

We are very grateful to those who recognize the impact GCV has made in our commonwealth and support us, as together we look to the future. A very special thank you to those sponsors to date who have partnered with us for our celebration: Lucy and Robert Huff, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, IMVA (Investment Management of Virginia), TowneBank and Bartlett Tree Experts, our signature partner. We welcome other sponsors!! We are also hopeful that many of the grant proposals that we have submitted will be successful. We will know in June.

Perhaps you have been asked “What does GCV do for me?” To help you answer that question, here are my Top Ten reasons to celebrate GCV:

10. Kent-Valentine House, serving as our headquarters since 1971, 48 years, but also providing a meeting space for clubs and events. How many of you have NEVER been to KV House? Put that on your to-do list as part of your centennial celebration. Bring your club there for a meeting!

While I am at it, I cannot help but mention the fact that we are very close to reaching our overall goal of \$325,000 for our Centennial Restoration project. Thank you to those clubs who have generously made a gift to conserving the mirrors.: Ashland, Blue Ridge, Garden Study, Hunting Creek, Spotswood and Williamsburg. We have received other gifts from members and friends, and also received a very generous gift from Rob and Shannon Alexander in honor of Rob's mother Vicky, a member of the Hunting Creek GC. We are grateful for all gifts of any size. I am confident that the balance of just under \$30,000 will soon be raised.

9. Conservation Forum and Workshop-Educating us on issues that affect our communities. Our Forum in September was in Charlottesville. How many of you attended? We are grateful for those sponsors who helped to make this event possible.

8. Awards- GCV recognizes member clubs for their efforts in beautification, conservation and education, with annual grants such as the Bessie Bock Carter Conservation Award and the Common Wealth Award. These projects serve as a catalyst for community action. There are also other awards given in recognition of excellence, unusual dedication and distinction.

7. Fellowships-GCV Funds 3 research fellowships from proceeds from your clubs' efforts from Historic Garden Week.

6. Horticulture Education- GCV provides many opportunities for our members to learn about horticulture and artistic design through events such as our Fall Symposium in 2018, Daffodil Day in March at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and Horticulture Field Day May 22-23 at The Market at Grelen and Lilies in Bloom June 18th at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond. Don't miss these opportunities! Again, generous sponsors help to make these events possible, especially Hilldrup and the McDaniel families.

Bear with me here, only a few more to go!

5. Historic Garden Week- The Nation's only statewide House and Garden Tour. Our 86th is fresh in your mind. I am sure!! Proceeds support 50 historic restoration projects, two landscape architecture fellowships as well as our 5-year Centennial project with the Va. State Parks. Next year, be sure to visit other tours to see the work of your fellow members. Thank you and your club for the many volunteer hours given to make this such a success.

4. Restorations- GCV has completed 50 historic landscape restoration projects in our 100 year history. Visit them, take your club there for a meeting! Celebrate your part in these projects.

3. Beautification- Our strength is in the connection of our 47 member clubs across the state and the work that each one of you do in your own communities.

2. State Parks- GCV was an early advocate for the formation of our Virginia State Parks in 1929. We continue to be committed to preserving safe and beautiful natural spaces for every Virginia citizen and visitor to enjoy. There have been 24 state parks that have received grants from our centennial gift of \$100,000 a year for 5 years. We have one more year remaining. Nina will go into more detail.

THE **#1** reason to celebrate GCV, drum roll please, is our friendships. We were founded by friendships of our 8 founding member clubs, who came together for a specific purpose, and that is still our greatest strength.

The Annual Fund is so important to all of the work we do. Our Centennial goal is giving 100% for 100 years. We are hopeful that you will WANT to give, that you experience the joy of giving and share it with your club. It is contagious!!! Thank you for all you do to support GCV.

Treasurer

Vicky Alexander

GCV Treasurer's Budget Presentation

Madame President and Ladies,

I am delighted to present to you as your GCV Treasurer. My report will be in two parts today. In the first part, I will update you on where we are in this current fiscal year. In the second part, we will turn our attention to the proposed GCV budget for the next fiscal year.

At its meeting yesterday, your Board of Directors approved my request to present you with a summarized Treasurer's Report.

Our GCV fiscal year began on July 1, 2018 and will end on June 30, 2019. I am reporting to you today through the end of April 2019. I will be writing a report summarizing the entire fiscal year and you will be able to find this included in the upcoming publication of the "Year in Review" for 2018-2019.

The GCV currently maintains two interest-bearing accounts with Union Bank in Richmond, an operating account and a money market account. The total of the Union accounts as of April 30 was \$380,639.

In addition, the GCV has Endowment and restricted funds that are managed and invested by Investment Management of Virginia—a large-cap stock account and a small-cap stock account. The total on our accounts managed by IMVA as of April 30 was \$5,419,674. Darrell and King in Charlottesville manages and invests funds for current and future GCV Restoration projects. The value of this account as of April 30 was \$1,671,920. These cash and investment accounts represent about 85% of our assets. The remaining 15% of our assets are the Kent-Valentine House and its contents and collections.

Our current liabilities include accounts payable, the Centennial Va. State Parks project commitment funds, and any security deposits held for upcoming events at KVH; a total of \$10,114 on 4/30/19.

At this point, we are in a great position to end our fiscal year. You will hear more about year-end revenue as HGW and Development present their reports.

Budget:

Now we will focus our attention on the proposed GCV Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal that begins on July 1, 2019 and extends through June 30, 2020. At our meeting

yesterday, the GCV Board of Directors reviewed and approved the complete 13-page GCV annual budget. The Board approved a motion to present to you the summarized version of that budget for your review and vote.

In order to prepare this budget, our bookkeeper sends out budget information requests to each officer and committee chair as well as administrative staff in February. Members of the Finance Committee then meet with each of the committee chairs to assist them in preparing budget requests. The information is then compiled to produce the proposed GCV Operating Budget.

This proposed budget then goes through a thorough review process. First, the GCV Executive Director, GCV Finance Committee chair, GCV Treasurer and GCV Bookkeeper review all information and compare it to historical budget data. The budget is then reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and finally by the GCV Board of Directors at their meeting yesterday. In a few minutes, I will request your vote of approval. Each of you should have a copy of the summarized budget before you. If you would like to follow along, I will review it by category. We will start with 2019-2020 Funding.

The GCV Operating Fund is dependent upon four funding sources—Membership dues, the Annual Fund, a draw from the Endowment Fund, and any special fundraisers or draws from restricted funds. The GCV “forward funds” our operating expenses—in other words, we budget based on actual funds received the year before. We carry forward from the previous fiscal year the Membership Dues collected in March of 2019, the monies we collect from the 2018-2019 Annual Fund through June 30, and the budgeted amount we expect to receive from the 2019 Historic Garden Week.

You will note that the dues income shows little change from year to year as dues have remained at \$40 per member since 2008.

In addition, the Finance Committee and Board approved a draw of up to 4.5% from the Endowment fund to provide the additional funds needed to produce a balanced budget. The Board of Directors is authorized to approve up to a 5% draw but felt that a 4.5% maximum draw will meet our needs for the coming year.

There are a few other line items under funding: the Symposium Fund Draw is a 4% draw on the Williams Symposium Fund for the Centennial speakers; there is a House Fund draw of 4%; the KVH Capital Improvement category includes restricted gifts to provide special repairs and restoration to the Kent-Valentine House and includes funding to restore our museum-quality mirrors; the 2018-2019 Centennial Budget Funding includes monies collected in the current fiscal year that will carry forward to the new budget year. The proceeds from Historic Garden Week are used to fund restoration projects and our 5th and final Centennial gift to Virginia State Parks. This figure is based on a budgeted amount and not the actual as we have not received the final figures. Last, is the Restoration transfer of funds representing funds from the Darrell & King investment accounts that will be used to fund Restoration Projects in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. **Our total Funding is \$1,398,842.**

Projected Revenue includes HGW Admissions and Guidebook income; Donation income which includes donations to the 2019-2020 Annual Fund, to the Bessie Carter memorial fund, the Common Wealth Award Fund, the Conservation and Endowment funds and restricted gifts, such as donations to the KVH Mirror Restoration fund; Membership dues to be collected in March 2020; Meeting and Event income, includes GCV and KVH events; Income from GCV publications; Carriage House rental funds and Sponsorships. The Other Income category includes \$50,000 in Centennial sponsorships and donations, \$10,000 in Centennial Daffodil bulb sales, \$51,120 in Centennial merchandise sales and \$86,000 in Centennial event registrations. **Total projected Revenue is \$1,305,761.**

Let's take a look at **Projected Expenses**. We'll start with Staff Compensation and Staff Travel and Development. This compensation was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and Board according to our Employee Handbook guidelines. Category 5200 is Historic Garden Week expenses. You will note that Category 5400 Restoration expenses are high and continue to reflect our work being done this year at several major historic sites. Category 5600, GCV Other Events, includes Conservation Forum, Artistic Design Workshops, Daffodil Day, and Horticulture Field Day. Category 5800 (Other Expenses) includes the Common Wealth award, the Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship, the Centennial, the State Parks Project commitment, and financial support to the host clubs for Annual Meeting and Board of Governors meeting. Postage and equipment leases come under this category.

Total Program Expenses are \$1,844,979.

Management and General Expenses, our next category, covers maintenance and operation of the Kent Valentine House, 6200 is administrative costs. Category 6300 Communications includes funding for printing of the "Year in Review.", website expenses and phones. In Category 6700, Computers, includes software and a scheduled replacement of some of our older computers. **The total for Management and General Expense is \$217,144.**

Total Projected Expense is \$2,083,108.

At the bottom of the page, 2020-2021 Funding reflects the funds that will leave this fiscal year's operating account at the end of the year to forward fund the next fiscal year.

When you add our Total Funding and Projected Revenue minus our Total Projected Expenses, you will see that we will have enough funding to cover our anticipated expenses and will be able to forward fund for 2020-2021. While this budget shows a net Cash Flow of -\$7,705, we have recently received Centennial donations to cover the shortfall that are not shown in this budget. So, at this time, we have a positive Cash Flow for the upcoming budget. I have complete copies of the budget with me throughout this meeting and will be happy to discuss any questions that you may have. Please call on me or Tricia McDaniel, our Finance chair, at any time.

MOTION: Madame President, I move that the GCV vote to approve the budget as presented for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2020.

Finance Committee

Tricia McDaniel, Chairman

The Finance Committee oversees all Garden Club of Virginia finances including the annual GCV budget, financial investments, insurance matters and the annual audit of accounts.

The Finance Committee worked with the GCV Treasurer to prepare and review the 2019-20 budget. Finance Committee members consulted with GCV committee chairmen and GCV staff to prepare their individual proposed budgets which were then consolidated into the larger budget. Review committees strove to accommodate as many budget requests as possible while achieving a balanced budget.

The Garden Club of Virginia has investment funds that are managed and invested by two investment firms: Investment Management of Virginia, located in Richmond, and Darrell & King, located in Charlottesville. Oversight of these investments is one of our committee responsibilities. Members of the Finance Committee receive quarterly reports from both firms and conduct annual reviews as to the managers' return relative to objectives and investment risk assumed. The GCV has an investment policy that both investment firms follow in investing our funds. The committee just completed its annual review with IMVA at our April meeting.

The GCV Endowment Fund, the GCV Conservation Fund and the Common Wealth Award Fund are included in the Investment Management of Virginia accounts. The monies in these three funds are pooled for investment purposes along with two restricted donations. The two restricted funds are a Symposium Fund and a Kent-Valentine House Fund.

Darrell and King, LLC manage the funds for GCV Restoration projects. The funds in this account are the net proceeds (minus the Virginia State Parks commitment) from Historic Garden Week, in addition to restoration donations, and are invested for use on current and future Restoration projects.

The current fund descriptions and their intended purposes can be found in the GCV Directory.

GCV has completed the first quarter of our fiscal year and our account balances and returns are:

- **As of March 31, 2019, the *GCV Endowment Fund*** invested with IMVA totaled \$5,340,330. The time weighted return for 2019 Q1 for the total combined account at IMVA was 9.26% vs. a Balanced Index (70/30) of 9.95%.
- **As of March 31, 2019, the *GCV Restoration Fund*** invested with Darrell and King totaled \$1,798,674. The time weighted return for the account at the end of 2019 Q1 was 8.0% vs. a Balanced Index (70/30) of 9.952%.

These returns are net of brokerage fees.

The Finance Committee decided to contribute a copy of our current budget (2019-20) and a current investment report reflecting our funds and their balances to the Centennial Time Capsule.

Historic Garden Week Committee

Stephie G. Broadwater, Chairman

Historic Garden Week for 2019 has just wrapped, literally, just 4 days ago. I want to say “thank you” to everyone who had a hand in accomplishing this feat, again. This would include tour chairs, club members, homeowners, sponsors, advertisers, the HGW office and the GCV staff. I know everyone worked hard and, I hope, had fun along the way.

With HGW so recently concluded, tours have not had time to complete and report results yet. So, I do not currently have numbers to share with you. Reports are due by May 31, and we expect to compile and finalize the results by mid-June, at the latest. Tour chairs, Club Presidents and the GCV Board will receive a letter outlining statewide results and individual tour financials.

Under the Garden Club of Virginia umbrella, 31 tours were held, and 251 homes and gardens were open for visitors to explore and enjoy. It takes all of us coming together to support the mission of GCV for Historic Garden Week to be a success. Eight-six (86) times we have done this, starting in 1929 when HGW began because GCV was asked to help landscape Kenmore, the home of George Washington’s sister. After successfully raising \$7,000 from a flower show to help save some of Thomas Jefferson’s old trees at Monticello in 1927, the ladies felt confident they could help. So, they planned an 11-day tour and wrote notes inviting friends near and far to come to Virginia for a “pilgrimage” of historic houses and gardens. Little could they imagine then, that other GCV ladies following them would carry on what they started for so many years. HGW is quite a tradition that we, and our visitors, have loved, enjoyed and respected.

Restoration and preservation were, and still are, at the heart of our GCV mission. Think how different Virginia might look without the funds raised from HGW going into our restoration projects, our research fellowships for graduate students in landscape architecture, and most recently our grants to Virginia State Parks, our Centennial gift to our state. Our collective commitment and dedication make all this possible.

The HGW staff and State Committee were hard at work supporting HGW. Waverley Hill was chosen for the cover of the Guidebook along with the Virginia Bluebell being chosen as the flower. The Insider’s Guide received a huge update this past spring. At Boot Camp, tours were encouraged to “Keep It Simple Sistas” and focus on the home and garden aspect of HGW. The Guidebook and marketing materials were designed, and pitches to multitudes of media outlets were made, quite successfully. We recommended to the GCV Board, and they approved, a Bylaws change and a Tour Change Request process that strengthen the foundation of HGW. Social media grew again this year, thanks to planning and great execution. We simplified the method of tracking attendance. Meetings were held, questions were answered, and possible disasters averted. Much was accomplished in support of the local tours.

There is no other event quite like Historic Garden Week. As we look toward our 87th HGW and the GCV Centennial, it’s the perfect time to reflect on our past, enjoy the present and imagine what’s possible in the future.

Historian and Custodian of Records

Judy B. Perry

Madam President, Board of Directors and Ladies of the Club:

Yearbooks and club histories were received at the 2018 Board of Governors' Meeting and placed in the individual club's boxes at the Kent-Valentine House. A letter has gone out to the Club Presidents and Historians to bring their end-of-year reports and yearbooks to the Annual Meeting.

The Humorous Memories Project deadline for submissions was extended to June 1, 2019. More stories have come as a result and a final push to encourage continued participation is ongoing in this final month.

Story recruiting efforts consisted of speaking to the Centennial Liaison Committee on November 7, supplying forms for submission to that committee on April 2, an article in the January President's newsletter and an article in the March 2019 Journal. Forms will be available to each member attending this Annual Meeting. We have over 100 humorous stories at this time that will provoke a chuckle or side-splitting laughter and connect us all through this lighter side of GCV Centennial memories.

Because of my duties as historian, an inquiry from a gentleman from Great Britain was directed to me. It was Liam O'Conner, an architect in London, who had discovered a plaque in the 12th Church of St. Martin in Ver Sur Mer, in the Normandy area France that was in memory of the husbands and sons of members of the Garden Club of Virginia who died in WWII. Mr. O'Conner is working on a British Normandy Memorial that will be installed at Gold Beach in memory of the British who died on there during the D-Day Invasion. Before speaking with him, I went directly online to the GCV website to read the *Follow the Green Arrow Vol I* and looked in the sections of late 1930's and into the 1940's. The history of the GCV war relief efforts were in those pages. It is an amazing story of compassion and commitment of the ladies of the clubs through the raising of funds, the collection of goods, and acts of kindness that touched the lives of citizens in Britain and in Ver Sur Mer. Mr. O'Connor and the Normandy Memorial Trust made a request to the Restoration Committee for assistance with their memorial landscape. I summarized the war effort history and presented this along with the request to the Restoration Committee at their March meeting.

It is fascinating to read about the history of the GCV in both volumes of *Follow the Green Arrow* and in copies of the *Garden Gossip*, precursor to the *Journal*. All three may be found at the Kent-Valentine House library. The *Follow the Green Arrow* is also on the GCV website. You will have newfound appreciation of the work accomplished by this august group.

Horticulture Committee

Wendy Walker, Chairman

Madame President, Members of the Board, Club Presidents and Guests,

Thanks to all club horticulture chairmen and their committees for their wonderful exhibits, *Storm Survivors* which complements the theme of this year's GCV Annual Meeting, *Portsmouth Port of Virginia*, hosted by The Elizabeth River Garden Club. Please make sure to take the time to see these amazing displays at the Fredericksburg Country Club during our meeting. I'm so inspired by the thoughtfulness and creativity which went into each one of them, and am particularly appreciative of the effort it took to plan this on the heels of Historic Garden Week!

Please join me in giving your Congratulations to the 2019 GCV Horticulture Award of Merit winners. They are two outstanding GCV members who have made wonderful contributions in horticulture not only to their clubs, but also to their communities.

They are: Susan Garrett, The Nansemond River Garden Club
Sherry Leffel, The Spotswood Garden Club

We know how proud each of these clubs must be of their very deserving members!

Hopefully many of you and your club members have already signed up for GCV Horticulture Field Day, May 22-23 in Orange County Virginia. Registration opened in March, and to date we have more than 160 members attending. It promises to be a wonderful garden event, so please visit the GCV website for more information and to sign up. The spectacular Market at Grelen will be the headquarters for the event. The deadline for registering is May 17, so please sign up online as soon as possible and encourage your club members to attend. This year we are asking attendees to come prepared to spray their shoes with Lysol, so that we may all do our part to prevent the spread of Boxwood Blight.

Lilies in Bloom, our 77th Annual Lily Show coming up on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Road in Richmond will be reported on by Nina Mustard. This year our Lily Collection orders showed a significant increase over prior years, which is exciting. With approval from the Lily Committee, the Harborfront Garden Club donated a perpetual silver trophy to the GCV Lily Show in memory of their member, Katherine Beale. The Lily Committee Award for best Longiflorum/oriental hybrid Lily was renamed the Katherine Beale Award. I want to thank outgoing Lily Chair Carrie Darracott, who has done a wonderful job in her position.

Daffodil Chair, Janet Hickman, the Daffodil Committee and other volunteers led by Daffodil Show Chair, Adele Smith did a fantastic job with the Daffodil Show in March at Lewis Ginter Gardens on March 26, 2019. It was so much fun to attend and I wish you could know how good the workroom smelled! Ninety individuals and nine clubs submitted 1,419 gorgeous

stems. No one realized until the judging was over that the top award was received by the GCV Centennial Daffodil! Please encourage your members to complete their Green Arrow growing forms. The 2019 Daffodil Collection is available to order online now and in preparation for our Centennial year, we encourage you to plant some historic daffodils and enter them in next year's show. Ideas are available on our website.

I hope you have been learning from the Rose Notes in our Journal, as submitted by our Rose Committee Chair, Patsy Smith. She and her committee are working on some exciting workshops for the coming year.

The GCV Horticulture Committee is excited about the September 24-25 Horticulture Exhibit planned in conjunction with the Horticulture, Hiking and the 61st Annual Conservation Forum at Natural Bridge. Please look for the Horticulture Schedule on the GCV Website and encourage your club members to enter a plant specimen especially those who have never entered before.

We have some openings on the Horticulture Committee so if you know of anyone who may be interested and qualified to serve, please have them contact me. Thank you.

Journal Editorial Board

Julie Grover, Chairman & Editor

Madam President, Members of the Board, and Fellow Gardeners:

I am delighted to announce that at a recent meeting of the *Journal* editorial board, we voted unanimously to redesign the *Journal*. The new format and content will be unveiled a year from now with the June 2020 issue, which will be devoted exclusively to the Garden Club of Virginia Centennial.

The new *Journal* will feature more and larger photographs, a fresh new design with more white space, and issues with themes, such as floral design, the environment, garden legacies, and travel. We plan to have more focus on member club projects, member gardens, and profiles on experts and organizations in GCV-related fields. We hope that the new *Journal's* content will be a practical resource for our readers and a forward-looking inspiration for the GCV.

I ask that all GCV committee chairmen appoint a *Journal* liaison and forward her name to me by June 1. The *Journal* editorial board will be in touch with that representative as we develop future issues focused on the work and concerns of the GCV standing committees.

Journal Advertising

Lea Shuba, Chairman

Madam President, Board members, and Chairman of Committees,

When we last met it was with my home club, Hunting Creek, in Alexandria at the 2018 Board of Governors' Meeting. At that time, I reported on the challenges of selling advertising for the Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*, but also emphasized the importance of being able to fund

such a wonderful source of inspiration and information for our members. This occasion proved to be a wonderful forum for making contacts with potential advertisers. I have always loved the opportunity of meeting with new and old friends at events like these, but unsure about imposing on these friendships by trying to sell anything. I do however believe in the value of selling ad space to those who benefit from a targeted audience, and furthermore have always loved our *Journal*, so I did talk about it to several people over the course of the meeting. I need contacts throughout our state with businesses and clubs holding events, and I am happy to report that many people responded with ideas, leads, and personal involvement with potential advertisers. It is an easy way to help our garden club without ever leaving home, but it is a crucial contribution.

I cannot thank all of you enough for your help. Some leads panned out, and others may need more time, but I can make it easy for you to help me with a packet for future advertisers. Your personal note or call make these packets come to fruition in ways that cold calling cannot. I encourage you all to continue to put your thinking caps on and continue to help me. We have planned changes to improve the appearance and clarity of the *Journal*, and increased discounts for yearlong advertisers. We still offer the best rates to your clubs planning events and fundraisers. I actually did a little comparison shopping and found that our ads are quite inexpensive across the board. So please think about your hometown businesses that you love and those that are owned by fellow club members. When traveling, our members certainly like to stop at recommended nurseries, but we all know how much fun it is to explore all those other kinds of interesting shops. Many of us find retail inspiration in the *Journal*. So, first I hope that all of you will open your *Journals*, and then please look at the ads. We have some great new ones in the June issue. There are interesting events advertised also, and when you are shopping or visiting, mention that you saw their ad in the *Journal*. Their support is crucial to us, so please let them know it is working for them as well.

Kent-Valentine House Committee

Jody Branch, Chairman

I can't talk about the Kent Valentine House without first giving a big thank you to Lynn, Anne, Quan and Lee, with back up support from Lexie, Karen and Terri, who keep everything running smoothly and professionally for us at the KV House. They are the backbone of the house and everything that goes on in and around it.

For the past couple of years, we have been detailing plans for refreshing the inside and outside of the house and now I can report that by the end of the summer all projects will be finished. We have a new roof and the exterior glows with its new paint job. Inside, the 3rd floor water damage was repaired, and is fresh with new paint and carpet. All of the worn furniture on the first floor has been reupholstered with beautiful new fabrics; wooden furniture has been restored; the walls sparkle with a new coat of paint and touched up faux finishes; and soon the floors will be refinished.

Two of the gilded mirrors on the first floor have been conserved, two more have gone out and another is in the pipeline.

Attention turns this summer to landscape and hardscape issues. The Restoration Committee asked Will Rieley to focus first on plantings around the house. Tired, overgrown or leggy bushes will be replaced or supplemented with lots of new plantings. Later this summer the parking area and brick walks will receive attention. By September the landscape and hardscape of our headquarters will be as sparkling and beautiful as the house itself and ready for fall Centennial activities to begin.

Last fall the Restoration Committee planted a dogwood in honor of Margaret Bemiss. It was covered with blooms this spring. We were thrilled that Green Arrow daffodils bloomed in the urns out front.

It is time to show off our beautiful headquarters in celebration of the Centennial year. We plan to host a cocktail reception Tuesday, May 20, 2020, for all who are in town the evening before the Centennial activities begin who are not involved with the banquet. We also encourage you to bring your club to the KV House this year for a meeting or workshop, or just for a tour with refreshments or lunch. Ann, Quan and Lee are happy to help you with details and I look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful house in downtown Richmond.

Lily Committee

Carrie Darracott, Chairman

The 2018 GCV Lily Collection of 6 bulbs was provided by B&D Lilies for \$32. It was published in August on the GCV website and with direct notice to Club Lily Chairs by the GCV Lily Committee Chairman. Orders were placed the first of October. 32 clubs ordered 257 collections, an increase over last year when 28 clubs ordered 180 collections. Bulb collections were shipped to Club Lily Chairmen the first week of April.

The list of Club Lily Chairmen has been updated. General instructions, specific collection ordering instructions, and a photo PDF of the 2018 collection have been sent to all Club Lily Chairmen and Co-chairmen of record.

Lily Notes articles have been submitted for publication in the December, March, and June issues of the *Journal*.

The GCV website lily award archive descriptions of awards were updated with the assistance of Ann Heller.

The Harborfront GC offered to donate a perpetual trophy to the annual GCV Lily Show in memory of their member, Katherine Beale. The members of the GCV Lily Committee approved the offer, approved the renaming of the award for best Longiflorum/ Oriental Hybrid Lily from the "Lily Committee Award" to the "Katherine Beale Award" or wording chosen by Harborfront GC, and approved a motion to substitute the new trophy for the current cup trophy for that award. Harborfront responded with purchase of a lovely sterling bowl and offer to engrave the bowl. The Lily Committee voted to accept the trophy and wording for engraving. I have passed along that information to the Artistic Committee and to Harborfront GC. Harborfront will now engrave the trophy and present it to the GCV at the May annual meeting. I

have had the pleasure of working with Harborfront GC President Debbie Bonnewell on this project.

Engraving:
"In Honor of Katherine Beale
Harborfront Garden Club
Awarded for Best stem Longiflorum/Oriental Hybrid Lily"

Tribute information for Lily Award archives:

The Katherine Beale Award for the Best Longiflorum/Oriental Hybrid Lily was given in 2019 by the Harborfront Garden Club in honor of the memory of Katherine Beale, NALS lily judge and active supporter of the GCV Lily Show. Her skill in growing and showing lilies was often rewarded with trophies and even more often generously shared with her club and all who sought her help.

The 77th annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Road in Richmond on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. The show schedule and further information are available at www.gcvirginia.org. The show will offer a comprehensive North American Lily Society (NALS) schedule as well as GCV members only trophy classes. It is open to the public for exhibiting and viewing at no charge. Nina Mustard is the Show Chairman, and I will assist her as horticulture chairman. Judges are GCV members accredited by the North American Lily Society. Members of the Lily Committee will help with production of the show. Information about lily culture will be offered at the "Lily Central" table. A GCV Centennial exhibit will feature the early history of the garden club's emphasis on growing and showing lilies. The show will be dedicated to the memory of Katherine Beale and a very special exhibit will honor her. In addition, two classes of artistic exhibits will be presented on pedestals in the sanctuary at St. Mary's. The Artistic Design committee is handling all aspects of the artistic portion of the show.

As was the case last year the lily show will be presented in a very simple format, and will be financed entirely by voluntary donations of sponsors. I am sincerely thankful for the support of the show given by Nina, Jean Gilpin, the GCV Board, GCV Staff, and Lily Committee members. I continue to be hopeful that the Board will be pleased with the Lily Show in its new format and will decide to make a commitment to continue the show and offer budgeted monetary support to some degree.

I have greatly enjoyed working as Lily Committee Chairman but find that I am not able to continue in this position and have requested the President to appoint a new Chairman.



Lilies in Bloom

Nina Mustard, Chairman

The Garden Club of Virginia will celebrate **Lilies in Bloom** on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. The event will be held again this year at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond and will offer a comprehensive North American Lily Society (NALS) horticulture schedule and GCV members

only horticulture trophy classes. Two GCV Inter Club classes of artistic design will be offered. Learn more at <https://www.gcvirginia.org/lilies/>

2019 Lilies in Bloom is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Beale.

Massie Medal

Dianne Spence, Chairman

The Massie Medal was inaugurated in 1928 by Susanne Williams Massie during her presidency and given by her until her death in 1952. Since then, the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement has been given as a memorial to Mrs. Massie. The medal, the oldest and most prestigious award of the Garden Club of Virginia, is awarded to an individual member or to a member club of the GCV who has served with unusual dedication and distinction.

Since 1975, this year's recipient's depth and breadth of service is evident in the positions she has held in the GCV. She has served as Flower Shows and Horticulture Chairman, an artistic judge, Director at Large, and Second Vice President. William D. Rieley, Landscape Architect to the Garden Club of Virginia, "As a member of the Restoration Committee, she has brought a commitment to the integrity of the historic landscapes within its purview and demonstrated keen awareness of the importance of spending the Garden Club's hard-earned money wisely. As chairman of the Research Fellowship Committee, she has steered this program to new levels of accomplishment—building a record of the history of garden and landscape design in Virginia."

Within her club, she has served as president, chaired Annual and Board of Governors meetings, flower shows, and co-authored *Styles of Flower Arranging: A Primer* and *Styles of Flower Arranging: Contemporary Design*. Her many activities within her community, and especially in conjunction with her club's Common Wealth Award winning project, Paradise Creek Nature Park, has earned her admiration, among her club members, and throughout the City of Portsmouth.

This year's recipient, Elizabeth River Garden Club's own Judy Boyd Perry believes that everyone has a gift to share, and her ability to be a confidence builder to encourage others to lead and contribute makes her the most worthy recipient of this highest honor bestowed on a GCV member.

Congratulations to Judy Perry, the current GCV Historian, who has within a two-month span received the highest honor bestowed on a GCV member and the highest honor given to a member of this City's community, First Citizen of Portsmouth.

Judy Boyd Perry

Membership Committee

Diane Wilkinson, Chairman

The GCV Membership Committee for 2018-2020 was established with new representatives from each of the six districts. The committee is charged with three specific responsibilities within the GCV; those being: eligibility of clubs for membership, honorary membership nominations and member orientation.

This committee continues to communicate with Three Rivers Garden Club which has increased its membership to 25 and has good reason to believe the membership number will rise to 30 by this coming fall. The club is once again involved with The Ashland Garden Club in their 2019 HGW tour.

At this time, there are no honorary membership nominations to consider. The committee will request nominations from GCV member clubs for honorary membership in the near future.

The committee also supervises new member orientations and worked diligently with hosting “Member Orientation” on Daffodil Day, 2019 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. With strong support from GCV chairmen and staff the orientation was informative and interesting and has received positive feedback.

We are currently working on several ideas and plans for this committee to pursue.

GCV Nominations Committee

Ann Gordon Evans, Chairman

Missy Buckingham gave the following report for Ann Gordon Evans.

Madame President and Ladies:

The Nominations Committee presents to you the following slate of Directors-at Large for the Garden Club of Virginia to serve from May 2019 to May 2021. The slate was presented to and approved by the Board of Directors at its January 2019 meeting.

District 2: Fran Carden-Albemarle Garden Club

District 5: Laura Francis-The Hunting Creek Garden Club

District 6: Debbie Bonnewell-Harborfront Garden Club

Article VIII, Section 8.3 of the Garden Club of Virginia Bylaws states:

Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor, provided consent of the candidate has been obtained in advance.

As there are no nominations from the floor, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, I move that the slate of Directors-at-Large for 2019-2021 be adopted as presented.

President Jean Gilpin called for the vote.

The motion carried and the slate of Directors-at-Large serving from May 2019-May 2021 has been adopted.

Restoration Committee

Anne Baldwin, Chairman

Good afternoon Madame President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

This has been an exciting year to be serving in the position of Chairman of the Restoration Committee, and I am grateful to Jean for giving me this opportunity.

As we kick off a year of celebrating our 100 years, I have asked our landscape architect, Will Rieley, to include in his presentation today a short look back at what we have done together across Virginia. We began raising funds with a garden tour in 1929 to restore the gardens at Kenmore in Fredericksburg. Our signature Historic Garden Week was created and a Restoration Committee was formed in 1934, as the Garden Club of Virginia made a commitment to restore and preserve public gardens and landscapes throughout our Commonwealth. Now each member of the committee serves as a liaison to several of our restored historic gardens. The committee also travels across the state several times a year to visit the properties on a rotating basis. We wish all 3,300 + members of the GCV could travel with us to share in the excitement and pride of what we have accomplished together. Since that is not possible, we are committed to keeping you informed about the projects and how the funds we raise together are being used. Hopefully you are reading Jean's monthly newsletter, which usually includes an update on our work. We have articles on restoration news that appear in our "Journal" each quarter, and our e-mail newsletter for our properties is available now to our GCV membership. However, one of the best ways we can communicate our excitement to you is for each club to invite us to come to one of your meetings. Our committee members would love to give the program for your club, and we are excited that we now have two programs with beautiful photos of our projects: a new 30-minute version and the more complete 50-minute version to share with you and your club members. Or, we would be delighted to give an update and answer any questions.

In addition to the projects we have, the funds raised from Historic Garden Week also support two summer fellowships. Two graduate students with an interest in historic landscape architecture are chosen by a separate committee each year. This committee has been chaired by Judy Perry, a member of our hostess club, GCV Historian, and also a member of the Restoration Committee. Please read her complete report, but I am pleased to tell you that Dania Khaifat will be the Rudy J. Favretti Fellow and she will be researching the historic landscape at Farmington

Country Club, and Hayden Hammons will be our William D. Rieley Fellow and he will be doing research at Mount Airy.

During this Centennial celebration year, we plan to offer some special events for our members, family, and friends at a number of our properties, and news will follow about these. Claire Mellinger and her photography committee also have planned an exciting opportunity to visit our restoration sites and photograph them. Claire is coming tomorrow to share this with you...so more about that then. The Restoration Committee also is designing a unique gift that we would like to give to the member of each of your clubs who visits the most restoration properties in this celebration year. I plan to be at the June President's meeting with more details on this.

Judy Perry has already introduced to you today a unique funding opportunity with the British Normandy Memorial that the Restoration Committee and the Board have looked at and approved. This will be listed under our "Special Gifts and Contributions". In 1940, a \$1000 gift was sent from Restoration funds to England to support civilian relief. The following year, the entire proceeds of the funds raised during HGW were donated to relief in Britain. This was \$20,000 in 1941 dollars or the equivalent of \$357,000 today. Our efforts were facilitated by our own Virginian, Lady Astor, who became the first woman Member of Parliament. The members of the GCV continued other efforts throughout the war. We have been asked to participate in a British Normandy Memorial, and the foundation for this will be laid on June 6, the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The Restoration Committee recommended and your Board voted to send \$20,000 from our Restoration funds to assist with the landscaping here. This gift comes in our Centennial celebration year and is a wonderful opportunity to honor the efforts of our GCV members during WW II.

I am bringing a motion from the Restoration Committee that has been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting yesterday.

Motion: I move that the GCV send \$20,000 from the Restoration funds to support the British Normandy Memorial for the landscaping of the grounds of the Memorial.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce our GCV Landscape Architect of almost 21 years, Will Rieley. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to hear him speak, I would like to offer a brief introduction. William D. Rieley is the founding principal of Rieley & Assoc. in Charlottesville. He taught at UVA for over 20 years and served on the Albemarle County Planning Commission. I have said this before and I will continue to say this...we value his scholarship, his knowledge of plants is amazing, his attention to detail is so critical to the success of our projects. I am delighted that Will is here today to give you an update on our exciting projects.

Strategic Planning Committee

Candy Crosby, Chairman

Strategic Planning Committee continues its focus on ways to have GCV poised to embrace another 100 years of dynamic leadership in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have had nine meetings since May 2018, mostly committee work and some smaller meetings. Heidi James of The Lynchburg GC takes the minutes.

Our discussions have resulted in several recommendations to the GCV Board. Please note it is up to the Board to decide whether and/or how to pursue any of these recommendations.

- Ownership of Historic Garden Week- The committee recommends that the trademark and copyright of HGW be secured to protect the Garden Club of Virginia's sole right to this name.
- HGW accounting- The committee recommends that the GCV Finance Committee provide guidance on best practices for member clubs on how to handle accounting for HGW. A "boot camp" for HGW treasurers would be helpful.
- GCV Finance- The committee supports the creation of a five-year projected budget and endorses the hiring of an outside financial consultant to determine if our current level of spending is sustainable for five years.
- GCV Communication- The committee recommends that the GCV establish a Communications Committee to be composed of GCV club members. It would oversee the monthly Enews, *The Year in Review*, the website and the social media. The chairman of the committee would serve on the Board of Directors.
- GCV *Journal*- The committee recommends that the GCV explore the possibility of upgrading the design of the GCV quarterly magazine.
- GCV Membership- The committee recommends that the GCV investigate whether new membership categories could be added. This could be studied by the Development Committee and the Membership Committee.
- GCV Nominating and Leadership- The committee recommends that a simple electronic survey be created to identify potential leaders and the talents of club members.
- GCV Member Club Presidents- The committee recommends that member club presidents invite their respective Director at Large and the GCV President to attend one of their membership meetings during their term as president.

These recommendations are offered by the Strategic Planning Committee in a spirit of good will and with respect and thanks to the leadership of the GCV and GCV members.

Virginia State Parks Committee

Nina Mustard, Chairman

A Virginia State Parks (VSP) update will be presented in slide presentation format, to include the following:

- GCV / VSP historical connection
- VSP growth patterns
- VSP Economic data / impact
- GCV centennial grants program update with photographs
- “Back to Nature” at Natural Bridge September 24



Join Us At Natural Bridge

September 24-25

Back to Nature with the **Garden Club of Virginia!** The 2-day event at Natural Bridge State Park opens Tuesday, September 24 with our popular Horticulture Show and will include guided hikes, geocaching and a tree planting to celebrate our work at Natural Bridge. Join friends for Horticulture Sip and See in late afternoon.

Wednesday, September 25 features the Garden Club of Virginia's **61st Annual Conservation Forum - Trees: Canopy of Conservation**. This popular event includes four speakers who will present a broad range of topics relating trees to the benefit of our environment.



Horticulture Show
Virginia Native Plant Horticulture Show. Knowing, growing and showing Virginia Native Plants.
[Learn More...](#)



Tuesday in the Park
Guided Tours, Geocaching, Self-Guided Hiking and Biking. Gather friends and enjoy nature your way!
[Learn more...](#)



Conservation Forum
61st Annual Conservation Forum - Trees: Canopy of Conservation. Four speakers, four topics.
[Learn more...](#)

Director at Large, District 1

Bettie Guthrie

It has indeed been my pleasure to work with seven District 1 garden club presidents and getting to know them we have formed a special friendship that I will always cherish. My usual DAL reports are highlighted by important bullets from each club but after reading their annual reports, I feel it is important for the GCV Board to see how ambitious, dedicated, talented, and amazing our leadership is in District 1. The following clubs have been engaged in educational programming, serving community based projects, fundraising, flower arranging, horticulture, newsletters, maintaining city gardens, protecting our water-sheds, Fine Arts and Flowers, and attending GCV programs:

The Ashland Garden Club

Mary Ann Griffin, President

Monies from our fund raiser in February provided four children that cannot afford the tuition to attend summer camp.

We continue to work on our fall fundraiser. The topic and speaker will be about saving bees.

Our club will be giving 100% individually to the GCV for the 100th Birthday.

Our club will be giving \$3,000 to the GCV following Mrs. Rosser's letter.

I will be giving the end of my being President Party at my home.

The Boxwood Garden Club

Kathryn Angus, President

Boxwood Garden Club (BGC) has been very busy over the past year. We started out the year with a business meeting at Peter Paul Development Center, where we had decided to fix up their playground the previous year. It was wonderful to see all of the excitement there. Two of our club members have hosted a "flower arranging class" the day before each of our monthly meetings to help create the artistic arrangement due at the meeting the next day. They have been wonderful and highly attended! The October meeting was held at the Wilton House in Richmond with Karen Blair speaking about honoring nature through art. She was fabulous! We held our November meeting with almost full attendance. It was a club member only cocktail party. There we voted in 3 new members, and we launched our fundraising project to support the playground and garden build at Peter Paul Development Center in the East End of Richmond. This project will bring much needed "green" space to allow children to appreciate the outdoors. In December, BGC held our annual wreath-making event at one of our member's homes, where members were able to make holiday wreaths. Various members brought in supplies and everyone brought in greens from their yards to share. We also took the opportunity to create

arrangements and deliver them to our Life Members. January held our 4-club meeting at Lewis Ginter where we heard from Kathleen Biggins about C-Change Primer which was an educational presentation on the science of climate change developed by the association in consultation with a number of specialized scientists, think-tanks and thought leaders. We had members go to Legislative day after that and come back to report at our February meeting. We had many members attend the KVH workshops on smart phone photography and judging line design. They both were so much fun.

Our February meeting had Anne Blackwell Thompson show us her Blackwell Botanicals and told us about harvesting and pressing blooms. We had many members attend the “Hear of the East End” party which was an evening of fun hosted to raise money for Peter Paul Development Center. There you could buy a class or experience for the children who go to the center. Boxwood members did the arrangements for the party as well as volunteered at the event. In February, some of our Boxwood club members got together and wrote up the application for the Common Wealth Award grant and submitted it. March brought us to First Presbyterian Church to hear Mary Rafferty, the Executive Director of Virginia Conservation Network, discuss the top policy priorities facing the environmental community in 2019. She was excellent. Then we heard all of the exciting plans for the Capital Trees Low Line by Frazier Armstrong. This year we lost a life member, Payne Tyler and her daughter in law, also a member, gave a memorial about her. The Boxwood Garden Club has unanimously voted in a new executive board. The new president taking office May 21st will be Nella Timmons and 1st Vice President will be Rachel Davis, Second VP will be Liz Hart and Corresponding Secretary will be Isabel Bates. Cindy Nolan and Mary Reed have agreed to stay on as Recording Secretary and Treasurer. We are thrilled. We have a full week of volunteers for HGW, and my last meeting will be our annual luncheon on May 21st at one of our member’s home. The thing I am most proud of with this club is the tenacity they all have when they believe in something. I am thrilled with our members and the fact they have come together to raise money and support the Peter Paul Development Center. Not only do they care about our main project there, and are financially backing it (we are over 70% participation in fundraising) but they are continually on the campus of Peter Paul Development Center, seeing where else and how else they can help. It truly makes me proud to be a Boxwood member!

The Brunswick Garden Club

Mary Smith, President

Two long time faithful members applied for Associate membership, and we quickly and lovingly accepted their membership with that status.

We have completed a two year process of up-dating our By-Laws.

The Christmas Auction fundraiser was both fun and a success, held after a snow delay.

The James River Garden Club

Susie Rawles, President

James River Garden Club began the year with a new emphasis on “engagement and learning” from and with our fellow members. Privileging these attributes had consequences: the streamlining of business meetings and the advantageous use of electronic alternatives to valuable meeting time. To that end, the club initiated its new website, which has served as a repository for everything from a membership directory, to inspirational garden designs, to meeting and event notices, electronic cookbook sales, and the parking of committee reports and the monthly newsletter. Although we continue to hold our executive meetings on a Monday prior to our Wednesday club meeting, chairs submit in advance the information they want the club’s membership to know, and this information is emailed to club members in advance of the club meeting. This allows for an emphasis on workshops, exciting news, and an interesting program. Executive meetings are restricted to 1 hour; club meetings tend to 90 minutes; and we have transitioned to Sign-Up Genius for RSVP’s.

Our programs continue to reflect the myriad interests of our members and the fundamentals of our mission: conservation – from globing warming to “green” lawns; horticulture – from sustainable planting to flower arranging; charitable giving and community service – Anna Julia Cooper and the Capital Trees low-line project, for example: all have been featured this year. We have celebrated the launch of our newly revised cookbook *A Taste of Virginia: Through the Garden Gate*, and sold 2,500 copies, with proceeds boosting our charitable endowment fund. We have surveyed our members to ensure our charitable recipients are consistent with the interests of the club and its mission, and received proposals for next year’s projects.

As we remember the loss of three dear Associate members – Margaret Bemiss, Margaret Ford, and Liz Carter – we welcome the arrival of three new members, reminding us that the garden club is a lifetime commitment during which we share in the privilege of multigenerational friendships. While this has been something of a transition or “test” year for us, as we aim to make our club relevant and meaningful for the next generation of garden club members, our membership has been both patient and supportive, and I feel confident that the James River Garden club will remain vital, vibrant, and valued for the foreseeable future.

The Petersburg Garden Club

Kate Short, President

The garden club’s January program was Agecroft Hall Historic Gardens.

The garden club’s annual fundraiser “Splashes of Spring” was March 27, 2019, and was a huge success.

Three Chopt Garden Club

Alison Fauls, President

Three Chopt participated in Richmond's 4 Club meeting in January. We have been working with the other 3 clubs to plan GCV Centennial recognition program for the fall of 2019.

For our February and March meetings respectively, Peyton Wells provided a Botanical Arts overview at Nancy Jordan's home then a Botanical Arts workshop at Crossroads Art Gallery.

The club elected the following officers for 2019-2021 at our February meeting:

Veronika Walmsley – President

Becky Anthony – First Vice President

Russell Combs – Second Vice President

Brooke Wick – Recording Secretary

Buff Ramsey – Corresponding Secretary

Zan Wick – Treasurer

Anne McVey – Assistant Treasurer

Deanne Nicholson and Hyde Loupassi – Membership committee

We welcomed seven new members:

Martha Chapman, Sarah Innes, Leland Klim, Megan Marriott, Anne Munson, Brooke Schubmehl, and Brenda Snead.

Club members voted to donate to the following funds:

Kent-Valentine House – Mirror Restoration in honor of the GCV's Centennial (and in response to the Ashland Garden Club's \$2,500 challenge)

Elk Hill Goochland campus supporting area of greatest need

James River Association

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Capital Trees

At our February and March meetings, our Fundraising Committee, inspired by our October small group meetings, sold glass spray bottles filled with eco cleaners for \$10 each to our members. These were well received.

Twenty-three members of our club participated in a club trip to Palm Beach, Florida, April 1-4, where one of the many highlights was visiting the stunning garden of former Virginian, Kit Pannell.

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

Betty M. Jenkins

In January, we had our joint meeting with the four Richmond Clubs. We were grateful and happy to have Jean Gilpin join us for this event. James River Garden Club invited Kathleen Biggins for “C-Change Conservations” to speak. She led us in a discussion about climate change attempting to avoid including political concerns into the discussion.

Also in January, we held our new member workshop and enthusiastically welcomed and educated our 5 new members into the club.

Several members learned about the legislative process during Legislative Day at the General Assembly which was fascinating.

In February, we had a snowy meeting, but a great turnout, listening to a report about the current state of the health of the James River. Anna Killius from the James River Association provided the update.

At a luncheon in February with some sustainer and honorary members, we had a fine time sharing memories of members who were mentors and dear friends in years past. We heard wonderful and hilarious stories that we have put into our Time Capsule. Priceless!

Two of our members attending the very popular NAL conference in Washington returned with important legislative updates shared with club members.

In March, we took a break from busy schedules and were treated to a spring luncheon on a beautiful spring day at award winning Shagbark Restaurant. Walter Bundy took great care in decorating the tables with garden flowers and providing a memorable farm to table meal we won't forget.

All winter and spring our club has been busy preparing for Garden Week. Three of our members are the chairs for the Richmond tour and their hard work in the last 2 years will culminate in a fantastic 2-day tour along Three Chopt Road and in Goochland County. We are indebted to them for their leadership.

Tuckahoe was proudly represented by many members exhibiting daffodils at Daffodil Day. We won every color of ribbon, totaling almost 40 ribbons overall. And several of our members won special awards and even a silver trophy.

We are expecting a large turnout for our annual Spring Plant Sale on April 24 which hopefully will raise a lot of money for our future projects.

After years of research, reports, restoration and a lot of perseverance, Freddie and Lawrence Gray's home, Upper Weyanoke was accessioned into the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens, and effort supported by GCA's Garden History Design. This was achieved by the dedicated hard work of Freddie and two of our members.

We continue to support efforts for Capital Trees and workdays on Chapel Island removing invasive plants. At our monthly meetings, we have had horticulture, floral and photography exhibits, learning as we do. We are a committed bunch!

As we close out the 2018-2019 year we say farewell to three great ladies rotating off as president. We celebrated their two years of service at a luncheon in my home as a small thank you for their time, talent, and dedication to their clubs and to the Garden Club of Virginia. Jean Gilpin sent a note of thanks and congratulations for a job well done to Mary Ann Griffin, The Ashland Garden Club, Kathryn Angus, The Boxwood Garden Club and Alison Fauls, Three Chopt Garden Club.

We welcome the arrival of three new presidents; Michell Hamner, Nella Timmons and Veronika Walmsley.

Director at Large, District 2

Meg Laughon

Albemarle Garden Club **Claire Mellinger, President**

AGC is a group of dedicated ladies who rarely say “No”, and work to fulfill their mission of education and love of nature in many ways within the Charlottesville community. Ongoing projects include partnering with City School Yard Gardens, the McIntire Botanical Garden and Charlottesville City Park staff to assist with upkeep of a bog garden in Booker T. Washington Park. A Bee Hotel has also been created, invasive species removed and an interactive plant label identification system installed so that anyone with a smart phone can download specific information on interesting plants.

Funds are raised for these projects through the Design Forum. Last year two events were held. The first featured Meryl Gordon, author of Bunny Mellon: “The Life of an American Style Legend” along with Sir Peter and Lady Eleanor Crane from the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. In the fall a viewing of “Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oufol” was hosted, followed by a discussion with the producer, Thomas Piper.

Augusta Garden Club **Deneen Brannock, President**

The Augusta Garden Club is celebrating 100 years: 1919-2019! Many special events are being planning around this celebration. The April meeting: “Memories & Mentors – A Celebration of AGC over the past 100 Years will have round-table discussion to reminisce and collect records of the club’s archives. A 100th Anniversary Gala will be held the end of April. Community projects include Project Dogwood planting dogwoods at community parks, elementary schools and privately. This spring, two educational signs about the benefits and cultivars of dogwoods in city parks are being installed. Plans are also being made to plant dogwoods in the fall with the local Habitat for Humanity.

A second project Cigarette Litter receptacles has received two \$1000 grants from Keep Virginia Beautiful for this project.

The club has attended and participated in GCV state functions throughout the year. Members attended the Tri-Club meeting in early March at Cross Keys Vineyard outside of Harrisonburg.

Blue Ridge Garden Club

Beth Coleman, President

BRGC is excited to once again feature Natural Bridge on their 2019 HGW “Homes and History” tour, 90 years later since its appearance on the first HGW tour in 1929.

Club members enjoyed participating in GCV Daffodil Day. A BRGC flower arranging team is gearing up to create an arrangement for the “Art Go Bloom” event at Roanoke’s Taubman museum of Art. In coordination with other local garden clubs, additional help has been provided by the club to help fund the hanging plants that beautify Lexington streets. Preparations are also being made to participate in the Rockbridge County Council of Garden Clubs’ plant sale.

A new committee has been established to identify, update, research and propose community and centennial projects to the BRGC Board and then to the Club. The focus would be on identifying those projects that would benefit and beautify the local community in keeping with the purpose of the club and GCV. The Club’s 100th anniversary is coming up in 2025 making this a unique opportunity to celebrate its history and make a lasting and visible difference to the community!

Bylaw updates have been proposed to expand opportunities for recruiting Active members (by eliminating the restriction prohibiting them from considering members of other area garden clubs for active membership in BRGC). These revisions will be voted on in an upcoming meeting.

Charlottesville Garden Club

Robin Cherry, President

Membership has increased from 42 to 45. New membership orientation packets have been revamped, having sponsors take a bigger role, rotating experiences for new members. An emphasis has been placed on “fun” and projects that provide group bonding experiences. The club is working on Junior Membership for a vote in May. A new website has been developed and will be rolled out in the fall. The club’s newsletter format has also been changed. Community projects include: Roses for Daughters of Zion Cemetery, Route 29 South Garden welcoming people to the City of Charlottesville/reworked with new trees, Karats and Cocktails UVA Children’s Hospital, Penn Park garden clearing and planting, and Loaves and Fishes (a local food bank) beautification project.

Dolley Madison

Annie Vanderwarker, President

In the past two years, the Dolley Madison Garden Club has added 7 new members. Members have attended and participated in GCV related events throughout the state. The club is celebrating their Centennial Year 2019. A big celebration for the community with a surprise fountain will be installed and dedicated in May at Taylor Park in Orange. New replacement trees have also been planted in another community park.

The DMGC is also heavily committed to the Boys & Girls Club of Orange. Two events are done with the club, a swag making with the children in December and a flower arrangement with the kids to take to the Orange county Fair in June.

Hillside

Leigh Barth, President

Hillside has participated in several aspects of the Fall Symposium and Daffodil Day with submission of arrangements, photography and horticulture.

The club has maintained its full membership quota (55) with 3 new members joining this year, replacing 3 going associate.

The club has partnered with Lynchburg Garden Club to become founding members of the Blue Ridge Conservation Coalition. The initial project of this group is to support pollinators by creating pollinator gardens in 2 key plots adjoining major highway routes in the city. There are plans to solicit other organizations to join the group and incubate other projects that will be environmentally beneficial. Motivated by the publicity of the coalition, the club has created a new logo/identifier to be used particularly in printed material that is disseminated to the public.

Lynchburg

Mary Byrd Denham, President

Our sustainers raised \$4300 to replant the 100 year-old sugar maples on Peakland Place which were destroyed in the 2018 tornado. This is part one of the Club's Centennial project (2022) as our first club project was the Peakland Place planting of sugar maples in 1926. The Lynchburg Garden Club has a long history of tree plantings. Part two of our Centennial project is partnering with the City to spruce up the city gateway on 29, near the airport, with new signage and plantings. The club is interested in incorporating Piet Oudolf's new perennial movement design into this gateway garden. The landscaping idea will require less maintenance, is pollinator friendly and is a worldwide movement.

We are also partnering with Hillside to form a coalition, the BRCC, to become a bee city and the first project is to plant two pollinator gardens in the city. The project will have a big

impact on beautification and conservation in the city. Plans are being made to educate citizens and businesses about the importance of reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides. A new logo is being developed for the club and will be used on promotional materials.

A road trip is planned for the June meeting to the Quarry Gardens in Schyler.

Rivanna

Martha Wertz, President

A Native Plant and Pollinator Garden at the James River State Park in Buckingham County has been completed. The prominently placed garden is a source of pleasure for staff and visitors alike and a tool to teach visitors to the park about the importance of using native plants in their gardens and yards. The project included designing the garden, choosing the plants and shrubs, planting the garden and creating educational materials in the form of a brochure for visitors.

An outdoor learning center at the Brownsville Elementary School has been established as a memorial project for a member's untimely death. The club has managed the conversion of an interior courtyard to serve as an outdoor classroom for grades pre-K through 5.

Over the past three years, Rivanna Garden Club has given over \$22,000 to community projects in the greater Albemarle/Charlottesville area. These contributions represent money raised through the club's Christmas Markets, a tradition since the 1930's. The 2018 Market was the most successful to date.

Administrative accomplishments include adoption of a new technological platform for the club's newsletter, adoption of Paperless Post for club meeting rsvp's and a more complex but ultimately better accounting system using Quick Books.

Rivanna annually concludes the year in May with a luncheon. Awards are given to members with outstanding achievement in arrangement, horticulture and conservation as well as two awards recognizing outstanding service.

Spotswood

Joy Strickland, President

The club has had an ongoing project for the past three years landscaping a traffic roundabout. The City of Harrisonburg will take over the maintenance and upkeep of the project in May. A new beautification project, landscaping Pleasant View Homes Day Services was started this year. Two landscaping firms to plant larger trees to provide "instant" shade for the client's enjoyment as well as shrubs were added to this bare property. Roses will be added to the property in May.

The Christmas luncheon and auction were sold out this year and the auction a big success. In May, the club will have a plant exchange and a tour of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at James Madison University.

District News

It has been my joy and privilege to work with the District 2 presidents these past two years.

Many thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the following outgoing presidents:

Claire Mellinger/Albemarle, Deneen Brannock/Augusta, Annie Vanderwarker/Dolley Madison, Leigh Barth/Hillside

Congratulations and best wishes to incoming presidents:

Esther Hannon/Albemarle, Virginia Gillock/Augusta, Carla Passarello/Dolley Madison, Sarah Hellewell/Hillside

New Director-at-Large Fran Carden

Director at Large, District 3

Anne Harrison Harris

The Garden Club of Gloucester

Anne Alexander Marshall, President

- **December 2018**
 - Did Christmas Decorations for doors of every resident of Sanders Assisted Living and for Historic Courthouse Circle buildings and Gloucester History Museum (natural greens for the latter 2; fake wreaths for Assisted Living due to fire rules)
 - Had Club Christmas Party with spouses, partly as thank you to spouses for all they do for HGW (parking etc.) and other things. Collected food for community food pantry. Food for party done by members, took place at a member's home.
- **March 26, 2019** – Club participated in Gloucester Clean-Up Day, this year by working on Ware Neck Road, on Ware Neck in Gloucester. Collected 52 bags of garbage.
- **March GCV Daffodil Day** – Many members did horticulture this year, not artistic, and many won ribbons. Ceci Brown and Dianne Spence won major awards.
- **Daffodil Festival:** April 7-8 – GCG projects for Gloucester County's Annual Daffodil Festival were: (1) a children's arranging program at Arts on Main at which we had over 60 children! This project has really grown from about 40 last year. Members bring buckets of flowers the day before and then a group of us assist the children. The children take their arrangements home. This year's theme was "Buckets of Fun." And (2) Again in partnership with Arts on Main, we sponsored an Art and Flowers Show where some 30 people picked an art work at the gallery and interpreted it (some club members, some not). This program is increasingly popular with attendees at the festival (over 20,000 people) who enjoy the creativity displayed. These two programs are not judged but are for fun and learning and appreciation of flowers. See picture of one of the kids under separate cover with a caption.
- **HGW** – if you want more on our local tour I can send. See state book. Historic Little England is on for the first time in 49 years. Empty for some years, it is now owned by a

young family that is bringing this unique historic home back to life. We are also featuring nearby Abingdon Episcopal Church, one of the most historic churches in America as well as two more modern homes.

- **Meeting Programs so far in 2019:**
 - Flower Arranging Demonstration by Annie Vanderwarker of Fearless Flowers
 - Organic Gardening: There was no Miracle-Gro in the Garden of Eden by Bonnie Satterthwaite
 - On April 17 we are having a Conditioning and Mechanics Workshop by our own expert arrangers Emily Barbee and Kate Zullo to help prepare members for Garden Tour.
- All focus right now is on April 27 HGW!!!

The Hampton Roads Garden Club

Dale Banning, President

January 2019

- Our Club monthly meeting was January 8, 2019 at the Swift Water Treatment Plant in Suffolk, VA
- I attended a District 3 meeting at the K-V House on Jan. 11.
- Our Club hosted at the PCGC meeting on Jan. 11.
- Allison Clock attended Legislative Day in Richmond on behalf of our Club.

February 2019

- Our monthly meeting was February 5, 2019 at Old Point National Bank in Hampton, VA. Our lecture was on Rock Gardening.
- We accepted our first member into our new class of membership: Non Resident Active Member.
- Several of our Members attended the Lecture “The Gardens of Bunny Mellon” presented by the Garden Club of Norfolk on Feb. 20, 2019.

March 2019

- Our monthly meeting was March 5, 2019 at the Mariners Museum. After the Business Meeting we dispersed to the houses we are hosting for Garden Tour to study our arranging assignments.
- We accepted our second member into our new class of membership: NRAM.
- On March 18, 2019 HRGC, HGC & WGC had a “WORK” Day at YRSP. We installed rocks and continued with clean-up of the front entrance to the Park building.
- Our Club hosted its annual fund raising bus trip to Charleston, SC from March 19-22. Almost ½ of our members attended the trip! A wonderful time was had by all!!!

April 2019

- Our monthly meeting was April 2, 2019 at Old Point National Bank in Hampton, VA. Our speaker was Widget Williams from the GCV Restoration Committee.
- We will have another WORK day at YRSP on Wed., April 17.
- Arranging Day for Garden Tour will be Wed., April 30.

The Huntington Garden Club

Tricia Russell, President

Our Horticulture chairman has been doing a fantastic job cutting things from her garden and creating small arrangements to show us what to plant and cut from our gardens.

We have had 2 work days at the York River State Park with our partner clubs Williamsburg and Hampton Roads Garden Clubs. We received a 2nd GCV grant to continue our project.

We have been prepping for Garden Tour!

In January, we went to the SWIFT water treatment plant with the Hampton Roads Garden Club to tour the facility. It was very fascinating and everyone loved it.

Heather from Ken Matthews Garden Center spoke to us in February about pruning, chopping and prepping our beds for the Spring. She took the fear of pruning away from us, by actually “butchering” several plants for us to show us how to do it properly and how far to cut things back. She was great!

Our 2nd VP duties have morphed into a Member Engagement and New Member Welcome duties. She has done a great job of engaging our members more, promoting GCV activities to get more members to participate and she hosted a welcome lunch for our newer members to give them an overview of our Club, its history, responsibilities as a club member and how GCV works with us, etc. This has been a wonderful benefit to our club.

The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula

Anne Glubiak, President

- **January 2019** - attended Legislative Day in Richmond, as well as cocktail party the night before to network
- Attended/took part in VCN's 3-hour webinar on general assembly issues put on by VCN on Friday, Jan 25
- **February 2019** - speaker Professor Todd Lookingbill from U of Richmond, spoke to the club on how the life of a stream affects the Chesapeake Bay. Presented a slide show of his students' works as well as his work as a member of a coalition to protect and restore clean waterways in the Richmond area.
- **March 2019** - speaker David Pippin presented an entertaining and informative demonstration on arranging with flower and plant materials we had brought from our yards. He used different 'odd' containers we also brought.
- **New member** nominations were accepted by the March meeting.
- Our **Scholarship Committee** found one student, whom we will fully fund, for Nature Camp, and two teachers, whom we will also fully fund - one to Adult Nature Camp and one to the Teachers on the Bay program.

- Our **Local Projects Committee** accepted an application for \$1000 funding for assistance with landscaping at the new West Point Historical Museum.
- **Centennial:** Submitted three humorous stories; Requested stories from members
- **Centennial:** Submitted the original and one-of-a-kind "Order of the Green Arrow" t-shirt, which was awarded to our club in 1999 in honor of our inaugural HGW tour when we joined GCV and the fact that it was the biggest single day tour by a single club - Turned in close to \$50,000 with over 3,000 guests.
- **Daffodil Day:** GCMP Adele Smith was Chairman of Daffodil Day. Many members volunteered. GCMP entered both Interclub Artistic (a brand-new member and old member worked together) and Interclub test collection in horticulture. Also, many members exhibited horticulture and won 14 awards and ribbons. In particular, Laura Anne Brooks won the Eleanor Truax Harris Cup, The Katherine Leadbeater Bloomer Award, the Louis Morris Goodwin Bowl, the Delia Bankhead Ribbon, and the Gayle and Lockwood Frizzle Award.
- **April Program:** HGW Tour 2019; Conducted an abbreviated meeting. Laura Anne Brooks did a program on how to make floral designs with fewer flowers, giving suggestions as to seasonal flowers to use for the house tour. We dispersed to visit the various houses to make floral design plans and assignments.
- **Membership Committee** accepted six new members and recommended them to the Club at-large. All were voted into the Club.
- Continued each month to Highlight a new member with picture and a brief version of their 'life' story. Very helpful in getting to know members.

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

Kate Muller, President

- **January** meeting snowed out
- **February** meeting: speaker:Member Sue Ramsey "It's All About the Mechanics"
- **March** meeting: speaker:Karen Durhing, VIMS, "Living Shorelines in the Northern Neck"
- **April** meeting: HGW prep and visiting homes
- **Daffodil Day:** Blue ribbon/ Interclub Late Georgian arrangement
 - Member Lois Spencer won blue in individual artistic Mille Fleurs
 - Member Marguerite Slaughter won red and "Most Creative" in artistic Naturalistic
 - Several ribbons won by individuals in the Horticulture Division
 - Member Fran King won yellow in Photography Division
 - 23 members participated and/or attended
- **Upcoming Events:** HGW in Northern Neck May 1 / Colonial Beach

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Kelly Johnson, President

Our fabulous “Tricia duo” 🧑🏻🧑🏻 chaired the annual meeting a couple of years ago. They kept such a strict budget we had money left over! We’ve been pondering what to do with some of it ever since. We kept some back and divided up the remainder. Pretty impressive, huh?? 🙌🙌

We do little “flash sales” at some meetings to raise funds for nature camp scholarships but nothing to this magnitude.

Community Projects Committee:

- \$3000.00 for the plantings at the Central Regional Library
- \$3000.00 for seed money for the RVGC Centennial project.
- \$1000.00 towards the restoration of the mirrors at the Kent-Valentine House.
- \$3500.00 for the repairs of the garden shed at the Rising Sun Tavern.
- \$5000.00 towards the Chatham Endowment fund.
- \$1500.00 for the Community Projects Committee to hold to give to a future project.

We maintain the "LOVE" garden at the intersection of Rt. 3 and Rt. 1

The Williamsburg Garden Club

Beth Stabler, President

Meetings: 8 General Meetings (of these 8 – 2 were business meetings, 1 end of year celebration of 90th year, 1 Christmas Luncheon), 4 Board Meetings

Of Note:

- Williamsburg Garden Club turned 90 on March 21. Founded in March of 1929. A Founder’s Day meeting was held in March and a cocktail party celebration was held in March of 2019.
- Gift given to GCV in Honor of Nina Mustard, Outgoing President of the GCV.
- GCV began work on the restoration/creation of the Reveley Garden at the College of William and Mary. (not a WGC event, but excited to have this at the college)
- “Out with Oasis”: All artistic arrangements for our club year were done without oasis/floral foam.
- NO BOXWOOD – All Garden Day arrangements were done without the use of boxwood.

- Thanks to the great work of Anne Harrison Harris and her team in Newport News, a second grant was won for York River State Park.
- **Speakers:**
 - Nancy Knewstep/Conservation Update,
 - Amalita Thomas/Succotash and All That – Vegetable Arrangements,
 - Ann Beard/Behind the Scenes of Professional Landscape Photography,
 - Meg French/Nancy Knewstep – Our Companionship with the Earth and Its Creatures.

Garden Day Chairman: Cheri Mulhare. Locations: Ford’s Colony (for the first time), Colonial Williamsburg, and (for the first time) Williamsburg Botanical Gardens

Projects: Heritage Humane Society Garden, Green Market, York River State Park, Hospice House and Support Care, Arbor Day/Williamsburg, JCC, York County.

Donations:

Adams Garden (W&M)
 GCV Annual Fund
 Heritage Humane Society - Garden Maintenance
 Hospice House
 James River Association
 Nature Camp
 Scenic Virginia
 VA Conservation Network
 WMSBG Botanical Garden
 WMSBG Land Conservancy

Director at Large, District 4

Debbie Lewis

District 4 has been busy and engaged in great projects for our individual communities as well as contributing time and funding for GCV projects throughout the state. It has been rewarding for all of us to learn from each other and to share successes from our clubs. We enjoyed a lovely afternoon together in February with presidents from 6 of the 7 clubs gathering for lunch in Roanoke.

Chatham Garden Club

Gayle Gwaltney, President

- Chatham Garden Club provided beautiful hanging baskets downtown with the other two local clubs for Christmas.

- For Valentines' Day, our club made small flower arrangements for the patients at the local nursing home.
- We are in the process of planting around town hall with the other two local clubs as well as in our Pruden Street planter.
- Chatham Garden Club donated \$100.00 to the Chatham Rotary Club for plantings in the new Rotary corner on Main Street. Funds will also be donated by the club to the Old Chatham Cemetery group.
- 5 new members joined Chatham Garden in April! We are looking forward to engaging them in our club as well as GCV!
- Susan Bower will be our next President taking office in June.

The Gabriella Garden Club

Cathy Green, President

- Gabriella now has an active membership list of 50 members with a sustaining list of 6. One new member was added this quarter.
- The club is currently engaged in defining a project for the centennial year.

The Garden Study Club

Judy Epperly, President

- The Garden Study Club and the Martinsville Garden Club hosted our GCV President, Jean Gilpin. Her presentation focused on the relevance of the GCV mission over the past century. We were also entertained, and informed about Historic Garden Week by GCV HGW co-chair, Tricia Garner. The luncheon meeting with our special guests was a highlight for all of our members!
- GSC had a beautiful, fun and inspiring fundraising luncheon at Chatmoss Country Club with speaker Dee Dee Dalrymple inspiring us all to beautiful entertaining. Dee Dee donated part of the proceeds from the sale of her book *Effortless Entertaining*. Janice Cain set up a booth from her shop, Janice Cain Stationery, and she also donated a portion of her sales to GSC. Donna Lawhon and Debbie Lewis spearheaded the event. Beautiful flower arrangements from members of our club provided a lovely setting for the luncheon.
- GSC continues to sell note cards from a painting donated by Gail Smith, a GSC sustaining member.
- Mary Jac Meadors, gave a fantastic program on GCV restoration. The slides and informative presentation gave the club membership a detailed and impressive visual about GCV's restoration sites, and the program provided a great opportunity to understand how our HGW proceeds are utilized.
- Susan Timmons from the Hillside Garden Club inspired us with her presentation, "Our Country Cottage Garden." She encouraged the club members to continue to create and recreate our own gardens whether rural or urban.
- Garden Study Club continues to work together with the Martinsville Garden Club on maintenance of the Paw Path Pollinator Gardens at the Smith River Sports Complex. A

local hiking, riding, walking trail that is being built will pass by the exit garden at the Paw Path, giving additional exposure to the garden. We are working with MGC to prepare educational materials about pollinators to be used in the schools.

- Several members of the GSC attended Daffodil Day and we are proud of our member, Susan Hodges, for bringing home the Best Interclub Collection Award to the Garden Study Club!

The Martinsville Garden Club

Helen Carter, President

- The MGC is not on the same 2-year schedule as GCV. For many years, we have discussed making a change to coincide with GCV's yearly schedule. We proposed a bylaw change to our members. This change involved starting in July 2019 – December 2020 and December 2020 – June 2022 our officer positions would be a 1 ½ year terms. In July, 2022, the officer positions will revert back to 2 year terms. At this time, we would be on and remain on the same 2-year schedule as GCV. Our members voted and approved this change.
- We held a voluntary fundraiser for 2018 -2019. It involved one of our members donating a two-night stay for 6 people at the Cedar Grove Plantation in Clarksville, Virginia. It included dinner for both nights along with many activities available to the guests during their stay. Tickets sold for this drawing were \$20 each or 3 tickets for \$50.00. It turned out to be a successful fundraiser.
- Our club and GSC hosted our GCV President, Jean Gilpin. She gave a wonderful presentation on the past, present and future opportunities of GCV. We were also delighted with a skit presented by Tricia Garner, GCV Co-Chairman of Historic Garden Week, aka "Holly Go Walking – HGW". It enlightened members on what GCV does with the money made from HGW.
- Our Chairman for HGW have been busy ordering new signage, doing write ups for the homes, securing advertisements and sponsors as well as photographing the homes. Photos and information have been posted to instagram and facebook. A blog has been written for the Martinsville-Henry County Visitor Center.
- We had 8 members attend the member orientation at Daffodil Day. Of those 8, we had 1 member that won for her traditional line mass arrangement and 1 member that won 28 ribbons for the daffodils she grew, and she won a silver trophy bowl.
- Our Ad Hoc Committee has been studying ways we can use our funds to benefit our community. Members voted and approved substantial donations to be made to our Historic County Courthouse grounds upkeep, to the Piedmont Arts, Art Garden, a Horticulture or Architecture Landscape Scholarship to be run through the MHC Charity League's Scholarship program and to the GCV Annual Fund.
- We will participate in the Patrick Henry Rose Society Rose Show that will be held at Piedmont Arts on September 21, 2019. Our members will help the Rose Society set up, do arrangements, and clean up after the show.

Mill Mountain Garden Club
Forrest Moore, President

- Mill Mountain Garden Club has an active committee focusing on updates to the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. After a rich 50-year history of establishing and maintaining a native plant and wildflower refuge, many updates have been identified to strengthen the garden's accessibility, over-all aesthetics and ability to create quality educational experiences. Understanding the term nature deficit disorder, our focus is mainly on nurturing children through nature. We have spent many hours working with the City on the actual project plans and have gained City approval. We are currently in the beginning of fundraising efforts:

Roanoke Valley Gives Day was an unexpected success (March).

A "pop up" Charleston Shoe Company Sale created fun AND proceeds! (April).

We have submitted proposals for grants.

We are currently working on "direct asks" in the community.

In the meantime, the garden is at its peak of wildflower glory. Members work every Thursday morning and we offer a Wednesday evening opportunity for those who are unable to help during the day. Every time we are up there – we are rewarded with "the newest blooms", visitors from all over the world, birders and wildflower lovers.... It makes our hearts swell.

- The Taubman Art Museum is hosting *Art Go Bloom*. Many of our members serve as leaders on the board and we have a good number of teams who will be creating arrangements for the May 16 – 19 event. This is a wonderful way to support our community while having fun arranging flowers and attending workshops!
- An ad hoc membership committee was established to review the current membership categories and get a feel for the health and well-being of our members (being sensitive to the treasured members who have been in the club for over 25 years and still remain active, as well as the changing attitude and lifestyle of our younger members).
- We are blessed with a full membership – taking in one new member in March.
- At the February meeting, we had small table discussions to talk specifically about membership- it was a great success - our club has 85 active members & 15 senior associates; many members do not know each other – small tables were a great way to have a voice and become acquainted. The facilitators came away with long lists of positive ideas for future club functions.
- As a result, a new *Membership Engagement* committee is being established – specifically for fostering the newest members through an organized schedule of club and community activities. Since we belong to 3 additional organizations: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Garden Club of Virginia and Garden Club of America – the involvement and information can be overwhelming even for the most seasoned member.
- March was our club Flower Show – using selected parts of the GCV Daffodil Day Schedule. We had a beautiful turnout of horticulture AND arrangements.

- The conservation committee recommends a book to everyone – the selected book is *Bringing Nature Home* by Doug Tallamy. A book discussion is scheduled for the middle of May.
- We have many members scheduled to attend Horticulture Field Day. Always a highlight!
- Our Annual Meeting is May 30th – where the green gavel will be turned over to Valeta Pittman - MMGC's 59th President.

Roanoke Valley Garden Club **Joanne Callis, President**

- Our Community Projects committee is hard at work refurbishing the beds at the Transportation Museum.
- Garden tour is right around the corner. A lovely event has been planned the evening before, May 3rd, at Black Dog Salvage benefiting the Ronald McDonald house.
- Our membership is at capacity.

Director at Large, District 5

Tuckie Westfall

The Garden Club of Alexandria **Margaret Gardner, President**

The focus of the club for the past two years has been strategic planning and renovation of the Ramsay House Garden, a civic project at the Alexandria Visitor's Center. The club passed a three-year strategic action plan this March. The Ramsay House garden project is near completion. The renovated hardscape is finished, and native sustainable perennials and trees were installed the week of April 15th. The renovated garden is set to reopen for Historic Garden Week in Alexandria, and a ribbon cutting is being planned for the morning of June 12th.

The Garden Club of Fairfax **President Linda Schlesinger**

The Club began 2019 with a program on "Bats" by Kerry Wixted, Wildlife Education and Outreach Specialist, DNR, Annapolis, Maryland which was well received. The Club's HGW 2019 was chosen by several magazines to be included in their issues pertaining to HGW in Virginia. "Virginia Living" chose the Old Langley Ordinary and did a three-page feature in their March/April issue, and sustaining member Margaret Kincheloe did the flower arrangements for the photo shoot. Their tour has been in "The Connection," a local paper, "Fairfax Times," the GCV Journal and "Rivercreek Community Magazine." Members are volunteering with students from the Robinson Secondary School Garden Club teaching the kids how to make pollinator seed balls, grooming and showing daffodils, upcoming gardening tips and flower arranging. In

February, the Club met at Green Spring Gardens and learned about the Gardens of Jane Austen and then toured the witch hazels. At the March meeting, members had a hands-on Pollinator Seed Ball Workshop. They are now reaping the awards as the wild flower seeds are sprouting and will be ready to disperse around their properties soon. The Club's 2019-2021 Slate of Officers will be voted on at their May Business meeting. Sustaining member Marlene Whitely will host a President's Celebration at her home in June, assisted by several active members to conclude the 2017-2019 administration.

Fauquier and Loudon Garden Club **Christine Perdue Smith, President**

The Club held its biennial Horticulture Symposium at the end of February, featuring four outstanding speakers and a range of vendors. This is their primary fundraiser, and it was a great success due to the Chairman, Elaine Burden and her hardworking committee. At their Annual Meeting in March, three members received awards: Harriett Condon for her 25-year anniversary as a Club member; Jean Perin for her work in conservation, visiting gardens and Historic Garden Week; and June Hambrick for her contributions in artistic arranging. With Historic Garden Week soon to be, the house captains are working on plans for the house their club will be responsible for during Leesburg Garden Club's HGW tour. They are already planning for the 2020 HGW tour, which will include Oak Springs, the former home and garden of Bunny Mellon. Their April meeting is a tour of the Abrams Creek Wetlands in Winchester, followed by a meeting and lunch at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. They are also a finalist for the Conservation Award. Their Club seconded Winchester-Clarke GC's nomination of the Abrams Creek Wetlands for the GCA Founders Fund Award which explains why they planned the tour. Their June Flower Show will focus on artistic arrangements. The Club retained a CPA to help organize their various accounts in a software format that will be consistent for all users and easily accessible by their treasurer and finance chairman. The process will address cyber security issues as well.

The Hunting Creek Garden Club **Gudrun Hooff, President**

The Club hosted the Board of Governors Meeting last October and then immediately worked on their primary fundraiser, the club's Christmas greens sale which was quite successful. The funds are used for sending two kids to nature camp and they also supported the Garden Club of Alexandria's civic project at Ramsay House. So far this year, they have had great programs with a daffodil theme: "Mechanics and Presentation of Daffodils," "Classes of Daffodils and Growing Them," and a "Daffodil Challenge" with 9 teams of 3-4 club members competing which Dr. Janet Hickman, GCV Daffodil Chair and Betty Shaw will judge. The Club voted to give \$4,900.00 as their Centennial gift to the GCV to restore one of the mirrors in the Kent

Valentine House. They also approved a conservation grant of \$5,000.00 to Potomac Riverkeepers for water stations. They have welcomed four new club members since last year.

Leesburg Garden Club

Susan Honig-Rogers, President

The Club has continued its tradition of awarding a college scholarship to a freshman committed to pursuing a course of study in conservation or horticulture. They also support two “camperships” at Nature Camp in southwestern Virginia. One of their favorite programs focuses on one of the campers talking about her experience at Camp. Another favorite is a demonstration by a club member on how to propagate African violets. The Club provides two grants to community non-profits. Oatlands Historic House received a major grant to complete its irrigation system. Leesburg Elementary School received a grant for its impressive student vegetable and butterfly gardens. LGC is actively invested in the Loudoun County policy regarding signage. Representatives spoke at a Board of Supervisors meeting in late 2017 and is currently preparing a letter in support of limiting roadside signage to directional or informational purposes and prohibiting advertising. LCG has been instrumental in this battle for nearly its entire existence. In April, the club was honored to be part of a fundraiser hosted by Sharon Virts and Scott Miller of Selma Historic House. The proceeds are to be used by the club in its continuing development of educational liaisons with public elementary schools. This year they are leading Historic Garden Week with assistance from Fauquier and Loudoun and other smaller area clubs.

The Little Garden Club of Winchester

Katherine Howard, President

Their projects with the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, the Discovery Museum and the Quaker Cemetery are all completed and the club members “are reveling in their good deeds.” They are one of two clubs vying for the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award based on the impressive work at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. They are joining forces with two other clubs and opening the program with David Pippen to the public. They are busy preparing for their 2019 Garden tour and hoping for a good showing as they are very proud of their houses and gardens. They have 50 active members which is the limit and three provisional members waiting in the wings.

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

Barbara Bandyke, President

The Club submitted a proposal for the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award for their Abrams Creek Wetland Preserve Project and is happy to be one of two finalists for the

award which will be announced in May, 2019. Each month the club does different projects: December was a Pot-et-Fleur workshop; followed in January by a demonstration of “5 Minute Flower Arrangements” by Daphne Dunning, which was described as “the perfect winter meeting.” Club members attended the GCV Legislative Day in Richmond and met with their legislators. In March the club meeting was at the State Arboretum at Blandy. They were given a demonstration on Pave arrangements with the opportunity to stay and make your own. Also, in March their novice arrangers participated in the GCV Daffodil Show and won an Honorable Mention, and Edie Hessburg won a Yellow ribbon in Photography. They are assisting the Little GC with Historic Garden Week in Winchester by arranging flowers and being hostesses. They plan to coordinate their May Business meeting with the GCV Horticulture Field Day. They have welcomed seven Provisional Members this past year (one has moved up to active status), and they are looking forward to a smooth transition to their new incoming President, Terry Chandler on June 1st.

The Garden Club of Warren County President Beth DeBergh

The Club has been busily preparing for Historic Garden Week in the town of Washington. In conjunction with the tour, they will be selling raffle tickets for a dinner for two donated by the Inn at Little Washington. The proceeds will go toward the 2020 Board of Governors Meeting that they are hosting. They are proud that their nomination was a recipient of two of the GCV Virginia State Park Grants. The Shenandoah River State Park received \$5,000 for a Pollinator Meadow and Bee Habitat in 2017 and in 2019, a \$7,500 grant for Visitors Center Landscaping Restoration. In September Jenny Murphy joined Brian Bennett and Friends of the Shenandoah River State Park and staff to help seed the new pollinator meadow and it was a success, and the estimated quantity of seeds was “spot on!” The Club’s Beautification Committee is purchasing iPad tablets to be used for the educational programs at the Visitors Center. Club member Lisa Schwartz and Steve Carroll, in charge of the programs at Blandy, gave a program about the “latest activities there” for the January meeting. Late Club member Pearl Zigler’s nephew is giving the Belle Boyd Cottage Gardens \$25,000 from her estate. Several members helped with the Trinity Episcopal Church’s final Fall House Tour in Washington, VA. Trinity also allows the use of the Parish Hall as headquarters during HGW. They have welcomed four new members to the club. Spring is in the air and they are preparing to help plant the Front Royal hanging baskets, an annual tradition. Their 90th anniversary year begins in June, and they are considering “something special”.

The Warrenton Garden Club

Margrete Stevens, President

The Club hosted their biggest conservation meeting ever last October at Highland School. They brought in Princeton-based C Change Conversations for a very successful presentation on climate change, attended by some 130 people. They used Eventbrite and social media to promote the event which was a club first. They installed a native plant garden at Clifton, the local environmental field station, in memory of WGC member Gina Farrar which was made possible by her generous legacy to the club. They also funded a bridge that forms part of a new Sensory Explorer Trail in Sky Meadows State Park to serve handicapped and seeing-impaired visitors. A new project being launched at the end of this year involves their collaboration with Citizens for Fauquier County to plant milkweed in and around Warrenton for monarch butterflies. They continue to work with the Fauquier Education Farm doing all the Farm's seeding during the winter months. The club's work is a critical underpinning of the Farm's ability to grow some 50 tons of vegetables for local food banks. Two of their junior members maintain the playground at the WARF recreational center in Warrenton and are also responsible for the planting and maintenance of prominently placed planters in front of the historic court house. Club sustainers organized a delightful fundraiser in the fall. Another highlight was the successful nomination of the Piedmont Environment Council for the GCV Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award. It was presented at the GCV Conservation Forum in Charlottesville last fall. Their February club program was devoted to learning how to use iPhone photography functions. They are also thinking through and planning future commitments, including their 2019 Conservation program in October. They are very proud to have launched a website which has allowed them to manage club affairs efficiently. They have welcomed three new members.

Director at Large, District 6

Ellen Upton

On February 7, the district presidents met at Ker Place, a GCV restoration site in Onancock. Also attending was Stephie Broadwater, HGW Chairman. We were provided with a tour of the home and a lovely room for our meeting. Stephie brought us up to date about the tours and graciously answered questions. Linda Consolvo, NRGV President, discussed GCV's restoration projects and how they are selected. In addition, she enlightened us about the Restoration Fellowships. A delicious lunch was catered by a local restaurant. We all benefited from seeing this home and the grounds, which had newly installed exterior lighting, compliments of GCV.

The Elizabeth River Garden Club

Betty Jo Gwaltney, President

- They have been busy preparing for the Annual Meeting to be held this year in Portsmouth.
- The spring programs have been conducted by three very talented members of the club. They focused on building large arrangements and the tools needed. Included was how to make and use unusual containers and the mechanics of various styles of flower arrangements.
- The February meeting offered a silent auction, among the members. They were encouraged to take time, declutter and contribute any gardening items for the sale. Flower arranging tools, gardening books and vases were all welcomed. The event was enjoyed and very little was left over. The money raised was donated to their flower workshop fund.
- A joint meeting and luncheon were held in March, with the Franklin Garden Club and the Nansemond River Garden Club honoring GCV president, Jean Gilpin.
- April has been devoted to Historic Garden Week.
- In June, they will have a luncheon and a tour of three lovely gardens.

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Wendy Walker, President

- In March, they had a wonderful program entitled “Chopped”, based on the popular cooking show. Three volunteers were chosen from the club, all had some flower arranging experience, to demonstrate. They stood in front of the meeting room where a covered box was placed before them. In the box were three items they had to use to create an arrangement in 15 minutes. On separate tables behind them were containers to choose from as well as some arranging supplies. For example, one box contained sunflowers, a feather boa and colorful drinking straws. Members of the audience were allowed to advise, at a distance. After time was up, the arrangements were judged by a show of hands and the winning arranger was given a small prize. It was fun and even the most experienced arrangers said they learned from watching how each approached the situation.
- Some club members have been attending regular meetings of the Onancock Beautification Committee, which was formed as part of the Business Association effort to support our Historic Garden Week Tour. It will be centered in the town limits. Together a plan was developed to enhance flower pots in front of local businesses and to replant three small town gardens. Members gathered to plant and the town was very appreciative of the high energy and enthusiasm, as well as the gardening assistance, brought by the club members. This will make our HGW tour a true cooperative effort, which will benefit the town long after the tour is over.
- Club members are currently revising job descriptions in anticipation of the May business meeting.

- The June picnic will welcome five new members and include a plant exchange.

The Garden Club of Norfolk

Jane Edwards, President

- Their February LIFESTYLE LECTURE series featured Linda Jane Holden, author of The Gardens of Bunny Mellon. Over 180 attended and the profit returned to the club was over \$10,000. Monies from this series support community projects and education/travel for members.
- The March meeting featured a presentation by Leighton Powell, Executive Director of Scenic Virginia. The club holds a membership in Scenic Virginia.
- In late March, 12 members spent the day on the Eastern Shore farm of member Fann Greer. Grapevines and honey suckle vines were pulled and fashioned into wreaths for their annual Greens Galore fundraiser. This is held in late November and we are trying to find ways to inject new life into this over 25 year old event. All had great fun and shared lunch before departing for home.
- Early April brought an orientation for prospective new members. The information session was held at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club in the early evening. Proposers and members of the Board of Directors attended. New members were then invited to a coffee the next week to talk further with the President, Vice President, and Admissions Chair regarding which committees to join and answer other membership related questions. The club hopes to welcome 14 new members.
- Several members entered horticulture specimens and floral designs in the Daffodil Show. A blue ribbon in horticulture and red and white ribbons for floral design were the results.
- GCN is sponsoring the 2019 Garden Lecture at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens, with Harborfront GC. This annual program for the greater Norfolk community, features 4 lectures from April 24 to October 2. Speakers include: Dean Norton, Head of Horticulture at Mount Vernon, Colonel Paul Olsen, Director of Programs and Partnerships at ODU and Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg.
- In June, club members will participate in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day, coordinated by the Conservation and Beautification Committee members.

Harborfront Garden Club

Debbie Bonnewell, President

- The club continues to support the Serenity Garden at the Union Mission, which has been one of the club's projects.
- In February, a joint meeting with the Garden Club of Norfolk was held at Virginia Wesleyan University and both clubs toured the Greer Environmental Center and Gardens.

- Harborfront and GCN are partnering to host a lecture series at The Hermitage Museum and Gardens.
- Whenever flower arrangements are brought for judging they execute “Flower Arranging 101, Look, Learn and Participate”.

The Nansemond River Garden Club

Linda Consolvo, President

- In March, a joint luncheon meeting with The Franklin Garden Club and The Elizabeth River Garden Club was held at Franklin’s Cypress Cove Country Club. This event honored GCV President, Jean Gilpin.
- April’s program featured the club’s HGW chairman, Marcie Brummett. She highlighted the tour in Franklin, that is partnering with NRG and ERGC. Stephie Broadwater, GCV HGW Chairman, reported on tours across the state. Members shared their bounty of plants, bulbs and shrubs at the end of the meeting.
- In May, there will be a work day and picnic at the club’s Common Wealth Award winning Heritage Garden.
- During the summer, the club will be working on its upcoming fundraiser to take place on October 29, 2019. It will be titled Southern Seasonal Sensations featuring floral designs by Buffy Hargett. For the past 28 years, Ms. Hargett has been a senior stylist, artist and entertaining specialist for *Southern Living Magazine*.

The Princess Anne Garden Club

Carrie Goodman, President

- PAGC continues monthly with a flower arranging demonstration by a club member or by one of the many local floral designers.
- In March, Jane Godshalk, author, instructor and renowned floral designer from Longwood Gardens, was welcomed. She provided a wonderful, creative program and demonstration. The event was open to the public and there was a full house, including many District 6 club presidents.
- Also, in March, the club attended the opening of the Kid’s Track Trail at First Landing State Park, which the PAGC sponsored.
- Three local elementary schools continue to enjoy the thriving Tower Gardens with plants, lettuce, herbs and more.
- The members have been working tirelessly for HGW and the tour on May 1. This will be located at the Cavalier on the Hill residences.
- Towards the end of May, the tour homeowners, club members and their husbands will have a wonderful cocktail party hosted at a member’s home.

The Virginia Beach Garden Club
Lou Flowers, President

- The club sponsors a youngster for Nature Camp.
- Some of the projects that are supported are the Camp Grom Reflection Garden, Mary's Garden at Sentara Hospital, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Brock Center Rain Garden.
- The club continues to meet annually with another district club.
- Two successful speakers were David Pippin, an arranger from Richmond, and Jill Bieri from the Nature Conservancy Coastal Reserve.