

The Charlottesville Garden Club

Directors at Large and Presidents' Reports 2004-2019

2005

Fundraising Project: Annual Christmas auction of gifts, holiday decorations; Sale of "What to do When" calendars and The Art of Conditioning Flowers."

Best Program: Flower arranging demonstration by Leesburg Garden Club member Martha Lynch

Ongoing Project: Restoration of the Charlottesville Circuit Court landscape

Legislative Involvement: Contact with legislators; e-mail updates about pending issues

Unique: Focused on shared responsibilities of our three local clubs for Historic Garden Week; continuing creative development of the website.

2006

Fundraising Project: Holiday Silent Auction

Best Program: Peggy Augustus' Orchid Collection Tour

Ongoing Project: Club Website; new Flower Arranging School

Legislative Involvement: Continual reporting on legislative issues

Unique: Wonderful Historic Garden Week tour!! Tablescape -- Special attention to Rivanna and Albemarle and our local garden clubs.

2007

Fundraising Projects: The Charlottesville Garden Club's ongoing projects are the sale of the *What to do When* calendar and conditioning books. A committee spent long hours updating the calendar last summer and it was reprinted in the fall. The conditioning book was reprinted as well, with new CGC member artwork on the cover. Also, the club holds a *Silent Auction of Seasonal Gifts* at each December meeting.

Best Programs: CGC had two wonderful demonstration programs this year. In October- *Creative Presentations with Flowering Plants* was given by Gertrude Johnson and Midori Matthias from Ivy Nursery in Charlottesville. In March, a program called 'The Big Splash' showing arrangements done in interesting glass containers was given by Randy Herring and Joey Strickler of Floral Images in Charlottesville.

Ongoing Project: The club's main ongoing project has been the CGC website: www.gardeninginvirginia.org. The website is maintained by CGC member Zan Short, who serves as webmaster, with committee members contributing and updating information.

Legislative Involvement: Our club conservation committee has a 'group email' to distribute legislative information.

Unique: In October we held our first 'Tay Gwaltney Flower Arranging School' in memory of CGC member Tay Parrot Gwaltney. We held this first school for CGC members, with other members skilled in flower arranging conducting demonstrations and discussing basics of flower arranging. Those attending made their own arrangements after the demonstrations. We plan to open the school after this year to the community, to encourage flower arranging for our members and others. We also have been collecting 'memoirs' from our members this year to combine with other collected CGC historical information to use during our 50th GCV Anniversary celebration this May.

Comments: At our March meeting, we voted to fund a Roadside Enhancement Project in conjunction with Albemarle County and VDOT. Our goal was to beautify one of the entrance corridors to the city. A median off Rt 64 to Rt. 29/250 has recently been planted for this project.

2008

Fundraising Project: The Tay Gwaltney Flower Arranging School was held last October at the Greencroft Club. The format this year was a lecture, demonstration by flower arranger Randy Ouzts, from Blowing Rock and Gastonia, NC, followed by a luncheon. TGFAS is in honor and memory of CGC member Tay Gwaltney who greatly encouraged flower arranging among members and was a GCV Flower Show Judge. This was the first year TGFAS was open to the public. A sale of Randy Ouzts line of containers followed the luncheon. *The Silent Auction of Seasonal Gifts is held each December.*

Best Program: Lecture/slideshow, "Growing Grapes and Making Wine" at White Hall Vineyards by owner Tony champ, complete with wine tastings in September; "Healthy Orchids" lecture and orchid sale by Kathy Philhoun in January; a talk on "Nuclear Energy" by Jim Kelly in February; and a tour of Waterperry, home of Katharine Kane West (on Horticulture Field Day 2007).

Ongoing Project: 'What to do When' a monthly calendar of gardening tips, and our conditioning book, are our two publications that we sell year round. Our December meeting is traditionally a silent auction, called "A Silent Auction of Seasonal Gifts" that is an annual fundraiser. Gardening in Virginia, the Charlottesville Garden Club's website is an ongoing project: www.gardeninginvirginia.org. Our two publications: 'What to do When', a calendar of monthly gardening tips, and our Conditioning Book, are sold year-round. Our most recent club project was a Roadside Enhancement Project in conjunction with VDOT and Albemarle County. A southern entrance to the city off RT

64 was beautified with plantings of evergreens, liriopse and daylilies. The signage with our club's name was installed early this year.

Legislative Involvement: Our Conservation chairman informs members by email of the upcoming legislative news, bills, etc. Members of the Conservation Committee attend Legislative Day in January. The "Things You Can Do to Help our Planet" brochure (see 'Comments') will provide information to the public.

Unique: Last May we celebrated our club's 50 Anniversary as a GCV member club. One CGC club member hosted a beautiful luncheon under a tent in her garden. Photographer Sam Abell was the surprise speaker. The program included 'skits for the decades', and tablescapes from different eras. We have recently established an award to be given annually at the GCV Flower Arranging School in memory of CGC member Elizabeth Booker. Cups for the award are currently being engraved.

Comments: The three GCV clubs from the area also coordinate activities. In December we traditionally purchase decorations and decorate the Charlottesville Train Station for the holidays. We have recently re-printed an updated brochure (spearheaded by Albemarle GC) with tips about recycling and conservation that will be available to the public during HGW, called "Things You Can Do to Help Our Planet" (Albemarle, Charlottesville, and Rivanna Garden Clubs). We coordinate HGW with the three clubs which also includes a university day as well.

2009

Fundraising Activities: Publish a *What To Do When* calendar, a month by month gardening to do list with tips; publish a conditioning calendar which describes techniques for numerous flowers when cut to survive flower arranging; Silent auction in December -- club members make or bake items which attendees bid on, usually netting about \$2,500,

Best Programs: Speaker discussing the legislative process for GCV; short horticulture tip or five-minute demonstration given at each meeting; field trip to newly restored UVA Pavilion Gardens with explanations of the GCV involvement and history.

Unique Activity: A workshop in November with the club divided into six different groups, each with its own leader. Members created different Holiday arrangements, wreaths, boughs and baskets. Everyone had a blast and learned many new techniques!

2011

Partnered with the Albemarle and Rivanna clubs to decorate the Amtrak station for the holidays. In April, the Charlottesville Garden Club added three Arborvitae to our garden at the southern entrance to Charlottesville on Route 29. We had a wonderful trip field trip to Morven in June with an extensive tour of the house and gardens followed by a picnic on the back veranda. In July we had our annual cocktail party including husbands, and presently are hard at work on Historic Garden Week 2012.

2012

Incoming President Betsy Casteen reports that the past six months have been all about planning gardens as well as planning for Historic Garden Week. We have learned about a Charlottesville city schoolyard garden, ornamental grasses and bulbs, home garden design and from the Petersburg Garden Club members, Betty Steele and Bettie Guthrie, “forgotten” gardens. We enjoyed our annual holiday party which included a silent auction with items crafted, baked or chosen by club members. We came home from the GCV Daffodil show laden with blue and red ribbons, a silver trophy and silver cup and a glass engraved vase. We have pulled together and pulled off a remarkable tour of Keswick for Historic Garden Week 2012.

Best Programs: Stewart Gamage, Director of the Morven Project, and Laura George, Morven's Historic Research specialist gave a presentation on Morven Estate, highlighting the archeological work taking place there.

Fundraising Activities: Annual silent auction at our December holiday party/meeting.

Ongoing Activities: Roadside garden alongside Route 29 south by the Jefferson Parkway exit to Charlottesville.

Unique Activities: CGC had the primary responsibility for Historic Garden Week 2012. This role rotates among Albemarle, Charlottesville and Rivanna Garden Clubs. CGC members did an amazing job. With the help from the other 2 clubs and hospitable property owners, the tour was executed flawlessly. Sadly, the weather did not cooperate!

2013

Best Program: The focus this year was on flower arranging and preparing for flower shows. We had members of our club do many of the demonstrations. We also invited guest speakers from other clubs who had both participated and judged in shows. A fascinating slide presentation was given by Candy Crosby from Albemarle Garden Club describing Garden Club of Virginia restorations.

Fundraising Activities: We have one fund raiser a year which is our Holiday Auction. It is a successful event held only for club members. We are thinking about changing the format for next year. Since we just hosted The GCV Annual Meeting this past May we are under less pressure to make a large profit this year.

For years we have very successfully sold two books written and illustrated by club members: "*The Art of Conditioning Flowers* and *What to do When*. These books continue to sell well. The money raised goes directly back into programs and support for the community. We have recently made arrangements with a local consignment store to give any profits from club members donations directly to us.

2015

Recommended Programs and Speakers: *Gardening for Pollinators and Status of Honey Bees* by Ken and Karen Hall <http://www.centralvirginiabeekeepers.org>; *The Art of Winemaking* by Gabriele Rausse <http://www.gabrieleraussewinery.com>.

Fundraising Activities: For years we have very successfully sold two books written and illustrated by club members: *The Art of Conditioning Flowers* and *What to do When*. These books continue to sell well. Our largest fundraiser continues to be our December Silent Auction where members bring in their floral, culinary, and artists.

2017

Recommended Programs and Speakers: Emily Reed, District 2; John Mann, Grounds and Maintenance for the City of Charlottesville; Demonstration and floral arranging by Floral Images, owners Joey and Randy; Silent Auction of seasonal gifts -- community invited; Nina Mustard, Garden Club of Virginia President; Steve Pekary from Townsend Landscaping-- Hydrangeas: How to Plant, Grow and Care for Hydrangea Shrubs; Fran Boninti -- Favorite Garden Tools; Conservation tips given at Plow and Hearth; Ann Dunn -- Bluebirds.

Club Activities: Habitat demonstration garden planting day at Pen Park; Participation in GCV Flower Shows; donated roses to Decoration Day program at the Daughters of Zion Cemetery.

Fundraising Activities: Sale of CGC condition books and calendars; December Holiday Bazaar and Christmas Auction; members take donated items to consignment shop and proceeds go to the club.

Community Outreach: Pen Park Habitat Demonstration Garden -- planted two beds of perennials and will plant several trees and mulch; provided signs for the garden; charitable contributions to A.R.C. Camp; Nature Camp, memorials and GCV Annual Fund; decorated the Charlottesville train station for Christmas; donated roses for Decoration Day program for the Daughters of Zion Cemetery.

2018

Charlottesville – Fundraising: Brent & Becky’s (members purchasing bulbs with special code gave club a 25% credit from purchase) and Karats & Cocktails Party; Community: Penn Park Workday, Children’s Hospital -- creating floral arrangements for patients. Celebrated 60th anniversary in 2017. Assisted with GCV Conservation Forum in 2017. Meredith Mercer received the Horticulture Award of Merit in 2017.

2019

The club has increased membership from 42 to 45, 6 new members have been added since May. The new member orientation has been reworked. Bylaws and standing rules are being rewritten to rename committees and better align with the GCV. The first

evening meeting was held at Caspari. It was well attended and a lot of fun. We are working on developing a web page and a community project for March/April timeframe. The Holiday Bazaar was a BIG success!

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.