

# Horticultural Field Day 2010

*By Suzanne Tankard  
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore*

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore will host the 2010 Horticultural Field Day on Wednesday and Thursday, May 19 and 20, 2010.

On Wednesday afternoon two gardens in Accomack County, Queen Hive and Mount Custis, will be featured. Queen Hive contains a woodland garden connected by a series of winding paths artfully planted with rare native and exotic species of plants. Mature trees and boxwood tower over perennial borders in Mount Custis' seaside landscape which includes a large vegetable and cutting garden and a wooded pasture with a small herd of nanny goats.

Wednesday evening an Eastern Shore clam steam will be held at a beach cottage that occupies a natural setting on the Chesapeake Bay. The property, known as Mattissippi, has received a Virginia Forestry Stewardship award and its open land is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which protects environmentally sensitive land and restores wildlife habitat.

Thursday morning participants will meet at the Barrier Island Center, a unique museum dedicated to preserving the coastal culture and heritage of Virginia's barrier islands, for tours of the four gardens featured in Northampton County and lunch. The four gardens are Sea View, Eyre Hall, Fern Point and Mill Pond Point. Sea View, as its name implies, overlooks the marshes, bays and barrier islands of the Atlantic coast. The garden was designed by internationally-known landscape architects Oehme and van Sweden, famed for their natural, self-renewing landscapes. Eyre Hall's brick-walled boxwood gardens with traditional swept paths and English-style mixed borders are among the oldest in the country. Fern Point, overlooking Church Creek, features garden rooms with plants that offer texture and color along with uniqueness of bloom time and juxtaposition of material. Sited at the head of another tidal creek, Mill Pond Point's pastoral gardens include five large mixed borders as well as a cutting garden, vegetable garden and herb beds.

Registration forms and additional information can be found on the GCV Web site. The Holiday Inn Express, a new motel in Exmore, has reserved a block of rooms for May 19. For reservations call (757)442-5522 and ask for the GCV Horticultural Field Day block; the rate is \$79. The Best Western in Exmore, phone (757)442-7378, has offered a rate of \$74; again mention GCV. Registration is limited to 120 people.

**Friday, November 5, 2010**

*Save the Date*

Conservation Forum ❖ Williamsburg

*Partnering with VIMS and the College of William & Mary*