



GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

*Annual Meeting*  
*May 12, 2020*

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2020 Annual Meeting Roll Call of Voting Members

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**Member Club Presidents and Delegates**

Albemarle	Esther Hannon	Megan Eckenberger
Alexandria	Michaela Robinson	President
Ashland	Michelle Hamner	Sharon Stiles
Augusta	Virginia Gillock	Stephanie Otteni
Blue Ridge	Beth Coleman	Becky Porter
Boxwood	Nella Timmons	Rachel Davis
Brunswick	Mary Smith	Robert Henkel
Charlottesville	Jeanne Marie Holden	Amy Harris
Chatham	Susan Bower	Kathy Anderson
Danville	Gayle Thomson	Miki Younger
Dolley Madison	Carla Passarello	Gina Sedwick
Eastern Shore	Traci Jones	Suzanne Taylor
Elizabeth River	Johanna Perakes	Mary Vaughan
Fairfax	Donna Moulton	Maribeth Malloy
Fauquier and Loudoun	Peggy Rust	Susanne Lamb
Franklin	Betsy Brantley	Patti Rabil
Gabriella	Katy Jones	Evie Jackson
Garden Study Club	Tiffani Underwood	Nancy Baker
Gloucester	Anne Marshall	Julie Stone
Hampton Roads	Dale Banning	President
Harborfront	Greta Gustavson	Latane Avery
Hillside	Sarah Hellewell	Beverley Laughon

Hunting Creek	Ann McMurray	Betsy Regnell
Huntington	Tricia Russell	Catherine (Katie) Spencer
James River	Susie Rawles	Mary Bacon
Leesburg	Suzi Worsham	Sally Travis
Little Garden Club of Winchester	Anita Shull	Denise Wilkerson
Lynchburg	Mary Byrd Denham	Jenny Tugman
Martinsville	Cindy Edgerton	Leslie Hervey
Middle Peninsula	Anne Glubiak	Bette Albert
Mill Mountain	Valeta Pittman	Joyce Jaeger
Nansemond River	Stephie Broadwater	Kim Butler
Norfolk	Connie Kellam	Vanessa Sigmon
Northern Neck	Kate Muller	Laurie McCord
Petersburg	Kathleen Short	Elizabeth Johnson
Princess Anne	Carrie Goodman	Katie Hand
Rappahannock Valley	Kelly Johnson	Patty Lynch
Rivanna	Martha Wertz	Michelle Jennings
Roanoke Valley	Joanne Callis	Cyndi Fletcher
Three Chopt	Veronika Walmsley	Becky Antony
Tuckahoe	Jennifer Sisk	Kelly Armstrong
Virginia Beach	Latane Brown	Karen Woodard
Warren County	Jenny Murphy	Louise LaBarca
Warrenton	Jane Maddux	Kirsten Dueck
Williamsburg	Beth Stabler	Leslie Coe
Winchester-Clarke	Terry Chandler	Victoria Hughes

### Board of Directors

President	Jean Gilpin	Winchester-Clarke
1st Vice President	Missy Buckingham	Boxwood
2nd Vice President	Catherine Madden	Lynchburg
Treasurer	Victoria Alexander	Hunting Creek
Recording Secretary	Kris Carbone	Danville
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Rosser	Ashland
Parliamentarian	Linda Consolvo	Nansemond River
Director at Large District 1	Bettie Guthrie	Petersburg
Director at Large District 2	Fran Carden	Albemarle
Director at Large District 3	Anne Harrison Harris	Hampton Roads
Director at Large District 4	Debbie Lewis	Garden Study Club
Director at Large District 5	Laura Francis	Hunting Creek

Director at Large District 6	Debbie Bonnewell	Harborfront
Conservation	Carrie Dorsey	James River
Development	Sue Rosser	Martinsville
Finance	Tricia McDaniel	Rappahannock Valley
Historic Garden Week	Tricia Garner	Rappahannock Valley
Restoration	Anne Baldwin	Alexandria
Artistic Design	Victoria Willis	Rappahannock Valley
Horticulture	Wendy Walker	Eastern Shore

### Standing and Special Committee Chairmen

Annual Meeting and Board of Governors	Sidney Jordan	Hampton Roads
Common Wealth Award	Karla MacKimmie	Warrenton
Conservation Awards	Heidi James	Lynchburg
Historian	Judy Perry	Elizabeth River
Journal Editor	Julie Grover	Blue Ridge
Journal Advertising	Lea Shuba	Hunting Creek
Kent-Valentine House	Jody Branch	Boxwood
Massie Medal	Dianne Spence	Williamsburg
Membership	Diane Wilkinson	Fairfax
Nominations	Ann Gordon Evans	Huntington
Photographer	Penny Dart	Warrenton
Daffodil Day	Adele Smith	Middle Peninsula
Strategic Planning	Candace Crosby	Albemarle
Virginia State Parks	Nina Mustard	Williamsburg

### Former GCV Presidents

1984-1986	Katty Mears	Eastern Shore
1986-1988	Ellen Godwin	Nansemond River
2000-2002	Mina Wood	Lynchburg
2002-2004	Mary Hart Darden	Nansemond River
2004-2006	Deedy Bumgardner	Augusta
2006-2008	Sally Guy Brown	Alexandria
2008-2010	Cabell West	Tuckahoe
2010-2012	Kimbrough Nash	Warrenton
2012-2014	Ann Gordon Evans	Huntington
2014-2016	Jeanette Cadwallender	Rappahannock Valley
2016-2018	Nina Mustard	Williamsburg

## Artistic Design

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Tory Willis, Chairman

Two years ago, Jean Gilpin's decision to create an Artistic Design Committee resulted in the assembly of individuals with a wide array of talents. Thanks to her vision, she created something that brought an expansion of ideas and a profusion of gifts to the Garden Club of Virginia.

Allowing the Artistic Design Committee to move ahead without restriction has proven to be an invaluable resource. I trust The Artistic Design Committee will continue to move forward and accomplish great things thanks to the tireless work of its membership. It has truly been my pleasure to work with such a group.

Since last May we have had a Lily Show, planned the schedules for the Daffodil Show, Founders' Day as well as another Lily Show, hosted floral workshops, and assembled a work group to address issues associated with judging and refurbishment of the pedestals.

In June of 2019, we were able to include a limited Artistic element to the Lily Show. The space was absolutely breathtaking in the church sanctuary and all 12 exhibits displayed the unparalleled talent of the Artistic arrangers. Thankfully, Rappahannock Valley Garden Club agreed to sponsor a Lily Show for 2020 and 2021. Following a round of meetings, and discussions, the location was set, and the space tour allowed a significant expansion of exhibiting opportunities. The schedule was published briefly before the show was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. But have no fear, the schedule will be used again, and the same space has been procured so the Show will go on—in 2021 and 2022!

A majority of the time over the early spring and summer of 2019 was spent finalizing the schedule for the Founders Day Exhibits by the individual member clubs. The July meeting revealed the final work product. The development of a schedule that captured the breadth of the reach of the Garden Club of Virginia as well as celebrated the individual clubs and recognized the support of the State Parks was a wonderful accomplishment. We were thrilled to have approximately 95% participation. Thank you to Gardenia Calley Vines (or as her friends call her GCV for short) for agreeing to present the schedule at the Presidents Orientation and at the Fall Meeting in 2019!

The Committee quickly turned its attention to developing the Artistic Schedule for Daffodil Day set to be held in late March at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Because of the success of the prior year and the layout of the Artistic Exhibit space, we expanded the number of exhibits. We continue to expand the number of entries in the Inter Club class division which remains the most popular class for entry. The 2019 show was such a success with a profusion of blooms, and with the use of the pedestals each arrangement was a work of art. We were saddened to have the

show canceled due to COVID-19 but appreciate keeping everyone safe and well during this pandemic.

Thanks again to the efforts of Pat Filer—Dolly Madison—another successful hands on flower workshop was held January 31, 2020 at the Kent Valentine House.

A very special thanks to Bev Earman—Spotswood—who has tirelessly worked as our Registrar and Tabulation person for the past two years. It simply would not have been possible without her!

And a three-star salute to the members that made lunches for the Committee. The skills of the membership are not limited to floral arrangements alone—as our meals were delectable!

The Committee continues to expand its membership to assure that we have sufficient numbers to manage the shows, workshops and judging. The preparation of the Committee goals, structure and membership which was done at its inception, was updated at the end of the two years. We hope that this document will serve as guidance for the future.

A revision to the Contemporary Styles is proceeding along. We are at a standstill on the refinishing of the pedestals. We hope that once restrictions are lifted, proposals can be secured to determine if that will be feasible moving forward.

We had a small group meet to discuss the future of judging, judging qualifications, opportunities to judge and education. This occurred prior to the pandemic and work in that area has understandably been halted for the time period.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the membership in this role. It was more rewarding than words can capture, and I am grateful to so very many people for their support and guidance along the way.

## Annual Meeting and Board of Governors Meetings

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Sidney Jordan, Chairman

The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of Virginia was to be held in Richmond with one of the founding clubs as our host, the James River Garden Club. The ladies of the James River Garden Club with Cammie Furber as the Chairman worked diligently to provide a glimpse into their home and our capital Richmond, Virginia. Missing out on viewing the Low Line, part of the Capital Tree initiative, the Upper Shirley Plantation as well as other special spots within the Richmond area, we thank the James River Garden Club for your hard work in planning what was to be a lovely time in your city.

The Board of Governors 2020 will take place on October 13-15 with The Garden Club of Warren County as our host. Chairmen for this event are Dannett Lightcap and Bonnie Baker.

The Ashland Garden Club will be the host of the 2021 Annual Meeting. The dates of this event will be May 4-5, 2021. The chairmen are Anne Cross and Lauren Thompson. They have provided a wonderful invitation for Annual Meeting 2021.

It has been an honor to work with and for Jean Gilpin, thank you Jean for the gifts you have given to each of us during your term as President in the Garden Club.

### Invitation to Annual Meeting 2020

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The Ashland Garden Club, Michelle Hamner, President

Anne Cross and Lauren Thompson, Co-Chairmen, 2021 Annual Meeting

The Ashland Garden Club looks forward to welcoming you to Ashland, Virginia, the “Center of the Universe,” for the Garden Club of Virginia’s 101st Annual Meeting on May 5, 2021.

In our one hundred years of togetherness and purpose, we have met challenges, overcome obstacles, and celebrated the enduring beauty of this land and its people which is ours to preserve and protect.

We will meet the new challenges of 2021 and beyond in the same way as before, with purpose, and courage, together again and with joy.

Thank you. We will be so happy to see you all here!

### Centennial Steering Committee

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Missy Buckingham, Chairman

What a completely unexpected turn of events that has made this report one that none of us could have expected would ever have to be made. There has been yearlong excitement for the Centennial throughout the entire membership in anticipation of celebrating together during our Founders Day events. Members and clubs found fascinating artifacts for the GCV exhibition and the Time Capsule. “A Sense of Place” photo exhibit was readied, and an opportunity for clubs to display their floral arranging talents was planned. Members, their families and friends of the GCV embraced the opportunity to come together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Garden Club of Virginia at receptions and luncheons, with speakers and floral demonstrations. Member volunteers, guided by the Celebrations committee, were ready to help

in any way. Creativity and camaraderie was at its peak. Most of the planned events were sold out or close to being filled and then there was the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, all of the events for the Garden Club of Virginia Centennial Founders Day celebrations scheduled for May 12-14, 2020 were necessarily cancelled. While hope was held out for a time that everything as originally planned could be rescheduled as early as this fall, that plan now seems untenable. Plans for any and all events that may be held in the future will necessarily be based on the decisions of Governor Ralph Northam. Be assured that the situation will be monitored as it develops and as guidelines are provided regarding safety, social distancing and possible restrictions to the size of groups that will be allowed to gather. Founders Day Event ticket buyers have received a message from EventBrite giving them the opportunity to receive a refund of their ticket(s) or to convert their ticket purchase into a 100% tax deductible donation to the GCV by May 15.

Some good news to share....The Virginia Museum of History and Culture has agreed to postpone the opening of our exhibition, *A Landscape Saved, the Garden Club of Virginia at 100* until July 1, 2020. The exhibit will remain open through the month of October with keepsake exhibition catalogs available for purchase. Members and clubs are encouraged to plan your visits to experience this once-in-a lifetime opportunity to view the GCV story in celebration of our Centennial.

The Centennial designer scarves and ties, Tervis tumblers, lids and Waterford keepsakes continue to be sold. Be ready to laugh and enjoy the humorous recollections from GCV members *The Tulips are Frozen! The Tulips are Frozen!* book when it becomes available. Something to look forward to!

This year has been a time of reflection, recollection, appreciation and pride in our organization. While our Founders Day celebrations may have been derailed this spring, members can look forward to better days ahead as we move toward a successful second century for the Garden Club of Virginia.

## Common Wealth Award Committee

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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. Congratulations to Boxwood Garden Club, recipient of the 2019 Common Wealth Award, for the Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement.



An article detailing the 2020 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(s) will be announced.

Congratulations to the four finalists for the 2020 Common Wealth Award: A Trail to the River at Fort Christanna, submitted by the Brunswick Garden Club; Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden: The Next Fifty Years and Beyond, submitted by the Mill Mountain Garden Club; Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail, submitted by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club; and Living Green Wall, submitted by the Virginia Beach Garden Club.

## Conservation and Beautification Committee

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Carrie Dorsey, Chairman

The cancellation of so many of our GCV milestone celebrations this year has been disappointing, to say the least. But I am thankful for the vibrant Spring we have had, and the opportunities to get outside and open our senses to the new blooms, feel the dirt and even relish the cool rain that has kept our plants hearty and lush.

The GCV website is allowing us to pass on all the interesting news that has occurred since many of us met on Legislative Day in January, including updates on natural resource budget spending, plans for a Conservation Forum this fall and awards to people and organizations who are some of the most active conservation stewards in our midst.

### **Legislative Follow up**

The Legislative Sub-committee updated the outcome of the bills on which the GCV took positions which can be found separately on the Conservation page of the GCV website. Also posted, is the outcome of the Governor's budget. The result of the budget is a record amount of funding allocated for clean water and land conservation programs, but less than requested by the Governor. Certain areas fared better than others, with clean water programs coming out on top. Unfortunately, as I write this the Governor will be paring back some of the budget allocations due to the pandemic induced economic stress we are experiencing.

The GCV conservation committee will be considering an alternative Legislative Workshop to involve more members next year. We hope to introduce our talking points, go over environmental policies and review some of the best ways to advocate our positions. The increased crowds and security at the General Assembly call for creative ways to effectively advocate, whether in person or via email. Setting up in person meetings with legislators at other times of the year when it is more relaxed, is another alternate process we will consider which will allow for strengthened relationships and prevent our message from being diluted.

### **Conservation Forum**

The Conservation Forum is slated to be held the last week of October 2020 at Virginia Institute for Marine Science. The title “Keeping our Heads Above Water: Managing our Earth’s Most Precious Resource” will focus on speakers that are involved with the latest research and programs of water sustainability, and will draw from scholars and marine scientists affiliated with VIMS as well as several from nearby industries. All the speakers offer engaging and relevant information on various parts of water sustainability. The morning of speakers will be followed by a tour of the facilities including special labs and the waterfront classroom. It will be a unique opportunity to learn from the most knowledgeable people about what impacts the future of our water. The forum committee will begin finalizing the program once we discern how we may proceed given the nature of the pandemic.

### **The DeLacy Gray Award**

This important honor, bestowed to a GCV club or GCV member for their dedication to environmental stewardship, was awarded in March. This year we chose two well-deserving individuals, Meg Turner and Anna Aquino from Richmond, for their continued efforts to transform the derelict and weed infested space in downtown Richmond into an urban park, known as the Low Line. I hope you will read more about them in this online Annual Meeting page!

### **Club Conservation Chairmen**

Forrest Moore has been a star at engaging with the local club Conservation Chairmen, alerting them to various conservation projects and educational opportunities across the state. The latest grant opportunity was a Keep VA Beautiful initiative geared to honoring Earth Day in April. It offered organizations 30 grants of \$1000 each for beautification projects each day in April. These projects ranged from improving recycling processes, litter pick up and other beautification endeavors. What a great inspiration for club projects!

Community Relations and engagement with government and conservation leaders has been continuous as we try to stay informed about the policies and the advancements Virginia has adopted in natural resource management and clean energy. It’s inspiring to see various clubs collaborate with each other, as well as civic groups at a local level, to create pollinator gardens, plant natives and create bee friendly cities, work with schools to plant gardens and offer learning opportunities for the public. All of these projects are worth sharing on our website so that others may draw upon your expertise and experiences. Feel free to send photos of these projects to The Conservation and Beautification Committee (Forrest Moore) so we can post them on the website and see all the good works GCV is doing around the state.

It has been an honor to serve as the Chairman of the Conservation and Beatification Committee over the last two years. I hope to see many of you at other GCV gatherings as our world slowly

opens back up. I am confident that we will emerge with full appreciation of our natural resources and greater determination to conserve them a bit more.

## Conservation Awards Committee

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Heidi James, Chairman

The Conservation Awards Committee is pleased to announce two winners of the de Lacy Gray Conservation Medal this year. The recipients are:

**Anna Galusha Aquino:** Proposed by the Boxwood Garden Club, of which she is a member, Anna has a Master in Landscape Architecture degree from Harvard and currently works as a landscape designer in Richmond. She taught GWU's Richmond-based landscape design program for seven years and has donated a large portion of her time and expertise to the Richmond community. As a volunteer, she has been a member of the Invasive Plant Task Force, founded in 2015, to foster a thriving park ecosystem. Anna led the Boxwood Garden Club's renovation of the garden and playground at the Peter Paul Development Center, an after-school program in Richmond, which won the 2019 GCV Common Wealth Award. Anna donated a landscape plan for the Boxwood Garden Club's project covering 13 blocks of Monument Avenue between Roseneath and Staples Mill Road. Anna serves as a board member for Capital Trees, where she is tasked with developing a sustainable and environmentally friendly protocol for the maintenance and design of all Capital Trees projects, with an emphasis on reestablishing insect, bird and mammal habitats. Anna never hesitates to lend her in-depth knowledge and expertise to conservation and the protection of natural green spaces.

**Meg Turner:** Proposed by the James River Garden Club of which she is a member, Meg graduated from UVA Law School and worked as an attorney before opening her own landscape design firm. Over the past decade, Meg has been an effective leader in conservation efforts around the Commonwealth. She has worked to create beneficial green spaces in urban areas, to eradicate invasive plants, to improve the health of the James River, and to educate Virginians on the benefits of conservation. She has been a leader for Capital Trees and currently serves as its Chairman. Her legal background has been an asset in securing key agreements with the City of Richmond and other entities that helped make Capital Trees a reality. As Chairman of Capital Trees, Meg is currently developing the Low Line Green, an outdoor event space with environmental significance. It will feature bio-retention gardens to treat the stormwater runoff from I-95. Meg serves as a board member of the Virginia Urban Forest Council and is a volunteer with the James River Park System's Invasive Plant Task Force. Meg has given her time and expertise to environmentally focused organizations for many years.

Member clubs have submitted their ballots to select the winner of the 2020 Bessie Carter Award. The award amount this year is \$7,000 and the money will go to the Little Club of Winchester for the Weir Garden project. Read more on this online Annual Meeting webpage.

## Corresponding Secretary

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Janet Rosser

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

Through work with the Development Committee over the last two years, I have had the pleasure of conveying our thanks to many donors for their continued generosity in contributing to the GCV. Most recently, I wrote a note of thanks to a garden club member from Missouri who had been looking forward to attending HGW 2020 with a group of friends. Although her plans had to be cancelled, she felt moved to make a contribution to the GCV nonetheless. This lovely gesture touched my heart, which is sorely missing HGW! I sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome this Missouri gal and her traveling companions to Virginia for HGW in 2021.

Another highlight of my last two years has been serving as an ex-officio member of the *Journal* Editorial Board. Many do not know what an undertaking it is to produce the *Journal* four times per year. *Journal* Editor Julie Grover, Ann Heller, and the members of the Editorial Board have worked tirelessly to plan and execute each issue with precision, while also envisioning a fresh new approach for the publication. I cannot wait to see how these plans unfold when the *Journal's* new look is revealed with the Centennial issue, which has been postponed until the fall.

As my term draws to a close, I want to thank you all for the privilege of serving as GCV's Corresponding Secretary for the past two years. It has been an honor to be a GCV Officer and member of the Board of Directors during President Jean Gilpin's tenure. Jean has led us with grace, kindness, intelligence, and courage beyond measure. I have so enjoyed working with my fellow Board members, an amazing group of women. The last two years have helped me appreciate even more that friendship is the core of the GCV.

## Daffodil Day

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Adele Smith, Chairman

In mid-February as I was working on the last-minute details of Daffodil Day 2020 and checking my closet for yellow tops, I noticed that my early daffodils were up and ready to bloom! I panicked thinking, "Oh no, we are going to have a show with no flowers!" Little did I know that we were going to have plenty of flowers with no show!

Due to the coronavirus, Daffodil Day 2020 came to a screeching halt just weeks before it was to be held. While wallowing in my depression and having my own personal pity party, Jean Gilpin forwarded me an email from the Albemarle club about a virtual photography contest being held in their county. When I read it, a light bulb went off. The fog lifted. The seed was planted and Digital Daffodil Day was born! I contacted Tory Willis— Artistic Design Chairman, Janet Hickman —Daffodil Chairman, and Tori Macmillan and Edie Hessberg— Photography coordinators.

Tory then contacted all who had registered to submit a floral arrangement for Artistic Design to ask if they would be willing to send in pictures of the arrangements they would have exhibited knowing that they would not be judged. Thirteen of the ladies made arrangements and sent in pictures of them with two ladies submitting two arrangements each.

Tori and Edie had already made the decision to go on with a judged Photography show online. The photographs that had been submitted for Daffodil Day were digitally sent to judges who gave awards. They were then forwarded to us.

Janet Hickman agreed to photograph her daffodils from the original test group and surprised us with pictures of daffodils whose names range from A to Z (taken from flowers in her own garden). Nina Mustard took all the pictures and created a Digital Daffodil Day show on our Daffodil Day website. The show went online March 31, 2020 at almost the same time it would have opened at Lewis Ginter. Jean Gilpin's April newsletter came out that same day with a link to the Digital Daffodil Show. Karen Ellsworth then shared the link with Lewis Ginter who posted it on Facebook and their newsletter, and Terri Lowman posted it on the GCV Facebook and Twitter accounts and both received very positive comments. Janet Hickman also shared that the Photography Committee of ADS had also seen it and gave GCV rave reviews. Digital Daffodil Day was a featured story on the Virginia Living website page as some happy news in a time when we need to experience more of it.

The willingness of many creative ladies made it all happen. They took the idea of Digital Daffodil Day to heart and ran with it making it a success. I sat back and watched them do their magic! Thanks to everyone involved, Daffodil Day did not come to screeching halt but was transformed into something that could brighten the lives of more people in a time when their lives needed the joy that daffodils bring.

## Daffodil Committee

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Janet Hickman

The arrival of the coronavirus curtailed the activities of the Daffodil Committee this spring with the necessary cancellation of both the Daffodil Workshop and Daffodil Day with its Horticulture

Show. It was sad to disappoint the registrants of the sold-out workshop, but the committee will hope to hold a similar event next spring. The new Katherine Beale Miniature Collection Trophy and the special Centennial Collection Trophy to be awarded this spring will also be postponed until the 2021 show. The Centennial Trophy is the award in memory of Frances Lewis to be awarded for the best exhibit of daffodils listed in the first GCV Test Collection in 1930. A demonstration exhibit of some of those daffodils will now form part of the Virtual Daffodil Day, the innovative initiative of Daffodil Day Chair Adele Smith.

The 2020 GCV Collection information has been shared with club daffodil chairmen and is available on the GCV website. This is a “Blue-Ribbon Collection” of varieties with proven excellence in gardens and shows. The bulbs are: ‘Altruist’ (3O-R); Falmouth Bay’ (3W-GWW); ‘Gay Tabor’ (4W-O); ‘Mallee’ (11aW-YPP); and ‘Ringtone’ (3Y-YYO). The committee appreciates the outstanding cooperation of Becky Heath of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs who provide special pricing and handling of our collections.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Daffodil Chair for the past six years and I know I leave this in good hands with the incoming Chairman.

## Development Committee

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Sue Rosser, Chairman



*Photo Courtesy of Coats Clark, view from her home in Vesta, VA, 3,000' elevation*

Celebrating and protecting the natural beauty of the land lies at the very heart of who we are as the Garden Club of Virginia and what we have done for 100 years. Now, perhaps as in past times of crisis, we witness anew its value.

*“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”* ~Lady Bird Johnson

As we protect ourselves and others from this pandemic crisis, we shelter in our homes and practice social distancing. Warrenton Garden Club President Margrete Stevens turned their annual bluebell walk into a virtual tour and shared it with us so. Visit the GCV website to “savor the walk.”



We have enjoyed the GCV's cleverly re-imagined Daffodil Day digitally through exquisite photography of spring's iconic flowers.

We are grateful for the gifts of nature, maybe now more than any time, and for individual gifts that support **our mission**.

*The Garden Club of Virginia exists to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.*

### **Annual Fund**

The Annual Fund is also having a birthday, her 10<sup>th</sup>! We are grateful to Cabell West, president in 2009 and Martha Wertz, chairman of the Development Committee at that time, whose leadership established this fund. Your generous giving beginning in 2010 has made it possible for us to provide you with many far-reaching educational opportunities and workshops, and our commonwealth with widespread beautification.

We are pleased to report that we have reached our Annual Fund goal of \$115,000, with more donations anticipated prior to June 30, the end of our fiscal year. As of February 28, there were 644 donors compared to 423 at that time last year. More good news is that there were 124 first time donors! This success was primarily due to the excitement of our centennial year, with clubs and members wanting to support our message of "giving 100% for 100 years". Thank you to each of you for your support enabling us to provide our many programs for your benefit as well as that of your communities and our commonwealth.

### **Endowment Fund**

The importance of our Endowment Fund is more apparent now than ever. We are grateful to members, clubs and friends who have made donations throughout the year.

### **Green Arrow Society**

Our Green Arrow Society has grown to 18 members! A heartfelt thank you to those who have chosen to make a lasting legacy to GCV.

### **Kent-Valentine House Project**

We have received over \$330,000 in grants and donations for the Kent-Valentine House restoration project. Less than \$20,000 is needed to complete this centennial project.

## Sponsorships

We are grateful for support of those who share in our mission and want to be a part of the important work that we do, especially during our centennial. A special thank you to Jean, Lynn and Missy for this success.



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THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

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The Beirne Carter Foundation  
Investment Management of Virginia  
Grelen Nursery  
Valley Proteins  
Vogue Flowers/Floramax  
The Ashland Garden Club  
Wilbanks Smith & Thomas Asset Management  
Akre Capital Management



As we celebrate the past 100 years and the remarkable difference we have made throughout our commonwealth, we must look ahead to the future. Giving to GCV helps us to plan ahead! Our need now is greater than ever! This tree refused to accept winter! This incredible photo is nature telling us what we can accomplish if we are determined to survive despite the impediments.

Thank you all for your continued support of ***YOUR Garden Club of Virginia.***

## Finance Committee

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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.

It was not business as usual this spring. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of Historic Garden Week 2020, the Finance Committee met via conference call on March 31, 2020 to receive an update from Treasurer Vicky Alexander regarding the status of finances for GCV. Vicky alerted the committee that the loss of HGW funds greatly affects the overall GCV budget as it provides cash flow for operating expenses of the GCV throughout the year while we await our other two sources of funding our operations: Annual Fund donations from the previous year are available for use beginning the start of the next fiscal year (i.e. 2019-20 Annual Fund donations are used to cover operating expenses in FY20-21) and Member Club Dues collected in March (also used for the next fiscal year's expenses).



The Finance Committee discussed options for dealing with this shortfall and determined that the GCV President, GCV Treasurer and the Finance Committee chair would work with IMVA to make necessary and thoughtful withdrawals from our Endowment account to cover operating costs of the GCV through June 30, 2021. They also approved the GCV obtaining a one-year line of credit to be used only if necessary.

In February, Finance Committee members consulted with GCV committee chairmen and GCV staff to prepare their individual proposed 2020-21 budgets which were then consolidated into the larger budget. These advance preparations were necessarily reviewed and evaluated in the wake of the Coronavirus shutdowns. At its April 15, 2020 spring meeting, the Finance Committee approved the 2020-21 budget to be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration with the following recommendations:

It is an interim budget that will be reviewed after the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of our fiscal year (July 1-Sept 30) by the Finance Committee, with recommendations to the GCV Board. The budget will expire on October 13, 2020, and a new budget will be adopted by the incoming GCV Board at their October Board meeting.

The Year-in-Review and the Directory and Handbook will be done online with limited printing.

A Director of Development will not be hired at this time.

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.

Conversations have been held with both investment firms to review the status of our portfolios and to ensure that appropriate investment decisions are being made in order to support the GCV with cash flow during this unprecedented situation.

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 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.

**As of March 31, 2020, the *GCV Endowment Fund*** invested with IMVA totaled \$4,818,611.

The market values of each of the funds included in the balanced GCV Endowment Account as of March 31, 2020, were:

GCV Endowment	\$3,146,271.21
GCV Conservation Fund	\$ 406,102.40
Common Wealth Award Fund	\$ 428,070.67
Symposia Fund	\$ 202,027.63
Kent-Valentine House Fund	\$ 82,515.41

**As of March 31, 2020, the *GCV Restoration Fund*** invested with Darrell and King totaled \$1,034,525. Two draws from this account have been taken in FY 2019-20 to cover expenses of current Restoration projects: \$200,000 on 2/21/20 and \$200,000 on 4/30/20.

We are grateful for the wisdom and foresight of our predecessors in establishing a strong Endowment which has allowed us to weather this critical period of time. We are also grateful for the current leadership of President Jean Gilpin and Treasurer Vicky Alexander for their tireless efforts and leadership in directing us during this extraordinary period.

As always, the Finance Committee promises to be good stewards of the finances of the GCV.

## Historian

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Judy Perry

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

At the 2019 Board of Governors' Meeting both club histories and yearbooks were collected and then placed in the club boxes at the Kent-Valentine House. We usually request that you bring your histories to the Annual Meeting but now ask that they be brought to the 2020 Board of Governors' Meeting. A letter will be going out on May 13<sup>th</sup> to the Club Presidents and Club Historians asking them complete their histories now, or over the summer, and bring those to the October BOG meeting. They will also be reminded to email these histories and yearbooks in PDF or Word format to Ann Heller, Communications Coordinator, so she may put them on your club's pages found on the GCV website. She is able to receive these when they are ready. You will receive a reminder in September about bringing these items to the BOG Registration Table.

The GCV Historians met at the KVH on November 6, 2019 with L. Paige Newman, Associate Archivist for Collections Processing at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture as guest speaker. The historians were quite enthusiastic and particularly so when they looked into their club's archival box.

The history behind the British Normandy Memorial project resonated with the GCV membership as they learned of the past connections between the GCV, England and Ver sur Mer, France. The \$20,000 gift from the GCV for landscaping at the memorial was a special Centennial gift and reminder of the history between us. As historian, I was honored to be the liaison for the project.

The GCV Historian Centennial Project has been the book of 100 years of humorous memories: stories from club members, past and present. It is at the printer and in the final stages of editing. Very grateful thanks to our Board of Directors and club members throughout the state who took the time to send in their stories.

Another project to cap off our 100 years is the research on all of our past and present GCV Honorary Members. Twenty-six GCV Honorary Members have been identified. Information was found in the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, the KVH and from the *Follow the Green Arrow Vol I and II*. Current honorary members have been contacted requesting their information. It is interesting to note that the very first honorary member was Mrs. Woodrow Wilson (Edith Bolling) who was First Lady from 1915 to 1921. There are many noteworthy recipients whose profiles and dates of membership will be included in a book placed in the KVH for all to peruse. A committee was appointed to create a new formal GCV Honorary Member certificate, spearheaded by Candy Crosby, which will be ready by the fall of 2020.

## Historic Garden Week Committee

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Tricia Garner, Chairman

### **HGW 2020 Cancelled**

As you can imagine, the past few weeks have been rather busy for those associated with Historic Garden Week, and not in the usual sense of prepping for 29 tours during the week of April 18-25!

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 14 the GCV's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel HGW 2020. Once the decision was made, the GCV President, GCV Executive Director, the State Chairman of HGW, and the Director of HGW began to develop and implement a communications plan, which was communicated widely and implemented in phases. The first step was notification from the GCV President and the HGW State Chairman to Presidents and Tour Chairmen about the cancellation, giving them specific instructions on what

needed to be done immediately. A press release went out to the public, ticket sales were halted, and social media platforms were updated.

The next steps involved communicating with specific HGW stakeholders at the **local** level. Emails were sent to Tour Chairmen with instructions and accompanying letters for use with local sponsors, advertisers, and ticketholders. The goal was to acknowledge these partners' generosity and to suggest that the amounts already given for tickets be converted to tax deductible donations to the individual clubs or to the GCV. In this way, clubs might be able to cover their expenses and the GCV might receive any extra funds with which to conduct its business during this pandemic.

Results were very positive, with many readily agreeing to donate their funds instead of asking for a refund. There were some cases of granting refunds to partners, and in others the money was "rolled over" to 2021. The ultimate goal was to protect the relationships our clubs have with their partners, so each situation was handled individually, and with guidance from the HGW State Chairman and the Director of HGW.

The focus at the state level was on creating all of the resources needed by the Tour Chairmen during this time. At the time of this writing, 16 separate documents and accompanying emails had been created to assist Tour Chairmen with knowing what to do and when to do it. A public relations plan was created and implemented, with the goals of providing information and giving immediate exposure to the generous sponsors and advertisers who did not receive the full benefit of their investment. Following is the portion of the plan that occurred during what would have been Historic Garden Week 2020, April 18-25. And it was all done for free!

- ❖ Social media blitz during HGW 2020. Facebook and Instagram posts (2/day) with gardening tips, flower arranging demos, native plants, walkabouts in member gardens, photos of Restoration properties, photos of homes that were to be on tour (but aren't being used again in 2021), flower arrangements, etc., with shout-outs to sponsors/advertisers throughout. Amy Walker (Chatham GC) handled the Facebook posts while Terri Lowman handled them for Instagram.
- ❖ A post on the HGW website with a link to the list of sponsors/advertisers.
- ❖ Statewide radio public service announcements thanking our sponsors, advertisers and homeowners, courtesy of VTC. The HGW State Chairman secured the production from a station in Fredericksburg in exchange for 2021 state passes. The radio spots will be aired 885 times during what would have been HGW 2020's eight days - for a reach of 115,150 impressions - this coverage is valued at \$23,000.

Discussion continues to determine the best course of action for 2021 for those who purchased advertising in this year's *Guidebook*, with the offer of a discount as one viable option.

Throughout the weeks of “unraveling” HGW 2020, the State Chairman wrote all homeowners, thanking them for their willingness to open for HGW 2020 and for their support of the GCV’s mission through their involvement in HGW. Approximately 145 personal notes were written and sent.

Everyone was encouraged to leave *Guidebooks* at ticket outlets, salons, waiting rooms, and in stores once they reopened, so that people may pick up this free keepsake of this very unusual period in our history. Karen Ellsworth fielded many calls for copies of the book and arranged for pickup by these individuals on the front porch of the Kent-Valentine House.

As expected, questions about the refunding of tickets came quickly. Local tours handled refunds for tickets sold in their communities. Fortunately, not many had been sold at the time of the cancellation. For those tickets sold at the state level through Eventbrite or *Flower Magazine*, HGW staff meticulously handled each request, giving the refund through the Eventbrite site or the GCV website. A total of 978 tickets were refunded, for a revenue loss of \$61,832. It is gratifying to note that during the process of communicating with ticketholders, many kind emails were received, expressing support and understanding. Additionally, many ticketholders chose to donate the price of their ticket(s) and \$14,668.03 was raised for the GCV.

#### **Oak Spring – the home of Rachel “Bunny” Mellon and Paul Mellon**

Soon after news of the cancellation of HGW 2020 was given to Sir Peter Crane and his wife, Elinor, they reached out to the Middleburg Tour Chairmen to offer to open for Historic Garden Week 2021 (Friday and Saturday, April 23-24). This offer was gratefully accepted. A letter was placed on both the GCV member page and the Oak Spring Eventbrite site, which let ticketholders know they had several options: keep their same day and time in 2021; request a refund and release their ticket; or, donate the price of the ticket and release the ticket. Of the 1000 tickets sold, 843 are being kept by ticketholders to be used in 2021. Income from this portion of HGW 2020 is \$84,300.

The 157 refunds requested were also handled on the Eventbrite page. The newly released tickets will be made available to the public closer to HGW 2021.

#### **HGW 2021**

By the middle of April, the HGW team began to slowly turn toward planning for HGW 2021. Region Representatives surveyed their clubs to determine plans for next year. Would tour teams reuse the 2020 tour, create a brand new one, or use a combination of old and new? East Region Representative Mary Johnson (Hampton Roads GC), put together an information-packed report for the committee's planning purposes, listing all 29 tours for 2020 and 2021. At the time of this report, 11 tours from 2020 will most likely be reused, ten tours will be new, and three will be a

combination of the two. A few tours were unsure at the time of this writing or were not scheduled for 2021.

Boot Camp will be held as scheduled on June 23-24, 2020, but it will be conducted virtually. Plans are underway for small and large group meetings as well as for making documents and short videos available online. The Insider's Guide to Historic Garden Week will be published online instead of printed and distributed to participants.

### **Other News**

- ❖ The *Guidebook* now has a place in the Library of Congress with its own ISBN number: 978-0-578-64273-4! South Region Representative Kim Snyder (Martinsville GC) researched the process for submitting a copy of the book to the Library.
  
- ❖ The findings from the updated Economic Impact Study is previewed on this Annual Meeting site. The beautiful print piece, used for development and advertising purposes, will be printed in FY20-21 and will be shared at the Board of Governors meeting in the fall.

### **In Closing**

Given the unprecedented turn of events in the world and their direct impact on Historic Garden Week 2020, I feel it is important to recognize a group of women who are now official members of the newly-minted "HGW Unraveling Team." President Gilpin, Executive Director McCashin, and Director of HGW Ellsworth have been *extraordinarily* level-headed, thoughtful, and professional during this time. Terri Lowman, HGW Administrative Coordinator, has used her gift of attention to detail in handling all ticketing matters with graciousness and accuracy so that we have a true picture of where we stand in this area. Communications Coordinator Ann Heller has used her skills to assist with getting messages to constituents in a timely manner. Former GCV President Nina Mustard (Williamsburg GC) has been instrumental in updating the GCV and HGW websites with announcements and information about sponsors and advertisers. The members of the Historic Garden Week State Committee have worked tirelessly to gather information, communicate with Tour Chairmen, create social media posts, and assist with decision making. Finally, this year's group of Tour Chairmen is unmatched. They were the driving force, first in organizing their club members to create beautiful tours, and then in enabling us to learn exactly what was needed in their individual localities with regard to dismantling their tours, all while maintaining community relationships. My appreciation for all of these GCV members and staff cannot be overstated.

## Horticulture Committee

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Wendy Walker, Chairman

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

It is such a pleasure to be with you virtually, and to reconnect in some way after so long apart. I hope that like me you have found more than ever that your gardens have been a comforting source of joy, peace and beauty in the midst of massive change and uncertainty. We can appreciate this extra time to study our blooms and make plans to grow and show in the future! I can assure you that the Horticulture Committee is making great plans for our future, expanding its membership and looking forward to working with each of you.

At this time, I am pleased to announce our three (3) winners of the 2020 Horticulture Award of Merit. Established in 1960, this prestigious award recognizes individual members of GCV who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in the community at large. We are so impressed by their knowledge and incredible work and so grateful for their contributions.

### **The 2020 Horticulture Award of Merit Recipients:**

***Karen Cogar Abramson, Hunting Creek Garden Club:*** Karen describes herself as a ‘dirt gardener’ whose love of digging and sense of design, color and texture are informed by years of work as a graphic designer and painter. She has won the Gold Ribbon for Best in Show at three national daffodil conventions and is an ardent proponent of plant societies. Karen has been an ADS Daffodil Judge since 2005 and generously shares her talents and expertise about growing daffodils and roses, as well as staging specimens for shows and writing schedules. Her fellow members admire her exotic specimens and the many prestigious leadership roles Karen has held in her club, as well as the Washington Daffodil Society and the American Daffodil Society.

***Jane W. Hammond, The Dolley Madison Garden Club:*** Jane began her adventures in horticulture as a young girl, when she convinced her parents to add a greenhouse to their garage. Her continued interest and education led to a very successful, sustainable food farm and leadership in the Charlottesville Food Hub providing nutritious food to many. She has created teaching workshops to share this expertise with area clubs. An active grower and shower in GCV Horticulture shows, North American Lily Society, American Daffodil Society and GCA, Jane has garnered many awards for her excellent work. You will recognize her lovely photograph on the 2020 Daffodil Show materials.

***Phyllis Ripper, The Rivanna Garden Club:*** Phyllis combines her passion for horticulture with her keen interest in conservation and community service. She designed and managed the creation

of a fantastic garden at the Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center, which received the 2015 GCV Commonwealth Award and has been of benefit to so many. Her husband helped plant and maintain hundreds of trees and shrubs on their farm to enhance the land and to serve as riparian buffers. Phyllis generously shares a large variety of conifer and boxwood greens in support of her club's wreath-making for Christmas market each year. Her talents also serve to maintain the club's 50+ year old lilac collection, many of which were moved from the previous keeper's home.

Please join me in congratulating these amazing ladies-we know how proud each club must be of their very deserving members!

In spite of all the cancellations, I hope you have kept Horticulture Field Day 2020 on your calendars! Online registration via the GCV website opens Monday, June 1<sup>1</sup> so please make a note of it. Call your friends and make plans to caravan to the coast for a relaxing overnight getaway. The Horticulture Committee members along with the Norfolk and Harborfront Garden Clubs are eager to greet you and show off the hidden treasures of their town and gardens. The historic Hermitage and spectacular Norfolk Botanical Gardens will be our headquarters for the event, which will be unique in its Fall debut. On Wednesday, September 24 you will leave home in time for a noon registration time at The Hermitage Museum & Gardens, surrounded by the Lafayette River near the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. Twelve acres of lush gardens and grounds feature a nationally recognized art collection spanning 5000 years. After enjoying the Hermitage, you'll travel down the street for a leisurely afternoon enjoying three private gardens, generously opened to our small group. After noting all the new plant specimens, you will no-doubt want in your yard, it's time to freshen up and enjoy a night on your own in vibrant waterfront Norfolk. Thursday morning, we will reunite at the spectacular Norfolk Botanical Gardens for a full day of education and activities, lunch included, which will end in time for you to head home to tell your family all about it over dinner. Registration is limited and the deadline is September 10, so secure your spot by signing up online as soon as possible! Be sure to save the dates of May 19-20, 2021 when Horticulture Field Day will be back at its usual springtime date.

The Horticulture Committee takes seriously our commitment to offer you opportunities to show the wonderful specimens you so carefully nurture and tend. We were all so disappointed to be unable to gather for Daffodil Day, and now the Lily Show. Please just use this time to add to your gardens and strengthen your participation in these events next year. Block out calendar space for late March (Daffodil Day) and mid-June (Lily Show), so you can be sure to attend and to enter the competitions. GCV and online resources are available to you for perfecting your

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<sup>1</sup> *Online registration for Horticulture Field Day 2020 has been postponed. We are working to update you as soon as possible. Thank you for your interest in Horticulture Field Day.*



grooming techniques, and to teach you how to enter a horticulture show if you've never done so before. Also, in this pandemic slow time, consider visiting websites like the Garden Club of America, the American Daffodil Society, American Rose Society, North American Lily Society and others to explore new information and resources. Our thanks go out to the Rappahannock Garden Club for their willingness to host the Lily Show and the Daffodil Committee and show volunteers as well. The online Daffodil Day show is fantastic!

We look forward to your Club's participation in the 2020 Board of Governor's meeting Horticulture Display in Warren County on October 13-15. Our theme will be "Pollinator Plants in Recycled Containers", which mirrors the horticulture committee's collaboration with the conservation committee to emphasize GCV's Pollinator Protection Initiative adopted in July 2019 and to explore creation of pollinator pathways in Virginia. Details will soon be mailed to Club Presidents and Horticulture Chairmen for each club. I always look forward to how your beautiful and educational displays brighten up our meeting spaces!

The Horticulture Committee is very excited to announce a Daffodil program by Brent & Becky Heath at Kent Valentine House November 9, 2020. They were so pleased with our bulb sales that we were awarded this wonderful opportunity for a limited number of participants.

The GCV membership to the American Rose Society was renewed for 3 more years.

The 2019 GCV Lily Collection (six bulbs) was provided by B&D Lilies online via the GCV website, with twenty-two (22) clubs ordering 153 lily collections. Bulbs were shipped to club Lily Chairmen in the first week of April 2020, for distribution to their members.

In September 2019, the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club graciously agreed to host the 2020 and 2021 GCV Lily Shows – *Lilies in Bloom*. Kitty Lee Waffle and Janet Gibson agreed to chair the show, in memory of Helen Murphy. Unfortunately, the 2020 Lilies in Bloom show had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, plans are still in place to hold Lilies in Bloom in 2021-2022.

I hope you have bought bulbs from the GCV Collections and are learning from our Daffodil, Lily, Rose and Horticulture articles in the GCV Journal. Look for an upcoming GCV Journal Centennial feature on 100 years of Horticulture. Please e-mail us to suggest topics of interest to you. It's easy to send a quick e-mail to your Horticulture, Daffodil, Lily or Rose Chairmen to stay in touch and let us know how best to serve you with information, workshops, speakers, and always remember that volunteering to work one of our events is one of the best ways to learn and get more involved. We are always in need and love to welcome new volunteers. Won't it be even so much sweeter to work together now?

Please join me in giving a very warm welcome to our incoming Horticulture Chairman, Heidi James of the Lynchburg Garden Club! Heidi has done amazing work as our recent Conservation

Awards Chairman and is so knowledgeable and enthusiastic. She has assembled an amazing team of folks who will welcome your input and volunteer assistance as they work to take Horticulture to the next level. We are so fortunate to have them sharing their expertise with us:

*Catherine Madden (Daffodil Day Chairman), Lynchburg GC*

*Nancy McLaughlin (Daffodil Chairman), Blue Ridge GC*

*Suzi Watson (Lily Chairman), Leesburg GC*

*Kathy Watson (Rose Chairman), Tuckahoe GC*

In closing, I thank you all so much for your support over the last two years, while I have had the privilege to serve as your GCV Horticulture Chairman. I have learned an incredible amount in ways too numerable to mention and have loved making many new friends in my travels. My devotion to GCV has increased and my respect for the talented women involved has made this one of the best experiences of my life. I look forward to continuing work with you all in support of our new Horticulture Chairman and at upcoming events!

### *Journal* Editorial Board

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Julie Grover, Chairman

The anticipated launch of the redesigned *Journal* has been rescheduled for the fall to coincide with the postponed GCV Founders Day events. Centennial-related articles will be forwarded to the new *Journal* editor, Madeline Mayhood, for inclusion in the fall 2020 issue.

As a result of financial constraints following Covid-19's impact on the Garden Club of Virginia, the June 2020 *Journal* will be an online issue only and will be limited to 16 pages

### *Journal* Advertising

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Lea Shuba, Chairman

Dear Madam President, Members of the Board, Chairmen and Club Presidents,

I began this job with little appreciation for its challenges, very little knowledge of the actual requirements for success and no idea at all of the rewards available to both the *Journal* and myself. Developing repeat advertisers proved crucial, but finding the ones with good matches required thoughtfulness and persistence. As part of that process I realized that the best match is often our own membership with their events, products and businesses that match our demographic perfectly.

With businesses losing customers and money becoming tight it was not surprising that we lost advertisers for June, and the *Journal* had nothing but sympathy and understanding for these developments. We also had many longtime customers with paid contracts who were happy to continue advertising. The personal contacts I had with those advertisers, as well as with so many

members and club advertisers, are what made this a wonderful job. I loved meeting you all at club events and appreciate the support you gave the *GCV Journal*.

## Kent Valentine House Committee

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Jody Branch, Chairman

The Kent Valentine House sparkles inside and out, ready to celebrate the Centennial of the GCV, hopefully this fall. The punch list for interior projects is complete. The refreshed landscape, installed in October, enjoyed our mild winter and seems to be thriving, so far, this spring. The four Kent portraits, given to the GCV in the fall have added a wonderful sense of history to the first floor. Four of the seven mirrors have been conserved so far. The pier mirror and base in the east parlor are expected back in the near future. Some funds have been raised for the over-mantel mirror in the Gothic parlor. The last to go out will be the back-entry pier mirror. Clubs, individuals and families have been generously supporting the conservation work.

Several garden clubs had meetings and tours in the past few months. The Garden Club of Norfolk met and toured on March 11, one of the last meetings held at the house before it had to close because of the coronavirus.

In honor of the Centennial, the Historic Garden Week committee commissioned an oil painting of the KV-House. The artist is Beth Marchant, who has done pen and inks of houses for the HGW Guidebook for many years.

Even though the Kent Valentine House has been closed to meetings since mid-March, Lynn, Ann, Quan and Lee have made sure that all is well. Now and always, they are the backbone of everything that goes on in and around the house. The KVH committee wishes to thank them wholeheartedly for their support.

## Membership Committee

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Diane Wilkinson, Chairman

Since May of 2018 the Membership Committee has worked diligently to continue the efforts of the previous Membership Committee, the Ashland Garden Club, specifically, Janet Rosser and Janice Carter of Rivanna Garden Club. In mentoring the development of Three Rivers Garden Club of New Kent and Charles City. I attended one of their meetings in the fall of 2019 and have been in contact with their president.

In October 2019, The Membership Committee met and reviewed a letter from Michelle Hamner, President of the Ashland Garden Club, outlining the accomplishments of the Three Rivers Club and recommending them for membership in the GCV. With much enthusiasm from the Board of

Directors this committee had the honor of submitting a motion to the Board in January that Three Rivers Garden Club be accepted into the membership of GCV. If the motion was passed by the Board it was anticipated by this Committee that Three Rivers Garden Club would be presented to the attendees for a vote of membership at the May 2020 Annual Meeting making Three Rivers Garden Club the 48<sup>th</sup> member club as part of our Centennial Celebration year.

If Three Rivers Garden Club is approved for Membership, the Membership Committee will serve as a liaison to the Club mentoring them for a successful transition as a GCV member club.

**\*President's Note: The Three Rivers Garden Club of New Kent and Charles City has been approved for membership in the Garden Club of Virginia by an online vote of the attendees of the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

## Nominations Committee

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Ann Gordon Evans, Chairman

Madame President and Ladies,

The Nominations Committee presents to you the following slate of Officers and Directors at Large for the Garden Club of Virginia to serve from May 2020 to May 2022. The slate was presented to and approved by the Board of Directors at its January 2020 meeting.

### **Officers:**

President: Missy Buckingham-The Boxwood Garden Club

First Vice President: Debbie Lewis-The Garden Study Club

Second Vice President: Kris Carbone-The Garden Club of Danville

Recording Secretary: Julie Grover-The Blue Ridge Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Walker-The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Treasurer: Tricia McDaniel-The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

### **Directors at Large:**

District 1: Anne McCracken Rogers-Three Chopt Garden Club

District 3: Lois Spencer-The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

District 4: Forrest Moore-The Mill Mountain Garden Club

The following motion was voted on by the attendees of the 2020 Annual Meeting with an online vote:

**MOTION:** That the slate of Garden Club of Virginia Officers and Directors at Large serving from May 2020 to May 2022 be accepted as presented.

**President's Note: The motion carried, and the slate of Officers and Directors at Large, serving from May 2020-May 2022, has been adopted.**

Addition to the Bylaws: This addition was passed by the Board of Directors at the January 2020 Board Meeting.

### **Article X – Miscellaneous Provisions**

- 10.5 Any request made of the Restoration Committee for funding, outside the currently stated policy for expenditure of proceeds from Historic Garden Week (HGW) [“oversee restoration and/or preservation of historic gardens and landscapes of the commonwealth and fund research programs”] will be submitted by the Restoration Chairman to the President and the Executive Committee for review. If deemed an appropriate request, the Treasurer and President will present the request at a Finance Committee meeting to determine a source for funding from the year’s current budget. If the Finance Committee determines there is no source other than HGW funds, the Board of Directors (BOD) must determine whether to accept the diversion of funds from HGW that falls outside the stated mission of the Restoration Committee. If the Board of Directors approves funding from the HGW proceeds, an advanced notice of the request will be sent to all club presidents and a vote will be conducted at either the Board of Governors Meeting or the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first.

### Restoration Committee

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Anne Baldwin, Chairman

I was looking forward to being with everyone for our Annual Meeting and the beginning of the celebration of our Garden Club of Virginia’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It has been my privilege to serve as the Restoration Chairman for these past two years and to keep the Board and the membership informed about our current work. During our first century as an organization, the GCV has established a legacy of restoration and preservation of historic gardens in our Commonwealth. Together, we are continuing this exciting and important work with the funds that we have raised through our Historic Garden Week.

This has been a busy two years, and the Restoration Committee has continued under the guidance and work of our landscape architect of over twenty years, William D. Rieley of Rieley & Associates. Two projects were completed, each at properties where the GCV has had a long relationship. The first of these is at **Stratford Hall**, where the GCV began work on the East Garden in 1930 with landscape architect Arthur A. Shureliff, and this Colonial Revival style garden was completed by Morley J. Williams. The garden was revisited in 1955 by Alden Hopkins and has continued to be updated through the years. In 2018, the decision was made to

redesign the second terrace of this garden to reflect patterns revealed by archaeology work that was typical of a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century garden. The completed restoration sets a new standard for our understanding of mid-to late-18<sup>th</sup> century gardens in this region. I am delighted that the Board of Governors 2019 meeting was held at Stratford, and our members had a chance to see this beautiful space. The second project that was completed was the new North Lawn at **Point of Honor** in Lynchburg. Our relationship began here in 1978 with a historic landscape designed by Meade Palmer that was appropriate to the Federal period of the home. A reception terrace and apple orchard were designed by Rudy Favretti in 1996, and a new walk and plantings were added by Mr. Rieley in 2006. The new North Lawn is also in the Federal style and is located behind the home. This was dedicated on September 19 and will be the perfect gathering and event space at Point of Honor.

Two additional projects are still underway. The first at **Poplar Forest** is almost complete. The GCV began our work here in 2010 following archaeological work that had been done to locate where Thomas Jefferson had planted his allée of Paper Mulberry trees and two clumps of trees in front of the house. These have been restored to their original location, and now the restoration of his carriage turnaround is almost complete. The final addition will be three planted oval beds by this turnaround. We look forward to sharing this project with those attending the 2021 Board of Governors Meeting. The final project underway is a joint collaboration with **William & Mary**. This new Reveley Garden is based on two designs by Charles Gillette that were never installed, and this beautiful garden addition should be completed in the fall.

At our 2019 Annual Meeting, the attendees voted to make a gift to support the British Normandy Memorial for the landscaping around the grounds. This is listed as a “Special Gift and Contribution” from our Restoration funds. GCV members had a close relationship with the British during World War II, and a gift was sent in 1940. In 1941, the entire proceeds from our Historic Garden Week were donated. The British architect on this project keeps us updated on the progress of this memorial. The virus has caused the dedication for veterans to be moved from June until September, and the one for donors will be held in 2021. We will look forward to having photos to share when this is completed.

Since 1996, we also have used our funds from Historic Garden Week to bring one or two graduate students in landscape architecture to Virginia to document significant historic properties that are not our restoration projects. Last summer, Haydon Hammons came to document Mount Airy in Warsaw, and Dana Khaiflat came to document the grounds of Farmington. The completed work of each Fellow is available on our GCV website, in the collection of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, and also at the Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta. The Fellowship Committee was looking forward to selecting our two Fellows for this summer when the virus closures caused us to have to cancel our program. We are hopeful that our Fellows program can continue in 2021, and that the two projects in Surry County can be documented.

Fellows work under the supervision of Mr. Rieley, but we also are grateful for the help and support of outside advisors: Staci Catron, Gordon Chappell, Jack Gary, Peter Hatch, Calder Loth, and Nick Lucchetti. Jody Branch has done a wonderful job chairing this important committee.

The Centennial celebration has brought several special programs and events for the Restoration Committee. An exciting part of the gift from Bartlett Trees is their offer to do tree work for some of our Restoration properties. In addition, Bartlett has offered programs on tree work to our member clubs. These days of tree work have been well received by the properties and have been an opportunity for us to include local clubs.

The Photography Committee, under Claire Mellinger's leadership, has planned a show of photography taken by members of our restoration properties. This was due to open at the Kent-Valentine House on May 12 but is now available on this web page for our membership to see. Plans to view the show in person are underway.

Finally, the Restoration Committee has a gift for a member from each of the 47 clubs who has visited the most restoration properties since our 2019 Annual Meeting. With all the properties having to close in March, we are hopeful of continuing this until the Board of Governors Meeting and giving these gifts to the Club Presidents to take back to the winner.

The Restoration Committee is committed to keeping our membership informed about all that we are doing. The Chairman gives reports at the Board of Governors and Annual Meetings. We submit updates to the President's monthly letter to the membership, we are now including the entire membership in access to the e-newsletter that we send out to our properties, and articles with photos on our work are featured in the *Journal*. However, the best way for our committee to share the excitement of what we are all doing together is for you to invite us to come give a program. We have the option of a shorter 30-minute power point program or the original hour long presentation, and we are delighted to answer members' questions.

At this Annual Meeting, I also was looking forward to introducing two other speakers. President Jean Gilpin and I had invited Helen Reveley, a James River Garden Club member, to share her unique perspective on restoration, and also GCV Honorary Member, Calder Loth, to talk about the importance of our Fellows Program. We will welcome both Helen and Calder to our 2021 Annual Meeting.

Thank you again to President Jean for this opportunity to serve the GCV as Restoration Chairman.

## Strategic Planning Committee

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Candy Crosby, Chairman

My last report to the membership on Strategic Planning work was in October 2019. We were gathered together at Stratford Hall for a memorable Board of Governors meeting in a beautiful setting. It seems like a lifetime ago. I would like to say how grateful I am for the memory of that joyous and brilliant gathering hosted by the Garden Club of the Northern Neck in our GCV centennial year.

Since that time, Strategic Planning has met three times, twice at Kent-Valentine House and once by conference call due to the COVID-19 crisis. The topics of discussion have been the governance of GCV (January), Restoration and Fellowship Committee (February with Anne Baldwin, Chairman of Restoration and Jody Branch, Chairman of Fellowships invited to attend) and Development Committee (March with Sue Rosser, Chairman of Development and Debbie Lewis, District 4 Director and incoming First Vice President invited to attend).

From these meetings, the committee offers the following recommendations to the Board:

- ❖ Committee Descriptions—Committee chairmen should compose a committee description of their respective committee for insertion in the GCV Handbook. This should include job description for chairman, timeline and other pertinent information.
- ❖ Human Resources Committee- State and insert the duties and responsibilities of the HR Committee in the committee section of the GCV Directory and Handbook.
- ❖ Restoration—It is recommended that a strategic planning session should be undertaken by the Restoration Committee to assess the past, present, and how well positioned the committee is to move forward into the future.
- ❖ Long Range Planning Committee—Such a committee should be established to replace the soon to expire Strategic Planning Committee.

This committee began its work in 2015 under then President Jeanette Cadwallender. President Nina Mustard asked me to chair the committee during her term 2016-2018. Under President Jean Gilpin, 2018- to the present date, the work continued and now has ended. I would like to thank my superb committee members: Jean Gilpin, Missy Buckingham, Vicky Alexander, Linda Consolvo, Betsy Worthington, Lynn McCashin and special thanks to Heidi James who recorded the minutes of our lively and thoughtful meetings. Thank you as well to Ann Heller and Quan McGough, who ordered our lunches and made sure the conference calls worked, always with a smile. The committee has shone a light on every nook and cranny of our beloved organization, tackled some thorny issues, deemed certain things just right, and concluded the future of GCV is bright but certainly not without challenges in our present day and resultant future. Caring and resourceful GCV ladies will rise to the challenge. Our work is more important than ever.

My gratitude and thanks to Jean and her Board for their inspiring and steady leadership. To Missy, our incoming Madame President- I salute you!



## Treasurer's Report

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Vicky Alexander, GCV Treasurer

When we began this year, none of us ever imagined the challenges that our organization would face in our Centennial year. We've all felt the disappointment and sadness that has come from cancelling our wonderful Spring events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These cancellations have affected all that we do as an organization. The loss of Historic Garden Week 2020 revenue coupled with the serious decline of the stock market devaluing our Endowment portfolios will have significant repercussions on our organization's finances not only for this year but for several years to come. This HGW income loss means that we have no funds to forward for next year's Restoration projects, but it also means that our operating account does not get reimbursed for all of this year's HGW expenses.

To compensate for this loss, we have had to make withdrawals from our Endowment fund. In addition to our budgeted 2019-2020 Endowment draw of \$220,000 and in order to meet our financial commitments in this fiscal year, it has been necessary to withdraw \$100,000 on April 3, 2020 and \$150,000 on April 17, 2020 from our IMVA Endowment account. To further ameliorate the losses and to reduce the withdrawals from our Endowment fund during a down period of the market, we have applied for and have been approved for a Paycheck Protection Program (federal government forgivable loan) which will provide for salary payments for two months for our employees. Additionally, we are in the process of obtaining a line of credit which will allow us to better manage our cash flow requirements for next year decreasing the likelihood of having to draw from a devalued portfolio.

In navigating the immediate needs of GCV in this downturn, we have been entirely dependent on our Endowment fund built up over the previous twelve years by the forethought of our predecessors and the generosity of our members. Rebuilding this Endowment which supplements our operating costs each year should be a priority in the future.

This year, in order to present you with a summarized budget online for your vote, the GCV Board met on April 22, 2020 for a budget meeting prior to our scheduled May 11, 2020 Annual Meeting Board meeting when the budget is usually approved. Given the financial uncertainty that exists caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board has approved an Interim budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. This proposed budget is a full fiscal year's budget; however, on October 13, 2020 this budget will expire, and the new GCV Board will have to review and evaluate our financial status after the first quarter of our fiscal year making appropriate updates or changes to this budget as required. This new budget must be approved by the GCV Board and brought to the membership for a vote at the 2020 Board of Governors meeting in October.

It's been a challenge and an honor for us to be part of the GCV leadership the past two months. Thanks go to all of you for the commitment you have shown in working our way through all of the events that have occurred. A special thank you goes to Jean Gilpin whose untiring and gracious leadership has guided us through this turbulent time.

My further report to you will consist of two parts. First, I will present you with a financial report on where we are in this current fiscal year. The second part will be the proposed GCV budget for our next fiscal year.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:**

At the April 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting, your Board of Directors approved my request to present you with a summarized Treasurer's Report.

Our GCV fiscal year began on July 1, 2019 and will end on June 30, 2020. I am reporting to you today through the end of March 2020. Following the close of the fiscal year, I will be writing a report summarizing the entire fiscal year, and you will be able to find this report included in the upcoming publication of the "Year in Review" for 2019-2020 which will be available online.

The GCV currently maintains two interest-bearing accounts with Atlantic Union Bank in Richmond, an operating account and a money market account. The total of the Atlantic Union accounts as of March 31, 2020 was \$434,949.18.

In addition, 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 March 31, 2020 was \$4,818,611. Darrell and King in Charlottesville manages and invests funds for current and future GCV Restoration projects. The value of this account as of March 31, 2020 was \$1,034,525.

These cash and investment accounts represent about 80% of our current assets. The remaining 20% of our assets are the Kent-Valentine House and its contents and collections.

Our current liabilities include accounts payable and any security deposits held for upcoming events at KVH; a total of \$135,976 on 3/31/20.

In January 2020, the Garden Club of Virginia received a clean audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 from our auditors, Dixon, Hughes, Goodman LLP.

**Budget:**

Now we will focus our attention on the proposed GCV Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2020 and extends through June 30, 2021. At our meeting on April 22,

2020, the GCV Board of Directors reviewed and approved the complete 21-page GCV annual interim 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 with administrative budgets to produce the proposed GCV Operating Budget in March. This year in the absence of a bookkeeper after input from the various committee chairs and other people responsible for a part of the budget, I began putting the consolidated budget together in February working with Lynn McCashin, Executive Director. Needless to say, that original budget had to be completely redone following the events of March and the cancellations of our events.

This proposed budget was reworked, it then went through a thorough review process with an eye to reducing expenses wherever possible. First, the GCV President, GCV Treasurer, GCV Finance chair and the GCV Executive Director reviewed all information and compared it to historical budget data. The budget was then reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and finally by the GCV Board of Directors at their meeting April 22, 2020.

There is a copy of the summarized budget following this report for your information. This Interim GCV Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 has been approved by an online vote of the attendees of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

I will review the budget by category. We will start with 2020-2021 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 2020, the monies we collect from the 2019-2020 Annual Fund through June 30, and usually the budgeted amount we expect to receive from the 2020 Historic Garden Week for Restoration which we did not receive this year.

You will note that the dues income shows little change from year to year as dues have remained at \$40 per member since 2008. Our annual fund income has exceeded our budgeted amount for 2019-2020 with a large number of first time donations.

In addition, the Finance Committee and Board approved a small draw from the Endowment fund to provide the approved Awards money (\$30,000) and the additional funds needed to produce a

balanced budget. Since our Centennial celebration has been postponed, funding restricted to the Founder's Day events is also brought forward to meet those expenses.

There are a few other line items under Funding: the Symposium Fund Draw is budgeted at \$4,000 to cover the venue deposit for the 2021 Symposium; there is a House Fund draw of 4%; the Restoration transfer of funds representing funds from the Darrell & King investment accounts that will be used to fund Restoration Projects in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

**Our total Funding is \$742,146.**

**Projected Revenue** includes HGW Admissions and Guidebook income; Donation income which includes donations to the 2020-2021 Annual Fund, to the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award 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 2021; Meeting and Event income, includes GCV and KVH events; Income from GCV publications; Carriage House rental funds and Sponsorships. The Other Income category 4900 includes \$50,000 in Centennial sponsorships and \$94,583 in Centennial event registrations.

**Total projected Revenue is \$1,271,558.**

Let's take a look at **Projected Expenses**. We'll start with Staff Compensation and Staff Travel and Development. The staff compensation does not include a Director of Development position at this time. 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 reflects our work being done this year at William & Mary and Poplar Forest. Category 5600, GCV Other Events, includes Conservation Forum, Artistic Design Workshops, Daffodil Day, and the two Horticulture Field Days that we are having in 2020-2021. Category 5800 (Other Expenses) includes GCV Awards, the Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship, the Centennial, 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 \$1,139,521.**

**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 production of the Directory and Handbook and of the "Year in Review.", website expenses and phones. In Category 6700, Computers, includes software and a scheduled replacement of some of our older equipment. In category 7000 Fundraising expenses are \$19,700.

**The total for Management and General Expense is \$184,996.**

**Total Projected Expense is \$1,344,217.**

At the bottom of the page, 2021-2022 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 2021-2022. This budget shows a positive Net Cash Flow of \$7,453 for the upcoming budget. A complete copy of the budget is available to any member upon request. Please call on me or Tricia McDaniel, our Finance Chairman, at any time.

<b>GCV Operating Budget 2020-21</b>	<b>Jul'20-Jun'21</b>
<b>2020-21 Funding</b>	
Membership Dues (collected March 2020)	130,320
Symposium Fund Draw	4,000
House Fund Draw	3,211
Endowment Draw	60,000
2019-20 Annual Fund	120,000
2018-20 Centennial Funding not used	76,000
2020 HGW Net Proceeds	0
Restoration Transfer of Funds	<u>348,615</u>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>742,146</b>
<b>Projected Revenue</b>	
4100 · Admissions and Guidebook income	758,500
4200 · Donation Income	146,800
4300 · Membership Dues	130,300
4400 · Meeting and event income	28,675
4500 · Publication income	5,750
4600 · Rent - Carriage House	22,800
4800 · Sponsorships	33,500
4900 - Other Income	<u>145,233</u>
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>	<b>1,271,558</b>
<b>Projected Expense</b>	
5100 · Staff compensation	367,545
5150 · Staff Travel & Development	10,750
5200 · Historic Garden Week	207,720
5400 · Restoration Expenses	348,515
5600 · GCV Other Events	28,665
5700 · Journal Expense	27,616
5800 · Other Expenses	<u>148,710</u>

<b>Total 5050 · Program Expenses</b>	<b>1,139,521</b>
6100 · KVH Operations	64,111
6200 · Administrative costs	3,700
6300 · Communications	47,452
6400 · Professional services	28,325
6500 · Insurance	23,508
6700 · Computer hardware & software	15,000
6800 · Officer & Chairman Expenses	2,900
6900 · Miscellaneous Expense	<u>0</u>
<b>Total 6000 · Management and general expenses</b>	<b>184,996</b>
<b>Total 7000 · Fund raising expenses</b>	<b><u>19,700</u></b>
<b>Total Projected Expense</b>	<b>1,344,217</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	1,500
<b>Total Transfers to Investments</b>	-26,300
<b>2021-22 Funding:</b>	
2020-21 Annual Fund	-120,000
2020-21 Membership Dues (collected March 2021)	-130,300
2020-21 HGW proceeds	-386,934
<b>Net Cashflow</b>	<b>7,453</b>

Director at Large, District 1

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Bettie Guthrie

Madam President, Board members, and guests,

The past two years have been a fantastic learning experience for me and a great honor to represent the seven member clubs in District 1 as their board liaison. The club presidents are truly the heart and soul of the Garden Club of Virginia and represent GCV as our ambassadors to over 3,500 ladies in the member clubs. I applaud their work and leadership. Thank you, Jean for your stellar support, leadership, and the opportunity to serve the Garden Club of Virginia.

**The Ashland Garden Club—Michelle Hamner, President**

- ❖ In response to COVID-19 situation in our community the Ashland Garden Club members are staying connected with the help of our Conservation and Beautification Committee which organized a plant sale, with over 60% of our membership participating.

- ❖ Club member Miriam Green, thinned her daffodils. The bulbs were put at the end of her driveway for any member to stop by and pick up. The flowers will add hope now and beauty to our gardens next year.
- ❖ Another member, Buffy Bickford, has a wonderful blog “Every Girl’s Dream” which was mentioned in Jean Gilpin’s newsletter. She graciously asked our members to share pictures of their arrangements and gardens under the title “Abundant Spring”. Our club members are excited to see each other’s creations almost every day. It is almost like having our own Garden Week!
- ❖ The Club’s monthly newsletter keeps us connected to current club and GCV news and announcements. President, Michelle Hamner, is starting a new section of the newsletter for any personal news that our members would like to share with each other.

#### **The Boxwood Garden Club —Nella Timmons, President**

- ❖ In January, the Executive Committee sponsored the new member orientation and 1 guest over coffee to give and receive an overview of Boxwood expectations. It is a relaxed meeting and allows the new members to feel comfortable and the board to have one on one time with the members.
- ❖ The Boxwood Garden Club is delighted to have our own Anna Aquino as one of the recipients of the de Lacy Gray Conservation Medal for her instrumental work with Capital Trees and transformative planting along other Richmond byways.
- ❖ In an effort to support our East End residents during COVID-19 Boxwood members contributed a financial gift to Market at 25<sup>th</sup> where Peter Paul is located.
- ❖ Boxwood will have Zoom business meetings during our social distancing due to COVID-19.

#### **The Brunswick Garden Club—Mary Smith, President**

- ❖ February was an interesting program with a guest florist demonstrating both simple and elaborate floral arrangements. The beautiful floral creation was delivered to a member’s husband in hospice care.
- ❖ In March our club matriarch, Nancy Avery, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends. Nancy has been a great mentor, expert, judge, friend and go-to for anything GCV.
- ❖ Janet Rosser was our speaker at the regular March meeting and we also celebrated the club’s 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary with homeowners, sponsors, and ad supporters attending this special occasion.
- ❖ In an effort to stay connected during COVID-19 the membership is sending pictures of spring’s bounty to each other. One member is sending us music selections to enjoy each day.

#### **The James River Garden Club —Susie Rawles, President**

- ❖ January brought our bi-annual meeting with Tuckahoe Garden Club at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The club members were enchanted by Margot Shaw’s story of how flowers – and her subsequent creation of Flower Magazine – brought her out of a dark place and into the light.
- ❖ February was joyful in another sense. We gathered at the home of a member and learned about Pot-et-Fleur arranging before pairing up with other club members to make our own

pot-et-fleur arrangements as a Valentine gift to Anna Julia Cooper School in Richmond. Refreshments were enjoyed and lots of chatter was shared as we voted on the Founders Fund Award as well as a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift of \$10,000 over three years for our four-club start-up, Capital Trees.

- ❖ The cancellation of garden week and April and May meetings has now switched our operations. Instead of our meetings, we engage as a club through near-daily emails that share news, photos of gardens and walks, favorite recipes, poems and books, and lifetime events.
- ❖ Finally, in lieu of our annual meeting, which was scheduled to take place at *Hillcrest*, original home of Juanita Massie Patterson, site of the founding of the James River Garden Club and GCV, it is now the home of another club members who was gracious enough to host us for what would have been the perfect commemoration of the GCV centennial and the end of our busy year. Instead, we are creating a “Special Edition” newsletter that will take the place of our meeting recognizing club members who have died, new club members who have joined us this year, the history of the origins of JRGC/GCV, our club recipient, Meg Turner of the de Lacey Gray Award, for her ongoing work bringing people together to create the Capital Trees green spaces and implementing Native Plants in Richmond, the recipients of our club awards, and the introduction of the Founders Cup. As I complete my term as president I have served with pleasure and will pass the gavel to our amazing new president, Mary Bacon.

#### **The Petersburg Garden Club—Kate Short, President**

No report received.

#### **Three Chopt Garden Club —Veronika Walmsley, President**

- ❖ January was our first “staggered” meetings and they were a huge success. There were 3 meetings and 3 different members (both active and associate) were flower arrangers for us. The challenge is to create arrangements on a budget of \$40 and have at least 2 arrangements. The evening meetings were festive with apps and wine.
- ❖ For April, we have a 100 picture challenge where members send photos of gardens, greenery, arrangements...anything beautiful they see or do during their life in quarantine... Visit @3choptgardenclub Instagram where you can follow our efforts. As of mid-month, we have received over 70 photos.

#### **The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton—Betty Jenkins, President**

*Note: The following is so important that I felt compelled to share this portion of the report from Betty. The words show the determination, creativity, and staying connected with our GCV family during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bettie*

“And then came March. March, 2020. The month when our worlds were turned upside down. My husband and I returned from my son’s wedding in Argentina only days before our respective worlds were changed for what could be forever. With only 3 months to go in my presidency, I was so looking forward to closing things out as well as the previous 18 months have been for me. But alas....not so! Instead of all the plans so carefully created months ago for March, April and



May, the proverbial wheel needed to be recreated. So many cancelled events and disappointing postponements. But, alas, all was not lost! Not for a minute, not with our club! Members went into action improvising ways to stay connected. Within the first week of quarantine life, we created a virtual photography, horticulture and flora online exhibit competition. The participation was amazing! Kudos to our fabulous club members for so enthusiastically participating! Read our “mini” newsletter devoted mostly to this well received activity. Points won during this virtual show will go towards bowls to be awarded in May.

After the excitement of that virtual activity, I solicited “Spread Some Cheer” news from members in an effort to remain connected. That idea generated lots of enthusiastic submission about life in quarantine. Babies, weddings, boat trips home, stories of adult children returning home, gardening activities, pictures of spring dominate many themes. This effort continues and will so until my term ends.

The quarantine did not stop our annual Spring Sale, proceeds from which fund our community gifts. Determined not to disappoint, our chairs regrouped, simplified and the show went off flawlessly, all while following safe distancing measures, wearing masks and gloves and monitoring numbers in attendance. It was a heroic effort indeed.

Perhaps the highlight of the last 5 weeks was presenting our beloved member, Cabell West, (with safe distancing, masks and glove measures) with the news that our Club will be donating a very generous donation to the GCV Annual Fund in her honor. Cabell, a former TGC President, established the GCV Annual Fund during her term as GCV President. She wisely and astutely saw the need for this effort and to this day, she remains passionate about it. We are honored and privileged to be able to share our gift to GCV in her honor.

That’s it, as of April 15, 2020. What will the next quarter bring? Who knows, but I pass the gavel to our next President, Jennifer Sisk. Jennifer has many exciting plans for Tuckahoe and will be a fabulous President. It has been such a privilege to serve as President these past two years and to get to know the ins and outs of GCV better. The best part? Making new friends throughout the Commonwealth, for sure.”

Director at Large, District 2

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Fran Carden

Dear Madame President and The Garden Club of Virginia Board of Directors,

As the reports submitted at the Board of Governors’ meeting from the Club Presidents were thorough and comprehensive for the year, Jean asked that the GCV Directors-at-Large report to the GCV Board of Directors with a tip on “how the Presidents have managed their clubs during the Covid-19 protocol guidelines.”

All of the clubs in District II have embraced the art of telecommunicating with the use of Zoom, Facetime and conference calls. These methods are being used for Board meetings, General Membership meetings and Committee meetings. And while this has been an efficient use of time, it has been challenging with older members and some procedural activities, such as voting. Voting has been carried out verbally, electronically and through the mail.

Many of the clubs have increased their use of Instagram postings for daily updates, gardening tips and humor. Thankfully, electronic newsletters are already established for these clubs, so those continue to be extremely helpful.

The District II Presidents have remained enthusiastic and creative with their meetings and activities. Below please find some specifics from each club, including the website addresses where more details of activities may be found.

**Albemarle Garden Club—Esther Hannon, President**

[albemarlegardenclub.com](http://albemarlegardenclub.com)

Albemarle GC hosted its first virtual photography show: *Daffodils in the Spotlight!* We will have a slide show of all entries and highlight the winners on our website. We added 2 Youth Classes and received 51 entries for the show. Details of the show and the schedule are on the website.

**Augusta Garden Club—Virginia Gillock, President**

[augustagardenclub.org](http://augustagardenclub.org)

Augusta GC hosted a virtual Daffodil Show using the Photography and Floral Design schedule we already had in place and providing a link to our website. It was a huge success and a nice way to have all photographers, both novice and experienced participate. For this reason, we did not judge anything.

Additionally, we are encouraging members to photograph Dogwood trees in their gardens, in the park (where we have planted) or anywhere along a walk. Members can then submit the photo to a virtual show on our website.

I was already "featuring" members in our electronic newsletter, but now I'm featuring projects that members are doing at home to stay busy!

**The Blue Ridge Garden Club—Beth Coleman, President**

As a smaller Club with limited online presence (we do not yet have a website and our members have varying electronic capabilities), The Blue Ridge GC is continuing to rely on our newsletter and email to keep in touch.

For our Club's Annual Meeting this year, we are planning to rely on the blast email, since our members are familiar with it, and it is "tried and true." We too will be voting on a new officer slate, and we will most likely use email to conduct and document the voting process.

Going forward, we are planning to develop a website and expand our online presence.

**The Charlottesville Garden Club— Robin Cherry, President**

[thecharlottesvillegardenclub.com](http://thecharlottesvillegardenclub.com)

Charlottesville GC members will take photos of gardens and send in their pictures for a virtual garden tour that will be shared on their website.

To stay in touch I texted, emailed or called the Associates, Life and Honorary members, and I will continue this communication. Additionally, I've remained in touch with Albemarle GC and Rivanna GC and their activities.

**Dolley Madison Garden Club—Carla Passarello, President**

[dmgevirginia.org](http://dmgevirginia.org)

Dolley Madison GC hosted a virtual Daffodil Show with a judged portion having our Floral Design Chairman judging Floral Design entries. She treated it as a tutorial opportunity, letting members choose their own style (either traditional or contemporary) taken from the GCV website. The other portion of the show used Claire Mellinger's photography schedule. Photos are on the website.

I am making an effort to include links to Horticulture and Conservation webinars, videos, virtual garden tours, and shared photos to keep everybody engaged.

**Hillside Garden Club—Sarah Hellewell, President**

[hillsidegardenclub.org](http://hillsidegardenclub.org)

For the Hillside GC the April meeting was just to be a social gathering for wine and cocktails, we may try to have a Zoom party/get together.

I would like to say, on a personal note, that the GCV could use these situations we have been forced into by the pandemic, the cancellation of founders day events, a virtual annual meeting and cancellation of Historic Garden Week, as an opportunity to assess the budgets of the GCV and GCV clubs in hosting the Board of Governors and Annual Meetings and to assess the feasibility of more virtual GCV meetings to reduce costs and decrease our carbon footprints from travel across the state.

**The Lynchburg Garden Club—Mary Byrd Denham, President**

[lynchburggardenclub.org](http://lynchburggardenclub.org)

The Lynchburg GC has a cleanup day for our April meeting at our historic site, Miller Claytor House and Gardens, in Riverside Park; but because of restrictions, members are encouraged to go weed and check on things on their own instead.

The Lynchburg GC has cancelled our annual luncheon for May, but will have a kick-off luncheon in September instead.

We continue to plan for the future by preparing to plant seeds for the pollinator gardens in Lynchburg while our Centennial committee is starting to gather ideas for celebrating in 2022.

**Rivanna Garden Club—Martha Wertz, President**

[therivannagardenclub.org](http://therivannagardenclub.org)

Rivanna GC history sound bites are included in our newsletters and will include more human interest articles in the May and June newsletters to compensate for our inability to meet face to face.

Our March Board meeting was held using Free Conference call.com. We have explored Zoom for our April Board meeting but are concerned by the security issues that are being exposed around use of Zoom.

**The Spotswood Garden Club—Joy Strickland, President**

[spotswoodgardenclub.com](http://spotswoodgardenclub.com)

Spotswood GC has been sharing pictures of their gardens, and of course these have included many daffodils. These photos are posted a few times a week on Instagram and Facebook pages.

We also have a Wednesday Wisdom, Gardening Tips & Tricks on Instagram.

**Director at Large, District 3**

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Anne Harrison Harris

The District 3 Garden Clubs have been busy, despite the interruption of the Coronavirus quarantine. They share their creative efforts to “keep on keeping on” in the following reports:

**Garden Club of Gloucester—Anne Alexander Marshall, President**

With regard to the Centennial, a project still remaining is the placement of a tree in honor of GCV somewhere in the historic courthouse area. We have identified the Magnolia Stellata Centennial tree as the appropriate one we want to donate. We await the County’s decision about location. We look forward to publicizing the Centennial locally more when GCV reschedules Founders Day activities.

For 2019-20 we continue to feature a GCV Restoration in each issue of Bloomin’ News, our monthly newsletter. Meanwhile one of our members may actually have visited almost all of them.

At each membership meeting so far this year, we have handed out giving envelopes for GCV, and we have had many members give who have not given to GCV before.

At our January meeting, we had an excellent and practical presentation on both Shade and Sunny Garden Plants by a local landscape and horticulturalist Kenny Weakland from Green Planters.

February found us hearing from Charlotte Quinlan about Nature Camp, to which we send a student every year. She had attended Nature Camp for several years and was compelling and humorous about how Nature Camp had affected her life both in terms of learning about the environment and in terms of personal growth and confidence. Very inspiring and also reinforcing about our support of campers.

### **Coronavirus adjustments:**

We canceled March through June meetings including our Annual Meeting and Awards Program in June. We hope that some programs can be rescheduled. We will notify members of awards by email, and the President will personally deliver trophies, and we will also recognize winners at our September meeting.

We had to cancel our community projects that are part of the canceled Annual Gloucester Daffodil Festival—children’s arranging and an Art and Flowers Show, both in partnership with Arts on Main. (Article on both was in the March GCV Journal.)

During coronavirus “staying in place” we are staying in communication electronically, and we are adding extra articles to the newsletter by members with expertise to share. Our Executive Board is meeting electronically.

We are launching a “Garden Connection” weekly project and virtually sharing pictures of flowers and gardens among members while we can’t meet or visit each other.

Our members are contributing to a special weekly feature of photos of daffodil and garden pictures in our local paper. The Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal launched this feature to cheer people up when Gloucester’s Annual Daffodil Festival had to be canceled.

Our local paper also provided excellent coverage about the cancellation of Historic Garden Week, taking up the whole top of the front page of the second section. Tour Chairman Peg Montgomery did an excellent job with the press material provided by GCV and added the local angles. The feature with beautiful photos and artwork covered a lot of GCV history and was excellent branding for this signature program.

On HGW, in the last month our Procurement Committee has been hard at work rearranging houses for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Since we had 2021 all set but wanted to accommodate owners from 2020 who might want to participate again, it has been challenging to reorganize the years, but owners have been wonderfully flexible.

### **The Hampton Roads Garden Club— Dale Banning, President**

In continuing the celebration of the GCV Centennial, our club is partnering with the Huntington Garden Club for two events:

- ❖ We will have a "Grant Plant" Day at York River State Park, the site of our GCV grant project. We will create a Wildflower Pollinator Meadow and plant a Centennial Tree.
- ❖ 2) We will hold our Annual club meetings/picnics at Lee Hall, a GCV Restoration site. We will plant a Centennial Tree here as well.

To stay in touch during the pandemic, we are communicating via email and posting updates on our blog. Most meaningfully, however, several of our members are making old-fashioned telephone calls, checking on the health and safety of everyone, and offering assistance if needed!!

## **Huntington Garden Club—Tricia Russell, President**

### **Centennial Activities:**

The following joint activities were planned and held:

- ❖ *York River State Park, Dig in the Dirt, October 8, 2019*  
Following separate business meetings, all participated in a “Work-Day in the Dirt,” cleaning and planting at York River State Park, one of the GCV’s Centennial State Park grant recipients.
  
- ❖ *Centennial Celebration Under the Lights Mariners Museum October 24, 2019*  
Attendees: Club members (Actives and Associates). Each member could bring one guest.
- ❖ *Cocktail Party, honoring the founding of the Garden Club of Virginia in 1920*  
No charge to attend, Number of attendees: 155
  
- ❖ *Making Botanical Art and Jewelry, Peyton Wells, The Tuckahoe Garden Club, January 14, 2020* Following separate business meetings and program, there was a “Lunch and Learn,” conducted by the speaker.
  
- ❖ *The State of the Garden Club of Virginia, Jean Gilpin, GCV President, February 4, 2020*  
Following separate business meetings, Ann Gordon Evans, read Jean Gilpin’s remarks since Jean was ill.
  
- ❖ *Centennial Celebration Picnic at Lee Hall, May 19, 2020*  
Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 virus, the activity was cancelled.

Note: Because of COVID-19, all state-wide Centennial Celebration activities, planned for Founders Day, May 12-14, 2020, were postponed until the fall of 2020.

Our club was able to hold our March meeting which focused on the Garden Tour and touring the homes. For the April meeting, I sent a video to the club members as if we were actually all together, via email along with our slate of officers for the next year. The members voted electronically and our slate was passed. Our Committee chairmen have been communicating via email and zoom, most of the activity has been around the cancellation of the tour & our May picnic, tying up loose ends, and planning for next year.

## **Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula—Anne Glubiak, President**

For the Centennial, we did have a Centennial Celebration in conjunction with our Silver Anniversary and talk by our Founding 'Mothers' for our September meeting. We also replaced

our May club meeting with the Founder's Day Programs and luncheon. However, we will switch that to the Fall.

Most importantly, we designed, published, had printed and just received a beautiful hardback cookbook (see photo below) that we dedicated to GCV for the Centennial. Four or five of us collected 339 recipes from members, and we featured photos of some of our unique floral designs from our past HGW Tours on each divider page. The cover is a close-up of the flowers in an arrangement. I am sending one each to Jean, Missy and Headquarters. It will be our Fundraiser as well.

To keep in touch during the Pandemic, I wrote a tongue-in-cheek rendition (with real and pertinent information enclosed) of a virtual Board Meeting, complete with me banging my kitchen counter with a wooden spoon and ladies throughout our counties approving with beating their own soup ladles at home. I would send it to you, but it would probably bore you. Everyone enjoyed it, and it got the job done. We canceled our May Board Meeting and I may do it by Zoom or just through the old-fashioned conference call.

In addition, volunteer Board members are calling each of our club members personally to check on them, chat and see if they have any needs.

Our April newsletter is a synopsis of Club schedule, etc. adjustments.

Our May newsletter will be oriented toward fun items and likely have blurbs about how folks are spending their time or such things. I do know there is MUCH gardening going on.

#### **The Garden Club of the Northern Neck—Kate Muller, President**

Needless to say, our garden club has had to reconstruct the spring schedule to coincide with the coronavirus guidelines put in place by the powers that be. We were all so disappointed that HGW was cancelled, along with Daffodil Day and the Centennial celebration in May. Given all of these changes, our board decided to cancel all of our meetings through June.

Here are the latest developments in our club:

It is our hope that we can offer the tour planned for this year again in 2021. Homeowners have agreed, thankfully, so we have tentatively planned to go ahead with this tour next spring. We should be able to use our brochures with a sticker to change the dates.

One of our tech-savvy members has created a Google photo album entitled, "Garden Photos Spring 2020: Garden Club of the Northern Neck." As members join, they can upload and share photos from their gardens. This is intended to be a virtual garden tour, so to speak.

On April 22, our original garden tour day, we are asking members to create an arrangement from their yards, photograph and share on our Facebook page.

Our board has decided to approve the new slate of officers for 2020-22. Hopefully, in the near future, the new president and board can start making plans for our new year, reserving some of the same venues and speakers that had been planned for this spring.

In recognition of GCV's Centennial, we have awarded \$5000 gifts to each of the two state parks in Northern Neck, Westmoreland State Park and Belle Isle State Park. They have been asked to submit a plan for the money in keeping with the mission of GCV.

We have a database manager, and she sends out important announcements to the whole club when necessary. Our newsletter, "GCNN Happenings," is sent out every other month.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as President of Garden Club of the Northern Neck. It saddens me that I have had to miss so many events this spring, but given the strength of our club and GCV, I am confident we will be "back on our feet in no time!"

### **Rappahannock Valley Garden Club—Kelly Johnson, President**

Our club members, Jeanette Cadwallendar and Joanna Catron, have been diligently working on a exhibit catalog, "*A Landscape Saved*", to pair with the exhibition at the Museum of History and Culture for the Centennial. We have all been anticipating the festivities, the release of the book and exhibit! Perhaps we will have to wait until fall for the fun and the facts!

Our club is organizing a garden trail map and brochure. It will be called The Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail. It will connect visitors as well as locals to seven of the area's finest gardens. Three of these gardens are GCV restoration sites.

Our May meeting and luncheon is always very special to us as it is our last meeting of the year. This year it was to be hosted by Jeanette Cadwallender, in her beautiful garden, under a tent! We are all very sad that this will not be the way we end our year. Jeanette has already offered to have us back at a later date!

Lastly, we've been working away planning the 2020 Lily Show. We've just decided with GCV to defer the show until 2021.

### **Director at Large, District 4**

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Debbie Lewis

Despite widespread cancellations, the ladies in District 4 remained connected, creative and committed. As I read through the reports from the presidents in District 4, I was struck by loyalty of our club presidents as they planned to keep Historic Garden Week, GCV and their local clubs alive and buzzing. It is quite apparent that we have all found our gardens and the spectacular sights and sounds of springtime in Virginia to be a silver-lining during this otherwise difficult time. Nature soothes all of us.



**Chatham Garden Club—President, Susan Bower**

Chatham Garden Club Geranium Day, the only annual fundraiser, went on as scheduled.

Traditionally, orders are taken in January and the delivery day in April is a full and fun day, socializing and enjoying time and lunch with fellow members. New delivery procedures were put into place and all social distancing rules were followed, but it didn't dampen the spirit of club members as they waved and worked, and completed their duties. Mission accomplished!

**The Garden Club of Danville—President, Gayle Thomson**

The annual flower fundraiser in Danville was a successful event with 475 flowers sold and all orders delivered in just a few hours. With an organized fundraising chairman and her commitment to "go the extra mile," members received their flowers on the doorsteps of their homes.

The GCV Founders Day project, the planting of a Dogwood tree at the Museum, has been postponed until the fall, hoping to incorporate the planting/dedication with the October club meeting.

**Gabriella Garden Club—President, Katy Jones**

In HGW news, all locations for the Chatham/Danville HGW 2020 tour have agreed to open for the HGW 2021 tour.

Although the GGC meetings have been canceled, the board met via Zoom and the May meeting will be held as an "email version."

Awards which are traditionally held in May will be announced by e-mail, and each recipient will receive her silver container at the doorstep of her home "like Publishers Clearing House.....sadly minus Ed McMann and the big check!"

The club centennial project to plant a Dogwood tree in the city park has been put on hold until city workers are free to complete the project. Additionally, the project includes a park bench and plans for planting GCV test collection daffodils.

**The Garden Study Club—President, Judy Epperly**

The GSC centennial project, which includes the planting of 2 Japanese Maple Trees and positioning a bench within this garden is nearly complete. The prominent location for the new garden is at the Historic Little Post Office. The club has postponed the dedication to honor the memory of a beloved GSC member, Sallie Mason Clark, who served as a horticulture and conservation mentor for many years. She was honored with the DeLacy Gray medal by the GCV in 1987, and "gave birth" to the local Gateway Streetscape organization that has enhanced the

beautification of the community since its inception. This project honors the club history and preserves a space of beauty for the future.

Club members plan to procure flowers and make several arrangements for each home scheduled to be included in the HGW tour. The arrangements will be delivered to the homeowners on the tour date.

The GSC is working with MGC to designate Martinsville as a Bee City.

**Martinsville Garden Club—President, Cindy Edgerton**

The MGC continues to work on the Paw Path Pollinator garden at the Smith River Sports Complex. Printed workbooks to enhance the educational experience are currently being printed and will soon be ready for distribution.

Club members are sharing local photographs of gardens and community landscapes on social media.

MGC is working together with GSC to become a designated Bee City.

**Mill Mountain Garden Club—President, Valeta Pittman**

The Wildflower Garden Restoration project, despite adversity, is moving forward! The club is practicing patience while remaining hopeful that the final steps to complete the garden will take place in the fall. Important meeting plans and votes have been implemented via e-mail, yet the club is hopeful that the May meeting will take place in the Wildflower Garden in the outdoor classroom.

The next order of business is making the Bee City happen in Roanoke!

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

No report

**Director at Large, District 5**

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Laura Francis

Madam President, Board Members, and Guests,

The GCV member clubs from District 5 report the following:

**Garden Club of Alexandria—President, Michaela Robinson**

We are communicating via weekly email updates from the club president and participation in a private forum on our website where we can post photos, comment and chat among club

members. Our April meeting [was] an E-meeting. Our May meeting will be on Zoom. We will conduct a short business meeting followed by a short garden-related video for all to view and enjoy. We are also encouraging all of our members to share photos of "Windowsill Art" arrangements, inspired by our March program and book by Nancy Ross Hugo. Seasonal materials can be foraged and cut from gardens and displayed in small vessels on a windowsill or small table to enjoy at home.

**The Garden Club of Fairfax—President, Donna Moulton**

The Garden Club of Fairfax has used Zoom for their Budget and Executive Committee meetings.

**Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club—President, Peggy Rust**

The Fauquier Loudoun Garden Club has used ciscowebeX to connect for small attendance meetings. They have emailed all members with "Slow Flower Arranging" methods via UTube! They are working on a suggestion to submit a "Best Bloom" exhibit on their website.

**The Hunting Creek Garden Club—President, Ann McMurray**

The Hunting Creek Garden Club has used Zoom for their Executive Committee meeting. The entire club has been invited to participate "virtually" in their annual Bloomer-Crenshaw Daffodil Challenge (4/15) by submitting pictures of their garden daffodils, identified, and creating an underwater arrangement inspired by Picasso's *Jacqueline with Flowers*. These photos will be posted on the club website and judged virtually!

**Leesburg Garden Club—President, Suzi Worsham**

The Leesburg Garden Club has used Zoom for meetings concerning community outreach, grants and their executive board. An email to full membership will request a vote on the Bessie Boccock Carter Award and the club outreach project.

**Little Garden Club of Winchester—President, Anita Shull**

The Little Garden Club of Winchester will hold its Executive Committee meeting for the first time via Zoom on 4/17. Discussion of potential for May annual meeting via Zoom is on the agenda. Our members have been very busy working in their gardens. That is our reprieve from the necessity of quarantine life. Many of the ladies have been making flower arrangements and posting on our Facebook page. We have been encouraging each other with news and gardening ideas on our Facebook pages. We did manage to have our winter cocktail party in February. We are looking forward to a bus tour on September 23rd of 3 restoration sites in the Fredericksburg area to include Mary Washington House, Kenmore and Belmont Estate.

### **Warren County Garden Club—President, Jenny Murphy**

The board approved a force majeure to conduct club business by phone and email. Not everyone is on email, but even with those who are, we stay in touch with each other by phone. We proudly submitted an entry to the GCV Virtual Daffodil Show. We also shared some photos with each other for our own mini virtual Daffodil Day. Our club photographer has been keeping us entertained and inspired with wonderful photos of wildflowers and other natives from her hikes in the mountains of Warren County.

Our thoughts and energies have also been going into our concern for our beloved and long-time member Elsie Upchurch who has been declining in the last two weeks. (*Please see Elsie Upchurch expanded report below.*)

### ***Tribute to Elise Upchurch – Warren County Garden Club***

We received word she only has a couple of days now. Elsie was a tour de force with HGW for many years, held every role in our club, invited wonderful members to carry on her legacy, and remained an active member all the way until the March meeting was cancelled. She was incredibly generous in our community. Her last major project was funding an accessible (and gorgeous) children's garden that was installed at Samuels Public Library in Front Royal. The Garden Club of Warren County has been involved with community gardening at our library since our founding. At 96, Elsie was still the full-time organist at her church (rehearsals and 3 Sunday services!), driving her car, living independently in a house on a hill with a stairs everywhere, and taking NO medication! In true Elsie fashion, she directed her brother-in-law to make sure her impressive library of gardening books is given to the club before being put on morphine yesterday - a garden clubber staunch and true to her last breath!

### **The Warrenton Garden Club—President, Margrete Stevens, Jane Maddux (4/15)**

The Warrenton Garden Club conducted their annual meeting via email, including voting on a slate of officers! All votes went to the club president and were copied to the recording secretary. Club members have been posting on social media and they launched a “friendly” club photo competition. The club has also managed to revise all committee job descriptions and uploaded those descriptions to their website to facilitate nominations to new committees.

### **Winchester-Clarke Garden Club—President, Terry Chandler**

Although all events have been cancelled for the month of April, we are still planning a newsletter for May and organizing a board meeting via Zoom. Like GCV, we also have business that needs to be voted on. We are encouraging our members to take pictures of our gardens and flowers and sharing them with Edie Hessberg, our photography chairman, that can be shared with the rest of our membership.

## Director at Large, District 6

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Debbie Bonnewell

I received follow up from 7 of the 8 clubs in District 6. The following is a summary of the meetings and activities of each club.

### **Garden Club of Norfolk—Jane Edwards, President**

GCN is holding elections for new officers via email. The slate had been presented at their last scheduled meeting, 3-11. Other items that need voting are being handled through email.

The Board of Directors meeting was held via conference call on March 30 and the Executive Committee meeting will be via ZOOM on April 27.

Staying connected since the “lock down”, GCN just published an expanded issue of their newsletter, MULCH ADO, with lots of photos, a virtual tour of a member’s garden and ideas on how everyone is handling their time. They have also set up a telephone tree, comprised of 5 Associate members, to call members on a regular basis, either those who live alone or are “shut in”. Some of these older members don’t use the computer either, so a call is often very welcome.

GCN had several fun events/meetings since the start of the new year. Their LIFESTYLE LECTURE in February with Margot Shaw proved to be one of their most financially successful since their first lecture!

Their February meeting was a “practice flower show”. So many of their members haven’t seen a GCA-GCV show and they wanted to familiarize them with the process of a schedule, submissions, and judging. They had floral design, horticulture and photography entries. They also had “judging”, really more critiquing, from judges and/or experienced members. No awards, just lots of creativity and fun.

Their March meeting was a field trip to KV House. They had a wonderful tour and business meeting, then lunch at The Jefferson. A beautiful, sunny day- before the world changed!

### **Nansemond River Garden Club—Linda Consolvo, President**

Due to their early-in-the-month meeting schedule, NRGCC was able to conduct the vote on the new slate of officers at the March meeting. The installation of new officers was to take place at their April meeting, rather than at the May meeting, which was scheduled to be held at their Common Wealth winning Heritage Garden. The devastating pandemic has called upon all of them to rethink how they conduct business. Their April meeting has, of course, been cancelled, but they are on hold to have the May meeting, when they will install the new officers and

announce the winners of their two awards: the Margaret C. Godwin Cup for arrangements and the Miss Essie Hurff Award for horticulture.

The last board meeting of the year will take place by conference call.

After having received an email from a member who was lamenting that her garden looked beautiful and she and her husband were the only two there to appreciate it, Linda asked the members to participate in a “virtual” horticulture/travel show. She asked that they send pictures of a specimen plant or of their garden for all enjoy.

#### **Harborfront Garden Club—Greta Gustavson, President**

HGC is having their April Meeting via zoom on April 23, the day that was supposed to be their tour day. They will be voting on their new slate of officers, which was presented in an email. They will also be voting on the Common Wealth Award. The Board Meeting was held earlier in the month via Zoom.

During the quarantine, members have stayed connected via emails and messages. There was a virtual happy hour via Zoom. Pictures of our newly planted Serenity Garden at the Union Mission were sent in an email. We have all tried to order meals from our favorite Italian restaurant owned by one of our members. A member who owns an industrial shop made masks for all members who wanted one, and the extras were donated to the children’s hospital. A newly revamped Facebook page is being used to show off flower arrangements and gardens.

#### **Virginia Beach Garden Club—Lou Flowers, President**

Virginia Beach Garden Club had a March/April review of annual business; committee reports and recommendations; and an accompanying ballot that was mailed or delivered to members. A stamped, addressed envelope was included for the return of their anonymous votes on some sensitive matters - new members, officers, budget, community projects and the GCV Bessie Bacock Carter Award. Lou Flowers was pleased to have received over 80% of the ballots within 8 days. Members have been kept up to date with cancellations and other information in weekly emails. The Board receives its own weekly email and is invited to discuss matters by "reply all." Lou is working on the safest and best way to install 2020-2022 officers and provide an orientation for new members next month. Their September meeting will include awards and the introduction of new members, which usually takes place in May.

#### **Garden Club of the Eastern Shore—Traci Jones, President**

Garden Club of the Eastern Shore has been unable to meet the past two months -they will not be able to meet in May or June. Traci Jones has been keeping in touch with members by frequent telephone calls, notes and cards to members that are sick or "just thinking of you." She sent out one newsletter with updated club news, poems, funny cartoons and pictures to keep all the

members informed and add a little lighthearted humor. Another newsletter will be sent out later next week. She is hoping to have all committee chairs submit something in the next newsletter- a report, tidbits ex. things they can be doing in their yards during this time. Maybe even have a virtual artistic display and virtual horticulture display. They have had a couple of Zoom meetings with the Executive Committee, one in which to vote on new members and another to discuss ways to improve their membership. Members will be asked to send in their yearly reports by June- which will be compiled and send out. The Garden Club chairmen continue to stay in touch and make plans for the coming years.

**Elizabeth River Garden Club—Betty Jo Gwaltney, President**

Since the Stay in Place order from the Governor, the Elizabeth River Club has only been in touch through email and or text. The club business to attend to such as, election of officers was accomplished successfully. Their May meeting has been canceled and June is undecided. Betty Jo is communicating with members via email.

**Princess Anne Garden Club—Carrie Goodman, President**

The nominees for the PAGC incoming Board were approved by their membership. Incoming President Katie Hand will take over officially on May 14 and be inducted with the new Board at their September meeting. In conjunction with the Council of Garden clubs in Virginia Beach, PAGC has donated money to plant flowers at the Virginia Beach Municipal Building in honor of the lives lost there last May. They are not planning anything in the near future. Carrie is hoping to have the Board to lunch this summer to thank them for all they have done. For fun, they've asked members to post pictures of their gardens on their website for all to enjoy.